**High Commissioner Dr. Rajesh Ranjan’s remarks on the occasion of Legae Academy Prize Giving Ceremony on 8th March 2019**

* **Mr. Easo Oommen, Principal, Legae Academy**
* **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Evening,**

1. Today, I feel very privileged and honoured to stand here in front of you all and acknowledge the achievements of the brilliant students who have made both the school and their parents proud.
2. These brilliant students exhibit such qualities that will not only help them in achieving their goals, but also bring glory of success to *the school, Legae Academy and* society *at large*.
3. I have been informed that Legae Academy for the past twenty-six years has been in the forefront of Botswana’s secondary level education, serving the nation in building the future of the young generation and guiding hundreds of students to achieve their goals. In twenty-six years Legae Academy has become a local tradition of global achievement and a leading educational institution in Botswana.
4. May I request you to give a big round of applause to the management of the school, principal and their teachers for their commendable works to bring the school at this level.
5. Today, we have gathered here not just to celebrate the achievements of students, but also to give due regard to our values and morals which these awardees exemplify, like discipline, compassion and zeal for learning.
6. Awards are a way to encourage good behaviour and inculcate competitive spirit. This year the theme of the Legae Academy Award is “**Rewarding Excellence: Epitome to Self Realisation”**this themeis truly reflective of the strength which lies in oneself. I consider that the Wealth of a nation is not so much in its economical and natural resources but it lies more decidedly in the kind and quality of the wealth of its children and youth. It is they who will be the creators and shapers of nation’s tomorrow.
7. The Children of today will be adults of tomorrow. Tomorrow’s leaders and activists. Their quality and personality will determine the kind of destiny that beackons the nation.
8. It, therefore, become mandatory for every nation and every society to nurture a strong, healthy and intellectual youth. It is the responsibility of the adults to direct the youth in desired direction. The youth of a nation is its power-house. They have boundless stores of energy, will, capability, zeal, and enthusiasm and have the power to mould the destiny of the nation. This infinite storehouse of energy has to be properly moulded and needs to be given appropriate direction. The youth has to be trained to use their talents in appropriate direction. They should use their talents and abilities in constructive ways and help in nation-building and strengthening of it.
9. Without harnessing this vast store of energy, a nation and a society cannot think of developing economically, politically, socially and intellectually. The best way to engage the youth into playing such a constructive role is to educate them with proper training in the desired direction.
10. Today’s event truly reflects the contribution of these young students in various categories of awards, viz. academics, distinction in sports and for participating in club activities.
11. The awards to be distributed today are not just for recognizing those students who have performed exceptionally well in their academics, but also to honour those students who excelled in sports, including the ones who were proactive in various club activities. The aim is to recognize that extra talent of students other than academics and motivate them to shine in their respective fields.
12. Education is much more than what happens within the four walls of the classroom and the school is very fortunate to have such teachers, trainers and instructors who recognise the same. In fact, if the building and teachers are the two pillars of any school, then all you students certainly are the third pillar.
13. We should always provide students with a healthy and fairly competitive environment to help them grow in every sphere of activity, be it academics, sports or any other extra-curricular role. We should give equal opportunities to all students so that they realize their true potential and get ready to face the outer world once they complete their school studies. And I am much pleased to see dear students performing and excelling in their respective areas of interests. I say that you are a credit to yourselves, to your school, to your teachers and of course your parents.
14. I would like to compliment all the teachers for providing a learning environment without which success could not be attained. The rigor and dedication brought by the teachers has been exceptional.
15. Also, I would like to address those students who have not won any prize and say that do not lose hope as this is not the end of everything and there will be many more opportunities knocking your way to prove your mettle. This award ceremony is just a beginning.
16. There is a very famous quote regarding the qualities of children which I like the most, I would like to quote :

"**The vast army of children across the world, outwardly different kinds of clothes, and yet so very like another. If you bring them together, they play or quarrel, but even their quarrel is some kind of play. They do not think of differences amongst themselves, difference of class or caste or colour or status. They are wiser than their father(s) or mother(s)."**

1. In conclusion, I would like to mention that when Children are provided adequate opportunity and guidance, the children of the country will show immense potential to contribute to society and humanity.
2. Last but not the least, I would like to use this wonderful opportunity to thank the Legae Academy and their management for taking this award ceremony to new heights and creating a distinct path for the students to follow for the better foundation for future learning.

**\*\*\*Thank You\*\*\***