

**Republic of Botswana TAUTONA TIMES vol. 9 no. 14 (26/6/2011)  
– The Electronic Press Circular of the Office of the President**

**“REAL LEADERSHIP FOR REAL DELIVERY”**

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*“It is a pleasure to be here in this beautiful country that embodies what my husband has called ‘vision of Africa on the move’—that is Botswana—thriving democracy, vital democracy, fast-growing economy and more importantly a kind and generous people who, in this short amount of time, have given me and my family such a warm welcome.” – US First Lady Michelle Obama [C2]*

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**A. The Week that Was:**

Dear Readers – Welcome to another edition of Tautona Times, your window into issues and events involving the Botswana State Presidency. This weekend Botswana was thrust in the global media spotlight by the three day visit of the U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama [B2] [C2-3].

Additional attention was also attracted this weekend's by the holding of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Toyota 1000 Botswana Kgalagadi Desert Race, which has become a premier sporting event for off road vehicle competition. [D1-2]

### **U.S. First Lady visits Botswana; meets with the President**

Over the past three day's our country has been more than usually in the global spotlight as a result of the visit by U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama, along with accompanying members of her family, which ended this morning. [C2] The stated purpose of the visit was to promote youth leadership, education, and health and wellness issues both here and in the region. The trip was further characterized by the Americans as an opportunity to highlight -

*"Botswana's enduring democracy, bolstered by its commitment to using its vast natural resources to invest in its people and grow its economy, models the potential for good governance, and strong institutions to advance prosperous and stable societies."*

Upon their arrival they were greeted by local children including traditional dancers. Thereafter they visited Botswana Baylor Children's' Clinic Centre of Excellence, where Mrs. Obama and her entourage took part in painting a wall mural with members of the Centre's Teens Club.

The US First Lady's next stop on was a Women's Leadership Luncheon, where she spoke on the importance of mentoring for gender empowerment [B2] She also paid special tribute to Botswana:

*"It is a pleasure to be here in this beautiful country that embodies what my husband has called 'vision of Africa on the move'—that is Botswana—thriving democracy, vital democracy, fast-growing economy and more importantly a kind and generous people who, in this short amount of time, have given me and my family such a warm welcome."*

Following the luncheon, Mrs. Obama went to the Office of the President, where she met with H.E. the President, Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, before the two emerged for a joint photo op with reporters who had assembled in the Cabinet Room.

A subsequent White House briefing described the talks as having underscored the *"breadth and depth"* of the Botswana-USA bilateral relationship, reiterating Botswana

status one of Africa's most stable democracies having held successive democratic elections since independence.

During the talks H.E. President Khama expressed his own appreciation for US assistance in such areas as trade and investment promotion and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The two also discussed their shared commitment to promoting youth leadership and empowerment and the President's special interest and prominence in international efforts to conserve Africa's natural heritage.

In earlier remarks to the press, Mrs. Obama stated that her visits to both Botswana and South Africa was evidence of President Obama's own commitment to African issues, describing herself as her husband's "*direct representative*" in the context of her meeting with President Khama.

### **H.E. the President's week.**

Last weekend, the President listened to the concerns of residents in the Francistown West Constituency. Issues raised by the residents included pleas for an increase in the numbers employed by the Ipelegeng programme, the need to put abandoned plots to productive use and widespread complaints about the failure of some teachers to effectively return to the classroom despite the suspension of the strike.

Many welcomed Government's recognition of the paramount right of all children to education by amending the Schedule in Section 49 of the Trade Disputes Act so as to list teaching services, as well as veterinary and diamond sorting, cutting and selling services as essential services.

On Monday, His Excellency was briefed by the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, the Hon. Mokgweetsi Masisi, along with the Assistant Minister, the Hon. Patrick Masimolole, and senior officials about the progress and challenges facing various departments and divisions falling under the State Presidency including the National Strategy Office, Disaster Relief, the recently formed Office for People with Disabilities and Government Information and Communications.

Also on Monday, the President formally received the credentials of the newly appointed US Ambassador, Ms. Michelle Gavin. At the engagement, Ms. Gavin pledged that the US would continue to assist Botswana in such areas as trade and investment promotion. His Excellency particularly welcomed the new Ambassador's expressed desire for a greater engagement with the young people. "In an effort to make our relationship dynamic, relevant and mutually beneficial into the future we would like to consider a lot of youth participation" she said.

On Tuesday the President travelled to Tsabong to chair a joint meeting between Cabinet and members of the Kgalagadi District Council, as part of his ongoing initiative to take Cabinet to all of the country's District and Town Councils. **[B1]** In his opening remarks, His Excellency observed that Councillors should facilitate information flow their constituents about the state of the economy in terms of its revenues and spending priorities given that Botswana like other countries is going through an economic downturn which has placed constraints on Government spending.

On Thursday the President received a quarterly briefing by the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security.

In addition to his meeting with the US First Lady, on Friday the President visited the Dream Centre School for children with disabilities, where he made donations as a part of his personal commitment to the Community Service Day initiative. His Excellency also greeted Tlokweng residents in a walkabout, which included further donations to needy members of the community.

In the afternoon, the President was also on hand for a Lady Khama Trust donation ceremony at the Office of the President, in which some P 400,000 was received by deserving charitable organisations.

Yesterday, His Excellency was in Lobatse, where he greeted and listened to the concerns of residents in Peleng, before attending a youth music and dance performance competition.

### **Also**

In other matters, on Thursday, H.H. the Vice President, Lt. Gen. Mompoti Merafhe was the honoured participant in a donation ceremony to assist registered destitute persons in Mahalapye West.

On Friday members of OP staff, led by Assistant (& Acting) Minister Masimolole, went to Lekgolobotho for their monthly Community Service Day commitment. There they rehabilitated a community garden as part of the Office's desire to give priority to rural and agricultural self-help projects.

This coming Friday will be a Public Holiday marking the 90th Anniversary of the 1/7/1921 birth of our late First President Sir Seretse Khama. This edition thus includes a short profile of our founding statesman. **[C1]**

**- Dr. Jeff Ramsay, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Government Communications (26/6/11)**

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## **B. STATEMENTS**

### **B1) 21/6/11: REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT LT. GEN. SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ADDRESS TO KGALAGADI DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Council Chairman, Hon. F. Van Der Westhuizen His Honour the Vice President Cabinet Ministers Councillors Senior Government officials

1. We are gathered here today for yet another important meeting with one of our local authorities, the Kgalagadi District Council. Since the start of this initiative of taking Cabinet to the local levels in 2010, we have had useful interactions with six Councils.
2. The need for Cabinet to meet and interact with you as the local leadership cannot be over-emphasised as you provide a critical interface between Government and yourselves. This forum offers us an opportunity as the national leadership to interact on key issues and challenges that we face in our quest to improve the lives of Batswana.
3. As representatives of the people, you are well placed to address their concerns, needs and aspirations, implementation bottlenecks and the general socio-economic development challenges. As Councillors, you should facilitate information flow to your constituents about the state of the economy in terms of its revenues and spending priorities. This is very important especially that Botswana like other countries is going through an economic downturn which has so far limited Government's ability to deliver programmes, projects and services expected by Batswana.
4. These economic realities require us as national and local leadership to tell Batswana that Government will not be able to deliver some of the most needed projects. However, I need to indicate that despite these challenges, my Government is committed to the improvement of the livelihoods of Batswana through programmes such as LIMID, Ipelegeng, Poverty Eradication, ISPAAD, CEDA, Youth Development Fund, support to destitute persons, orphans and old age pensioners, for example.
5. I have mentioned to other Councils, the support that Government extends to local authorities through the Revenue Support Grant has reduced significantly because the economy cannot generate enough revenue to meet Government's recurrent expenditure obligations. You therefore need to explore other revenue sources to increase the Revenue Support Grant and sustain service provision to your constituents. This calls for prudence in the use and management of the limited resources at your disposal.

6. It is also important that users of Council services should contribute to the cost of providing such services as funds will in future be inadequate for investment in infrastructure upgrading, extension and service provision. As Council, you need to explore various alternatives for cost saving and cost recovery as we continue with implementation of National Development Plan 10 and your District Development Plan 7.

7. Community participation in development which assumed increasing importance in the early 1970s and 1980 is almost non-existent today. As Government and district leadership, we need to revive this development concept because the success of most programmes and projects depends to a large extent on citizen participation in the planning process, project implementation and evaluation.

8. Participation is important in involving people in decision making processes, enabling them to manage their affairs, control their environment and enhance their well-being. I therefore challenge you and all Local Authorities in Botswana to revive community development and mobilisation initiatives for capacity building and community empowerment. This is critical if we are to do away with the culture of entitlement and enhance the uptake of government poverty eradication initiatives.

9. You will recall that as early as 1973 Government has put in place rural development policies which were aimed at revamping development of our rural communities. The key focus was employment creation and poverty reduction. This is still a challenge across all districts. As you are aware, poverty eradication has been identified as one of the priority areas by my Government and we cannot address this challenge without a coordinated and integrated approach. There is therefore need to coordinate your efforts with central government departments in your district, the private sector and Non-governmental Organisations if you are to make any difference in people's lives.

10. You also need to explore and exploit areas of comparative advantage in your district such as tourism and the livestock sub-sector which can be transformed from a traditional subsistence economy into a commercialised economy that has potential for employment creation in the district. In my view, there is a lot of potential for economic activities in areas such as parks, cultural villages, game viewing and tours, hospitality industry, just to mention a few. These are some of the economic opportunities that the district needs to leverage on using government stimulus packages like CEDA, CBRNM and others. Where there are challenges, you need to continuously engage Government through various Ministries to address the challenges.

11. Let me also point out that as a Local Authority, you are a major procuring entity in the district. You should therefore use your purchasing power to support small medium and micro enterprises to grow the local economy and create employment opportunities for the district.

12. In conclusion, as I have noted in previous interactions with your colleagues in other districts, I believe that at the end of these meetings, we will know each other better, appreciate key delivery issues and challenges and collectively come up with proposals for improving the lives of Batswana. While the needs, aspirations and beliefs of our fellow citizens may be similar across districts and constituencies, we note and appreciate that the challenges, the environment and resource endowment may differ from one district to another. I thank you for your attention.

## **B2) 24/6/11: REMARKS BY U.S. FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA AT WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON AT THE SANITAS TEA GARDEN IN GABORONE**

1. I want to start by thanking Mpho for that wonderful introduction. Very kind, very brilliant. Let's give her a hand.

2. And I also have to thank Ambassador Gavin for her remarks and for taking the time, for her leadership. She is going to be a magnificent ambassador. We are excited about her being here. She is among our best. So let's give her a round of applause.

3. But I also want to more importantly recognize our guests of honour. We have 23 young women who we are celebrating today. Some of these young women are the very first in their families to attend university. Others have overcome tremendous odds to do so. And all of them are working hard every day at their universities and at their secondary schools. And we're here today because we are so proud of you all and we are very impressed by everything that you've achieved to this point. So let's give them a round of applause, too.

4. Finally, I want to thank the 10 remarkable women leaders who have come here today, who have taken time from their busy lives to join us and to help us celebrate these young women. Each of these leaders has carved out an extraordinary path in this world. And along the way, they have broken all kinds of barriers and reached heights in their careers.

5. But I want the students here to remember about these leaders is that it wasn't so long ago that these women were sitting just where all of you are sitting. They, believe it or not, including me, we were once young, too. They were filled with hopes and dreams, but also worries, fears and doubts.

6. It's important to remember that these women were not born attorney general, the Dean of a Medical School, the paramount chief of a tribe. It wasn't just luck that made them the first woman on this country's highest court or the first woman to serve as FIFA football referee.

7. Each of these women earned these honours. They spent thousands of hours studying, and practicing, and working. And in the end, their stories were possible

because along the way, each of them had someone in their lives that encouraged them and inspired them. They each had someone who told them, 'You're special, you're talented, you have so much to offer.'

8. And today, I'm reminded that here in Botswana, you have a proverb that says: 'We are people because of other people.'

9. In other words, all of our journeys are shaped, in part, by people in our lives who love us, who believe in us, and who invest in us.

10. And that is why we didn't just invite these remarkable young leaders here today. We also invited their mothers, their grandmothers, their aunts, and uncles, caregivers, mentors and others who have made them who they are today.

11. And we did this purposefully because we know that education is a family affair. It's a community affair, particularly when it comes to educating young women.

12. It's about fathers who ask, 'Why should my son go to school, and not my daughter?' It's about the grandmother who makes sure her granddaughter is dressed, fed, hair-braided, and out the door in time for school. It's about the mother who works long hours, maybe an extra job, so that her daughter can attend university and have opportunities that she never dreamed of.

13. So to all of the family members and the loved ones who are here today, please make no mistake about it, that these young women are here today because of you, and who they will become in the future is because of you. So today is your day too.

14. And I know this from firsthand experience the power of the love and support that family provides, because I have been blessed with so much of that in my life.

15. I came from a modest background. Neither of my parents attended university themselves. But they were determined that my brother and I would have that chance. So they worked hard to provide for us. They sacrificed for us. More importantly, they set high standards. They pushed us to meet those high standards.

16. And when it came time for me to apply to university, I applied to some of the most elite universities in my country. And as I've shared so often, before, when I applied, there were people that didn't think that someone with my background could succeed at such elite institutions. And when I ended up getting accepted to one of those universities, truthfully I had plenty of doubts about my own abilities.

17. But once I started attending classes, I soon realized that I could do just as well, if not better, than many of my classmates. I realized that success is not about where you come from or how much money your family has. Success is about how passionately

you believe in your own potential and more importantly how hard you're willing to work to achieve it.

18. And what I have said to so many young people and young women is that if ever you start to doubt yourself -- because I did this -- I would remember all of that faith, all that love, all that hard work that my parents poured into me.

19. And by doing that, for me, that would light my path. That would guide me on my journey.

20. So today, I want to conclude with a simple toast. To these extraordinary women -- we can pretend to raise our glasses -- -- we are all so proud of. To these remarkable women leaders, whose achievements inspire us. And to all of those in our lives whose love guides us, sustains us, and makes us who we are.

21. So thank you all. God bless. Keep it up. Work very hard. This is the beginning of a very high bar for all of you. But you can do it. You already are doing it.

22. And the last message to the family members, something my mother taught me, is that you don't have to have achieved what your children have achieved to push them to be successful. All they need is your constant love and support. That is it.

23. So keep being what they say -- that 'wind beneath their wings' -- and they will be brilliant. So thank you all so much.

### **C. NOTICES & FORWARDING**

#### **C1) 26/6/11: PROFILE OF THE LATE SIR SERETSE KHAMA, NYB, KBE, LLD, D.LITT, PHD, MP, FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA (30/9/66 -13/7/80)**

This coming Friday will be a Public Holiday marking the 90th Anniversary of the 1/7/1921 birth of our late First President Sir Seretse Khama. Below please find a short profile of our founding statesman -

#### **Sir Seretse Khama (1921-80)**

The late Sir Seretse Khama was the first President of the Republic of Botswana. He inherited an impoverished and internationally obscure state from British rule, and left it as a democratic and increasingly prosperous nation with a significant role in Southern Africa.

Seretse Khama was born on the 1st of July 1921 at Serowe in what was then the Bangwato Tribal Reserve of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. He was the son and heir

Sekgoma Khama and Tebogo (nee Kebailele). In 1923 his father succeeded his grandfather as the Kgosi or ruler of the Bangwato. His reign, as Kgosi Sekgoma II was, however, short as he died in 1925. With the death of his mother, in 1930, Seretse remained in the care of his uncle Tshekedi Khama, who ruled the Bangwato as his regent

Seretse received his higher primary and secondary education in South Africa, at two prominent mission schools, Lovedale and Tiger Kloof, before earning a Bachelor of Arts degree at Fort Hare College. Thereafter he studied law at the University of Witwatersrand and Balloil College, Oxford, before taking up further Barrister Studies at Inner Temple in London.

In June 1947, while in London, Seretse first met Ruth Williams, who was then pursuing a career in the financial sector. Their interracial marriage in September 1948 ultimately threw the British Empire into turmoil. Initially it was uncle, Tshekedi, who ordered Seretse home to demand a divorce. But, after a series of public meetings in Serowe, Seretse was popularly recognised as Kgosi together with his wife. Tshekedi then gave way and went into self-exile.

The proclamation of a black chief with a white wife, in a territory strategically located between South Africa and the Rhodesias, caused outcry among white settler politicians. South Africa had come under the control of white Afrikaner nationalists in 1948. The then Labour Party government in Britain was desperate to secure its economic as well as political ties with the new apartheid regime. It therefore quietly agreed to bar Seretse Khama from chieftainship.

A judicial enquiry was set up to try to prove Seretse's personal unfitness to rule. But, instead it concluded that Seretse was eminently fit to rule. The Commission's report was therefore suppressed by the British government, while Seretse and his wife were exiled to England.

The persecution of Seretse and Ruth Khama received extensive international press coverage and outrage was expressed by a wide range of people around the world. Eventually, in 1956, the British finally allowed Seretse and Ruth to return to Botswana as private citizens. What the London authorities had not expected was the political acclaim that six years exile had given him back home, where Seretse Khama was acclaimed as a nationalist hero.

From 1957-62 Seretse Khama was involved in the reform of local and territorial Government leading to the establishment of a Legislative Council as key steps towards decolonisation. In 1962 he founded the Bechuanaland Democratic Party (BDP). With its call for reform leading to a non-racial independent republic the BDP was able to draw overwhelming support. It won the first universal franchise elections in March 1965,

allowing Seretse Khama became the first prime minister of a self-governing Bechuanaland Protectorate before leading the country to full independence a year later.

At independence Botswana was entirely surrounded by white racist regimes. It was, therefore, widely but falsely assumed that the country had no option but to sell-out to its neighbours, South Africa (including South-West Africa) and Southern Rhodesia.

The new government, moreover, could not cover the costs of administration from taxes, and was continually indebted to Britain. The first task was to lay the groundwork for an export-oriented economy, based on beef processing and copper and diamond mining.

Between 1966 and 1980 Botswana had the fastest growing economy in the world. It also came to be seen a remarkable state with high principles, upholding liberal democracy and non-racialism in the midst of a region embroiled in civil war, racial enmity and corruption. State mineral revenues were invested in infrastructural development, education and health, and in subsidies to cattle production. The result was a great increase in general prosperity, in rural as well as urban areas.

Seretse Khama also used his unique authority to develop local democracy and curtail the powers of traditional chiefs, to develop citizen administrative capacity without over-bureaucratization, and to promote the rule of law in the operations of the state.

As Botswana progressed, Seretse Khama was also able to turn more of his attention to foreign policy, finding key early allies in Presidents Kaunda of Zambia Nyerere of Tanzania. In his final decade he played an increasingly prominent role as a Pan African statesman. He was one of the "Front-Line Presidents" who negotiated the future of Zimbabwe and Namibia. In the face of the terrorist activities of the Smith regime in particular, the Botswana Defence Force was created to guard Botswana's borders, protecting growing numbers of refugees as well as the citizenry.

During this period Seretse Khama articulated a clear vision of the future of Southern Africa after colonialism and apartheid, as a peaceful, democratic and prosperous region. He was thus the key founder of what has since become the Southern African Development Community.

The rigours of constant travel for international negotiations, leading up to the independence of Zimbabwe, finally exhausted Seretse Khama. But he had the final satisfaction of witnessing both the independence of Zimbabwe in March 1980 and the launching of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference in April, before his death on the 13th July 1980.

Khama is fondly remembered for his intelligence, integrity, and sense of humour. Of his lasting legacy it can be said that the perpetual democracy, socio-economic development,

political stability and unity that Botswana experience today are what Sir Seretse Khama always stood for.

## **C2) 26/6/11: MICHELLE OBAMA DEPARTS FOR USA; TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA UNDERSCORED THE "BREADTH AND DEPTH" OF THE BOTSWANA-USA BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, VISIT WRAP UP SUMMARY**

(Gaborone) - U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama, along with accompanying members of her family, departed from Sir Seretse Khama International Airport this morning ending a three day visit.

The proclaimed purpose of the visit was to promote youth leadership, education, and health and wellness issues both here and in the region. The trip was further described by the White House as an opportunity to highlight -

*"Botswana's enduring democracy, bolstered by its commitment to using its vast natural resources to invest in its people and grow its economy, models the potential for good governance, and strong institutions to advance prosperous and stable societies."*

Mrs. Obama was seen off at the airport this morning by the Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning, the Hon. Dr. Gloria Somolekae, and the US ambassador, H.E. Ms. Michelle Gavin.

Speaking to journalist present for the farewell, Dr. Somolekae described the visit as a great success, noting that: *"It was an honour for Botswana to host the American First Lady and I am sure we will be reaping the rewards of this visit very soon."*

Her sentiments were echoed by Ambassador Gavin who further confirmed that: *"The visit has further strengthened relations between the two countries."*

Mrs. Obama, accompanied by her mother and two daughters, Malia, 12, and Sasha, 10, and a nephew and a niece, Leslie and Avery Robinson, age 15 and 19, arrived in Botswana early on Friday. At their arrival they were greeted by local children including traditional dancers in what was widely described by international media covering the event as *"a colourful ceremony"*.

Thereafter they visited Botswana Baylor Children's' Clinic Centre of Excellence, where Mrs. Obama and her entourage took part in painting a wall mural with members of the Centre's Teens Club. The wall forms part of an adolescent centre now under construction.

Baylor Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence, which is sponsored by Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, provides special care and treatment to HIV infected children and their families.

The US First Lady's next stop on Friday was the Sanitas' Tea Garden, where she spoke at a **"Women's Leadership Luncheon"**, whose participants included a mix of prominent Botswana women already in leadership positions and a select group promising future leaders. In her remarks Mrs. Obama paid tribute to her guests as role models observing of some of the seniors present that:

*"It's important to remember that these women were not born attorney general, the Dean of a Medical School, the paramount chief of a tribe. It wasn't just luck that made them the first woman on this country's highest court or the first woman to serve as FIFA football referee. Each of these women earned these honours. They spent thousands of hours studying, and practicing, and working. And in the end, their stories were possible because along the way, each of them had someone in their lives who encouraged them and inspired them."* [Full text of statement forwarded]

In additional remarks at the event, the US First Lady also paid special tribute to Botswana:

*"It is a pleasure to be here in this beautiful country that embodies what my husband has called 'vision of Africa on the move'—that is Botswana—thriving democracy, vital democracy, fast-growing economy and more importantly a kind and generous people who, in this short amount of time, have given me and my family such a warm welcome."*

Following the luncheon, Mrs. Obama went to the Office of the President, where she met with H.E. the President, Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, for about 45 minutes, before the two emerged for a joint photo op with reporters who had assembled in the Cabinet Room.

A subsequent White House briefing described the talks as having underscored the **"breadth and depth"** of the Botswana-USA bilateral relationship, further reiterating Botswana status one of Africa's most stable democracies having held successive democratic elections since independence.

During the talks H.E. President Khama expressed his own appreciation for US assistance in such areas as trade and investment promotion and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The two also discussed their shared commitment to promoting youth leadership and empowerment and the President's special interest and prominence in international efforts to conserve Africa's natural heritage.

Through the First Lady, the President also conveyed his best wishes for the health and wellbeing of his American counterpart, President Obama, recalling their 2009 meeting at the White House.

In earlier remarks to the press, Mrs. Obama stated that her visits to both Botswana and South Africa was evidence of President Obama's own commitment to African issues, describing herself as her husband's *"direct representative"* in the context of her meeting with President Khama. The US First Lady is further reported as having stated:

*"This trip is a reflection, a direct reflection, of his support and his interest and his view of the importance of Africa to the world and to the future of the world," she said. "That's why I'm here. He would love to be here but there's a lot of work to do on the domestic front, and as president it's hard to predict and plan internationally because you've got domestic stuff hitting you left and right [adding]*

*"Africa's absolutely important to him; I understand why people feel like they want more. It's a big continent, a lot of challenges. But I think his record and the number of senior officials who've spent so much time in Africa ... that is a reflection of this administration's commitment to this continent."*

After her call on the Office of the President, Mrs. Obama ended the day with a dinner at the Mokolodi Nature Reserve.

On Saturday the Obama family visited Mochudi, where they stopped for lunch at the Borakanelo fast food restaurant in the village, where there fare included the spots locally renowned fat-cakes.

The party then went on a game drive at the nearby Madikwe Game Reserve, where they spent the evening.

While the American First Lady's visit was non-political in nature, her presence in our country was nonetheless a clear testimony to the longstanding friendship and shared values that exist between Botswana and the USA.

The three day visit also served to put our country in the global spotlight having as of this morning already generated several thousand positive stories in major international print and electronic media.

**C3) 24/6/11: MICHELLE OBAMA ARRIVES IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA IN THE GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT**

US First Lady Michelle Obama arrived in Botswana this morning with members of her family to begin her 3 day visit to our country.

During the morning she visited the Botswana Baylor Children's' Clinic Centre of Excellence's Teens Club before attending a Women's Leadership Lunch.

This afternoon Mrs. Obama met with H.E. the President at the Office of the President for about 45 minutes before proceeding to a brief photo op for assembled media.

While the American First Lady's visit is non-political in nature, her presence is nonetheless a testimony to the longstanding friendship and shared values that exist between the USA and Botswana.

As of 1800 hours this afternoon BGCIS has already monitored over 2000 major international media stories about US First Lady Michelle Obama's arrival.

In a related development NBC News this afternoon did an extended interview with the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. Margaret Nasha, and the Attorney-General, Dr. Athaliah Molokomme, which focused on gender and youth empowerment issues.

**C4) 22/6/11: DR. JEFF RAMSAY, DPS FOR GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS, TO ARTICLE IN THE MIDWEEK SUN NEWSPAPER:**

To: Editor Midweek Sun  
Cc. Hon. Nehemiah Modubule, MP Lobatse  
Domestic Media

Dear Sir,

**Re: Your newspaper's article entitled "Modubule is delusional – Ramsay"**

I am disappointed by distortions and critical omissions related to the above headlined report that appeared in today's edition of your newspaper.

When your reporter called me yesterday for a comment on an alleged statement made by the Hon. Nehemiah Modubule, MP for Lobatse, I made it clear to him that I had not heard the comment and therefore could not definitively comment on it.

I did, however, state that the allegation that H.E. the President would want Mr. Modubule or anyone else dead was in my view absurd.

On hindsight, I should have left it at that, but I did also state that perhaps Mr. Modubule was deluded if he were to actually believe such a thing (please note the qualifiers).

It should be here noted that the above comment was made in the context of my further suggestion that the reporter first seek clarity from Mr. Modubule, himself, as to what he may have actually said as he was then unable to give me a precise rendering of the MP's alleged remarks.

Subsequent to the above, the same reporter called me back alleging that Mr. Modubule had rather said or meant to say that the President had said he should go away or disappear, which we both agreed need not be interpreted in a sinister way.

Further to the above, I informed the reporter that as the nature of Mr. Modubule's alleged comment remained unclear; I saw no reason to press the matter further. Here I am once more reminded of words of wisdom I once received from the Rev. Jesse Jackson – "The text, without its context, is a pretext." In this particular case the text has been distorted as well as robbed entirely of its context.

Finally, while my comments on the matter have been distorted, I nonetheless also take this opportunity to apologise to the Hon. Modubule for any harm they may have caused.

Yours Sincerely, Dr. Jeff Ramsay

## **C5) 22/6/11: P500 MILLION ZIMBABWE LINES OF CREDIT BRIEFING NOTES TO BOCCIM AT ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BOIPUSO HALL**

### 1. Introduction

The Government of Botswana has committed credit lines of up to P500 million through commercial banks. This is in line with the Extraordinary Summit decision of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009 held in Swaziland to urge SADC Member States to support Zimbabwe's Short Term Emergency Recovery Programme (STERP).

Government has decided to assist Zimbabwe through lines of credit through commercial banks using commercial banks' resources as opposed to Government resources due to budgetary constraints.

### 2. Consultations

The Government of Botswana undertook extensive consultations with the private sector (BOCCIM), Bank of Botswana, BECI, Commercial Banks and other Ministries and Government departments. These consultations led to the agreement on the eligibility criteria for the Zimbabwe Lines of Credit by Botswana which was used as a basis for negotiations with Zimbabwe.

### 3. Negotiations:

Banks: Following consultations with stakeholders, the Commercial banks were engaged and they have all agreed to participate in the lines of credit to Zimbabwe. This was concluded in August 2010.

BECI: Management agreement for the scheme has been negotiated and concluded with BECI.

Negotiations between Botswana/Zimbabwe: Botswana and Zimbabwe negotiating teams met from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 in Gaborone, Botswana. The Botswana delegation was led by the former Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Hon. Charles Tibone whilst the Zimbabwean delegation was led by Hon. Tendai Biti, Minister of Finance.

The two Governments agreed on the principle of mutual benefit in the implementation of the Facility. This could take the form of export of goods and services from Botswana to Zimbabwe and also to support joint ventures between Botswana and Zimbabwean companies as well as investments by Botswana in Zimbabwe.

The two Governments also agreed on the terms and conditions of the lines of credit which include amongst others the following:

- interest rate;
- repayment period;
- arrangement fees;
- guarantee fees;
- Loan thresholds per project, etc.

4. Nature of the Facility: This will be a once off arrangement up to a maximum of P500 million and its continuation will be determined by adequate and beneficial implementation of the initial drawdown. That is, at the end of the five year period, there will be a review to determine whether to continue or wind up.

5. Sectors to be covered: It has been agreed that 70 % of the resources would be earmarked for the manufacturing sector whilst the remaining 30 % would go towards other sectors. However, some flexibility would be allowed depending on circumstances.

6. Viability: The participating commercial banks or financing institutions will assess project proposals for viability and recommend to BECI. Given that the Government of Zimbabwe will be providing a counter guarantee and indemnity to the Government of Botswana, the Zimbabwe Government will be informed of project approval, criteria and processes before any disbursement is made.

7. Facility Steering Committee: There will be a Steering Committee comprising of MFDP, MTI, BOB, MOFAIC, BEDIA, BOCCIM and BECI to provide policy guidance and direction to the Fund Administrator.

8. Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA). The two Governments recognised opportunities for increased investment in the two countries and therefore agreed on the need to conclude the BIPPA in the shortest possible time as a pre-condition to the implementation of the Facility. BIPPA has since been signed in March 2011.

9. Status of the agreement with Zimbabwe: The draft Agreement was submitted to Zimbabwe for their inputs in April 2011. Comments from Zimbabwe received in May 2011 and have since been incorporated and resubmitted to Zimbabwe for further comments if any. Hopefully this will be concluded soon and give way to the launching of the facility.

10. Guarantees: The Government of Botswana will provide a partial guarantee for the lines of credit whilst the Government of Zimbabwe will provide a counter guarantee and indemnity to the Government of Botswana for the risk or exposure. Furthermore, BECI will enter into subsidiary finance guarantee agreements with participating banks in Botswana.

- Commercial risk cover of up to 85% and 90% in exceptional circumstances, and
- Political risks cover of 100%.

11. Benefits to the economy:

- Income earned by the participating banks;
- Opening business opportunities for our investors;
- Income to Botswana businesses investing in Zimbabwe by way of joint ventures;
- Promotion of trade between the two countries;
- Strengthened partnership between the two countries.

#### **D. ALSO IN THE NEWS: 30<sup>th</sup> KGALAGADI TOYOTA DESERT RACE (24-26/6/11)**

**NB: News reports, statements and/or views reproduced below are NOT necessarily those of Government of Botswana.**

**D1) 15/6/11: FROM THE INDEPENDENT (RSA): TOUGHER, FASTER ROUTE FOR DESERT RACE**

The Toyota 1000 Desert Race - to be held in Botswana from June 24-26 - was first run in 1975 as the Trans Kalahari Road Race and between 1981 and 1990 was based in Vryburg.

The race moved to Botswana in 1991 and over the years has grown into the single biggest sporting and social event in that country - so much so that in 2010, logistical problems and crowd congestion forced a move to Kumakwane, about 25km west of the capital Gaborone.

Event chairman Alan Reid reported: "There were some teething problems but overall the move to Kumakwane was a huge success." "We've addressed the teething problems with local government authorities and the Botswana police, and we're confident the 2011 race will run smoothly.

"The facilities at Kumakwane have also been given a facelift and competitors will recognise the improvements that have been made."

The race will be Round 4 of the SA Off-Road championship and represents the halfway point of the series; it could have a decisive effect on championship challenges in various classes of the Production and Special Vehicle categories.

Some intense battles have developed in each category and the only marathon event on the calendar could make or break some championship hopefuls. The Desert Race is notorious for producing a sting in the tail, and in recent years has produced triumph and heartbreak over the final 100km.

The Toyota crews, and in particular the factory pairings of former SA champion Duncan Vos and Rob Howie, and Anthony Taylor and Chris Birkin, will be under severe pressure. Between 1988 and 1995 Toyota scored six wins, but a Toyota crew has not won the race since 1999, when Apie Reyneke and Robin Houghton triumphed in a Land Cruiser.

Last year saw veteran Hannes Grobler score his sixth Desert Race win when he and Hennie ter Stege, in the RFS BMW X3, sneaked in ahead of the Toyota Hilux entries of South African champions Chris Visser and Japie Badenhorst and Vos and Howie.

While the pressure on the Toyota crews will be intense, there will be a measure of confidence in the squad with Vos/Howie and Taylor/Birkin coming off a comprehensive 1-2 domination of the Atlas Copco 400 in KwaZulu-Natal. This success revived Vos's and Taylor's chances of winning the championship after their performances in the opening two rounds did little to realise the potential of the all-new racing Toyota Hilux.

Vos is third in the Drivers' championship, 19 points (equivalent to a second place finish) behind current leader Thomas

Rundle after finishing 11th in the opening round and failing to finish the second round. Taylor, who failed to finish either of the first two rounds, is eighth, 30 points in arrears.

Team principal Glyn Hall said: "The all-new for 2011 Toyota Hilux Double Cab has been quick right from the start of the season and has shown the pace to be a winner.

"All it needed was reliability and some good fortune and it all came together in just three races. With a clean run on all three days in the Botswana desert - which is always a tall ask for any team - we can pull off another victory"

Desert Race headquarters and the designated service area will be at Kumakwane; the route has been fine-tuned and will again provide competitors with a huge challenge.

Route director Andre Strauss said: "A number of changes have been made inside a similar framework to last year. Good rains in some areas have also forced us into changes and, as usual, it is going to be a tough challenge over the best terrain Botswana has to offer."

The prologue to determine start positions for the race will be similar to last year but has been shortened and includes bush terrain, river crossings and thick sand, over a distance of 58 kilometres with the route running north-west from Kumakwane towards Molepolole and back to the start via Gakgatla.

The Day 1 route will be much the same as 2010's Day 2, but with some alterations that include sections not used for many years. There are also some completely new sections, and distance has been added to make up the 250km loop as it heads towards Molepolole.

Good news for competitors is that on Day 2 the 210km north-east loop has been opened up and is not as tight as was the case for the 2010 race. This loop will also be run twice and, because of heavy rain, certain sections of the 2010 route have been omitted. Competitors will now head north of Kopong Road over about 50km of new terrain.

The Desert Race weekend will start noon Friday, June 24 with the prologue to determine grid positions for the race proper, which will start at 8am on Saturday, with crews returning to the designated service park at Kumakwane for the overnight halt.

The restart will be at 8am on Sunday, June 26 with the finish back at Kumakwane in the afternoon.

**D2) 6/6/11: MARATHONRALLY.COM: TOYOTA 1000 DESERT RACE CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Southern African Toyota 1000 Desert Race in Botswana from June 24 to 26 this year celebrates its 30th anniversary - and never has the pressure on the Team Castrol Toyota factory team been more intense. The event is one of the longest running sponsorships in South African motorsport with Toyota taking over sponsorship of the race in 1981. The race was first run in 1975 as the Total Trans Kalahari Road Race and between 1981 and 1990 was based in Vryburg.

The race moved to Botswana in 1991 and over the years has grown into the single biggest sporting and social event in Botswana. The Toyota 1000 Desert Race is also a major contributor to Botswana coffers and in recent years has attracted growing support from the Botswana government, the Department of Tourism and locally based companies like telecommunications giant Mascom.

Race headquarters and the designated service park will again be located at the village of Kumakwane, which is approximately 25 kilometres west of Gaborone. The race moved to Kumakwane last year after logistical problems and crowd congestion necessitated the event find a new home.

"There were some teething problems but overall the move to Kumakwane was a huge success," said event chairman Alan Reid. "We have addressed the teething problems with local government authorities and the Botswana police, and we are confident the event will run smoothly. The facilities at Kumakwane have also been given a facelift and competitors will recognise the improvements that have been made."

On the competition side Toyota teams, and in particular the two factory crews of former SA champion Duncan Vos and Rob Howie and Anthony Taylor and Chris Birkin, will be under severe pressure. Between 1988 and 1995 Toyota scored six wins, but a Toyota crew has not won the race since 1999 when Apie Reyneke and Robin Houghton triumphed in a Castrol Toyota Land Cruiser.

Last year saw veteran Hannes Grobler score his sixth Toyota Desert Race win when he and Hennie ter Stege, in the RFS BMW X3, sneaked in ahead of the Toyota Hilux entries of South African champions Chris Visser and Japie Badenhorst and Vos and Howie. While the pressure on the Toyota crews will be intense, there will be a measure of confidence in the squad with Vos/Howie and Taylor/Birkin coming off a comprehensive one/two domination of the Atlas Copco 400 in KwaZulu-Natal.

The weekend's proceedings will get underway at 12:00 on June 24 with the Donaldson Prologue to determine grid positions for the race. The race will start at 08:00 on June 25 with crews returning to the designated service park at Kumakwane for the overnight halt. The restart will be at 08:00 on Sunday, June 26 with the finish back at Kumakwane in the afternoon.

**END NOTE - TAUTONA TIMES**

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