

MINISTER BUTALE ATTENDS THE 2ND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE RUSSIA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM, CAIRO, EGYPT 19TH - 20TH DECEMBER 2025



INTERVENTION BY HONOURABLE DR. BUTALE AT THE RUSSIA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM

I am truly honored to address you today at the Second Ministerial Conference of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum.

This gathering represents a vital opportunity for us to strengthen the bonds between our nations and chart a path for future cooperation. At the outset, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our gracious hosts, the government and people of Egypt, for their warm hospitality. The welcoming spirit and rich cultural heritage of this magnificent country provide a fitting backdrop for our discussions today. We appreciate the effort that has gone into organizing this forum, which reflects our collective commitment to fostering dialogue and partnership.

As we convene here, we stand at a pivotal moment in history, a time characterized by both extraordinary challenges and remarkable opportunities. The global landscape is rapidly evolving, and it is imperative that we harness our collective wisdom and resources to navigate these changes effectively. This gathering highlights our shared commitment to advancing the collaborative efforts between Russia and African nations, paving the way for sustainable development and mutually beneficial partnerships.

I wish to commend the notable achievements realized through previous Africa-Russia Partnership Forums, which have significantly contributed to strengthening political dialogue, deepening mutual understanding, and advancing practical cooperation between Russia and African countries. These forums have provided an important platform for aligning priorities and fostering partnerships grounded in mutual respect and shared interests.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to exchange views with

Honourable Minister Lavrov on Botswana-Russia bilateral relations, an engagement that reflects our shared commitment to constructive dialogue and enhanced cooperation. As we navigate the complexities of an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing global landscape, it is imperative that we prioritize cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including trade, investment, technology, and cultural exchange. Botswana recognizes the critical role that strategic partnerships play in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing our continent, from economic transformation and development to peace and security. By working together, we can harness our collective strengths to promote stability, resilience, and shared prosperity.



The economic relationship between Russia and Africa holds immense and largely untapped potential. Botswana, in particular, is keen to strengthen trade relations and explore expanded cooperation in key sectors such as mining, agriculture, and renewable energy. These areas offer meaningful opportunities for value addition, technology transfer, and skills development. We have an opportunity to establish robust frameworks that support sustainable economic growth, while ensuring that the benefits of cooperation are equitable and inclusive, contributing to long-term development outcomes for our peoples. On peace and security, Botswana remains firmly committed to promoting stability on the African continent.

Our shared experiences in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and preventive diplomacy provide a solid foundation for deeper collaboration. We must continue to strengthen our commitment to diplomatic dialogue, multilateral cooperation, and collective action in addressing security challenges that affect our nations and the broader region, recognizing that peace is a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Beyond economic collaboration, Botswana strongly supports the promotion of cultural exchange and knowledge sharing as essential components of lasting partnerships. Our peoples have much to learn from one another, and through sustained and meaningful dialogue, we can foster greater understanding, mutual respect, and people-to-people connections. Education, science, and technology represent areas where such exchanges can flourish, enhancing innovation, building human capital, and strengthening our collective capacities.

In conclusion, I wish to encourage all of us to seize this opportunity to build robust, forward-looking partnerships that transcend borders and foster resilience within our nations. Let us engage in constructive dialogue and identify practical and actionable commitments that will drive our cooperation forward. As we look ahead, I remain optimistic that the spirit of partnership will guide our discussions and pave the way for a prosperous, peaceful, and sustainable future for both Russia and Africa.

I thank you for your attention.

BOTSWANA - RUSSIA BILATERAL RELATIONS

FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN CAIRO, EGYPT





The Minister of International Relations Dr. Phenyio Butale held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Sergey Lavrov. The meeting took place in a cordial and constructive atmosphere and focused on the strengthening of Botswana–Russia bilateral relations, as well as cooperation in multilateral fora.

Honourable Butale expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with Minister Lavrov and conveyed Botswana’s commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations with the Russian Federation. Both Ministers noted with satisfaction the long-standing and friendly relations between the two countries, particularly as Botswana and Russia commemorate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Minister Lavrov welcomed the renewed engagement under Botswana’s new administration and expressed Russia’s appreciation of Botswana’s interest in expanding cooperation across political, economic, and multilateral spheres. The Ministers recalled that the last Political Consultations between Botswana and Russia took place eight years ago and agreed on the need to revive this mechanism to facilitate regular dialogue. Botswana welcomed Russia’s support for the opening of a Botswana Mission in Moscow, noting that this would significantly enhance diplomatic engagement, coordination, and economic diplomacy.

On multilateral issues, Minister Lavrov acknowledged Botswana’s consistent support for United Nations General Assembly resolutions and further expressed appreciation for Botswana’s principled position on the conflict in Ukraine, noting Russia’s hope that Botswana would maintain its current stance going forward.

Honourable Dr. Butale emphasized Botswana’s priority of economic diversification, particularly in light of prevailing global and domestic economic challenges. He underscored the importance of expanding cooperation in agriculture, including technology transfer and capacity building to enhance food security.

Both sides reaffirmed their strong cooperation within the Kimberley Process (KP). Minister Lavrov commended Botswana for its leadership in the diamond sector and reiterated Russia’s support for Botswana hosting the Kimberley Process Secretariat, for which Hon. Dr. Butale expressed sincere appreciation.

Minister Lavrov noted that Russia currently offers 30 scholarships annually to Botswana, but observed that only 16 scholarships had been utilised this year. He indicated that Russia would be open to increasing the number of scholarships should Botswana demonstrate greater uptake. Botswana welcomed this offer and undertook to encourage fuller utilisation of the available opportunities.

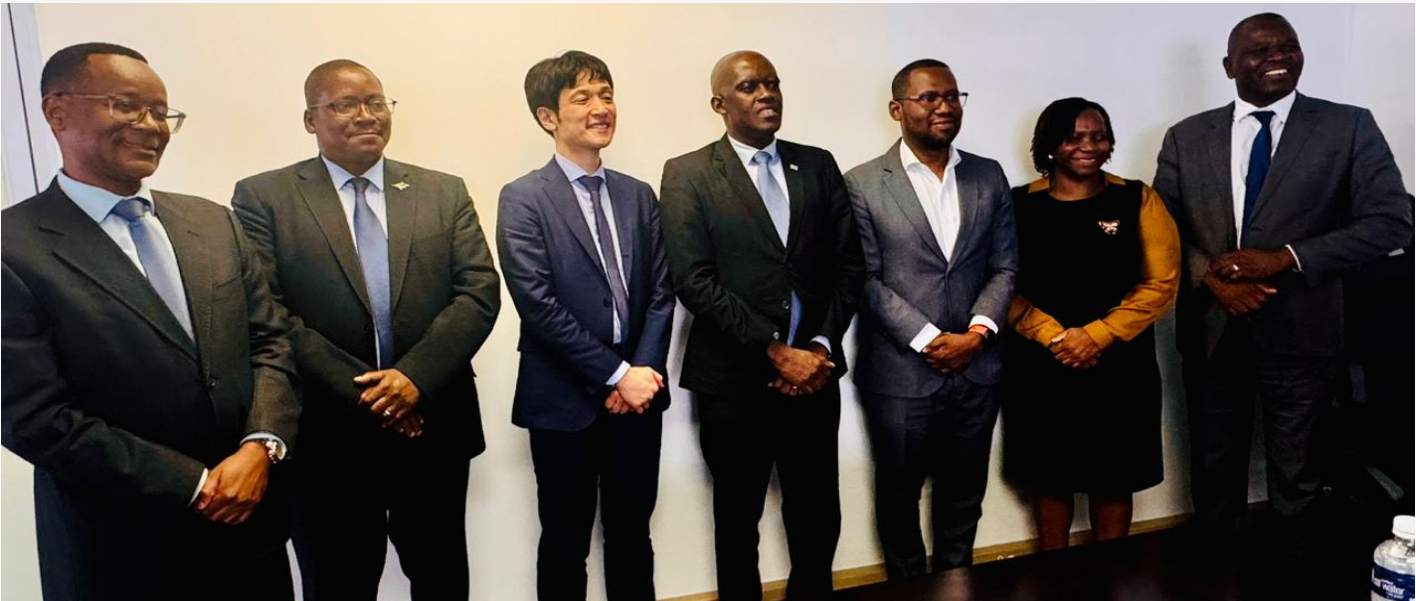
Regarding consular matters, Honourable Butale raised the issue involving two young Botswana citizens in need of repatriation to Botswana. In response, the Russian officials committed to investigating the situation further and assisting.

Both Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Botswana–Russia relations through sustained dialogue, enhanced economic cooperation, and deeper engagement at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels. They agreed to maintain close contact and to advance outstanding issues through established diplomatic channels, including the revitalisation of political consultations.

The meeting concluded with expressions of mutual appreciation and a shared commitment to further consolidating the friendly relations between the Republic of Botswana and the Russian Federation.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO) DELEGATION VISITS BOTSWANA

Ambassador Pitso, Ag. DPS Multilateral Affairs, recently hosted a delegation from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), led by Mr. Yamfwa Chinyanta, Senior Manager, Employee Experience Unit and Mr. Naoto Sugiura, Talent Acquisition and Development Manager. WIPO was in Botswana to brief about opportunities in the intellectual property (IP) space as well as to highlight career opportunities in the Organization.





VIRTUAL EXTRA-ORDINARY SADC SUMMIT DELIBERATES ON THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION IN MADAGASCAR

Communiqué of the Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government 17th December 2025



COMMUNIQUÉ OF
THE EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF SADC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
17th DECEMBER 2025
VIRTUAL

1.

The Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), hereafter called “Summit” was held virtually on 17th December 2025.

2.

Summit was attended by the following Heads of State and Government, or their representatives:

Botswana:

Democratic Republic of Congo:

Madagascar:

Mozambique:

South Africa:

Namibia:

Zambia:

Malawi:

President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko.

H.E. President Mr. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo

H.E. Col. Michael Randrianirina, President of the Refoundation of the Republic of Madagascar.

H.E. President Mr. Daniel Francisco Chapo

H.E. President Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa.

H.E. President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

H.E. President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema.

Her Honour Justice Dr. Jane Ansah, First Vice President.

3.

Summit was also attended by Ministers from the SADC Member States, and the Executive Secretary of SADC.

4.

Summit received a report from the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, H.E. Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, on the Technical Fact-Finding Mission to Madagascar from 19 to 26 October 2025, which assessed the political and security situation through consultations with diverse stakeholders.

5.

Summit welcomed the restoration of calm in Madagascar, noted the national consultation processes launched by the Transitional Government on 10 December 2025, and reaffirmed its commitment to remain engaged with the political and security situation in the Republic of Madagascar until an elected government is established through electoral processes.

6.

Summit urged the Transitional Government of Madagascar, led by H.E. Colonel Michael Randrianirina to initiate a Malagasy-owned and led inclusive national dialogue during the transitional period, to pave the way for fresh elections, and facilitate the peaceful return of political exiles.

7.

Summit further called on the Transitional Government of Madagascar to ensure that the reform processes are timely, inclusive of all stakeholders, and create a conducive environment in which political exiles can contribute meaningfully to the dialogue.

8.

Summit approved the deployment of the SADC Panel of Elders by March 2026, led by Dr. Joyce Banda, former President of the Republic of Malawi, together with the Mediation Reference Group, supported by the Secretariat, to facilitate and support the ongoing processes of restoration of political stability, democracy and peace in the Republic of Madagascar.

9.

Summit directed the SADC Panel of Elders to engage H.E. Dr. Joaquim Chissano, former President of Mozambique and SADC Special Envoy to Madagascar, to provide contextual background on previous interventions and outstanding issues, focusing on constitutional reforms, electoral processes, and the rule of law, in line with the SADC Treaty.

10.

Summit reaffirmed the Region’s strong position on protecting constitutional rule and democratic governance, and emphasised its commitment to bringing back peace, constitutional order, and democracy in the Republic of Madagascar.

11.

Summit directed the Republic of Madagascar to submit a dialogue readiness report and a draft National Roadmap by 28 February 2026, followed by periodic updates in May, August, and November 2026 to the Chairperson of the SADC Organ.

12.

Following the appointment of H.E. Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa as Chairperson of SADC, Summit appointed H.E. Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President the Republic of Zambia as the Interim Incoming Chairperson (Deputy Chairperson) of SADC.

13.

Summit directed the Secretariat to coordinate with the African Union and international partners to mobilise financial, technical, and logistical resources for reforms and avoid fragmentation of efforts.

14.

Summit expressed appreciation to H.E. Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of the Organ, for his leadership in consolidating peace and security in the Republic of Madagascar and the SADC region.

15.

Summit conveyed profound appreciation to H.E. Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, for his leadership and contribution to the advancement of SADC’s regional agenda.

16.

The Chairperson of SADC expressed heartfelt gratitude to all Heads of State and Government for their participation in the Extraordinary Summit and for their continued commitment to advancing the regional integration agenda and programmes of SADC.

Done on 17th December 2025
Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.

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WEEKLY DIPLOMACY NEWS IN BRIEF

3

PROMOTING BOTSWANA'S INTERESTS ABROAD

Engagements at the Diplomatic Missions

Botswana Mission in Belgium



HER EXCELLENCY MASIRE-MWAMBA ENGAGES WITH COMMERCE STUDENTS OF THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

On 17th December 2025, Her Excellency Masire-Mwamba engaged with Commerce students of Thomas More University of Applied Sciences for a spectacular presentation on Botswana's history particularly, how the prudent management of diamonds has been the key benefactor in the political and socio-economic achievements of the country. Since their discovery in 1967, these gemstones have transcended trajectories to be recognised as Botswana's pillar and source of transformation, tunneling a nation which was once known as a least developed state to a beacon of hope in Africa.

Students got a first hand insight and the opportunity to engage with the Ambassador regarding Botswana's economic ambitions to diversify its economy including Botswana's governance and leadership models. The interactive session illustrated the Embassy's longstanding relationship with the University as previous Ambassadors have graced the stage to share the story of Botswana. Indeed Botswana is a beacon of hope and prides itself in being an exemplary model of political and economic stability.



AMBASSADOR MASIRE-MWAMBA MEETS WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM THE LUXEMBOURG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS (MFEA)

On 16th December 2025, Ambassador Masire-Mwamba engaged in several bilateral meetings with High-level officials from the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA) including the European Investment Bank (EIB) to discuss and strategise on ways of enhancing cooperation and deepening the cordial relations between Botswana and Luxembourg.

The discussions highlighted shared interests, ongoing collaboration and opportunities to further strengthen diplomatic and economic ties between Botswana and Luxembourg. Both sides expressed their commitment to continuing constructive dialogue and fostering partnerships that benefit both nations as well as exploring new avenues for cooperation in ICT, Financial Services, Renewable Energy and critical raw materials through the European Investment Bank (EIB) funded initiatives. The meeting recalled



the excellent bilateral relations between Botswana and Luxembourg and the commonalities between both countries particularly on their quest for economic diversification.

Aside from deliberating on areas of cooperation, the intent was for Her Excellency to also bid farewell as her tenure comes to an end and express gratitude for the unity and resilience exemplified between both countries. The day concluded with a special engagement between Her Excellency Masire-Mwamba and a young Motswana fellow by the name Ms. Oratile Temoso representing Botswana under the Financial Inclusion Fund Programme at the European Investment Bank. The traineeship is specifically for young professionals from African, Caribbean and Pacific (OACPS) countries with a strong focus on development and investment finance activities. The programme's goal is to build skills, exposure, and long-term capacity, enabling participants to contribute meaningfully to development finance in their regions or at global institutions.

Botswana Mission in India



GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA AND INDIA'S KP GROUP TO COOPERATE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS



The Government of Botswana recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the KP Group in India, to cooperate on renewable energy and associated transmission projects. The KP Group is expected to invest an estimated USD 4 billion on the projects.

This MoU underscores the Government's commitment to diversify the economy, create jobs for Botswana, and accelerate economic growth and national development. The partnership with the KP Group follows the November 2025 State Visit to Botswana, by the President of India, Her Excellency Droupadi Murmu.

Botswana Mission in Sweden



BOTSWANA PARTICIPATES IN THE 34TH SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL IDEA'S COUNCIL OF MEMBER STATES MEETING

Her Excellency Ambassador Ms. Juliana Dube-Gobotswang, participated in the 34th Session of International IDEA's Council of Member States Meeting held on 3rd December 2025. The Ambassador spoke on the topic of the Future of Democratic Development Cooperation and provided an intervention on how Member States can adapt to the changing geopolitical context, to continue supporting Democracy as it faces rising challenges. International IDEA is an Intergovernmental Organisation (IGO) with a mandate to support sustainable Democracy worldwide.



The Organisation advances democracy worldwide, through support to the building, strengthening and safeguarding of democratic political institutions and processes at all levels. They develop, share and enable the use of comparative knowledge, assist in democratic reform, and influence policies and politics, focusing on the following workstreams:

- Electoral Processes;
- Constitution-Building;
- Democracy Assessment;
- Political Participation and Representation;
- Climate Change and Democracy;

•Digitalization and Democracy;

•Gender Equality and Inclusion; and

•Money in Politics.



Botswana Mission in Nigeria



HER EXCELLENCY MS. PHILDA NANI KERENG PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON HONOURABLE ALHAJI IDI MUKHTAR MAIHA, MINISTER FOR LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



The High Commissioner further explained that Botswana's livestock sector grew from a rural development model that prioritised agriculture, to a production of high-quality cattle as part of Botswana's Economic Transformation for economic growth as well as improving the lives of farmers. She further explained that the beef sector, second to diamonds, in national revenue generation, has been sustainable due to prudent disease-control systems, communal land and grazing management, targeted veterinary interventions, and highly subsidised farmer support programmes.

On 12th December 2025, Her Excellency Ms. Philda Nani Kereng, paid a courtesy call on Nigeria's Minister in the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development, Honourable Alhaji Idi Mukhtar Maiha, to engage and explore collaboration on issues of Livestock Development.

High Commissioner Kereng informed of Botswana's success story on livestock management, emphasizing that Botswana's five-decade experience and commitment in quality beef production continued the security of export to the European market.

The High Commissioner underscored Botswana's readiness to share her experiences and work with Nigeria's institutions and associations through both the Private and Public Sectors, focusing on among others the following: beef quality improvement through enhanced genetics; modern abattoir practices; disease management; veterinary protocols, vaccine production; livestock traceability, grazing management; animal tracking technology and farmer training.

On his part, Honourable Minister Maiha, informed that the Nigeria Federal Government is committed to implementing evidence-based policies to modernise Nigeria's livestock



sector and position it as part of the key drivers of national economic growth.

The Honourable Minister also noted Nigeria's readiness to embrace structured reforms to support productivity; enhance value addition; create sustainable livelihoods for farmers and livestock value-chain; as the Ministry moves to rehabilitate and modernise grazing reserves across the country into structured ranching ecosystems.



Happy Holidays Best Wishes for 2026

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