



## BUSINESSBOTSWANA

Head Office: Luthuli Road | P.O. Box 432 Gaborone | Tel: 3953459 | Fax: 3973142 | email:publicrelations@bb.org.bw

North Region: Haskins Building | Private Bag F/85 Francistown | Phone: 2414622 | Fax: 2414494 | email: bbfrancistown@bb.org.bw

### **PRESS STATEMENT**

**TO: All media houses**

**FROM: Business Botswana President, Mr Gobusamang Keebine**

**DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**SUBJECT: BUSINESS BOTSWANA ENGAGES GOVERNMENT ON COVID-19  
OUTBREAK**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Business Botswana has been closely monitoring the outbreak of corona virus (COVID-19). Following escalation of COVID-19 in Southern Africa, Business Botswana has formed a response team comprising led by the President, Mr Gobusamang Keebine.

Our priority is to ensure that Private Sector remains functional whilst working safely in order to keep the economy afloat and secure as many jobs as possible. Our efforts are already bearing fruit as engagements with Honourable Peggy Serame, Minister on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March drew discussions around.

### **Outbreak Management**

Private sector understands the need to eliminate the spread of the COVID-19 in order to achieve business prosperity. It is as such our highest priority to ensure we come to the party and aid government and collaborate at a National Level. In this regard, we demonstrated our readiness to collaborate and to become part of a tripartite National Action Plan team.

### **Communication**

To collaboratively synchronise communication and to frequently share current and updated information. Frequent engagement between BB and government as COVID-19 unfolds. Furthermore, the Business Botswana media sector has pledged to support government's COVID-19 communication team.

### **Business Continuity**

We value the need to be safe and encourage all members in the private sector to adhere to the recommendations of social distancing, high hygiene standards etc. As such, we engage stakeholders on possibilities to review data rates to allow for remote working. We also continue to engage on best case scenario for public transportation but we encourage private sector to consider arranged transport from taxi operators for a limited number.

### **BUSINESS BOTSWANA OFFICERS:**

G. Keebine (President), O. Merafhe (Vice President- South.), H. Nawa ( Vice President- North), B.D.Phirie (Treasurer), N. Moleele (CEO)

Furthermore, to work collaboratively with a view to minimise interruption in supply of essential goods and services and ensure that the entire value chain functions effectively and efficiently.

### **Recovery Plan**

Many businesses are strained and will suffer -the impacts of the pandemic on the economy are undisputed. As such we continue to engage government on what measures to explore to ensure the recovery & aid to business, and, stimulus of the economy. Many of our members across various sectors are already bearing the brunt of COVID-19.

Furthermore, Business Botswana commends members of the private sector who continue to come forward with skills and resources towards the fight against COVID-19. We assure the government that we take this responsibility collectively for the sake of the nation's health as well as the economy.

As COVID-19 evolves, both Business Botswana and government will continue to coordinate their efforts.

---End---