

World Chess Body President – FIDE, Mr Kirsan Ilyumzhinov meets Botswana’s Ministry of Education Minister, Honourable Unity Dow.



Pic: **Left-** Mr Kirsan Ilyumzhinov **Right** – Botswana Basic Minister Unity Dow

World Chess Body President, FIDE – Mr Kirsan Ilyumzhinov met with Botswana’s Ministry of Basic Education Minister, Honourable Unity Dow.

Present at the meeting was:

Minister of Basic Education:	Honourable Unity Dow
Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Basic Education:	Mrs Grace Muziala
Personal Assistant to the Minister	Mr Charles Mothabane
FIDE President	Mr Kirsan Ilyumzhinov
Acting Russian Ambassador to Botswana	Mr Alexander Anoshki
Botswana Chess Federation President	Mr Mothokomedi Thabano
Botswana Chess Federation Vice President	Mr Roger Tiroyamodimo
Botswana Primary Schools Sports Association President	Mr Busang Sengweni

The Purpose of the visit by the FIDE President was to share the chess in schools programme as a tool to improving the level of education and improving the level of discipline on learners.

Mr Ilyumzhinov pointed out that the chess body was formed in 1924 in Paris with only 14 members and today it boasts of 188 member states who play well over a 100 thousand chess tournament annually. He further informed the Minister that currently there are 600 million people playing chess worldwide and his aim was to have 1 billion playing chess world-wide by the year 2020, called **“1 billion chess players, 1 billion clever people”**.



Kirsan as he is popularly know in the chess circles further went on to talk about the benefits of the chess in schools which included he said included among others improving the level of performance in schools and also instilling good discipline in students.

The gather ring was informed that the main aim for of FIDE and Botswana

Chess Federation was for chess to be included in to curriculum and be taught as a subject.

Both the Minister and the permeant secretary were quite happy with the visit and the proposal with the later pointing out that one good thing about chess is that it is not as expensive as other sporting codes and that it can be played anywhere anytime.

The Minister and her permeant Secretary informed the house that are currently 755 primary schools in Botswana and that it will be a great idea to have these all playing chess. Botswana Chess Federation has been tasked with drawing and presenting a proposal and submitting it to Ministries Permanent Secretary.

FIDE President extended an invitation to the Minister of Education to visit Russia on the 7th September 2017 so as to observe the chess museum and how indeed chess benefits the learners.

Botswana Chess Federation President Mr Mothokomedi Thabano informed the Minister the World Chess Body has been very supportive to the Botswana Chess.

He informed the gathering that currently there is an ongoing camp for the youth team which will be going to Harare, Zimbabwe to participate in the

upcoming 2017 African Schools Individual Chess Championships and that the team is being coached by Grandmaster coach, GM Nikolai Chadaev. He pointed out that the presence of the GM coach was made possible by the world chess body FIDE and that this was the first time a youth team is being coached by a chess grandmaster.



Mr Thabano further informed the gathering Botswana Chess Federation has partnered with Botswana Primary Schools Association for improved chess development at grassroots level hence the presence of BOPSA President.

PICTURE GALLERY



