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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
P. O. BOX 240  
GABORONE

20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

TO: All Media Houses  
Attention: News Editors

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **ATTENDANCE OF THE 64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS) PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE OACPS-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY UNDER THE SAMOA AGREEMENT**

Member of Parliament for Kgalagadi South, **Honourable Sam J. Brooks** and Member of Parliament for Ngami, **Honourable Caterpillar K. Hikuama** are in Luanda, attending the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Parliamentary Assembly and the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly under the Samoa Agreement. The meetings are taking place from the 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024. The delegation departed for Luanda Angola on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

Botswana signed the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement (Samoa Agreement) in December 2023. The Samoa Agreement is rooted in the long history of cooperation between the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the European Union (EU), and their respective Member States. It is based on the shared values of respect for human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance.

The OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly is expected to discuss and exchange views on the new Partnership Agreement, established by the Samoa Agreement. The meetings are to be held under the theme '***A New Dawn in OACPS-EU Relations: Towards a People-Led Partnership***'.

The OACPS Parliamentary Assembly, Constitutive meetings of three regional Parliamentary Assemblies (Africa-EU, Caribbean-EU, and Pacific-EU) and the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly will take place during the Assembly.

Members of the European Parliament will meet their counterparts to launch the new joint institutions and to celebrate the entering into force of the Samoa Agreement, signed on 15 November 2023, replacing the Cotonou agreement adopted in 2000 and the former Lomé Convention of 1975.

The Honourable Members are expected to return to Gaborone, Botswana on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024.

For more information contact Public Relations Office on 3616869/3705588/506/522/523.



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Silas Sehularo

**FOR/ Clerk of the National Assembly**