



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

"Promoting Botswana's Interests Abroad"

Special Issue  
SADC

# A Year In Review

August 2020 - August 2021

## BOTSWANA *as* CHAIR of the SADC ORGAN

on Politics, Defence and Security



United in promoting an environment of peace, security and political cooperation in the **SADC** Region



Angola

Botswana

Comoros

Democratic Republic of Congo

Lesotho

Madagascar

Malawi

Mauritius

Mozambique

Namibia

Seychelles

Namibia

eSwatini

Tanzania

Zambia

Zimbabwe



## MINISTRY OVERVIEW

The primary responsibility of the Ministry is to manage and nurture Botswana's relations with the international community, and promote the country's interests abroad. As a facilitator, coordinator, and custodian of Botswana's foreign policy, the Ministry guides the Government in the conduct of its relations with the international community.

This involves fostering strategic partnerships in among others, the following: economic, political, trade, educational, health, and cultural sectors. The mandate of the Ministry is derived from Botswana's Constitution and its scope and breadth, is informed by Government Notice 356 of 2002. The Ministry is headed by the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation. The current Minister is Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape. He was appointed to this portfolio on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The Executive head of the Ministry is Dr. Gladys Mokhawa, who assumed the role of Permanent Secretary in April 2021.



**HON. DR. LEMOGANG KWAPE**  
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION



**DR. GLADYS MOKHAWA**  
PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

**Our vision** .....  
To be a respected and influential player in world affairs

**Our Values** .....  
• Integrity • Discipline • Professionalism • Patriotism • Botho

**Our Mission** .....  
MIAC exists to promote and manage foreign relations as well as advance Botswana's interests abroad.  
  
The Ministry also provides protocol and consular services in accordance with international norms and practice. The Ministry is committed to providing professional, effective and efficient services to its clients and stakeholders

## Contactus

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# About the special Issue Publication

The Special Issue is periodically published to articulate and inform on foreign policy positions and initiatives undertaken by Botswana on bilateral, regional and multilateral platforms. Notably, the publication serves to document the various global leadership roles that Botswana has held and the contributions she has made in areas such as sustainable development, peace and security.

This inaugural Issue focuses on Botswana's Chairship of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, from August 2020 to August 2021, and the milestones realised during this period.

During her leadership as Chair of the Organ, Botswana demonstrated her relentless commitment to advance the Region's integration agenda of fostering a stable, peaceful, and prosperous regional community. The achievements outlined in this Issue are a testament of Botswana's resolve to nurture regional integration as one of the fundamental pillars of her foreign policy.

We thank the Ministry's team that contributed to the Inaugural Issue. In particular, we wish to acknowledge the Department of Africa and the Middle East (DAME), for the instrumental role it played in supporting the country's Chairship.



## Introduction

Botswana was elected to the Chairship of SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security during the 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government, which was held virtually on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The Chairship was for a period of one (1) year, from August 2020 and ended in August 2021. This was the first time Botswana took up the position of Chair of the Organ in the history of SADC.

It is worth mentioning that it was in Gaborone, in June 1996, that the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, was established by the Summit of Heads of State and Government. The Organ was created as an indispensable body entrusted with the mandate of consolidating, defending and maintaining democracy, stability, as well as peace and security in the region. The establishment of the Organ was not only a beacon of hope for peace and stability but also laid a strong foundation for the region's socio-economic development and prosperity.

The Organ operates on a Troika basis, consisting of the Chairperson, Incoming Chairperson and Outgoing Chairperson, and reports to the SADC Summit Chairperson. During Botswana's tenure as Chair, the Chairperson of the Organ was His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi; the Incoming Chairperson was His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa; and the Outgoing Chairperson was His Excellency President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe. At the level of the Ministers, the Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ was Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation.

Despite the overwhelming challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic, Botswana working together with other SADC Member States, ensured that the region's performance on peace, security and democracy remained a model for benchmarking on the African Continent. Some of the key achievements made in the political and security spheres are: Implementation of SADC Decisions in the Kingdom of

Botswana working together with SADC Member States, ensured that the region's performance on peace, security and democracy remained a model for benchmarking on the African Continent.

Lesotho; Deployment of SADC Standby Force to the Republic of Mozambique, to combat acts of terrorism and violent extremism in the Northern Province of Cabo Delgado; Reconfiguration of the Force Intervention Brigade in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); supporting DRC-Zambia to finalise the demarcation of the Border in line with the Delimitation Treaty of 1989; operationalisation of the Regional Counter Terrorism Centre as well as, timely response to the civil unrest that ensued in the Kingdom of Eswatini during 2021.

Notable achievements were also made in the effort to consolidate democracy in the region, and that included: adoption and implementation of the SADC Guidelines for Election Observation under Public Health Emergencies (2020); support for the democratic processes in Member States by conducting virtual engagements with stakeholders for elections held in October 2020 in the Republic of Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania, and for the elections held in August 2021 in the Republic of Zambia.

It is important to note that the mandate and objectives of the SADC Organ are clearly captured in Botswana's Foreign Policy and have been incorporated in the National Development Plan 11, as well as Vision 2036 to give currency to democracy, accountability, transparency, the rule of law and enhance collective governance. The country has sustained its call to uphold these values as basic principles to guarantee human dignity, development and sustainable peace. During Botswana's Chairship, these values were advanced as core pillars to achieve progress in the implementation of the SADC regional integration agenda.



On the foreign policy front, territorial integrity and sovereignty are sacrosanct to any nation. In order to secure these foreign policy cardinals, it was imperative for Botswana, holding the leadership of the Organ, to closely engage with countries in the region on issues of common interest and mutual concern. Such issues included the development of a collective security capacity; promotion of the development of democratic institutions and practices; prevention, containment and resolving inter-and intra-state conflict; promotion of cooperation and common political value systems and institutions to deal with cross border crimes; violent extremism and the emerging threat of terrorism; as well as humanitarian and disaster management issues. As indicated, these are issues dealt with under the Organ. In this regard, Botswana during her Chairship of the Organ was able to take lead on how the region develops and implements initiatives around these issues, which are clearly of uttermost national interest.

Botswana's determination and commitment to uphold principled positions during her tenure as Chair of the Organ, gained the country the trust and confidence from a number of other countries in the Continent. This, undoubtedly, went a long way in enhancing the country's image and national interests at the regional and international levels. Botswana's sterling leadership, significantly contributed towards making the country a respected and influential player in regional and global affairs.

# National Address

by

## His Excellency the President

on milestones realised during Botswana's tenure as the Chair of the

# SADC organ

July 2021

### Dumelang Batswana Betsho!

- I have found it necessary to update you on some of our major achievements during our tenure as Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.
- As you are well aware, Botswana assumed the Chair of the SADC Organ in August 2020. The Chairship of the Organ is held by the SADC Member States rotationally on an annual basis. Our term as Chair of the Organ, therefore, ends in August 2021.
- The SADC Organ was established in June 1996, as a formal institution of SADC, to support the organisation in its efforts towards the achievement and maintenance of peace and security. Its legal framework, the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, was adopted on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2001, to give the Organ clear objectives, legal operational parameters and a clear structure.
- Its mandate includes the promotion of peace, security and political stability in the region; promotion of the development of democratic institutions and practices in the region; development of capacity for collective security in the region; as well as the prevention, containment and resolving inter-state and intra-state conflicts.
- Botswana assumed the Chair of the Organ at the peak of negotiations between SADC and the United Nations, regarding the reconfiguration of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB), which is the offensive arm of the UN Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). The FIB was constituted by SADC countries, represented by South Africa, Tanzania and Malawi.



*His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, Chairperson of SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (August 2020 - August 2021) chairing SADC Organ meeting.*

- In preparation for the impending withdrawal of UN troops from the DRC in 2022, the United Nations had proposed that the FIB be reconfigured by repatriating some FIB battalions from the SADC Troop Contributing Countries to create space for the inclusion of Quick Reaction Forces from non-SADC countries. The UN also proposed to overhaul and reconfigure the FIB Headquarters by staffing it with non-SADC officers.
- To protect the interests of SADC and the DRC, the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, which was held virtually, on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020, directed that a Ministerial level consultative meeting be urgently convened between SADC and the United Nations Secretary General, to discuss the proposed reconfiguration of the FIB.
- Consequently, SADC held a number of consultative meetings with the United Nations. These were led by Botswana, as Chair of the Organ. As a result of these consultations, the United Nations agreed that SADC should continue to play a dominant role in the FIB.
- It also was agreed that SADC will maintain dominance in the FIB Headquarters, represented by not less than 75% of the staff positions, and that all Staff Chiefs (G1-G9) will come from the SADC Troop Contributing Countries. Most of the staff officers have since taken up their assignments at the FIB Headquarters. Botswana has also deployed three (3) Botswana Defence Force officers, who have since reported for duty, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021, at the FIB Headquarters.
- In addition, it was agreed that the United Nations will engage with SADC on the discussion regarding the withdrawal of UN troops from the DRC.
- Our main interest, as SADC, is that there should not be a security gap in the DRC after the withdrawal of the UN troops, as this could lead to the re-grouping of the militants and terrorists to further destabilise the country, and the region as a whole.
- We also wanted the FIB to be strengthened with dedicated enablers, including the urgent deployment of intelligence capabilities, such as the Geo-Location Threat Analysis Unit (GTAU) and Tactical Intelligence Unit (TIU), to enable it to effectively deal with a difficult terrain as the DRC. These enablers have since been deployed to the DRC.
- I also convened an Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit, plus FIB Troop Contributing Countries, the DRC and Mozambique, here in Gaborone, in November 2020, to deal with some of these issues.

### Bagaetsho,

- As you are aware, the Organ has also been seized with the deteriorating terrorism situation in the Northern Province of Cabo Delgado, in Mozambique, which is threatening the peace and security, not only in Mozambique, but also to the whole region and humanity at large.
- In this regard, I have convened a number of Extraordinary Meetings of the Organ Troika, to discuss this issue with a view to agree on a collective response to this menacing and inhumane acts of terror. This has not been an easy process bearing in mind the sovereignty of Mozambique and that as SADC countries we also have treaty obligations to our mother bodies, the African Union and the United Nations, particularly the UN Security Council as the primary body entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security.
- I have also traversed the region to brief and engage my other SADC colleagues on this issue, among others, so that they



*His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi as Chairperson of SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security with His Excellency Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa as an incoming Chairperson of the Organ and His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of Republic of Zimbabwe as the outgoing Chairperson of the Organ during the Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit held in Botswana on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020*

are on board on the regional thinking. As you know, these issues always require face to face discussions due to their sensitivity.

- The Extraordinary Organ Troika Meetings culminated in the adoption of a report by the Organ Troika, recommending the deployment of the SADC Standby Force to Mozambique, to support that country to combat the threat of terrorism and acts of violent extremism in Cabo Delgado. We also recommended the convening of an Extraordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government to receive our report.
- As a result, the Extraordinary SADC Summit was held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021. As Chair of the Organ, I was able to present the report of the Organ Troika to the Extraordinary Summit. This is because only the SADC Summit is mandated by the SADC Treaty to authorise the deployment of the SADC Standby Force. The report was adopted by the Summit. Therefore, the process of deploying the SADC Standby Force to Mozambique is underway.
- It should be clearly understood that we are not just assisting Mozambique. We all know that these atrocious and faceless terrorists respect no boundary or State sovereignty. As I have indicated before, they are also a clear affront to the SADC vision of a region that is peaceful, stable, secure and prosperous, as well as our collective desire for unity, regional integration and socio-economic development. As such, the broad objective for the deployment of the Standby Force is to bring SADC back on its development path.

**Betsho,**

- We have all received, through social media and other sources, the recent reports on the political and security disturbances in the Kingdom of Eswatini, which have resulted in widespread destruction of property, injuries to many people, and a number of casualties.
- As Chair of the Organ, I urgently dispatched a Fact-Finding Mission to the Kingdom of Eswatini, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021, constituted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republics of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The Mission was led by the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Lemogang Kwape, who is also Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ.
- The purpose of the Mission was to gather first-hand information on the disturbances, including the state of security in the country, and to appeal for calm and restraint from all the stakeholders, including the security forces in their response to restore order and normalcy.
- I also tasked the Mission to propose to the stakeholders, including the Government of Eswatini, to consider an open national dialogue as a way forward in the efforts towards finding a lasting solution to the political grievances in that country.
- Even though the intention was for the Mission to meet with all key stakeholders in the country in an inclusive manner, due to the limited time and the COVID-19 restrictions, it only



*His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi as Chairperson of SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security holding a bilateral meeting with the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), His Excellency Mr. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo on the margins of the Extraordinary SADC Troika Summit on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020*

managed to have comprehensive engagement with the Government. It also held a brief meeting with some other stakeholders, which included civil society organisations, political groups and faith-based organisations, basically to assure them that a second Mission to the country will be urgently arranged in order to have further consultations with all the other key stakeholders.

- As such, I have since dispatched a second Fact-Finding Mission to Eswatini, which left on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021, to go and have further consultations with a broad spectrum of other stakeholders across the Eswatini nation. This is in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the situation, which will guide SADC to develop an appropriate regional response to secure durable peace and stability in the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- From the report I received from the first Fact-Finding Mission, all the consultations with the stakeholders were held in an atmosphere of calm, mutual respect and understanding. The proposal for an open national dialogue was also highly welcomed as a way forward towards finding a long lasting solution. We are, therefore, hopeful that we will be able to achieve our objective of securing durable peace and stability in the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- As this is a very sensitive matter, involving a sovereign State, I implore all of you to employ more understanding and patience as we try to navigate the uncharted waters in Eswatini.

**Betsho,**

- I just wanted to share with you only that much as we are coming to the end of our tenure as Chair of the Organ in the coming month.

**I thank you, and stay safe from the COVID-19 pandemic!**

**Pula!!**

The Extraordinary Organ Troika Meetings culminated in the adoption of a report by the Organ Troika, recommending the deployment of the SADC Standby Force to Mozambique, to support that country to combat the threat of terrorism and acts of violent extremism in Cabo Delgado.

# POLITICAL *developments* CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY IN THE SADC REGION



**Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Head of the SADC Election Mission for the General Elections held in the Republic of Seychelles, October 2020, delivering remarks during the virtual stakeholder engagements. Honourable Kwape was accompanied by the Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, Honourable Mr. Dumezweni Mthimkhulu, Alternate Head of Mission.**

The promotion of democracy and good governance is key to the SADC peace and security agenda. This objective is among others realised through the holding of regular democratic elections in Member States. Accordingly, during Botswana's Chairship, General Elections were held in three SADC Member States, namely the Republic of Seychelles on 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020; United Republic of Tanzania on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020; and the Republic of Zambia on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

To support electoral cycles in Member States, SADC normally deploys Election Observation Missions (SEOMs) to Member States holding elections. However, in 2020 and 2021, due to the challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, SADC did not deploy election observation Missions. Instead, the Region facilitated virtual engagements with electoral

stakeholders during the pre-election, election and post-election phases for the elections held in Seychelles, Tanzania and Zambia. As Chair of the Organ, Botswana led the SADC teams that participated in the virtual engagements. The Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape was appointed by His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, to lead the virtual engagement missions. Honourable Dr. Kwape was assisted by Honourable Mr. Dumezweni Meshack Mthimkhulu, Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration.

This was the first time Botswana headed election-related missions, following her assumption of the Chair of the Organ. Through Botswana's leadership the electoral stakeholder engagements contributed towards enhancing democratic practices, promoting political participation, and respect for civil and political rights. The Missions were tasked to determine the state of preparedness of the Member States to hold elections, and their compliance with the *Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections*. The Missions concluded that the said 2020 and 2021 elections, were successfully managed.

Additionally, during Botswana's Chairship, in 2020, SADC adopted the *Guidelines for Election Observation under Public Health Emergencies*. Among others, the Guidelines outlined measures for observing elections during pandemics, including stipulating modalities for safeguarding SEOMs during deployment.

The above outlined milestones realised during Botswana's Chairship, attest to her ability to work collectively with our Member States to promote democratic practices, good governance and rule of law, as well as, her ability to apply influence on various issues and contribute to the shaping of the Regional agenda.

Promoting Regional

# PEACE AND SECURITY

SAMIM: United in the fight against terrorism



Botswana troops during the launch of SAMIM

A key milestone in the fight against terrorism in the region was the decision by the Extraordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government, which was held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, to deploy the SADC Standby Force to the Republic of Mozambique to assist that country to combat acts of terrorism and violent extremism in its Northern Province of Cabo Delgado. The SADC Mission to Mozambique (SAMIM) started deploying on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021. It is made up of personnel and capabilities from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

# His Excellency the President's statement on the launch of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM)

9<sup>th</sup> August 2021 – Pemba, Mozambique



H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, in Pemba, Mozambique

1. It is indeed a great honour for me to be standing before you today, our men and women in uniform, on this auspicious occasion to launch the SADC Mission to Mozambique, here in this beautiful city of Pemba, in the Cabo Delgado Province of Mozambique.
2. Before I start my remarks, may I kindly request you all to join me in observing a moment of silence in honour of our departed warrior, Corporal Jacob Banno Ramagonono of The Botswana Defence Force, who met his untimely death after being involved in a car accident while discharging his duties here in Pemba.
3. Thank you, our deepest condolences go to the family, colleagues and friends of the departed soldier. As a region, we will forever be indebted to this hero, who answered the regional call and laid down his life for peace for all humanity.
4. **May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!**
5. Let me begin by expressing my deepest gratitude for the privilege and honour to be the one launching the Southern African Development Community Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM), this morning.



H.E. Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique giving his remarks during the launch of SAMIM

6. This event is a significant milestone towards addressing some of the obstacles to our aspirations to achieve regional integration and socio-economic development.

7. Its significance is further amplified by the fact that it is the first major peacekeeping mission successfully planned and executed by our regional body, SADC. It fulfils the long-standing wish by our fore fathers, who worked tirelessly to see a politically free Africa, with the capability to solve her own problems. I humbly believe their spirits are also here with us today, enjoying the gratification we are all feeling, seeing the men and women purposefully paraded for a common good, which is to secure peace and stability for all.

8. As such, this event highlights the camaraderie that exists among SADC Member States, a relationship that has made this mission possible.

9. I am particularly pleased to see women deployed side by side with men. This is not only symbolic, but a celebration of our regional efforts towards gender equality.

10. On a personal note, many years ago, my elder brother stood proud in a similar parade in Somalia, under **"OPERATION RESTORE HOPE"**, to help the Somalis regain peace and stability. Back then, I did not fully comprehend the level of sacrifice he was making; but standing here today, I feel and see selfless commitment from you, the men and women, who chose to protect and defend their nations.

11. Your presence here, in Mozambique, is a clear reaffirmation of our collective commitment to regional peace, stability and development. Our countries collectively responded to the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique.

12. In this regard, your primary mandate here is to support Mozambique's efforts in

the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. This support should not only be limited to ensuring security of the people. As you are well aware, peacekeeping goes far beyond just keeping the peace. It also involves ensuring the protection of human rights, and facilitating humanitarian assistance. Therefore, your presence here must send a strong message of genuine protection and solidarity with the people of Mozambique, particularly in Cabo Delgado.

13. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the road to this day was not an easy one. You will all agree with me that planning an operation in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic can never be an easy undertaking. Reports indicate that globally, over 200 million people have been infected by COVID-19, many lives have been lost to the pandemic, while many others have been negatively affected as a consequence thereof. As such, national budgets have been disrupted, revised and reprioritised to help save lives.



From Left to Right: Botswana High Commissioner to the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Mr. Gobe Pitso; Special Representative of the Chairperson of the SADC Organ and Head of SAMIM, Professor Mpho Molomo; Major General Xolani Mankayi and Brigadier Dumisani Ndzinge during the launch of SAMIM



Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation (center) with Honourable Mr. Kagiso Mmusi, Minister of Defence, Justice and Security (left) and H.E Mr. Gobe Pitso (right) during a visit to Pemba, Mozambique



H.E Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi with H.E Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi during their visit to Pemba, Mozambique

The deployment of this Mission is in line with the principle of subsidiarity, as encapsulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. It is also premised on the United Nations Charter to restore international peace and security.

14. However, amidst these challenges, SADC, as a collective, agreed that restoring peace and stability in the region was also a priority. That is why on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, I on behalf of the SADC Heads of State and Government, signed the Mandate authorising the SADC Standby Force Rapid Deployment Capability to deploy in Mozambique, in an effort to support the country to combat acts of terrorism and violent extremism.

15. The deployment of this Mission is in line with the principle of subsidiarity, as encapsulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. It is also premised on the United Nations Charter to restore international peace and security.

16. As you all know, restoring peace and stability requires enduring professionalism. This is premised on loyalty, duty, discipline, integrity, personal courage, teamwork, esprit de corps, among others. All these attributes are built on the foundation of trust.

17. You all know that in military ethos, trust is considered a key attribute of a soldier. Accordingly, a soldier's ability to fulfill strategic roles and discharge responsibilities to the nation, depends upon the trust between soldiers, trust between soldiers and their leaders, trust between soldiers and their families, as well as trust between soldiers and their nations.

18. The reason I talked about trust is because this Mission comprises soldiers from different militaries. Trust is an attribute in military ethos that transcends borders, and does not recognise the different nationalities of the soldiers in a Mission. As you fight the terrorists alongside each other, have the trust that you will protect each other. This is imperative in the effective and successful execution of your Mission.

19. In this regard, I also wish to acknowledge the presence of Mozambique's other cooperation partners on the ground, such as the Republic of Rwanda, who have also answered Mozambique's plea for assistance. As friendly forces, we look forward to inter-agency cooperation and coordination.

20. Let me conclude by, once again, thanking you all for answering the call in the efforts to restore peace and stability in the region. Your dedication to this cause and your sense of purpose are truly commendable. You are indeed the men and women who will ensure that the SADC Standby Force remains effective and relevant.

21. I wish you the best of luck. May the Lord protect you and guide you in the success of this Mission!

**I thank you!**



# Consolidating the Gains of Peacekeeping

## The Role of the FIB in the DRC



His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi with the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), His Excellency Mr. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo.

**B**otswana assumed the Chair of the Organ at the peak of negotiations between SADC and the United Nations, regarding the reconfiguration of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB), which is the offensive arm of the UN Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). The FIB was initially constituted by SADC countries, represented by Malawi, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. In preparation for the impending withdrawal of UN troops from the DRC in 2022, the UN had proposed that the FIB be reconfigured by repatriating some FIB battalions from the SADC Troop Contributing Countries to create space for the inclusion of Quick Reaction Forces from non-SADC countries. The UN also proposed to overhaul and reconfigure the FIB Headquarters by staffing it with non-SADC officers.

Botswana led the negotiations with the UN to protect the interests of SADC and the DRC, by ensuring that there is no security gap in the DRC after the withdrawal of the UN troops, as that could lead to the re-grouping of the militants and terrorists to further destabilise the country, and the region as a whole. As a result, the UN agreed that SADC should continue to play a dominant role in the FIB, including the staffing of the FIB Headquarters. Botswana has also deployed three (3) Botswana Defence Force officers, who have since reported for duty, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021, at the FIB Headquarters.

In addition, SADC wanted the FIB to be strengthened with dedicated enablers, including the urgent deployment of intelligence capabilities, such as the Geo-Location Threat Analysis Unit (GTAU) and Tactical Intelligence Unit (TIU), to enable it to effectively deal with a difficult terrain as the DRC. These enablers have since been deployed to the DRC.



# Botswana leads SADC Factfinding Missions to Eswatini



Organ Troika Ministerial fact finding team in the Kingdom of Eswatini, July 2021



SADC Technical team in the Kingdom of Eswatini, July 2021

**F**ollowing the political and security disturbances in the Kingdom of Eswatini, at the end of June 2021, as Chair of the Organ, His Excellency the President urgently dispatched an Organ Troika Ministerial Fact-Finding Mission to the Kingdom of Eswatini, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The Ministerial Mission was constituted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. It was led by the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Lemogang Kwape, who was also Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ.

Even though the Mission was expected to meet with all key stakeholders in the country in an inclusive manner, due to the limited time and the COVID-19 restrictions, it only managed to have comprehensive engagement with the Government. As a result, His Excellency the President dispatched a follow-up SADC Troika Technical Fact-Finding Mission to Eswatini, from 15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, to go and have further consultations with a broad spectrum of other stakeholders across the Eswatini nation. The Mission was led by the Resident Ambassador at the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation, Ambassador Lapologang C. Leko. It was meant to assist SADC with a comprehensive understanding of the situation, so as to develop an appropriate regional response to secure durable peace and stability in Eswatini.

The Mission successfully completed its assignment and produced a detailed Report, with recommendations, which will be considered for guidance on the way forward in the efforts to assist the Kingdom to find a long lasting solution.

## His Excellency President Masisi's STATEMENT ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF A TECHNICAL SADC ORGAN TROIKA FACT FINDING MISSION TO THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Following the disturbances in the Kingdom of Eswatini, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021, in my capacity as the Chairperson of the SADC Organ Troika on Politics, Defence and Security, I deployed a SADC Organ Troika Ministerial Fact-Finding Mission to the Kingdom of Eswatini. As a follow-up, a Technical Fact-Finding Mission will be deployed to the Kingdom to consult extensively with stakeholders, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. The Mission will analyse the political and security situation in the country, with a view to support the people of Eswatini towards finding a durable solution.

SADC continues to appeal for calm and restraint from all the stakeholders in the Kingdom of Eswatini, and encourages national dialogue in the efforts towards resolving the country's political and socio-economic challenges.

SADC wishes to reassure the people of Eswatini and the Kingdom of Eswatini of its continued commitment and support. It is our hope that all concerned parties will continue to uphold and embrace peaceful means in addressing their differences and challenges.

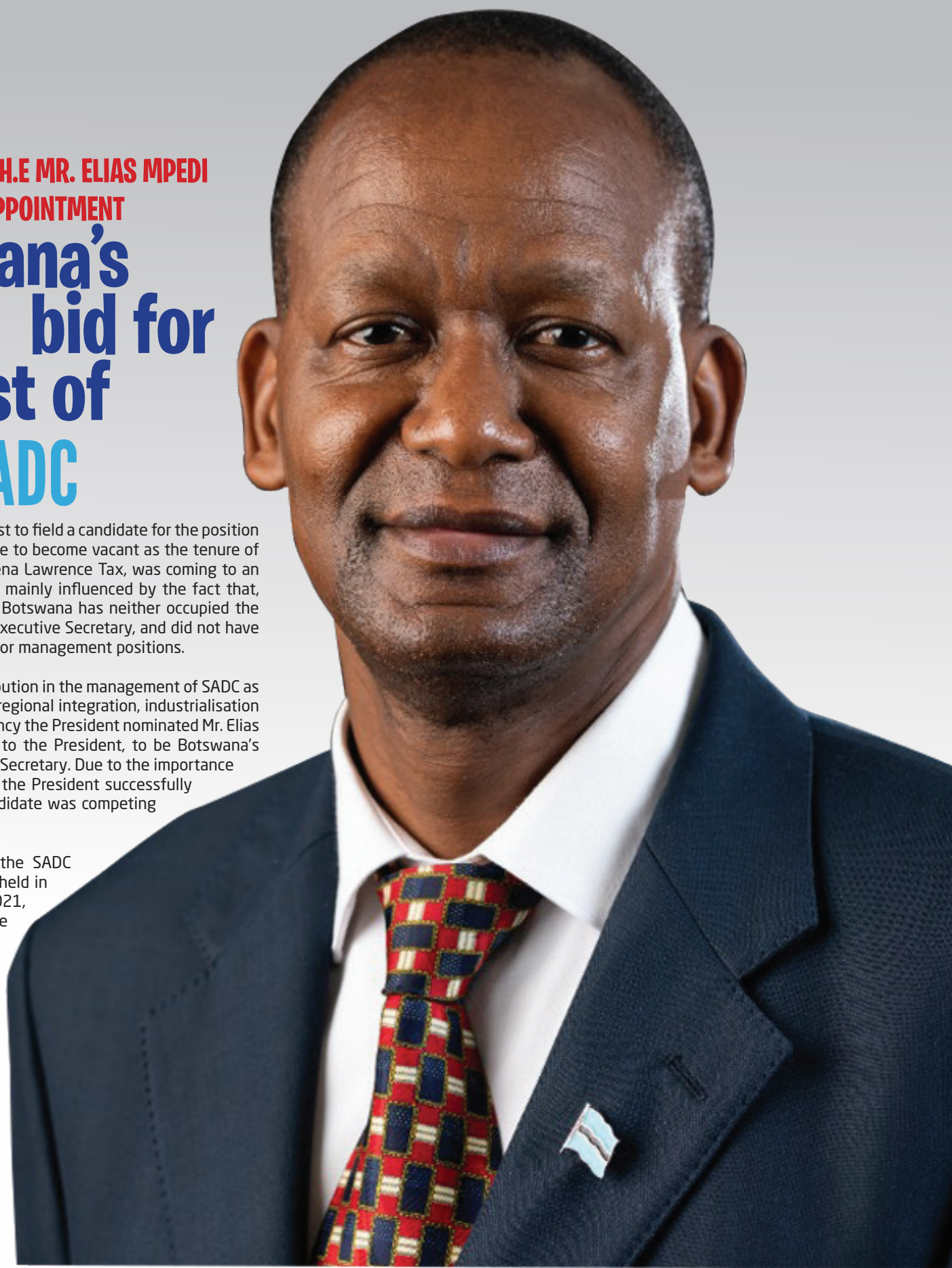
**THE ROAD TOWARDS H.E MR. ELIAS MPEDI  
MAGOSI'S APPOINTMENT**

# Botswana's successful bid for the post of ES - SADC

In January 2021, Botswana expressed interest to field a candidate for the position of SADC Executive Secretary, which was due to become vacant as the tenure of the then Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, was coming to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. The decision was mainly influenced by the fact that, despite being one of the founders of SADC, Botswana has neither occupied the position of Executive Secretary nor Deputy Executive Secretary, and did not have a national in any of the SADC Secretariat senior management positions.

In order for Botswana to also make her contribution in the management of SADC as it continues to drive the important issues of regional integration, industrialisation and socio-economic development, His Excellency the President nominated Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi, former Permanent Secretary to the President, to be Botswana's candidate for the position of SADC Executive Secretary. Due to the importance of the position to Botswana, His Excellency the President successfully led the campaigns, in which Botswana's candidate was competing with the DRC candidate.

As a result, the 41<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Summit of the SADC Heads of State and Government, which was held in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021, appointed Mr. Magosi as the new Executive Secretary of SADC. He was sworn-in on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021, as the first Botswana to hold the position. The position is for an initial period of four (4) years, renewable only once for a further 4-year period. The appointment of Mr. Magosi to lead the regional body demonstrates His Excellency the President's commitment to promote the employment of qualified Botswana into the leadership positions of regional and international organisations.



## His Excellency the President`s Statement of Endorsement for H.E Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi 2021

I have the pleasure on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Botswana, to present Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi, as a candidate for the position of the Executive Secretary of Southern African Development Community (SADC), at the elections that will be held on August 2021.

Mr. Magosi has broad experience in the public and private sectors as well as in international organisations. He is currently the Permanent Secretary to the President and Head of the Botswana Public Service, as well as Secretary to Botswana Cabinet. He previously served as Deputy Permanent Secretary to the President, Permanent Secretary to a number of Ministries and a Coordinator of Public Service Reforms at the Office of the President.

Mr. Magosi has also worked for SADC as a Director of Human Resources and Administration where he was charged with the responsibility of implementing the new organisation structure for the SADC Secretariat. His vision of leading an organisation that is driven by its members to realise regional integration and industrialisation within a secure and assuring environment, guided by strong governance principles and employing a fulfilled and performing workforce, is in tandem with the values that we espouse as a country.

Botswana has decided to field such a high profile candidate because the country is committed to values and principles for which SADC was established, and strongly believes that the organisation is instrumental in the socioeconomic and political development of the region.

We are confident that, with his wealth of experience in the executive management in both the public and the private sectors, Mr. Magosi will be able to transform our regional body, especially its corporate governance, and guide its efforts towards accelerating regional integration and development.

It is against this that I therefore seek endorsement and support for his candidature as the next SADC Executive Secretary.



**His vision of leading an organisation that is driven by its members to realise regional integration and industrialisation within a secure and assuring environment, guided by strong governance principles and employing a fulfilled and performing workforce, is in tandem with the values that we espouse as a country**



H.E Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi  
**Vision  
 Statement**  
 2021

*To lead a SADC Secretariat that is fully accountable to the Member States towards the realisation of regional integration and industrialisation within a secure and assuring environment, guided by strong governance principles and a fulfilled and high performing workforce.*



*H.E Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi being sworn as the new Executive Secretary of SADC on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Lilongwe, Malawi*



*H.E Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi's first day in the office as the Executive Secretary of SADC 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021*

**Mission**

To nurture and develop a highly motivated and effective Secretariat, to drive the implementation of the policies and programs towards the full actualisation of the SADC Vision.

**Statement of Intent**

SADC, as a regional body, has made significant progress in many areas over the years, mostly as a result of relative peace and stability in the region. There is still more to be done to fast-track, particularly regional integration and industrialisation. I aspire to head a Secretariat with a deep culture of corporate governance, integrity, as well as high level of strategic agility and result-oriented, which will facilitate the effective implementation of the SADC agenda.

**Focus areas for the Vision - A Seven Point Agenda**

**Enhanced Governance**

- Ensure good governance practices and enhance compliance to policies and procedures. This may require targeted review of some of the policies to engender transparency and accountability. Central to this will be the focus on rule-based management and enhance trust with members and development partners and or financiers

**Enable regional integration**

- Facilitate the full implementation and effective monitoring of the RISDP 2020-30, in particular promote the creation of a network of inter-connected value chains in different Member States to support industrialisation and market integration. The main focus will be on programme and project execution by the Secretariat. Will advocate the removal of bottlenecks and impediments in the respective Member States to facilitate

delivery. This will include the use of various tools and technologies to achieve this goal.

**Facilitate regional peace and security**

- Advance SADC aspirations to consolidate democracy and achieve solidarity, peace and security in the region, through building close cooperation and confidence on matters of politics, defence and security. These values are foundational in the implementation of SADC integration agenda. A peaceful, welcoming and stable region is a draw card to potential partnerships and resource mobilisation.

**Enhance image and brand of SADC**

- Promote SADC to its citizens and communities to appreciate its mandate by strengthening partnership with information intermediaries to support the promotion of the SADC Vision, goals and achievements. Members ought to believe and feel SADC is theirs, they own it, and it facilitates them to achieve their dreams to improve their livelihoods.

**Facilitate innovation**

- Pursue innovation at the Secretariat and process enhancements. Assist members to shift focus more towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) bandwagon.

**Gender Mainstreaming**

- Build a gender sensitive environment within the Secretariat and encourage Member States to prioritise increased representation of women in positions of responsibility, especially in peace and security structures and processes.

**Build high performance workforce**

- Create a culture that motivates and inspire high performing workforce. Employee engagement is key to driving performance and employee trust. Build a community of nationalities focused on the ultimate goal - integration and improved livelihoods.

# Exclusive Interview with...

## Hon Dr Kwape



**O**n 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020, Honourable Dr. Lemoang Kwape was appointed as the new Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana. August 2021 marked one year since he took office. In an exclusive interview with the Department of Public Diplomacy, Research and Policy Analysis (PDRPA), Honourable Kwape reflects on his first year in office, notably his role as the Chair of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ (MCO) from August 2020 - August 2021.

**Q.** You were appointed as the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation in August 2020 at the time that Botswana had just assumed the Chairship of the SADC Organ. From the onset, one of your key responsibilities was to serve as the Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ which constitutes Member States' Ministers responsible for foreign affairs, defence, state and public security.

**How was your experience serving as the Chair of the MCO?**

**A.** Upon reflection, I can say chairing the MCO was on one hand, a baptism of fire, and on the other hand, I was provided with the opportunity to learn and actively contribute towards the Region's agenda of promoting regional cooperation and integration. You'll recall that prior to heading the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation, I served as the Minister of Health and Wellness. In this regard, some of the issues pertaining to peace and security were relatively novel to me, hence, my reference to the baptism of fire.

Soon after assuming the new role at the Foreign Ministry, the first meeting I chaired was the virtual Organ Troika Ministerial Meeting which focussed on the reconfiguration of the Force Intervention Brigade in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The United Nations (UN) Secretary General António Guterres participated in the same meeting. During this meeting, as well as other subsequent meetings, I received tremendous support from Ministry officials thus ensuring a smooth Chairship term. Overall, my experience as Chair was enriching and indeed an honour as I had the invaluable opportunity to serve the Region and its citizens. I was also very fortunate to be surrounded by supportive colleagues in the Region particularly those from the Organ Troika who included, the late Honourable Mr. Sibusiso Moyo, former Minister

of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Zimbabwe and Honourable Dr. Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.

**Q.** Honourable Minister, you led the MCO during a trying period in the Region with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a growing threat of terrorism, particularly in Mozambique. What impact did these challenges have on the Organ agenda during the period of August 2020-August 2021?

**A.** The COVID-19 situation brought about challenges that affected not only the SADC Region, but the international community as a whole. The travel restrictions proved to be a challenge from time-to-time as they affected the Region's face-to-face meetings when there was need to meet and discuss sensitive regional peace and security issues. Fortunately, we were able to collectively navigate the challenges and limitations, and realise key milestones of the Organ. Among others, these included the deployment of the SADC Standby Force to Mozambique in July 2021, to support Mozambique in her efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism in the Cabo Delgado Province; ongoing support for the National Reforms in Lesotho; and support provided to Eswatini to find a durable solution to the civil unrest that occurred during 2021.

**Q.** Honourable Minister, you Head a Ministry that plays an instrumental role in developing and coordinating Botswana's foreign policy as well as promoting the countries interests abroad.

**Based on your experience so far, how is the Ministry faring in this role? What are some of the milestones that the Ministry has realised during your tenure so far, and what are some of the challenges that have been experienced in executing the Ministry's mandate?**

**A.** My philosophy in life is to always look through a lens of opportunities rather than challenges. In this regard, despite the setbacks occasioned by COVID-19, as a Ministry we have over the past year, managed to realise a number of milestones some of which I have already alluded to with respect to Botswana's contributions in advancing the Region's peace and security agenda.

Other notable achievements that were realised as we supported the country's development agenda include, Botswana's successful bids for key leadership roles such as the Executive Secretary of SADC; the Presidency of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the 2022 Session; the delisting of Botswana from the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing

....continue to page 26





His Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi chairing the Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020



His Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi received by his Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique during the Launch of SAMIM on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021

# In pictures

## BOTSWANA'S CHAIRSHIP

# of the SADC ORGAN



His Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi with his counterparts (center) his Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique and His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020



His Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi participating in a virtual Organ Troika Summit



His Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi with His Excellency Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, His Excellency Mr. Emmerson D. Mnangagwa and accompanied by Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Dr. Grace N. Pandor



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Gladys Mokhawa during a SADC meeting



His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi with his counterparts during the SADC Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020



Honourable Mr. Kagiso Mmusi, Minister of Defence, Justice and Security in Pemba, Mozambique



Botswana High Commissioner to the Republic of Mozambique, H.E Mr. Gobe Pitso; Special Representative of the Chairperson of the SADC Organ and Head of SAMIM, Professor Mpho Molomo; Major General Xolani Mankayi and Brigadier Dumisani Ndzinge during the launch of SAMIM



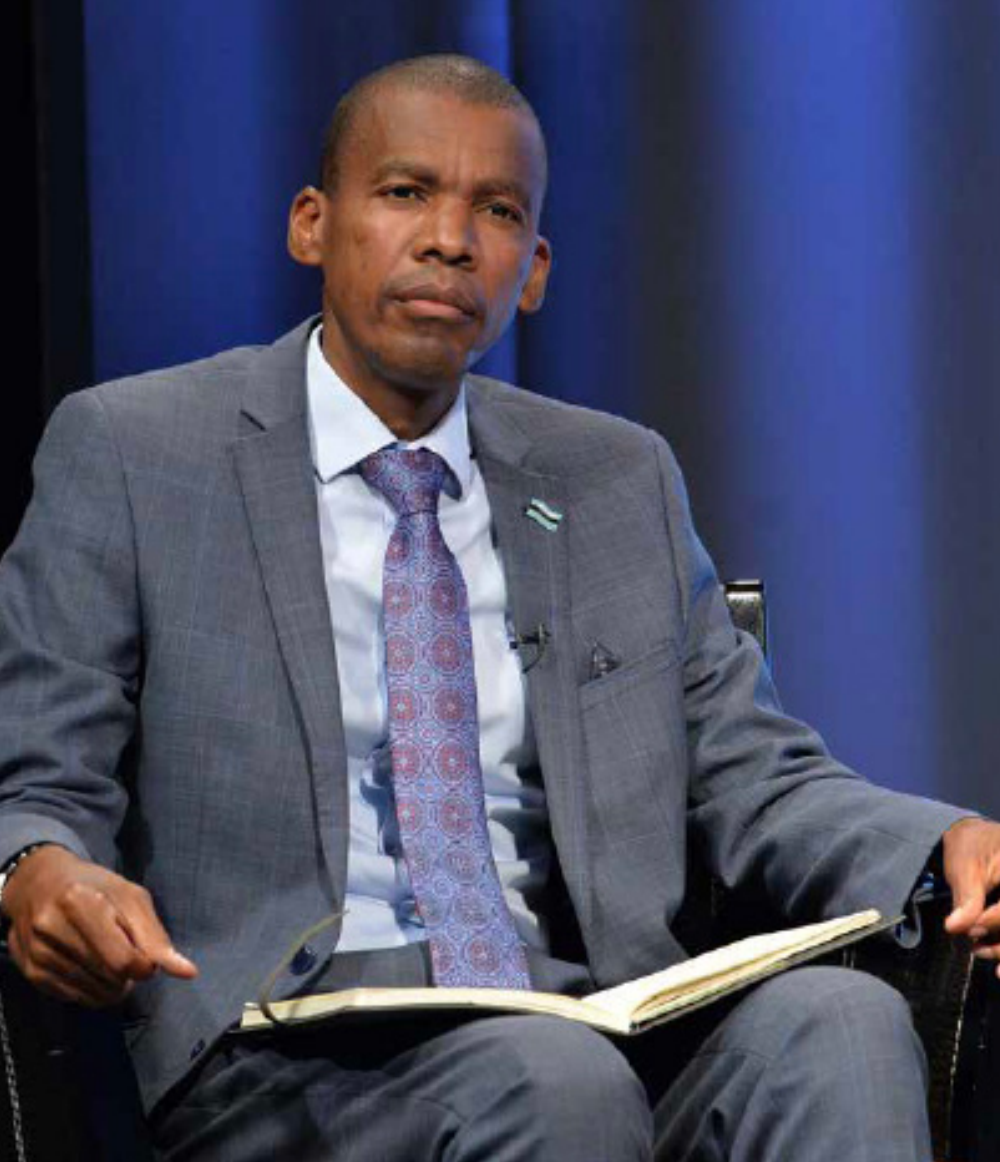
Botswana flag being raised during the Launch of SAMIM



His Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi bidding farewell to Botswana Defence Force (BDF) troops who deployed to Mozambique to take part in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Standby Force Mission on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021



Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Lemogang Kwape giving his remarks during a SADC meeting



...from page 23



Our motto **#flying the flag**, encapsulates our commitment to promote Botswana as a respected and influential player in world affairs, and as a country that nurtures peaceful relations and subscribes to fostering sustainable global peace, security and development.

of Terrorism grey listing; as well as, our ongoing efforts to advance strategic engagements with the country's bilateral and multilateral partners with a view to strengthen relations, profile, and promote the country on global platforms.

These outlined milestones along with many others were realised with the relentless support of the country's Chief Diplomat, His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana. I wish to extend my deep appreciation for his support and commitment to enhancing the image of the country on the global stage and promoting Botswana as a respected and influential global player. He continues to lead in setting the tone for us with respect to Botswana's diplomatic posture and Foreign Policy.

**Q. Post your one year in office, what are some of the country's foreign policy priorities that the Ministry will be advancing under your leadership?**

**A.** We intend to take cue from the President's vision of having more qualified Batswana strategically positioned in leadership positions globally to engage and influence the global arena in line with the country's national interests. In this regard, this will be one of our key priorities to identify international opportunities for Botswana. We believe that through this avenue we will also see increased remittances

from Batswana in the diaspora. In this same vein, we intend to embark on a concerted campaign with our economic diplomacy agenda and strive to improve the livelihood of Batswana by attracting foreign direct investment and facilitating initiatives that ultimately create employment for Batswana.

**Q. When you joined the foreign Ministry you introduced what has become the Ministry's motto #flying the flag. What does this mean?**

Our motto **#flying the flag**, encapsulates our commitment to promote Botswana as a respected and influential player in world affairs, and as a country that nurtures peaceful relations and subscribes to fostering sustainable global peace, security and development. It further attests of our commitment to promote the core principles and values that define us as a Nation, such as those of, puso ya batho ka batho (democracy); popagano ya sechaba (national unity); and ntwaga kgolo ke ya molomo (it is more effective to dialogue than to engage in violence). Thus in this spirit, I encourage Batswana in their various capacities to unite in continuously raising our flag and promoting the country on various global platforms.

**Thank you.**

# Next Special Issue

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## Botswana's tenure as the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) – 2022 Session



# Explore Botswana

The land of Opportunities,  
Prosperity and Peace...

