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18 March 2026

**TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

VICE PRESIDENT GAOLATHE NAMED GLOBAL EDUCATION CHAMPION

Gaborone — Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Nkosinathi Gaolathe, has been appointed as a Champion for Education by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), placing him among global leaders driving expanded access to quality education.

GPE is the world's largest fund dedicated to improving education in lower-income countries, bringing together governments, donors, international organisations, civil society and the private sector to strengthen education systems, particularly in contexts of poverty or conflict.

The appointment places Gaolathe alongside leaders including Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio, as efforts intensify to mobilise funding and address persistent gaps in education systems worldwide.

Botswana's education system, built on decades of sustained public investment, has achieved near-universal access to primary schooling and strong progression to secondary level. While recent years have brought challenges that have prompted national reflection on the quality and outcomes of the education system, the country is now focused on building on this earlier foundation by strengthening learning outcomes, modernising education delivery, and aligning skills development with the demands of a changing global economy.

Gaolathe's appointment also reflects his long-standing personal involvement in education, including years of volunteer teaching and mentorship in mathematics, science and life skills, working directly with young people in classrooms and communities.

Investment in education remains critical to unlocking long-term opportunity and prosperity for Botswana, the continent and beyond. The Vice President will support GPE's "Multiply Possibility" campaign, which aims to raise \$5 billion and unlock up to \$10 billion in financing to strengthen education systems in more than 90 countries, reaching nearly 750 million children.

The development signals Botswana's growing role in shaping global education advocacy at a time when millions of children remain out of school or lack basic learning outcomes.

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