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Republic of Botswana

NOTE NO: 22, EA 4/9/9 X1 (58)

The Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana presents its compliments to all resident Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations in Botswana and wishes to share the contents of a Press Statement released on the 19th October 2016 by the Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs informing the general public that it has imposed requirements for minors (children under 18) travelling through the country's ports of entry.

It states that, effective from the 1st October 2016 minors travelling through the country's borders will be required to produce certified copies of unabridged birth certificates in addition to their valid passports. In the event that one parent is not travelling with the child, the other parent's affidavit consenting to such travel should be availed. However, if the father's name does not appear on the child's birth certificate, an affidavit will not be required.

The development which is aimed at managing the movement of children across the country's borders has the ultimate goal of tackling human trafficking which is a global challenge. Botswana, like other countries is affected by this problem and as such has enacted the **United Nations Anti Human Trafficking Protocol**; which calls upon governments to come up with deliberate measures aimed at combating human trafficking.

Attached to the Note Verbal is a detailed table of the requirements, covering most, if not all, situations a minor may be travelling in. Further, please note that these requirements apply only to Botswana. Travelling parties are requested to inform themselves of travel requirements for other countries of destination.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana avails itself of this opportunity to avail to all resident Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations in Botswana the assurances of its highest consideration.

8th November, 2016

**All Resident Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations
GABORONE**



TO: All Media Houses

Ref: MLHA 1/14/III (146)

Date: 19 October 2016

PRESS RELEASE

**REQUIREMENTS FOR MINORS TRAVELLING THROUGH ALL BOTSWANA
PORTS OF ENTRY**

The Ministry of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs informs the general public that it has imposed requirements for minors(children under 18) travelling through the country's ports of entry.

Effective from the 1st October 2016 minors travelling through the country's borders will be required to produce certified copies of unabridged birth certificates in addition to their valid passports. In the event that one parent is not travelling with the child, the other parent's affidavit consenting to such travel should be availed. However an affidavit will not be required if the father's name does not appear on the child's birth certificate.

The development which is aimed at managing the movement of children across the country's borders has an ultimate goal of tackling human trafficking which is a global challenge. Botswana, like other countries is affected by this problem and as such has enacted the **United Nations Anti Human Trafficking Protocol**; which calls upon governments to come up with deliberate measures aimed at combating human trafficking.

For more information contact the Director of Immigration and Citizenship at **3611301/71327608**.

Yours Faithfully,

Banny K. Molosiwa
Permanent Secretary

REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVELLING INTO AND OUT OF BOTSWANA WITH MINORS (18 years and below)

DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENTS
Minor accompanied by both parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid Passport; • Valid visa, if required; and • Unabridged Birth Certificate (Birth Certificate containing the particulars of a minor and those of his or her parent or parents)
Minor accompanied by one parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid passport; • Valid visa, if required; • Unabridged Birth Certificate (Birth Certificate containing the particulars of a minor and those of his or her parent or parents) <p>Note: In the case of single parents, where only one parent's particulars appear on the Unabridged Birth Certificate, a consent letter is not required. In the case where parents were never married but both parents' particulars appear on the Unabridged Birth Certificate, a consent Affidavit by a non-travelling parent administered by any Commissioner of Oath is required.</p>
Minor travelling with one parent who is divorced or legally separated and who has been granted full parental responsibilities and rights (previously called —sole custody) or full legal guardianship in respect of the minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid Passport; • Valid visa, if required; • Unabridged Birth Certificate (Birth Certificate containing the particulars of a minor and those of his or her parent or parents) • Court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights (previously called sole custody) or full legal guardianship in respect of the minor.
Minor travelling with one parent who is divorced or legally separated and who has	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid Passport; • Valid visa, if required; • Unabridged Birth Certificate (Birth Certificate containing the particulars

<p>been granted specific parental responsibilities and rights (previously called —joint custody) or legal guardianship in respect of the minor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of a minor and those of his or her parent or parents) Court order granting specific parental responsibilities and rights (previously called joint custody) or joint legal guardianship in respect of the minor; and Parental Consent Affidavit from the remaining parent is required. <p>NOTE: Where the accompanying parent presents a Parental Consent Affidavit and both parents' names on the Unabridged Birth Certificate correspond with the names on the Parental Consent Affidavit and the travelling parent's passport, a court order granting specific parental responsibilities and rights or joint legal guardianship may be dispensed with.</p>
<p>Minor travelling with widow or widower parent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Passport; Valid visa, if required; Unabridged Birth Certificate (Birth Certificate containing the particulars of a minor and those of his or her parent or parents) Death certificate of the deceased parent
<p>Orphaned minor where no formal order of guardianship or adoption has been granted as yet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Passport; Valid visa, if required; and Letter of Special Circumstances from the Department of Social Services.
<p>Minor accompanied by a person who is not his or her biological parent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Passport; Valid visa, if required; Unabridged Birth Certificate (Birth Certificate containing the particulars of a minor and those of his or her parent or parents) or Parental Consent Affidavit. Where a Parental Consent Affidavit is presented, ✓ copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the minor; and ✓ Contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the minor; and

<p>Minor accompanied by his or her adoptive parent(s)</p>	<p>contact details of the person in whose care the minor will be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid Passport; • Valid visa, if required; • Unabridged Birth Certificate (Birth Certificate containing the particulars of a minor and those of his or her parent or parents of the minor reflecting particulars of adoptive parent(s) or a court order confirming the adoption of the minor by the adoptive parent(s) accompanying him or her. <p>NOTE: Where only one of the adoptive parents is travelling with the minor or where such a minor is travelling unaccompanied, the Parental Consent Affidavit will still be required by the absent adoptive parent(s) or in the case of a deceased adoptive parent, a copy of such parent's death certificate.</p>
<p>Unaccompanied Minor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid Passport; • Valid visa, if required; • Unabridged Birth Certificate (Birth Certificate containing the particulars of a minor and those of his or her parent or parents) • Parental Consent Affidavit administered by any Commissioner of Oath • Letter from the person who is to receive the minor at the destination, containing his or her residential address and contact details where the minor will be residing; • Copy of the identity document or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person who is to receive the minor at the destination; and Contact details of the parents or legal guardian.
<p>Child in alternative care/foster care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid Passport; • Valid visa, if required; • Letter from the Department of Social Development where the child resides authorizing his or her departure from the Botswana.

NOTE:Where either or both parents or adoptive parents are unable to issue a written consent, a Letter of Special Circumstances may replace the Parental Consent Affidavit. For more information and further clarification please contact **3611339 and 3611310 or toll free number 0800 600 777**