



Republic of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

HIS HONOUR THE VICE-PRESIDENT TO ATTEND THE 29TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION 3 - 4 JULY 2017

Gaborone, 30 June 2017: The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation wishes to inform that His Honour, Vice-President Mr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi, will lead the Botswana delegation to the 29th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3rd to 4th July 2017.

The Summit will deliberate, among others, on the AU theme for the year 2017, **"Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth"**. Member States are alive to the fact that the youth represent Africa's greatest asset and make a large proportion of the total population. In his regard, investing in the youth has a great potential for economic growth and sustainable development.

The meeting will further discuss key issues on the AU Agenda, including the 2018 AU Budget; the AU Institutional Reforms; the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA); Peace and Security in Africa; the Master Roadmap on practical steps to silencing the guns in Africa by the year 2020. The Summit is also expected to appoint two AU Commissioners, four members of the AU Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABL), and four members of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR).

The Assembly of the Heads of State and Government will be preceded by the 31st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from 30th June to 1st July 2017; and the 34th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee from 27th to 28th June 2017.

His Honour the Vice-President will be accompanied by the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Hon. Dr. Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi and Senior Government officials. His entourage is expected to return to Gaborone on 4th July 2017.

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