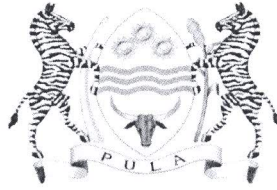


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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT ATTENDS THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF BOTSWANA AND ZIMBABWE BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION: 27 - 28 FEBRUARY 2019**

**GABORONE 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019:** 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 travel to Harare, Zimbabwe on 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019, to attend the Inaugural Session of Botswana and Zimbabwe Bi-National Commission (BNC).

The BNC is a high level platform that replaced the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation and the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security between the two countries, through the Agreement signed on the margins of the 38<sup>th</sup> SADC Summit held in Namibia in August 2018. The Inaugural Bi-National Commission is therefore expected to exchange views on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest. The BNC will further discuss the state of bilateral cooperation in areas such as Trade and Investment, Agriculture, Tourism, Energy as well as, Defence and Security.

The Heads of State Meeting (BNC) will be preceded by the Officials Meeting, and the Ministerial Meeting of the Bi-National Commission from 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019, respectively.

His Excellency the President will be accompanied by the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Hon. Dr. Unity Dow; the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, Hon. Shaw Kgathi; the Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Hon. Patrick Ralotsia; the Minister of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services, Hon. Kefentse Mzwinila; the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Hon. Bogolo Kenewendo; the Minister of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security, Hon. Eric Molale; and Senior Government officials.

His Excellency the President is expected back on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

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