Welcome Remarks by Mr. Nwako Neo Shea Patrick,the President of Business Botswana at the Botswana–China Investment and Business Promotion High-Level Roundtable Forum

Changsha Hunan, China 14 June 14, 2025

Thank you, Director of Ceremonies.

Honorable Mr. Tiroeaone Ntsima, Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship
Honorable Mr. Onneetse Ramogapi, Minister of Water and Human Settlement
Mr. Huang Xufeng, Deputy Mayor of Changde City
Dr. Motswiri Oupa Tsheko, Chief of Staff, Office of the President

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished government officials, esteemed entrepreneurs and partners from both Botswana and China:

Good morning and welcome.

Da jia shangwu hao,

On behalf of Business Botswana, it is my great pleasure and privilege to welcome all of you to ***the 4th China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo – Botswana Investment and Business Promotion G to B High-Level Roundtable Forum***.

I extend my heartfelt greetings to our friends from the Botswana government and business community, and warmly welcome all Chinese government officials, entrepreneurs, and investors who have travelled from across this vast country to be here with us today.

Business Botswana, known as BB, is the country's leading private sector institution. With a long and respected history, we work closely with the government of Botswana to promote a sustainable, inclusive, and investor-friendly economy.

We serve both as a platform and a partner supporting local businesses while also being a trusted first point of contact for international investors.

It is in this spirit that we established **BB CHINA**, the official China Representative Office of Business Botswana.

As economic and diplomatic relations between Botswana and China continue to deepen, we saw the need for a permanent, responsive, and professional presence in China one

that serves as a direct bridge between Chinese investors and the many opportunities in Botswana.

BB CHINA exists to serve you. It connects businesses, facilitates government dialogue, guides investors, and provides full-cycle support before, during, and after your investment journey.

BB CHINA is also a reliable and proactive assistant to the government of Botswana and its investment promotion agencies. We help reduce the communication burden on officials, offer professional coordination, and extend the government's presence and visibility in China.

This is part of our association's mission and unique value: **to be a powerful bridge between Botswana and China.**

Through BB CHINA, Botswana's national visibility in the People's Republic of China is significantly enhanced. At the same time, Chinese companies gain more timely, accurate, and trustworthy access to Botswana's investment environment and policy information.

We have a dedicated team at BB CHINA working hard toward this goal every day.

Botswana is one of Africa's best-kept secrets,but we are no longer waiting to be discovered. We are open, we are ready, and we are globally competitive.

We are a country of peace, good governance, and sound macroeconomic management. We enjoy a global reputation for transparency, low corruption, and high policy stability.

Our investment incentives are real. Our bureaucracy is efficient. Our markets are growing.

Whether in mining, agriculture, green energy, manufacturing, or digital innovation,**Botswana is your next strategic base in Africa**.

Business Botswana works side-by-side with the government to protect the interests of all investors. We don't just attract investment,we protect it.

And now, with BB CHINA officially launched, we are closer to you than ever before.

I wish to sincerely thank the government of Changde City, Hunan Province, for your strong support and close cooperation in organizing today's event. You have shown genuine friendship and firm commitment to strengthening China–Botswana relations. We are grateful.

I also want to thank my BB CHINA colleagues for their dedication and tireless efforts behind the scenes.

This year marks the **50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Botswana and the People's Republic of China**.

Since 1975, our two countries have maintained a strong foundation of mutual respect, equality, and win–win cooperation. Over the past five decades, we have deepened political trust, expanded economic partnerships, and strengthened people-to-people ties.

From a humble beginning, Botswana and China have built a comprehensive and multi-dimensional relationship,one that now stands as a model for China–Africa friendship.

This anniversary is not only a moment of reflection—it is also a powerful opportunity. With the launch of BB CHINA, we hope to take Botswana–China relations to new heights and help even more Chinese businesses take root and flourish in Botswana.

To our Chinese friends: we sincerely hope that today's forum is only the beginning.

We look forward to seeing you soon in Botswana—not just as visitors, but as partners, collaborators, and co-builders of our shared future.

And when you come to Botswana, I warmly and personally invite you to become members of Business Botswana.

Because BB is here for you—today, tomorrow, and always.

Thank you.
Ke a leboga.Pula.