The Bessie Head Heritage Trust, together with Pentagon Publishers, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2010 Bessie Head Literature Awards:

**Novel**
- 1st prize P2,500 to Ms Tshetsana Senau for *Travelling to the Sun: The Diary of Ruth*
- 2nd place books to Mr Patrick Melusi Mtnzie for *The Calabash of Life in the Diaspora*
- 3rd place books to Mr Wazha Lopang for *If Mother Only Knew*

**Short Story**
- 1st prize P1,250 to Mr Legodile Seganabeng for “The Moon Has Eyes”
- 2nd place books to Ms Atang Mogome for “The Evil Messenger of God”
- 3rd place books to Ms Jelena Ivancevic for “The Rise and the Fall in All of Us”

**Children’s Story**
- 1st prize P1,250 to Ms Jenny Robson for “The Right Time”
- 2nd place books to Mrs Reshoketjoe Lilford for “The Christmas Dress”
- 3rd place books to Ms Dabilo Malebogo Mokobi for “Grampi”

On Saturday, 26 June 2010, Prof. F. Mnthali of the UB English Department will give the keynote remarks. Immediately afterwards, Ms Penny Moanakwena of the Reading Association of Botswana will award the above prizes in the National Museum in Gaborone, in a ceremony beginning at 10:30 A.M. Admission is free, and all are welcome. The event will include readings by the winners and runners-up, an open mike for literary performers, and the launch of the works of the 2009 winners in book form by Pentagon Publishers as part of their Bessie Head Series of writing in English from Botswana.

Date: 26 June 2010

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Venue: Handling Room, National Museum, Gaborone

All Welcome: Free Admission
The monetary prizes for the first-place winners are sponsored by Pentagon Publishers, Gaborone. They comprise P2,500 for best novel, P1,250 for best short story, and P1,250 for best children's story. Second- and third-place winners will receive a set of books from Pentagon and from Exclusive Books, Gaborone.

Details about next year’s contest, including rules and guidelines for submitting entries, will be published soon on the TRUST website at www.bessiehead.org. The results of all previous competitions are also found there.

The BESSIE HEAD LITERATURE AWARDS are sponsored by Pentagon Publishers and administered by the BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST. The Trust was established in June 2007 to promote the life and work of Bessie Head both here and abroad. We believe this competition is important for two reasons: (a) to help preserve Bessie Head's legacy in Botswana, since she is our country’s most famous writer who has gained broad recognition overseas; and (b) to encourage the development of local literature in various genres in English.

Bessie Head herself was generous with her time when students asked her for assistance and advice, and we believe that this generosity is best reflected in a vigorous effort to promote literature and reading in Botswana. It is through literature, music, and all other forms of cultural imagination that both personal spirit and national identity are nurtured and strengthened.

For further information, please contact Dr. Leloba Molema, secretary of the Bessie Head Heritage Trust (phone 3913417), or Mr. Tiro Sebina, acting chair of the Trust (cell 71602279).

This PRESS RELEASE may also be found in full at http://www.bessiehead.org/awards/winners-2010.htm.

The web page for the TRUST may be found at http://www.bessiehead.org/owners/owners.htm.