



Republic of Botswana

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## PRESS RELEASE

### OFFICIAL VISIT TO BOTSWANA BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. BRAHIM GHALI, PRESIDENT OF THE SAHARAWI REPUBLIC, FROM 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY TO 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2018

**Gaborone, 30 May 2018:** The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation wishes to inform that His Excellency Mr. Brahim Ghali, President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Western Sahara), will undertake a three-day Working Visit to Botswana from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.

During the visit, His Excellency Mr. Brahim Ghali will hold bilateral talks with His Excellency Mr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana. The two leaders are expected to exchange views on the protracted question of Western Sahara, which has been on the agenda of the United Nations since 1991. The discussions are also expected to cover regional, continental and global issues of mutual concern between the respective countries.

It should be noted that Botswana recognises Western Sahara as a sovereign state and a full Member State of the African Union. In this respect, Botswana has consistently supported Western Sahara's quest for self determination and full independence.

While in Botswana, His Excellency Mr. Brahim Ghali will also pay a courtesy call on His Honour the Vice President, Mr. Slumber Tsogwane and Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, Gladys Kokorwe. President Ghali will also have an opportunity to tour the Jwaneng Diamond Mine.

His Excellency Mr. Brahim Ghali will be accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Minister of Cooperation and Minister of Security; as well as Senior Government Officials.

The President is expected to depart Botswana on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.

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