

The Evolution of Geomatics at the University of Botswana

Emmanuel TEMBO and Mike MANISA, Botswana

Key words: Geomatics, Land Surveying.

ABSTRACT

The Diploma in Land Surveying programme at the University of Botswana has undergone changes and will now run as a Diploma in Geomatics. This programme is to be introduced in August of 2002. The paper will examine the current status of Geomatics and the future plans of Geomatics in the Department of Civil Engineering. It looks at the Diploma in Land Surveying from the time it was introduced in 1992 and compares it to the new semesterised programme in Geomatics. The paper shows the introduction of new technologically based courses such as the satellite surveying and digital cartography. The introduction of new programmes has meant the department has had to re-equip itself to meet the new challenges.

The paper further addresses the future prospects of introducing a degree in Geomatics and examines the prospects of acceptance by Government and industry. It follows a needs survey assessment carried out to determine industry requirements in the area of spatial information. It is observed that the Geomatics Engineer is still an unknown species in most organisations. A lot still requires to be done to convince the employers of the capabilities of the Geomatics Professional. Employers still do not know what a Geomatics Engineer is capable of doing. A new degree in Geomatics will hopefully bring relief to former students who could only obtain such qualifications outside the country.

CONTACT

Mr. Emmanuel Tembo and Mr. Mike Manisa
University of Botswana
Department of Civil Engineering,
P/Bag 0061,
Gaborone,
BOTSWANA
Tel. + 267 355 4349
Fax + 267 352 309
Email: tembo@mopipi.ub.bw and manisamb@mopipi.ub.bw
Web site: <http://www.ub.bw/civil>