

**Public Affairs Section**

**U.S. Embassy, Gaborone, Botswana**

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### **Press Release**

#### **International Law Enforcement Academy Celebrates 11 Years of Training Police and Other Officials from Across Africa**

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce that the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Gaborone will celebrate its 11<sup>th</sup> year of operation on July 23 – 24, 2012. The two-day workshop will bring together alumni from law enforcement courses conducted at ILEA over the past 11 years to share success stories and information about remaining challenges that ILEA training could address.

The opening ceremony for the workshop will include remarks by Minister for Environment, Wildlife and Tourism Hon. Kitso Mokaila and United States Ambassador Michelle Gavin. It will take place at the Gaborone Sun Monday, July 23 from 10:30 – 12:30. Press is invited to cover the opening ceremony.

The ILEA has invited one senior law enforcement representative from each of the 34 member countries to attend this two-day workshop. The participants are senior level officials who have influence in the strategic planning of their respective organization, and have participated in at least one ILEA course over the past 11 years.

The workshop will feature discussion of ongoing initiatives and future plans drawing upon the needs assessment of the participating countries. Each participant will be in a position to discuss criminal trends affecting their country and their law enforcement training needs to address these criminal activities. The event will be conducted by ILEA staff, and participants will be asked to identify the top law enforcement challenge confronting their country and provide input regarding any success stories linked to previous participation in past ILEA courses by themselves and/or colleagues from their country. The intention is to use this information to determine each country's training needs and how this can align with ILEA course offerings.

This is also an opportunity to re-emphasize that the ILEA programs are designed to promote regional cooperation through the delivery of courses on relevant law enforcement topics. Typically, ILEA courses include participants from four to six African countries. ILEA's curriculum offers one- to two-week courses on specialized topics such as policing gender based violence, trafficking in persons, wildlife investigations, electronic crimes, small arms trafficking, post-blast investigations, and several others. A core course remains part of the curriculum – the six-week Law Enforcement Executive Development course, which gives an overview of several law enforcement topics including community policing, terrorism, crime scene management, corruption, border control, and financial crimes. Instruction is provided by representatives of U.S. law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other African law enforcement agencies.

The ILEA is jointly operated by the United States Government and the Botswana Police Service, and it is an example of the broad partnership between the United States and Botswana across a wide range of sectors.

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