

1607 22nd Street, NW              Washington, DC 20008

Phone - 202-332-6770              Fax - 202-265-6092

[anwclub@comcast.net](mailto:anwclub@comcast.net)              [www.anwc.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v1/url?u=http://www.anwc.org/&k=uWCMTgG0stZxwOEwDWvrOA%3D%3D%0A&r=RWX7iwQ3hclcB89cMaG8qXwWeGIfGvRYVF0GzVdN0XE%3D%0A&m=ZVrAdubmw0QBwjfhv%2Fu4OOaiOjWGZj32vTdIxGDSLPw%3D%0A&s=2b3f71f45b2d149837a2635c38d3fb8b9a5629a292a6c4afa6a5c4c6e6127e26)

**Ambassador Tebelelo Seretse of Botswana**

**Invites American News Women’s Club Members to Visit Her Country**

WASHINGTON, DC, June 4 – Ambassador Tebelelo Seretse of the Republic of Botswana told members of the American News Women’s Club that she devotes her time in Washington promoting investment and tourism in her country where 40 percent of the land is reserved for animals and is home to the largest number of elephants in the world.

During her engaging talk, Ambassador Seretse, who has served since 2011 as Botswana’s first woman ambassador to the U.S., emphasized safaris and what she called high-end camping in the bush led by experienced guides. Asked the best time to visit, she replied that Botswana welcomes travelers year round. She added that travelers from the U.S. don’t need visas to enter the country, which she said is the “lease corrupt country on the African continent.”

She called Botswana “the best kept secret,” citing the “A” for investment it receives from rating agencies and its high ranking on the global peace index, adding, “It’s more peaceful than the U.S.”

Ambassador Seretse also referenced Botswana’s diamond mines as the country’s “lifeline,” explaining that visitors to the country’s mines undergo rigorous security. She added that because the mines are government-owned, Botswana is insulated from the crime and corruption associated with other diamond-rich countries.

Ambassador Seretse was the second speaker in the ANWC’s new program series – *Meet the* *Ambassadors.* The first speaker to address the club was the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Washington, Ambassador Roble Olhaye from the Republic of Djibouti, bordered on three sides

by Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia.

Botswana, one of 54 African countries, asserted its independence from Great Britain on September 30, 1966 when the Union Jack was replaced by the flag of Botswana. Ambassador Seretse said, “Our blue flag with two stripes, one black and one white, symbolizes the country’s tropical blue skies and its diverse society living in unity.”

An attorney with a law degree from the University of Botswana, Ambassador Seretse received an MA in economics from the University of Cincinnati in Ohio and a BS in accounting and economics from Morgan State University in Maryland. She has four children, three of whom live in Washington.

A tireless promoter of Botswana, Ambassador Seretse intends to return home and run for political office. “I am more a politician than diplomat,” she said.

Marion Mattingly, ANWC’s Vice President for Programs and Chair of *Meet the Ambassadors*, said, “This year’s program agenda includes key ambassadors speaking at the club and hosting club members at their respective embassies. In fact, we have already enjoyed a luncheon hosted at the Japanese Embassy by Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae.”

ANWC President Claire Swift said, “*Meet the Ambassadors* is underwritten by a grant from the MARPAT Foundation and will enable the ANWC to provide global forums for ambassadors and their delegates to share their untold stories with club members, both veteran and young journalists.” Swift, who secured the grant, added, “The programs feature exchanges of views on important issues, thus, promoting international understanding and cultural awareness in a globalized world.”

The American News Women's Club at 1607 22nd Street, NW has the distinction of being one of the first women's press clubs in the country.  ANWC is a non-profit that offers educational and professional development programs in support of women and excellence in journalism. The club's membership, which includes males, is composed of professionals in journalism, public relations, news media and publishing. Eleanor Roosevelt was one of ANWC’s founders and every First Lady has been a member since its inception in 1932.

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Contact:  Page Dahl Crosland, Press Liaison

ANWC *Meet the Ambassadors*

[page.crosland@verizon.net](mailto:page.crosland@verizon.net), 202-285-2199