

[For immediate release]



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PRESS RELEASE

HONOURABLE MINISTER DR. UNITY DOW UNDERTAKES AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO VIETNAM AND ATTENDS THE TICAD 7 SUMMIT IN YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

Gaborone, 22nd August, 2019: The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation, wishes to inform that Hon. Minister Dr. Unity Dow will undertake an Official Visit to Hanoi, Vietnam from 25 to 27 August 2019 to engage with His Excellency, Mr Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Botswana and Vietnam enjoy cordial relations underpinned by shared values of mutual respect and common understanding. The visit will therefore serve to enhance bilateral relations and exchange perspectives on ways of cultivating a strategic partnership between the two countries. The visit will further afford the two countries an opportunity to discuss issues of bilateral and international interest, as well as cooperation in the areas of development such as education, health, tourism and wildlife management.

Subsequent to her visit to Vietnam, the Honourable Minister will proceed to Yokohama, Japan to participate in the Seventh Summit of the Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD VII) scheduled for 28 to 29 August 2019. The Summit will be held under the theme "**Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation.**"

The Summit will be preceded by Senior Officials and Ministerial Meetings on 26 and 27 August 2019.

The Summit will review progress achieved on the implementation of commitments under the three TICAD pillars, namely, **Accelerating Economic Transformation and Improving Business Environment through Innovation and Private Sector; Deepening Sustainable and Resilient Society; and Strengthening Peace and Stability.** It will deliberate on Private sector as a driver of economic development; Digital transformation as a catalyst for development; and Human centred development with a focus on youth and women entrepreneurship.

Botswana will also have a business delegation participating at the Business forum, the Japan –Africa Business Expo, which will be held on the margins of the Summit.

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At the TICAD Summit, the Honourable Minister will be accompanied by the Honourable Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ms. Bogolo Kenewendo and Senior Government officials.

The Minister, Honourable Dow is expected to return to Gaborone on 1st September 2019.

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