



Republic of Botswana

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PRESS RELEASE

THE 27TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Gaborone, 11 July 2016: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to inform that His Honour, Vice-President Mr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi, will lead the Botswana Delegation to the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, to be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 17-18 July 2016.

The Summit will be held under the theme "*African Year of Human Rights with a particular focus on Women Rights,*" to commemorate the important milestones in the continent and global agenda for gender equality and women empowerment. The Summit will also focus on the financing of the African Union (AU), peace and security in Africa as well as the election and appointment of members of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR). Other highlights in the Agenda of the Summit will include the launch of the African electronic Passport and the Mid-Term Report of the African Women Decade.

The Assembly of the Heads of State and Government will be preceded by the 32nd Ordinary Session of Permanent Representatives Committee from 10-12 July 2016 and the 29th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from 13-15 July 2016, to which Botswana's Permanent Representative to the African Union, Ambassador M.P.J. Molefe and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi, will attend, respectively.

As the candidate for the Southern African region, Honourable Venson-Moitoi will also compete in the election and appointment of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, to succeed the outgoing Chairperson, Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

His Honour the Vice-President is expected to depart Gaborone on Friday 15 July 2016, while the Honourable Minister departed on 9 July 2016.

The Vice-President and his entourage are expected to return to Gaborone on 19 July 2016.

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