



**REMARKS**

**BY**

**THE**

**HONOURABLE AGNES BASILLA TJONGARERO**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF AFCON 2027**

**MOA SIGNING**

**09 JUNE 2022**

**BOTSWANA, GABORONE**

*Hon. Tumiso Rakgare - Minister of Youth Empowerment, Gender, Sport, and Culture Development*

*His Excellency Asser Kapere, High Commissioner of Namibia in Botswana*

*Hon. Peggy Serame, Minister of Finance*

*Hon. Phildah Kereng, Minister of Environment and Tourism*

*Hon. Karabo Gare, Minister of Entrepreneurship*

*Hon. Molebatsi Molebatsi, Assistant Minister of Agriculture*

*Members of Parliament here present*

*His Worship the Mayor of Gaborone Hon. Austin Abraham*

*Acting Permanent Secretary Mr. Keabetswe Lesiela*

*Members of the Botswana Sport Commission present*

*Members of the BFA present*

*Members of the media*

*Distinguished invited guests*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

*Good Afternoon,*

It is indeed my singular honour to be with you this afternoon, to witness this unprecedented kick-starting of an ambitious but critical project between the two Nations. This event has been made possible by the two heads of states who met and agreed on the possible co-hosting of the two governments.

Subsequent to the meeting of the two heads of state the two governments agreed in February 2022 to co-host and ever since officials from the two countries have tirelessly been working to get us where we are today.

The agreement that we will sign today will signify the official collaboration between the two governments. It indeed has been an exciting and eventful time as the two government officials have worked in five months to get the necessary protocols in place for us to stand here today. There are documents that have been developed in the past five months, that includes the Memorandum of Agreement, the Terms of Reference for the Bid Technical Committee, The resource sharing proposal to name a few.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The officials have also conducted a preliminary assessment of existing facilities whilst waiting for CAF to release guidelines for developing a Bid document for the 2027 AFCON Finals.

Today we will sign the Memorandum of Agreement that will formerly facilitate the following, among others;

- a) Establish the Bid Technical Committee;
- b) Production of the Bid Document for submission to CAF in line with the set timelines.
- c) Lobbying for support from various International Structures;
- d) Development of a robust and appealing strategy that will secure the involvement of the private sector and other key stakeholders at the bid stage of the project to compliment the resource contributions of the two Governments; and

- e) Working through the formal bidding process for Botswana and Namibia with a view to secure the rights for the two (2) countries to jointly host the finals of the AFCON 2027.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The two governments have agreed to collaborate on a 60:40 resource sharing principle. That means that Botswana will contribute 60% of the resources needed for the project, and Namibia will contribute 40%. The same principle shall apply in sharing of proceeds and benefits of hosting AFCON 2027.

In the likely event we are successful in securing the rights to host the AFCON Finals, Namibia will host the Opening Ceremony and Botswana will host the Closing Ceremony and both the third place playoff and Final match. In this arrangement Botswana will host 24 of the 36 group stage matches, whilst Namibia will host 12. Botswana will host 5 of the 8 round of 16 matches, whilst Namibia hosts 3 matches. The quarter finals and the semi-finals will be shared equally between the two countries.

There will be a Bid Technical Committee established by both countries, with the Chairperson coming from Botswana and the Vice Chairperson from Namibia. The key objective of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Botswana and Namibia (BONA) Bid Committee “BONA 2027” is to work through the formal bidding process for Botswana and Namibia with a view to secure the rights for the two (2) countries to jointly host the finals of the 2027 AFCON.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

This will require the Committee to gain a full understanding of the bid process and requirements for the Africa Cup of Nations, precisely the edition to be celebrated in 2027 with a view to submit a seamless Bid document to CAF before the set deadline.

The committee will also be responsible for lobbying for support from various CAF affiliated structures. This will be conducted with full support of the political leadership of the two countries. I would like to take this opportunity to pledge this unconditional support from all levels of the political leadership of Botswana and Namibia.

### *Ladies and Gentlemen*

The lobbying has already started. His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi had a meeting with the CAF President Dr Motsepe on the margins of the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit that was held in Botswana in April 2022 and lobbied for his support. Similarly, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob met with CAF President Dr. Patrice Motsepe on the 12May 2022 upon his official visit to Namibia and lobbied for his support before the official opening of the COSAFA AGM.

Honourable Rakgare and I presented our plea for support to the Confederation of Southern African Football Associations' Executive Committee (COSAFA) on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in Windhoek. The response from COSAFA was promising to say the least. Our officials have presented their case to the AUSC Region 5 Executive Committee at a meeting held in Swakopmund on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and all the eight (8) countries pledged their support to this bid.

Before I conclude it is an honour to present to you the BONA2027 Bid Technical Committee.

- a) The Chairperson- Mr Ashford Mamelodi
- b) The Vice Chairperson – Mr. John Muinjo
- c) Football Expert (Botswana)-Mr Phazha Butale
- d) Football Expert (Botswana)-Mr Segolame Ramotlhwa
- e) Acting Director of Sport (Namibia) -Mr Irvine Ndjavera
- f) Director of Sport (Botswana) - Mr Imon Bogosi
- g) Botswana National Sport Commission - Mr Tuelo Serufho
- h) Football Expert (Namibia MSYNS) Mr. Timothy Tjongarero
- i) Botswana Football Association CEO - Mr Mfolo Mfolo
- j) Acting Secretary General (NFA) Ms. Jacqueline Gertze
- k) Football Expert (NFA) Mr. Tovey ||Hoebeb
- l) Secretariat to the Bid Technical Committee (Namibia) – Mr. Rogerdeltry Kambatuku

In conclusion, join me in wishing our Bid Technical Committee the best in their quest to deliver BONA2027.

I thank you.

PULA.