



INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BY

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**MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY,
BOTSWANA**

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GABORONE, BOTSWANA

Your Excellency, The President of the Republic of Botswana and Chairperson of the SACU Summit of Heads of State or Government, Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi;

Honourable Peggy O. Serame, Chairperson of the SACU Council of Ministers;

Honourable Ministers and Members of the SACU Council;

Your Excellency Mr Wamkele Mene - Secretary General of the AfCFTA Secretariat;

Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, Executive Secretary of SACU;

Your Excellencies Members of the diplomatic corps;

Captains of industry and Sector representatives;

Distinguished Guests and Panellists,

Senior Government Officials;

Officials of the SACU Secretariat;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all.

1. Let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to this premier Investment Roundtable, the first of its kind for the SACU region with Gaborone, Botswana as the host.
2. I am entrusted with an easy but yet a daunting task of introducing and welcoming His Excellency, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi. I wish to highlight to you your Excellency, that since 2019, the SACU Council has continued to advance the implementation of its Work Programme. Following the 4th Ministerial Retreat held in September 2020, the Council agreed on a refocused Work Programme on Industrialisation. This would be achieved through the development of regional value chains, investment attraction and export promotion, trade facilitation and logistics as well as the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
3. Your Excellency, the current focus on industrialisation is in line with the SACU Agreement, 2002, whose main objective is to enhance the economic development, diversification, industrialisation and competitiveness of the five SACU Member States. Regional industrialisation is seen as the main vehicle through which the SACU region can transform its economies and generate sustainable growth, employment and reduce poverty.

4. To advance the work on Industrialisation, the SACU Member States have successfully convened a series of five (5) Sectoral Roundtables in 2021 covering Leather and Leather products, Meat and Meat products, Fruits and Vegetables, Textiles and Clothing, and Cosmetics and Essential Oils. The Sectoral Roundtables were a precursor to this Ministerial Investment Roundtable.
5. I am also grateful that His Excellency, our President has accepted our invitation to grace this Investment Roundtable.
6. Allow me to introduce to you, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Botswana, Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, the current Chairperson of the SACU Summit of Heads of State or Government, who will be delivering the **Keynote Address and Official Opening**, for the **INVESTMENT ROUNDTABLE**.
7. Your Excellency, you may now take the podium and deliver your Keynote Address.
8. I thank you all for your attention.