



MINISTRY OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GREEN TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY SECURITY

5th April 2017

To: All Media Houses

MEDIA RELEASE

UPDATE ON THE EARTHQUAKE EXPERIENCED IN BOTSWANA ON THE 3RD APRIL 2017

As reported on Monday 3rd April 2017, most areas in Botswana experienced an earthquake of Richter scale magnitude 6.3 which occurred in the central part of the country, about 132 km west of Moiyabana village and 110 km northwest of Lephephe. There are times when aftershocks are experienced in the area where the main earthquake occurred. As a result, earth tremors may be experienced. Therefore, the public is advised to note such tremors and encouraged to stay calm and take precautions as stated below.

Although Botswana is seismically stable, the country has nevertheless experienced earthquakes of magnitudes greater than 6.0. Scientists from the Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI) in collaboration with South African Council for Geoscience (CGS) have put together a team to monitor aftershocks of the earthquake.

It has been observed that the earthquake has created minor damages around the country like cracks in buildings. Furthermore, there are reported cases of injured pupils in Moiyabana as they were fleeing away. In the medium to large scale mines in the country, there were no injuries, cracks or damages observed in the pits, shafts, tailings dams and processing plants as a result of the earthquake.

On the other hand, there are some insinuations in some media including social media that the earthquake that occurred on Monday, 3rd April 2017 was caused by fracking. It is very important to note that the earthquake occurred naturally due to tectonic movement of the earth. It was not an induced or manmade earthquake caused by fracking, mining or exploration activities as it happened at a greater depth. An induced earthquake due to mining or exploration activities occurs at shallow depths, localised and of low magnitude. All our mining and exploration activities have not gone beyond 2 km depths, therefore, the insinuations that the earthquake was induced by fracking are not true.

Telephone: +267 3656600
Fax: +267 3909368
Plot No: 50676, Block C,
Fairgrounds Office Park



Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green
Technology & Energy Security
Private Bag 0018
Gaborone
Botswana

MINISTRY OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GREEN TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY SECURITY

The public is advised to stay calm and not panic as the Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI) and other relevant stakeholders will continue to monitor the situation. If an earthquake occurs while indoors, the public is advised to seek refuge under a table or lay flat on your stomach next to the wall away from windows and doors. After the shaking has stopped, it is then that you may walk out of the building. If you are outside any building, stay in an open area away from trees, buildings and power grids or cables. If you are driving, pull off the road and stay in the vehicle until the shaking has stopped.

The public is advised that it is safe to continue work as normal while the situation continues to be monitored.

For further information contact:

Botswana Geoscience Institute
Tel: (+267) 533 0327/428
Email: botsqs@gov.bw

Public Relations Unit
Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security
Tel: 365 6600
Email: lsmohutsiwa@gov.bw