

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**THE PRESIDENCY**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)*

**13 March 2019**

**Windhoek**

**All Media**

**Presidency clarifies private meeting between President Hage G. Geingob and former President of Botswana, H.E Ian Serêtsê Khama, emphasizes that it was a conversation between friends and not a SADC mediation mission**

On 1-2 February 2019, the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob undertook in his capacity as Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) a familiarization visit to the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone. In addition to interactions with the leadership and staff of the SADC Secretariat, President Geingob paid a courtesy visit on the President of the Republic of Botswana, H.E Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi.

Respecting relevant procedures on protocol, President Geingob requested to have outside the formal programme, private meetings with his friends, the former Presidents of the Republic of Botswana, Excellencies Festus Gontebanye Mogae and Lieutenant General Ian Serêtsê Khama.

Due to the unavailability of President Mogae, who was out of town, President Geingob met on 2 February 2019 with President Ian Khama. It is correct to state that in addition to other topics under conversation, the two leaders discussed political developments in the Republic of Botswana. However, the objective was not mediation with the view to seeking solutions, but a conversation between friends.

On developments in the Republic of Botswana, the Chairperson of SADC, President Geingob states: "There is no crisis in Botswana. There is no need for the SADC Chair to intervene. Botswana is the oldest multiparty democracy in Africa, and has enjoyed decades of political stability and progress."

The Presidency emphasizes that the meeting with President Khama was neither an official SADC mission, nor a mediation effort where the Offices of the SADC Chair were deployed or mobilized on any matter.

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