



BUSINESSBOTSWANA

Head Office: Luthuli Road | P.O. Box 432 Gaborone | Tel: 3953459 | Fax: 3973142 | email:publicrelations@bb.org.bw

North Region: Haskins Building | Private Bag F/85 Francistown | Phone: 2414622 | Fax: 2414494 | email: bbfrancistown@bb.org.bw

PRESS STATEMENT

TO: All media houses

FROM: Business Botswana President

DATE: 10th January 2018

SUBJECT: BUSINESS BOTSWANA STATEMENT ON CORRUPTION MATTER DOING ROUNDS ON PRINT AND SOCIAL MEDIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Business Botswana joins the Government of the Republic of Botswana and the United Nations (UN) in pronouncing its position against corruption.

Business Botswana unreservedly subscribe to the worthy fight against corruption in its totality. It is for this reason that together with the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), we have developed a Code of Conduct for the Private Sector.

We would like to call upon the private sector to come forward; sign up to this code and join the organisation in the journey towards a corrupt free business environment in Botswana.

Business Botswana through its advocacy and lobbying initiatives, is working with other stakeholders including DCEC as mentioned above and through the Office of the Minister of Administration and Presidential Affairs will engage PPADB to strengthen the already existing Code with the intention to ensure that all businesses demonstrate their commitment towards the fight against corruption.

Business Botswana would like such a commitment to be a requirement in order for businesses to participate in any public procurement activities.

The current allegations relating to possible impropriety on the management of Government imposed **LEVIES**; specifically the current reference to the National Petroleum Fund (NPF) and pension funds are a course of magnitude concern.

Business Botswana would like other responsible organisation wishes to express its concerns on these developments. Our concern stems from the fact that these are public funds which are falling victim to either fraud or corrupt practices. It leaves us to ask ourselves a question as to whether the systems and procedures that are in place are so weak such that they are open to abuse. Further to this we wonder whether the boards that have a fiduciary responsibility over such resources are vigilant enough to avert any fraudulent activity in the funds that they are managing. Business Botswana is concerned on issues of governance, accountability and financial management systems that ought to be in place to mitigate any fraud related activities should such occur. Our concern is further agitated by what seems to be very loose control mechanisms in place relating to the safe

BUSINESS BOTSWANA OFFICERS:

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

keep of these large funds.

Business Botswana feels that there has been one too many of such incidents pointing to a possible threat to the levy funds that have been created for the benefit of Batswana now and in future.

That levies on their own, worse still, managed by Ministry are prone to abuse.

Corruption continues to be identified as a major challenge in the country and it has affected our Doing Business Rankings. The Public and Private sector has identified this at their bi annual High Level Consultation Council. There is no doubt that corruption has a negative impact in the performance of the economy and it affects employment creation efforts by all involved.

Corruption negatively impacts on FDI.

We urge the Minister of Finance and Economic Development to make a statement which will reassure the nation that nothing has gone out of hand; that measures will be effected that goes towards ensuring **ALL LEVIES** are properly controlled and safe guarded; that **ALL LEVIES** are housed at the Ministry charged with safe guarding the finances of the country.

There is need to bring back public confidence and trust to show that systems are working as they should and there is nothing to worry about.

Botswana is well known for its prudent financial management practices and we believe that this should be safe guarded as the current state of affairs says a lot.

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

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