**Welcome remarks by Dr. Rajesh Ranjan, High Commissioner of India to Botswana on the occasion INDOTSWANA DAY (India-Botswana Day)**

**on 28th April 2019 at GICC, Grand Palm, Gaborone**

**Dumela,**

**Good evening,**

* It is my pleasure and honour **to welcome His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi and First Lady of the Republic of Botswana Her Excellency Mrs. Neo Masisi to INDOTSWANA DAY**.
* May I request the audience to give a **standing ovation to His Excellency the President** of the Republic of Botswana and the **First Lady of the Republic of Botswana** for gracing the INDOTSWANA DAY **as our Chief Guest**.
* I would like to also welcome and acknowledge the **presence of the Chief Justice** of the Republic of Botswana **Hon. Justice Mr. Terrence T. Rannowane**.
* **I would also like to welcome** :
* Hon. Dr. Unity Dow, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation
* Honourable Members of Parliament
* Hon. Justice Mr. Lakhwinder Singh Walia, Court of Appeal of Botswana
* Mr. Moses D Pelaelo, Governor, Bank of Botswana
* His Excellency Ambassadors/ High Commissioners / Head of UN organisations
* His Worship Mayor Mr. Kagiso Thutlwe, Mayor of Gaborone
* All Protocol observed
* All media present here
* And
* Indian and Indian Diaspora
* Ladies and Gentlemen
* As you all are aware : **India – Botswana bilateral ties are underpinned by shared values of democracy, pluralism, expanding economic engagement and long-standing people-to-people ties.** There is increasing convergence of values, strategic perspectives and economic and systematic complementarities between the two countries.
* One of the pillars of our relationship is people-to-people contact and today’s event i.e. INDOTSWANA DAY is organised with an objective to enhance people-to-people contact and better understanding of India-Botswana culture.
* Today’s event is also showcasing the women’s empowerment since it is organised by women only.
* India and Botswana has lot of similarities. Both of them are shining example of vibrant democracies in two different continents, the largest democracy of the world and the most stable and model democracy of Africa, both democracies have their General Elections in 2019.
* In India, General Elections are already going on and will be completed on 23rd of May 2019. Botswana will also go for General Election in October 2019.
* I would like to request all Indian Citizens present here to please cast your Vote. Each Vote carries a value for our democracy.
* India is known by INCREDIBLE INDIA and Botswana is A LAND OF FASCINATING CULTURE & BIODIVERSITY. Both the countries are having unlimited potential and opportunities to collaborate with each other and rest of the world, for mutually beneficial cooperation.
* I have just elaborated a very few similarities between India and Botswana. I will not take much of your time. However, last but not the least, I would like to thank our sponsors for generously sponsoring this event.
* With these few words, I conclude my remarks and once again welcome you all to the INDOTSWANA DAY.

**PULA**

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