



BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST

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

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Press Release

The **BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST** and **PENTAGON PUBLISHERS** are pleased and proud to announce the winners of the 2009 Bessie Head Literature Awards:

Novel

1st prize	P2,500	Ms Cheryl Selase Ntumy	<i>Crossing</i>
2nd place	books	Ms Kagiso Madibana	<i>The Way It Goes...</i>
3rd place	books	Mr Monametsi Paul	<i>The Reunion</i>

Short Story

1st prize	P1,500	Ms Gothataone Moeng	"Putting on Faces"
2nd place	books	Ms Wanja Njuguna	"Forbidden Love"
3rd place	books	Mr Galefele Maokeng	"The Easter Trail"

Poetry

1st prize	P1,000	Ms Luda Sekga	"He Was My Oppressor"
2nd place	books	Mr Goabilwe Mogapi	"Memoirs of a Child Soldier"
3rd place	books	Ms Masego Morima	"The Man Who Walks"

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	National Museum (Little Theatre), Gaborone
All Welcome	Free Admission

The monetary prizes for the first-place winners are sponsored by Pentagon Publishers, Gaborone. They comprise **P2500** for best novel, **P1500** for best short story, and **P1000** for best poem or set of poems. 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 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 more 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).

This PRESS RELEASE may also be in full at
<http://www.bessiehead.org/awards/winners-2009.htm>.

The webpage for the TRUST may be found at
<http://www.bessiehead.org/owners/owners.htm>.