

JOINT COMMUNIQUE
ON THE STATE VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
12 SEPTEMBER 2012

1. His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, paid a one day State Visit to the Republic of Botswana at the invitation of His Excellency, Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana, on 11 September 2012.
2. President Jonathan was accompanied by Cabinet members and senior Government officials comprising of a State Governor, two Senators and five Cabinet Ministers, as well as a business delegation.
3. Their Excellencies met for private discussions before the Official Talks. During the Official Talks, President Khama expressed appreciation for President Jonathan's acceptance of his invitation despite his busy schedule, whilst President Jonathan expressed his gratitude for the invitation and the warm welcome he received in Botswana.

4. The Official Talks, which were attended by Cabinet members and senior Government officials from Botswana and Nigeria discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

5. Their Excellencies highlighted the excellent historical bilateral relations and strong fraternal bonds of friendship that exist between the two countries. Their Excellencies further committed to working closely to ensure that these relations continue to grow from strength to strength for the mutual benefit of their two countries and peoples.

6. Their Excellencies further underscored the fact that the relations were based on shared values, which were underpinned by the principles of democracy, good governance, adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights. In this regard, the two leaders committed to continue working together to promote peace, stability and development in their respective countries and beyond.

7. Their Excellencies agreed to further deepen and expand the scope of their bilateral cooperation by focusing on sectors such as mining and energy, defense and security, trade and investment, agriculture, arts and culture, tourism and wildlife cooperation, amongst others.

8. Their Excellencies emphasized in particular, the need to cooperate in the area of energy, given that Nigeria is a potential source of crude oil which is critical to address Botswana's increasing energy needs. To this

end, their Excellencies agreed to engage in further discussions regarding the matter.

9. On regional and continental issues, their Excellencies commended the efforts by SADC and ECOWAS in addressing the political challenges experienced in Southern and West Africa, particularly in Madagascar, DRC, Mali and Guinea Bissau. Their Excellencies furthermore condemned the actions of some religious extremists for the atrocities committed against innocent people, which have undermined the hard won peace and stability in Nigeria. In this regard their Excellencies committed to enhancing cooperation and information sharing on security issues as well as on the fight against terrorism.

10. His Excellency President Khama hosted a State Luncheon in honour of his counterpart. Following the State Luncheon, His Excellency President Jonathan visited Jwaneng Mine with some members of his delegation.

11. The Nigerian High Commission hosted the Nigeria – Botswana Business Forum, to promote cooperation in trade and investment and partnership between the two countries and their peoples.

12. Before his departure from Botswana, His Excellency President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan reiterated his appreciation to His Excellency President Seretse Khama Ian Khama, the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to him and his delegation during their Visit.