**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

**43rd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Universal Periodic Review of BOTSWANA**

03 May 2023, Room XX

Speaking Time: 1 minute and 05 seconds

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Botswana and its report.

The Philippines acknowledges Botswana’s on-going process to establish an independent national human rights institution (NHRI) by investing the Office of the Ombudsman with the mandate to promote and protect human rights. We recommend that Botswana ensure that said Office has adequate resources to perform said mandate in line with the Paris Principles.

The Philippines also welcomes the measures taken to strengthen domestic mechanisms to address gender-based violence, including the adoption of the Sexual Offenders Registry Act in 2021. Nonetheless, violence against women and girls remain a daunting challenge.

My delegation further offers the following recommendations:

1. step up efforts to provide specialized training to law enforcement officers, prosecutors and other professionals who work to protect and support victims/survivors of gender-based violence; and
2. continue to align the country’s legislative and policy frameworks with CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly to combat the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation.

The Philippines wishes Botswana success in this UPR review.

Thank you. END