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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

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TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

### PRESS RELEASE

## LIFTING OF MORATORIUM ON APPLICATIONS FOR MINERAL PERMITS FOR SAND MINING IN THE MAHALAPYE AREA

**Gaborone, 01 December 2025** The Ministry of Minerals and Energy wishes to inform members of the Media and the general public that the suspension of applications for Minerals Permit for sand mining in Mahalapye and its surrounding areas has been lifted.

The lifting of the moratorium comes into effect on **01 December 2025**. The Ministry will therefore start receiving applications for mineral concessions in the Mahalapye area from this date.

The lifting of the suspension of applications follows the completion of the study conducted to assess the extent of the environmental impact from sand mining along the Mahalapye river system, and the availability of the sand resource. Conclusions from the study are that certain portions along the river have resources adequate to be mined, hence the lifting for those areas.

Members of the public and the business community are further advised that, in order to ensure sustainable management of the resource, applications for Mineral Permits **along the Mahalapye River** will be restricted to portions of the River where the resource is available in sufficient quantities. The areas along the Mahalapye River that are open for applications are indicated in **red** on the map herewith attached.

For more enquiries, please contact the Ministry's Public Relations Unit at +267 3656698/46 and/or the Director of Mines at 3657000.

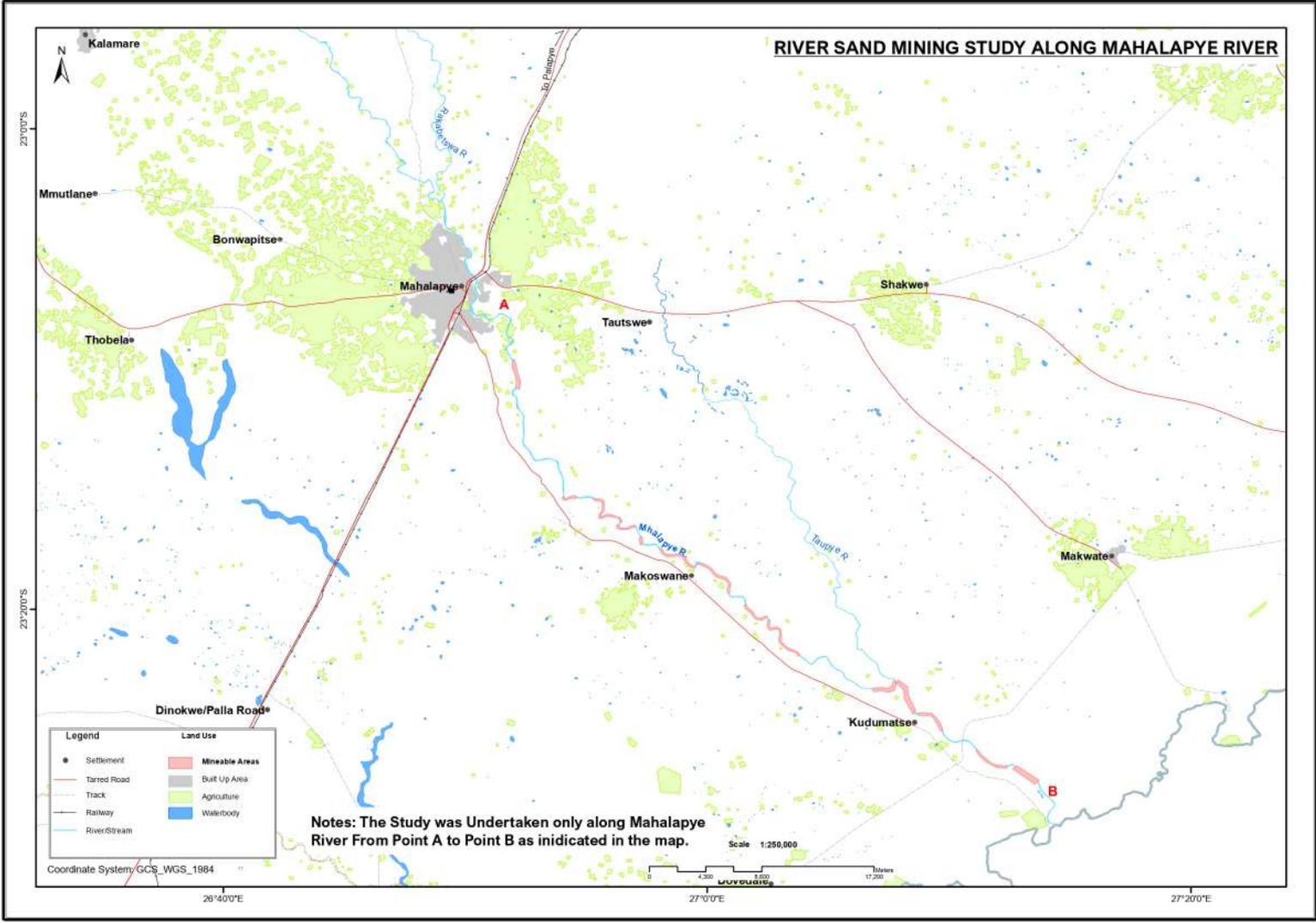
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neo D. Sealetsa', written over a horizontal line.

Neo D. Sealetsa  
**For/ Permanent Secretary**

"The Ministry that makes a real difference to Botswana"

**RIVER SAND MINING STUDY ALONG MAHALAPYE RIVER**



Legend	
● Settlement	Land Use
— Tanned Road	Mineable Areas
— Track	Built Up Area
— Railway	Agriculture
— River/Stream	Waterbody

Notes: The Study was Undertaken only along Mahalapye River From Point A to Point B as indicated in the map.

Scale 1:250,000

Coordinate System: GCS\_WGS\_1984  
 26°40'0"E      27°0'0"E      27°20'0"E  
 23°20'0"S      23°0'0"S