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# ***Vision 2016 Council***

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**To: All Botswana Media**

**From: Publicity Manager  
Vision 2016 Council**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004**

**SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTIONS – 2004**

**The Vision 2016 Council calls upon all Batswana who have registered to vote in the forthcoming general elections on Saturday, to exercise their constitutional right and go to the polling stations around the country to vote in large numbers, for representatives of their choice at both Council and Parliamentary levels.**

**It is through a high voter turnout that citizens of any country can proudly acclaim to be a democracy. We therefore, as a nation that prides itself to democratic principles, have a responsibility to make this a reality. By so doing, we will be cementing our Vision 2016 goal of being an open, democratic and accountable nation.**

**The theme of the Vision 2016 Awareness month held in September this year was, “Vision 2016 Ke Yame, Ke tsaya Boikarabelo.” This was and still is a clarion call for all to take responsibility for the realisation of the Vision and this includes voting in general elections such as this weekend’s elections.**

**In the words of the first President of our republic, the late Sir Seretse Khama, “Democracy, like a little plant, does not grow or develop on its own. It must be nursed and nurtured if it is to grow and flourish.” These words of wisdom should more than encourage us to go all out to vote in large numbers.**

**The Council urges Batswana to exercise patience and restraint during the process of elections to allow for the smooth running of this mammoth task.**

**Finally the Council takes this opportunity to congratulate all political parties for having conducted their campaigns in a civilized manner, and further urges contestants to be magnanimous in both victory and defeat.**

**MOOKODI MODIMOOSI SEISA**

