

O B I T U A R Y

Dr. Onkabetse George Matlho

was born on the 18th of June 1965. He was the second born son of Kgosi Bishop Alfred Mongwaketsi Thuku-a- Matlho-a-Phoko-a-Tshwene-a-Mbe-aSelepe from Ga Moritji and Seletso Thuku (nee Mosie-a-Nkamane-a-Peelelo-a-Wadima-a-Sehularo-a-Senyarelo-a-Dihaisi-a-Tawana from GaMoselebe in Lehututu. Dr. Matlho got married to Dr. Kgalalelo Matlho (nee Ranthoakgale) on 22nd November 2001. They were blessed with a daughter Masegoame Matlho on 2nd March 2004.

'Hero' as he was popularly known as, attended Mabutsane Primary school in (1972 to 1978), he then proceeded to Seepapitso Secondary School which he completed in 1983 at Kanye. Hero then enrolled for Bachelor of Science part one (1984- 1986) at University of Botswana. He then earned a scholarship to study for a degree in the field of Veterinary Medicine at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand where he graduated with Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVSC) in 1991. He also holds a Master of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of California, Davis USA (1995) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) from University of Botswana in 2002.

Upon completing his first degree, Dr. Matlho joined the Department of Veterinary Services where he held positions of Veterinary Officer and Senior Veterinary Officer respectively (1992 -1996). As a Veterinary Officer, he was involved in public health, food hygiene and safety to ensure sustainability of Botswana beef exports to European Union (EU) and Norwegian markets.

Dr. Matlho was initially appointed as the Chief Veterinary Officer of Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) on the 1st April 1997. He was then promoted to the General Manager position on the 5th April 2005 a position he held until his passing on the 25th September 2020. BVI Limited, established in 1979 is a self-funding Public Company wholly-owned by the Government of Botswana. His responsibility was the strategic management and coordination towards achieving the organizational goals and mandate to ensure sustainability and profitability. The mandate of BVI is to produce quality livestock vaccines and sell the same locally and globally to combat trans-boundary animal diseases to safeguard animal trade and ensure food security. The second mandate (separate) of the Institute is to host the OIE Reference Laboratory for Sub Saharan Africa for FMD since 1985 which is carried out with the support of the Botswana OIE delegate under the Department of Veterinary Services.

During his tenure as the BVI Limited General Manager, he undertook trainings and workshops like Managing Individual and Team Performance, Collective Bargaining, the FAO / OIE Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control, held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2012, the workshop on the OIE Procedures for the Official Recognition of Member Countries Disease Status and for the Endorsement of Official National Control Programme with regard to FMD and Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and various team building sessions. Furthermore, he was awarded a long service certificate in recognition of 15 years` of service in 2012.

In George, Botswana, the global community and BVI have lost a hero, a legend an asset, who will be forever be remembered for his humility, intelligence, team work and most importantly his entrepreneurial prowess.

Hero was an all-rounder, a prominent farmer and a sports man and enthusiast. He leaves behind his wife, daughter, mother and siblings (1 brother and 2 sisters)



LALA GKA KAGISO MORIJTI

Ngaka Onkabetse George Matlho a Thuku, yo a itsegeng gape ka leina la 'Hero', ke ngwana wa bobedi mo go ba batlhano ba ga Rre Mongwaketsi Alfred Thuku le Mme Seeletso Thuku. Kgosi Mongwaketsi Alfred Thuku-a-Matlho-a-Thuku-a-Meswalo-a-Phoko-a-Tshwene-a-Mbe-a-Selepe mo kgotleng ya ga Moriti. Mme Seeletso -a-Mosie-a-Nkamane-a-Peelelo-a-Wadima-a-Kelemi-a-Mahiridong- a -Magalana mo kgotleng ya Gamoselebe kwa Lehututu.

Onkabetse o tshotswe ka kgwedi ya Seetebosigo e le lesome le boferabobedi ka ngwaga wa 1965. O tsenye mo nyalong ye e boitshepo le Ngaka Kgalalelo Ranthoakgale ka ngwaga wa 2001. Ba segofadiwa ka ngwana wa mosetsana, ebong Masegoame ka ngwaga wa 2004.

Hero, o simolotse dithuto tsa gagwe tse dipotlana kwa Mabutsane Primary School (1972-1978), a ya go tswaledisa kwa sekolong sa Seepapitso Secondary School (1979-1983), pele ga a ya go dira dithuto tse dikgolwane tsa mophato wa ntlha (part one) kwa Mmadikolo (University of Botswana), kwa a tsenyeng teng dingwaga tse pedi. Morago ga moo, ka 1987, a bona tshono ya go ya go tswaledisa dithuto tsa gagwe ka tsa bongaka jwa leruo (Degree in the field of Veterinary Medicine) kwa Massey University, kwa Palmerston North, New Zealand. A wetsa dithuto tsa gagwe ka tsa bongaka jwa leruo (Bachelor of Veterinary Science) ka ngwaga wa 1991. O ne gape a oketsa dithuto tsa gagwe ka tsa bongaka jo bo faphegileng jwa leruo (Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine degree) kwa University of California, Davis, United States of America tse a di weditseng ka ngwaga wa 1995. O ne gape a dira dithuto tsa Tsamaiso ya kgwebo (Master of Business Administration - MBA) kwa Mmadikole (University of Botswana) ka 2002.

Fa a simolola tiro, Ngaka Matlho o ne a bereka e le Ngaka ya leruo kwa Lephatheng la Bokenti (Department of Veterinary Services) ka ngwaga wa 1992 go ya go 1996 a tlhokometse tsa botsogo jwa batho (public health), bophepa jwa dijo (food hygiene and safety), a itebagantse thata le go tlhomamisa go nna teng le boleng jwa nama segolo e e neng e rekisiwa kwa mmarakeng o o kwa moseja (European Union and Norwegian markets).

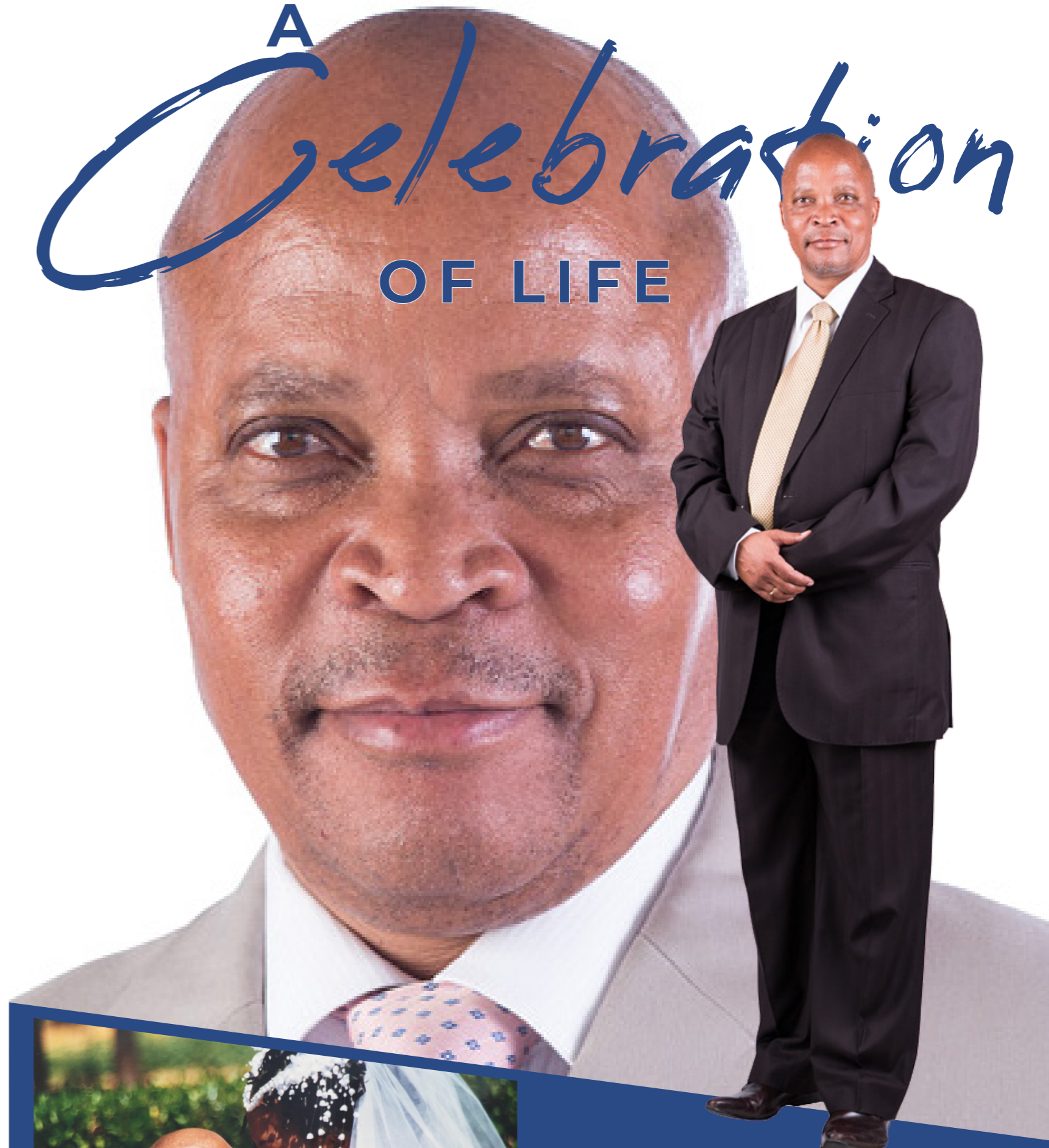
E rile ka ngwaga wa 1997 kgwedi ya Moranang, Ngaka Matlho a simolola tiro kwa Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) ka maemo a Chief Veterinary Officer. Erile ka ngwaga wa 2005, ka kgwedi ya Moranang, Ngaka Matlho a tlhatlhoisiwa maemo go nna Mookamedi mogolo (General Manager) wa BVI. BVI, ye e tlhamilweng ka ngwaga wa 1979, ke komponi ya mmuso wa Botswana ye e ikemetseng ka nosi ebile e tshwanelwa ke go itirela letseno. Jaaka Mookamedi mogolo wa BVI, Ngaka Matlho o ne a lebangwe ke go aga tsamaiso-tebelopelo le go gokaganya mananeo a Komponi go fithelela maduo a a siameng a a itshupang ka dipoelo le go itshetlela. Maitlamo a Komponi ya BVI ke go dira melemo e e nang le boleng ya leruo le go rekisa melemo yeo mo gae le kwa ntle ga lefatshe la Botswana, go itebagantswe thata le go lwantsa malwetse a leruo a a ka kgabaganyang melerwane ya mafatshe (trans-boundary animal diseases) go tlhomamisa gore papadisanyo le kgwebo ya ditswa nameng e sireletsegile le go nna teng ga dijo (food security). Maitlamo a bobedi a Komponi ya BVI (pharologanyo go a ntlha) ke go nna lefelo le le faphegileng la bongaka jwa leruo la matlathobelo (OIE Reference Laboratory) a bolwetsi jwa Tlhako le Molomo mo Sub - Saharan Africa go simolola ka ngwaga wa 1985, ka thuso ya molebeledi wa OIE (OIE delegate) mo Botswana a le ka fa tlase ga Lephata la Bokenti (Department of Veterinary Services).

Fa a le Mookamedi mogolo wa BVI, Ngaka Matlho, o tseneletse dithuto (trainings) le dithuto-seka-dipuisanyo (workshops) tse di farologanyeng di le mmalwa. Dingwe tsa tsone di itebagantse le Tlhokomelo motho ka bongwe le go dira mmogo ga setlhophu, Puisanyo tsa ikopelo le ipapatso tsa dikomponi (Collective Bargaining), dithuto tsa bodichabachaba tsa go laola bolwetsi jwa Tlhako le Molomo kwa teropong ya Bangkok, Thailand ka ngwaga wa 2012, Thuto-seka-dipuisanyo ka ditsamaiso tsa mafatshe tsa thibelo malwetsi go itebagantswe thata le bolwetsi jwa Tlhako le Molomo le jwa Peste des Petitis Ruminants (PPR), le tse dingwe tse di farologanyeng ka tsa go aga ditlhophu tse di ntshang maduo a a kwa godimo mo tirong. E rile ka ngwaga wa 2012, Ngaka Matlho a abelwa seetsele sa go dira ka bolelele go lemogiwa ngwaga tse di lesome le botlhano (15) tse a diretseng lefatshe leno.

Mo go George, Botswana, lefatshe ka kakaretso le komponi ya BVI di latlhegetswe ke mogaka le modiri yo o tlhotlha, yo o tla a gakologelwang thata ka boikokobetso, bothale, bodirammo, le segolobogolo ka boitseanape jwa gagwe mo go tsa ipapatso (entrepreneurial prowess). Hero, jaaka Ngaka Matlho a ne a bidiwa, o ne a le mabogodika, e le molemi morui wa popota ebile e le motshameki le morotloetsi mogolo wa tsa metshameko (sports enthusiast).

O tlogela mosadi le ngwana wa mosetsana, mme mmaagwe le bomonnawe (wa rre le bokgaisadie ba le babedi).

A Celebration OF LIFE



MABUTSANE

Dr Onkabetse George
MATLHO

Born: **18 June 1965**
Died: **25 September 2020**
Buried: **03 October 2020**

PROGRAMME DIRECTORS / BATSAMAISA TIRO

- Rre Bonang Mosupi
- Rre Douglas Seremane

VIEWING AT HOME / PONO YA MOSWI

- 0430 Hrs - 0500 Hrs

PRAYER / THAPELO KA BARUTI

PALL BEARERS FROM THE HOUSE / BATSHWARI BA KESI GOTSWA MO LWAPENG

- Mr Lebogang Thuku
- Mr Mosimanegape Moepi
- Mr Thabiso F. Matlho
- Mr Oaitse Ranthoakgale
- Mr Thuano Matlho
- Mr Mogotsi Ranthoakgale
- Mr Bakang Matlho
- Mr Richard Ranthoakgale

PRIESTS / THAPELO KA BARUTI

SPEAKERS / DIBUI KA BOTSEHO JWA MOSWI

- **Caregiver:** Mme Kgalalelo Matlho
Mme Seeletso Thuku
- **Motsadi:** Rre Keolopile Andrew Matlho
- **Uncle:** Rre Kgosietsile Nkamane
Dr Keorapetse Sehularo
- **In Laws:** Rre Luka Ranthoakgale
- **Siblings:** Rre Thulaganyo Matlho
- **Aunt:** Mme Seatla Mosie
- **Neighbor:** Mme Kelebogile Sebina-Mbaakanyi
- **Church Representative**
- **Ralekgotla:** Rre Joseph K. Thuku

FRIENDS / DITSALA

- Dr Madisa Mine
- Dr Letlhogile Modisa
- Rre Justice Kolane

BOTSWANA VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

- Representative from the Association

BOTSWANA VACCINES INSTITUTE (BVI)

- **Board Representative:** Makuke Steven Makuke
- **Staff Representative:** Mme Prudence B. Kalasi

OIE REPRESENTATIVE

- Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

- Hon Minister Karabo S. Gare

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MESSAGES

- Mme Ophadile Ranthoakgale
- Mme Katlo Matlho
- Mme Phomolo Mosie
- Mme Keletso Sebogodi

TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS / BORADIKOLOI

- Rre Alex Kebonang
- Rre Tumisang Thatayaone

TIRELO KA BARUTI

BATSEI BA KESI GO TSWA MO KGOTLENG

- Mophato wa gagwe

PALL BEARERS AT THE CEMETERY

- Badiri ka ene
- **BURIAL SERVICE / TIRELO YA PHITLO**

- Priests

LAYING OF WREATH

- Mme Ophadile Ranthoakgale
- Mme Katlo Matlho
- Mme Phomolo Mosie
- Mme Keletso Sebogodi

VOTE OF THANKS / MALEBOGO

- **Councilor - Rre Keberekile Pule**
- **MP Jwaneng - Mabutsane - Hon Mephato Reatile**
- **Kgosi - Rre Kgakgamatso Moletsane**

PRAYER

TATOLO MO KGOTLENG

- Rre Boipuso B. Matlho

TATOLO MO LWAPENG

- Mme Binah Maitseo Thuku

H E R ©

I always saw my father as a kind soul, a people's person that was always there to support the people around him and a sophisticated man that was always precise in everything he did. As the social butterfly that he was, he taught me the value of making new friends from the people I'd encounter because I wouldn't know the significant role they would play in my future. He was the best dad anyone could ever ask for and the memories that we created are what I hold close to my heart. The unbreakable father-daughter bond that I shared with him is what I'll forever be grateful for. May the soul of my father and my best friend rest in peace.



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