



PRESS RELEASE

LETSHEGO NAMIBIA PARTNERS WITH THESE HANDS TO DELIVER INNOVATIONS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ONGENGA

- Letshego Botswana partners with 'These Hands', a global social enterprise start-up based in Botswana, which trains and supports rural community innovators/entrepreneurs in developing countries.
- 'These Hands' use a identifying and supporting community initiated innovations that make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals.
- Letshego Botswana is supporting 'These Hands' with over P1Million in bridging finance to fund and facilitate the training and mentoring of local youth innovators who develop low-cost technologies for the benefit of rural communities.

Winhoek, Namibia – 18 December 2020: Letshego Botswana has partnered with These Hands; a global social enterprise start-up based in Botswana, that trains and mentors youth innovators to develop low-cost technologies that helps local members of our communities to overcome daily challenges.

Letshego Botswana is supporting 'These Hands' with bridging finance worth over P1.76Million to capitalise activities that facilitates training and mentoring of youth innovators who develop simple machinery to generate income directly for themselves, their families and members of their communities. In the roll out throughout various countries in which Letshego operates, it recently launched its innovation center in Ongenga, Namibia

Nakapiipi Elise, Letshego Namibia's Acting Regional Manager commented at the ground breaking ceremony, *"These Hands Initiative is meant for our people. Our people in Ongenga to bring about innovation. Our objective is to help useful innovations get the funding, the mentorship and the financial support needed to help, not only the inventors – but also other members of the community who can also gain from local innovation. Letshego's brand promise is to IMPROVE LIVES – We are sure that when this innovation center is launched, we will surely see the fruits in years to come and we thank our town council for endorsing and partnering with us Innovation creates so many opportunities and unlocks so much potential in communities."*

Since their inception in 2015, These Hands have set up 5 rural innovation centres in Botswana at Dkar, Dutlwe, Rakops, Kaputura and Lesoma, having trained 400 people in 8 rural communities. Namibia aims to follow similar examples as the rest of Africa and These Hands will allow Ongenga to develop its community and stimulate the desire for innovation.

Hon. Mathew Shikongo, Regional Councilor said, *"Letshego Namibia is enabling us to identify and support more innovators in our local communities - Their support helps us to educate, increase local skills and provide growth opportunities for our young local entrepreneurs. We thank Letshego Namibia and its partners for working with us and ploughing back into our communities. We may not see the immediate impact that this center has to offer, but as a tree when a seed is planted generations to come will enjoy the fruits and shade it has to offer. In Ongenga, a community which is often not heard of or overlooked, we take pride that we are being considered towards gearing our citizens for new innovations to be birthed right here."*

When innovators use their technologies, they can save time, develop energy sources energy, save the environment and generate income. When entrepreneurs sell their technologies, they can create exponential results for themselves through their customers. With expert training on entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, These Hands participants go on to create Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). Young Entrepreneurs ready for scaling and in search of capital receive assistance through their networks and access to small pools of initial capital injection of closely monitored funding. Many of these entrepreneurs ultimately form teams and hire people, thus creating jobs not only for themselves but also for their communities.

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About These Hands

These Hands GSSE is a global social enterprise start-up based in Botswana, which trains and supports rural community innovators/entrepreneurs in developing countries. As an enabler for international development work, they have also developed a social media platform dedicated to international development and co-creative design work and does not require internet to use (USSD Based). They recently graduated as Members of the Botswana Innovation Hub's First Steps Venture Centre (BIH FSVC). These Hands GSSE is also a lifelong implementation partner and rural innovation center partner of the International Development Innovation Network (IDIN) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) D-Lab for Botswana, Africa, Latin America and South East Asia. These Hands GSSE also an implementation partner of the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) through its first university chapter being the Via Maranyane Student Organization. These Hands are also implementation partners for Injini Education Technology Incubation Programme for Botswana.

Notes to the Editor:

About Letshego Holdings Namibia

Letshego Holdings Namibia (Letshego Namibia) opened its doors in 2002 as Edu Loan Namibia, providing consumer and micro-lending services. Letshego Namibia is 79 percent owned by Letshego Holdings Limited (Letshego Group), a Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) listed entity. Letshego Namibia focuses on underbanked members of the economy, through the provision of financially inclusive solutions. Previously, it only offered payroll loans through the deduction at source model. To enable the new operating model that will support and deliver the financial inclusion and diversification strategy, Letshego applied for, and was awarded, a full unrestricted banking licence in July 2016. In 2017, Letshego Holdings Limited successfully floated their IPO on the Namibia Stock Exchange (NSX) through a nationwide campaign called "Ekwafu Letu" that offered a rare opportunity for customers, staff and Previously Disadvantage Namibians to own shares on the NSX.

For further information, please visit www.letshego.com/namibia

About Letshego Holdings Limited

The Letshego Group is a proudly African multinational organisation, headquartered and listed in Botswana and focused on delivering inclusive finance solutions to emerging consumers across 11 Sub Saharan Markets. With a staff compliment of over 3,000 – including both direct and indirect sales agents - and more than four hundred thousand customers, Letshego is synonymous with leveraging innovation and technology to improve the lives of individuals who have limited access to traditional financial services. In 2020, Letshego celebrates more than 21 years of supporting regional communities, with progressing towards the Group's vision to be a world-class retail financial services organisation. For more info visit www.letshego.com