



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Promoting Botswana's Interests Abroad

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**Botswana - A Respected and influential global
player. Co-host US-Africa Business Summit
Gaborone: 11th-14th July 2023**



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Promoting Botswana as a key destination for International Meetings



State Visit to Botswana by the President of the Angola, His Excellency Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, 20th – 22nd July 2023.



State Visit to Botswana by the President of the DRC, His Excellency Felix Tshisekedi Tshilombo, 9th – 12th May 2023.

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Highlights of **APRIL - JULY '23**



On 31st July 2023, Ambassador Clifford Maribe, Deputy Permanent Secretary-Bilateral Diplomacy, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made a presentation on foreign policy formulation at the Botswana Defence Command and Staff College. The presentation was part of the activities of the Senior Command and Staff Programme Class 15 of 2023.

Among others, in his presentation, Ambassador Maribe informed the students about the determinants of foreign policy, actors involved in the formulation of foreign policy as well as, key

outputs of foreign policy. Each year, the Foreign Ministry seizes the opportunity to present on foreign policy matters to BDF students as part of its public outreach initiative of raising awareness and building understanding on Botswana's foreign policy objectives.



AMBASSADOR DR. GLADYS MOKHAWA OFFICIATES AT THE INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) WORKSHOP

On 27th July 2023, in her capacity as the Chair of the National International Humanitarian Law Committee, Ambassador Dr. Gladys Mkhawa, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officiated at the national Workshop on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Botswana. The inaugural workshop was organised for the National International Humanitarian Law Committee, and was co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Among others, the one-day workshop provided the opportunity for Committee members to gain a better understanding of the role that the ICRC plays in the advancement of International Humanitarian Law; the status of the implementation of IHL in Botswana, as well as, the functions, mandate and composition of National IHL Committees.



BOTSWANA- ANGOLA BILATERAL RELATIONS

STATE VISIT TO BOTSWANA BY THE PRESIDENT OF ANGOLA



From 20th to 22nd July 2023, His Excellency Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, undertook a State Visit to Botswana at the invitation of His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana. The Angolan delegation included the Ministers of External Relations, Finance; Mineral Resources and Petroleum; Agriculture and Forestry; Justice; Culture and Tourism; Telecommunications, Information Technology and Social Communication; and Environment.

During the visit, the Presidents considered progress made on the implementation of the Framework Agreement for the promotion of bilateral cooperation, and discussed the convening of the inaugural

Botswana-Angola Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation (JPCC) Session. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues of common interest and held a joint press conference. The visit culminated in the signing of a joint communique which highlighted some of the key outcomes emanating from the official talks of President Masisi and President Lourenço.



MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF ANGOLA, HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR TÊTE ANTÓNIO PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR DR. GLADYS MOKHAWA

His Excellency Ambassador Tête António, Minister of External Relations of Angola, paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Dr. Gladys Mokhawa, ahead of the State Visit to Botswana by His Excellency Mr. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola. The State Visit took place on 20th – 22nd July 2023.

During the courtesy call, Ambassador Dr. Gladys Mokhawa, welcomed Ambassador Tête António and his delegation to Botswana and noted with appreciation the cordial relations and excellent cooperation that exist between Botswana and Angola.

The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1975 and cooperate in various sectors including transport and agriculture. The two countries also cooperate through the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA) and are members of the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM).



BOTSWANA- SADC RELATIONS

HONOURABLE DR. LEMOGANG KWAPE PARTICIPATES AT THE 25TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SADC MCO

Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwappe, Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated at the 25th Ordinary Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security, which took place on 20th-21st July 2023, in Windhoek, Namibia.

of International Relations and Cooperation of Namibia. The Meeting received progress updates on the implementation of decisions made at its 24th Meeting held in July 2022, including on the consolidation of democracy in the region, implementation of the UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security by SADC, as well as, the SADC Mission in Mozambique. Honourable Dr. Kwappe was joined by Honourable Mr. Kagiso Mmusi, Minister of Defence and Security, and Senior Government Officials.

The Ministerial Meeting was chaired by Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Chairperson of the MCO and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister



BOTSWANA CO-HOSTS THE US- AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT

On 11th – 14th July 2023, Botswana co-hosted the US-Africa Business Summit in Gaborone with the Corporate Council on Africa. The Summit brought together over 1000 US and African public and private sector participants who included African Heads of State; US and Africa Government Ministers; Senior Government Officials, international investors, private sector executives and entrepreneurs as well as multilateral stakeholders. The Summit was held under the theme: Enhancing Africa's Value in Global Value Chains.



JUNE`23



HONOURABLE DR. KWAPE ATTENDS RECEPTION MARKING THE 247TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

BOTSWANA- USA BILATERAL RELATIONS



On 27th June 2023, Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwaape officiated at a reception marking the 247th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America. The event was hosted in Gaborone by His Excellency Mr. Howard Van Vranken, Ambassador of the United States to Botswana. Among others, in his remarks, Honourable Kwaape noted with appreciation the close bilateral ties and strong partnership that exists between Botswana and the US.

The Minister also expressed gratitude for the assistance that the US has availed to Botswana over the years, including support rendered through the President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), as well as, support for the country's post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery efforts. Honourable Kwaape also took the opportunity to inform attendees, that from 11th-14th July 2023, Botswana will host the 15th Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) US-Africa Business Summit in Gaborone.



BOTSWANA- DRC BILATERAL RELATIONS



AMBASSADOR ZENENE SINOMBE ATTENDS DRC INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT

On 30th June 2023, Ambassador Zenene Sinombe from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated at Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) National Independence Day event hosted in Gaborone by Her Excellency Ms. Emilie Ayaza Mushobekwa, Ambassador of the DRC to Botswana. In his remarks, Ambassador Sinombe congratulated the Government and people of the DRC for the country's 63rd Independence Day Anniversary. He also reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to strengthening partnership with the DRC on shared priorities such as, economic prosperity and consolidation of democratic institutions and practices.

Botswana and DRC enjoy cordial bilateral relations. Over the years, the two countries have worked closely together through common membership to organisations such as SADC and the African Union. Most recently, in May 2023, the President of DRC, His Excellency Mr. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo undertook a State Visit to Botswana. During the said visit, President Tshisekedi officially opened the DRC Chancery in Gaborone.



Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape officiates at the South Africa Freedom Day Reception

Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape officiated as the guest of honour at the South Africa Freedom Day reception hosted by the High Commissioner of South Africa to Botswana, Her Excellency Ms. Thaninga Shope-Soumah, on 16th June 2023.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LAUNCHES FOREIGN POLICY CONVERSATIONS PROGRAMME

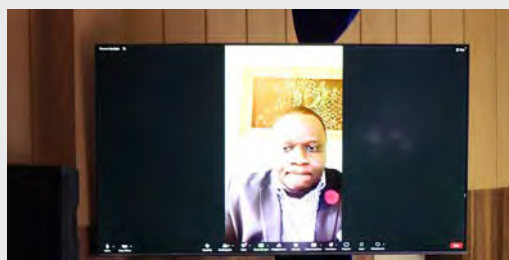
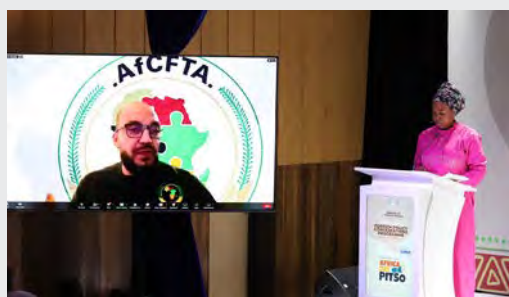
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched its Foreign Policy Conversations programme at the National Museum on the 6th June 2023. Through this initiative, the Ministry aims to provide a platform for engagement, dialogue and exchange of views with the public on geopolitical issues, as well as, raise public awareness and promote understanding of Botswana's Foreign Policy objectives. The inaugural public forum which was held under the theme: "Africa Day Pitso – Acceleration of the Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)," was hosted in partnership with Conversation with Africa, a Botswana based organisation promoting Intra-Africa Trade and AfCFTA. The event was also supported by the African Group of Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Botswana.

Ambassador Dr. Gladys Mokhawa, Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered the event's welcome remarks, the Keynote Address was

presented by Her Excellency Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), and the Vote of Thanks, was delivered by Her Excellency Dr. Beatriz Antónia Manuel Morais, Ambassador of Angola to Botswana and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

A key component of this hybrid gathering, included a panel discussion on the AfCFTA, which was moderated by Ms. Neo Tlhaselo of Conversation with Africa. The panelists comprised: Mr. Mohamed Ali, Director – Trade in Goods and Competition (AfCFTA); Ambassador Mr. Zenene Sinombe, Botswana's Former Permanent Representative to the African Union; His Excellency Mr. Mourad Adjabi, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to Botswana; Ms. Mmantlha Sankoloba, Chief Executive Officer - Botswana Exporters and Manufacturers Association (BEMA); Ms. Harriet Mlalazi, Head- Banking Division, Rand Merchant Bank (RMB); Mr. Phazha Butale, Chief Negotiator, Botswana Ministry of Trade and Industry; and Mr. David Ofungi, Technical Advisor – Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Various aspects pertaining to AfCFTA were covered, such as, the role of the business community in driving Africa's Continental Free Trade – the perspectives of Algeria and Uganda; Negotiating the AfCFTA and securing market access for Botswana goods and services; and the nexus between economic diplomacy, the banking industry and AfCFTA.

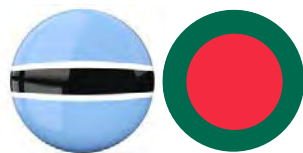




BOTSWANA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

PERMANENT SECRETARY AMBASSADOR DR. GLADYS MOKHAWA MET A DELEGATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN

The Permanent Secretary welcomed the delegation to Botswana and noted with satisfaction the strong bonds of friendship that subsist between Botswana and Japan since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1966. She further thanked Japan for her tremendous contribution to Botswana's development agenda over the years.



BOTSWANA- BANGLADESH BILATERAL RELATIONS

On 29th May 2023, the High Commissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr. Noor-E Helal Saifur Rahman, paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Dr. Gladys Mokhawa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During their meeting, the two discussed issues of common interest, including exploring potential areas of enhanced cooperation between Botswana and Bangladesh, such as in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

Botswana and Bangladesh established diplomatic relations in May 1993 and enjoy

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Botswana pays courtesy call on Ambassador Dr. Gladys Mokhawa



cordial relations. In an effort to further strengthen relations between the two countries, in February 2023, the Foreign Ministers for Botswana and Bangladesh signed an agreement on the Abolition of Visa for Diplomatic and Officials Passports, as well as, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Political Consultations.



The Government of Botswana and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), Joint Steering Committee (JSC) met to consider the 2023 Joint Work Plans and deliberate on the 2022 Results Report



THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION CONDUCTED CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Government of Botswana, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration on 25th -26th May 2023 conducted a two (2) days training workshop aimed at building the capacity to strengthen linkages with the Botswana diaspora.

The objective of the workshop was to impart knowledge to the Technical Working Group (TWG) members about labour migration in general and circular migration in particular diaspora, and further agree on the elements of the envisaged Diaspora Engagement Policy Framework and the engagement modalities.



MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE AND SECURITY PARTICIPATE IN A VIRTUAL SADC EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ORGAN MEETING

On 24th May 2023, Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Honourable Mr. Kagiso Mmusi, Minister of Defence and Security, participated in a virtual SADC Extraordinary Ministerial Committee of the Organ (EO-MCO) Troika Plus SAMIM Personnel Contributing Countries (PCCs) Meeting. The Meeting which was attended by Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs and Defence, considered progress made by the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM). The Ministerial Session was preceded by a Senior Officials Session.





BOTSWANA- EU RELATIONS

4th session of the Botswana - EU Political Dialogue

On 16th May 2023, the 4th Session of the Botswana-EU Political Dialogue commenced with opening remarks being delivered by the co-Chairs Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Her Excellency Ms. Petra Pereyra, Head of the EU Delegation to Botswana and SADC. Among others, the meeting deliberated on Botswana-EU cooperation and political developments in the SADC region.

The meeting also discussed multilateral issues of common interest to Botswana and the EU, including receiving a progress update on the official launch of the Kimberly Process Secretariat, in Gaborone.

Botswana and the EU cooperate in the socio-economic and political fields. Through this strategic partnership, Botswana has benefitted in a number of areas including, receiving technical support for the national Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) reforms programme; as well as support for economic diversification initiatives such as those in the digital transformation, skills development, trade and investment promotion sectors.

HONOURABLE DR. LEMOGANG KWAPE OFFICIATES AT THE EUROPE DAY RECEPTION



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape officiated at the Europe Day celebrations and commemoration of the 73rd Anniversary of the Schuman Declaration on the 10th May 2023. The event was hosted by the Head of the European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC, H.E. Ms Petra Pereyra.

In his remarks, Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape, congratulated the EU and individual Member States for the momentous occasion. He observed that Europe Day and the Schuman Declaration continue to inspire peace, unity and cooperation globally and are symbolic of the prosperity that is achieved through sharing and having a mutual agenda.



The Minister expressed gratitude to the European Union for the support rendered to Botswana during her candidacy to host the Secretariat of the Kimberley Process. Further, he appreciated the longstanding cooperation in political, trade and multilateral fora, anchored on shared interests, and reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to work with the EU and individual EU Member States to achieve shared aspirations.



MAY`23

BOTSWANA-DRC BILATERAL RELATIONS

STATE VISIT TO BOTSWANA BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. FÉLIX ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)



His Excellency Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), undertook a State Visit to Botswana, on 9th-12th May 2023. This visit was extended upon the invitation of President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, the President of the Republic of Botswana.

During the visit, President Masisi and President Tshisekedi Tshilombo engaged in official talks, delving into bilateral, regional, and global matters of shared interest. The discussions aimed to strengthen collaboration and identify potential areas for further partnership, with a particular focus on mining, agriculture and food production, energy, and trade.

Accompanied by government ministers, senior officials, and representatives from the private sector, President Tshisekedi Tshilombo had the opportunity

to visit the Jwaneng Mine, participate in the opening ceremony of the DRC Chancery in Gaborone, engage with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat as the current Chair of SADC, and actively participate in the Botswana-DRC Business Forum.

The State Visit served as a platform for enhancing diplomatic ties, promoting economic cooperation, and fostering mutual understanding between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Botswana. The discussions and engagements held during the visit further cemented the commitment of both nations to advancing shared objectives and strengthening regional integration.

Overall, the State Visit was a significant milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two countries, and it laid the foundation for future collaborations and fruitful partnerships in various sectors of mutual interest.

courtesy ***calls*** on ***Dr. Kwape***

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On 10th May 2023, Ms. Inger Anderson, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) paid a courtesy call on Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape. Ms Anderson was on an official visit to Botswana, from 9th to 11th May 2023.

While in Botswana Ms. Anderson paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, and held talks with Honourable Ms. Philda Kereng, Minister of Environment and Tourism on issues of climate change and environmental management.

The visit also provided the UNEP delegation the opportunity to learn about Botswana's efforts to advance environmental sustainability through various initiatives such as, the establishment and operationalisation of the National Environment Fund.



In Botswana, UNEP supports a number of projects which include the strengthening of national capacities to enable domestication of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and the development of Strategic Environmental Assessment guidelines.



MFA FEATURES IN “OUR HERITAGE BOTSWANA” PUBLICATION

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwappe and the Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Dr. Gladys Mokhawa received a copy of “Our Heritage Botswana” publication Volume 6 from the Directors, Lebo and Del, on 12th April 2023

COURTESY CALL ON HONOURABLE DR. KWAPPE BY THE STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

On 5th April 2023, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Samuel Žbogar, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwappe.

Among others, the two discussed bilateral and multilateral issues of common interest, including exploring possible areas of enhanced cooperation between Botswana and Slovenia in sectors such as research and innovation; digital transformation; health; and tourism.

The State Secretary was in Botswana on an Official Visit from 5th – 6th April 2023. Botswana and Slovenia established diplomatic relations on 20th July 2005.



New Envoys to Botswana Present Copies of Letters of Credence

During the months of April - June 2023, Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Lemogang Kwappe, received copies of Letters of Credence from new Envoys from nine (9) countries. The Envoys included Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Mr. Bah El Mad Abdellah, Ambassador-Designate of the United States of America, Dr. Howard Van Vranken, H.E Mr. Gjermund Saether, Ambassador-Designate of Norway, H.E Mr. Gianni Bardani, Ambassador-Designate of Italy, H.E Mr. Muktar Kedir Abdu, Ambassador-Designate of Ethiopia, H.E Mrs. Romana Königsbrun, Ambassador Designate of Austria; H.E. Mr. Alexis Bukuru, Ambassador-Designate of Burundi; H.E Ms.

Stella Nda, High Commissioner-Designate of Malawi; and H.E Ms. Lindiwe Cynthia Kunene, High Commissioner-Designate of Eswatini

These interactions mark a significant step towards fostering bilateral relations, promoting dialogue, and exploring avenues for collaboration between Botswana and these nations. The Minister for Foreign Affairs extended his gratitude to the Envoys for their commitment to strengthening diplomatic ties and noted that he looked forward to working closely with them to achieve shared goals and objectives.



H.E Mr. Bah El Mad Abdellah, Ambassador-Designate of Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic



H.E Dr. Howard Van Vranken, Ambassador-Designate of the United States of America



H.E. Mr. Alexis Bukuru, Ambassador-Designate of Burundi



H.E Mr. Zainal Arif Mantaha, High Commissioner Designate of Singapore



H.E Ms. Lindiwe Cynthia Kunene, High Commissioner-Designate of Eswatini



H.E Mrs. Romana Königsbrun, Ambassador - Designate of Austria



H.E Ms. Stella Nda, High Commissioner-Designate of Malawi



H.E Mr. Gianni Bardani, Ambassador-Designate of Italy



H.E Mr. Muktar Kedir Abdu, Ambassador-Designate of Ethiopia

BOTSWANA MISSION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (WASHINGTON DC)

Members of the National Geographic Explorers comprising Koketso S Mookodi, Tumeletso Water Setlabosha, Gobonamang 'GB' Kgetho, Goabaone Jackie Ramatlapeng and Thalefang Charles together with Okavango Wilderness Project director Mike Beckner were joined by Kgosi Tawana Moremi II, to pay a courtesy call on Botswana's Ambassador in the US, His Excellency Okokame K. Mokaila at the Botswana Embassy, on 13th June 2023. The OWP team shared with Botswana Embassy staff about their work in the Okavango River basin, from Angola to Botswana. Ambassador Mokaila assured the team of their support and accepted an invitation to attend OWP's Presentation at the National Geographic Explorers Festival.



On 24th May 2023, a contingent of young Diplomats and current participants in the President of the General Assembly Fellowship Program (PGA) based in New York, paid a courtesy visit on Ambassador Onkokame K. Mokaila. The aim of the visit was to appreciate Botswana's successes in promoting democracy, natural resources management and the active role in multilateralism.



On 2nd May 2023, Ambassador Onkokame K. Mokaila paid a courtesy call on the Ambassador of the Bahamas to the United States, Ambassador Wendall K. Jones.

On the 22nd April 22, 2023, Mr. Travis Adkins, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States African Development Foundation (USADF), paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Onkokame K. Mokaila.



Participation of Ambassador Onkokame K. Mokaila in the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings in Washington D.C

The Ambassador attended the Botswana country briefing hosted by Regional Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa at the World Bank, Ms. Victoria Kwakwa. The meeting discussed World Bank Group support programs relevant for Botswana in the areas of water, energy, transportation and technology among others. The Botswana team was led by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Olesitse Masimega.

Courtesy Call by Major General Todd Hunt, Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard, on Ambassador Onkokame K. Mokaila on 14th April 2023

The North Carolina National Guard and the Botswana Defence Force have a defense cooperation program (State Partnership Program- SPP) which was established in 2008. Under the Program the two militaries share best practices at strategic level; leadership development; disaster relief management; conservation and environmental protection; gender intergration and health.



High Commissioner Mokaila visits Bahamas 03rd April 2023



During High Commissioner Mokaila's visit to Nassau, he had the opportunity to visit the President of the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Institute (BAMSI), Senator the Honorable Dr. Erica Hepburn. Additionally, he hosted a Meet and Greet dinner for Batswana and their spouses residing in the Bahamas, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie during his visit to the Caribbean Island country.





BOTSWANA MISSION IN MOZAMBIQUE

High Commissioner of Botswana to Mozambique meets Minister of Transport and Communications

Her Excellency Ms. Chandapiwa Nteta, High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to the Republic of Mozambique, paid a Courtesy Call on H.E. Mr. Mateus Magala, Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Mozambique, on 29th June 2023, to explore cooperation between the two countries.

The High Commissioner was accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry of Communications, Knowledge and Technology.



High Commissioner of Botswana to Mozambique presents credentials to the President Nyusi

H.E. Ms. Chandapiwa Nteta, High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to Mozambique presented her Letters of Credence to His Excellency the President, Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi on 21st June 2023. During her meeting with the President, the High Commissioner committed to further enhance the already flourishing bilateral relations between the two sister countries, and actively pursue cooperation in the areas of agriculture, trade, energy, tourism and wildlife, among others.



Celebration of the 60th Africa Day: Botswana High Commission in Maputo joins African counterparts in festivities



Botswana High Commission joined counterparts from the African continent based in Maputo to celebrate the 60th Africa Day commemorations held on 25th May 2023. This auspicious event was held under the theme, Accelerating the implementation of the Continental Free Trade. The High Commission had an opportunity to market and showcase Botswana products including our beautiful traditional baskets as well as the distinctive, tasty and mouth watering traditional cuisine seswaa, (pounded meat), bogobe (sorghum porridge), morogo wa dinawa (bean leaves), oxtail and ginger drink.

BOTSWANA MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA



H.E. Dr. Sanji Monageng, the High Commissioner of Botswana to the Republic of South Africa, recently paid a visit to Botswana companies participating in the Southern African International Trade Exhibition (SAITEX) on 20th June 2023. This significant event provided an excellent platform for showcasing Botswana's business potential and attracting attention from delegates worldwide.

Dr. Monageng demonstrated her unwavering commitment to supporting and promoting

HIGH COMMISSIONER OF BOTSWANA TO SOUTH AFRICA VISITS BOTSWANA COMPANIES AT SAITEX

Botswana's business prowess. Her presence at SAITEX underscored the High Commission's dedication to fostering economic growth and facilitating opportunities for Botswana companies to expand their networks and engage with international stakeholders.

The visit of the High Commissioner to the Botswana companies at SAITEX served as a testament to the government's dedication to supporting and empowering the business community while positioning Botswana as a competitive player in the global market.



HIGH COMMISSIONER DR. SANJI MONAGENG PAYS TRIBUTE AT KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

On June 15, 2023, High Commissioner Dr. Sanji Monageng had the honor of attending the Korean War Commemoration Ceremony held at Bays Hill, Swartkop Air Force Memorial. As a mark of respect and remembrance, the High Commissioner participated in laying a wreath at the memorial site.

The High Commissioner demonstrated Botswana's solidarity with the efforts to remember and honor the sacrifices made during the Korean War. This gesture symbolized the nation's commitment to promoting peace, preserving the memory of those who served, and fostering diplomatic relations with South Korea.





AFRICAN MISSIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

On May 27, 2023, the High Commission of the Republic of Botswana, alongside other African Missions in South Africa, commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the African Union (Africa Day). The festivities took place at the Festival Mall in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, showcasing the rich and vibrant culture of Africa through fashion, cuisine, and dance.

The event served as a remarkable platform to celebrate the achievements and progress made by African nations since the establishment of the African Union. It highlighted the continent's unity, diversity, and shared aspirations for a brighter future.



HIGH COMMISSIONER MONAGENG'S PARTICIPATION IN DIRCO SEMINAR: CELEBRATING AFRICA MONTH AND REFLECTING ON AFRICA'S ROLE IN ADVANCING MULTILATERALISM

On May 31, 2023, H.E. High Commissioner Monageng actively participated in a seminar hosted by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) to commemorate Africa Month. The seminar focused on reflecting on Africa's crucial role in advancing multilateralism at the United Nations and in other multilateral fora.

The seminar provided a valuable platform to discuss the contributions and challenges faced by African nations in promoting multilateralism. High Commissioner Monageng, alongside other distinguished participants, engaged in meaningful discussions and shared insights on how Africa can effectively advance its interests within the international community.



BOTSWANA MISSION IN AUSTRALIA



BOTSWANA HIGH COMMISSION IN AUSTRALIA PARTICIPATES IN AFRICA DAY COMMEMORATIONS



On 28th June 2023, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) commemorated the 48th anniversary since the founding of the organization in 1975.

The former ACP Group of States officially transformed into the OACPS following the revision of the Georgetown Agreement adopted by Heads of State and Government in December 2019. The Revised Georgetown Agreement entered into force on 5th April 2020. Botswana is among the founding signatories of both the Georgetown and the Revised Georgetown Agreement.

The main objective of the organization is to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development and poverty reduction in its Member States. The other major objective is to integrate the economies of the 79 countries from Sub Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific into the global economy.

On 27th June 2023, Minister Counsellor, Ms Tebatso Baleseng was a panellist in a three-member panel during a Seminar on “EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking: Combating illegal trade and strengthening the Engagement of local communities”. The Seminar was hosted by MEP Alex Agius Saliba (S&D, Malta) in the European Parliament.

Other speakers were Mr Jorge Rodriguez Romero - Head of Unit for Global Environmental Cooperation & Multilateralism DG EU Environment, European Commission, who provided a keynote address. H.E Jestas Abouk Nyamanga Ambassador of the United Republic

of Tanzania to Belgium and Mr Edward van Asch, ICCWC Coordinator, Enforcement Unit, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat.

The Seminar was convened to discuss with EU institutions and stakeholders about the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking, and its impact on countries in Southern Africa.

Ms. Baleseng raised awareness about the measures the government has put in place to counter poaching using policy, law, enforcement measures, regional and international cooperation and community engagement

The event was officially opened by Chairperson of the OACPS Committee of Ambassadors, H.E Mr. S. Gunessee, Ambassador of the Republic of Mauritius. Other speakers included the Secretary-General of the OACPS H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, President of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly, H.E Anna Rita Sithole, the Leader of the European Parliament Delegation to the ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly H.E Carlos Zorrinho, and the President-in-Office of the OACPS Council of Ministers Hon Mahen Kumar Seeruttum. A statement was also delivered on behalf of the President of the OACPS Heads of State and Government João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço.

The OACPS Foundation Day was celebrated through a display of music, art, culinary delight and the diversity of the different OACPS Regions.

The celebration was also graced by the OACPS members of Parliament who were in Brussels for the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly and the 43rd Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly from 19th - 28th June 2023.





COURTESY VISIT TO THE MISSION BY THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF BURS

On 23rd June 2023, the Commissioner General of the Botswana Unified Revenue Service - BURS Ms. Makgolo paid the Embassy a courtesy visit to appreciate the existing collaboration between BURS and the Embassy as well as for playing an active interlocutor role on World Customs Organisation (WCO) issues. Ms. Makgolo was accompanied by other BURS officials, Ms. Mokalake and Ms. Arieff who were participating in the WCO 141st /142nd Council Sessions held from 22 to 24 June 2023 in Brussels, Belgium. During the courtesy visit, BURS also invited a former BURS employee, Ms. Unami Tlhole who is currently working for the WCO



as an Origin Expert under the EU-WCO Rules of Origin.

Minister Counsellor, Ms. Baleseng, welcomed the BURS team to the Embassy and provided a background on the history and mandate of the Embassy. She encouraged BURS to continue working with the Embassy to promote trade facilitation for Botswana companies looking to expand their services to the EU.



The Embassy of Botswana to the Kingdom of Belgium hosted the Botswana-Brussels Friendship Day on 9th June 2023 at the Chancery.

The Embassy invited teachers and students from Alliance Française Bruxelles-Europe and Botswana diaspora in Belgium to break bread and share information about Botswana and Botswana culture and languages.



AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA H.E. MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA PRESENTS HER LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT CHARLES MICHEL

On 14th June 2023, the Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana H.E. Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba presented her Letters of Credence to the President of the Council of the European Union His Excellency President Charles Michel.

The ceremony took place at the EU Council Headquarters in Brussels and provided an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss bilateral issues and

explore ways forward to elevate the relations.

Botswana and the European Union share a long-standing bond of friendship and cooperation anchored on common values and interests such as democracy, the rule of law, human rights and transparency.

The discussions focused on key development areas such as private sector development, regional cooperation and integration, peace, security and the Africa-EU cooperation, among others.



AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG H.E. MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA, MEETS WITH THE DEPUTY-DIRECTOR OF THE DIRECTORATE OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID, MRS. GENEVIÈVE HENGEN

On 8th June 2023, the Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg H.E. Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba, met with the Deputy-Director of the Directorate of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Mrs. Geneviève Hengen.

This meeting followed the presentation of credentials to His Royal Highness the Grand Duke and a meeting with the Aide-de Camp and the Chief of Protocol on 7th June 2023 and 6th June 2023, respectively.

Botswana and Luxembourg have existing cooperation in areas such as double taxation avoidance. The discussions committed to building stronger bilateral and multilateral ties in areas such as:

- i) Financial and communications services,
- ii) Private sector cooperation,
- iii) Tourism,
- iv) Arts and culture,
- v) Development of knowledge hubs through research collaborations and South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

During the visit H.E. the Ambassador also met with the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Botswana to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Mr. Heiner Hartwich to discuss project proposals and future collaborations between Botswana and Luxembourg.



H.E. MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA PRESENTS HER LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUKE OF LUXEMBOURG

On 7th June, 2023, the Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, H.E. Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba presented her Letters of Credence to the Grand Duke of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, His Royal Highness Henri Albert Gabriel Félix Marie Guillaume (Grand Duke Henri).

His Royal Highness the Grand Duke welcomed the Ambassador and congratulated her on her new assignment.

H.E. the Ambassador expressed her deepest gratitude to His Royal Highness the Grand Duke for granting her the opportunity to present her Letters of Credence, as well as, the warm and courteous reception in Luxembourg.

Botswana and Luxembourg established diplomatic relations in 1978. The two countries share strong bilateral and multilateral relations anchored on democracy, good governance and the rule of law.



His Majesty King Willem-Alexander welcomed the Ambassador and congratulated her on her new assignment as Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the Kingdom of The Netherlands. For her part, Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba expressed gratitude to His Majesty for receiving her and the opportunity to present her Letters of Credence.

on shared principles and commitment towards the promotion of human rights, democracy, good governance and the rule of law. The two countries also cooperate among others in the key sectors namely, education, agriculture and water-related issues.

The two leaders also exchanged views on enhancing cooperation and strengthening the bilateral relations between Botswana and The Netherlands

Botswana and The Netherlands enjoy excellent bilateral relations founded

The Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the Kingdom of The Netherlands H.E Mrs Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba presented her Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands.



Commemoration of Africa Day: African Union Permanent Representation in Brussels hosts Gala Dinner



The African Union (AU) Permanent Representation in Brussels, together with the Group of African Ambassadors in Brussels, hosted the Africa Day Gala dinner to commemorate Africa Day on 25th - 26th May 2023.

Africa Day is commemorated annually on May 25th. It celebrates anniversary of the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). It was created by 32 African Heads of State on 25th May, 1963. It later transformed into the African Union (AU) on 9th July 2002.

Official celebrations of Africa Day began on 25th May 2023. The Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana in the Kingdom of Belgium, H.E. Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba, participated in a Seminar which was held under the theme: “Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Implementation”.

Participants included dignitaries such as the Permanent Representative of the AU to the EU in Brussels, the President of the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels, African Ambassadors in Brussels, the European Commission, the Belgian Government and the Senior Advisor to the AfCFTA Secretary General.

The Seminar held pivotal discussions focused on: i) the Status of implementation of the AfCFTA, the Challenges and Prospects for Acceleration; and ii) EU Support to the AfCFTA within the framework of the renewed AU-EU Partnership. Africa Day commemorates continental integration, growth and development.

MEET AND GREET WITH BATSWANA IN THE NETHERLANDS



Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba and Embassy Staff hosted an evening reception for Batswana in the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 1st June 2023.

For her part, Her Excellency Ambassador Masire-Mwamba welcomed everyone to the reception and reiterated the importance of fostering closer collaboration with the diaspora in the countries accredited to the Embassy of Botswana.

Her Excellency also stressed the importance of collaboration between the diaspora and the Government of Botswana and possible joint efforts in the promotion of culture, tourism, investment and sharing the story of Botswana's positive development trajectory.

The event provided a platform to network, reconnect and further strengthen the ties between Batswana studying, working and residing in the Netherlands.



AMBASSADOR OF BOTSWANA IN BELGIUM, HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA MET WITH THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NETHERLANDS - AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (NABC) MS. ROSMARIJN FENS

NABC is the leading organization for trade and investment facilitation for Africa in The Netherlands and the Embassy has been working with NABC to provide technical assistance, market intelligence and research to support Botswana in diversification of the economy as well as promotion of inclusive economic growth.

Ambassador Masire-Mwamba appreciated the collaboration efforts between the Embassy and NABC and expressed enthusiasm on how NABC may utilise the upcoming Dutch-Africa Strategy to collaborate with growing economies such as Botswana in critical sectors to allow for sustainable trade and investment facilitation that is mutually beneficial for Botswana and The Netherlands.

The Ambassador of Botswana in Belgium, Her Excellency Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba met with the Managing Director of the Netherlands - African Business Council (NABC) Ms. Rosmarijn Fens to take stock of the existing collaboration and plan for future activities on trade and investment opportunities between Botswana and the Netherlands on 1st June 2023.

HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA PAID A COURTESY CALL TO THE PRINCIPALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT - ICC IN THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

On 1st June 2023, Her Excellency Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba paid a courtesy call on the Principals of the International Criminal Court - ICC in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Ambassador Masire-Mwamba met with the President of the ICC Judge Piotr Hofmański, the Registrar of the Court, Mr. Osvaldo Zavala Gile and the Deputy Prosecutor Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan.

The International Criminal Court is an intergovernmental organisation and permanent judicial body established by the Rome Statute. It is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. The primary mission of the ICC is to help put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.



Botswana continues to support the mandate of the International Criminal Court and contributes to the aims and achievements of the Rome Statute. Botswana is also a strong supporter of the efforts of the International Criminal Court in achieving universality of the Court. Botswana signed and deposited its instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute on 8 September 2000.

The Ambassador also discussed opportunities for capacity building and the employment of Botswana at the Secretariat.

HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA PAID COURTESY CALLS ON THE PRINCIPALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, PRESIDENT OF THE ICJ JUDGE JOAN E. DONOGHUE AND REGISTRAR OF THE ICJ JUDGE PHILIPPE GAUTIER



On 31st May 2023, Her Excellency Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba paid courtesy calls on the Principals of the International Court of Justice, President of the ICJ Judge Joan E. Donoghue and Registrar of the ICJ Judge Philippe Gautier.

The International Court of Justice is the judicial arm of the United Nations and the visit afforded an opportunity for Ambassador Masire-Mwamba to discuss issues of mutual concern with the executive leadership of the Court.

HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OACPS DEPARTMENT OF STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE (SETT), MR ESCIPIÓN JOAQUÍN OLIVEIRA GOMEZ

On 24th May 2023, Her Excellency Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba paid a courtesy visit to the Assistant Secretary-General of the OACPS Department of Structural Economic Development and Trade (SETT), Mr Escipi3n Joaqu3n Oliveira Gomez.

The Department is responsible for coordinating the OACPS' activities in sustainable economic development, focusing on trade and trade-related issues such as commodities and value chain development, customs cooperation, market access, World Trade Organization negotiations, investment promotion and private sector development.

The meeting discussed the following key private sector development programmes in the OACPS regions:

- Business ACP programme which focuses on private sector development
- Investment Climate Reform Facility (ICR) a joint initiative of the OACPS and the European Union which is aimed at assisting OACPS Member States in their efforts to improve the investment climate and business environment by supporting, among others, public-private dialogue and cooperation. The ICR Facility offers specific and targeted technical assistance of up to 90 expert days for business environment and investment climate improvement initiatives;



Value Chains aims to empower OACPS actors along the agriculture value chains, specifically family farmers and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), focusing on the 11 identified value chains, namely, Cotton, cocoa, cashew, coffee, coconuts, kava, livestock, maize, rum, sugar and cassava. The Capacity Building Component of the Programme was launched on the 22nd May 2023 and Calls for proposals will be announced in due time. The Embassy will closely monitor the Programme since it covers, among others, the beef sector, which is a priority for Botswana.

The Ambassador was also updated on the work of the OACPS Business Forum. Botswana currently holds the Presidency of the Business Forum through Ms. Mmantlha Sankoloba, Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana Exporters and Manufacturers Association (BEMA). The meeting expressed the need to afford the OACPS Business Forum the necessary support to facilitate more private-sector engagements in the OACPS regions and for the OACPS Business Forum President's office to achieve its mandate

AMBASSADOR MASIRE-MWAMBA MEETS WITH THE DIRECTOR: SUB -SAHARAN AFRICA AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF BELGIUM

The Ambassador of Botswana in Belgium, Her Excellency Ambassador Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba met with the Ambassador Phillipe Bronchain - Director: Sub -Saharan Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium, on 22nd May 2023.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways of enhancing cooperation and strengthening bilateral and multilateral engagements in areas such as research and innovation, trade and investments transport and infrastructure. The meeting also focused on important

areas such as the mining and tourism sector and ways that Botswana and Belgium can collaborate further.

Key discussions were also held on the outcomes of the 4th Session of the Botswana-EU Political dialogue which was held recently on 15th May 2023.

The two leaders expressed commitment and willingness to strengthen the bilateral relations and between Botswana and Belgium in other key areas such as culture and education for mutual benefit of the two countries.

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE-DESIGNATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW), H.E. MRS MMASEKGOA MASIRE-MWAMBA LED THE BOTSWANA DELEGATION THAT PARTICIPATED THE FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE (RC -5) OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC).



The Fifth Review Conference (RC -5) of the Operations of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was held from 16th - 19th May 2023, in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Botswana delegation was led by the Permanent Representative-Designate of the Republic of Botswana to the

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), H.E. Mrs Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba. The Ministry of Defence and Security's Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Radiological (CBNR) Weapons Management Authority also participated in the Session.

RC-5 brings States Parties to the CWC together to review the Convention's relevance, operations and to rethink resourcing with a view to setting a clear roadmap for the CWC's implementation between 2023 and 2028.

AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA IN BRUSSELS MEETS WITH AMBASSADOR MASIRE-MWAMBA

On 15th May 2023, the Ambassador of Tanzania in Brussels, H.E. Jestas Abuok Nyamanga, met with H.E. Ambassador Masire-Mwamba, to explore ways of strengthening cooperation between the their respective countries, at multilateral, regional and bilateral levels.

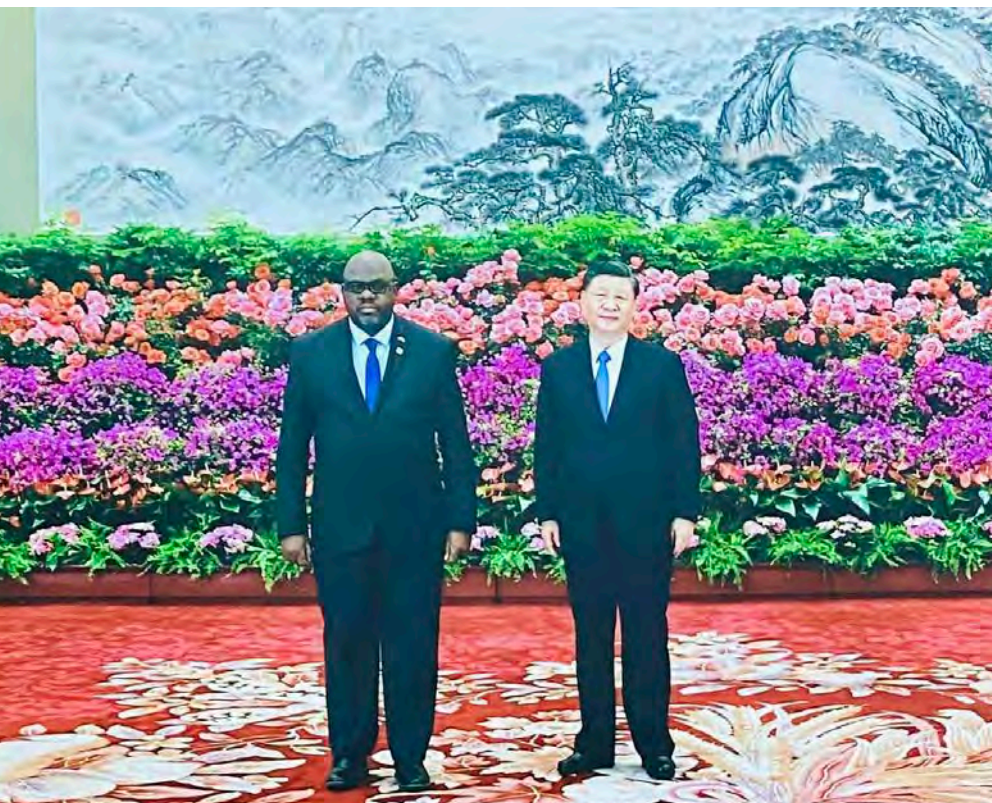


BOTSWANA MISSION IN CHINA

Botswana Delegation Attended 3rd China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo in Changsha City

Led by Honourable Fedelis Molao, a delegation from Botswana participated in the 3rd China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo (CAETE) held in Changsha City, Hunan Province, China. The expo, themed 'Common Development for a Shared Future,' served as a crucial platform for fostering partnerships, promoting trade, and exploring investment opportunities between China and African countries.

Accompanying Honourable Molao were Honourable Ms. Beauty Manake, Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry, senior government officials, and representatives from esteemed institutions such as the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI), the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC), and the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC), among others.



AMBASSADOR DR. SEREMA PRESENTS LETTERS OF CREDENCE

His Excellency Dr. Batlang Comma Serema presented Letters of Credence to His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, accrediting him as Botswana's Ambassador to China.

AMBASSADOR DR. SEREMA ATTENDS AN EXCHANGE MEETING ON CHINESE ENTERPRISES SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

His Excellency Dr. Batlang Comma Serema, Ambassador of Botswana to China, implored more Chinese companies to expand their social responsibility initiatives and programs that have potential to unlock economic opportunities and improve the lives of local communities in Africa. Ambassador Dr. Serema was sharing his perspectives on 27 April 2023, at an Exchange Meeting on Initiative of '100 Companies in 1000 Villages in Nine Programs', organized by the Alliance of Chinese Business in Africa for Social Responsibilities (ACBASR). The meeting brought together Chinese Senior Government Officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce, as well as Diplomatic Envoys, academia and Chinese enterprises.

The initiative of '100 Companies in 1000 Villages' is aimed at mobilizing more than 100 Chinese enterprises to actively fulfill their social responsibilities in Africa within three years (2022-2024), to benefit at least 1000 African villages and towns. The initiative is expected to promote coordinated and sustainable development of the local economies, society and the environment, with a view to improving people's livelihoods. The ACBASR, proposed in September 2018 by His



Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, is an important entity that coordinates social responsibility initiatives and programs by Chinese companies in Africa with the overarching objective of poverty alleviation.

Ambassador Dr. Serema called on Chinese enterprises to expand their social responsibility programs to include offering training and resources to smallholder farmers and creating linkages to access regional and international markets, as well as ensuring access to electricity, clean water, healthcare and education in order to improve the quality of people's lives.

He further noted, with appreciation, China's contribution to Botswana's infrastructural development in projects such as roads, energy, airports, which have had a positive impact on the country's economic growth and social development.

CHINA-AIDED METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT READIES FOR SHIPMENT TO BOTSWANA

On 21st April 2023, His Excellency Dr. Batlang Comma Serema, Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the People's Republic of China attended a ceremony by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, to mark the completion of the design and manufacture of the Multi-Satellite Transportable Ground Application System (TGAS), provided by the Government of China to Botswana. This mobile meteorological station is expected to play an instrumental role in complementing Botswana's efforts to combat climate change, which has negative impacts on the country's agriculture, water security and health.



BOTSWANA MISSION IN KENYA

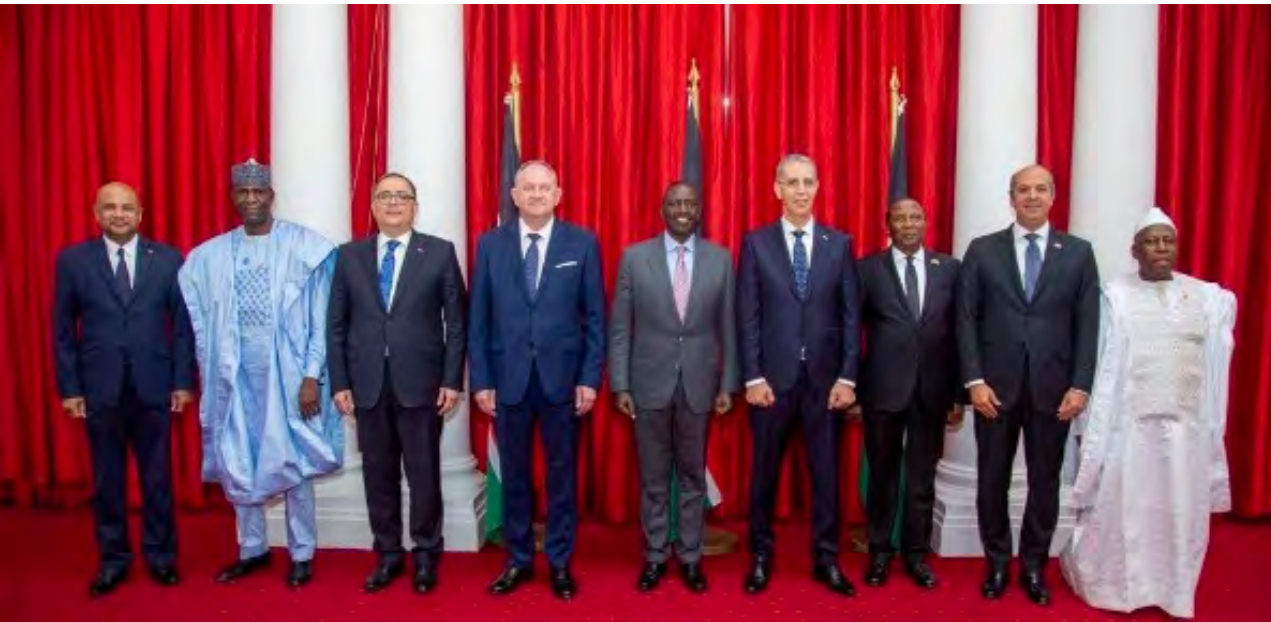
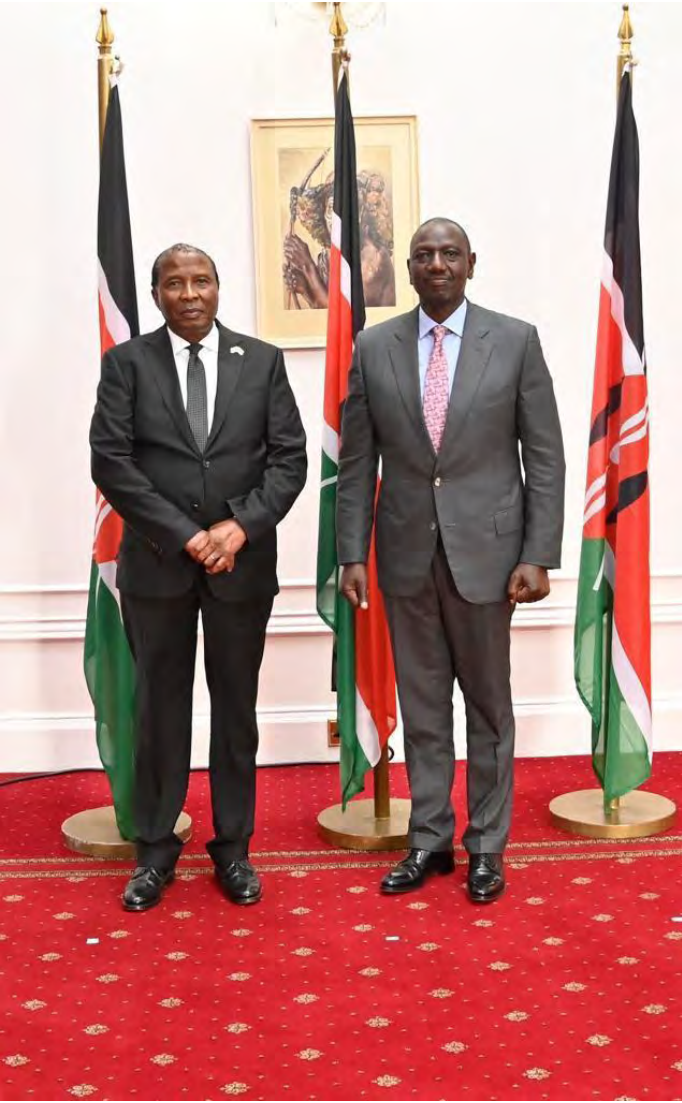
Botswana's Envoy in Kenya, High Commissioner Sesinyi Presents his Credentials to President Ruto

His Excellency Mr. Andrew Onalenna Sesinyi, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of Kenya, as the High Commissioner of Botswana to Kenya at a ceremony at the State House on 7th June 2023.

In presenting his Letters of Credence, High Commissioner Sesinyi, noted with appreciation the strong friendship and cordial relations that subsist between Botswana and Kenya based on the solid foundation of trust and mutual respect. He commended the Government of Kenya for the remarkable progress made, especially in areas of socio-economic development, consolidation of democracy and the rule of law.

He concluded by reaffirming his commitment to continue to work closely with the Kenyan Government, not only to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, but also in efforts towards advancing the African agenda, as well as the consolidation of democracy, peace and stability on the Continent.

The High Commissioner also handed over his Credentials to the United Nations at Nairobi, Kenya through the Director General of the United Nations at Nairobi, Kenya on 9th June 2023, as Botswana's Permanent Representative to the UN-Habitat and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).





H.E. MR. MUSTAQ MOORAD'S INTERVENTION AT THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

Madame Chairperson let me begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the chair and welcome the new members. We also appreciate the work the Secretariat is doing in support of this Convention.

Madame Chairperson,

Botswana is committed to the principles of the Convention and in this regard established a National Arts Council earlier this year. We thank the Government of France for the technical support they are providing. The Council was established to support the development of the creative industries and help measure and realize the creative industry sector's contribution to socio-economic development and job creation. The Council is further mandated to coordinate and regulate the arts and culture sector, promote and protect diverse cultural and creative expressions, as well as enhance and enable the commercialization of arts and culture industry.

Botswana expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat for the support it received during the period. Botswana participated in a workshop held in Namibia in March 2022, titled "Peer-to-peer Learning Workshop on Policy

for Creativity: Monitoring and Implementing the Convention," The workshop provided a platform for exchange of experience on participatory policy monitoring and policy making processes and inspired peer-to-peer cooperation mechanisms. Our participants learnt best practices from representatives from other countries who participated in the workshop. The best practices learned, continue to aid Botswana in the implementation of the Convention.

Botswana is among the Parties that will benefit from the project "Reshaping policies for creativity and artistic freedom" funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for the period 2022-2025. The technical support will be of great help in guiding Botswana's first Quadrennial Periodic Report (QPR) which is due in June 2024. We would like to assure the Secretariat of our commitment to the project and that a project team has been appointed to fast track implementation of the project.

I thank you.



BOTSWANA MISSION IN KUWAIT

***AMBASSADOR MR. TAHBOUB OF THE STATE OF
PALESTINE PAID A COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR
MR. AUGUSTINE MAKGONATSOTLHE***

The Ambassador of the State of Palestine paid a Courtesy Call on the Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Mr. Augustine Makgonatsotlhe on 24th May 2023.

Among others, the two discussed relations between the State of Palestine and Botswana and common issues of interest.



Our Vision

To be a respected and influential player in world affairs

Our Values

Integrity | Discipline | Professionalism | Patriotism | Botho

Our Mission

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs 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.

***“Promoting Botswana`s Interests Abroad*”**