



Republic of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE – VENEZUELA

Gaborone, 03 May 2017: The Government of the Republic of Botswana notes with great concern the declining democratic dispensation and poor governance, as well as the deteriorating economic management in Venezuela, which is directly attributed to its current leader, Nicolas Maduro.

The recent decision taken by President Maduro to create a new Constituent Assembly, to the exclusion of the opposition dominated Parliament, is a clear demonstration of his deliberate effort to undermine democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela, and entrenching himself in power.

Botswana wishes to applaud those countries, which have expressed their condemnation of the authoritarian tendencies of the current regime in Venezuela. Such untoward behaviour, which depicts leadership driven by self-interest, undermines peoples' aspirations for a prosperous life and thus, deserves strong condemnation by any peace-loving and progressive nations.

We are therefore hopeful that President Maduro will succumb to the will of the people and instil a culture of democracy and good governance.

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