

STATEMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA:  
Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama

October 11, 2012

I note with great appreciation the President's efforts to revive culture in the spirit of promoting unity in diversity. I also note efforts in the eradication of poverty, especially through cultural activities. These are steps in the right direction as they help to revive those aspects of our culture which were lost. They also stimulate talent, creativity and innovation, especially among the youth for economic advancement. Many have shown great interest. Rightfully so because some of the world's richest people are in the arts and culture. The arts allow individuals to express their inner self, their God-given talents within the context of their culture and natural expressions. They derive joy from what they are doing, hence sustainable. This is why promoting the arts and culture is an important aspect of poverty eradication.

I also note limitations some of our people encounter as they strive to participate in the President's cultural initiatives. Creativity and talent cultivation in a second level medium has some significant degree of constraint. It is also evident that access to enablers is not available to all in the country. These limitations have been with us for a long time. I come here to pray with you, that the Good Lord may help you to remove the barriers. I truly believe that only you and you alone have the heart to work for a lasting solution. I and my colleagues are willing to share ideas on expanding possibilities for inclusivity, which has political, economic and social benefits. Righteousness exalts a nation (Proverbs 14:34). I appreciate the opportunity to be heard.

**Summary:**

**Purpose:** To share my views on cultural revival with the President as he has come across to me as someone who is also interested in this area

**My views are:**

1. Good things are happening in the cultural industry
2. There are limitations for more and greater things to happen

**My humble request:**

3. That the President could initiate the removal of limitations.
4. Assistance and collaboration in the process of the removal of limitations is available.
5. A more enabling environment is desirable for the enhancement of the cultural industry, development, nation building and economic prosperity

Lydia Nyati-Saleshando