



Republic of Botswana

TELEGRAMS: DEFA
TELEPHONE : 3600700
TELEX : 2414 BD
Fax : 3913366

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
AND COOPERATION
PRIVATE BAG 00368
Gaborone

PRESS RELEASE

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

Gaborone, 21 November 2016: The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation wishes to inform that the Botswana Government has nominated Mr. Patrick Balopi, the Former Speaker of the National Assembly and Major General Jefferson Gobuamang Tlhokwane (Rtd), to be part of the SADC Oversight Committee to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

The Oversight Committee to the Kingdom of Lesotho was established by the SADC Double Troika Summit in July 2015, in accordance with the SADC Protocol of Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, including Article 2, to act as an early warning mechanism in the event of signs of instability, and intervene as appropriate in consultation with the SADC Facilitator. In addition, the Committee is expected to provide expertise and guidance on the implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the SADC Facilitator, in particular constitutional, public service and security sector reforms. The Committee would also liaise and work closely with the Government of Lesotho and all relevant stakeholders; examine any other matters relevant to the Commission of Inquiry; and propose appropriate intervention measures in consultation with the SADC Facilitator.

The Committee is made up of eight members in the areas of political, intelligence, police and military components from the Double Troika Member States. The United Republic of Tanzania, in its capacity as Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, serves as Chairperson of the Committee. The Kingdom of Swaziland, in its capacity as Chair of SADC, serves as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee. The first deployment of the Oversight Committee to the Lesotho commenced on 20th November 2016, and it will run until 26th November 2016. It is expected to complete its mission before the next SADC Ordinary Summit in August 2017.

Contact - Public Relations, Research and Information Department
Tel: (267) 3600700 Fax: (267) 3959685
E-Mail: mofaic_prri@gov.bw
Website: www.mofaic.gov.bw