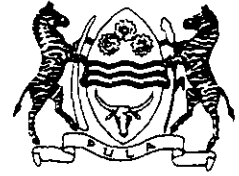


REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MS. HALAKANGWA MBULAI  
DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 8: "FUTURE WORK OF THE PERMANENT FORUM,  
INCLUDING MATTERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
AND EMERGING ISSUES"**

**AT THE  
'TWELFTH SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS  
ISSUES"**

**30 May, 2013**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

Botswana has a three-tier land tenure system being Tribal (Customary) Land, State Land and Freehold Land. Customary Land has progressively increased overtime from 49% to over 70% through conversion of State land and Freehold land. The majority of the people depend on customary land mostly through subsistence farming. State land constitutes approximately 25% and comprises mainly Game Reserves, Forest Reserves, Farms, National Parks and urban centers, while freehold land is about 4% and is mainly commercial pastoral farms. Each of the land tenure systems is administered and managed under the respective institutional, legal and policy framework.

The overall objective of Botswana Land Policy is to ensure that all eligible citizens have the opportunity to access and use the land , and that the ownership of land is in the hands of citizens.

A balanced approach is also followed to ensure that land administration and management takes into account sustainable development and economic diversification imperatives. The balance between social, economic and environmental needs promotes justice and equity in the utilization of land resources.

The Government of Botswana extends special dispensation to the disadvantaged members of the communities including women, youth, orphans, the urban poor and Remote Area Communities.

Periodically, Government embarks on public education and sensitization of all citizens, including Remote Are Communities on land allocation and use for residential, arable and for other purposes to contribute to improvement of their economic well being.

The Government of Botswana has also adopted important measures to enhance the level of understanding amongst communities with regard to Land Boards processes and standards that need to be followed when submitting applications for leases of title deeds. The information on these procedures is publicly availed through community outreach programmes, and education on land issues.

The standard waiting period for land allocation in RACs is one month, following submission of application for lease, irrespective of type of use, as compared to a period which will extend beyond two months for other Batswana who are not residing in RACs. This is one of the initiatives and special dispensation under the Affirmative Action Framework.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Botswana has recently concluded a review of the natural land use map, with the main objective being rationalization of land use in line with the prevailing demands, as well as the need to strike a balance between natural resource conservation and human requirements. This was a widely consultative process that took into consideration local authority concerns and proposals.

One area that has already benefited from the rationalization exercise is Ranyane. This is an informal settlement located in the Ghanzi District close to its border with the northern part of Kgalagadi District. As of the 2011 census it had a total population of 182, up from 94 in the 2001 census. While the review of land use resulted in the realignment of land use boundaries, the area within which Ranyane falls retained its initial zoning as a wildlife corridor. This area is also an important breeding site for wildlife and thus the requirement that it be left as pristine as possible.

In 2012 and early part of 2013 there has been intensive consultations between local authorities and Ranyane residents, including five kgotla meetings, in which some residents indicated a desire to relocate elsewhere. A total of 31 households, representing just over 100 residents have so far registered a desire to be facilitated in relocating, with 26 households expressing a desire to be assisted in moving to Bere, 4 to Chobokwane and 1 family to New Xanagas.

There are other families at Ranyane who have indicated their desire to remain. The Government of Botswana has no plans to remove those who wish to remain and continue to stay at Ranyane.