



Republic of Botswana

REF: MH 3/30/1 XVII (248)

05 March 2018

TO: All Media Houses

**PRESS RELEASE**

**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS- HONOURABLE DORCAS MAKGATO  
ATTENDS AFRICA HEALTHCARE WEEK AND THE ANNUAL COMMONWEALTH  
DAY COMMEMORATIONS**

The Minister of Health and Wellness, Honourable Dorcas Makgato is in London, United Kingdom to attend **Africa Healthcare Week from the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and the Annual Commonwealth Day commemorations from 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

1. **Africa Healthcare Week** provides exclusive networking opportunities and one-on-one meetings with senior ranking decision makers from top Hospitals, Government, Distributors, Dental Clinic Owners and more from across over 25 African countries. Therefore, this offers a platform for the ministry to network with other healthcare key players across the world and exchange notes on the industry's best practices.

The Conference will attract 120 high level speakers from among others Ministries of Health, Distributors, Hospital CEOs, Dental Clinics and Medical Clinic Owners. This will include streamed conference presentations and interactive panel discussions with Africa's leaders in healthcare. It is expected that the conference will also attract 600 key decision makers from Africa to network and do business with. Also around 700 booth exhibition will showcase the latest global innovation and solutions in healthcare.

2. **Annual Commonwealth Day commemorations and preparatory meetings for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting**

The Honourable Minister will meet with other Ambassadors to discuss the high level preparatory meetings for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) taking place in April, 2018. Eye health will form part of the discussions, an opportunity that the Commonwealth offers to radically improve eye health. This is an excellent opportunity for Botswana to share achievements and raise awareness on eye health. The eye care programme was initiated in

TELEPHONE: 363 2574  
FAX: 3170 155  
TELEGRAMS: RABONGAKA  
TELEX: 2818 CARE BD



Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS  
PRIVATE BAG 0038  
GABORONE

partnership with the office of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, Cambridge Global Health Partnership and PEEK Vision for Africa. Botswana is among the countries that have made significant progress in the eye health through the **PonoYame** Health Programme, which provides eye testing and treatment to every schoolchild in the country and aims to screen nearly half a million school children aged 6-16 for eyesight problems by 2020.

Additionally, these preparatory meetings are to ensure that countries are fully informed and have the opportunity to comment and map way forward and execute other important logistics ahead of CHOGM in April. Botswana will also get an update and comment on the time-sensitive opportunities to engage with forthcoming activities for Commonwealth Day (12<sup>th</sup> March 2018). The Minister will present on how Botswana is making innovative progress with vision akin to its success in the fight against HIV/ AIDS scourge.

The Assistant Minister of Health and Wellness, Honourable Dikgang Philip Makgalemele is the acting Minister from the **3<sup>rd</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

Thank you.

---

Doreen F. Motshegwa  
Chief Public Relations Officer  
For Permanent Secretary