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 *Crossing*
2nd place books Ms Kagiso Madibana *The Way It Goes...*
3rd place books Mr Monametsi Paul *The Reunion*

**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).

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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.