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PRESS RELEASE

SADC MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ORGAN (MCO) ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION, <u>1-6 AUGUST 2016</u>

Gaborone, 4 August 2016: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Honourable Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi, will travel to Maputo, Mozambique, on 4 August 2016, to attend the 18th Meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. Honourable Shaw Kgathi, Minister of Defence, Justice and Security will also be part of the Botswana delegation.

The meeting of the MCO is scheduled to take place on 5 August 2016 and will be preceded by the Senior Officials meeting from 1-4 August 2016.

The meeting is expected to deliberate on, among other things, the political and security situation; the consolidation of democracy; mediation and conflict prevention; the movement of persons; prevalence of Gender Based Violence in the region, as well as consider ways of financing the activities of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The general objective of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation is to promote regional coordination and cooperation on matters related to peace and security within the SADC region.

The Botswana Delegation is expected to return home on 6 August 2016.

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