

Republic of Botswana TAUTONA TIMES vol. 10 no. 5 (28/2/2012)
The Electronic Press Circular of the Office of the President
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“We have pursued, and continue to pursue, practical and prudent mineral and mining policies, which have generated substantial revenues for our development, and we remain vigilant to safeguard them from extractive undertakings which would result in their depletion without commensurate value and thereby mortgage the futures and destinies of generations yet to come. Even more remarkable has been our success in fostering the understanding by our fellow citizens that this Republic’s natural resources are for the benefit and enjoyment of all who live in it, and not solely the inhabitants of the areas or localities in which they occur. Thus, water is channelled and pumped from Letsibogo Dam in the North for use by communities in the South, for example; and mineral revenues from the mining of diamonds are utilized for development countrywide, and not merely for the District in which they occur. If it is borne in mind that much of the conflicts and instabilities on this continent have as their origin contestations about inequitable or biased resource allocations and unbalanced development, the importance of this feat cannot be overemphasized. So here, is yet further cause for our celebration.” – H.E. the President [B1]

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A. THE WEEK THAT WERE:

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

statements by H.E. the President, Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, H.H. the Vice President, Lt. General Mompoti Merafhe, and our two living Former Presidents, Sir Ketumile Masire and Dr. Festus Mogae, arising from this past weekend's 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the ruling Botswana Democratic Party.

Among the regional VIPs who attended the celebrations were H.E. President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Hon. Deputy President Kalema Motlanthe of South Africa, who also made statements at the festivities (which are unfortunately not here available as we go to press, but will be forwarded if they become available).

Further to the above, while the ruling party's event was, in itself, strictly non-government, given their status as Head and Deputy Heads of State and Government the above two individuals were, in accordance with international diplomatic norms and longstanding practice accorded state protocol during their stay. All other VIP guests from outside our country were hosted exclusively by the ruling party, which was also financially responsible for the events themselves.

Contrary to the suggestion by one local newspaper the lines between the institutional concerns of the ruling party and the administrative, including diplomatic, responsibilities of the state, thus remain clear and are governed by well established protocol. In this respect it is unfortunate that the same newspaper did not refer their queries to the Protocol Department as they were in fact directed to before rushing to publication with half-baked allegations.

By the same token this publication remains responsible for circulating to its readers any and all public statements received from the political leadership of this Office, including the Offices of the Former Presidents without prejudice, notwithstanding the nature of the event.

In other developments, we are currently looking forward to tomorrow's (1/3/12) scheduled arrival in our country of the President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Jacob Zuma, who will be here for a one day Working Visit, before proceeding to the Republic of Namibia, where we are informed he will also pay a one day working visit. During the visit President Zuma will hold bilateral talks with President Khama, who is also expected to host his South African counterpart at a state luncheon.

President Zuma's visit, which contrary to some media reports, is not his first to our country since assuming his office, his last having been in Botswana in November 2010, is expected to provide the two leaders with a timely opportunity to discuss issues of bilateral and multi-lateral concern in the context of our two countries' common commitment to regional development with reference to our shared membership in SACU and SADC.

In other matters, since our last edition, as he had promised Mahalapye residents at a recent Kgotla meeting, the President met with the Minister and senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and associated stakeholders, including the Botswana Meat

Commission (BMC). Among the issues that were discussed was the possibility of shifting away from the bolus chip to an alternative system of livestock identification. The comprehensive briefing further focused on other Agricultural issues ranging from the ongoing progress of development schemes such as ISPAAD and LIMID, to efforts to secure additional alternative markets for domestic livestock products.

During the week, His Excellency also received progress reports from the Ministries of Lands and Housing, Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, and Minerals, Energy and Water Affairs and was further pleased to receive the credential of the incoming envoys of Switzerland, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Zambia, Israel and the Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea.

Finally, in a recent edition a local Sunday newspaper it was insinuated that the President is somehow "in on controversial BDC plot sale". The truth of the matter is however simple and straightforward. Four years ago a company, that he was then a director and minority shareholder in, divested itself fully from the real estate development in question because he believed that participating in such a joint venture with the BDC would no longer be appropriate once he became State President. Neither he, nor his partners, has therefore had any ties to the project since 2008.

- Dr. Jeff Ramsay, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Government Communications (28/2/12)

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B. STATEMENTS

B1) 25/2/12: STATEMENT BY H.E. THE PRESIDENT, LT. GENERAL SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA, AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

[Salutations]...Fellow Democrats, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Central Committee and membership of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to welcome each and every one of you to this historic and joyous occasion – the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the BDP. We are particularly privileged to have with us today His Excellency Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and whom I would like to thank for his gracious acceptance of our invitation. President Kikwete is also the President of Chama Cha Mapinduzi which is the ruling party of Tanzania and has been since Tanzania's attainment of independence. We are delighted by his attendance, together with his delegation, and I do believe that the quality of our festivities have been greatly enriched as a result. For those of you who are not aware of the fact, President Kikwete, is the fourth in the succession of presidents of his country and was re-elected recently to a second term.

2. The foundations of the historical and affectionate bonds between our respective countries were established in the 1960's by the founding presidents of both our nations, and during those years when the liberation of Southern Africa from colonial and settler regimes was the overriding mission and work of the Frontline States and the then organization of African Unity. Our bilateral relations have grown since then, and have been strengthened by successive presidents of both Botswana and Tanzania. President Kikwete, who was previously a long serving and distinguished Foreign Minister of his country, has therefore been instrumental in the consolidation of our relations, as well as the promotion of the causes of freedom and justice on this sub-continent. It may not be widely known, especially by today's young people, that the United Republic of Tanzania has made an immeasurable contribution to numerous political struggles on this continent.

3. I would also like to welcome members of the Diplomatic Corps representing the numerous countries and international organisations with which we enjoy long-standing and cordial relations; as well as the representatives of sister political parties whose friendship and support over the years has richly assisted and strengthened us. It is our hope that for those of you who are not ordinarily resident in Botswana, this visit will prove to be memorable and that our modest arrangements for your hospitality and comfort shall not fall too far short of expectations.

4. Your Excellency, Heads of Diplomatic Missions and international organisations and sister political parties, we have over the years derived immeasurable assurance and fortitude from the interest, solidarity and support which you have continually demonstrated to our party and country. We are especially gratified by your sizeable and ever-increasing numbers and more so by the fact that the new friendships we have cultivated have not eroded, or otherwise interfered with, the traditional affinities between us and our old and valued friends. Indeed, in our view, your attendance here today is not only a renewal of our warm and cordial friendships; but, even more significantly, a reaffirmation of the community of shared values and aspirations which bind us at bilateral, regional and global levels.

5. We do not believe that the qualities of peace, democracy, development, good governance and stability, all of which we have had the good fortune to enjoy under BDP governance, are matters that we should hoard for ourselves or attempt to monopolise. We derive little comfort from being one of not so many examples of real democracy and economic development on this continent; and, quite frankly, we would prefer to be part of an Africa in which the observance of human rights, good governance, democracy and development are more visibly and more widely practiced and entrenched over the whole continent.

6. Therefore, I am delighted for, and encouraged by, the presence of our guest of honour, His Excellency Mr. Jakaya Kikwete as I express some of these views because upon a review of his country's history, one happily discovers that in all things, and at all times the United Republic of Tanzania has invariably stood on the side of freedom,

justice and truth in all African endeavours. This, I believe, provides us with confidence that we will not be alone in our efforts to re-direct and sharpen the collective conscience within our region and hopefully further afield.

7. Fellow Democrats, every 50th Anniversary – whether it be in the lifetime of an individual, or the endurance or subsistence of a marriage, or the existence of an organisation (including a political party such as our own), is a laudable and worthy achievement, and is a significant milestone. We have, therefore, valid cause and justification to celebrate not only our existence as a party over the last 50 years, but more so our triumph over diverse adversities and challenges during those years. We in the BDP are entitled to be immensely proud of the fact that Batswana, in every successive general election since 1965, have consistently and convincingly returned our party to office. We in the BDP are also entitled to high measures of satisfaction from our achievements because it is during our direction of the affairs of this nation that our country was transformed from a weak and fledging nation at birth-with bleak prospects of survival – into the structurally sound middle-income state that we are today.

8. We are also entitled to pride ourselves in our success as a BDP Government in fostering the national cohesion and spirit of unity, in spite of ethnic and language differences or boundaries. We have pursued, and continue to pursue, practical and prudent mineral and mining policies, which have generated substantial revenues for our development, and we remain vigilant to safeguard them from extractive undertakings which would result in their depletion without commensurate value and thereby mortgage the futures and destinies of generations yet to come. Even more remarkable has been our success in fostering the understanding by our fellow citizens that this Republic's natural resources are for the benefit and enjoyment of all who live in it, and not solely the inhabitants of the areas or localities in which they occur. Thus, water is channelled and pumped from Letsibogo Dam in the North for use by communities in the South, for example; and mineral revenues from the mining of diamonds are utilized for development countrywide, and not merely for the District in which they occur. If it is borne in mind that much of the conflicts and instabilities on this continent have as their origin contestations about inequitable or biased resource allocations and unbalanced development, the importance of this feat cannot be overemphasized. So here, is yet further cause for our celebration.

9. It has been during our tenure of the direction of this nation's affairs that this country has attained phenomenal infrastructural development and the extension of social services countrywide. Upon the attainment of our independence, it was diagnosed that the single biggest obstacle facing us was our chronic lack of skilled manpower in all spheres. Besides the numerous primary, junior and senior secondary schools that have been established since then, there are other important strides which have been made. We have a national university which is on average graduating 4000 graduates annually; and there is a school of medicine at its formative stages. In addition to the other tertiary institutions-Institutes of Health Science, Technical & Vocational Colleges, we have a second university that is just about underway. It is not being stated that we have achieved all that we set out to do, but it cannot be ignored that there are now skilled and

trained Botswana in a variety of specialized fields of learning and endeavour; and that this has been achieved during the successive terms of office of the BDP.

10. Bagaetsho, it is another incontestable fact that our national health service, is vastly improved from what we inherited from our colonial past and that our achievements in this particular area have been another source of praise for this country. But for the onslaught of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, one of the consequences of which was to reverse significantly admirable achievements with respect to life expectancy as well as infant and maternal mortality, I do believe that we could be even further ahead. In spite of the challenges of HIV/AIDS and the resultant resource budgetary resource allocations for ARV and other palliative care, we remain steadfast in our resolve to surpass current achievements. Since my time in politics, it has been my great pleasure to witness the official openings of the Scottish Livingstone Hospital in Molepolole, the Letsholathebe Memorial Hospital in Maun, opened by President Kikwete, the Sekgoma Memorial Hospital in Serowe and the Sbrana Psychiatric Hospital in Lobatse.

11. Fellow Democrats, I have purposely dwelt on these (just a few of our past achievements) because these are all matters in which we can take justifiable pride, and which are acknowledged the world over and have earned this Republic admiration and respect from the numerous global Institutions, including optimal sovereign credit ratings from the highest rating global institutions with respect to fiscal discipline, economic management, resources husbandry and all else. There are, however, those in our midst who would prefer to ignore our achievements and successes and who would rather place emphasis on what we have not been able to achieve, which we recognize as challenges. It is often stated by our detractors that the BDP is not entitled to derive any measure of satisfaction from these achievements (and others) because as the Government of the day these have been our responsibilities anyway.

12. They are partially correct as these are our responsibilities and duties as a party in governance. But what they often overlook is that these achievements and successes are themselves the results or products of goal-directed leadership; and, as such, are not accidental or a fortuitous bounty. Further, our detractors cannot bring themselves to acknowledge that there are other countries elsewhere which have been more abundantly or generously endowed with resources (mineral or otherwise), but which have failed to match our rates of economic growth, infrastructural development and the provision of social services. So that, contrary to the contention that any ruling party similarly circumstanced as the BDP would have achieved the same, the available and demonstrable evidence proves otherwise. As such, Fellow Democrats, we in the BDP have further reason to celebrate (as we are doing today) the fruits of our competent and efficient discharge of the responsibilities entrusted to us by the electorate of our country.

13. On 27th January 1962, a group of young and inspired people met under the shade of a morula tree where we were earlier today and there held the discussions leading to the birth of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), better known as "Domkrag". Among those present on that afternoon were my father, the late Sir Seretse Khama who was elected Party Leader; Sir Keitumile Masire, former President of this Republic and Party,

who was elected Secretary; the late Archelaus Tsoebebe who was elected Vice President; the late Benny Steinberg who was elected Treasurer and the late Moutlakgola Nwako. Also in attendance on that historic occasion were the late Amos Dambe, the late Tshoko Tshoko, and the late Englishman Kgabo, and several others most, if not all, of whom are since deceased.

14. Fellow Democrats, I myself was at that time barely eight (8) years old and cannot attempt to recollect the electric passion, sense of purpose, urgency and spirit which enveloped all those persons present, and which was so vividly recounted by Sir Ketumile Masire, on the occasion of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of this party on 31st October 1992. Suffice it to say, as was indeed stated by Sir Ketumile Masire on that occasion, that “they were-each and every single one of them-men of such dynamism and foresight that their views and observations would have been as pertinent and valuable now as they were during their lifetimes”. Sir Ketumile Masire, went on to state that “although some of them died whilst this country was very much in its infancy and may not have witnessed the strides we have made, it is a major source of consolation for us to be able to say that we have honoured their memories by our observance of the broad guidelines and principles they laid down so long ago”. We have done this, Sir Ketumile Masire continued, “not out of slavish adherence to those principles but because their underlying rationale remains as current and valid now as it was 30 years ago, and also the simple fact these represent and embody core values of this party...”

15. Fellow Democrats, we in the Botswana Democratic Party are truly blessed because Sir Ketumile Masire is by the continuing grace of the Almighty still with us today; and is also in attendance on this auspicious and joyous occasion. He is, I believe, the last remaining of that band of hopeful and idealistic men who came together on that day and we can only but imagine the emotion and nostalgia that he must feel today, some 50 years on. Ladies and gentlemen, whilst it is sadly true that fate has been less than kind to us in the sense that so many of our founding fathers have passed on, I am confident that you will agree that we are not orphaned politically for we still have a founding father and stalwart in the person of Sir Ketumile Masire.

16. We are also fortunate to have the immediate Former President of the Republic of Botswana and this Party, my illustrious and worthy predecessor, Mr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae, who is also in attendance on this occasion. Although he was not amongst the founders of this party in 1962, he assumed the Presidency following a long and distinguished career in the public service during which he held various offices among them, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning, Governor of the Bank of Botswana, Permanent Secretary to the President, before joining politics. He was Minister of Finance & Development Planning, where-after he was appointed Vice President, and on 1st April 1998 succeeded Sir Ketumile Masire as President of this Republic and this Party. I would similarly like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. F. G. Mogae for his years of capable and devoted service to this country and this Party.

17. Both Sir Ketumile Masire and Mr. F. G. Mogae, individually and collectively, constitute a near-inexhaustible repository of experience, knowledge and wisdom. Happily for us, as a nation and as a party, although they are retired, both remain readily available and keenly interested in public affairs and are an invaluable touchstone of advice for any successor.

18. Fellow Democrats, it is neither possible nor practical on an occasion such as this to acknowledge individually all those who performed pioneering roles in the history and growth of our great Party. It is true that over the years there were countless others who joined Domkrag and who also, by the Almighty's continuing grace are still with us and are party elders and stalwarts. I have in mind persons such as Mr. Archibald Mogwe, Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe, Mr. Kebatlamang "Baby Shoe" Morake, Mr. Ray Molomo, Mr. Patrick Balopi, Mr. David Magang, and so many more. They, too, are consulted on diverse issues and have invariably provided the advice sought from them; so that, contrary to the perception which our detractors seek to create, the current leadership of this party is neither bereft nor resentful of advice from its elders and stalwarts, whether solicited or unsolicited.

19. Fellow Democrats, I believe that the strength of Domkrag has always been our party unity, and that the same party unity is the bedrock of our future strength and growth, and the bedrock of its future electoral hopes. Those earlier Democrats, in spite of their individual and ethnic and regional and ideological differences, subordinated all those potentially divisive factors to the promotion of Domkrag's core ideals, principles and values which bound and united them. Those members also subordinated factional and sectarian interests and positions to the higher interests of internal party cohesion and stability which enjoyed pride of place in all its internal and public affairs.

20. I would like it to be properly understood that I do not intend to stand by idly and passively observe protagonists of factional divisiveness, and their equally factional antagonists, imperil and undermine either unity or cohesion or sense of nationalism which our founding fathers strove so hard to achieve within this party and country. The BDP shall not, at least whilst I hold my current office in this party, either be held hostage by competing or vying factions seeking to take control of it; and nor shall I permit it to degenerate to become the reward in a duel between or competing factions. This party is a movement over whose future and direction all Democrats have a say, and is not a commercial undertaking which can be held ransom to the whims of any minority which just happens to feel that it has, or is entitled to, a controlling interest.

21. Fellow Democrats, whilst I have a long-standing and uniquely personal relationship with the BDP, I do not own it. It is a party from whose leadership you can remove me if you so chose; but let me make this quite clear, I do not intend to be found wanting with respect to those who, whatever their motivation pose any danger to the fundamental consensus, cohesion and unity of our membership. I intend to jealousy guard the higher ideals and fundamental principles which underpin our cohesion and unity, and I will act decisively in relation to any person within this party who poses any threat

thereto. Currently the Party is at peace within itself. It is stable. I intend with your help to keep it that way.

22. Fellow Democrats, other than Domkrag there is no party in this Republic which can lay claim to any experience in the governance of this country or nation. Whilst we have been consistent in apprising our members, supporters and the nation of material facts, without embellishments, in our campaigns and manifestos, our opposition parties have not been similarly constrained and they have enjoyed the freedom to build castles in the air, and promise non-existent jobs and create the impression that omelettes can be fried without breaking eggs! Whilst we are constantly informing, or reminding, Batswana that the success of our chosen development path requires their hard work and industry, our opposition parties have sought to inculcate the belief that our people need not work or be industrious and that they can simply be passive observers while they (assuming they are elected to office) dish out instant executive remedies and solutions for economic hardships and social ills. We have never asserted or claimed a monopoly of wisdom with respect to the needs of our people, or the broader challenge of national development. Many of us have entertained fond hopes that perhaps one day our opposition parties in this country shall engage us in spirited, but constructive debate about the development course and direction of our country. But, alas, this has not in fact happened and all that we have achieved as a party in government has been accomplished with minimal contributions and inputs from opposition parties. However, in spite of this they have consistently enjoyed the same rights of freedom of assembly, association, expression and movement as are enjoyed by everyone else in Botswana. They do so secure in the knowledge that, however strongly we may differ with their views or sentiments, we in the BDP shall always uphold and defend the rights of Batswana – theirs included – to express their point of view. Let me be quite clear about this, our position in relation to the freedoms and roles of our opposition parties is not a matter of indulgence; but is regarded by ourselves as their natural inalienable right!

23. Finally, going forward, I envision a BDP in which we seek to glorify that which the BDP stands for. The Mission statement talks about pursuing a policy of equality, justice, liberty, solidarity, peace, political and social progress and prosperity for the people of Botswana. For us to be successful in being a leading political force, where there is still no alternative, we need to layer our decision making process based on the collective values of the BDP. Values arise from belief and are the means by which we decide what is of worth and importance in our lives.

24. The values of peace, unity and Botho are but some that I wish to pick on as we seek to indicate that we have the ability to be resilient when necessary and transform and be the force of change necessary to advance the path of Botswana.

25. The recent political currents give credible indication that we can achieve our most daunting tasks and our aspirations. To get there, we need to recognize the obstacles in our way, and deal with them driving towards a better future. To do so, we must find the discipline within ourselves to sacrifice short term interests for sustained stabilization, growth and ultimate delivery in the national interest.

26. Our primary responsibility is to remain committed to our long term vision – a vision driven by our personal commitment and one that will see participatory democracy being maintained. Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great humility that we have remained committed to what the BDP promised in 1965. That is ‘to uphold the democratic system in government’ for the benefit of the people of Botswana. Thank you.

27. It is now my pleasure to introduce our Guest of Honour His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete was first elected Fourth President of the United Republic of Tanzania on December 14th, 2005. Recently on 31st October, 2010, he was re-elected to a second term.

28. Born on October 7th, 1950, President Kikwete is a graduate of economics from the University of Dar es Salaam. At the university, he was a student leader and active participant in African liberation politics and youth movements. He later sharpened his leadership skills in the military, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before retiring from the army in 1992 to concentrate on politics.

29. In his more than 30 years of public service, President Kikwete served in different party, military and government positions. He joined the Cabinet in 1988 and he held several ministerial portfolios including Minister of Finance, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. He was the longest serving Foreign Minister in the history of Tanzania after serving in that position for a ten year tenure.

30. During his tenure in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he led Tanzania’s efforts to bring about peace in the Great Lakes region, particularly Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As Chairman of East African Community’s Council of Ministers, he played a pivotal role in moving forward the process of regional integration in East Africa, particularly the delicate negotiations of establishing a Customs Union between Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. He also co-chaired the Helsinki Process Globalization and Democracy with the Foreign Minister of Finland.

31. In 2007, President Kikwete was elected Chairman of the SADC Organ on Security, Defence and Politics, where he was deeply involved in the search for peaceful solutions to political crisis in the Southern African region, including a political crisis in Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

32. President Kikwete was brought into politics and mentored by the founding father of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. For his administration, President Kikwete has set out an ambitious agenda for faster and sustained economic growth in Tanzania.

33. On January 31, 2008, President Kikwete was elected Chairman of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government where he took a proactive role in the resolution of conflicts in the Republic of Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He also advanced to greater heights the relations between the AU and the UN, EU and the International Community at large.

34. Your Excellency I invite you to address this distinguished assembly.

B2) 25/2/12: VOTE OF THANKS BY HIS HONOUR, LT. GENERAL MOMPATI SEBOGODI MERAFAHE, NYB, MP, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA AT THE BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY (BDP) 50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER @ BOIPUSO HALL

[Salutations]...Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Evening!

1. Allow me, Director of Ceremonies, to express my debt of gratitude to our fraternal friends from Tanzania, South Africa, Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe for joining us as we celebrate our Party's historic 50th Anniversary. Let me hasten to commend fellow democrats from the length and breadth of our country for coming in large numbers to commemorate our Party's Golden Jubilee.

2. I must also thank our Guest of Honour, His Excellency, President Mr Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete for his solidarity message, which will undoubtedly inspire us for the next 50 years and beyond. We thank you for your words of wisdom, Your Excellency, which will no doubt spur us on. Your Excellency, you have played a significant contribution in the development of Africa, in various capacities. I am saying this, Your Excellency, in view of the fact you have been one of the longest serving, outstanding and exceptional Foreign Ministers in Africa, and lately as the President of your beloved country, Tanzania.

3. At this juncture, let me also acknowledge with great pleasure the presence of my dear colleague, Deputy President Mr Kgalema Motlanthe of the Republic of South Africa. Your presence here, Your Excellency, is highly commendable and of course reflective of our longstanding historical ties, bound by a common purpose and vision.

4. As a party, we are encouraged by the continued support of our fraternal friends from neighbouring countries who have joined us today and of course whose relationship with us can be described as mutual, cordial and excellent.

5. Director of Ceremonies, I must also commend our Second President, His Excellency Sir Ketumile Masire for taking us down memory lane, on the journey our Party has taken thus far. Your Excellency, through your exceptional leadership, our nation has evolved into a middle-income economy, amidst history of prolonged drought and other socio-economic challenges we faced over the years. For this, Your Excellency, we will always remain greatly indebted to you as a nation and Party. As one of the Founding Fathers of this Nation, our enviable track record of economic success and political stability can be partly attributed to your astute leadership.

6. Let me also commend our Third President, His Excellency, Mr Festus Mogae for his eloquent presentation on Botswana's economic regime and national development plans. As one of the architects of Botswana's economic success, from his humble beginnings

as an economic planner until his retirement as President of this Republic, I must commend you, Your Excellency, for your exceptional service to our nation. You have ably steered Botswana's economic success.

7. As we continue to mark this historic achievement, I am certain that many of us are familiar with the programmes and policies spearheaded by our President, particularly after his inspirational message on "BDP in Government", which covered various issues of national interest. I know I have said this before, but I will nonetheless reiterate it. Your Excellency, we will always be greatly indebted to you for continuing to serve our Party and nation with distinction, a true reflection of your visionary and exceptional leadership, which is a source of inspiration to many of us within and beyond our borders. Your commitment to serving Botswana with integrity and foresight embodies the values that we stand for as Botswana.

8. As I have noted in the past, Your Excellency, the Flagship programmes of Poverty Eradication and Economic Diversification Drive, and many other initiatives have made a difference to the lives of many Botswana. In this regard, Botswana are able to contribute to the growth of our economy and also feel part of that growth. In essence, there is commitment to transform our nation into one of shared responsibilities, shared opportunities and a shared sense of community!

9. Before I conclude my remarks, let me note the emergence of Botswana as a key regional and global player. In this regard, the BDP Government is also conscious of the common destiny of Botswana, especially when addressing national, regional and global issues.

10. Let me conclude by commending the 50th Anniversary Organizing Committee and the entire Party Membership for making February 25th, in the year of Our Lord 2012 a historic day in the annals of Botswana politics. I have every reason to believe that our Party will grow from strength to strength in the next 50 years and beyond. I thank you for the courtesy of your kind attention. TSHOLETSA DOMKRAF!

B3) 24/2/12: TOAST BY HIS HONOUR LIEUTENANT GENERAL MOMPATI S. MERAFHE, NYB, MP VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA ON THE OCCASION OF THE WELCOME DINNER HOSTED IN HONOUR OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, HIS EXCELLENCY, KGALEMA MOTLANTHE

Your Excellency, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, Deputy Minister in the Department of International Relations of the Republic of South Africa, Honourable Marius Fransman,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Honourable Phandu Skelemani,
Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Honourable Mokgweetsi Masisi,
Senior Government Officials from South Africa and Botswana,

Ambassador Lenin Shope, High Commissioner of South Africa to Botswana,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and the People of Botswana and indeed on my own behalf, to extend a special welcome you and your delegation to Botswana. I am aware that during your stay here you will be part of a huge and historic celebration tomorrow, where you will of course sample our rich cultural heritage. I have no doubt you will have a pleasant stay in Botswana.

2. Your visit is a clear testimony of the excellent relations that subsist between our two countries and peoples. Botswana and South Africa enjoy strong and cordial bonds of friendship, characterised by mutual respect and regular political consultations. Our ties have manifested themselves in the form of sustained cooperation in various areas of human endeavour. This has laid a strong foundation for even deeper economic cooperation between our two countries.

3. Your Excellency, Botswana is home to a large number of the South African community, some of whom have become an integral part of our society. For this, we will always remain indebted to you for your country's invaluable contribution towards our socio-economic development.

4. With these few remarks, may I now kindly request you to join me in drinking a toast to:

- the personal good health of His Excellency, Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa,
- the enhanced bilateral cooperation between Botswana and South Africa, and
- to international peace and security, I thank you!

B4) 25/2/12: REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA SIR KETUMILE MASIRE ON THE OCCASION OF THE BDP 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS GABORONE 25TH FEBRUARY 2012

[Salutations]...Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I stand here this afternoon, humbly imbued with immense gratitude for this opportunity to celebrate with you, and talk about our Political Party – Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). On this special occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Botswana Democratic Party, I naturally, am compelled to cast my mind back and remember our other heroes and heroines who are no longer with us. Men and women who because of their vision and stoicism, we are today celebrating 50 years of BDP existence and 45 years of its governance of this country.

2. It all began at the time when the winds of change were blowing across the Continent. Countries that were colonies of the Western Powers were gradually gaining

independence. We were a Protectorate and not a colony of the British. We became aware of the possibility that the British would someday want to terminate our Protectorate status. We, on our own individually and collectively, thought we should start preparing ourselves for self-government.

3. Some of us, that is my fellow co-founders of BDP, were already in the then administrative structures of Bechuanaland known as African Advisory Council and the Legislative Council.

4. We, the co-founders, seriously discussed the idea of forming a Political Party which would prepare to take over from the British when we attain self-rule and ultimately independence. Other political parties had already been launched, such as the Federal Party of the late Leetile Raditladi and the People's Party initially led by the late Kgalemang Motsete. It was only after we were convinced that these earlier activities lacked the capacity to unite Batswana behind a common national vision that a consensus emerged for the formation of a new party.

5. In November 1961 a caucus of the African members of the Legislative Council was convened by my predecessor the late Sir Seretse Khama to discuss the formation of a new "National Democratic Party". Those in attendance included such future party stalwarts as myself, the late Archelaus Tsoebebe, Goareng Mosinyi and the late Tsheko Tsheko. With the exception of the Dikgosi present, the late Kgosi Bathoen and the late Kgosi Mokgosi, who chose to remain outside of partisan politics, the group was unanimously in favour of forming a new party to serve as a voice for all Batswana.

6. We were from the very beginning united in our determination to transform the Protectorate into an independent and prosperous nation that would transcend ethnic and regional divisions. We further recognized that genuine liberation would not be achieved through the uncritical adoption of external agendas and ideologies. Preferring evolution to revolution, we instead adapted the indigenous democratic norms of free dialogue and community consultation as our tools for building both our party and nation.

7. An interim steering committee was formed, with Sir Seretse Khama as Chairman, I as Secretary and Tsoebebe along with the late Moutlakgola Ngwako, Tsheko Tsheko and the late Dabadaba Sedie as additional members. Besides overseeing the recruitment of additional founding members the Committee's main task was to draft a party constitution, which was approved at a follow-up meeting at Mahalapye.

8. The stage was thus set for the BDP to be publicly launched on the 28th of February 1962 under a modest Morula tree on non-tribal land in Gaborone. This venue was chosen on the day of the launch after permission was suddenly withdrawn for us to meet at Mochudi, by the then Bakgatla Regent.

9. At its inaugural Congress the Party elected an Executive Committee consisting of Sir Seretse Khama as President, Archelaus Tsoebebe as Vice President, I as Secretary,

Amos Dambe as Vice Secretary, the late Benjamin Steinberg as Treasurer and the late A. Maribe as Vice Treasurer.

10. Notwithstanding its ultimate success, our party's triumph was by no means certain at the time of its birth. Many Batswana then had little awareness of what a political party could accomplish for them. To overcome this gap, party members were mobilized in every region to inform ordinary people about the BDP's Aims and Objectives ("Maitlamo le Maikaelelo"), which included at all times to promote the welfare of the people of the then Bechuanaland, while attaining an economically viable and fully independent state based on universal adult suffrage.

11. In addition to these core objectives, the party was committed to a set of principles that remain relevant to the day including, protection of human rights and non-discrimination, recognition that Botswana belonged to all the communities that lived within it, while having a stake in the economic progress and good governance of the country.

12. The party further pledged to energetically develop the economy and natural resources of Botswana and provide equal opportunities to all who are prepared to work, while raising the prosperity, and standard of living of all Batswana, to intensify education and improve health services.

13. In 1963, progress towards independence began in earnest with the convening of the Constitutional Review Conference at Lobatse, in which representatives from each of the then existing political parties, that is the rival BPP factions of Motsete, Matante and Mpho, as well as the BDP, along with Dikgosi and representatives of the local white settler community were represented.

14. Sir Seretse Khama, I and Ngwako represented the BDP. Having done their homework the BDP delegation were able to take the lead in the proceedings, because unlike any of the other delegations, we had drawn up our own detailed proposals to match against those of the colonial Government clause by clause. The Conference resulted in a new democratic Constitution with non-racial legislature elected by the people using the one-person one vote method.

15. For the BDP negotiators the result was a triumph. Our Country's future was in the hands of whichever nationalist politicians managed to win the upcoming election. In the immediate aftermath of the conference the BDP launched a nationwide campaign to publicize both itself and the new dispensation. As part of this campaign in September 1963, the Party introduced a newspaper, Therisanyo, the country's first non-government periodical of which I was the Editor. The BDP national executive also devoted a great deal of energy in addressing meetings in all corners of the Protectorate.

16. The many months of hard work paid off when Batswana went to the polls for the country's first one person one vote election in March 1965. While we had organized

supporters in every one of the thirty-one constituencies, the other parties struggled to nominate candidates in the rural areas and failed in many places.

17. Our success in this respect was due to commitment and hard work. Most of the BDP's electioneering was done on either foot or bicycle. It was only in the months immediately before the election that the party was able to purchase two trucks to assist its campaign.

18. When the results did come in, the BDP had won by a landslide, capturing 28 seats out of 31 seats, with 81% of the vote. Thus it was that on 30th September 1966, our country gained independence under the leadership of the BDP.

19. Botswana under the BDP led government began to play a significant part in international politics, putting itself as a non-racial democratic alternative to the apartheid regime of South Africa. The BDP believed and practiced non racialism at home, and believed in majority rule, and the extension of equal opportunity for the advancement of all.

20. It therefore, found the racist and discriminatory policies in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia unpalatable. As a nation we were sympathetic to the aspirations for self determination of the black majority in the neighbouring countries.

21. At independence, Botswana was one of the poorest nations of the World. Our budget was R12 million, 6 million of which was financed by the British and the rest from the locally raised revenue.

22. I am personally pleased that we have achieved so much from our humble beginnings 45 years ago. I thank our development partners then and now, for having travelled this arduous development path with us. We have enjoyed being listed by the Global Peace Index as being among the World's most stable countries.

23. This serves as a reminder of where we have been and where we should strive to remain as a nation. The rule of law, adherence to the principles of democracy and good governance should continue to be things that we cling to with hooks of steel.

24. Director of Ceremonies, I could stand here and speak the whole afternoon if I have to talk about BDP since its formation till now. It suffices to say, BDP came into power and took this country from a very low level of socio-economic development to what everybody sees today. It is my ardent hope that the current and future leadership of BDP and the Government will keep on improving on the good foundation that we the founders of BDP and Botswana Government have laid. I thank you all.

B5) 25/2/12: SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA MR. FESTUS GONTEBANYE MOGAE AT THE BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY (BDP) 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS DINNER, BOIPUSO HALL

[Salutations]...Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Evening!

1. His Excellency, the President Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete and Former President and Co-Founder of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), Sir Ketumile Masire, have together given us a comprehensive history of the BDP, its evolution, its challenges, its achievements, its failures, its strengths and weaknesses. The current Secretary General of the Party has given appropriate and fitting thanks to not only representatives of Fraternal Parties and resident Diplomats but also to all of us.

2. My duty tonight is to make brief concluding remarks concerning ruling parties who led their countries to independence like the BDP. I do so to place what has been said in the context of the independence decade for most of Sub-Saharan Africa namely 1960s. Some of these parties were formed as parties but overtime became liberation movements, others emerged as liberation movements who became parties at or after independence. Others like the BDP were formed as political parties who evolved and grew as such. Whatever the circumstances of their origin, today they all have to grapple with economic development management. It is by this transformation role that they are and will be judged and by which they will stand or fall.

3. The transformation of society and especially of economies is no longer merely an intention of or a promise by these ruling parties. On the contrary such transformation is a developmental imperative and inescapable obligation. The issue applies throughout, not only to Sub Saharan Africa but also to Africa north of the Sahara desert. The challenges facing our parties may vary in intensity from country to country according to historical background and current circumstances but in the end these challenges are generally the same.

4. The challenges facing African leaders and ruling parties include land management, food production, poverty alleviation, employment creation, relevant education and training, environment and climate change issues, HIV and AIDS as well as infrastructure development for both domestic growth and regional integration. The latter is now overdue. Many if not all of these issues are interrelated and interdependent. Some of them are overarching. It is not my intention tonight to delve deeply into all these issues as there is not enough time and it would be inappropriate to do so during a celebration dinner as one would not be able to be complementary all the time. I just wanted to outline these challenges and focus briefly on regional integration because it is an overarching issue.

5. Before I do so let me point out that appropriate and effective land management is needed in all of our countries, and not only in those countries of Southern Africa, in which white colonisers had appropriated an elephant's share for their minority selves. Also land management does not consist of simply grabbing the land back from the white minority, sharing it among the new indigenous elites. It is a question of equitable

distribution, efficient management, equitable access to land for different purposes by all residents, including and especially by women. Land should not be hoarded as here in Botswana where people say they are safekeeping it unutilized for the benefit of their descendents. Land has to be optimally utilized for the benefit of the current generation without degrading and destroying to the detriment of future generations.

6. I have said regional integration is long overdue. Some of the rhetoric in which it is couched has become hackneyed and boring but the content remains valid. Some of our countries are too small population wise to be viable self-sustainable economies even when reasonably managed. NEPAD was conceived as a re-invigorated economic integration and cooperation programme with the support of the G.8. It was to promote inter-african trade which would reduce financial outflows from the continent. Inter-African trade in turn relies on or is facilitated by regional physical infrastructure such as roads, railways and ports. All too often, goods that can be sourced from other African countries cannot be obtained for lack of transportation facilities. What I am saying is nothing new as the various integration arrangements and initiatives that have been undertaken were started precisely because it was acknowledged that many of our individual firms or even industries suffer from diseconomies of scale.

7. Unfortunately we seem not willing to do what it takes, i.e. trust one another and compromise where necessary. We will succeed if, and only if, we address the problems together. In any arrangement we should analyse the distribution of benefits and to the extent that they may be highly skewed, jointly work on modalities of mitigation. In any case the question one should ask is not whether their share is the biggest or smallest but whether they are better inside than outside, even if some may be benefitting more than others.

8. Schemes like the Eastern African Community originally failed because there was insufficient attempt to mitigate imbalances accruing to respective individual members. I suspect there was also too much attachment to the newly acquired national sovereignty and ideological stances. I am often pained when members of the oldest operational customs union in the world, the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) talk at one another or past one another rather than to one another. What should happen is that when a member expresses a reservation on account of a legitimate constraint on that member's ability to comply, the matter should be jointly addressed in a positive spirit to find equitable redress. A fair compromise is one in which everybody gets or accepts less than their best. What I am saying is that with genuine commitment much can be achieved in the long march towards integration.

9. I am unable tonight to cite several suboptimal decisions that have been taken in Southern Africa regarding a number of genuine projects of regional benefits because to do so may be interpreted as accusing one or other participating state or government or should I say would be participant.

10. I mention the issue of regional integration because political parties exist in order to become government and it is the responsibility of government to create an enabling

environment for regional sub-regional and continental integration. With perhaps more words than I intended, I wish all the fraternal parties here good luck and good fortune in their governmental endeavours. I also wish Botswana opposition parties good cooperation to win the 2019 elections when they will be ready to rule and we shall have celebrated our 50th anniversary of independence in 2016. They cannot and should not take over before 2016 because they would not know how to celebrate half a century as the majority of their leadership are not yet forty. Otherwise they are young, intelligent, handsome, ambitious and with maturity will do well in 1919. TSHOLETSA DOMKRAAG.

C. NOTICES & FORWARDING

C1) 27/2/12: MEDIA ADVISORY: ZUMA WILL VISIT ON WEDNESDAY; PRESIDENT'S BIRTH DATE.

With reference to above this is to further confirm the President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Jacob Zuma will arrive in Botswana on Wednesday for a brief Working Visit. If they have not already done so, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation should soon be releasing a further statement on the matter.

This office can also confirm that H.E. the President Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama is marking his birthday today. In this respect His Excellency was born on 27th February 1953.

C2) 25/2/12: PUBLISHED IN THE WEEKEND POST - "CONSTITUTIONAL FINANCING" BY DR. JEFF RAMSAY

A foundation stone of our country's enviable record of good governance, as reflected year after year in various global indices, is the fact that under our laws public institutions are publicly accountable for their public expenditure.

The ongoing crisis in Greece is a reminder that, at the end of the day, there can be no sound government delivery in the absence of sound public finance. As the former UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once put it:

"No one would have remembered the Good Samaritan if he'd only had good intentions; he had money as well."

From the 1966-68 Transitional Plan for Social and Economic Development through to our current NDP 10, Government of Botswana expenditures have been regulated by mechanisms that mandate democratic oversight of the budget process. This has not simply been a matter of politics, though as in any democracy the quality of institutional oversight is ultimately dependent on sound political leadership.

Since independence, accountable control of public monies has been enshrined in the Constitution itself. In particular, Chapter 8 of our supreme law is devoted exclusively to matters of Government finance. It is in this particular section that one finds such topics

as the rules pertaining to the Consolidated and Contingencies Fund, authorisation of expenditure, public debt and the oversight powers and responsibilities of the Auditor General, as well as Parliament.

Yet, in contrast to say calls for public financing of private political campaigns or looking into alternative ways to count votes, the sections of the Constitution that address financial control have, heretofore, seemingly attracted little in the way debate.

It is, of course, a result of such legal mandates that Parliament is currently engaged in its Budget Session. An integral part of this annual exercise are the Committee of Supply Speeches that must be presented by all line Ministries, who in each case are expected to itemise their spending expectations for the coming financial year.

The speeches thus build upon the Executive's overall Budget Proposals, as presented at the beginning of the session by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning. In the process they provide ordinary citizens, including members of the fourth estate, as well as MPs, with expenditure details, thus ensuring fiscal transparency and accountability

It was in this good governance context that the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Mokgweetsi Masisi, on Wednesday presented before Parliament's Committee of Supply the recurrent and development budget proposals for the core departments falling under the Ministry of State President (MSP).

The divisions covered were 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, the National Strategy Office and Offices of the two Former President.

Altogether, Minister Masisi proposed the sum of just under P 550 million for the MSP Recurrent Budget, an 11.6% increase from last year, while the sum P 470.8 million was put forward for the Development Budget.

Although the latter figure represents a 57% decrease from the previous year's development expenditure, the Minister was careful to note that most of the reduction was in fact due to the strategic transfer of some HIV/AIDS interventions to the recurrent budgets of the Ministries of Health and Local Government, as well as NACA.

Out of the proposed MSP recurrent budget, DPSM accounts for the largest share at 23.7%, followed by Broadcasting Services at 22.9% and Office of the President at 19.8%, with the rest of the Ministry's departments sharing the remaining 33.6%.

It may come as no surprise that the Minister's proposals provide for expanded efforts to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty. The MSP development budget thus includes P 155 million to finance the Poverty Eradication Programme's further rollout of

targeted self-help interventions. In this respect he was pleased to be able to report that there has already been an encouraging uptake for the programme's packages.

The Minister further informed the house that to ensure effective grassroots input, the Poverty Eradication Unit is undertaking "mini-Dipitso" at different localities across the country with a view to refining poverty eradication strategies that are best suited to each locality.

It was also observed that Government is exploring ways of increasing market accessibility for the products generated by programme beneficiaries. Last year 15 market days were piloted to promote income generation from small and medium enterprises. At the end of each of these market days interviews were conducted and workshops held with the participants to explore better ways of moving forward.

With respect to HIV/AIDS, Masisi reported a steady decline in HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged between 15 and 24 years. This decline was most significant among the 15 to 19 year age group - 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 long term financial sustainability of the national response to HIV and AIDS remains a matter of concern.

C3) 24/2/12: MEDIA ADVISORY: EVENTS INVOLVING H.H. THE VICE PRESIDENT, LT. GEN. MOMPATI MERAFFE

1. Friday February 24, 2012 @ 1830 hours. Official Dinner in honour of the Deputy President of South Africa, His Excellency, Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe. Venue: Falcon Crest, Gaborone

2. Wednesday February 29, 2012 @ 1800 hours. Officiate at the Inauguration of Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel Venue: Phakalane Estate, Gaborone

3. Monday March 05, 2012. Official Opening of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization's Sixth Annual Forum on E-Government and Extra Ordinary Council Meeting. Venue: GICC, Gaborone

C4) 23/2/12: OPENING REMARKS BY DR. JEFF RAMSAY, DPS GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION, AT PRESS CONFERENCE TO INTRODUCE GOOGLE STREETVIEW.

It is a pleasure to welcome members of the Press to this a briefing on Google Streetview. This event has been set up as an opportunity for you to directly interact with Google about their project. In this context BGCIS, together with our friends at Hotwire, is acting as a communications facilitator.

But, of course Government's role goes further as a regulator, monitor as well as potential facilitator of the project. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to briefly outline Government's current position on the matter.

Google Streetview is of course a private company initiative; this should not be misconstrued as a Government Project. In this respect Google has been in discussions with Government Stakeholders for just over a year now.

In March 2011 a representative task team of Government Stakeholders was established to vet Google's request to expand its Streetview service to Botswana. While Google Streetview is now available in many countries - especially in Europe, North and South America, East Asia, Russia and in our own region - that is Africa -it is currently confined to the Republic of South Africa.

Should the project go ahead, Botswana would thus be the second country on the continent to be served by Streetview.

From the beginning of our own consultations, we have been well aware of both the potential advantages and risks of allowing Streetview to proceed in our country.

The application has obvious potential benefits as a tool for marketing our country, more especially our tourism sector and associated services. It also has additional benefits of allowing Botswana as well as outsiders view online some of our public places. As such it can become a valuable educational as well as marketing tool.

We have not been unmindful, however, of concerns about the application. In this respect we have investigated Google Streetview's international track record as well as considered its potential risks to our own country.

In this context it was only in August of last year that we were able to give conditional consent for the initiative. This consent was subject to various enforceable assurances with respect to protecting public privacy and security concerns as part of an overall implementation plan.

Here I wish to emphasise that the implementation plan has not as yet been finalized, although we have a basic understanding of its necessary components, which must, among other things, include:

- That filming restricted to public places unless permission from private owners has been obtained.
- That there shall be no filming of restricted areas, which shall be determined by responsible authorities. In this respect we shall exercise final say on what can be viewed.

- That there be measure in place to protect of individual identities- Dr. Taylor I trust will go into some of the details of how this can be implemented to insure for example that faces and licence plates are blurred.
- That Copyright shall be upheld where applicable along with all other Laws of Botswana.
- That there shall be a proactive campaign of public awareness on the part of Batswana.

The latter prerequisite is what brings us together here today, as a beginning because we appreciate the fact that building necessary awareness is a process and not just an event.

At this stage I wish to give time for the Google representative to make her presentation. Following which we shall be more than happy to answer your questions.

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.