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GABORONE

BOTSWANA

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

ALL CORRESPONDENCE MUST BE ADDRESSED TO
THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry

PRESS RELEASE

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**SIGNING OF THE COMESA-EAC-SADC TRIPARTITE FREE TRADE AREA
(TFTA) AGREEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND
INDUSTRY, HONOURABLE VINCENT T. SERETSE**

The Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Honourable Vincent T. Seretse will be signing the Agreement establishing the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - the East African Community - Southern African Development Community (COMESA-EAC-SADC) Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement on the 30th January 2018 at Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry in Gaborone at 0830 hours.

The Tripartite Free Trade Area comprise of 26 countries from the three (3) Regional Economic Communities of COMESA, the EAC and SADC. The Tripartite Free Trade Area consists of a combined population of nearly 625 million people and a total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of approximately US\$1.3 trillion, accounting for almost half the membership of the African Union and 60 percent of the Continent Gross Domestic Product.

The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) aims to boost intra-African trade through the creation of a wider market, increased investment flows, enhanced competitiveness and development of cross-regional infrastructure. The TFTA serves as a building block for the completion of the Continental Free Trade Area. The signing of the TFTA Agreement will enable Botswana to access the market from the Tripartite Area which is 57% of Africa's population.

For any queries or requests for clarification contact the Chief Public Relations Officer
Mr Kaelo Kaelo on 3601200 or through email on kkaelo@gov.bw.



Peggy O. Serame
Permanent Secretary