**Welcome Remarks by Dr Tau at the Commencement of the Botswana Open University on the 8th December 2017**

* **PS – Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology**
* **Outgoing Chairperson**
* **Colleagues**
* **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

***H O W W O N D E R F U L !!***

**It is indeed heart-warming to see all of you with faces beaming of smiles. *What a day!!* And *What a Morning!!* A day that was made by the Almighty for all of us to rejoice in. We run short of words with which we should sufficiently express our gratitude for the attainment of the status for which we are here gathered.**

**The Vision for this day was hatched and adopted in 2001. We have since worked relentlessly towards this ceremony. Granted, 8 of our colleagues who were part of the Vision have not survived to see this historic day, because God had already decided that “they would not, *like the Biblical Moses,* enter the Promised Land” *May their souls rest in Eternal Peace!!* A few others left for Greener Pastures, but the vast majority, being yourselves, stayed the course, and are here to form part of the team that is writing history this morning. *Well done!!* For 16 years, we have waited, with our eyes focused on the bigger picture and the waiting has not been in vain. The details of what we have collectively done have been recorded and published. I should thank the authors of our story for a job well done.**

**You are most welcome Permanent Secretary to this ceremony. I am most grateful that it is you, who has been chosen to ignite the commencement we are here for. You have been very supportive to the ODL course. I hope you still remember as I do, the many days we together spent moving around the country, canvassing for the institution you have come to mark the commencement of. We thank you for your presence, and we thank you for the various contributions you have so professionally made, towards achievement of our long term vision.**

**I wish to acknowledge the presence of the outgoing Chairperson and his Board Members, who have over the years, provided governance oversight and ensured that we strayed not, from the principles of corporate governance. Outgoing Board, you can only agree with me that your governance interventions and the time you so generously gave, have been for a good course. Thank you for honouring us with your presence this morning. Your legacy is here to stay!!**

**Colleagues, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, you have all been very supportive. You are most welcome to this brief ceremony. Thank you for being part of the proceedings of this history-making event.**

**Thank you**

**Please Enjoy!!**