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World Day against Human Trafficking Commemoration

30 July 2015

Kediretsewe Primary School, Palapye

Media Briefing

The SADC Secretariat, in collaboration with the Government of Botswana through the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), will commemorate the World Day against Human Trafficking at Kediretsewe Primary School grounds in Palapye on Thursday 30th July 2015.

Human trafficking is a monstrous crime that has been reported across the globe. The combating of this crime is a priority for countries around the world, and this is evidenced by the adoption, in 2000, of the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime*, and its supplementing protocol on human trafficking, the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children*. The Convention entered into force on 29 September 2003, while the Protocol entered into force on 25 December 2003, having attained the required number of Member States ratification. All 15 SADC Member States are parties to both the Convention and the Protocol showing their commitment to join the global drive to combat the scourge.

At the regional level, SADC Member States adopted the *10 Year SADC Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2009-2019)* in 2009. The Strategic Plan of Action details the priority areas that the Member States identified as critical in their fight against this egregious crime that has resulted in the victims of trafficking being scared physically and emotionally forever. To date, 13 SADC Member States, including Botswana, have developed legislation criminalising the practice. Member States are also implementing programmes to raise public awareness on human trafficking.

The World Day against Human Trafficking, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, intends to raise public awareness on human trafficking, as well as “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.” The objectives of the World Day against Human Trafficking commemoration this year include:

- Raise the public’s awareness on human trafficking in Botswana and the SADC region;
- Stimulate debate and build knowledge on human trafficking in the country; and
- Raise awareness on the country’s *Anti-Human Trafficking Act, No.32 of 2014*, and related legislation.

The national commemoration will be held under the theme “*Human Trafficking is Real: Do Not Become a Victim!*” The Assistant Minister of Education and Skills Development, Mr Moiserale Goya, who is also the Member of Parliament for Palapye, will be the Guest of Honour at the commemoration. The commemoration will also be graced by, among others, Mr Jorge Cardoso, Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs at the SADC Secretariat; Ms Zhuldyz Akisheva, who is the Regional Representative for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and Mr Jocelin Cornet, the Head of Section for Regional Cooperation with SADC, European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC.

The programme will start with an awareness march at 0730hrs and will finish at 1400hrs.

Contact details

For further information, please contact:

- Moore Keetile Gondo, mgondo@gov.bw; tel: +267 3698208 / +267 733 18 994 (mobile);
- Jacinta Hofnie, jhofnie@sadc.int; tel: +267 364 1617 or +267 760 74 502 (mobile);
- Samantha Mundeta, samantha.mundeta@unodc.org; tel: +27 12 432 0820 / 0827 or +27 83 215 8528 (mobile).