

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

BERA ISSUES WARNING AGAINST UNLICENSED TRADING ACTIVITIES

Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) issues a stern warning to individuals and entities engaged in conducting activities without proper licensing or continued operating noncompliant facilities under the Petroleum and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) subsectors. The warning comes in response to a growing number of complaints, noncompliance to laid down statutory requirements and reports regarding unlicensed trading practices. These noncompliant sites pollute the environment and pose serious risks to customers and generally compromise the integrity of the energy subsectors and market.

Under the BERA Act, it is illegal to operate as an importer/exporter, wholesaler, retailer or operate a bulk LPG or petroleum products storage facility without holding the requisite license or registration with Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority. Unlicensed trading is a criminal offense that can lead to severe penalties, including fines, imprisonment, and permanent disqualification from the energy industry. Further, the different subsector regulations and standards provide requirements which are to be met all the time by businesses when providing services and delivering products under the energy sector.

The Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) reminds businesses and the public to exercise caution and conduct thorough due diligence to verify the licensing status of a business under the energy sector. Please visit www.bera.co.bw or call the undersigned.

The following activities have been identified to affected:

- Operating of grossly noncompliant facilities without due care to environs and lives
- Sites that have been left abandoned without care
- Retail business in the LPG sector
- Unauthorised handling and transportation of the LPG cylinders
- Cross filling of LPG cylinders
- Retail business in the petroleum sector
- Storage of petroleum products more than 30 000litres for own use
- Storing petroleum products in unauthorised containers
- Unauthorised handling and transportation of petroleum products
- Construction of LPG or Petroleum facilities without authorisation by BERA

councils do no longer issue licenses under the energy subsectors.

Penalties for noncompliant sites operation and unlicensed trading may include:

- Request to comply with applicable laws and standards
- Financial penalties
- Cease-and-desist orders
- Criminal prosecution
- Revocation of trading privileges/licenses
- Blacklisting from the economic subsector

To verify the status of a license or if in doubt or you suspect unlicensed trading activities, please verify or report them immediately to www.bera.co.bw or info@bera.co.bw.

BERA will continue to monitor compliance to the BERA Act and adjuvant regulations as well as all applicable statutory requirements and take necessary actions as practicable.

The Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) is a statutory body established in terms of the Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority Act, 2016, Act No 13 of 2016 (BERA Act) to regulate the energy sector in Botswana. The regulated sectors include electricity, petroleum products, natural gas, coal, bioenergy, solar energy, renewable energy resources and other energy resources. These sectors are regulated in terms of the BERA Act and respective subsector requirements.

For more information you can read the following:

BERA Act No. 13 of 2016

BERA complaints settlement procedure regulations of 2021

BERA Liquefied Petroleum Gas Regulations of 2022

BERA Petroleum Products Regulations of 2024

Thank you



Never Tshabang, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

NB: The Trade Act was amended in April 2020 and therefore