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## **PRESS RELEASE**

## The 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Botswana and South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC)

**Gaborone, 13 November 2017:** The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation wishes to inform that His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama will host his counterpart, His Excellency Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Botswana-South Africa Bi-national Commission (BNC) in Gaborone, on 17 November 2017.

The BNC will deliberate on a wide range of issues, including health, education, peace and security, stability and governance, economic and infrastructure develoment, social and cultural cooperation among others.

The BNC will be preceded by the meeting of Senior Officials from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017. This will be followed by the Ministerial Session on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017, which will be Co-Chaired by Honourable Dr. Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, with her counterpart, Honourable Nkoana Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.

Botswana and South Africa enjoy close bilateral ties founded on deep historical, cultural, linguistic and family ties, as well as shared values of mutual respect, commitment to democracy, good governance and rule of law, respect for human rights as well as a common vision of deepening regional integration. Close cooperation between the two countries has brought about tangible benefits to their peoples and played an important role in safeguarding and promoting regional peace, stability and development.

It is expected that the Ministers will also sign some Memoranda of Understanding (MoU's), including the one of Tourism. This will indeed further enhance the bilateral relations and cooperation between two countries.

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