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Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Veterinary Services
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The Secretariat
International Committee for Animal Recording
Rome
Italy

16th May 2016

**RE: INVITATION TO BOTSWANA ANIMAL INFORMATION AND TRACEABILITY
SYSTEM (BAITS) SYMPOSIUM**

In 2000 the Department of Veterinary Service adopted and started using a digital/electronic Livestock Identification and Traceability System in order to continue accessing the external European Markets for Botswana beef. The system has since grown to address animal health and public health concerns for the country. The previous system was largely depended on the government with very little input from other stakeholders especially farmers.

In 2012 a comprehensive review of LITS was undertaken by FAO and recommendations were made, which led to the improvements of the current system to accommodate farmers and ensure a strategic shift of responsibilities from government to the farming community. The upgraded version of the system has been named Botswana Animal Information and Traceability System (BAITS).

Since this is a new and very critical change in the implementation of the country's traceability system, the Department of Veterinary Services has found it befitting to hold a national stakeholder symposium on the 12-14th July 2016 under the theme: **Stakeholder Collaboration-Key to the success of animal traceability in Botswana.**

The main purpose of the symposium is to bring together under one roof, stakeholders and traceability experts from other countries that have been successful in the implementation of traceability systems, to share knowledge and experiences. The main outcome of the symposium for the farmer in Botswana is for them to appreciate that other countries have succeeded and continue to succeed in traceability matters with farmers being at the forefront.

It is against this background that we request the esteemed presence of your organization's representative to come and share your experiences, requirements or guidelines with our audience. Products Exhibitions and presentations will be allowed. The Department shall bear all costs related to transport and lodging for the delegate.

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Yours Sincerely

Dr. Letlhogile Modisa

For/Director of Veterinary Services



OUR VISION: Attain national food security and global competitiveness in agricultural products
OUR MISSION: To improve agricultural productivity through technology development and transfer, diversification and commercialization, in order to promote food security in partnership with our stakeholders.

