



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja

Press Release

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NIGERIA COMMISERATES WITH BOTSWANA ON THE PASSING OF FORMER PRESIDENT FESTUS MOGAE

The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, extends heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana following the passing of former President Festus Gontebanye Mogae, who died at the age of 86.

The Federal Government of Nigeria received with profound sadness the news of the passing of the distinguished African statesman, renowned economist, and former leader whose tenure as Botswana's President from 1998 to 2008 was widely recognised for promoting good governance, economic stability, democratic consolidation, and social development.

Nigeria joins the people of Botswana in mourning the loss of a leader whose commitment to public service and principled leadership contributed significantly to Botswana's reputation as one of Africa's most stable democracies. Former President Mogae's statesmanship, humility, and dedication to national development earned him admiration across the African continent and the international community.

Nigeria particularly acknowledges the late President's courageous leadership in confronting the HIV/AIDS crisis during a critical period in Botswana's history. His administration's comprehensive response to the epidemic demonstrated visionary leadership and reaffirmed the importance of placing human dignity and public welfare at the centre of governance. The Federal Government of Nigeria also recognises former President Mogae's contributions beyond Botswana, including his continued service to peacebuilding and regional stability efforts in Africa, particularly his role in supporting peace processes on the continent after leaving office.

Nigeria and Botswana enjoy cordial bilateral relations founded on mutual respect, African solidarity, democratic values, and shared aspirations for peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. Therefore, at this moment of national

mourning in Botswana, the Government and people of Nigeria stand in solidarity with the Government and people of Botswana and pray for strength and comfort for the bereaved family and the nation during this difficult period.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebiefa, anipr
Spokesperson,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja.
Friday, 8 May 2026**