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The Electronic Press Circular of the Office of the President
“REAL LEADERSHIP FOR REAL DELIVERY”

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“I am pleased to inform this Honourable Committee that the Poverty Eradication Programme is progressing well. We have implemented a range of empowerment initiatives in agriculture, industry and commerce with the objective of strengthening and expanding the livelihood options open to Botswana. So far, the uptake of packages provided under the Programme is encouraging. Government will continue to provide an environment that promotes and supports the development of the programme as well as explore market accessibility for products from the beneficiaries.” – Hon. Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public [B1]

CONTENT –

A. THE WEEKS THAT WERE –

B. STATEMENTS

By Hon. Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration @ Parliament

1. Committee of Supply Speech for the Ministry of State President; and
2. Responses to Member’s Questions

By Botswana’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations @ the

3. UN Working Group to Further Strengthen the Transition Process for Countries Graduating from the Least Developed Country Category

C. PRESS RELEASES, NOTICES AND FORWARDING

1. Press Conference on Google Streetview
2. Minister Masisi to address dikgotla in Paje, Sehunong and Marulamantso
3. Response to Personal Attacks Published in the Echo Newspaper
4. Re: Alleged Remarks by BDF Commander – “Cracking the Code”
5. MDJS - Re: Alleged Remarks by BDF Commander
6. BDF response to Alleged Remarks by BDF Commander
7. “Value Based Partnerships for Development
8. President Khama in Germany
9. Appointments and Transfers in the Senior Civil Service

A. THE WEEKS THAT WERE: International Outreach, Domestic Spending, Community Service, Media Ethics and E-mail Scam

Dear Readers – Welcome to this edition of Tautona Times, your window into issues and events involving the Botswana State Presidency.

Gaborone is expected to welcome a large number of dignitaries from around the region this week who will be coming to attend this weekend's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), which is expected to culminate in a gala event at the University of Botswana Stadium on Saturday evening.

Among those scheduled to speak at the event is His Excellency the President, Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama and his special Guest of Honour, H.E. President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania. Other regional VIPs, who are also expected to attend, include South African Deputy President, the Hon. Kalema Motlante.

The BDP has governed Botswana since March 1965, having won ten successive multi-party elections. It was formally constituted at an inaugural Congress held under a morula tree in Gaborone on the 28th of February 1962. At the time Gaborone was much different than the sprawling city of today, then being made up of little more than a collection of farms, a train station and a colonial police camp and jail.

MSP Budget 2012-13

This week's edition features the Committee of Supply Speech by the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, the Honourable Mokgweetsi Masisi, which outlines the 2012/2013 Recurrent and Development Budget proposals for core departments falling under the Ministry of State President (MSP), namely, the Office of the President and State House, Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM), National Aids Coordinating Agency, Departments of Information and Broadcasting Services, Government Printing and Publishing Services, and the National Strategy Office along with Offices of the two Former President. [B1]

Altogether, the Minister proposed the sum of just under P 550 million for the Recurrent Budget, an 11.6% increase from last year, and the sum P 470.8 million for the Ministry's Development Budget. While the latter figure represents a 57% decrease from the 2011/2012, it was noted that much of this reduction was due to the transfer of some programmes to the recurrent budgets of the Ministries of Health and Local Government, as well as NACA.

Among the priorities outlined by the Minister in his presentation was the need to operationalise Public Service Bargaining Council and upscale Public Service Reforms through improved Human Resource Management.

The Minister was also pleased to report that the uptake for packages provided under the Poverty Eradication Programme has been encouraging. In this respect he noted that a range of empowerment initiatives in agriculture, industry and commerce were now underway.

With respect to HIV/AIDS he was encouraged by the steady decline in HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged between 15 and 49 years from 37.4% in 2003 to 30.4%

in 2011, further noting that his decline was most significant among the 15 to 19 year age group which was from a high of 32.4% in 1995 to 10% in 2011. Among the 20-24 year olds the decline was from 34.8% in 1995 to 19% in 2011. But, notwithstanding this positive trend, the Minister communicated this administration's continued concern about the long term financial sustainability of the national response to HIV and AIDS.

Hague Visit

Last week Botswana hosted the British Foreign Secretary, the Honourable William Hague who had arrived for a two day working visit to further strengthen relations, while consulting on matters of multi-lateral as well as bilateral concern. During his visit the Foreign Secretary also held discussions with his local counterpart, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Hon. Phandu Skelemani, and Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Issues covered during the meetings centred on the promotion of trade and investment and development assistance, as well as the sharing international perspectives. Since independence, the United Kingdom has remained one of this country's key development partners in a wide range of areas that currently includes collaboration with civil society institutions as well as Government in such areas in education, health, agriculture, human resource development and sports.

Among the ongoing projects highlighted during the visit were football development, including benchmarking for ways to improve the constituency league, and assistance to small and medium scale livestock producers in the context of European Union access to BMC exports. He also visited the Diamond Trading Company, where he voiced his appreciation of Botswana's progress towards becoming a global "mines to market" diamond centre, and the Hope Mission for vulnerable children in Bokaa, which benefits from the support of members of the British Overseas Volunteer Service.

Khama in Germany

Another highlight since our last edition was the President's return from his Official Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, which served to promote Botswana-German bilateral cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, technology, environment and tourism. [C 7-8] During the visit, His Excellency met with the German Federal Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel and (the now outgoing) Federal President, H.E. Mr. Christian Wulff, as well as legislators and leading businessmen.

He was accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Hon. Phandu Skelemani; Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, the Hon. Kitso Mokaila; and Trade and Industry, the Hon. Dorcas Makgato-Malesu, as well as senior Government officials, including Botswana's non-resident Ambassador to Germany, Mr. Samuel Outlule. The President's delegation also included officials from BEDIA, Innovation Hub, Health Hub, and Botswana International Financial Services Centre

The Official Visit formally began at the German Parliament or Reichstag, where he and his delegation met with Members of the German Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. Discussions focused on areas of bilateral and multilateral interest, such the state of the global economy and potential for further Botswana-German partnership in such areas as trade, investment and technical exchange.

The Botswana delegation then proceeded to Bellevue Castle, where President Khama was received by the German President Wulff with full ceremonial honours. Thereafter, the two Presidents held bilateral talks in the context of the German Presidency's special role in promoting Africa-German partnership. During the exchange Botswana was lauded for its leadership role in promoting good governance on the continent.

His Excellency next arrived at the German Chancellery, where he was greeted by Chancellor Merkel. There, in addition to further talks, the President and his delegation were hosted at a State Luncheon by Dr. Merkel.

Also during the visit, the President and his delegation toured the Siemens' Company Centre in Spandau, where they attended a presentation on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and attended a breakfast meeting with leading German businessmen and entrepreneurs hosted Federation of the German Industry at Berlin's "Economy House" focusing on investment opportunities in Botswana. They also travelled by rail to Hamburg, where the President was hosted for further discussion by local officials and business leaders before returning to Berlin.

President in Mahalapye

Last Thursday the President was in Mahalapye, where he was received by, among others, His Honour the Vice President, Lt. General Mompoti Meraphe, as the Mahalapye West constituency MP, before addressing a large crowd at the main Kgotla. Issues covered during the meeting included public awareness and access to Government empowerment programmes.

It was noted that so far over 200 Mahalapye West residents have been offered training and support through the Poverty Eradication Programme, while local farmers have been accessing assistance through the ISPAAD and LIMID. In terms of local youth empowerment, the constituency has further benefited from just over P 2.5 million in disbursements from the Youth Development Fund. It was also reported that a total of 48 constituency league sports teams and 30 art groups were also currently active in the area.

Last Saturday, His Excellency was in the small village of Monwane, in the Letlhakeng East Constituency, where he emphasised Government's commitment to the success of poverty eradication programme, which he said was intended to break the cycle of poverty and dependency by empowering recipients with income generating skills and support.

Community Service

As part of its monthly commitment to Community Service, OP this month lent a helping hand to two local organizations whose charitable efforts are focused on assisting needy and vulnerable youth.

In a short afternoon ceremony, the President presented a large food donation to the “Assist A Person” or AAP Home Based Care and Family Life Programme, a local NGO that provides meals and day care services for over 1000 children affected and infected by the HIV/AIDS scourge and additional challenges. The President further praised those working in community services, such as AAP for keeping alive the values of compassion and Botho through their daily work, noting that there was no higher calling than that of providing genuine assistance to those in need.

Earlier in the day members of OP staff, led by the Minister Masisi and the Permanent Secretary to the President, Mr. Eric Molale, were at the Stepping Stones International Centre in Mochudi. There with the support of personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture, they planted fruit trees and vegetables, completing work on a new garden they have contributed to the centre. The Centre provides afterschool programmes targeting orphaned and vulnerable youth from the ages 12-18, with outreach to families and the community.

BDF Commander misrepresented

This Office, along with the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security, has over the last two weeks felt compelled to try to correct misrepresentations appearing in some of our local commercial press with respect to comments attributed to the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Commander’s during his recent visit to Zimbabwe. [C 3-6] In this respect, we note that to our knowledge none of the press in question was present in Zimbabwe to verify their reports, which were based on a questionable external source. Neither the same media houses contact the BDF press office.

Even more disappointing is the fact that when the BDF promptly issued a statement denying the allegations some of the same newspaper chose to ignore the statement, while persisting with a seeming campaign of politically motivated character assassination.

This latest incident is a further reminder of the failure of a segment of the private media to comply with the minimum expectations contained on the Code of Practice that virtually the entire media fraternity has long voluntarily adopted.

E-mail Scam

Finally, this author wishes to apologise to any readers who might have yesterday received a false e-mail attributed to myself in which it was stated that I was stranded in Madrid, Spain. I have not travelled to Spain. One of my private – that is non-government

- e-mail accounts was instead hacked into by cyber criminals. Let me further thank the many individuals who were quick to warn me of the breach and/or express their personal concern, which resulted in quick remedial action. Thanks for caring.

- Dr. Jeff Ramsay, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Government Communications (22/2/12)

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B. STATEMENTS

B1) 21/2/12: COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SPEECH FOR THE MINISTRY OF STATE PRESIDENT DELIVERED BY THE MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION THE HONOURABLE MOKGWEETSI E. MASISI

INTRODUCTION

1. Madam Chairperson, it is my pleasure to present the 2012/2013 Recurrent and Development Budget for some of the departments under the Ministry of State President under Organisation 0200, namely, State House-0201, Office of the President - 0202, Directorate of Public Service Management - 0203, Office of the Former President Masire - 0206, National Aids Coordinating Agency - 0211, Office of the Former President Mogae - 0213, Department of Information Services - 0215, Department of Broadcasting Services - 0216, Government Printing and Publishing Services - 0217 and National Strategy Office - 0218.

2. Madam Chairperson, let me begin by highlighting key achievements and challenges encountered during the 2011/2012 financial year.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

3. The National Strategy Office (NSO) is mandated to lead national strategy development by promoting strategic thinking in the country and catalyze effective policy making and implementation. NSO will launch various diagnostic and detailed studies such as visioning scenario development, desk reviews of relevant socio-political and economic reports, and implementation prioritization of the Botswana Excellence Strategy all aimed at identifying Botswana's key social, political and economic challenges and opportunities

VISION 2016

4. Madam Chairperson, over the years, the Vision Council has carried-out several initiatives aimed at promoting awareness and internalization of Vision 2016. These campaigns took the form of Kgotla meetings, seminars and workshops to encourage stakeholders to own the implementation of Vision 2016. In 2004, a national survey was

conducted and showed that 81% of Batswana knew about Vision 2016 and only 31% of Batswana stated that they owned the Vision. The realization of lower levels of ownership prompted the development of a new approach of fast tracking implementation of Vision 2016 through the development of “Living the Vision: yame le wena” campaign. This is a five year campaign aimed at full engagement and participation of the general members of public in accelerating the pace of implementation of Vision 2016 nationwide.

5. Madam Chairperson, last year a study that investigated the role played by community leaders in engaging and promoting the Vision 2016 in their communities was conducted. The community leaders identified included the following: Members of Parliament, Dikgosi, Councillors, Religious Leaders, Business Leaders, Parent Teacher Association Chairpersons and Village Development Committee Chairpersons. Although the majority of leaders are willing to play a leading role in driving the Vision, most of them felt under equipped with the skills needed to carry out such responsibility.

6. Madam Chairperson, with only three years left before the year 2016, a major exercise of reviewing the implementation of the Vision 2016 will take place. This exercise will require extensive research and investigations as well as consultations at national level. We also note that there are opportunities for mobilizing technical and financial resources from our partners and hence we are putting in place a resource mobilization strategy towards implementation of this initiative.

PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS

7. Madam Chairperson, the continuing poor performance of the country on the global platform is a matter of concern and this situation calls for a bold turnaround strategy. The Directorate of Public Service Management has undertaken to accelerate the global scan of best practice and innovation for adaptation and implementation in the Public Service through the Public Service Reforms initiative. Some of the interventions included the institutionalization of Systems Thinking.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

8. Madam Chairperson, the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) has now been registered. This, Madam Chairperson, is a welcome development as it will provide the necessary platform for future negotiations on terms and conditions of employment in the Public Service. The process of operationalising the Council is on-going, with parties soon to be engaged in discussions on the Council’s operational policies including the funding model as well as the operational budget for the coming financial year.

9. Furthermore, my Ministry continued to implement Competency Based Human Resource Management, to enhance recruitment, retention and performance management, as well as to develop the right people to fill posts in the Public Service. We are also establishing a centralised Assessment and Development Centre (ACDC) to be housed at the Botswana Public Service College (BPSC). The ACDC will assist in

identifying, recruiting and retaining competent public officers, as well as identifying competency gaps for employee development.

10. Madam Chairperson, the transformation of Botswana Institute of Administration and Commerce (BIAC) into the Botswana Public Service College (BPSC) is now complete. Through collaboration with the Civil Service College of Singapore, the college has during 2011/12 developed and offered a series of programmes targeting the executive leadership of the Public Service. The College has also offered Employment Relations and Supervisory Induction in order to capacitate officers to manage a unionised Public Service and prepare them for new leadership roles, respectively.

POVERTY ERADICATION INITIATIVE

11. Madam Chairperson, results from the Botswana Core Welfare Indicator Survey (BCWIS) 2009/10 reveal that the rate of poverty has decreased to 20.6% down from 30% in 2002/03. Whilst the change is substantial in absolute terms, it is modest in relation to our country's rate of economic growth. I wish to however, reiterate Government's commitment to doing its utmost to capacitate individuals, strengthen institutions and systems for poverty eradication to ensure a life of dignity for all Batswana.

12. Madam Chairperson, in the light of this, I am pleased to inform this Honourable Committee that the Poverty Eradication Programme is progressing well. We have implemented a range of empowerment initiatives in agriculture, industry and commerce with the objective of strengthening and expanding the livelihood options open to Batswana. So far, the uptake of packages provided under the Programme is encouraging. Government will continue to provide an environment that promotes and supports the development of the programme as well as explore market accessibility for products from the beneficiaries.

13. Madam Chairperson, as we strive to make the Programme more beneficial, a number of mini Dipitso were held at different localities across the country with a view to developing poverty eradication strategies that are suited to each locality. These Dipitso were optimally used to ensure that each locality uses its comparative advantages to map its unique path to development. In this regard four regional Dipitso were held towards the end of 2011 in the following areas: Southern District and Kweneng/Kgatleng in November and; North East, North West and Gantsi in December. The Dipitso have been standardised to ensure that appropriate processes are used to engage stakeholders thus resulting in systemic interventions appropriate for each locality.

14. Madam Chairperson, a total of fifteen market days were undertaken in 2011. Generally the market days were successful and standardization of the event is being undertaken to ensure uniformity across the country. At the end of each market day, interviews were conducted and workshops were held with the beneficiaries.

NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING AGENCY (NACA)

15. Madam Chairperson, some key HIV and AIDS programmes and projects such as Anti Retroviral Therapy (ARV), Community Home Based care, Prevention of Mother To Child Treatment (PMTCT), and Orphan Care, which have hitherto, been under the development budget of NACA, have now been decentralised to recurrent budgets of the Ministries of Local Government and Health. The remaining programmes and projects which are funded by Government will be managed under the recurrent budget, while the development budget will comprise programmes and projects funded by our development partners.

16. The new arrangement will ensure that the two Ministries assume full responsibility for their budgets. This will also allow NACA to concentrate on its coordination role and provision of strategic guidance for effective implementation of the national HIV and AIDS response.

17. Madam Chairperson, whilst we continue to experience new HIV infections, we are encouraged by recent steady decline in HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged between 15 and 49 years from 37.4% in 2003 to 30.4% in 2011. This decline was most significant among the 15 to 19 year age group which was from a high of 32.4% in 1995 to 10% in 2011. Among the 20-24 year olds the decline was from 34.8% in 1995 to 19% in 2011. However, in the older age groups, the prevalence rates are as high as 52.3% among women aged between 35 and 39 years.

18. Madam Chairperson, despite the moderate successes, we are concerned about the long term financial sustainability of the national response to HIV and AIDS. With most of our development partners still recovering from the effects of the 2010 recession and shifting focus from HIV to other developmental issues, coupled with vulnerability of our economy to external shocks, cutting down or eliminating new infections through among others behavioural change and some proven prevention interventions is the only long term solution to sustain the national response. We shall continue to strengthen collaboration with our development partners the civil society and the private sector, to augment our efforts in finding a lasting solution to the epidemic.

19. Madam Chairperson, I now wish to present my budget request for the 2012/2013 financial year.

RECURRENT BUDGET

20. My request for the Recurrent Budget stands at a total amount of Five Hundred and Forty Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Six Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Pula (P549,986,270) which is an increase of Fifty Seven Million, Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Pula (P57,009,860) or 11.6% from last year's budget.

21. Madam Chairperson, I shall not go into the details of the Recurrent Budget proposals department by department as they are contained in the Draft Estimates of

Expenditure from the Consolidated and Development Funds Book, which Members already have. Out of the proposed recurrent budget, DPSM takes the largest share at 23.7%, followed by Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) at 22.9%, and Office of the President at 19.8%. The rest of the departments share the remaining 33.6%.

22. Madam Chairperson, allow me to highlight the major items which have given rise to variances between the 2011/12 budget and the proposed budget for 2012/13. There has been an increase of Thirty One Million Pula (P31,000,000), which has been transferred from the development budget following the decision to transfer all Government funding of the HIV/AIDS programme to the recurrent budget. In addition, a new unit of Poverty Eradication under Office of the President has been established at a cost of Eight Million Pula (P8,000,000).

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

23. Madam Chairperson, I request the sum of Four Hundred and Seventy Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Pula (470,800,000) for the Ministry of State President. The 2012/2013 budget has decreased by 57% (P636,735,000) from the 2011/2012 budget. This is attributed to a reduction in the budget for NACA from the 2011/12 allocation, which as I stated earlier is due to the transfer of some programmes from NACA to the Recurrent Budgets of the Ministries of Health and Local Government and Thirty One Million Pula (P31,000,000) which was transferred to the Recurrent Budget of NACA.

24. Out of the total amount requested, NACA takes the largest share of Two Hundred and Eleven Million Pula (P211,000,000), which represents 44% of the Ministry's development budget, followed by the Poverty Eradication Programme at One Hundred and Fifty Five Million Pula (P155,000,000) or 32%. The remaining 24% of the budget is shared among the rest of the Departments in the Ministry and these are:- Office of the President, Directorate of Public Service Management, Botswana Government Printing and Publishing Services and Broadcasting Services.

25. Madam Chairperson, I will now proceed to present a detailed breakdown for the rest of the departments.

DEPARTMENT 0201: STATE HOUSE

Project 09121- Improvements to State House

26. Madam Chairperson, for the coming financial year no allocation is requested.

DEPARTMENT 0202: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Project 09122 – OP Computerisation – Two Million Pula (P2,000,000).

27. Madam Chairperson, Two Million Pula (P2,000,000) is requested for Office of the President Computerization for the 2012/2013 financial year. The amount requested is

for the acquisition of various computer equipment, software and licenses for new officers at the Office of the President, Broadcasting Services, Information Services, Government Printing and Publishing Services, National Strategy Office and Offices of the Former Presidents.

Project 09123 – OP Fleet Expansion

28. Madam Chairperson, due to the freeze on fleet expansion, there is no request under this item for the year 2012/13.

Project 09124 - OP Consultancies- Six Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P6,500,000)

29. Madam Chairperson, the requested amount of P6,500,000 will mainly be used to undertake a nationwide exercise to review performance on Vision 2016 which will culminate in the development of Botswana's Second National Vision. In addition a Public Service Satisfaction survey will be carried out. This survey is done every two years to establish whether the performance of the public service is in line with expectations of Botswana. Lastly, implementation of the Learning Organizations strategy, known as 'Systems Thinking', will continue. Madam Chairperson, the strategy facilitates deeper understanding of the inter-relationships between ministries in order to identify points of high leverage. The tool further enables complete understanding of the nature and cause of persistent problems, re-occurring issues that ministries struggle with and thus enable ministries and departments to come up with fundamental solutions to problems.

Project 09644 – Poverty Eradication Programme – One Hundred and Fifty Five Million Pula (P155,000,000)

30. Madam Chairperson, in line with the commitment that Government has undertaken to eradicate absolute poverty, and ensure continuity and sustainability of the Programme, funding is now requested to cover a variety of empowerment initiatives in agriculture, industry and commerce which will continue to be implemented with the aim of expanding the livelihood options open to Botswana.

DEPARTMENT 0203: DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT.

Project 09127- Botswana Public Service College (BPSC) - Twenty Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P20,500,000).

31. Madam Chairperson, the amount requested will cover the completion of construction of the Auditorium as well as refurbishment of old facilities in the campus. Following the termination of the main contractor in the construction of the Auditorium in 2011, the process of engaging the main and specialist contractors to complete the Auditorium has been finalised and work is expected to resume in March 2012.

Project 09138- Development of DPSM - One million, Five hundred thousand pula (P1, 500,000).

32. Madam Chairperson, the amount will be used to complete the establishment of Assessment and Development Centres (AC/DC) under the Succession Planning programme. The AC/DCs are expected to enhance recruitment and retention of the right people. Furthermore, as the AC/DCs will be housed within Government, they are expected to cut the cost associated with outsourcing of the recruitment exercise. Government will therefore, continue to build capacity for management of AC/DC by creating a pool of competent AC/DC Assessors and Administrators and continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the process.

Project 09139: Botswana National Productivity Centre (BNPC) – Two Million Pula (P2,000,000).

33. Madam Chairperson, the provision for the financial year 2012/13 is mainly to complete refurbishment of infrastructure at the BNPC campus which houses both the BNPC and the IDM offices. This covers maintenance of offices, conference facilities, kitchen and cafeteria, hostels, etc.

DEPARTMENT 0211: NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING AGENCY

Project 09134- HIV/AIDS Programme- Two Hundred and Eleven Million Pula (P211,000,000).

34. Madam Chairperson, I request an amount of Two Hundred and Eleven Million Pula (P211, 000,000) to continue implementation of the HIV and AIDS national response interventions for the financial year 2012/13. This will only cover pledges to support the HIV/AIDS programme made by development partners since all financing from Government has been transferred to the recurrent budget.

DEPARTMENT 0216: BROADCASTING SERVICES

Project 09642- Development of Media Facilities – Sixty Six Million Pula (P66,000,000)

35. Madam Chairperson, I request this amount for the completion of the Radio and Television transmitter expansion project. The components of this project are as follows:-

a. Thirty Six Million, Six Hundred Thousand Pula (P36,600,000) for the construction of access roads and equipment shelters at the remaining four (4) sites (Ntsweseolo, Senyamadi, Chadibe and Maope), as well as provide guard houses and standby generators at some of the existing sites.

b. Six Million Pula (P6,000,000) for the Radio and TV Equipment project. The project entails procurement, installation and commissioning of radio and television operating systems, equipment as well as software, to facilitate fulfillment of

some of the milestones in the Digital Migration Plan. In order to migrate from analogue to digital the whole chain, that is, from the studios to the transmitters should be digital.

c. Four Million, Four Hundred Thousand Pula (P4,400,000) for Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) Technical Services to enable procurement of systems that will automate the sharing of program materials for both radio and television between headquarters and the regional offices.

d. Nineteen Million Pula (P19,000,000) for refurbishment of the Mass Media Complex and the Sebele Transmitter Station. The works will include amongst others, repairing roof leaks, floors, installation of new doors, access controls/boom gates, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) maintenance and termite treatment.

DEPARTMENT 0217: GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND PUBLISHING SERVICES.

Project 09461- Printing Development – Six Million, Three Hundred Pula (P6,300,000).

36. Madam Chairperson, this amount will be used for the proposed refurbishment of Government Printing Offices. The refurbishment includes power upgrading and installation of backup generator, roof repairs, and an overhaul of the air conditioning system. In addition, purchase of accessories for the Digital Printer will be undertaken. The Procurement of a Digital Printer which was allocated funds in the current financial year is expected to be completed by the end of March 2012.

37. Madam Chairperson, this concludes my budget proposal for Organisation 0200 - State President. I therefore request that the sum of Five Hundred and Forty Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Pula (P549,986,270) for the Recurrent Budget and Four Hundred and Seventy Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Pula (P470,800,000) for the Development Budget be approved and stand part of the estimates for the 2012/13 financial year.

38. I move accordingly. Thank you.

B2) 7/2/12: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY THE MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, THE HON. MOKGWEETSI MASISI:

B2a) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 339 asked on Tuesday 7th February 2012 by MR D.P. MAKGALEMELE, MP (SHOSHONG)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration if he is aware that most public officers utilize their salaries to finance Government business such as communication through their own mobile phones and purchase of school supplies such as pencils;

Whether some Ministries provide their officers in remote areas and settlements with communication allowance, while others do not; if so,

What are the Government policy guidelines on communication allowance to entities such as schools, the Police and clinics where there are no landlines; and if he would consider undertaking a study on this anomaly and remedy the situation.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, I am not aware that most public officers utilize their salaries to finance Government business such as communication through their own mobile phones and purchase of school supplies such as pencils. I am however aware that some Ministries provide their officers in remote areas with airtime for cellular phones in accordance with the policy guidelines on usage of cellular phone issued in 1999. The policy guidelines which initially covered officers from Director to Permanent Secretary level stated, among other things, that whilst cellular phones were meant to facilitate communication, they should only be used where there are no fixed telephones, to control the cost.

Madam Speaker, in 2006, Accounting Officers were further authorized to provide officers below Director level who perform functions where cellphones are an essential tool for official urgent communication with airtime or cellphone units at their discretion. I do not consider undertaking any study as the situation referred to is not anomalous. Thank you.

B2b) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 342 asked on 7th February, 2012 by Mr. M. Goya, MP. (Palapye)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration whether to apprise this Honourable House on:-

- i. The number of Bills and Motions passed by this Honourable House during the 9th Parliament;
- ii. How many have so far been implemented (both Bills and Motions); and
- iii. How many have not yet been implemented and why.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, it is my believe that information sought for at i and ii are within the public domain as such contradictory to the provisions of Standing Order 38.1 (m). It is also common knowledge that there is a Constitutional Assurances and Legal Affairs Committee of this Assembly, established under Standing Order 112 whose mandate includes inter alia considering and reporting on assurances made on the floor of the House and on implementation of the motions passed by the House. I therefore advice the Honourable Member to read the committee's report to inform himself on what Accounting Officers from various Ministries have reported on the implementation to the Committee. Thank you.

B2c) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 345 (13) asked on Tuesday 7th February, 2012 by Mr. D. P. Makgalemela, MP. (Shoshong)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration:-

To state progress he has made in the development of the Decentralisation Policy for Botswana, given the numerous assurances he has made to the 10th Parliament; and whether, given the rate at which Government is centralising services such as water, health and roads, he still considers this policy relevant?

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, Development of the Decentralization policy for Botswana commenced in March 2009 and it is due for completion in March 01, 2012. Consultations are still ongoing between the consultants and the steering committee. As the Policy is still relevant, drafting of the policy implementation plan and guidelines will commence upon approval of the decentralization policy. Thank you.

B3) 16/2/12: STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR C.T. NTWAAGAE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THE AD HOC OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE SMOOTH TRANSITION PROCESS FOR COUNTRIES GRADUATING FROM THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY CATEGORY, NEW YORK

Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. Let me first begin by thanking the two co-chairs for inviting me to this very important panel discussion on the "Smooth transition process for countries graduating from the Least Developed Countries Category" and to share Botswana's experiences in this regard.

2. When Botswana gained Independence from Britain in 1966, it was the third poorest country in the world. The country had rudimentary infrastructure and only 2 kilometres of tarred road. The literacy rate and the GDP per capita were quite low by international standards. Through sheer luck, there was discovery of substantial deposits of diamonds in the early days of Independence. With revenue derived from diamonds, Botswana has consistently recorded impressive rates of economic growth over the past forty years.

3. Real GDP growth averaged 9.8% between 1966 and 2004 largely because diamonds accounted for 75% of Botswana's export earnings, about 50% of Government revenue and 37.5% of the GDP. As a result, in 1994 the Country graduated from being one of the 25 poorest Least Developed Countries in the world to the Middle Income bracket.

4. Revenue from diamonds has enabled Government to provide infrastructure, free basic health and education to the population.

5. We now have more than 10, 000 kilometres of a network of tarred roads across the country.

6. We have moved from the nine (9) Secondary Schools we had at Independence to two hundred and thirty three (233), as well as a number of teacher' and vocational training colleges.

7. The tree shade classrooms that were a common feature during our pre-Independence era have now given way to modern, spacious brick – and – mortar classrooms. Our literacy rate has risen from 10% at Independence to the current 90%.

8. Even though, like other countries, we still face challenges of economic diversification, poverty and unemployment, the Government of Botswana is proud to have invested the meagre resources of the Country towards improvement of the quality of life of its citizens.

Chairperson,

9. While diamonds have played a major part in the transformation of Botswana's economic fortunes, the critical importance of the maintenance of a stable political and macro-economic environment cannot be over emphasized. This includes the fight against corruption, promoting respect for democracy, good governance, the rule of law and human rights.

10. Prudent and transparent management of public resources has actually been one of Botswana's major strengths.

11. To this end, the country has a robust national development planning process which takes into account all sectors of the economy, and ensures efficient, effective and equitable utilisation of the country's resources in accordance with national priorities. Each Plan period spans six (6) years, with provision for a mid-term review, to identify challenges and initiate strategies for addressing them.

12. Government is continually devising strategies and policies to diversify the economy, with a view to reducing its over - reliance on mineral revenues, especially from diamonds. The service sector is at the centre of the diversification efforts.

Chairperson,

13. Allow me at this juncture to address the critical question of how graduation impacted on Botswana:

- Loss of Official Development Assistance. We virtually became orphaned. The traditional Donor – Recipient relationship we had enjoyed with our Donors over the years was redefined and replaced with new forms of partnership.

- Because of the application of GDP per Capita criterion, we were no longer eligible for grants, soft loans and other concessionary sources of funding. International attention was focused on HIPC Countries and emerging economies.
- Dependence on single commodity increased the country's vulnerability to the vagaries of the global economy, including the effects of the recent economic, financial, food and energy crises.
- Loss of market access opportunities as only Least Developed Countries (LDCs) were eligible for Special and Differential Treatment, including duty and quota free market access.
- Weakening of our civil society and NGOs. These were generally starved of international funding on the premise that Government should fund them. This explains why civil society and NGOs in countries classified as LDC or HIPC are more vibrant.

14. Having said that, let me now turn and look at what we consider to have been the positive side of graduation:-

- Through graduation, Botswana has ensured that it remains firmly in control of its destiny, free of Donor interference and conditionalities.
- Because of graduation, Botswana acquired policy space to independently determine and pursue its set of development priorities and to allocate resources accordingly. There is pride in a Country financing its own national development programme from its domestic resources, without relying on donors to fulfil their pledges.
- The country's access to international capital markets, ability to attract foreign direct investment and promote private sector development was enhanced after graduation.
- Graduation provided an opportunity for creativity and innovation in the sustainable utilization of the Country's natural resource base and in the management of the country's development path.

15. I wish to conclude by emphasizing the point that graduation has to be a celebrated achievement in that it signifies a significant landmark in an LDC's development, including progress towards the fulfilment of development goals and aspirations in terms of infrastructure, per capita income, human assets and economic vulnerability. Every LDC should therefore look forward to and work towards graduation some day, in order to avoid the risk of continued marginalization.

16. Even though countries which have graduated lose access to Official Development Assistance and other concessions and support measures which are dedicated to LDCs, their graduation also opens up new opportunities for sustained economic growth and integration into the global economy, like in Botswana's case.

17. In terms of recommendations on the way forward, it is worth pointing out that the Istanbul Declaration acknowledges that: “The graduation process of LDCs should be coupled with an appropriate package of incentives and support measures so that the development process of the graduated country will not be jeopardized”.

18. The provision of such package of incentives and support measures for graduating countries is absolutely critical in order to soften the ground for these countries. In addition, it is important that development partners should support the transition process of graduating countries so as to minimise disruption to their economies. Countries which have graduated should not be made victims of their own success.

19. Trading Partners should be encouraged to maintain trade preferences for graduating LDCs and then phase them gradually over a period of time. Similarly, the WTO system should consider extending to any graduating country, the special and differential treatment provisions that are available to LDCs, for a period appropriate to the needs and peculiarities of the Country concerned. There should be room for re-classification in situations where there is empirical evidence that a graduated country has regressed due to circumstances beyond its control, such as the adverse impact of the global economic recession, natural disaster, HIV/AIDS pandemic, etc.

20. I thank you for your attention and look forward to a lively exchange of views on the subject matter of our discussion.

C. NOTICES & FORWARDING

C1) 22/2/12: MEDIA ADVISORY: PRESS CONFERENCE ON GOOGLE STREETVIEW TOMORROW (23/2/12)

Members of the Press are hereby informed and invited to a briefing on Google Streetview, which is scheduled for 1500 hours tomorrow, to be held at the BTV auditorium. The presentation will be made by a representative of Google.

Government stakeholder representatives will also be present to address questions. Our apologies for short notice of this event that was due to unavoidable circumstance.

Background

Google has proposed expanding its Google Streetview service to Botswana. Government has given its conditional consent for the initiative to move forward subject to various enforceable assurances with respect to protecting public privacy and security concerns as part of an overall implementation plan. The implementation plan has not as yet been finalized.

C2) 22/2/12: MEDIA ADVISORY - KGOTLA MEETINGS TO BE ADRESSED BY HON. MOKGWEETSI E. K. MASISI (26-29/2/2012)

Members of the Press are informed that the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration and also Member of Parliament for Moshupa, Hon. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi, will be addressing Kgotla Meetings at following dates locations. All of the meetings are scheduled to begin in the morning at 0800 hours.

DATE	TIME	PLACE
27/02/12	08:00	Paje Kgotla
28/02/12	08:00	Sehunong Kgotla
29/02/12	08:00	Marulamantso

C3) 21/2/12: RESPONSE TO THE ECHO NEWSPAPER

To: The Editor Echo Newspaper - Dear Sir,

Pattern of Malicious Personal Attacks Published in the Echo Newspaper

With particular reference to the article entitled "Tebogo Masire must stick to soldiering and leave politics to politicians", which appeared in the 16/2/12 edition of your newspaper, the Government of Botswana wishes to place on record its growing concern about what we perceive to be a persistent pattern of malicious personal attacks on individuals, which are now seemingly being published on a weekly basis in your newspaper.

In our view it is especially unfortunate that of late these attacks, which are of an overtly partisan character, have been targeting civil servants, who are of course non-partisan by profession.

These articles contain innuendo and insult bordering on libel and even hate speech. We find this emerging pattern of wholesale slander to be socially, if not legally, unacceptable. In this respect, we hereby remind the editor and publishers of the Echo that under the laws of Botswana, as elsewhere in the world, it is they and they alone who must bear ultimate responsibility for the full content of their publication.

We note that your newspaper's most recent attack on the Commander of the BDF speaks of him as having made "remarks about democracy in Zimbabwe" and further allegations that, among other things, the Commander is "grovelling for contract extension" and "protecting his friends business interests".

We frankly know of no basis for any of the above allegations, which are outrageous. In this respect we expect the Echo newspaper to either substantiate the said allegations or make a full apology to the Commander, in accordance with Section 5 of the Botswana Media Code of Ethics, with respect to Correction of Inaccuracy or Distortion, which provides that:

“If a Media Institution discovers that it has published a report containing a significant distortion of the facts, it must publish a correction promptly and with comparable prominence. If a Media Institution discovers that it has published an erroneous report that has caused harm to a person or institution’s reputation, it must publish an apology promptly and with due prominence.”

In addition to the above, we also wish to take this opportunity to condemn the Echo newspaper and its columnist for their further resort to personal insults and innuendo against the Commander, which appears throughout the article. Here too we shall expect nothing less than a full apology within 7 days of the date of this letter.

We end by reminding the Echo and its columnist that while public figures are generally prepared to accept a certain level of public criticism, they too have rights to their privacy and are entitled to take appropriate steps to protect their integrity and reputations.

(Signed) Dr. Jeff Ramsay, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Government Communications

C4) 18/2/12: PUBLISHED IN WEEKEND POST OF 18/2/12: “CRACKING THE CODE” BY JEFF RAMSAY

The Commander of the Botswana Defence Force was the subject of a few headlines and no little criticism from some quarters this past week for statements that were originally attributed to him by a Zimbabwean publication that few media monitors would consider to be an international benchmark for the balance or accuracy of its reporting.

The Ministry of Defence Justice and Security (MDJS) has since responded by issuing a statement denying resulting local media reports that, to quote one banner headline, shouted “BDF Boss Slams the West, Praises Mugabe Regime”.

For its own part the MDJS further reported that: “The Commander indicated that his comments were confined to how the media in Africa and elsewhere has the tendency to misrepresent events or situations in Africa, including distorting the obvious and positive results such as the use of the diamonds for development and the Kimberly Process.”

The MDJS statement goes on to provide some further background behind the Commander’s visit, while also firmly reaffirming the overall continuity in this Government’s own perspectives vis-à-vis relevant issues involving our north-eastern neighbour, as well as our staunch commitment to the Kimberly Process.

This author has nothing to add to the Ministry’s lucid statement, nor any desire to further stir what otherwise appears to be proverbial tempest in a teapot, except to suggest that the affair would seem to be an example of a more general tendency to find controversy in questionable sources with little thought to either the domestic or international implications of publishing potentially distorted information.

As noted at the top of this column local characterizations of the Commander's alleged comments were downloaded directly and uncritically from a cross border media source, whose bias and high performance spin capacity is the stuff of legend.

Of course the same foreign newspaper's reports appear more credible when they are printed and published online as local news coverage, notwithstanding the obvious fact that no local periodical was on the ground for quality assurance. It would also appear that neither did any of the local publishers who jumped on the bandwagon see fit to hold off publication in order to fully confirm the content of their essentially downloaded copy.

Without wishing to point fingers in any particular direction, it may be noted that the Botswana press as a whole has long agreed to collectively hold themselves to a higher standard through their common embrace of a basic Code of Practice, whose preamble affirms that in Botswana "a media practitioner has a duty to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards by being honest, fair as well as courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information."

The same Code further mandates that:

"When compiling reports, media practitioners must check their facts properly, and the editors and publishers of newspapers and other media must take proper care not to publish inaccurate material. Before a media institution publishes a report, the reporter and the editor must ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to check its accuracy. The facts should not be distorted by reporting them out of the context in which they occurred. Special care must be taken to check stories that may cause harm to individuals, organizations or the public interest. Before publishing a story of alleged wrongdoing, all reasonable steps must be taken to ascertain and include the response from the individual or organization."

The above did not come from Government. It was and presumably remains a public commitment that was publicly made and endorsed by all of this country's major media houses more than a decade ago.

The Code incidentally contains a few other good practice guidelines as well as expectations. Yet one may wonder how often it is referred to in our newsrooms. Are all media practitioners, much less the general public who are also stakeholders in upholding its provisions, familiar with its content?

Perhaps this author is naive in believing that if the Code's simple guidelines were honoured most of the time by most media practitioners, there would be few complaints from any quarter about the work of journalists in our country.

Unfortunately in the case of the Commander it would seem that given an opportunity to shoot arrows at one of our own, it was deemed sufficient to accept an at least questionable set of single sourced foreign characterisations as the gospel truth. Suitably

spiced with a pinch of embellishment, speculation and innuendo the resulting media mash was then served up hot for local headlines.

On a cheerier note media practitioners and consumers alike can take some pride and comfort in the recently released 2011-12 Reporters without Borders Worldwide Press Freedom Index, which saw Botswana move up 20 places in the global rankings, now placing us ahead of such countries as the USA.

The Worldwide Press Freedom Index is said to be based on responses to surveys sent to local journalists as well as related specialists such as researchers, jurists and human rights activists.

Reporters without Borders are, however, careful to note that “the index only deals with press freedom, and does not measure the quality of journalism.”

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C5) 16/2/12: RESPONSE BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE JUSTICE AND SECURITY TO THE SUNDAY STANDARD ARTICLE

1. The Sunday Standard Newspaper of Sunday 12th February 2012 carried a story entitled “The BDF Boss Slams the West, Praises Mugabe Regime’ in which it purported that the Commander of the Botswana Defence Force Lt Gen THC Masire had made statements attacking Mugabe critics, especially in the West, about Zimbabwe policies on governance, democracy and the Kimberly Process.

2. In his rebuttal the Commander indicated that his comments were confined to how the media in Africa and elsewhere has the tendency to misrepresent events or situations in Africa, including distorting the obvious and positive results such as the use of the diamonds for development and the Kimberly Process.

3. The Commander had travelled to Zimbabwe in the normal course of his duty as the Commander of the Botswana Defence Force as the guest of his counterpart, the Commander of the Armed Forces of Zimbabwe. The visit was under the auspices of the Botswana/Zimbabwe Joint Permanent Commission to discuss matters of mutual interest relating to security, training and general cooperation between the two agencies in the interest of bilateral and regional peace and security. The cooperation between the two

military organs in the two countries is exclusive of any political or business agenda and therefore he could not have expressed any political opinions or represented any business interests.

4. At a political level, Botswana has taken a proactive stand against Zimbabwe in a bid to compliment regional efforts aimed at helping Zimbabwe to return to democracy, economic prosperity, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Botswana wants Zimbabwe to assume her rightful place in the region and thus contribute to regional efforts towards achieving greater integration and economic prosperity.

5. It is against this backdrop that Botswana supports the current regional position taken at the SADC Summits held in Pretoria and Windhoek in 2009 and 2010 respectively, that sanctions on Zimbabwe should be lifted.

6. Regrettably, the political situation in Zimbabwe has not improved, despite repeated calls by the SADC Summits urging the Parties to the Global Political Agreement (GPA) to honour their commitments in order to ensure the full implementation of the Agreement. Such commitments include, among others, the drafting of a new Constitution and its adoption through a referendum. Botswana will thus continue to urge SADC to bring pressure to bear on the Parties to the GPA to honour their commitments.

7. As a country that largely depends on diamond revenues for economic development, Botswana continues to play a key role in the Kimberly process, which serves as an important vehicle for protecting the diamond market against trading on illicit or conflict diamonds.

8. Botswana currently chairs the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Reform of the Kimberly Process. The United States of America has assumed the Chairmanship of the Kimberly Process, while South Africa serves as the Deputy Chairperson. Botswana fully supports the review of the Kimberly process, which mainly aims at improving the functioning and working methods of the Kimberly process.

9. With regard to Zimbabwe's diamonds at Marange, there has been a divergent view on whether or not Zimbabwe should be allowed to join the Kimberly process in order to export them. Botswana subscribes to the compromise solution reached which allows Zimbabwe to export her diamonds, but only after they have been certified by two monitors, namely: Belgium and South Africa.

(Signed) Segakweng N. Tsiane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security

C6) 13/2/12: BDF RESPONSE TO THE SUNDAY STANDARD

The Botswana Defence Force wishes to inform the general public and the Nation at large that the allegations contained in a publication titled "BDF Boss Slams the West,

Praises Mugabe Regime...”, hoisted in the front page of Sunday Standard Newspaper of the 12th – 18th February 2012, was unfounded and misleading to say the least. The Botswana Defence Force is also aware that the internet is awash with the same story intended to damage the good image of the BDF leadership.

The said publication alleges that Lieutenant General Tebogo Masire, the Commander of the Botswana Defence Force attacked the Western Countries for their criticism of Indigenisation policy that was rolled out in Zimbabwe by President Robert Mugabe’s Government. It is alleged the Commander BDF, further dismissed the Western attack on Zimbabwe’s diamonds being blood diamonds as mere propaganda. This we must categorically state is a malicious falsification.

Contrary to the article, the Nation is informed that the Commander’s visit to Zimbabwe was purely to strengthen and cement the cordial relationship obtaining between the two armed forces. The BDF accordingly wishes to disassociate itself with the false, malicious and misleading contents of the article in question. Therefore, the alarm raised about General Masire’s alleged criticism of the Western Countries for condemning Zimbabwe’s indigenisation policy is unfounded and the public is advised to ignore it.

As a matter of fact, General Masire was misconstrued because he criticised the Western Press and not the Western Countries. The Commander, BDF, as the head of a disciplined armed force known for its professionalism in the region and elsewhere, would not concern himself with issues of a political nature when he has the noble mandate of National Defence in his hands to deliver.

The BDF wishes to take this opportunity to inform the public that the Commander, Botswana Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tebogo Masire visited Zimbabwe last week at the invitation of General Constantine Chiwenga, Commander, Zimbabwe Defence Forces. Whilst in Zimbabwe, General Masire visited several army installations and the Zimbabwe Military Academy. The Commander also visited the Marange Diamond Mine and toured the newly built township for people relocated from the mine area.

General Masire also met the Minister of Defence Mr Mnangagwa who expressed satisfaction with the joint effort of the two Defence Forces in combating poaching and cattle rustling along the common borders.

General Masire paid a courtesy call on President Mugabe who thanked Botswana for the support rendered during the liberation struggle and for the credit line extended to Zimbabwean businesses. He also urged the two Defence Forces to enhance their cooperation. At the end of the visit, the two Commanders pledged to increase training opportunities in each other’s Defence Institutions.

(Signed) Colonel Paul Sharp, Director Protocol and Public Relations, Botswana Defence Force

C7) 11/2/12: FOR WEEKEND POST - "VALUES BASED PARTNERSHIP FOR VALUED ADDED DEVELOPMENT" BY DR. JEFF RAMSAY

President Khama's successful Official Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany this past week is a reminder that, notwithstanding our modest size in terms of population, Botswana remains a well recognised and respected participant in global affairs.

During the visit, which promoted bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, technology transfer, clean energy and tourism, Khama met with the German Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel and President, Christian Wulff, as well as legislators and leading businessmen.

The visit's practical focus was reflected in the makeup of the President's entourage. Besides Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, he was accompanied by the Ministers of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism and Trade and Industry, as well as representatives from BEDIA, the International Financial Services Centre and the Innovation and Health Hubs.

It may also be noted that the person who is commonly described as the leading political figure within the European Union, Dr. Merkel, does not invite one over for casual conversation and lunch because her diary is thin.

Our country's status in Germany and the wider world is both a legacy of longstanding diplomacy, built on an enduring foundation of good governance, and the product of our current President's own increasingly positive international profile, as a principled voice of democratic development and respect for human rights.

Lest this appear to suggest undue hubris, one hastens to add that President Khama is by no means alone in his internationalist path. Events over the past year have served to further underscore the emergence among progressive political leaders of a consensus on the need to more aggressively uphold of universal values within Africa and the Arab world, as elsewhere.

Evidence of this trend can be found in the collective leadership now being exercised by such regional bodies as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Arab League with respect to conflicts within their own neighbourhoods of the global village, which is testament to the fact that their member states are increasingly taking their internal and multilateral obligations seriously.

For its part, in recent years dialogue and partnership between Germany and much of Africa, including Botswana, has been boosted through the convening by the German Presidency of regular German-Africa fora through its "Partnership with Africa Initiative".

Ghana hosted the first such forum in January 2007, which focused on the need to promote greater trans-continental understanding and partnership at a popular and youth oriented level. While the Accra forum was attended by five African Presidents - Kufuor of Ghana, Obasanjo of Nigeria, Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, Baya of Benin, and Festus Mogae, as well as the then AU Chairperson Alpha Konare and the German President Horst Kohler, the vast majority of its delegates came from civil society and the private sector. Since then participation by both state and non-state actors in these now regular gatherings has steadily grown, with specific fora now in place for energy and business cooperation.

President Khama's extended talks this week with the current German President, Christian Wulff, can thus be understood in the context of the latter's continuing role as a catalyst for Africa outreach.

Given the generic stereotype of African leaders clinging to power it may also be noted that the list of original Accra attendees includes four Presidents who stepped down at the end of the terms – Kufuor, Obasanjo and Mogae along with Konare, who had earlier been President of Mali. Nowadays there are, of course, many more examples of such constitutional transition occurring regularly across our continent.

This week's visit was, furthermore, opportunity to reaffirm past support while building on ongoing partnerships between Botswana and Germany. Friendship between our two countries is anchored in shared values as well as long-term German assistance through various institutions, such as the parastatal KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau/ German Development Bank), GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit/ German Technical Co-operation Agency), and DED (Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst/ German Volunteer Service), which have together played a positive role in promoting not only local development but also people to people relations.

In the field of business and investment it may be recalled that it was KfW that initially financed Bangwato Concessions Ltd. (BCL) to develop the Selebi-Phikwe mine.

The German Pharmaceutical giant Boehringer Ingelheim has also notably numbered among those who have played a leading role in local efforts to combat HIV/AIDS through its scholarships for medical and technical training and research in Botswana as well as the supply of the drug nevirapine on concessional terms.

More recently BEDIA has partnered with the Foundation of German Industry for International Cooperation to assist with local export market training, as well as the promotion of business contacts. Such partnership was on display last Wednesday morning, when the President attended a breakfast meeting with leading German businessmen and entrepreneurs at Berlin's "Economy House", which focused on local investment opportunities.

C8) 8/2/12: BOTSWANA PRESIDENT IN GERMANY - KHAMA MEETS WITH GERMAN CHANCELLOR MERKEL, PRESIDENT WULFF AND LEGISLATOR

As part of his ongoing Official Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, yesterday H.E. the President, Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, met in Berlin with the German Federal Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel and Federal President, H.E. Mr. Christian Wulff, as well as members of the German Bundstag (National Assembly)

President Khama began the day at the Reichstag (Parliament Building), where he and his delegation were hosted for discussions by Members of the Bundstag's Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Botswana delegation then proceeded to Castle Bellevue (statehouse), where President Khama was formally received by the German President Wulff with full ceremonial honours (e.g. military guard of honour, 21 gun salute).

The two President's then held bilateral discussions in the context of the German Presidency's special role in promoting Africa-German partnership and good governance.

In the afternoon President Khama proceeded to the German Chancellery, where he was greeted by Chancellor Merkel (pictures attached). There in addition to further talks the President and his delegation were hosted at a State Luncheon by Dr. Merkel.

During the meetings President Khama was accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Hon. Phandu Skelemani; Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, the Hon. Kitso Mokaila; and Trade and Industry, the Hon. Dorcas Makgato-Malesu, as well as senior Government officials.

The President's delegation in Germany further includes officials from BEDIA, Innovation Hub, Health Hub, and Botswana International Financial Services Centre

Discussions yesterday focused on areas of bilateral and multilateral interest, such the state of the global economy and potential for further Botswana-German partnership in such areas as trade, investment and technical exchange.

Later in the afternoon, President Khama toured the Siemens' Company Centre in Spandau where he also attended a presentation on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

In the evening the President and his delegation, along with invited guests were hosted for a reception by Botswana's Ambassador to Germany, Sam Outlule.

Today President is expected to attend a breakfast meeting with leading German businessmen and entrepreneurs hosted Federation of the German Industry at Berlin's

"Economy House". The President will then travel by rail to the port city of Hamburg, where he will meet with local officials and business leaders before returning to Berlin.

The President is expected back in Gaborone in on Thursday (9/2/12).

The Official Visit is intended to promote Botswana-German bilateral cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, technology, environment and tourism.

Attached please find pictures of President Khama being greeted Chancellor Merkel yesterday with link to copyright owners.

NB: Under German Constitution Chancellor Merkel is the Head of Government, leading the largest party in Parliament, while President Wulff is the largely ceremonial.

C9) 7/2/12: PRESS RELEASE APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The Permanent Secretary to the President is pleased to announce that His Excellency the President has decided to appoint and some Senior Government Officials as follows:

1. Mrs Festina S. Bakwena has been appointed as Ombudsman with effect from the date of assumption of duty;
2. Mr. Carter Nkatla Morupisi has been appointed on promotion to the post of the Director, Directorate of Public Service Management with effect from 1 April 2012;
3. Mr. William Seatile Keobame Moncho has been redeployed to the Office of the Ombudsman as Deputy Ombudsman with immediate effect.
4. Mr. Dikagiso Bogatsu Mokotedi has been appointed on promotion to the post of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology with effect from 1 April 2012;
5. Mr. Ulf Soderstrom has been appointed on promotion to the post of Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology with effect from 1 April 2012;
6. Mr. Kgopotso Ramoroka has been appointed on promotion to the post of Deputy Permanent Secretary (Support Services) in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development with immediate effect;
7. Dr Omponye C. Kereteletswe has been redeployed as Secretary, Education Reforms in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development with immediate effect;
8. Ms Taboka Nkhwa has been redeployed as Secretary, Local Government Reforms in the Ministry of Local Government with immediate effect;

9. Mr. Acros News Maseko has been appointed on promotion to the post of Director, Regional Operations (Chobe) in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development with effect from the date of assumption of duty;

10. Mr. Oupa T. Masesane has been appointed on promotion to the post of Director, Regional Operations (North East) in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development with effect from the date of assumption of duty;

11. Mr. Simon Coles has been appointed on promotion to the post of Director Basic Education in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development with immediate effect; and

12. Mr. Leonard Muthetho has been appointed on promotion to the post of Director Special Support Services in the Ministry of Education and Skills Development with immediate effect

(Signed) Eric M. Molale, PERMANENT SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

END NOTE - TAUTONA TIMES

Tautona Times was launched in May 2003 as a means to communicate to the media and other interested stakeholders. It is freely available to any who wish to receive it. But, we have no wish to SPAM. Requests for cancellation will be promptly acted on, as will any complaints about such things as double mailings. For ease of downloading all e-mailed copies of TT are sent in text format WITHOUT ANY ATTACHMENTS.