



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA



Ministry of  
**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
& COOPERATION**

JULY  
AUGUST **2018**

E-Newsletter

# MOEMEDI

The Envoy

“Promoting Botswana’s Interests Abroad”



*New dawn...*  
**MINISTER OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
AFFAIRS &  
COOPERATION**

HONOURABLE

*Dr. Unity  
Dow*

  
**FULL  
STORY**  
onPage **04**

# Editorial

## About e-Moemedi

Moemedi is an e-newsletter of the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation. Its purpose is to keep our stakeholders and the general public informed about the Ministry's activities and the conduct of Botswana's foreign relations.

## Our Mission

MIAC exists to promote and manage foreign relations as well as advance Botswana's interests abroad.

The Ministry also provides protocol and consular services in accordance with international norms and practice. The Ministry is committed to providing professional, effective and efficient services to its clients and stakeholders.

## Our Vision

To be a respected and influential player in world affairs

## Our Values

- Integrity
- Discipline
- Professionalism
- Patriotism
- Botho



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Welcome to this special edition of eMoemedi (The Envoy) which covers the months of July - August 2018. This special edition comes at a very momentous and pivotal period in the history of our nation, being the peaceful and smooth transition of power from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic His Excellency Mr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi.

We also welcome new Chief Diplomat, the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation Honourable Dr. Unity Dow. With vast experience in various Cabinet portfolios, admired Human Rights legal brains and membership to various international bodies among others, we are all excited to welcome Dr Dow to our fold.

An important reality of our time is that more cooperation is needed than ever before among countries to have functioning international systems. In support of this and upon her arrival, Hon Minister headed north of Africa to attend the 31<sup>st</sup> AU summit and an onward visit to Asia.

Lastly, on behalf of the production team, we wish to express our utmost appreciation to all the contributors, home and abroad. Your sincerity and dedication to this project is priceless. We hope to use this tool to share international relations issues, paying particular attention to those with a bearing on our foreign policy.

And to our readers, we look forward to your feedback.

*Enjoy....*



July - August 2018

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Quick Tips!



Register your travel details with MIAC or Botswana representatives abroad by providing ALL relevant information.

# MIAC welcomes Dow, the new Foreign Policy Chief advocate...

**H**onourable Dr Unity Dow is a Specially Elected Member of Parliament [SEMP]. She assumed her duties as Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Hon. Dr Dow has served in Cabinet since 2014, first as Assistant Minister of the then Ministry of Education and Skills Development. Before joining the current Ministry, she was Minister of Infrastructure and Housing Development.

Prior to her appointment as SEMP, Dr. Dow was Judge of the High Court of Botswana and the first Motswana female to serve in that capacity.

Hon. Dr Dow earned her acclaim as a lawyer particularly through her stance on women's rights. She was the plaintiff in a landmark case (Attorney General of Botswana v Unity Dow (1992) that led to a constitutional amendment to the citizenship law of Botswana.

Dr. Dow is an author of both fiction and non-fiction. She has published books addressing issues of the struggle between western and traditional values, gender and poverty.

Dr Unity Dow contributed to the book "Schicksal Afrika" (Destiny Africa) by the former



Honourable Dr. Unity Dow

German President Horst Koehler in 2009. In May 2010, Harvard Press published her latest co-authored book, "Saturday is for Funerals," which describes the AIDS problem in Africa.

Her past international engagements include membership of a United Nations Mission to Sierra Leone to review domestic application of international women's human rights norms; membership of a United Nations expert team on the assessment of Rwanda's ability to try genocide cases; membership of a United Nations Human Rights Council team to conduct a fact-finding mission on how Israel's West Bank

settlements affect Palestinians.

She was one of the three international judges appointed to the Interim Independent Constitutional Dispute Resolution Court of Kenya, a Court set up to facilitate the implementation of the then new constitution of Kenya. She also served as Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists.

Dr Dow has served as a visiting professor of Law at various universities, amongst them the Columbia School of Law (New York, USA), Washington and Lee (Lexington USA), and University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, USA).

# H.E. PRESIDENT MASISI'S JOINT DIPLOMATIC BRIEF



Foreign Envoys Accredited to Botswana during their meet with President Masisi recently



Ambassador Samuel Outlule with Ambassador Thuso Palai

In his address to both Botswana and foreign diplomats in Gaborone recently, President Masisi made reference to his own inauguration speech in which he undertook to enhance engagement with the international community with a view to foster friendly relations. "I am pleased to note that the relationship between Botswana and your respective countries is growing in leaps and bounds and assuming more strategic significance," Masisi told foreign envoys.

He said his administration values the friendship with other countries and will endeavour to take it to greater heights. "To demonstrate my administration's commitment, shortly after becoming President, I visited our neighbouring countries and several others in the SADC region,



H.E President M.E.K Masisi addressing envoys

to further strengthen the bond of friendship between Botswana and the respective countries."

His Excellency the President has committed to vigorously engage members of the international community by among others, participating in forums which

promote the fundamental principles of democracy, good governance, environmental issues, wildlife conservation, trade and investment, climate change and others with a view to creating employment opportunities. Addressing diplomats the President said his government would continue to actively participate in the work of the United Nations in pursuit of sustainable development, as well as maintenance of international peace and security.

He said the International Criminal Court (ICC) will remain relevant in Botswana as it is the only international criminal tribunal for war crimes and crimes against humanity. For their part the envoys pledged support to the Botswana government development agenda and continued cooperation.



Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations



Hon. Dr. Unity Dow

# Minister meet *Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organisation*



Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, H.E Mbapeua Muvangua

**T**he Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Honourable Dr. Unity Dow, held a Meet n' Greet session with Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations on the 26th July 2018. This session was organised to introduce the new Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation. In her address to the envoys, Dr. Dow took the opportunity to assure them of her commitment, and that of the Government of Botswana, to further engage and work towards the mutual benefit of Botswana and their respective countries in the development agenda.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and also High Commissioner of Namibia to Botswana, His Excellency Mbapeua Muvangua, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to interact with the Minister. He further pledged his support as well as that of his counterparts to continue working together for the betterment of the people of Botswana and their respective countries.



His Excellency the President, Mr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi and dignitaries at the TANA forum, with him on the 2nd left are former President of the Republic of Botswana H.E. F.G. Mogae and Mr. Patric Balopi among others.

# Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa (Tana Forum)

**“The Tana joint multi-stakeholder forum provided a platform for further interrogation of issues impeding full ownership of the peace and security process in Africa.” says the President**

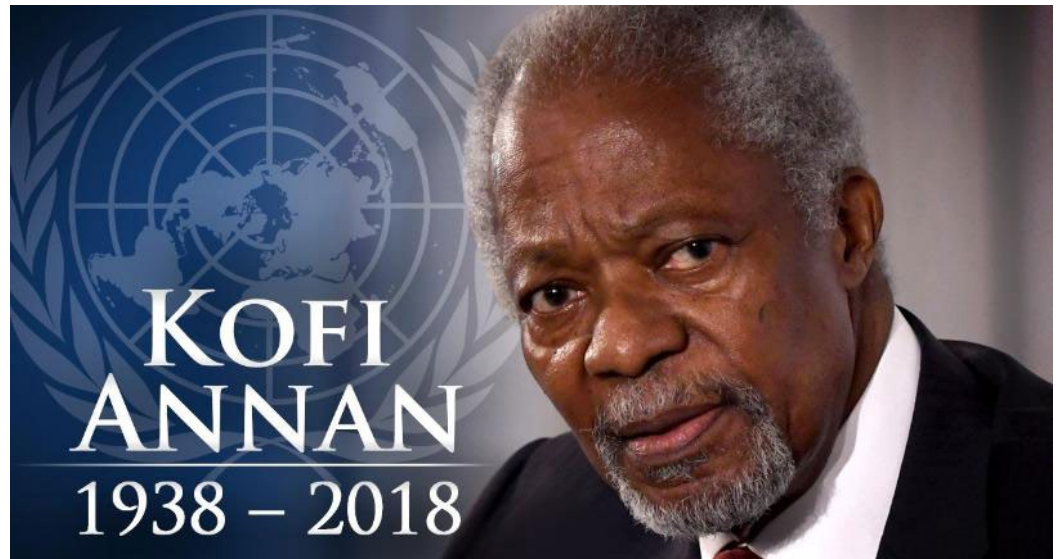


His Excellency the President, Mr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi

The Tana Forum is an independent initiative that seeks to provide an informal platform for African Heads of State/Government to engage in open and frank discussions with a wide spectrum of non-state stakeholders on the most pressing peace and security issues confronting the continent. The informal nature of the Forum lends a different approach to discussing security issues on the continent.

The Government of Botswana with the Tana Forum Secretariat, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), and the United States Institute of Peace hosted the first Tana Forum to be held in Southern from 18-19 July 2018

**“Without good data, we are flying blind. If you can’t see it, you can’t solve it”.**



## Rest in Peace Son of Africa

“ Kofi Annan was a true internationalist with a heart for humanity. He unquestionably showed concern for the world’s poor and vulnerable, for those involved in war and for those whose lives were wrecked by natural disasters and diseases. As the UN Secretary General he visited my own country Botswana in 2002, at the height of the devastating HIV and AIDS pandemic.

We remain eternally thankful for his inspiration and support, as we fought the scourge. I pay tribute to the international community for recognizing merit and according Kofi Annan the opportunity to serve as the 7<sup>th</sup> United Nations Secretary General as the first black man to do so. May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace

Festus Gontebanye Mogae  
Former President of the Republic of Botswana



Photo by BwGovernment

## President Masisi Mourns Kofi Annan.

### “ Botswana mourns Annan

In Kofi Annan the world has lost a giant, Africa has lost a son and Botswana has lost a dear father, brother and friend. The people of Ghana contributed an enigmatic and eloquent peace maker and astute administrator.....Our parting message is one of thanks and gracious celebration of a life well lived and earned.

Our condolences are extended to the UN, Mrs Annan and family. May the Soul of Secretary General Kofi Annan rest in eternal peace.



Hon. Minister Dow Opens the 2018 Heads of Mission Consultative forum

# “A PEACEFUL AND FRIENDLY COUNTRY IS NOT A SELLING LINE ANYMORE, ENVOYS REMINDED”



Hon. Dr. Unity Dow reminding Botswana Envoys that “A peaceful and friendly country is not a selling line anymore”.



Botswana Envoys

The Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation Hon Dr Unity Dow has implored the Botswana Envoys to refocus their energies and seek investments in more strategic areas.

The notion that Botswana is a peaceful and friendly country is not a selling line anymore, she reminded the envoys. She implored them to make Botswana an investment destination of choice by making it attractive in all sectors of the economy.

The Honourable Minister said that in order for Botswana to turn her fortunes around some reforms needed to be made in ease of doing business such as the relaxation of the visa regime, issuance of visas on arrival and turnaround time in responding to applications for work and residence permits.

The Minister also informed that Botswana’s human resource (skilled labour) is also an exportable commodity which should be cherished and nurtured.

# Botswana to Codify its foreign Policy



President Masisi (Centre) with Botswana Heads of Diplomatic Mission

“Botswana’s foreign Policy will be presented in a readily available document but the principles underlying it will not change”.

**P**resident Mokgweetsi Masisi has requested the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation to work on a more defined foreign Policy that would seek to strategically guide Botswana’s development aspirations.

Speaking during an address with Botswana Envoys in Gaborone recently, the President said “Botswana foreign policy will be presented in a readily available document but the principles underlying it will not change.

“Botswana’s foreign policy should be guided by the principles of democracy, development, selfreliance, unity, humility, peaceful resolution of conflicts, peaceful

coexistence, and good neighborliness, respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of nations, respect for human rights and rule of law, good governance, and rules based world order and general principles of international law,”

The Ministry has already started the process which requires collective engagement of stakeholders among them academics, legal minds, defence, policy analysts, non governmental organizations and international relations experts. It is expected that once consultation is concluded, a bill will be presented to parliament to adopt the foreign policy document.

# United Nations special rapporteur on minority issues visits Botswana



The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Dr. Fernand de Vareness, visited Botswana from 13 to 24 August 2018 at the invitation of the Botswana Government to assess and consult with Government, representatives of non-governmental organisations and communities on the situation of human rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

Dr. Fernand de Vareness met with the various Ministry officials and local authorities (Dikgosi, Council Secretaries, and District Commissioners), Non-Governmental Organisations, representatives of the Baherero, Basarwa, Kalanga, Ovambanderu, Subiya, and Wayeyi communities, amongst others.

Dr. de Vareness informed that his visit to Botswana was to take a closer look at existing legislation, policies and practices for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons belong-

ing to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities. He explored aspects pertaining to various minorities including access to quality education, use of minority languages, access to health and other public services, land ownership and resource use, participation of minorities in the political process, and the existing efforts to fight hate speech.

In his report he acknowledged the positive steps taken by Government on the commitment to provide all citizens with access to development programmes and especially to address the economic disadvantages faced by remote-area populations and marginalised groups such as improved access to education, health, employment and economic development opportunities, Adult literacy rate of 88.5% of 2015 according to UNESCO, High tolerance of religious minorities who do not seem to face any major obstacles or discrimination, Non-existence of hate speech or incitement

targeting religious minorities.

He made observations and identified challenges on issues that Botswana should address in the areas of promotion and protection of the human rights of persons belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, among them; unemployment and under-employment; high rate of HIV/AIDS infection; poverty; difficulties in accessing education in remote areas of Botswana; the non-use of minority languages at primary schools; non-recognition of many minority tribes by the Chieftainship Act; Limited access to public health care and other public services by communities in remote areas of Botswana; absence of a clear mechanism for demarcating and recognising traditional or historical land use, or to address long-standing grievances; non-provision for local community-based broadcasting under the Communications Regulatory Authority Act of 2012 which could be important for communication and information; absence of interpreters in the health care sector and of outreach and health education programmes in sign language, which negatively affects the effective dissemination of information with regard to health prevention, in particular in country with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

The Special Rapporteur thanked the Government of Botswana for having extended an invitation to him to carry out this exercise particularly the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation for facilitating his visit and meetings with all stakeholders.

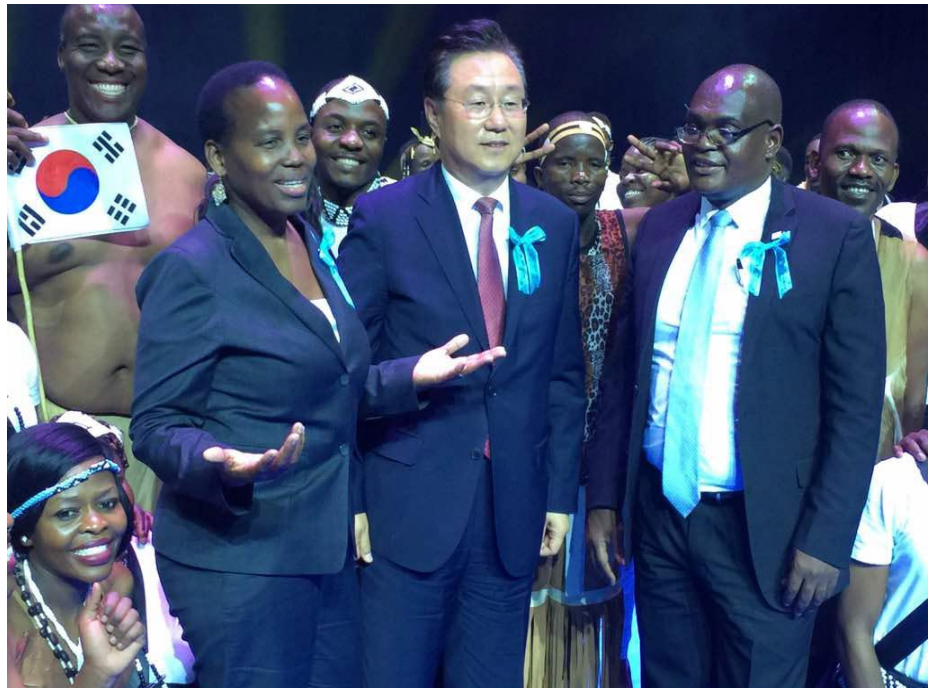
# MUSIC KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES...

*relations through music and culture*

“Diplomacy does not always have to be Political or Economic, but that opening up our hearts and minds to other cultures serves as a bridge to mutual understanding between the citizens of our respective countries” says the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation Hon Dr Unity Dow.

The 3rd of August 2018 saw a mix of Botswana and Korean traditional music and dance under the theme “Culture Connected in Botswana”. This cultural extravaganza saw GICC lit with wow performances. Indeed music knows no boundaries. The event dubbed “Culture Connected; Music, dance, sport is Connected” was graced by performances by E-Sang, Intermission, Elegance and Dynamic all from Korea and a roof blasting Taekwondo demonstration. The performances were complemented by Matlhogoputswa -A-Nnete Cultural Dynasty.

Today communities across Botswana are happily playing host to Korean volunteer teachers (15 this year) and the number of young Batswana who pursue studies in Korea under the “study in Korea programme “is on the steady increase. Equal enthusiasm is displayed through the utilization



of the Korean corner at the University of Botswana. This is a true testament of the good relations Botswana and Korea enjoy at people-to people level.

On the commercial side, Korean products available in Botswana are among the top brands in the electronics world stage among them LG, Samsung and galaxy tablets. This is testimony that the Korean private sector is a major player given their expertise and track record over the years, both natively and worldwide. This is the

technology that as a developing country we need to harness. Botswana and the Republic of Korea established diplomatic relations in 1968. Since then we have continued to enjoy cordial relations characterised by mutual cooperation in the economic, technical and cultural fields. To all this we can only say “may the next fifty years of our relationship be characterized by enhanced prosperity and peace for the people of Botswana and the Republic of Korea”...

# HOMCF

## *in Pictures*



**THEME:**  
**"Strategically Positioning Botswana Beyond 50"**



**PIC OF THE WEEK**

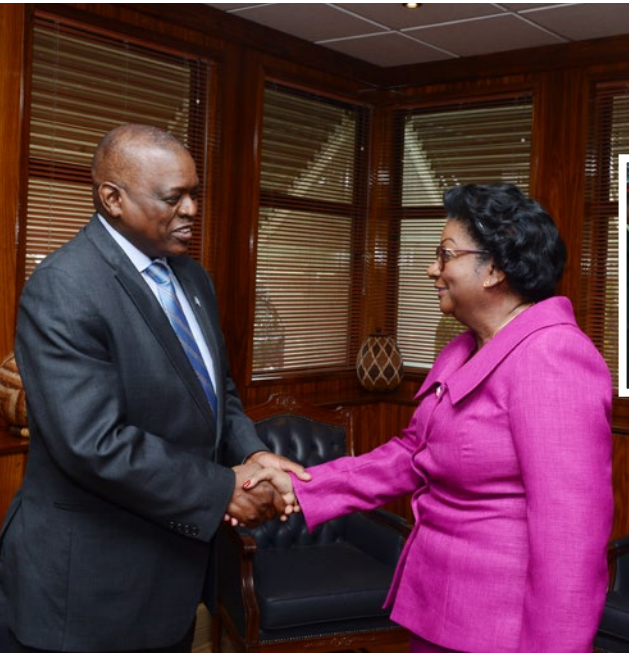
Dean of Botswana Diplomatic Corps, H.E Mr. Manyepedza Lesetedi with the Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, Hon. Dr. Unity Dow

Botswana Diplomatic Missions have been urged to assist the country's efforts to diversifying the economy by promoting the various economic sectors to the International community.



# HOMCF KASANE Excursion





Ms Manuel De Marais presented letters of credence to His Excellency the President Keabetswe Eric Masisi.

# ANGOLA



Her Excellency Mrs. Manuel De Marais presented her Letters of Credence as the Ambassador of Angola to Botswana to His Excellency the President Mokgweetsi Keabetswe Eric Masisi.

In a press interview Ambassador De Marais pointed out that Botswana and Angola traced their relations as far back as 1975 and continue to benefit from the excellent bilateral relations that subsist between the two countries. She indicated that Botswana and Angola cooperate in key projects such as Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA), and the Zambezi Watercourse Commission among others.

Ambassador De Morais further said Angola will continue to work together with Botswana to strengthen cooperation in areas such as energy, mining as well as other projects entered into with other counterparts in the region.

# INDIA



His Excellency, Mr. Rajesh Ranjan, presented Letters of Credence to His Excellency Mr. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi, President of Botswana, as the High Commissioner of the Republic of India to the Republic of Botswana.

Speaking in an interview after presentation, High Commissioner Ranjan said India and Botswana have a very strong and unique friendship driven by common interests. He said during his tour, he endeavours to further strengthen the long cordial and friendly relations that exist between Botswana and India.

Botswana and India established diplomatic relations in 1966 just after Independence and the two countries cooperate in areas of defence, public health, education, security, law enforcement, cultural exchanges, technical and development assistance among others.

# Team MIAC

## *readies for Pretoria 2018*



**T**he 2018 SADC Foreign Ministries games will be held in Pretoria, South Africa from the 6th -7th October 2018. The Kingdom of eSwatini formerly Swaziland hosted the previous edition. The games are aimed at strengthening relations at a social level.

This is also a wellness activity aimed at promoting healthy living in the work place. Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa and eSwatini will battle it out for podium finish in various sport codes. In 2018 team MIAC brought home silver medals in volleyball and ladies marathon. The participating codes include ladies and men's soccer, volleyball, snooker, tennis, chess, netball and marathon.

We wish team MIAC the best of luck.







REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

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