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MINISTRY OF FINANCE
PRIVATE BAG 008
GABORONE

7 January 2026

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

**VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF FINANCE ATTENDS THE
INAUGURAL LAUNCH OF THE STRATEGIC DIALOGUES OF THE AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB) GROUP AND UNDERTAKES A WORKING VISIT
TO GEORGIA**

The Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr. Ndaba Nkosinathi Gaolathe, has travelled to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, where he is attending the inaugural Strategic Dialogues of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, taking place today, 7 January 2026.

The Vice President and Minister of Finance will also hold bilateral engagements with the President of the African Development Bank Group, Dr. Sidi Ould Tah. The discussions will focus on extending the Bank's technical support and capacity-building assistance to accelerate the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), as well as exploring innovative financing solutions that can be deployed at scale to support Botswana's development priorities. The meeting will also explore collaboration with the AfDB on the possible establishment of a Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Industrialisation Fund, following an assignment by SACU for Botswana and South Africa Ministers of Finance to engage the Bank on this initiative.

Following the engagements in Abidjan, the Vice President and Minister of Finance will proceed to Tbilisi, Georgia for a working visit from 12 to 15 January 2026. Georgia has been identified as a country with effective funding architecture, particularly in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, innovation, and productive sectors. During the visit, the Vice President and Minister of Finance will engage with Ministers and senior government officials on the design and implementation of Georgia's funding systems, to inform Botswana's ongoing efforts to restructure and strengthen its financing architecture in support of private sector growth and job creation.

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The Vice President and Minister of Finance is expected back in Botswana on 16 January 2026.

For more information, please contact the Public Relations Office on 395 01300.

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