

Learning from the Challenges of the past and Readyng a Professional Association for the Future: The Case of Botswana Surveying and Mapping Association

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INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Registered in August 2001
- ▶ Main objectives
 - High standards in property measurement and delineation
 - Promoting usefulness of Surveying and Mapping to public
 - Emphasis on Continued Professional Development
 - Self regulation
 - Development of professional fees/tariff schedule
 - Certification and Accreditation
- ▶ BSMA did have a vision and mission of some measurable degree

The BSMA THROUGH THE AGES

- ▶ Registered in August 2001
- ▶ Attracted around 40 members in the early years
- ▶ Dwindling membership versus increasing number of Geomatics professionals in the country
- ▶ Tremendous challenges which led to BSMA existing in name only by 2006
- ▶ The situation worsened up to until 2013
- ▶ The BSMA suspended from FIG
- ▶ Defined on the basis of the following;
 - BSMA Organizational Structure
 - The Paradigm
 - The BSMA Challenges
 - The Role of Department of Surveys and Mapping

THE BSMA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- ▶ **Fundamental Structure organs are**
 - Executive: running BSMA with specific mandate of affiliating it to FIG
 - General Meeting: Annual and Special
 - Chapters: Promotion of Geomatics outlook in Botswana
- ▶ **Chapters are made up of;**
 - Cadastral Survey
 - Cartography, Remote Sensing and GIS
 - Engineering, Topographical and Mine Surveying
- ▶ **Membership : Six types being Fellow, Professional, Technical, Probationer, Honorary and Student**

THE PARADIGM

- ▶ **Three major spheres of influence**
 - Government involvement with the geomatics profession obscuring the role of the professionals from driving their own interests
 - New generation professionals owing to technological advancement of our times: They questioned relevance and name of Association
 - Voluntary nature of the BSMA; Lack of regulatory framework compared to other professionals bodies like Law, Accounting, Real Estate, Architecture and Engineering
- ▶ **Mutating into various challenges**
- ▶ **The need for a paradigm shift**

BSMA CHALLENGES

- ▶ Prominent challenges were identified as the following;
 - Low membership
 - Indifferent members and prospective-member commitment
 - Unpaid subscription fees by members for a period of at least over 7 years
 - Lack of sustained financial resources
 - Poor turnout to meetings which rendered the association inactive
 - Lack of self-regulation
 - Lack of Visibility
 - Lack of legal muscle
 - Lack of vision and strategic direction
- ▶ Several attempts to revive the efforts of BSMA had proved futile until 2013

THE ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF SURVEYS AND MAPPING

- ▶ A government of Botswana Surveying and Mapping Agency.
- ▶ Organized a Geomatics Professionals Workshop in February 2013
- ▶ Request successfully made to present BSMA challenges
- ▶ A new name versus BSMA came up
- ▶ Professionals agreed to revive what is existing
- ▶ A working committee established with mandate to reviving BSMA
- ▶ Working Committee delivered on its mandate in October 2013
- ▶ New BSMA Committee installed according to BSMA constitution

The work of the New BSMA Committee

- ▶ Saw need to work on BSMA relevance
- ▶ Evaluation of the points inform paradigm alluded to earlier
- ▶ A positive approach adopted informed by the following;
 - To re-register BSMA with FIG
 - To increase the BSMA membership
 - To Establish the BSMA Chapters
 - To come with a Regulatory Framework
 - To coin a Road Map for BSMA
- ▶ A lot of financial resources required to do the above
- ▶ Focus on honorable intentions
- ▶ Success were realised

Success of the Committee

- ▶ Re-admission to FIG in 2014 and attending FIG conference in 2015
- ▶ Collaborations with several national organizations have been opened and are being natured
- ▶ Membership is growing though slowly the situation is promising
- ▶ Working alongside government to draft a practitioners act
- ▶ A road map has been established and it is being developed on number of fronts
- ▶ Public awareness program is being pursued
- ▶ A communication strategy is being developed and it has started with the establishment of a web site
www.BSMA.co.bw

CONCLUSION

- ▶ Following challenges noted from UK institutions (Lenton 2012);
 - Membership
 - Profile
 - Relevance
 - Commercial
 - Constitutional
 - Economic
 - Resource
 - International
- ▶ Focus on the following;
 - Road Map for BSMA
 - Regulatory Framework
 - Encouraging Positive paradigm shift