

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA**

On this auspicious occasion to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I am pleased to convey, on behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of Botswana, this message of solidarity.

Botswana remains resolute in its support for the Palestinian people in their quest for inalienable right to self determination and the pursuit of freedom, peace, dignity, and stable existence.

As a gesture of my Government's continued support and solidarity, Botswana established diplomatic relations with the State of Palestine on 08th March 2017.

While we welcome efforts by the “Middle East Quartet”, to finding a lasting solution to the Middle East situation, Botswana regrets that today, in the year 2018, which marks the 51st anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, the situation of Palestine remains extremely dire and fragile, as it is marked by ongoing conflict, violence, as well as, deteriorating humanitarian and economic conditions.

My Government remains steadfast in its support for a fair, durable and early resolution of the conflict, through the resumption of negotiations aimed at reaching a Two State solution with Israel and Palestine State, living side by side in peace and harmony.

C. V. Kelapile
AMBASSADOR AND
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOTSWANA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS