



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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22nd February 2013

Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of 12 February 2013, regarding allegations on the situation of human rights of the Basarwa and the Bakgalagadi in the Central Kgalagadi Game Reserve (CKGR).

2. The Letter has been forwarded to the relevant authorities in Botswana to respond to the allegations and to address your concerns. In the meantime, I wish to clarify, once more, the issue of "indigenous peoples" as used in your Letter.

3. As you are very much aware, the Government of Botswana continues to maintain that all the ethnic groups in Botswana are indigene to their country; and therefore no group is more indigenous than the others, save for those who have naturalised and their descendants. We have not yet appreciated your reasons, if any, why you continue to suggest that Basarwa and Bakgalagadi are more indigenous than the other ethnic groups in the country. We have made it clear that our position does not, in anyway, suggest that we deny the existence of Basarwa and Bakgalagadi in Botswana, nor does it deny the socio-economic and political situation they find themselves in due to some historical developments.

His Excellency Professor James Anaya
Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva, Switzerland

OHCHR REGISTRY

25 FEB. 2013

Recipients :.....*SPD*.....



4. With this clarification, I wish to reassure you, on my behalf and that of my Government, of our commitment to continue to work with you and all the other relevant UN mechanisms, as well as the civil society, in our efforts to improve the livelihood and the human rights situation of the Basarwa and the Bakgalagadi, in particular, as well as all the people of Botswana, in general.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mothusi B. R. Palai
Ambassador and Permanent Representative