



BUSINESSBOTSWANA

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PRESS STATEMENT

TO: All media houses

FROM: Public Affairs, Marketing and Communications

DATE: 15th June 2018

SUBJECT: BUSINESS BOTSWANA TO HOST A CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT AT THE 15th NATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Business Botswana invites the business community, investors, policy makers to the biennial National Business Conference (NBC) to be held in Francistown from 9th to 11th September, 2018 to discuss reforms to make Botswana's internationally competitive.

In keeping with tradition, the President HE Mr. Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi will open the conference under the theme of ***“Break through to a High-Income Botswana:- the Role of the Private Sector in Charting the Path.”*** The theme seeks to identify economic paths to propel Botswana from an upper middle income to a high income economy.

Therefore the NBC will ponder over following Vision 2036 questions, namely;

- *Do we as a country continue to rely on diamonds as the mainstay of our economy, or do we make concerted, serious strides towards diversification?*
- *Do we continue to generate our income from the consumption of our mineral good fortune, or do we focus on being competitive, productive and efficient?*
- *Do we adopt insular and inward-looking strategies or do we open up our country to investors and visitors, in the process creating a vibrant economy and society integrated into the global economy?*
- *Do we continue with policies that keep Botswana dependent on the state, or do we foster independence, self-reliance and unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of our people, with the role of government being transformed from control to facilitation?*

The Conference will also feature an interactive session with His Excellency entitled ***“A Conversation with the President”*** to allow delegates to appreciate his thoughts on promoting private sector development.

BUSINESS BOTSWANA OFFICERS:

G. Keebine (President), O. Merafhe (Vice President- South.), B.D.Phirie (Treasurer), N. Moleele (Acting CEO)

As per tradition the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Honourable Bogolo Kenewendo will close the Conference.

For more information, kindly contact the Public Relations Department on 395-3459 or email: patience@bb.org.bw / publicrelations@bb.org.bw

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