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Republic of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT ATTENDS THE 32ND ORDINARY
SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF
THE AFRICAN UNION: 8 TO 12 FEBRUARY 2019.**

GABORONE 7th February 2019: The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation wishes to inform that His Excellency the President, Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, will travel to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 8th February 2019, to attend the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), to be held from 10th to 11th February 2019.

The Summit will be held under the African Union 2019 theme, "**The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa**". The Summit is expected to deliberate on a number of issues aimed at advancing continental integration. These include the state of Peace and Security on the African Continent, AU institutional reforms, the African Continental Free Trade Area, and the Implementation of the Assembly Decisions on Post-Cotonou Negotiations.

His Excellency the President will also participate in the 28th Summit of Heads of State and Government Participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APR Forum) on 9th February 2019; and the Africa Business Health Forum on 12th February 2019, which will be held on the margins of the African Union Summit. The African Business Forum will be held in conjunction with the private sector and will discuss the role of the private sector in contributing to healthcare in Africa.

The Summit will be preceded by the 34th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council from 7th to 8th February 2019.

His Excellency the President will be accompanied by the Minister of Health and Wellness, Honourable Dr. Alfred R. Madigele, and senior government officials.

His Excellency the President is expected back home on 12th February 2019.

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