



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

REMARKS BY

**HON. PHANDU T.C. SKELEMANI
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**AT THE DONATION OF A CHEQUE
BY THE DIAMOND EMPOWERMENT FUND (DEF)**

**01 OCTOBER 2012
NEW YORK**

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. This morning we are delighted to receive and welcome the Board of Directors of the Diamond Empowerment Fund (DEF).
2. We are also delighted to recognize members of the Diamond Empowerment Fund Board as well as their Strategic Partners.
3. I am particularly honoured to receive this cheque, on behalf of the Botswana Government.
4. I wish to express our profound gratitude and appreciation to the Founder, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist, Mr. Russel Simmons, who, together with his partners, continue to uplift the African Child.
5. I am humbled to say that, this donation is not only a sign of the enduring partnership we in Botswana have with DEF. It is also an investment in our future – the young generation and future leaders of Botswana.
6. This will, no doubt, go a long way in helping us help our young people achieve their dreams.
7. Ever since its inception in 2007, DEF has empowered over 1800 students in all of its beneficiary countries – Botswana and South Africa.
8. As a proud and credible diamond producer, Botswana will continue to strike global partnerships with organizations of goodwill such as DEF, to develop our human resource base.
9. As we have always said, “ours are diamonds for development”.
10. Through the Top Achievers Programme, we hope to inspire those students who excel in their studies. We shall continue to invest in them and help them achieve their dreams.
11. As we position ourselves to be a world class centre of excellence in education, we will offer opportunity and hope to those who excel.
12. Finally, on behalf of the Ministry of Education in Botswana, I wish to once again thank DEF for this good gesture and to say together we can help our children achieve their dreams.

I thank you.