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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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TO: All Media Houses
The Editor

PRESS RELEASE

Brief update on Discussions in Germany and the European Parliament on Banning the Import of Legally Harvested Wildlife

1. The Government of Republic of Botswana wishes to express its concern regarding the current campaign in Germany and at European level. The campaign calls for an import ban on hunting trophies of legally harvested wildlife, majority of which are coming from Africa, and is addressing Her Excellency the German Minister of Environment and representatives of the European Parliament. The list of targeted wildlife includes all species that are on the Botswana hunting quota, thus directly affecting trophies.
2. The importation ban of legally harvested wildlife trophies will negatively impact wildlife authorities including professional hunting associations and community-based support organizations from across Africa, thereby drastically reducing hunting incentives for German and other European Citizens to hunt abroad, primarily in Africa.
3. Botswana has accomplished much for conservation through hunting. Communities continue to generate considerable revenues through special elephant quotas. During the 2021/22 hunting season, P27 million was raised and subsequently used to finance elephant

conservation projects and livelihood-enhancement projects for communities in Botswana's elephant range.

4. It is therefore crucial for Botswana to continue spreading its message on the conservation benefits of its Community Base Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) model. Furthermore, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) utilize the latest in population science, wildlife survey data, and fair-chase guidelines when overseeing hunting operations.
5. Forcing Botswana and other African nations to manage their wildlife with reduced funding will hurt our conservation projects, biodiversity enhancement initiatives, and habitat protection in the region. It will also increase the risk of poaching and human-wildlife conflict, negatively impacting for example the largest herd of elephants that Botswana supports.
6. This false narrative that sustainable and regulated hunting poses a threat to species has no scientific basis and misleads the world at large.

