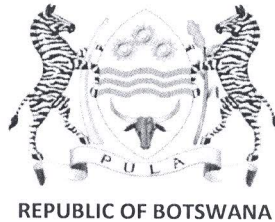


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PRESS RELEASE

HONOURABLE MINISTER DOW TRAVELS TO THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

GABORONE 31st May 2019: The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation wishes to inform that Honourable Minister, Dr. Unity Dow will be travelling on Working Visits to the Republic of Georgia and the Russian Federation from 2nd to 8th June 2019.

The Working Visit in Georgia will take place from 3rd to 5th June 2019, where Honourable Minister Dr. Dow will engage with her Georgian counterpart, Honourable David Zalkaliani. The Discussions will cover bilateral cooperation under the framework of a 2018 Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultations between the Governments of the Republic of Botswana and Georgia, as well as issues of mutual interest in regional and global affairs. Whilst in Georgia, the Minister will pay a courtesy call on Her Excellency, Salome Zourabichvili, President of the Republic of Georgia, as well as the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Mamuka Bakhtadze, and the Honourable Irakli Kobakhidze, Speaker of the National Assembly.

The Minister will proceed to Russia, at the invitation of the Government of the Russian Federation, where she will attend the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum from 5th – 7th June 2019. Honourable Dr. Dow will then hold political talks with the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Russian Federation, Honourable Mr. Sergey Lavrov, and sign an Agreement on the exemption of visa requirements for nationals of the Republic of Botswana and the Russian Federation. The Minister will further discuss the Kimberly Process with the Deputy Minister of Finance, and meet the Minister of Culture of Russia to discuss a possible joint programme to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Botswana's diplomatic relations with Russia.

Honourable Minister Dow and her delegation will return home on 8th June 2019.

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