

INCOME TAX ACT  
(Cap. 52:01)

**BOTSWANA-LESOTHO DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE  
AGREEMENT ORDER, 2010**  
*(Published on 13th August, 2010)*

WHEREAS in the exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 53 (1) of the Income Tax Act, (Cap. 52:01) the Minister of Finance and Development Planning has, on behalf of the Government, entered into an Agreement with the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the provisions of section 53 (2) of the Income Tax Act, the said Agreement shall be laid before the National Assembly, and shall not take effect unless approved by resolution of the National Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, the following Order is hereby made —

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| Citation                                    | 1. This Order may be cited as the Botswana-Lesotho Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement Order, 2010.  |
| Approval and effective date of commencement | 2. The Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement set out in the Schedule hereto between the Government of the Republic of Botswana and the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho is presented to the National Assembly for approval and shall, upon approval, take effect from the date specified in the Agreement. |

## SCHEDULE

The Government of the Republic of Botswana and the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho desiring to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, have agreed as follows:

### ARTICLE 1

#### *Persons Covered*

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

### ARTICLE 2

#### *Taxes Covered*

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.
2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income, all taxes imposed on total income, or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property.
3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are:
  - (a) In Botswana:
    - (i) the income tax including any withholding tax, prepayment or advance tax payment with respect to aforesaid tax; and
    - (ii) the capital gains tax;(hereinafter referred to as "Botswana tax"); and
  - (b) In Lesotho, the taxes imposed under the Income Tax Act, 1993 (Act No. 9 of 1993), as at the date of signature of this Agreement;  
  
(hereinafter referred to as "Lesotho tax").
4. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the right of either Contracting State to charge tax on the profits of a mineral enterprise at an effective rate different from that charged on the profits of any other enterprise. The term "a mineral enterprise" means an enterprise carrying on the business of mining.
5. This Agreement shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed by either Contracting State after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their respective taxation laws.

## ARTICLE 3

### *General Definitions*

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) the term "Botswana" means the Republic of Botswana;
  - (b) the term "Lesotho" means the sovereign Kingdom of Lesotho comprising all the areas that immediately before 4 October 1966 were comprised in the former colony of Basutoland together with such other areas that may, in accordance with international law, be declared by an Act of the Lesotho Parliament to form part of Lesotho;
  - (c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Botswana or Lesotho, as the context requires;
  - (d) the term "business" includes the performance of professional services and of other activities of an independent character;
  - (e) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
  - (f) the term "competent authority" means:
    - (i) in Botswana, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, represented by the Commissioner General of the Botswana Unified Revenue Service; and
    - (ii) in Lesotho, the Commissioner General of the Lesotho Revenue Authority or an authorised representative of the Commissioner General;
  - (g) the term "enterprise" applies to the carrying on of any business;
  - (h) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
  - (i) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicle operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicle is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
  - (j) the term "national" means:
    - (i) any individual possessing the nationality or citizenship of a Contracting State; and
    - (ii) any legal person or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State; and
  - (k) the term "person" includes an individual, a company, a trust, an estate and any other body of persons that is treated as an entity for tax purposes.
2. As regards, the application of the provisions of this Agreement at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

## ARTICLE 4

### *Resident*

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of that person's domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and, where applicable, includes that State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then that individual's status shall be determined as follows:
  - (a) the individual shall be deemed to be a resident solely of the State in which a permanent home is available to the individual; if a permanent home is available to the individual in both States, the individual shall be deemed to be a resident solely of the State with which the individual's personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
  - (b) if the State in which the person has centre of vital interest cannot be determined, or the person does not have a permanent home available in both States, the individual shall be deemed to be a resident solely of the State in which the individual has a habitual abode;
  - (c) if the individual has a habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, the individual shall be deemed to be a resident solely of the State of which the individual is a national;
  - (d) if the individual is a national of both States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.
3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident solely of the State in which its place of effective management is situated. In case of doubt the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

## ARTICLE 5

### *Permanent Establishment*

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.
2. The term "permanent establishment" includes especially:
  - (a) a place of management;
  - (b) a branch;
  - (c) an office;
  - (d) a factory;
  - (e) a workshop;
  - (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction or exploitation of natural resources; and
  - (g) an installation or structure used for the exploration of natural resources provided that the installation or structure continues for a period of not less than 183 days.
3. The term "permanent establishment" likewise encompasses:
  - (a) a building site, a construction, assembly or installation project or any supervisory activity in connection with such site, project or activity but only where such site, project or activity continues for a period of not less than 183 days.
  - (b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by an enterprise for such purpose, but only where activities of that nature continue (for the same or a connected project) within the Contracting State for a period or periods aggregating not less than 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned;
  - (c) the performance of professional services or other activities of an independent character by an individual, but only where those services or activities continue within a Contracting State for a period or periods aggregating not less than 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned.

4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:
  - (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage or display of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
  - (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage or display.
  - (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
  - (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
  - (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character; and
  - (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2), where a person – other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph (6) applies – is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, if such person –
  - (a) has, and habitually exercises in that State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise; or
  - (b) has no such authority, but habitually maintains in the first-mentioned Contracting State a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise from which he regularly fills orders or makes deliveries on behalf of the enterprise;unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph (4) which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.
6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.
7. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, an insurance enterprise of a Contracting State shall, except in regard to reinsurance, be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if it collects premiums in the territory of that other State or insures risks situated therein through a person other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph (6) applies.
8. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

## ARTICLE 6

### *Income from Immovable Property*

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources. Ships, boats, aircraft and rail or road transport vehicles shall not be regarded as immovable property.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting or use in any other form of immovable property.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise.

## ARTICLE 7

### *Business Profits*

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of them as are attributable to that permanent establishment.
2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.
3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deduction expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the business of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere. However, no such deduction shall be allowed in respect of amounts, if any, paid otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission, for specific services performed or for management, or, except in the case of a banking enterprise by way of interest on moneys lent to the permanent establishment. Likewise, no account shall be taken, in the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, for amounts charged (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses), by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission for specific services performed or for management, or, except in the case of a banking enterprise by way of interest on moneys lent to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices.

4. In so far as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary. The method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.
5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.
6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.
7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

## ARTICLE 8

### *International Transport*

1. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicles in international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.
2. For the purposes of this Article, profits from the operation of ships, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicles in international traffic shall include:
  - (a) profits derived from the rental on a bare boat basis of ships or aircraft used in international traffic,
  - (b) profits derived from the rental of rail or road transport vehicles,
  - (c) profits derived from the use or rental of containers,if such profits are incidental to the profits to which the provisions of paragraph 1 apply.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

## ARTICLE 9

### *Associated Enterprises*

1. Where:
  - (a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
  - (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State, and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State – and taxes accordingly – profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State may make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

## ARTICLE 10

### *Dividends*

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed:
  - (a) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company which holds at least 25 per cent of the capital of the company paying dividends; or
  - (b) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

This paragraph shall not affect taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends were distributed.

3. The term “dividends” as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights participating in profits (not being debt-claims), as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident through a permanent establishment situated therein and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except in so far as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or in so far as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment situated in that other State, nor subject the company’s undistributed profits to a tax on undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.
6. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as preventing a Contracting State from imposing an income tax (referred to as a “branch profits tax”) on the repatriated income of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State in addition to the income tax imposed on the chargeable income of the company; provided that any branch profits tax so imposed shall not exceed 10 per cent of the amount of the repatriated income.

## ARTICLE 11

### *Interest*

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises, and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest and is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in that State if it is derived by the Government of the other Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof, or any agency wholly owned and controlled by that Government or subdivision or authority.
4. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purposes of this Article.
5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises through a permanent establishment situated therein and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether that person is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.
7. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 12

### *Royalties*

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise, and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalties and is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged, shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. The term “royalties” as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work (including cinematograph films and films, tapes or discs for radio or television broadcasting), any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of or the right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise through a permanent establishment situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether that person is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment with which the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.
6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 13

### *Technical Fees*

1. Technical fees arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such technical fees may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise, and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the technical fees and is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the technical fees.
3. The term “technical fees” as used in this Article means payments of any kind to any person, other than to an employee of the person making the payments, in consideration for any service of an administrative, technical, managerial or consultancy nature.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the technical fees, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the technical fees arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein and the technical fees are effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

5. Technical fees shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the technical fees, whether that person is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the obligation to pay the technical fees was incurred, and such technical fees are borne by the permanent establishment, then such technical fees shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.
6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the technical fees paid exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 14

### *Capital Gains*

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise), may be taxed in that other State.
3. Gains of an enterprise of a Contracting State from the alienation of ships, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicles operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicles, shall be taxable only in that State.
4. Gains from the alienation of shares of the capital stock of a company the property of which consists directly or indirectly principally of immovable property situated in a Contracting State may be taxed in that State.
5. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in the preceding paragraphs, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.
6. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 5, gains from the alienation of shares or other corporate rights of a company which is a resident of one of the Contracting States derived by an individual who was a resident of that State and who after acquiring such shares or rights has become a resident of the other Contracting State, may be taxed in the first-mentioned State if the alienation of the shares or other corporate rights occur at any time during the next ten years following the date on which the individual has ceased to be a resident of that first-mentioned State.

## ARTICLE 15

### *Income from Employment*

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 19, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom, may be taxed in that other State.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:
  - (a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods aggregating not less than 183 days in any twelve-months period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned, and
  - (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and
  - (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment which the employer has in the other State.
3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicle operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State, may be taxed in that State.

## ARTICLE 16

### *Directors' Fees*

Directors' fees and similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in that person's capacity as a member of the board of directors of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

## ARTICLE 17

### *Entertainers and Sportspersons*

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 15, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsperson, from that person's personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.
2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsperson in that person's capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsperson but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 15 be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsperson are exercised.
3. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the activities exercised in the other Contracting State as envisaged in paragraph 1, shall be exempt from tax in that other State if the visit to that State is supported wholly or mainly by public funds of the first mentioned State, the political subdivision or a local authority thereof, and such proceeds are for the benefit of the public.

## ARTICLE 18

### *Pensions and Annuities*

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration, and annuities, arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State, may be taxed in the first-mentioned State.
2. The term "annuity" means a stated sum payable periodically at stated times during life or during a specified or ascertainable period of time under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, pensions paid and other payments made under a public scheme which is part of the social security system of a Contracting State, a political subdivision or a local authority thereof shall be taxable only in that State.

## ARTICLE 19

### *Government Service*

1. (a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.  
(b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:
  - (i) is a national of that State; or
  - (ii) did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.
2. (a) Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.  
(b) However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that State.
3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, and to pensions, in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

## ARTICLE 20

### *Students and Business Apprentices*

A student or business apprentice who is present in a Contracting State solely for the purpose of the student or business apprentice's education or training and who is, or immediately before being so present was, a resident of the other Contracting State, shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned State on payments received from outside that first-mentioned State for the purposes of the student or business apprentice's maintenance, education or training.

## ARTICLE 21

### *Professors, Teachers and Research Scholars*

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 15, a professor, teacher or research scholar who makes a temporary visit to one of the Contracting States for a period not exceeding two years from the date of first arrival in that State, solely for the purpose of teaching or carrying out research at a university, college, school or other educational institution in that State and who is, or immediately before such visit was, a resident of the other Contracting State shall, in respect of remuneration for such teaching or research, be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned State, provided that such remuneration is derived by the professor, teacher or research scholar from outside that State or such remuneration is not borne by a university, college, school or other educational institution in the first-mentioned state.
2. The provisions of this Article shall apply to income from research if such research is undertaken in the public interest and not primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.
3. For the purpose of this Article, an individual shall be deemed to be a resident of a Contracting State if he is resident in that State in the fiscal year in which he visits the other Contracting State or in the immediately preceding fiscal year.

## ARTICLE 22

### *Other Income*

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that State.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the income paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of the Agreement and arising in the other Contracting State may also be taxed in that other State.

## ARTICLE 23

### *Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts*

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of diplomatic missions or consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

## ARTICLE 24

### *Elimination of Double Taxation*

*Double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:*

1. In Botswana, subject to the provisions of the law of Botswana regarding the allowance of a credit against Botswana tax of tax paid under the laws of a country outside Botswana, Lesotho tax paid under the laws of Lesotho and in accordance with this Agreement, whether directly or by deduction, on profits or income liable to tax in Lesotho shall be allowed as a credit against any Botswana tax payable in respect of the same profits or income by reference to which the Lesotho tax is computed. However, the amount of such credit shall not exceed the amount of the Botswana tax payable on that income in accordance with the laws of Botswana.
2. In Lesotho, subject to the provisions of the law of Lesotho, from time to time in force, which relates to the allowance of credit against Lesotho tax of tax paid in a country outside Lesotho (which shall not affect the general principle of this Article), Botswana tax paid under the law of Botswana and in accordance with this Agreement, whether directly or by deduction, in respect of income derived by a person who is a resident of Lesotho from sources in Botswana shall be allowed as a credit against Lesotho tax payable in respect of that income.
3. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the terms "Botswana tax payable" and "Lesotho tax payable" shall be deemed to include the amount of tax which would have been paid in Botswana or in Lesotho as the case may be, but for any exemption or reduction granted in accordance with laws designed to promote economic development in that Contracting State.
4. A grant given by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to a resident of the other Contracting State in accordance with laws which establish schemes for the promotion of economic development, such schemes having been mutually agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting States as qualifying for the purposes of this paragraph, shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State.

## ARTICLE 25

### *Non-discrimination*

1. Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.
2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities.
3. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.

4. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 7 of Article 11, paragraph 6 of Article 12 or paragraph 6 of Article 13 apply, interest, royalties, technical fees and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned State.
5. The provisions of this Article shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.
6. The provisions of this Article shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2, apply to taxes of every kind and description.

## ARTICLE 26

### *Mutual Agreement Procedure*

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for that person in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, that person may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic laws of those States, present a case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which the person is a resident or, if the case comes under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 24, to that of the Contracting State of which the person is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.
2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic laws of the Contracting States.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Agreement.
4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

## ARTICLE 27

### *Exchange of Information*

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions in so far as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement in particular for the prevention of fraud or evasion of such taxes. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic law of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or

authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States or of their political subdivisions. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:
  - (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
  - (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
  - (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*).
3. The competent authorities shall, through consultation, develop appropriate conditions, methods and techniques concerning the matters in respect of which such exchanges of information shall be made, including, where appropriate, exchange of information regarding tax avoidance.

## ARTICLE 28

### *Assistance in Recovery*

1. The Contracting States shall lend assistance to each other in the collection of revenue claims. This assistance is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this article.
2. The term "revenue claim" as used in this Article means an amount owed in respect of taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to this Agreement or any other instrument to which the Contracting States are parties, as well as interest, administrative penalties and costs of collection or conservancy related to such amount.
3. When a revenue claim of a Contracting State is enforceable under the laws of that state and is owed by a person who, at that time, cannot, under the laws of that State, prevent its collection, that revenue claim shall, at the request of the competent authority of that State, be accepted for purposes of collection by the competent authority of the other Contracting State. That revenue claim shall be collected by that other State in accordance with the provisions of its laws applicable to the enforcement and collection of its own taxes as if the revenue claim were a revenue claim of that other State.
4. When a revenue claim of a Contracting State is a claim in respect of which that State may, under its law, take measures of conservancy with a view to ensure its collection, that revenue claim shall, at the request of the competent authority of that State, be accepted for purposes of taking measures of conservancy by the competent authority of the other Contracting State. That other State shall take measures of conservancy in respect of that revenue claim in accordance with the provisions of its laws as if the revenue claim were a revenue claim of that other State even if, at the time when such measures are applied, the revenue claim is not enforceable in the first-mentioned State or is owed by a person who has a right to prevent its collection.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4, a revenue claim accepted by a Contracting State for purposes of paragraph 3 or 4 shall not, in that State, be subject to the time limits or accorded any priority applicable to a revenue claim under the laws of that State by reason of its nature as such. In addition, a revenue claim accepted by a Contracting State for the purposes of paragraph 3 and 4 shall not, in that State, have any priority applicable to that revenue claim under the laws of the other Contracting State.
6. Proceedings with respect to the existence, validity or the amount of a revenue claim of a Contracting State shall not be brought before the courts or administrative bodies of the other Contracting State.
7. Where, at any time after a request has been made by a Contracting State under paragraph 3 or 4 and before the other Contracting State has collected and remitted the relevant revenue claim to the first-mentioned State, the relevant claim ceases to be:
  - (a) in the case of a request under paragraph 3, a revenue claim of the first-mentioned State that is enforceable under the laws of that State and is owed by a person who, at that time, cannot, under the laws of that State, prevent its collection, or
  - (b) in the case of a request under paragraph 4, a revenue claim of the first-mentioned State in respect of which that State may, under its laws, take measures of conservancy with a view to ensure its collection;the competent authority of the first-mentioned State shall promptly notify the competent authority of the other State of that fact and, at the option of the other State, the first-mentioned State shall either suspend or withdraw its request.
8. In no case shall the provisions of this Article be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:
  - (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
  - (b) to carry out measures which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*);
  - (c) to provide assistance if the other Contracting State has not pursued all reasonable measures of collection or conservancy, as the case may be, available under its laws or administrative practice;
  - (d) to provide assistance in those cases where the administrative burden of that State is clearly disproportionate to the benefit to be derived by the other Contracting State.

## ARTICLE 29

### *Entry into Force*

1. Each of the Contracting States shall notify to the other, the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later of these notifications.
2. The provisions of the Agreement shall apply:
  - (a) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid or credited on or after the thirtieth day following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force; and
  - (b) with regard to other taxes, in respect of years of assessment beginning on or after the date upon which this Agreement enters into force.

## ARTICLE 30

### *Termination*

1. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely but either of the Contracting States may terminate the Agreement through diplomatic channels, by giving to the other Contracting State written notice of termination of at least six months, starting five years after the year in which the Agreement entered into force.
2. In such event, the Agreement shall cease to apply:
  - (a) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid or credited after the end of the calendar year in which such notice is given; and
  - (b) with regard to other taxes, in respect of years of assessment beginning after the end of the calendar year in which such notice is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Windhoek this 20th day of April, 2010 in duplicate in the English language.

HON. O.K. MATAMBO,  
*for the Government of  
the Republic of Botswana.*

HON. DR. TIMOTHY T. THAHANE,  
*for the Government of  
the Kingdom of Lesotho.*

MADE this 2nd day of August, 2010.

O.K. MATAMBO,  
*Minister of Finance and Development  
Planning.*