

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE PERMANENT SECRETARY (MTI) -
PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE MEETING, 17-19 NOVEMBER 2014**

- Head of EU Delegation for Botswana and SADC, Ambassador Alexander Baum;
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Micus Chimbombi;
Head of CDE Regional Office for Southern Africa, Mr. Sid Boubekour;
Chief Executive Officers;
Ambassadors here present;
International Organisations that made time to come to Botswana;
Champions of Industry; all protocol observed,
Ladies and Gentlemen;
Good Morning;
- It is my honour to welcome you all to this very important meeting that will discuss the Botswana's beef value chain which we all know that it is important for Botswana's rural population and it is an important source of export earnings;
- That is why as a Ministry responsible for diversifying the economy of Botswana, we saw it necessary to have beef as one of the strategic sector to be promoted to support the country's Economic Diversification Drive (EDD);
- In promoting the beef sector, the Ministry of Trade & Industry through the EDD recommended that a value chain analysis and development be conducted in order to give a clear picture of where we have a comparative & competitive edge such that the small and medium enterprises can tap

on, and what can be done to address bottlenecks if identified;

- This value chain analysis and Development has been undertaken by CDE and the International Trade Centre (ITC) in the framework of the Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP) which the findings will be shared with us today;
- Ladies and Gentlemen, this value chain analysis and Development that we have undertaken is in line with our regional commitments at Southern African Customs Union (SACU), whereby the five Member States being Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa have agreed that Beef sector is a priority in the region;
- As such Member States have agreed to develop cross border value chains where each country should identify an area where it has a comparative and competitive edge;
- Also, as you all know, the SADC-EPA negotiations have just been concluded, and the European Union has offered the SADC Member States duty free quota free market access in all the products which beef is one of them;
- Hence, this meeting is coming at the right time where as a country we need to prepare ourselves and build capacities in areas where we feel we can benefit from;
- With this remarks, I will like to welcome you all to this meeting and wish you fruitful discussions.
- I THANK YOU!