

H.E. Mrs. Lineo Ntoane presents her Letters of Commission to the Presidents of Botswana and Namibia



H.E. Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama receives Letters of Commission from Her Excellency, Mrs. Lineo 'Matlotliso Ntoane, Lesotho High Commissioner to the Republic of Botswana.

Having presented Credentials to the then President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki on 18 September, 2008, the High Commissioner went on to present the Letters of Commission to the President of the Republic of Botswana, H.E. Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama on 6 October, 2008.

During this momentous occasion, His Excellency Lt. Gen. Ian Khama reaffirmed the warm relations maintained by the two countries from time immemorial. He went further to pay homage to His Majesty King Letsie III.

The High Commissioner discussed the following issues outlined under the Botswana – Lesotho Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation:

- Learning from Botswana's experience in diamond mining in order to obtain maximum value for the good of the economy;
- Professionalisation of the police;
- Private sector cooperation and possibility of joint ventures;
- Invitation of Botswana to learn about water resources management in Lesotho;
- Invitation of Botswana to utilize training opportunities at the National University of Lesotho, Center for Accounting Studies, Lerotholi Polytechnic and other Technical and Vocational Schools.

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The President reiterated that Bilateral Cooperation between Botswana and Lesotho was important for the two countries and its implementation must be accelerated and brought to light. He added that Botswana is committed to exchange experiences with Lesotho for the benefit of the two nations.

President Khama invited authorities in Lesotho and the public at large to visit Botswana touristic areas like the Okavango Delta. He further suggested that Lesotho High Commission should also reciprocate by hosting its National Day Celebrations in Botswana.

During her stay, the High Commissioner met with the Honourable Minister of Local Government, the Executive Secretary of SADC, the Permanent Secretary of Education and a delegation of Basotho students currently studying in Botswana. She was accompanied by her spouse, Mr Ntoane and the First Secretary, Mr. Sello Ramakau.

On 24 October, 2008, the High Commissioner

presented her Letters of Commission to the President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba.

At this occasion, the President marveled at the long existing warm relations maintained by the two countries. He noted that it was high time the two countries established bilateral cooperation. He went on to wish His Majesty King Letsie III long life. In response, the High Commissioner presented the greetings from His Majesty King Letsie III and further pointed out that bilateral cooperation between Lesotho and Namibia should focus on the development and cooperation of the private sectors of the two countries in the light of the SADC Free Trade Area.

While in Namibia, the High Commissioner paid a courtesy call on the SACU Executive Secretary who briefed her on the effects of SADC-EPAs on SACU. The Executive Secretary also introduced the High Commissioner to Lesotho nationals working for the institution.