



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **YOUTH GO TO THE POLLS**

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Youth across the breadth of Botswana, will this weekend go to the polls to elect their peers who will represent their voices at their respective districts. The much anticipated Botswana National Youth Council (BNYC), District Youth Committees' (DYCs) elections, will be held on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The elections will be held in 27 districts out of the initial designated 33 districts that elections were supposed to have been held after some areas were unopposed hence will automatically form committees.

After a five months vigorous public education exercise through various media, BNYC believes the youth are ready to vote in these historic elections.

As the empowerment partner of choice for youth in Botswana and always advocating for creativity and innovation, BNYC for the first time in history of elections in the country, introduced the use of technology for registration.

"This is a first for Botswana and young people reacted positively to the use of sms and online registration as they registered in satisfactory numbers," said the Chairperson of the Elections Sub-Committee Tapologo Kwapa.

The elections will be professionally conducted as BNYC partnered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), who have agreed to be Presiding Officer and assisted by Youth Officers in the various districts.

In accordance with clause 16.8 of BNYC Statutes, the elections are held for the positions of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. In pursuit of affirmative action for people with disabilities, BNYC has reserved one slot of additional membership position to a person with disability in each of the thirty-three (33) districts. However, this was not in any way meant to deter those who have interest in contesting for other positions to do so.

Once elected, the District Youth Committee shall have the power to oversee and implement the policies, programmes, projects and activities of the Council at the district level, subject to the direction and supervision of the Executive Committee of the Council.

The announcement of the elections results will be on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

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