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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT DR. MOKGWEETSI ERIC KEABETSWE MASISI TO ATTEND THE 24<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP24)**

**Gaborone, 29 November 2018:** The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation wishes to inform that His Excellency, Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, will on 01 December 2018, travel to Katowice, Poland to attend the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), from 02 to 05 December, 2018.

The key objective of the meeting is to adopt the implementation guidelines aimed at accelerating the achievement of the Paris Climate Change Agreement goals. To achieve this, the Conference will strive to agree on the 'Paris Rule book', which will demonstrate political will and commitment on the part of the Parties, to embark on an effective work plan. This will engender a collective effort towards realising the ambitions of the UNFCCC beyond 2020.

Alongside the COP24 meeting, there will also be a High-Level Summit emanating from the Talanoa Dialogue, during which Heads of State and Government are expected to sign the declaration recognising the need for a low carbon economy, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

Like many other nations, Botswana is already feeling the adverse impact of climate change across various sectors of the economy. This is being felt through among others: extreme weather events; substantial reductions in surface water resources; accelerated desertification in sensitive arid zones; and greater threats to health, biodiversity and agricultural production.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5°C of global warming clearly provides evidence that the threat posed by climate change cannot be underestimated. It further cements the need for countries to maintain the strongest commitment to the Paris Agreement's aims of

limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts towards 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

His Excellency the President will be accompanied by the Honourable Dr. Unity Dow, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation; the Honourable Tshekedi S. Khama, Minister of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism; the Honourable Mooketsi Prince Maele, Member of Parliament for Lerala-Maunatlala; the Honourable Sethomo Lelatisitswe, Member of Parliament for Boteti East; and Senior Government Officials.

His Excellency the President and the entourage will return to Botswana on 06 December 2018.

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