



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

REMARKS

BY

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SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON THE OCCASSION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE INDIAN
TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC) DAY**

**VENUE: INDIA HOUSE
DATE: 31st JANUARY 2019
TIME: 1800HRS -2030HRS**



- **Your Excellency Dr. Rajesh Ranjan and Mrs. Ranjan;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good Evening,

Your Excellency,

1. I am honoured to be a part of this important occasion marking the 55th year of the existence of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC).
2. I note with satisfaction that for over 50 years, ITEC has been one of the most valuable pillars of the excellent bilateral cooperation between Botswana and India.
3. The ITEC program, which is fully funded and offers various capacity building programs, has firmly established India as one of the leading provider of technical know-how and expertise to partner countries in the developing world.

4. As a country that is committed to the provision of quality education, we view ITEC capacity development programme as complementary to our human resource development strategies which are critical for driving sustainable economic and social development.

Your Excellency,

5. We note with appreciation that the increasing collaboration between Botswana and India through the ITEC program has not only expanded our skills base in the public sector, but it has also enabled us to tap from the Indian experience and know-how which have propelled the growth of India to become one of the leading economies in the world.
6. Over and above this, ITEC is an exceptional model of South-South cooperation which is truly invaluable in imparting knowledge and skills amongst participants. It is certainly a model that can be emulated by all our countries in the interest of advancing the South –South Cooperation agenda.

Your Excellency,

7. This spirit of benevolence that the Government of India continues to demonstrate towards Botswana is highly treasured. Equally pleasing is that there has been progressive increase of slots allocated to Botswana, from an average of 65 training slots annually in previous years to the current 140 slots yearly.
8. It is our hope that the bonds of friendship created through this partnership will continue to nurture our enduring bilateral ties. Furthermore, it is also our conviction that as Botswana undertake training courses in India, they benefit from exchanges which promote a deeper understanding of the history, and essence of our two nations.

Your Excellency,

9. Allow me to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the alumni present here who have successfully completed their training programs in India through the ITEC initiative. It is my sincere hope that

you will fully utilize the skills and experiences you acquired through your various programs for the betterment of your beloved country.

10. Let me also once again, thank the Government and people of India for their generosity, and I hope that the training cooperation between our two countries will continue to flourish.

11. With these few remarks, may I now propose a toast to:

The long standing and fruitful cooperation between the people of Botswana and India.

PULA!
