

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE  
PRESIDENT LIEUTENANT GENERAL SERETSE KHAMA IAN  
KHAMA UPON BEING ELECTED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE  
FOR THE BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR THE 2009  
GENERAL ELECTIONS**

Your Honour the Vice President

Chairman

Secretary General

Members of the Central Committee

Fellow Democrats,

1. I consider it an honour for having been elected as your Presidential candidate for the forthcoming general elections.

2. As I accept the responsibility to continue as leader of this party, I am fully conscious of the need to keep the party united. I am aware that unity does not occur

spontaneously and cannot be taken for granted. It has to be managed and maintained, just like blood in the body, which has to be kept circulating through the mechanism of pumping from a central point. This is why I have been expecting that the evolution of factional activity within the party will be kept in check and where it rears its head, it should be to a minimum or better still eliminated altogether. I am confident we will succeed in this regard.

3. In a democracy it is people who collectively have the power. But in democracies you also have a leader. The role of a leader in a democracy is to do whatever he or she can in the best interests of those people providing guidance and direction for this purpose. When as is now in our party the people are divided it is the role of the leader to provide solutions on how to move forward, taking into account what is in the best interests of the party and unity. Should anyone reject such interventions by the leader with no other credible

solution to the problems, it could result in such problems manifesting themselves into partial or total collapse of the party's ability to perform in any given situation whether in elections or even as a government.

4. If you have chosen a leader, as you have just done, and there can only ever be one leader, it is because you have entrusted that leader with that role and responsibility, and you should lend your support to help me achieve this. Therefore allow me with your support to lead you to a convincing victory in October as a united and proud party.

5. The Botswana Democratic Party is the force behind all development in our country. It is the natural custodian of our democracy. I pledge to drive this force to create more jobs for our people and reduce poverty using my toolkit of the 4D's. It is only through hard work and team work that we will be able to maintain the tempo of development and ensure continued stability.

6. Remember the party and national interests supercede all individual interests. Let all of us cast our visions beyond internal party elections. Our goal is to win the general elections.

TSHOLETSA!