



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

## REMARKS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

**MR. MOKGWEETSI E. K. MASISI,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT OF THE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION (SACU)  
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSING  
CEREMONY OF THE**

**6<sup>TH</sup> SUMMIT OF THE SACU HEADS OF STATE  
AND GOVERNMENT**

**THURSDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2018**

**GABORONE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
CENTRE, BOTSWANA**

- Your Majesty King Mswati III, of the Kingdom of eSwatini,
- Your Excellency Dr. Hage Gotfried Geingob, The President of the Republic of Namibia,
- Your Excellency Mr. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, The President of the Republic of South Africa,
- The Right Honourable Dr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho,
- Your Honour Slumber Tsogwane, The Vice President of the Republic of Botswana,
- Hon. Ontefetse Kenneth Matambo, The Minister of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Botswana,
- Hon. Ministers and Members of the SACU Council,
- Hon. Members of Parliament,
- Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, The Executive Secretary of SACU,
- Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

- Members of the SACU Commission,
- Senior Government Officials,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Officials of the SACU Secretariat,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon to you all.

1. It is my pleasure, once again, to address you, this time at the end of the proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) Summit.
2. **Your Majesty, Your Excellencies,** I am pleased to inform you that the SACU Heads of State and Government have successfully concluded their deliberations.

Let me therefore convey my appreciation to **Your Majesty and Your Excellencies**, for your frank, open and constructive contributions during this Summit, which greatly enriched our discussions.

3. The fruitful discussions we have had are testimony to our commitment to delivering concrete and meaningful results, for the development of our respective countries. Similarly, it bears testimony to deep bonds of friendship that bind our people and countries together. We have achieved a lot today and have laid the basis to further develop our region through deeper economic integration.
  
4. **Distinguished Guests**, The 6<sup>th</sup> SACU Summit considered the Report of the SACU Council of Ministers on progress made towards the implementation of the Ministerial Work Programme.

The Summit was also apprised on developments relating to the on-going trade negotiations in which SACU Member States are involved, as well as issues such as listing of some Member States as non-cooperative tax jurisdictions by the European Union.

5. **Your Majesty, Your Excellencies,** We have noted with appreciation, the progress made to date on the implementation of the Work Programme. Areas such as the Review of the Revenue Sharing Formula and the Long-Term Management of the Common Revenue Pool, the Establishment of a Stabilisation Fund and Exploring the Feasibility of a Financing Mechanism for Regional Industrialisation, as well as the Development of Public Policy Interventions to Promote Industrial Development and Value Chains, have been greatly advanced.

6. Therefore, going forward, we need to move towards the consolidation of the options pertaining to more concrete proposals on the different areas of focus, which will serve as a basis for a revised Work Programme for SACU.
7. **Distinguished Guests,** Notwithstanding what I have just mentioned, more work is required in some of the areas, such as the Review and Development of a Suitable Architecture for Tariff-Setting, Rebates, Duty Drawbacks and Trade Remedies, as well as the Trade Facilitation work-stream.
8. We have therefore directed the Council of Ministers to ensure that work is expeditiously undertaken, through the respective Ministerial Task Teams on Finance and on Trade and Industry.

9. We have also committed ourselves to availing the necessary human and financial resources to facilitate the conclusion of this process. As a commitment towards the development and well-being of the region and its people, it is important that the resources being devoted by our countries to this process are not in vain, but bear fruits.
10. **Distinguished Guests,** We have also appreciated the update on the trade negotiations agenda. We noted the scope and objectives of the on-going trade negotiations, which are aimed at improving market access opportunities for our products.
11. We emphasized the importance of advancing a common SACU position, which is informed by our respective national interests, through a collective undertaking in our engagements with third parties.

We equally underscored the importance we attach to regional and continental trade arrangements in line with our commitments to the Abuja Treaty on the African Continental Integration.

12. **Your Majesty, Your Excellencies**, On behalf of the Summit, let me commend the Council of Ministers, the SACU Commission and the Secretariat for all the work being undertaken to advance the SACU Agenda. It is our expectation that by December 2018, more tangible outcomes will have been achieved.

13. I therefore encourage you all to ensure that the remaining activities in the Work Programme, are executed and delivered timeously, efficiently and prudently, considering the global developments and the dynamics that have implications on our region.



14. **Distinguished Guests,** I have been privileged to serve as the Chairperson of the SACU Summit from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, and my term comes to an end on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. It is my hope that we will continue to acquit ourselves well in facilitating the SACU Agenda at the level of the Summit, the Council of Ministers, the SACU Commission, and all other technical committees.
  
15. I therefore wish to congratulate in advance the incoming Chairperson of the SACU Summit, the Right Honourable Dr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho who will assume this important role at the end of my term. Please be assured of my availability to assist and support you in your role in facilitating the full implementation of the SACU Work Programme.

16. **Your Majesty, Your Excellencies**, It has been an honour for me and Batswana as a whole, to host you in our beautiful city of Gaborone. As you depart later on today, we wish you all a safe journey to your respective destinations.

17. I thank you.