



Republic of Botswana

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT GENERAL DR. SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SACU SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE  
AND GOVERNMENT**

**ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE SACU SECRETARIAT**

**WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA  
5 FEBRUARY 2018**



- **The Executive Secretary of SACU, Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago;**
- **Honourable Ministers here present;**
- **Botswana's High Commissioner to Namibia, Mrs. Claurinah Tshenolo Modise;**
- **Members of Staff of the SACU Secretariat;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman,**

**A very good afternoon to you all!**

1. It gives me great pleasure to address you this afternoon, in my capacity as the Chairperson of the SACU Summit.
2. As you would recall, I last visited this magnificent building in November 2015, during its inauguration. It is my hope that this visit will inspire the Secretariat to continue to successfully deliver on its mandate.
3. **Madam Executive Secretary,** I wish to reaffirm my country's continued commitment to SACU, and in supporting the Secretariat in its work, at all levels.

4. **Madam Executive Secretary**, as you are well aware, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010, the SACU Heads of State and Government assembled here in Windhoek, to commemorate the Centenary Anniversary of the existence of SACU, since its establishment in 1910.
5. At that occasion, our **Vision** and **Mission** as SACU were adopted, with a view to transform the organisation into a viable institution that can drive regional economic integration, and promote equitable development.
6. In this regard, we took a decision to institutionalise our meetings.
7. To date, I am happy to note that five (5) Summits have been successfully convened.
8. At the 5<sup>th</sup> SACU Summit that was held in Swaziland, in June 2017, a Work Programme for SACU was endorsed. This was a significant and critical milestone, as it followed a period of uncertainty within SACU, on the common approach towards ensuring a successful implementation of SACU's Vision, Mission and the SACU Agreement.

9. I therefore urge the Ministerial Task Teams that have been established, to implement the Work Programme efficiently and within the agreed timelines. We expect to see tangible outcomes at the end of the implementation period.
10. The key role of the Secretariat in this process cannot be overemphasised. As the institution tasked with overseeing the day to day administration of SACU and coordinating the work of institutions of SACU, the Secretariat will be required to support the Member States during the implementation of the Work Programme.
11. Your dedication and hard work as the Secretariat is acknowledged and applauded. Under the able leadership of your Executive Secretary, SACU Secretariat continues to provide seamless support to the Member States during their meetings.
12. It is also highly laudable that since the establishment of the Secretariat, you have maintained sound financial and governance practices. All audits conducted have been unqualified. ***I congratulate you on this achievement!***
13. I also wish to commend the Republic of Namibia for the support they continue to render to the Secretariat as the host country. We acknowledge the facilities and status that

have been accorded to the Secretariat. This enables the Secretariat to efficiently support Member States.

14. I am pleased to note that the 6<sup>th</sup> SACU Summit will be held in Botswana, in June 2018. This will be to mainly receive the report from the Council of Ministers on the implementation of the Work Programme.
15. It has been an honour for me to serve as the Chairperson of the SACU Summit.
16. Let me assure you, Madam Executive Secretary, and your team, of Botswana's continued and unwavering commitment to SACU.

***I wish you all success in your work at the Secretariat!***

***Thank you all for your attention.***

***PULA!***

***PULA!***

***PULA!***