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PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON KENYA

Gaborone, 15th March, 2013: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to clarify a recent statement attributed to the Honourable Minister Phandu Skelemani on the question of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its processes. In the first part of his statement relating to a hypothetical visit to Botswana by Kenya's President elect, the Minister's response was aimed at merely explaining the rules of the ICC and obligations of members of the Court. In this context, he indicated that as can be expected, any member of the Court is bound by its rules. Equally important, is that all members of the Court are obliged to uphold its rules, a principle that impels any member, including Botswana, to act to fulfill its obligations under the rules of the Court.

Concerning the particular situation in Kenya, the Minister indicated that the parties involved had not only pledged cooperation, but had always cooperated with the ICC. In other words, the Kenyan situation does not fall within the above scenario dealing with non-compliance with the Court.

Botswana as a member of the ICC, will only act in accordance with the decisions of the Court. At the moment, no decision has been made on the Kenyan situation that would require Botswana to act.

The strength of Botswana-Kenya relations is reflected in the long history of wide ranging cooperation between the two countries, as well as the fact that the two countries have resident Missions in each other's Capitals.

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