

**WELCOME REMARKS BY MRS IRENE  
KWAPE-NATIONAL COORDINATOR  
BOCAIP**

**SALUTATION**

**Master of Ceremonies**

**Assistant Minister of Health, Honourable  
GUS Matlhabaphiri**

**Board Chairperson for Pan African  
Christian AIDS Network,PACANet ,Mr  
Sam Udanyi**

**Executive Secretary,PACANet,Rev.Edward  
Baralemwa**

**National Coordinator  
Representantive,Natoanl AIDS  
Coordinating Agency, NACA,Mr. Joseph  
Kefas**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Distinguished Delegates from Near and Far**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**I feel greatly honoured to have been asked to welcome you to this august conference.**

**BOCAIP as the hostess of this event, it is therefore proper and fitting that I should perform this task,**

**First let me take this opportunity and thank the PACANet Board and Management for having decided to come back home to Botswana on their tenth anniversary to hold this lessons learnt and sharing conference.**

**It was about ten kilometres away from here at the Gaborone Sun Hotel that PACANet was born. Today PACANet is ten years old (to be exact she will be 10 years on the 24<sup>th</sup> June) .I also see some of the people who attended that historic conference, without any discrimination I can see Pangisile,Edward,.....etc.**

**At that time Rev.Edward Baralemwa was my supervisor as the National Coordinator of BOCAIP and I was a Training and Development Manager and we were both sat in the Organising Committee for that conference.I remember we sat with colleagues, the late Dr. Ntsatsi,the late Taboka Malomo, Katrin Taylor ,our consultant for the conference and partners from the Campus Crusade, Scripture Union and other BOCAIP staff.**

**The conference theme was “:Working Together”:Networking a Pan African Christian HI/AIDS Response. Each of the four days of the conference had a subtheme , Setting the Vision, Practical Steps, Sharing together and The way forward**

**At the end of the conference the theme and all its subthemes were addressed in that the following outcome were achieved through the formation of a functioning Network to:**

- 1. Provide links among Christian HIV and AIDS agencies**
- 2. Share experiences and lessons learnt**
- 3. Provide a place to give and find support**
- 4. Create a channel for Christian HIV and AIDS initiatives for donors**
- 5. Enable free flow of information among different HIV and AIDS networks.**

**My welcome message is that it is my hope that you will share experiences and lessons learnt for the next three days. (As seen from the programme). You will go back to your respective countries and use the evidence to implement HIV and AIDS initiatives that will make a difference in your communities. The donors are also interested in fund evidence based initiatives that have worked and made an impact.**

**It is my fervent hope that the initiatives will also be innovative and will be aligned to our National HIV and AIDS Frameworks.**

**Let me now welcome you to Botswana. I wish you a very pleasant stay here. Botswana are very kind and sociable people. Gaborone is a safe city but like any other city in the world there are some no go areas unless you are accompanied by colleagues where the crime rate is a bit high, avoid all those places . If you have time visit our malls, Game City, River Walk, Airport Junction, Sebele and Rail Park.**

**In conclusion let me quote from the holy book to summarise why PACANet and why we are here:**

***“Under Christ’s direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts to grow so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love”. Ephesians 4:16.***

**Thank you**

**Kea leboga**

**Pula! Pula! Pula!**