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REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PRIVATE BAG 008
GABORONE

5th May 2020

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Honourable Ministers,
GABORONE

Dear Colleagues,

RE: REQUEST FOR INPUT TO COVID-19 ECONOMIC STIMULUS

1. My Ministry has commenced work on the preparation of the **Economic Stimulus** for the country post Corona virus pandemic. It will be recalled that, prior to the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, government had laid out a roadmap on the transformation of the economy from upper middle to high income status, as pronounced in various policy statements such as the 2019 State of the Nation Address and the annual Budget Speech of 2020. The transformation roadmap was further unpacked in the draft Strategic Thrusts and Initiatives developed by Cabinet at its Cabinet Retreat held at Manong Game Lodge on 23-24 November 2019.
2. While the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic slowed down the roll out of the implementation of the transformation roadmap, it also provided an opportunity for us to reflect deeply on the structure of our economy, which was exposed by the disease pandemic. Admittedly, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed our vulnerabilities as a country, economy and people. It is against this background that the envisaged Economic Stimulus should not only focus on reviving the existing businesses, but go further to address the challenges of the structure of our economy once and for all.

3. It is in this context that I request for your inputs into the process of developing the **Economic Stimulus Plan**. Every sector is expected to submit its contribution, underpinned by the priorities such as economic citizen empowerment and promotion of small, micro and middle enterprises (SMMEs), among others. The allocation of financial resources under the Economic Stimulus Plan to various sectors will be determined by the extent to which the medium term plans and priorities for your ministries and sectors are aligned to the transformation agenda, and indeed, citizen economic empowerment. Although not conclusive we envisage a cluster approach along the following lines; (1) Economic Cluster (Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security); (2) Infrastructure Cluster (Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing Development, Ministry of Transport and Communication (3) Education Cluster – Ministry of Basic Education, Ministry of Tertiary Education Resources, Science and Technology, Ministry Local Government and Rural Development. Local Government Cluster and Health Cluster; Presidential Affairs Cluster includes; Ministry of Employment, Labour Productivity and Skills Development); to attend to Civil Service and Private Sector employment; Immigration Cluster includes Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation.
4. We would appreciate to receive your contributions by 15 May 2020 for us to consolidate the Government-wide economic stimulus programme post-Corona, and advise Cabinet accordingly.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Thapelo Matsheka

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT