



BOTSWANA



INTRODUCTION

Formerly the British protectorate of Bechuanaland, Botswana adopted its new name at independence in 1966. More than five decades of uninterrupted civilian leadership, progressive social policies, and significant capital investment have created one of the most stable economies in Africa.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Mokgweetsi Eric MASISI

Head of Government

President Mokgweetsi Eric MASISI

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Gaborone

Legislature

unicameral Parliament consists of the National Assembly (63 seats); note – the House of Chiefs, an advisory body to the National Assembly, consists of 35 members

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 581,730 sq km

Land: 566,730 sq km

Water: 15,000 sq km

Climate

semiarid; warm winters and hot summers

Natural Resources

diamonds, copper, nickel, salt, soda ash, potash, coal, iron ore, silver

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

good economic governance and financial management; diamond-driven growth model declining; rapid poverty reductions; high unemployment, particularly among youth; COVID-19 sharply contracted the economy and recovery is slow; public sector wages have posed fiscal challenges

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$37.72 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$16,000 (2020 est.)

Industries - diamonds, copper, nickel, salt, soda ash, potash, coal, iron ore, silver, beef processing, textiles

Agricultural Products - milk, roots/tubers, vegetables, sorghum, beef, game meat, watermelons, cabbages, goat milk, onions

Exports \$5.934 billion (2017 est.)

diamonds, insulated wiring, gold, beef, carbonates (2019)

partners: India 21%, Belgium 19%, UAE 19%, South Africa 9%, Israel 7%, Hong Kong 6%, Singapore 5% (2019)

Imports \$5.005 billion (2017 est.)

diamonds, refined petroleum, cars, delivery trucks, electricity (2019)

partners: South Africa 58%, Namibia 9%, Canada 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

2.4 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.43% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Tswana (or Setswana)

79%, Kalanga 11%,

Basarwa 3%, other (including Kgalagadi and people of European descent) 7% (2011 est.)

Language

Setswana 77.3%, Sekalanga 7.4%, Shekgalagadi 3.4%, English (official) 2.8%, Zezuru/Shona 2%, Sesarwa 1.7%, Sembukushu 1.6%, Ndebele 1%, other 2.8% (2011 est.)

Religion

Christian 79.1%, Badimo 4.1%, other 1.4% (includes Baha'i, Hindu, Muslim, Rastafarian), none 15.2%, unspecified 0.3% (2011 est.)

