

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

THE PRESIDENT

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA**

AT THE BDP 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING DINNER IN  
GABORONE- PHAKALANE GOLF ESTATE

18 NOVEMBER 2011

His Honour the Vice President  
Chairman of the BDP  
Secretary General  
Members of the Central Committee  
Ministers  
Honourable Members of Parliament  
Captains of Industry  
Distinguished Guests  
Fellow Democrats  
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I am delighted to join you on this special occasion as we continue our efforts to raise funds for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As some of you may already know the BDP was founded on February 28<sup>th</sup> 1962, under the Morula tree that stands between Orapa House and the American Embassy in Gaborone. In the coming year, on that date, we shall be celebrating 50 years of our existence as a party.

2. As the most successful Party in Botswana and a demonstration of such to other Parties throughout the world, it is well deserving, that we celebrate our Golden Jubilee. We pride ourselves and rightly so for having won all the past elections since independence because we have and we shall continue to pursue our democratic ideals to ensure political, economic and social progress and prosperity for the people of Botswana. It remains our vision to maintain and consolidate our Party as the leading political force in Botswana through participatory democracy, bonded together by patriotism and selflessness. I am glad to note that this well planned event is not only an effort to raise funds, but also brings together fellow democrats and our friends from different backgrounds and provides a platform for us to increase our Party's visibility.

3. As you all know, in Botswana each political party raises funds for its own activities. In this regard we rely on individuals and the business community at large for funding. I note with interest that the BDP Charity Golf Day event yesterday enjoyed tremendous support from various businesses. I applaud you and them for your tireless support and appeal to others to do likewise.

4. In my recent address to the Nation, I reported that we are slowly recovering from the global economic downturn which has made it difficult for the private sector to do business as much as it has affected government, forcing us to defer some projects that were intended to improve the lives of Batswana. We are heartened that despite this the business community continues to be generous enough to support our cause and assist us to make our golden jubilee a reality.

5. Our Party has made remarkable progress on many fronts, however there is always room for improvement and more needs to be done if we are to maintain our status as the one and only credible party to rule this country where there is no alternative.

6. As we head towards February 2012 and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we must renew our commitment as democrats to the Party and our patriotism to our country. Our values of Democracy, Development, Self reliance, Unity and Botho as a basis for Kagisanyo must serve as a constant reminder of this commitment.

7. I wish to state as I have said before in my other addresses that as democrats we must put the collective interest of our Party above our own interests. We must learn to accept our differences and not allow them to derail us from being united in our common purpose to take our Country to greater heights. Accepting the decision of the majority and not trying to impose one's will on others, is a good start towards building unity.

8. In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to commend the fundraising committee for a sterling job in organizing this wonderful event. It is my hope that this evening will give you an opportunity to renew friendships, build new ones, network, exchange ideas and build partnerships that would benefit our Party towards the 2014 elections and beyond. I am confident that as we celebrate our Golden Jubilee in 2012, we will be united in the spirit of brotherhood and united as one great family. As we interact this evening, we must also remind ourselves that without the blessings of the Lord it will prove difficult to meet our challenges.

9. May God bless us all.

