MEDIA ADVISORY

Leave No One Behind: the Fight Against Poverty, Exclusion and Inequality

The Government of Botswana will host an international conference in Gaborone on the Leave No One Behind the Fight Against Poverty, Exclusion and Inequality. Organized in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with technical support from other United Nations agencies working in Botswana, the two-day conference is anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals principle of Leave No One Behind, in recognition of the close linkages between poverty, exclusion and inequality.

The conference will focus on how best to Leave No One Behind, looking at targets, methodologies, strategies and policies that can be harnessed for this inclusive principle. The conference will also provide an important opportunity to review, share information and learn what other countries are doing, drawing on examples from around the world. In addition to presenting their experiences, Botswana will showcase over 100 exhibits, illustrating the outputs of successful beneficiaries of the government’s Poverty Eradication Programme.

It is expected that key recommendations from the conference will contribute towards the realisation of the principle of Leave No One Behind.

When and Where
The Conference will be held 20-21 March 2018, at the Gaborone International Convention Centre, Botswana.

Who
H.E President, Lieutenant General, Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama will officially open the conference on Tuesday 20 March 2018. Dr. Stephen Devereux of the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, will deliver a key note address. His Honour, Vice President, Mokgweetsi Masisi will close the ceremony on Wednesday 21 March 2018.

Participants include senior government policymakers and officials from Botswana and other countries in Africa and beyond, scholars and research institutions, civil society organizations, United Nations Agencies, the European Union, World Bank, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), development partners, and the private sector. Participants will engage with experts from well-recognized global think tanks and policymakers from Brazil, UK, Bangladesh, Greece, Honduras, Indonesia, Mauritius, Panama, South Africa, among others.

Note to editors:
Transmission and access to the event:
All media require accreditation to access the event. Registration process is ongoing at the Gaborone International Convention Centre, till Monday 19 March 2018. Only those with security badges will be allowed into the venue.

This event will be broadcasted live via Botswana Television and streamed live on social media through a link to be provided by Monday 19 March 2019

Botswana Development Trends and Issues:
In less than five decades, Botswana has transformed itself from one of the world’s poorest countries at independence in 1966 into an Upper Middle Income Country (UMIC)\(^1\) Per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) stands at USD 7,721.\(^2\) With a

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\(^1\) World Bank, Botswana systematic country diagnostic, 2015
\(^2\) Botswana ‘Vision 2036’
population of about 2.1 million, the country has a relatively young population (32.6 percent below 15 years, 30.3 percent is aged between 10-24 years, while those 65 years and older constitute 5.1 percent). Botswana’s youth bulge presents an opportunity to harness the demographic dividend to accelerate socio-economic development. Females represent 51 percent of the population with a sex ratio (males to 100 females) of 95.5. The country is urbanizing rapidly with 64.1 percent of the nation classified as urban owing to a mix of migration and reclassification of areas.

In 2009, President, His Excellency, Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, identified poverty eradication as one of Government’s flagship programmes, under the theme ‘Poverty Eradication: Towards Dignity for All’ a commitment to directly address the issue of poverty in all its manifestations. Poverty Eradication Programme, has benefitted vulnerable members of society and contributed towards reducing poverty from 19.3 per cent in 2009/10 to 16.3 per cent in 2015/2016. Nonetheless, significant pockets of poverty remain, especially in rural areas.

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3 National population census, 2011
4 United Nations, Botswana common country assessment, 2016