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## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

### **PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT REFORM**

#### ***PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (PEFA) REPEAT ASSESSMENT FOR BOTSWANA***

A Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) repeat assessment for Botswana, started on April 23, 2013 with a high level sensitization meeting followed by a 2 day workshop with participants from key Ministries of the Government of Botswana and some Parastatal organizations. The exercise is financially supported by the European Union. In his opening remarks, the Secretary for Development and Budget in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (who is also the Chairman of PFM Reforms Steering Committee), Mr. Cornelius Dekop, highlighted that the assessment is part of the country's Public Finance Management (PFM) Reform Programme that is under implementation. He also indicated that the PFM Reform programme is part of the larger Public Sector Reform and modernization initiative.

The Government of Botswana is committed to improving its public financial management system and has therefore put in place an extensive Public Finance Management Reform Programme in July 2010. This is based on the results of the first PEFA assessment that was undertaken by the country in 2008. This programme has laid the conditions for enduring and sustained implementation of the PFM reforms. As the programme is now in its third year of implementation the Government and development partners felt it was imperative and the right time to re-assess the PEFA scores from the 2008 PEFA report, in order to identify progress and challenges remaining.

The core of PEFA consists of the analysis of indicators which are referred to as "high level", because they cover the six essential dimensions to be analysed in an evaluation of public financial management. These dimensions are: Credibility of the budget; Comprehensiveness and transparency; Policy-based budgeting; Predictability and control in budget execution; Accounting, recording, and reporting; External scrutiny and audit.

The Head of the EU Delegation to Botswana, Ambassador Gerard McGovern emphasized that "*the review exercise being launched this week under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning reflects well on the commitment of Botswana to improve its public finance management system.*"

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