



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

## REMARKS

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MOKGWEETSI E. K. MASISI  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**DURING THE**

**AFRICA BUSINESS: HEALTH FORUM 2019**

**HELD ON THE MARGINS OF THE 32<sup>nd</sup> ORDINARY SESSION  
OF THE AFRICAN UNION ASSEMBLY**

***"Botswana's views on opportunities for the private sector to contribute  
to healthcare in Africa"***

12 February 2019  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



- **Your Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisis, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairperson of the African Union;**
- **Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government here present;**
- **Your Excellency Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);**
- **Your Excellency Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organisation;**
- **Mr. Michel Sidibe, Executive Director, UNAIDS;**
- **Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Founder and Chairman of Africa Initiative for Governance (AIG);**
- **Mr. Aliko Dangote, President and Chief Executive of the Aliko Dangote Foundation;**
- **Captains of Industry here present;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**A Very Good morning to you all!**

1. Let me at the onset extend my sincere appreciation to the convenors of this important Forum, aimed at advancing Africa's health related development goals. Equal appreciation goes to the sponsors and strategic partners of this event.

2. I am particularly delighted that this event is clearly aligned to the key aspirations of our *Agenda 2063, "the Africa We Want"*.
3. **Distinguished Guests,** This Forum is vital in our collective pursuit of improved universal healthcare. It is also critical for broadening the landscape for private and public sector collaboration, to ensure access delivery of quality healthcare services on the Continent.
4. There is no doubt that health in Africa remains one of the key areas where governments and the private sector should partner to make sustainable investments, which will benefit all our people. We also agree that through mobilizing expertise, financial resources and innovation in the health systems, we will be able to accelerate the necessary interventions to rid this Continent of social ills such as, malnutrition, abject poverty and disease. All these challenges, continue to afflict mostly women and children. They also threaten to diminish the efficacy of the workforce, as well as undermine sustainable economic development gains in our countries.
5. It is, thus important that we acknowledge that there is a need for broader scope for a thriving symbiotic relationship between governments and the private sector in all the African countries. We must therefore collectively commit to fostering this strategic partnership.
6. **Distinguished Guests,** In the case of my country, Botswana, I wish to inform you that we have made some strides in embracing private sector partnership through the adoption a pluralistic health services delivery.

7. In this regard, my Government has made a strategic and deliberate policy decision to promote private sector participation in the health sector, in recognition of the pivotal role it plays in the economy.
8. I am pleased that the private health sector has demonstrated the willingness and ability to be engaged as a strategic long-term partner in the provision of healthcare services in Botswana.
9. As a demonstration of my Government's unwavering commitment towards this public-private sector partnership, we have established the Sectoral Health High Level Consultative Council (HLCC). This creates a platform for collaboration with the private sector and guides engagement towards access to cost-efficient health quality services.
10. Among the key achievements my country has made in the health sector, as a result of the public-private sector collaboration are:
  - i) Provision of Air Ambulance Services, through engaging local companies for airlifting patients;
  - ii) Utilisation of Intensive Care Units at private hospitals by public hospitals;
  - iii) Public to private referrals for specialists services such as organ transplants, haematology, oncology, vitreoretinal, Dialysis, Cardiology services and Managed Care; and
  - iv) Referral and District Hospitals also continue to outsource soft services such as laundry, security, cleaning, catering and clinical waste.

11. In addition, my government is currently in the process of outsourcing services to reduce backlog in obstetrics and gynaecology. It is also our desire to, in the near future, provide the following services through existing and new public and private sector avenues, if not entirely private sector led initiatives:
  - i) General Surgery; Orthopaedic Surgery; as well as Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist;
  - ii) Training of health personnel in different cadre by private, local and international institutions;
  - iii) Research partnerships in critical areas of health; and
  - iv) Complementary health financing through health insurance schemes.
12. Having outlined the above, I wish to invite the private sector to explore the opportunities available in Botswana, for the provision of improved healthcare services.
13. Some of the areas that could be explored for possible collaboration between the public and the private sector include:
  - i) Pre-hospital services, Inpatient care, Outpatient care such as disbursements of ARVs, Preventive care such as immunization, Diagnostic services, Mortuary services, Rehabilitation and step-down care;
  - ii) Research and Development;
  - iii) Pharmaceuticals and Manufacturing; as well as
  - iv) Human Resource Development.
14. Although not exhaustive, I hope that the above-mentioned gives you a broad picture of immense opportunities available for public-private sector collaboration in the health sector, in Botswana.

15. It is our belief, that the outcomes of this Forum, and the findings of the Report we are about to launch this morning, would paint a picture through which public and private sector can mutually work together towards a sustainable health economy, and truly inspire businesses to transform the health sector in Africa. There is a lot of work to be done. We are the people to lead in that regard, and we are ready!!
16. Let us all, through this initiative, re-dedicate ourselves to seeking new sustainable ways of consolidating the gains made thus far in the health sector.
17. I thank you for your attention and wish you fruitful deliberations throughout the programme.

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