

Beyond The Rainbow: A Pot of Gold

2017 LEGABIBO ANNUAL REPORT

PROTECT. PROMOTE. DEFEND.



Beyond The Rainbow: A Pot of Gold

Credits

Title: Beyond The Rainbow: A Pot of Gold - 2017 LEGABIBO Annual Report

Layout and Design by: Claywood (Pty) Ltd, hello@claywood.net, (+267) 311 3549

Print: Claywood (Pty) Ltd

Compilation and Writing: LEGABIBO

digital copies of this publication are available on LEGABIBO Website for download. Hardcopies can be obtained at LEGABIBO Office.

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FOREWORD



It is with great pleasure that I bring to you the 2017 Annual report entitle “Beyond the Rainbow – A pot of Gold. The title was inspired by the need to extend the narratives of LGBT persons, from that of sexuality and health, to highlighting our successes and celebrate our own. The beyond the rainbow dialogue is the beginning of a series of conversations where LGBT individuals re-write their narratives of their lived experiences.

In the same light this report acknowledges and celebrates LEGABIBO and members of the LGBT community successes to show that LGBT are not always victims, but find their strength amidst the constant scrutiny and being sidelined because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. LEGABIBO registration is a strong testimony of that strength, resilience and a sense of community.

This report aims to highlight the achievements of the LGBT community, specifically emphasising how individual members of the LGBT community have carried the organisations either as peer outreach workers, Board, members, Pflag and volunteers.

In 2017 we celebrate parents and friends in Francistown and Mochudi who have continued to support LGBT through raising awareness among members of the public and contribute in making the public spaces a lot safer for us.

This year we also focused on engaging in open conversations that realte to various issues and themes on issues that affect LGBT. These conversations included members of the LGBTI community, healthcare workers, DHMT and parents and friends, teacheres, police officers and religious leaders. From these engagement we learnt that the dearth of engagement and conversation habours misunderstanding subsequently discrimination. We strengthened existing relationships with partners and formed new ones. We identified champions in the form of religious leaders and teachers.

In this report we bring to you our traditional public events such as that Film festival, IDAHOT celebrations and details on LEGABIBO strategic litigation efforts and numerous international advocacy such as Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

I hope you will find this report both informative and interesting and that it will give you a greater understanding of the work undertaken by our organization. More importantly, I hope that you will gain an appreciation the efforts that members of the LGBT community made in building their community and how important it is for us to be defined and seen as more than our sexual orientation and victimhood and recognise our skills and successes.

Maithamako Anna Mmolai – Chalmers
CEO
LEGABIBO

ACKRONYMS

ACHPR	-----	African Commission on Human and People's Rights
DHMT	-----	District Health Management Team
DIC	-----	Drop in Center
FHI360	-----	Family Health International 360
HIV	-----	Human Immune Virus
IDAHOT	-----	International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia
IEC	-----	Inform, Educate and Communicate
ILGA	-----	International Lesbian and Gay Association
LEGABIBO	-----	Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana
LGBTI	-----	Lesbian(s), Gay(s), Bisexual(s), Transgender and Intersex
LGBTIQ	-----	Lesbian(s), Gay(s), Bisexual(s), Transgender, Intersex and Queer
MSM	-----	Men who have sex with other men
NACA	-----	National AIDS Coordinating Agency
NGO	-----	Non-Governmental Organization
PAI	-----	Pan Africa ILGA
PEPFAR	-----	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
Pflag	-----	Parents, families and friends of LGBTIQ
SOGIESC	-----	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics
UN	-----	United Nations
UNDP	-----	United Nations Development Program
UPR	-----	Universal Periodic Review
VDC	-----	Village Development Committee
WAD	-----	World Aids Day
WSW	-----	Women who have sex with other women



LEGABIBO Admission As An Amicus On Dicrim Case.

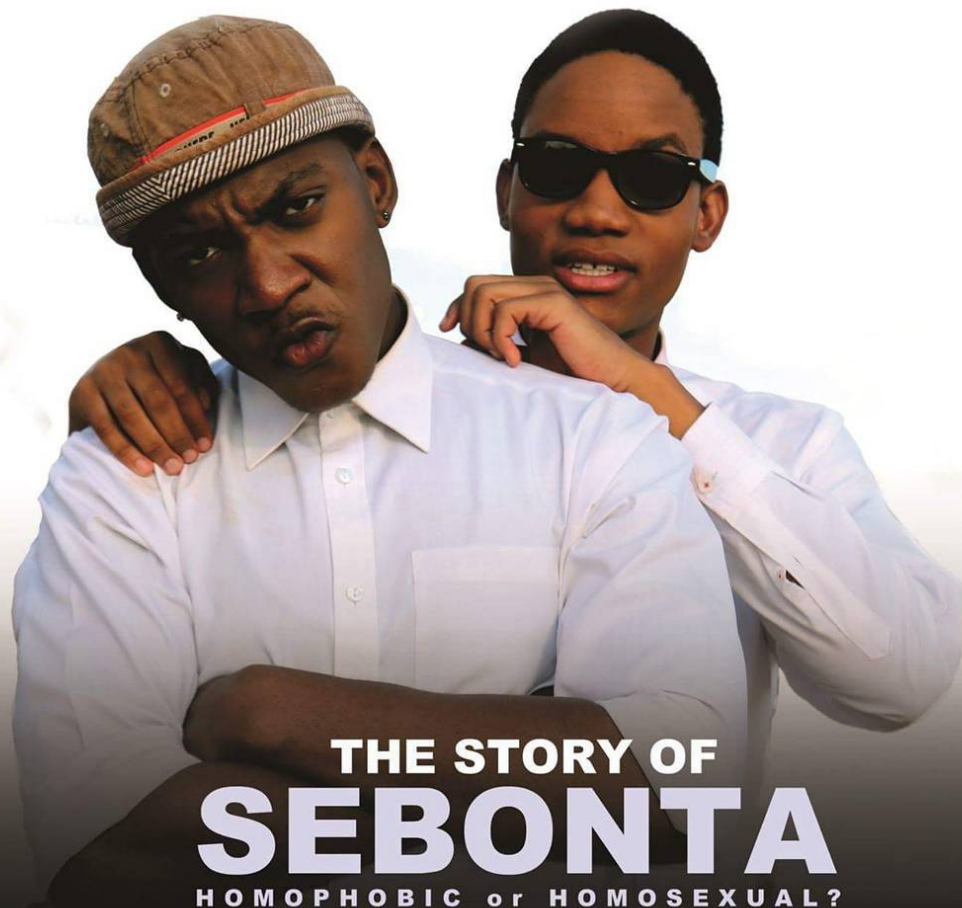
On the 1st November LEGABIBO applied to be admitted as an Amicus Currie in the case that is before the High Court in Lobatse that challenges Section 164, 165 and 167. An Amicus is an expression of interest to be friends of the court to provide evidence and new information that will assist the court to make informed decisions. In the matter where a gay man sues government for violation his rights through criminalization, LEGABIBO adds something new because we have expertise, interest, experience and relevant. Our involvement in the matter is broader and based on practical issues that have broader impact on the society. LEGABIBO was admitted as an Amicus and the hearing was set for 22th March 2018 but later postponed to 31st May 2018.

4th Pan African ILGA (PAI) Regional Conference

The PAI conference will host over 200 delegates from across Africa and the world from 31st May – 5 June 2018. It will be an opportunity for the world to see how Botswana is quickly becoming a progressive nation and an example in Africa and the world where LGBTI human rights are concerned. It is also a chance for the LGBTI community, the key population coalition and partner organizations to be in the forefront, leading and showcasing best practices in the protection and promotion of LGBTI human rights. Additionally, the conference will be a major boost for Botswana's tourism industry and contribute to the blossoming economy as well as show-case the best of our diverse culture.

TEBO MAGOPANE
as SEBONTA

THABISO SEGOKGO
as KARABO



AFDA SCHOOL OF MOTION PICTURE PRESENTS A KARABO KE ENG PRODUCTION. STORY BY DIFEMELO MONKUTLWATSI, ELLEN PHOOKO, THABISO RANTHOYAKGALE. PRODUCED BY DIFEMELO MONKUTLWATSI, CATHERINE GABU, KABELO MARUMO DIRECTED BY THABISO RANTHOYAKGALE ELLEN PHOOKO. PRODUCTION DESIGN BY KARABO LETLOLE, BANYANA RAMONTSHO. SOUND DESIGN BY WEDU SENDE, PHEPHELANI NDLOVU. CINEMATOGRAPHY KAMOGELO MOEKETSI EDITED BY KEABETSWE MOTISI

Batho Ba Lorato Film Festival

The highlight of this year's film festival was the Afda School of Motion Pictures' produced film "The Story of Sebonta", locally produced film depicting the life of a young gayman in the local school environment and coming to terms with sexuality from friends, community and family. The entire cast are Batswana and they attended the BBL show. The film got a positive response and BBL is very proud to be the first in Botswana to show this film. #BBL2017



International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT)

LEGABIBO commemorated IDAHOT in the City of Francistown with the LGBTI and Pflag support groups as well as the public. The theme this year focused on the diversity of families. #IDAHOT2017

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CORPORATE

ACCOUNTABILITY &
TRANSPARENCY

TEAMWORK

To create a strong
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LEGABIBO

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Parents, friends and families of LGBTI (Pflag)

LEGABIBO has established 2 Pflag support groups in Francistown and Mochudi. There are a total of 43 members of the Pflag. Membership comprise journalists, police officers, healthcare providers, religious leaders, traditional leaders, teachers, politicians and members of the community who some are members of the VDC.

Human Rights Pitso

This year LEGABIBO held dialogues with service providers in Maun, Kasane and Gaborone. The dialogues sensitized Service providers on LGBT issues to reduce stigma and discrimination experienced by members of our community.



LGBT Artivism

In 2017 the art project continued to raise awareness on different themes that include self –discovery, pride, relationship with the self, relationship with family. The artist Lincoln Langwane also uses art to tell his story and advocate for none discrimination and anti-homophobia. There have been public exhibitions held to share the LGBTI narratives with the public.



Drop-in-Centers (DIC) Launch

Through the support of UNDP, PEPFAR, US Embassy and the It is with this vision that LEGABIBO has established 2 drop in centers in Gaborone and Francistown with weekly HIV testing and counseling, consultation on sexual reproductive needs and referrals as well as psychosocial support for the LGBTI, MSM and WSW community.

The DIC serves as a safe space for the LGBTI, MSM and WSW community and upholding the utmost professional and confidential services by qualified counselors and nurses- sourced from partner organization whom for years have been serving as referral points for the organization.

The idea to launch the DIC comes after the purchase and up-grade of clinical equipment. It is also an opportunity to formally introduce the center to the LGBTI, MSM and WSW community and partners to utilize these services as well as encourage referrals to be rolled out.





Gaborone and Francistown Drop-in-Centers

Mid 2017 LEGABIBO, through the support of FHI360, UNDP and PEPFAR initiated 2 Drop-in-Centers in Gaborone and Francistown. These centers are safe spaces for members of the LGBT/MSM and WSW communities to access services and build movements. The LEGABIBO drop-in-centers are in two sections, the Community Health Center and the entertainment Center aka the Rainbow Cave. These were launched in June and officiated by Naca, FHI360 and the US Ambassador El Miller.

The Francistown Drop in Centre is continuing to grow from strength to strength and becoming a safe space for members of the LGBTQ/MSM and WSW community. The DIC offers a safe haven and welcome space where members of the community can gather and freely discuss issues, or just hang out and get to know each other. Members of the community have access to LGBT themed books, condoms and lubricants, pamphlets as well as internet for both entertainment and information. The aim is to empower the LGBT community and prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation. The services provided are psychosocial support, HIV counseling and testing, access to safer sex commodities.





Beyond the Rainbow: A Pot of Gold

This year members of the LGBT community and allies convened conversations focused on recognize their value and the contributions they have made to the development of this country looking beyond sexual orientation and acknowledge their professions as artists, politicians, entrepreneurs and employers. The 3-day convening brought together 101 members of the community. The penalists share their experiences as politicians, journalists, musicians, entrepreneurs, family and how they make their queer relationships work.







World AIDS Day

LEGABIBO took part in the national World Aids Day commemorations in Bobonong organized by the District Commissioner's office and National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA). The theme was My Health My Right. LEGABIBO shared IEC materials with the public; messages related to HIV/Aids in Botswana and on World Aids Day and information on LGBTI and the work that LEGABIBO does. The public was encouraged to take the IEC materials and go and read at their homes and share with their communities. A demonstration of different safer sex commodities that the LGBTI community use to highlight the gap that is there with regards to HIV prevention methods for Key Populations. Many were very enthusiastic and grateful for the materials that were availed to them.



LEGABIBO in the UN - UPR Advocacy

During the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review Session (UPR), Botswana civil society presented a shadow report on human rights situation in Botswana. LEGABIBO took part in this important moment for Botswana representing the LGBTI/MSM/WSW coalition to present on LGBTI human rights situation and lobby for member countries to make recommendations relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. The outcome of this effort is that Botswana received 14 recommendations on SOGIESC issues, an increase from the previous sessions where the recommendations were only 9.





LEGABIBO in the UN - UPR Advocacy

Years of experience taught organizations working with LGBTI on LGBTI human rights issues that more can be achieved together than apart. It was established to maximize the impact of the LGBTI sector in Botswana in order to achieve access to health and infuse rights based approaches in service delivery to LGBTI/MSM/WSW. The results of that was the initiating of the Botswana LGBTI/WSW/MSM coalition whose membership included LEGABIBO, BONELA, Men for Health and Gender Justice, HER and Pilot Mathambo. In 2017 the coalition was at its formative stage where partners agreed on areas of focus and developed a comprehensive advocacy strategy. The membership also identified partners working on KP issues to be part of the implementing partnerships going forward. Under the leadership of LEGABIBO The Coalition commemorated international events collaboratively.

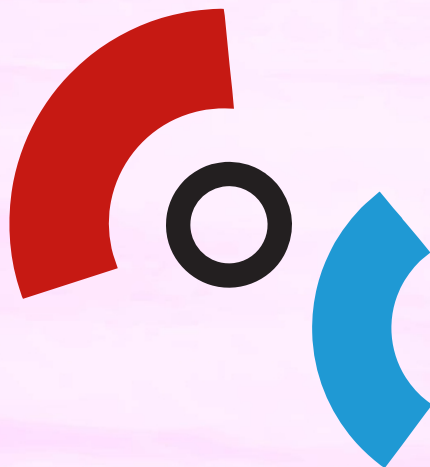
LEGABIBO Board

LEGABIBO held its first AGM on 2 December 2017 since registration. An official board was elected by the LEGABIBO members who will serve as LEGABIBO board for 2 years.





This initiative is proudly supported by:



Contact LEGABIBO on:

Tel +267 316 74 25

Fax +267 316 74 65

Cell +267 71 340 794

E-mail: info@legabibo.org

P O Box 550430

Mogoditshane, Botswana.

Facebook: LeGaBiBo

Twitter: [@legabiboadv](https://twitter.com/legabiboadv)

Instagram: [@legabibo](https://www.instagram.com/legabibo)

YouTube: LEGABIBO Botswana

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