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Primary School Managers Perceptions of the Importance of Computers in Primary Schools

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ABSTRACT Primary Education, within the overall system of formal education provides a foundation upon which other levels of education rest. Information and Communication Technology (ICT), in particular, the computer, plays an important role in the advancement of competitiveness in the global technological era. A study was, therefore, conducted in the southern part of Botswana to assess the school managers' perception of a computer in both private and government primary schools. The findings show that all private schools had computers and the school managers used them more in their administrative duties as compared to government primary school managers whose schools had very limited or no computers. Whilst School Management Teams (SMTs) from government schools indicated that they valued computers, they did not do much to secure the same through partnerships with parents and the community. It is concluded that the practical implementation of the concepts of partnership, self-reliance and creativity may not be understood by government school SMTs. Hence, it is recommended among others that workshops on the application of the three concepts be organized for them and that government must budget for computers for primary schools if the objectives of Vision 2016 are to be realised