



**SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY**
CENTRE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION
Excellence in ODL



SEMINAR SERIES

“THE CONVERSATION”

Date: 17 February 2022

Time: 0930hrs – 1130hrs

Contact: cthabo@staff.bou.ac.bw

Theme:

A future for ODeL in the 21st Century- challenges and opportunities

The e-tutor in the New Normal: An analysis of the changing roles and challenges of tutoring in an ODeL environment during and Post COVID-19 pandemic.

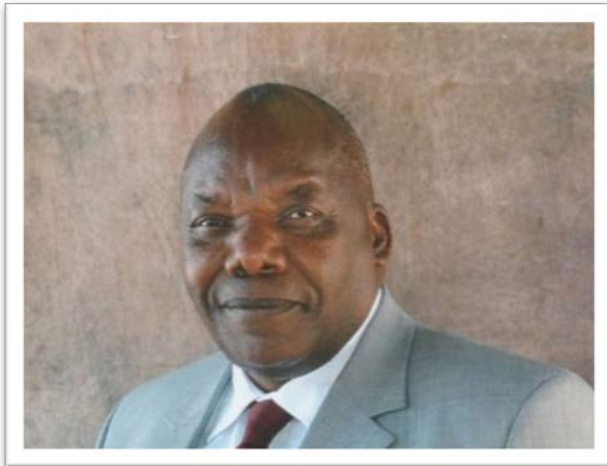
Facilitators:

1. **Dr Joseph A Kasozi** – Lecturer. School of Education. Botswana Open University
2. **Dr Deborah V Sanoto** – Lecturer. School of Education. Botswana Open University
3. **Dr Felix Omal** – Tutor. School of Education. Botswana Open University

ABSTRACT

ODeL institutions have not been spared the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this conversation, the researchers pose to interrogate the role and challenges of the Part-time Tutor, who has had to adapt rapidly to the ‘new normal’ that the pandemic has ushered into the teaching and learning environment today. Part-time Tutors play a pivotal role in the success of students in an ODeL environment. The aim of this conversation is to highlight the roles and competencies of an e-Tutor as drawn from literature and practice. The findings depict the

strides that Botswana Open University (BOU) has employed to accommodate and support the e-Tutor in the 'new normal'. In conclusion, we discuss suggestions on ways of enhancing the role, status, and quality performance of the e-Tutor during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr Joseph Amooti Kasozi

Dr Kasozi is a lecturer and Acting Head of Department of Educational Management and Leadership at the Botswana Open University. He holds a PhD in Education from Fort Hare University in South Africa, Master of Education (Tertiary Didactics) and Post Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Education from Unisa; Master of Science from Reading University and Bachelor of Science plus Post Graduate Diploma in Education from Makerere University in Uganda. In addition, Dr

Kasozi has also a Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Management and Administration from the Institute of Development Management (Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland). His current research interests include adult and distance education, educational leadership, tertiary didactics, as well as quality assurance in higher education.



Dr Deborah Vimbwandu Sanoto

Dr Sanoto is a lecturer in the School of Education, Department of Teacher Education at Botswana Open University. Her current research interests include teacher in-service training, online teaching, learning and assessment, adult and distance education, and Literature in English and Linguistics. She holds a PhD in Curriculum Studies attained from University of Stellenbosch in South Africa and Master of Arts in English from University of Botswana. Dr Sanoto also has a Post Graduate Certificate in Quality Assurance in Education attained from Botswana Open University. Deborah Sanoto is a recipient of the 2019 Thomas Pringle Award for one of her published educational articles.



Dr Felix Omal

Dr Felix Omal holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, with a focus on the role of university councils in South Africa. He specialises in the politics of higher education at the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies. As universities both internationally and locally are becoming online and embracing the notions of ODEL

as part of their key institutional strategies for successfully teaching, research, learning, leading, and managing, his current academic work focuses on developing cross-interactive critical African perspectives to ODEL in a globalising world.