



Republic of Botswana

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **State Visit to Botswana by the President of the Republic of South Sudan, His Excellency General Salva Kiir Mayardit**

**Gaborone, 21 June 2013** – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to inform that the President of the Republic of South Sudan, His Excellency General Salva Kiir Mayardit will undertake a three day State Visit to Botswana from the 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013, at the invitation of His Excellency Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana.

The two leaders will hold official talks on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 where they are expected to deliberate on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. While in Botswana, His Excellency President Mayardit's programme will include addressing a Business Seminar on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 as well as officially opening the Mmadinare Senior Secondary on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Botswana and South Sudan have enjoyed excellent bilateral relations which date back to the formative years of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)'s struggle for self determination and independence from Sudan. Botswana became one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with South Sudan on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011, the very same day, when South Sudan's attained independence from Sudan. The visit will therefore serve to further strengthen and deepen cooperation and collaboration between the two countries for the mutual benefit of the people of Botswana and South Sudan.

His Excellency President Mayardit will be accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; the Office of the

President; National Security; Health; Commerce, Industry & Investment; Animal Resources & Fisheries; Deputy Minister of General Education and the Ambassador of South Sudan to Botswana, as well as other Senior Government Officials. The delegation departs on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

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*'Promoting Botswana's Interests Abroad'*

