



Republic of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

HON. PELONOMI VENSON-MOITOI ENDORSED AS THE SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

Gaborone, 31 March 2016: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to inform that Honourable Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has been endorsed as the candidate for the Southern Africa Region for election to the Office of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). The decision was taken at the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Southern Africa Region held in Gaborone on the 23rd March 2016.

As the candidate for the Southern African Region, Honourable Venson-Moitoi will compete for the position of the AUC Chairperson with candidates from other Regions of Africa.

The current AUC Chairperson, Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's four-year term of office will end in June 2016. Elections for the new Chairperson will be held during the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, which will take place from 17 to 18 June in Kigali, Rwanda.

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission is the Chief Executive Officer, legal representative of the AU and the Commission's Accounting Officer. The Chairperson also exercises executive functions in the running of the AU affairs and is responsible for the delivery of the agenda of the Organisation aimed at advancing greater continental integration for a more prosperous Africa.

The AU Commission comprises of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and eight (8) Commissioners of peace and security; political affairs; trade and industry; infrastructure and energy; social affairs; rural economy and agriculture; human resources, science and technology; and economic affairs.

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