

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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18 JUL 2013

Recipients SPD
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10 July 2013

Excellencies,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Joint Letter dated 8 July 2013, regarding the allegations on the arbitrary denial to register an organization aiming to work for the defence, and promotion of human rights for all.

The Joint Letter has been sent to the relevant authorities in Botswana to respond to the allegations and to address your concerns.

In the meantime I wish to inform you Excellencies that following the review of my country under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism in January 2013, Government engaged stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights, including LEGABIBO on issues of LGBTIs. Subsequent to that, the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security did respond to questions posed to him regarding the LGBTI issues during the adoption of my country's UPR Report in June and expressed his intentions to engage further with the founders of the LEGABIBO.

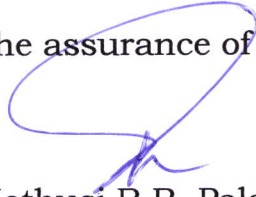
As we speak, Government in collaboration with Ditshwanelo- Centre for Human Rights in Botswana, are working on the National Human Rights Action Plan that seeks to help address human rights issues in Botswana.

His Excellency Maina Kiai
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Her Excellency Margaret Sekagya
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva, Switzerland

With this information, I wish to reassure you, on my behalf and that of my Government, of our commitment to continue to work with you and all other UN mechanisms, as well as civil society, in our efforts to promote human rights in Botswana.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Mothusi B.R. Palai

Ambassador and Permanent Representative