



## BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST

Registered as a trust in the Deeds Office of Botswana under no. MA 277/2007

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1 July 2009

The BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST, together with Pentagon Publishers, is pleased to announce the winners of the **2009 BESSIE HEAD LITERATURE AWARDS**.

In the category of NOVEL, the winner is Ms. **Cheryl Selase Ntuny** for her manuscript *Crossing*. The first runner-up is Ms. **Kagiso Madibana** for *The Way It Goes...*, and the second runner-up is Mr. **Monametsi Paul** for *The Reunion*. The winner will receive a cash prize of P2,500.00; the runners-up will receive a set of books donated by Exclusive Books and by Pentagon Publishers.

In the SHORT STORY category, the winner is Ms. **Gothataone Moeng** for a story entitled "Putting on Faces". The first runner-up is Ms. **Wanja Njuguna** for her story "Forbidden Love"; the second runner-up is Mr. **Galefele Maokeng** for "The Easter Trail". The prize for the short story winner is P1,500.00, and again the runners-up will each receive a set of books.

The POETRY winner is Ms. **Luda Sekga** for "He Was My Oppressor". The first runner-up is Mr. **Goabilwe Mogapi** for the poem "Memoirs of a Child Soldier". The second runner-up is Ms. **Masego Morima** for her poem "The Man Who Walks". The poetry prize is P1,000.00, with sets of books to go to the runners-up.

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On 19 July 2009, the Hon. Unity Dow, former High Court Justice, will award the above prizes in the National Museum in Gaborone, in a ceremony beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. The event will include readings by the winners and runners-up, a reading from Bessie Head's work by Ms. Dow, a launch of the works of the 2008 winners in book form, and an open mike session. Pentagon Publishers will promote the titles of their BESSIE HEAD SERIES of writing in English from Botswana.

Date	19 July 2009
Time	2:30 pm
Venue	Little Theatre, National Museum, Gaborone
All Welcome	Free Admission

Details about next year's contest, including rules and guidelines for submitting entries, will be published later this year on the Trust website at [www.bessiehead.org](http://www.bessiehead.org). The results of the 2007 and 2008 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.

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