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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PRIVATE BAG 00368 GABORONE

PRESS RELEASE

THE FRENCH EMBASSY ANNOUNCES NEW VISA REGULATIONS

Gaborone, 31 May 2016: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to inform the public that the Embassy of France in Gaborone will no longer issue or process applications for Schengen visas with effect from 1st June 2016.

All residents of Botswana wishing to travel to France have to apply for a visa through the Consulate General of France in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The application for a visa to travel to France is as follows:

- a) Download and complete application forms from the French Embassy website (<u>http://www.ambafrance-bw.org/Entering-France</u>);
- b) Travel to Johannesburg, South Africa to apply for the visa in person. Holders of Ordinary Botswana passports travelling on official business and applicants travelling for private business should submit their applications to CAPAGO in Johannesburg, South Africa. CAPAGO is a partner of the French Consulate General responsible for receiving applications for onward transmission to the Consulate General of France.
- c) Applicants travelling for official duties should obtain a Note Verbal from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
- d) Holders of Diplomatic/Official passports travelling for official duties, and whose application is covered by a diplomatic Note Verbal, should send their application to the Botswana Consulate in Johannesburg, South Africa by courier/registered mail, for onward transmission to the Consulate General of France.

Below are the physical addresses for Botswana Consulate in Johannesburg, the French Consulate General and CAPAGO:

Botswana Consulate General

66 Jorrisen Street, Braamfontein Ground Floor, Jorrisen Place Johannesburg P.O. Box 32051 Braamfontein, 2017 JOHANNESBURG

Tel: (+27) 11 403 3748 Fax: (+27)11 403 1384/4031286

French Consulate General

Standard Bank Building, 3rd floor 191, Jan Smuts Avenue JOHANNESBURG Tel: 011 778 56 00 http://www.consulfrance-jhb.org/-English

CAPAGO

Inanda Greens Business Park, Block A (Ground Floor), 98 Albertyn Avenue (corner Katherine Street), 2246, Sandton SA

JOHANNESBURG +27 (0) 87 231 0313 http://www.capago.eu/FR-ZA/index.php/en/

> Contact - Public Relations, Research and Information Department Tel: (267) 3600700 Fax: (267) 3913366 E-Mail: <u>tmotshome@gov.bw</u> Website: www.mofaic.gov.bw