**High Commissioner Dr. Rajesh Ranjan’s remarks on the occasion of a Business-cum-Cultural event on Gujarat on 15 June 2019 at Adansonia Hotel, Francistown**

* **Hon. Dikgang Philip Makgalemele, Assistant Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development**
* **Gujarati Community**
* **Protocol observed**
* **Media personnel**
* **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
* I would like to welcome you all at the event. Gujarat is a state located on the west coast of India. This state shares a common international border with Pakistan. With a coastline of about 1,600 km, the state of Gujarat has one of the longest coastal areas of all the states in India. The state has always played an important role in contributing to the economic development of India. It contributes significantly to the national exchequer of India.
* Gujarat has been a hub of trade and commerce since over 5000 years, when the port of Lothal connected the then India to the World. Todays, drive by the entrepreneurial Gujarati spirit, the State acts as the world’s gateway to opportunities in India.
* The Gujarat state is classified as one of the leading industrialized states in India. The state houses several private companies, public enterprises, multi-national corporations and is the host of small- and medium-scale business units. The manufacturing units have world-class facilities. It is one of the best places in India for the manufacturing of textiles, pharmaceuticals, and agro-based and petrochemical products. The state is also popular for its physical and social infrastructure facilities. Gujarat is also one of the states in India where there is an excellent environment and is aptly supported by a responsible and proactive bureaucratic system.
* Major investors are: **Adani, Clarins Paris, Ford, Honda, IBM, Kellogg’s, etc.**
* **Gujarat recorded $66.8 bn worth of exports in 2017-18, contributing over 22% to India's net exports.**
* **$2,336 Per capita income, Current price (2016-17)**
* **$172.6 bn GSDP, Current price (2016-17)**
* **$18.7 bn FDI inflow (2000-18)**
* **11.7% GSDP growth rate, YoY (2016-17)**
* **World's largest petroleum refining hub at Jamnagar**
* **World's 3rd largest producer of denim**
* **Global leader in processed diamonds**
* Gujarat is a state that has a huge agricultural industry, and it has contributed largely to the Indian agricultural output. This state has more than 10.7 million hectares of cropping area. However, it still offers a tremendous opportunity for investment in the sector.
* The state of Gujarat is naturally blessed with abundant natural resources, fertile soil, an excellent river system, conducive climatic condition, and well-established markets. All these factors make the state a front-runner location for investing in the agricultural sector. Also, the farmers in the state have adopted some of the most modern techniques of farming and are producing exotic crops that are largely intended to be exported; thus, there is a great scope for investment in the sector and gaining valuable returns on that investment.
* Gujarat also has natural mineral resources in abundance, such as bauxite, lignite, and limestone. Thus there is a huge potential for investors to invest in the mining of the natural resources sector. With its huge coastline, this state promises tremendous business investment opportunities. Major ports in the state are very strategically located.
* VIBRANT GUJARAT GLOBAL SUMMIT 2019 was held from 18 to 20 January 2019 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. During vibrant Gujarat 2019, more than 135 countries with more than 42000 national and international delegates participated including Africa. The Summit also organized 355 B2B meetings and 260 B2G meetings.
* Africa Day was also organised during VIBRANT GUJARAT SUMMIT. More than 52 African countries participated. 12 Sectoral roundtables were also organised. Participants were visited to IT, Health and Textile clusters.
* **Gujarat and Botswana connection:**

Gandhi ji

Bank of Baroda

Gujarati Community in Botswana

Diamond- Surat and Botswana

\*\*\*\*