

**CLOSING REMARKS**  
**BY**  
**Honourable Ronald Shamukuni**  
**Member of Parliament Chobe**  
**HATAB Annual Conference**  
**28<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Kasane**

**The Vice President, His Honour Mr. Mokgweetsi Masisi  
and Mme Mma Masisi**  
**HATAB Chairman, Dr Thapelo Matsheka**  
**Keynote Speaker, Ms.Thembekile Kunene**  
**Kgosi –Tshegofatso Samoka**  
**Members of the Diplomatic Corps**  
**HATAB CEO , Ms Lily Rakorong**  
**Senior government Officials**  
**Representatives from the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority**  
**Captains of the industry**  
**Members of the media Present**  
**Distinguished Guests,**  
**Ladies and gentleman**

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the organizers and sponsors of this conference, it is indeed my pleasure to make a few closing remarks and express gratitude to all those who made this event a success.

At this juncture please allow me to thank the Vice President Honourable Mokgweetsi Masisi, for sparing his time to give the official opening and setting the tone for this conference. His patience and unparalleled commitment to appreciate the tourism sector deserves applause and a befitting recognition.

Keynote Speaker, Ms. Thembi Kunene Tourism Service Executive ,Cape Town Tourism; South Africa, thank you for gracing this important conference and I believe we will benchmark from the presentation that you made today to take our industry forward.

Bagaetsho! Let me take this opportunity again to thank HATAB Chairman Dr Thapelo Matsheka, Executive Committee, HATAB members and the secretariat for

choosing Kasane. I am informed that this year's conference attracted over 150 delegates.

Once again am confident that you are all aware that Kasane is the premium tourism destination. Kasane has been doing very well for the past years despite the challenges that come up with the industry and I believe those challenges formed part of today's resolutions. Kasane has everything that a destination can offer, however there is still potential for other developments to be made so as to make Kasane the tourism destination.

Ladies and gentleman tourism is now one of the world's largest industries and one of the fastest growing economic sector, for many countries it is seen as a main instrument for country development as it stimulate new economic activities through foreign exchange, employment, multiplier effect. I believe through initiatives such as this conference, we will as a nation harness better returns on this sector.

Moving forward I am confident that the success of this industry depends entirely upon everyone here and perhaps the time is right, for us to devise a new thrust so as to explore this sector. Today being given this platform as a representative of this constituency , I would like to invite all investors here, to come back and explore opportunities in Kasane and to make it a better destination as the theme of this conference already state being 'The Role of Tourism

Sector in Expanding Economic Opportunities in Botswana”.

We all know, actions speaks louder than words, so as we walk away from this conference with plans to meet again next year, we each have a responsibility in moving our agenda forward. We must not only wish for growth but our actions must mirror that desire for this industry’s growth.

Once again I wish to express deep and sincere appreciation to HATAB for hosting this important forum to help address and shape future direction of Botswana Tourism.

With these remarks, I declare this conference officially closed and I would like to wish us all safe travel back home.

Pula !!!!!