

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY**

**THE PRESIDENT**

**AT**

**THE**

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE BDP  
EXHIBITION**

**GABORONE**  
NATIONAL MUSEUM  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2016

***"Another 50 years in Government  
#Goyagoileng"***

Salutations.....

## **Good morning to you all!**

1. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here this morning to officially launch our Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Exhibition, marking our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Government. The theme for this year's National Council was **"Our Structures; Our Strength – Another 50 years in Government, #Goyagoileng"**, I believe it encapsulates the very essence of this gathering.

2. This launch, without a doubt comes at an opportune time, a few days prior to our country's 50 years of independence celebrations. It will be recalled from my address at the aforesaid Council meeting that I highlighted that we would be setting up a BDP Museum. To this end, the Central Committee established a team chaired by Assistant Minister Fidelis Molao, comprising of Deputy Treasurer Jagdish Shah, Central Committee member Mr Mpho Balopi and National Youth Executive Chairman Councillor Andy Boatile to come up with proposals to mark this historic and momentous occasion. In the interim, whilst the process of a Museum is being pursued, we will mark our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations through showcasing a history of the BDP as the Party in Government.

3. Let me, in this regard, from the outset, kindly thank the aforementioned group led by Assistant Minister Molao for their sterling efforts. Let me also kindly thank those who contributed their old Party paraphernalia. We know how valuable these items are.

4. It goes without saying that as the BDP, we shall stand tall and be proud of the achievements of this great nation and that our history of performance as the ruling Party is directly connected to that of this Republic.

5. I wish to reiterate that the advances that were achieved by this great Republic are consequent to the architects of our policies that were adopted by our founding fathers. Through their foresight and vision, we pursued the principles of democracy; periodic elections every 5 years, liberal economics and related elements, in particular the emphasis of collective ownership of mineral or natural resources and common development in this regard, all aimed at improving the livelihoods of all Batswana, with proceeds emanating from the aforementioned products.

6. As the BDP, we are therefore very proud that this foresight, helped us avoid the resource curse of internal conflict

and strife that we see in other countries, commonly associated with endowment of mineral resources. It is true that we are fortunate to have avoided turmoil, but it is also the rationality of those who came before us and ourselves that guided our efforts in this regard.

7. Like I have said in the past, governance is not a walk in the park, you need to have character for you to comprehend fully what it involves; patriotism. Democrats, for us to be where we are today, celebrating these milestones, a lot had to be done, including a lot of personal sacrifices, not only for individuals but for the country. For Botswana to be resolute in the pursuance of its ideologies at a period when it was fashionable to be associated with socialism and communism was very telling and character building.

8. The country was also surrounded by hostile, colonial, racist and apartheid regimes, at the time. We should, in this respect, take a moment to express profound gratitude to our forefathers and Party elders. The legacy that they have bequeathed this Party is very evident. It is therefore now incumbent upon us, the latter generation, to ensure that we continue with this legacy and ideals as espoused by our founders. We should in this respect, never ever take the

mandate we were given by Batswana to govern for granted. We should not be hesitant in our resolve to serve Batswana.

9. We, the BDP, are the architects that designed the tremendous development that have been achieved in building this country in the last 50 years. We in the BDP are the doctors who have cured and continue to cure illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, corruption and many others. We in the BDP are drivers who are taking this country and its citizens on a journey of prosperity. We are taking Botswana Forward.

10. As a Party, our democratic credentials speak for themselves. We assist all Batswana without regard for Party affiliation, because that is what democratic principles prescribe and we have lived these democratic values for over 50 years and we will continue to do for the next 50 years and more we are in Government. We have never implemented policies selectively, be they health related(HIV/AIDS medication), Agriculture, Construction and Financial Services etc.

11. In fact, there are quite a number of indexes that rate Botswana highly in this regard, relating to issues of governance, as well as for economic performance. We have

been consistently at the top of the continent and have also been rated above European countries in many of these indices.

12. Before I conclude, I wish to highlight that the future of this Republic lies with our youth, inclusiveness and education to the youth on the history of the Party is key. Link with them through communication platforms they understand, be it social media and utilise this useful information meaningfully to involve them. This will come in handy, instead of what clearly is an issue of great concern whereby we still have a few members in our society who have made it a habit to write uncouth messages about others on social media.

13. Again, this activity and information shared herefrom is a clear illustration that indeed social media can be used more positively. At Party level, I think it will be fair to highlight that it can be used positively to among others, promote the Party, Government Policies and Programmes. It can be used as a platform for interaction and positioning the Party in good light to recruit new members, whilst also reminding Batswana that *there is still no alternative and we are still the best placed Party to move Botswana forward, for better development and better livelihoods.*

14. In conclusion, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare this Botswana Democratic Party Exhibition officially opened. *BDP for another 50 years in Government, #Goyagoileng.* **WE TAKE BOTSWANA FORWARD!**  
**BOTSWANA PELE!**

I thank you for your attention.