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BGCIS 9/9/2 II (5)

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PRESIDENT BOKO TO PARTICIPATE AT THE 39TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

GABORONE, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026: President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, will attend the 39<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, on 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> February 2026, in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session will be held under the theme: "Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063." The theme elevates water and sanitation as strategic priorities for Africa's socio-economic transformation, climate resilience, public health and stability. The Summit is also expected to deliberate on issues pertaining to peace and security, governance and the African Union institutional reform.

As current Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), President Boko will also host a High-Level Press Briefing where he will present the findings of the 2025 Africa Malaria progress Report, and call for enhanced efforts and strengthened commitment, in the work being undertaken by the Continent and international partners, to realise a malaria-free Africa by 2030. In addition, on the margins of the Summit, President Boko will hold a series of High-Level Bilateral meetings with his counterparts aimed at strengthening diplomatic relations and promoting Botswana's national and regional interests.

The Summit will be preceded by the 48<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council which will take place on, 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Botswana will be represented at this Session by Honourable Dr. Phenyio Butale, Minister of International Relations, who in his capacity as the Chairperson of the African Union Ministerial Committee on Candidatures, will Chair the Ministerial Committee Meeting which will decide on several African Candidatures.

President Boko will be accompanied by Mrs. Kaone Boko, First Lady of the Republic of Botswana and will return to Gaborone on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026. In his absence, the Vice President Mr. Ndaba Nkosinathi Gaolathe will assume the role of Acting President of the Republic of Botswana.

**Government Communications**

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Thank you.

