

**Public Affairs Section**

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### **Press Release**

#### **Forty-one African Officials Graduate from Law Enforcement Executive Development Course at the International Law Enforcement Agency in Otse**

Forty-one law enforcement officials from Botswana, Ghana, South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho graduated on September 7 from the Law Enforcement Executive Development (LEED) Course at the International Law Enforcement Agency in Otse. The LEED course is offered four times a year to top law enforcement officers from across Africa.

Describing the LEED course, class spokesperson Shirley Motheliwa Owageng of the Botswana Bureau of Prisons said, "It was a good training course. We learned about investigations, terrorism, small and light arms, explosives, money laundering, and other topics. But the training that left the greatest impression on me was on leadership development."

One course requirement is for each country team to make a presentation on the most significant law enforcement challenges they face and the methods they use to tackle them. These problems included livestock theft, street crimes, murder/suicide, and trafficking in persons and drugs. Course participants emphasized that owning livestock in Africa has for generations been a form of status and when a farmer loses his cattle, donkeys or goats from theft, it can utterly destroy his status in the community. "This is a major problem on the continent," said one official. Other officials noted that some criminal elements use Ghana and South Africa as transit points for smuggling illegal immigrants to the Middle East, and that the LEED training was very beneficial in countering that threat.

Police official Edward Cudjoe from Ghana said, "This course has changed my whole mindset, because I now have many new ideas on how to perform my job better when I get home." He added, "I took lots of notes to share with my colleagues because this training will strengthen our capacity to effectively fight drug trafficking."

In his keynote address at the graduation ceremony, U.S. Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Deputy Director D. Kenneth Keene highlighted the importance of sharing information and using technology to combat crime.

ILEA Director J.O. Smith noted that the facility, which is run jointly by the Governments of the United States and Botswana, has updated the training curriculum each of the past three years based on annual needs assessments conducted with law enforcement officials from the 34 sub-Saharan African countries that participate in the courses. He added that this LEED class was the first to use Apple iPad2s issued for use during the training. The ILEA campus provides wireless internet connectivity throughout the campus, allowing the participants conduct research and other web-based activities more easily.

In addition to the LEED courses, the ILEA conducts courses on counter-terrorism, criminal investigation, case management, fighting organized crime, leadership, evidence handling, and other aspects of law enforcement.

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