**High Commissioner Dr. Rajesh Ranjan’s speech on the occasion of**

**Sai student vision support programme on Sunday, 7th July 2019**

* **His Honour Mr. Slumber Tsogwane, Vice President of the Republic of Botswana**
* **Dr. S.K. Kadiyala, Trustee, Sathya SAI Centre Trust of Gaborone**
* **Mr. K Rao Nanduri, President, Sathya SAI Centre of Gaborone**
* **Protocol observed**
* **Fellow Doctors**
* **Media personnel**
* **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Morning & Dumela,**

1. **I am delighted today to be with you all on the occasion of annual Eye camp organized by Sathya Sai Centre of Gaborone. As we know that Blindness impacts quality of life. Visually impaired people are poorer in terms of assets, self-rated wealth and monthly expenditure and are less likely to engage in productive activities.**
2. **I would like to congratulate Sathya Sai Centre of Gaborone for conducting free medical consultation and medication on every Sunday between 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM since 2006. I would like to appreciate the dedication of the volunteers who are providing their care services from last more than 13 years.**

1. **Today the Sathya Sai faith is well established in 129 countries, over 1600 centres spreading the message of service with love in education and health services to the needy. Botswana facility was established by Sathya Sai Central Trust in 1999 by creating a community service centre in Gaborone.**
2. **Sathya Sai Global Health Mission of free health care is provided in over 30 countries around the globe. The services is rendered with humility, love and are. Facilities ranges from super specialty hospital in India, medical relief to victims of natural disasters, medical and dental clinics including mobile clinics and camps. Spiritual and religious wing of Sathya Sai Central Trust is called Sathya Sai Centre which conduct spiritual and service activities thrice a week, reaches out to poor and needy in various NGO’s SOS, orphanages around Gaborone to distribute food, clothing and other needed items.**
3. **Sai students Vision support Program which was started in 2015 as an outreach programme is one of our successful projects in Botswana by assisting school children in their vision check - up, free distribution of glasses and also to get check up by ophthalmologist wherever required. This facility is provided to the students mainly from Molepolole, as an annual event. These services and care are provided free to all the needy irrespective of caste, colour, country and religion as Bhagwan Baba’s mission fosters all people as one. This year Sathya Sai Centre have identified 5 schools which has covered more than 6000 students. To screen large volumes of students, a team of professional visited the schools and screened all 6000 students from which about 700 students have been found to have vision problems and have been invited for today’s eye camp.**
4. **India has a long standing close and multifaceted relationship with Botswana. India and Botswana have a very strong and unique friendship. Our mutually beneficial partnership, driven by our common interests, is a perfect example of South-South Cooperation.**
5. **Recently Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi has enunciated the 10 Guiding Principles for India’s Engagement with Africa which focused on African priorities, capacity building, skill development, agriculture, Health, trade, peacekeeping, security, youth development and representative & democratic global order in the global institution for India and Africa.**
6. **India’s cooperation with Botswana is based on “HEALTH” where H stands of Healthcare Cooperation, E for Economic cooperation & Experience sharing, A for Alternate Energy, L for Literature and Culture, T for Trade & Investment, Transfer of Technology and H for Human Resource Development.**
7. **Our development partnership with Botswana is guided by the priorities of Botswana and one of the important aspect of our cooperation is people to people contact and I would like to commend and appreciate the work of Sathya Sai Centre to enhance the people to people contact between India and Botswana by organizing such free clinics and eye camps and providing valuable medical services.**

**Thank You All**

**Pula**