



Republic of Botswana



Republic of Namibia

PRESS RELEASE

28TH SESSION OF THE BOTSWANA/NAMIBIA JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY, GABORONE, BOTSWANA

17TH – 21ST FEBRUARY 2020

1. The 28th Session of the Botswana/Namibia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security was held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 17th to 21st February 2020.
2. The delegation of the Republic of Botswana was led by Hon Thomas Kagiso MMUSI, Minister of Defence, Justice and Security. The delegation included Hon Kabo Neale Sechele MORWAENG, Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration; Hon Dr. Edwin DIKOLOTI, Minister of Agricultural Development and Food Security; and Hon Anna Maria MOKGETHI, Minister of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs; Mrs Matshidiso Dorcus BOKOLE, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security, chair of Senior Officials Meetings; Lt Gen Placid Diratsagae SEGOKGO, Commander of Botswana Defence Force; Mr Keabetswe MAKGOPHE, Commissioner of Botswana Police; Brig (Rtd) Peter Fana MAGOSI, Director General, Directorate of Intelligence and Security; Mr Silas MOTLALEKGOSI, Commissioner of Botswana Prison Service; and other senior officials.
3. The delegation of the Republic of Namibia was led by Hon Penda Ya NDAKOLO (MP), Minister of Defence. The delegation included Hon Maureen HINDA-MBUENDE (MP), Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration; Hon Daniel KASHIKOLA (MP), Deputy Minister of Safety and Security; Rear Admiral Peter H VILHO, Executive Director, Ministry of Defence, co-chair of the Senior Officials Meeting; Mr Etienne MARITZ, Executive Director of Home Affairs and Immigration; Air Vice Marshall (AVM) Martin K PINEHAS, Acting Chief of the Defence Force; Mr Benedict K LIKANDO, Director of Namibia Central Intelligence Service; Commissioner General Raphael T. HAMUNYELA, Namibian Correctional Service; Major General Oscar P EMBUBULU, Namibian Police Force; H.E. Asser KAPERER,

High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to Botswana and other senior officials.

4. The Commission appreciated the continued support by their Excellencies, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe MASISI, President of the Republic of Botswana, and Dr Hage Gottfried GEINGOB, President of the Republic of Namibia, for allowing the two (2) delegations to hold the 28th Session of the Commission.
5. The Botswana delegation congratulated His Excellency Dr Hage Gottfried GEINGOB, for having led the SWAPO Party to victory during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections, held on 27th November 2019.
6. The Namibia delegation congratulated His Excellency Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe MASISI, for having led the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) to victory during the General Elections held on 23rd October 2019.
7. The Commission noted the ruling of the Courts of Law following the General Elections held in the two countries. The Botswana delegation congratulated Namibia on the Pearl Anniversary (30 Years) of Independence and the Swearing-in of the 3rd President to be held on 21st March 2020.
8. The Commission reviewed the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations made during the 27th Session which was held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 22nd to 26th October 2018 and noted with satisfaction progress made since.
9. The Commission also deliberated on various political, economic, societal, environmental, defence and security issues, which have occurred in the two countries since the last Session, and in that regard, noted that harmony and stability continues to characterise the peaceful climate in the two countries.
10. During the Session, the Commission noted with concern the changing nature of crime, in particular cross border offences that are increasingly becoming complex with the advent of cybercrimes. This includes transnational organised crimes such as illegal possession of fire arms, illegal migration, smuggling of goods, as well as human and drug trafficking. The Commission undertook to remain resilient and robust in the fight against crime through collaboration at a multi-sectoral level.
11. The Commission noted with grave concern the escalation of incidences of poaching and associated wildlife crimes, and recalled that in 2019 alone, in Botswana thirty-six (36) rhinoceros were killed in poaching activities, while in Namibia, forty-five (45) were killed. In that regard, the Commission urged the relevant stakeholders to strengthen the capacity to combat poaching, in a coordinated manner through intelligence sharing.

12. The Commission noted that the two countries had during the period under review, experienced serious drought conditions which led to crop failure and huge livestock losses, adversely affecting the livelihood of a substantial number of farmers and communities. The Commission however, expressed gratitude at the recent rains that have since improved the situation.
13. The Commission commended Namibia on the launch of a new terminal at Walvis Bay which is expected to double the port's carrying capacity and will stimulate the economic development of the country, whilst among others easing the movement of people, goods and services within the region.
14. The Commission commends the two countries for signing the Memorandum of Agreement on Facilitation of Persons residing in Impalila Island and Kasika Villages. The Agreement will facilitate the movement of people living along the common border within a radius of twenty (20) kilometres by issuing them with border passes.
15. In addition, the Commission agreed to develop modalities and terms of reference for the use of National Identity Cards for cross border travel between the two countries.
16. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress on the signing of the Boundary Treaty and urged the parties to exchange the instruments of ratification by June 2020.
17. The Commission took note of the returning of former Namibian refugees who were at the Dukwi Refugee Camp back to Namibia. The exercise was successfully concluded and the Tripartite Commission was dissolved on the 8th October 2019. The Namibian delegation conveyed deep appreciation towards the Government and People of Botswana as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for their support and collaboration with the Government of Namibia during many years of relentless efforts to have the former Namibian refugees return home.
18. The Commission commended the excellent bilateral cooperation in the areas of Defence, Public Security and State Security as evidenced by regular convening of Sessions, which now stands at twenty-eight. Particular emphasis was placed on the successful implementation of outcomes and decisions, which have a bearing not only on our peaceful coexistence, but most importantly on the livelihood of the two peoples.
19. On regional matters, the Commission commended Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States that held peaceful elections since October 2018, in line with the 2015 Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

20. The Commission extended its congratulations to His Excellency Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe MASISI, as incoming Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation for the period 2020/2021. The Namibian delegation offered its full support and well wishes to the incoming Chair.
21. The Commission noted that Botswana and Namibia remain committed to the SADC Standby Force and pledged closer cooperation and readiness of the Force.
22. The Commission commended the steadfast move by the African Union in implementing the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) scheduled to come into operation on 2nd July, 2020.
23. The Commission expressed concern about the outbreak of the Covid-19 (Corona Virus) pandemic which has to date claimed many lives in China. The Commission agreed to cooperate and continue monitoring the situation by putting in place preventative measures at ports of entry to mitigate the spread of the pandemic.
24. The Namibian delegation expressed gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana for the warm reception and hospitality during their stay in Gaborone. The Republic of Namibia further extended an invitation to the Republic of Botswana for the 29th Session of the Namibia/Botswana Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security, to be held in the Republic of Namibia in 2020, on a date and venue to be communicated. Botswana accepted the invitation.
25. The 28th Session of the Botswana/Namibia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security was held in a friendly atmosphere that characterises the warm and cordial relations existing between the two Governments and People.