

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE VISIT TO
BOTSWANA BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR EMMERSON DAMBUDZO
MNANGAGWA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency Mr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, paid a two-day State Visit to Botswana, from 12 – 13 February 2018.
2. The meeting of the two Heads of State and Government was preceded by the 12th Session of the Botswana/Zimbabwe Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation, which took place from 8 – 11 February 2018, followed by bilateral Ministerial consultations, on 12 February 2018.
3. During their Official Talks, the two Heads of State had substantive and fruitful discussions on issues of common interest at bilateral, regional and international levels. They expressed satisfaction at the bonds of friendship and cordial relations existing between their two countries, which are founded on long standing historical, political, economic, social and cultural ties. They expressed their commitment to work closely together with a view to further enhance these relationships.
4. The two Leaders appreciated the ongoing cooperation in a number of areas, such as, Water, Agriculture, Fisheries, Transport, Infrastructure, Health, Environment and Natural Resources, Tourism, Trade and Industry, Energy, Minerals, Education, Youth, Culture, Immigration, Customs, Defence and Security.
5. In this regard, the two Leaders resolved to engage more regularly in order to advance cooperation in the respective sectors.

6. In line with this undertaking, the two Leaders agreed to establish a Bi-National Commission (BNC) to be Co-Chaired at the Heads of State and Government level. The BNC will enable high level strategic direction to the existing relations between the two countries. It will replace the Agreements establishing the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation (JPCC) between the two countries that was signed on 30th October 1982; and the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security (JPCDS) that was signed on 17th May 1983.
7. On regional and international issues, the Heads of State exchanged views on political and security developments and expressed satisfaction that, generally, conditions of peace and stability continue to prevail in the Region. However, they expressed concern at the continued conflicts in some of the African countries, such as South Sudan and Somalia, which continue to threaten peace and security, as well as, economic development and prosperity in the continent. They hailed efforts by the African Union and the international community to resolve these conflicts.
8. The two Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together in pursuit of economic development and sustainable peace and stability in the region and the continent as a whole.
9. His Excellency President Mnangagwa paid tribute to His Excellency President Khama's able leadership which has made Botswana one of the fastest growing economies in the region and wished him well as he prepares to step down from the Presidency.
10. His Excellency President Khama in return commended President Mnangagwa for the political maturity displayed by the people of Zimbabwe, which ensured the smooth and peaceful change of Government in

November 2017. He wished Zimbabwe well in the preparation for the upcoming General Elections.

11. His Excellency, President Mnangagwa expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his delegation during their stay in Botswana.
12. The two Heads of State agreed that the 1st Session of the Bi-National Commission will be convened in Harare, Zimbabwe, at a date to be mutually agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

**Done at Gaborone, Republic of Botswana
13 February 2018**