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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
P. O. BOX 240
GABORONE

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

8 July 2024

TO: All Media Houses

Attention: News Editors

PRESS RELEASE

CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (CSPOC) – AFRICA REGION

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana, Honourable Phandu Skelemani, who is the current Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the **Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) – Africa Region** will host the preparatory meeting **for the 19th CSPOC Conference**. This meeting will be held from the **8th to 10th July, 2024** in Gaborone at Hotel 430, in the Central Business District.

The Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) Africa Region is an organ established by Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers, irrespective of race, colour, religion or culture. They are united by common interest, respect for the rule of law and pursuit of the ideals of parliamentary democracy.

In the preparatory meeting, the organising committee consisting of seven Regional Speakers will propose subjects for discussion, dates, venues and procedures for the conference which will be held in 2025. The Speakers and Presiding Officers from the Parliaments of Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Seychelles are expected to grace this preparatory meeting.

The 19th CSPOC Conference that will take place in 2025, in Botswana is a biannual event that brings together Speakers and Presiding Officers of various parliaments in Africa to cross-fertilize ideas on issues of common interest.

The aims of the conference are to;

- Maintain, foster and encourage impartiality and fairness of Speakers and Presiding Officers of parliaments,
- Promote knowledge and understanding of parliamentary democracy in its various forms and the development of parliamentary institutions,
- Develop parliamentary institutions.

The membership of CSPOC is only open to Speakers and Presiding officers of National Parliaments of all independent sovereign states of the Commonwealth of Nations in the Africa Region.

For more information, kindly contact Public Relations Office on **3705588/506/523**.



Silas Sehularo
FOR/Clerk of the National Assembly