

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Botswana Monthly Briefing February 2020

#### Botswana Summary 13 February 2020

*The opposition Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) loses its appeal to overturn the October 2019 election results. President Mokgweetsi Masisi (2018-present) pledges to renew Botswana's commitment to the African Union and encourages regional and economic collaboration for Agenda 2063. Finance minister Thapelo Matsheka projects a 2.4% deficit for the upcoming fiscal year in the 2020/2021 budget, down from 3.9% at the end of 2019's fiscal year. Mineral resources minister Lefoko Maxwell Moagi says Botswana's coal-to-liquid (CTL) project is to be fast-tracked and calls on mining investors. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report for 2020 indicates challenges facing emerging markets. Botswana maintains an above-average ranking in Germany-based non-governmental organisation Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), placing 34<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries with a score of 61.*

#### UDC loses appeal to overturn election results ...

The **Botswana Court of Appeal** on 29 January dismissed the appeal of the opposition **Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)** challenging the October 2019 elections results.<sup>1</sup> The **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** won 38 out of 57 seats in parliament whilst the UDC secured only 15 seats.<sup>2</sup> The UDC claimed that "voting irregularities" were responsible for their defeat, however appeal court president Judge **Ian Kirby** concluded that the five-member panel overseeing the appeal has "no jurisdiction to entertain these appeals".<sup>3</sup> Kirby's ruling comes after a lower court had rejected the UDC's appeal on 8 January given a lack of evidence presented (see *ARC Briefing Botswana January 2020*), after which the Court of Appeal agreed to give the UDC an opportunity to present its case.<sup>4</sup>

The ruling is the second failed attempt by the opposition to overturn the election results. The UDC will need to accept the decision as a metaphorical line in the sand. Botswana's political and economic stability will benefit from the UDC turning its attention to being a viable opposition party that can keep the BDP accountable for its actions. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** (2018-present) came into power in 2018 as former president **Ian Khama's** (2008-2018) handpicked successor. The two leaders subsequently fell out after disagreeing on key policy issues, with Khama publicly criticising Masisi and turning his support toward the emerging **Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF)**.<sup>5</sup>

#### ... as Masisi pledges to renew commitment to AU

President Masisi delivered an address at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the **African Union (AU)**, held from 21 January to 10 February, that reaffirms Botswana's commitment to work with the AU and other leaders on the continent to ensure the achievement of **Africa's** developmental agenda.<sup>6</sup> Masisi's pledge comes in stark contrast to Khama's perplexing past with the continental body. Khama did not attend a single AU summit and isolated Botswana with his stance on the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> AFP, 29 Jan 2020

<sup>2</sup> New York Times, 25 Oct 2019

<sup>3</sup> News24, 29 Jan 2020

<sup>4</sup> France24, 8 Jan 2020

<sup>5</sup> New York Times, 25 Oct 2019

<sup>6</sup> Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi's official Twitter

<sup>7</sup> Mail & Guardian, 7 Jun 2019

Masisi encouraged regional and economic bodies to collaborate in achieving **Agenda 2063**, Africa's blueprint to transform into a global powerhouse.<sup>8</sup> Masisi also congratulated **South Africa's** President **Cyril Ramaphosa** (2018-present) on his ascent to the AU chair, assuring his support during Ramaphosa's tenure, and commended the outgoing chairperson, **Egypt's** President **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** (2014-present).<sup>9</sup>

### Budget sets lower deficit for 2020/21 as Botswana targets high-income status ...

Finance and economic development minister **Thapelo Matsheka** presented the 2020/21 Budget Speech on 3 February. The budget projects a 2.4% deficit for the upcoming fiscal year, down from 3.9% at the end of the 2019 fiscal year.<sup>10</sup> The improvement in the deficit is a result of expenditure cuts and improved revenue collection.<sup>11</sup> Whilst the country had initially expected to produce a budget surplus in 2020/21, Matsheka explained that fiscal challenges remain and that the government plans to return to budget surpluses in the final two years of its six-year development plan, which ends in 2021. The plan includes developing a balance between the funding of programmes and infrastructure development that will transform the economy to a high-income status by 2036 *"without setting on a fiscally unsustainable trajectory"*.<sup>12</sup> High-income status means that Botswana's per capita income should exceed \$12,000, an increase from the current \$8,000.<sup>13</sup> Matsheka said in order to achieve this growth, Botswana's economy needs to grow by an average of at least 6% per year over the next 16 years, which requires the implementation of *"robust policy measures"*, and that *"it cannot be business as usual"*.

Total expenditure and net lending for 2020/2021 is estimated at P67.62 billion (\$6.2 billion), resulting in a deficit of P5.22 billion (\$475.5m) and 2.4% of the GDP.<sup>14</sup> This is a departure from the projected deficit of 3.9% in 2019/2020 and indicates Botswana's *"healthier fiscal position"*.<sup>15</sup> The defence, justice and security ministry will receive P8.56 billion (\$779.9m), while the transport and communications ministry will receive P1.62 billion (\$147.6m) for major roads and bridge projects.<sup>16</sup> This will promote investment by creating easier commutes for those wanting to do business in Botswana.<sup>17</sup> The mineral resources, green technology and energy ministry receives P1.09 billion (\$99.3m), which will go to the **North-West Transmission Grid Connection**, rural electrification, **Morupule B** remedial works and the transmission backbone for **Mochudi, Government Enclave** and **Gaborone Central**.<sup>18</sup> This reaffirms the government's plans to increase the country's electrification and contribute to the development necessary for its transformation to a high-income status.<sup>19</sup>

The creative industry sector is identified in the budget speech as having the potential to *"brand and market Botswana"*. The industry provides investment opportunities that will further contribute toward job creation and diversifying the economy. The government has signed a number of 'Cultural Agreements' with other countries (not specified) to generate opportunities at a regional, continental and international level. Likewise, policies and legislation including the **Cinematography Act** and **Entertainment Legislation** are calling on partners for its development. Botswana's hosting of the **Forbes under-30 Summit** places it amongst the **United States, Hong Kong, Netherlands** and **Israel**, and is an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase potential ventures.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>8</sup> AP News, 11 Feb 2020

<sup>9</sup> AP News, 11 Feb 2020

<sup>10</sup> Nasdaq, 3 Feb 2020

<sup>11</sup> Nasdaq, 3 Feb 2020

<sup>12</sup> Reuters, 3 Feb 2020

<sup>13</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>14</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>15</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>16</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>17</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>18</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>19</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>20</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

### ... with focus on infrastructure and SOEs ...

In keeping with the goal of achieving high-income status, the budget speech highlighted the need for continued investment in “*appropriate infrastructure*” to increase productivity and economic growth.<sup>21</sup> The government will focus on electricity/energy, water, rail/roads and technology and seek economically viable projects that will support private sector-led development.<sup>22</sup> Matsheka proposed that the following sectors receive over half of the Development Budget for 2020/21:

- Water: P1.372 billion (\$125m)
- Transport: P1.3 billion (\$118.4m)
- Agriculture: P862m (\$78.5m)
- ICT: P823m (\$75)
- Land servicing: P541.5m (49.3m)
- Energy: P521m (47.5m).<sup>23</sup>

The outline gives investors an opportunity to analyse potential investments. The roll out of “*Fibre-To-The-Business*” and “*Fibre-To-The-Home*” through BoFiNet also indicates that ease of doing business should increase with better and more widespread access to internet services.<sup>24</sup> The budget mentions a demand for digital skills, which further identifies opportunities and reiterates its focus on implementing e-services across its delivery models.

Matsheka acknowledged that project implementation is a major challenge.<sup>25</sup> A streamlining of the overall procurement process aims to speed up project implementation and further increase the ease of doing business in Botswana. One such process involves the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).<sup>26</sup> Changes to the EIA aim to:

- Reduce notice period for advertising
- Decrease processing time of applications
- Streamline the review of scoping report and terms of reference
- Decrease the period for public review notification and canvassing for comments or objections.<sup>27</sup>

The revised EIA will also exempt Environmental Impact Management Plans from public review requirements, an issue that the business community has raised in the past.<sup>28</sup>

State-owned enterprises (SOEs), or parastatal organisations, form an important part of the government’s transformation agenda. There are over 60 parastatals in Botswana from regulatory to academic to commercial SOEs.<sup>29</sup> Matsheka said the roles of SOEs will need to be revisited to ensure they align with the transition to a high-income status. A cabinet subcommittee, chaired by the finance minister, will undertake a comprehensive view of the parastatals’ landscape and propose recommendations to the government.<sup>30</sup> The SOEs will be categorised according to their function:

- utility supply (**Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)** and **Water Utilities Corporation (WUC)**)
- tourism (**Botswana Tourism Organisation**)
- transport (**Botswana Railways, Air Botswana**)
- agriculture (**National Development Bank (NDB)**, **Botswana Meat Commission (BMC)**, **Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI)**, **Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB)**)

<sup>21</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

<sup>22</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

<sup>23</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

<sup>24</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

<sup>25</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

<sup>26</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

<sup>27</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

<sup>28</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

<sup>29</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

<sup>30</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana’s official website

- ICT and innovation (**Botswana Telecommunications Corporate (BTC), Botswana Fibre Optics Networks Ltd (BoFiNet), Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH), Botswana Institute for Technology, Research and Innovation (BITRI)**)
- business development (**Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), Local Enterprise Authority (LEA), Botswana Development Corporation (BDC), Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC)**)
- regulation (**Botswana Communication Regulation Authority (BOCRA), Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA), Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS), Botswana Energy Regulation Authority (BERA), Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB)**)
- human capital development (**University of Botswana, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), Botswana Human Resource and Development Council (HRDC), Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA)**).<sup>31</sup>

Botswana Telecommunications Corporation Limited, Water Utilities Corporation and the Botswana Power Corporation are amongst Botswana's SOEs that registered positive results in 2018/2019, whilst **Air Botswana**, the Botswana Meat Commission, National Development Bank and Botswana Railways BR incurred losses.<sup>32</sup> Matsheka proposed P4.9 billion (\$446.4m) as subsidies for certain SOEs, and that another role of the subcommittee will be analysing the most efficient use of public resources to these parastatals.

### ... and improving the business environment

Matsheka referenced the **World Bank's 2020 Doing Business Index** where Botswana ranked 87th out of 190 countries, compared to its position as 86th in 2019.<sup>33</sup> The country's ranking has resulted in the government implementing a set of "*doing business reforms*" to improve Botswana's investment climate, while new administrative and regulatory frameworks aim to create an easier environment for investors looking to do business in the country.<sup>34</sup> The reforms include the **Online Business Registration System (OBRS)**, which was launched in June 2019 and aims to achieve faster, cheaper and more accurate methods of business registration.<sup>35</sup> The **Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA)** and the **Department of National and Civil Registration** have merged, and likewise the **Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS)** will also integrate by the end of March as part of efforts to "*facilitate movement of persons and aid investment*" and ensure the creation of jobs.<sup>36</sup>

The **Trade Act** and the **Industrial Development Act** are the newest pieces of legislation that aim to foster a better business environment.<sup>37</sup> They will allow licences and registration certificates to be issued "*over the counter*".<sup>38</sup> A review of the **Export Credit Reinsurance Act of 1997** will expand the **Botswana Export Credit Insurance (BECI)** products, which will enable companies registered in Botswana to invest in projects outside the country and facilitate the export of capital goods.<sup>39</sup>

The "export-oriented" **Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA)** will attract greater foreign direct investment (FDI) through the incentive package approved by Botswana's cabinet in 2019.<sup>40</sup> Matsheka explained that the incentives include:

- 5% corporate tax for the first 10 years and 10% thereafter
- Provision of fully serviced land

<sup>31</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>32</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>33</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>34</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>35</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>36</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>37</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>38</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>39</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>40</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

- Fast tracking of land allocation
- Providing single window and streamlined investor facilitation processes
- Waiver on transfer duty on land and property
- Property tax exemption for the first five years.<sup>41</sup>

Matsheka acknowledged that while the economy is expected to continue on this positive growth path, uncertainties in the global economy remain potential challenges and risks for Botswana.<sup>42</sup> The **World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report for 2020** has indicated challenges facing emerging markets such as Botswana.<sup>43</sup> **China** in particular represents a threat for Botswana given that it is the biggest buyer of Botswana's diamonds; anything that happens to China will impact Botswana.

### Botswana's Corruption Perceptions Index ranking stays above average

Botswana has maintained its position in **Transparency International's 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** rankings. The index scores 180 countries and territories by their "perceived levels of public sector corruption", with zero being "highly corrupt" and 100 being "very clean".<sup>44</sup> Botswana ranks 34<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries with a score of 61, achieving exactly the same score and ranking as it did in the 2018 CPI.

TI 2019 CPI Rankings for Botswana					
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Ranking</b>	34/180	34/180	34/176	35/168	28/175
<b>Score</b>	61	61	61	60	63

Botswana continues to place above the **sub-Saharan African** average of 32/100 and compares well with regional counterparts, outperforming **Mauritius** (56<sup>th</sup> with 52 points), **Namibia** (56<sup>th</sup> with 52 points), **South Africa** (70<sup>th</sup> with 44 points), and **Lesotho** (85<sup>th</sup> with 40 points).<sup>45</sup> Botswana is ranked second amongst the top scores in sub-Saharan Africa (34<sup>th</sup> overall), with **Seychelles** ranking 1<sup>st</sup> (27<sup>th</sup> overall with 66 points), and **Cabo Verde** ranking third (41<sup>st</sup> overall with 58 points).

TI CPI Rankings 2019: Regional comparison					
	Botswana	Mauritius	Namibia	South Africa	Lesotho
<b>Ranking</b>	34/180	56/180	56/180	70/180	85/180
<b>Score</b>	61	52	52	44	40

### Coal-to-liquid project to be fast-tracked ...

Mineral resources, green technology and energy security minister **Lefoko Maxwell Moagi** explained on the sidelines of the 2020 **Investing in Africa Mining Indaba in Cape Town** (3-16 Feb) that while Botswana's coal-to-liquid (CTL) refinery is still in its "infancy", it will be accelerated for completion by 2025.<sup>46</sup> The plant is being developed by state-owned **Botswana Oil (BOL)**, which issued a tender in 2017 through the department of energy seeking investors to help with the estimated \$4 billion cost of the plant.<sup>47</sup> Investors are needed to off-set the capital intensive undertaking of converting coal to liquids, which has immense start-up costs.

<sup>41</sup> Budget Speech 2020/2021, Government of Botswana's official website

<sup>42</sup> Reuters, 3 Feb 2020

<sup>43</sup> MmegiOnline, 31 Jan 2020

<sup>44</sup> Transparency International's 2019 CPI Report

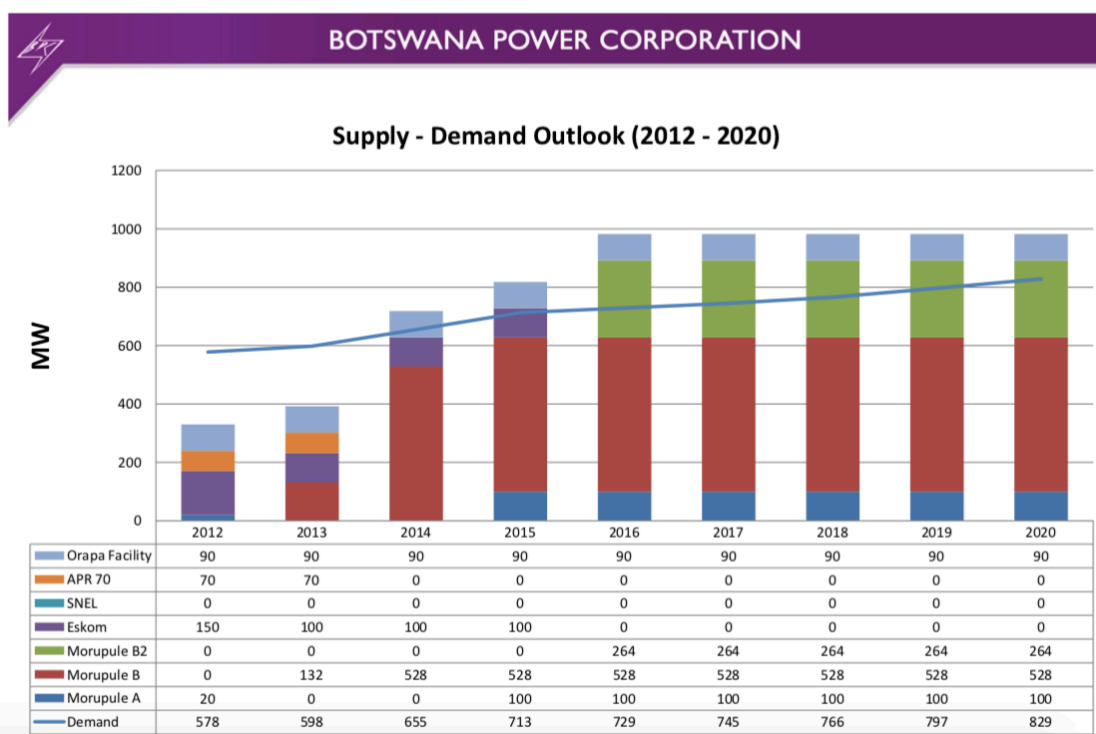
<sup>45</sup> Transparency International's 2019 CPI Report

<sup>46</sup> Reuters, 4 Feb 2020

<sup>47</sup> MineTravel, 15 June 2017

Moagi clarified that aside from the CTL plant, a 100-megawatt (MW) pilot coal bed methane project is currently underway as part of Botswana’s utilisation of its 212 billion tonnes of coal reserves.<sup>48</sup> While Moagi said some banks and Chinese firms remain potential financiers for the CTL plant, he did not disclose any names aside from confirming that the government had held preliminary discussions with South Africa-based energy and chemical company **Sasol**. It is believed that **Tlou Energy and Sekaname**, a subsidiary of Botswana’s **Kalahari Energy**, is shortlisted to develop the 100MW coal bed methane pilot plant.

These projects aim to diversify Botswana’s economy and ensure fuel self-sufficiency through the utilisation of the country’s immense coal resources.<sup>49</sup> BOL estimates that 15,000 jobs will be created during the building phase, and 4,000 permanent jobs when the plants are operational.<sup>50</sup> The successful execution of the refineries could see Botswana as a major energy player in the region. According to 2017 statistics, Botswana uses 1.6MWh per capita.<sup>51</sup>



Botswana’s supply and demand sources indicate challenges, particularly due its reliance on imports. More than 50% of Botswana’s power requirements are imported from South Africa and **Zambia**.<sup>52</sup> South Africa supplies Botswana with all its refined oil needs but sparse supply routes leave the country susceptible to intermittent shortages in fuel supply.<sup>53</sup> Insufficient storage capacity and travel distances exacerbate the situation.<sup>54</sup> The Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) has explained that other challenges to be addressed include the lack of grid access in the **Northwest Region** of the country, the demand growth potentially outstripping grid capacity in the south, and an inadequate transmission capacity to support new generation investments.<sup>55</sup> The efforts being made to combat these challenges, mentioned during the Budget Speech (see above) and at the 2020 Mining Indaba, show the

<sup>48</sup> Reuters, 4 Feb 2020

<sup>49</sup> MineTravel, 15 June 2017

<sup>50</sup> MineTravel, 15 June 2017

<sup>51</sup> International Energy Agency.org

<sup>52</sup> 2016 UN Environmental Programme Report on Botswana

<sup>53</sup> 2016 UN Environmental Programme Report on Botswana

<sup>54</sup> 2016 UN Environmental Programme Report on Botswana

<sup>55</sup> Botswana Power Corporation 2012-2020 Projections

government is actively working to ensure that these obstacles are addressed both for its citizens and for improving its ease of doing business.

### ... as Moagi appeals to mining investors

Botswana's delegation to the 2020 Mining Indaba – themed “*Optimizing Growth and Investment in the Digitized Mining Economy*” – included representatives from **Minerals Development Company Botswana**; Botswana Investment and Trade Centre; **Debswana**, the 50-50 joint venture between the Botswana government and South Africa-based diamond company **De Beers**; **Morupule Coal Mine** and **Canada**-headquartered **Lucara Botswana**.<sup>56</sup> Botswana participated under the theme “*Leveraging Botswana's Mining Potential towards a Knowledge-Based Economy*”, with companies seeking investors for its mining sector.<sup>57</sup>

Mineral resources minister Moagi presented on 5 February, highlighting opportunities and incentives in the mining sector, and reiterated that Botswana “*has a predictable and consistent business environment that investors can take advantage of*”.<sup>58</sup> Moagi spoke of the untapped deposits of diamonds, copper, and soda ash that present alternate possible investment into Botswana's mining sector.<sup>59</sup> He emphasised that even though Botswana is a stable and safe investment destination, the government continues to put in place frameworks and measures to guarantee optimum ease of doing business in Botswana.<sup>60</sup> The World Bank ranked Botswana 87 out of 190 countries in its 2020 **Doing Business** report.<sup>61</sup> This was a one-place drop from its ranking of 86 in the 2018 report.<sup>62</sup> In recent years, Botswana has slipped in the authoritative rankings, falling 11 places in 2017. That said, Botswana slightly improved its Doing Business 2020 score, which increased from 65.4 to 66.2. Botswana ranked 6<sup>th</sup> overall in sub-Saharan Africa. More specifically, it ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the region in “*dealing with construction permits*”, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the region for “*trading across borders*” and 5<sup>th</sup> in the region for “*protecting minority investors*”. Its worst performing areas were in “*starting a business*”, where it ranked 34<sup>th</sup> in sub-Saharan Africa, and “*enforcing contracts*”, where it ranked 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Planner

25 Feb 2020 **(Botswana) Bank of Botswana's** next outlook for the domestic economy;  
 26 Feb 2020 **(Botswana) Bank of Botswana** Monetary Policy Committee meeting;  
 19-23 Apr 2020 **Gaborone (Botswana) United States**-based business magazine **Forbes** to host the first **Under-30 Africa Summit**;  
 30 Apr 2020 **(Botswana) Bank of Botswana** MPC meeting;  
 2024 **(Botswana)** Presidential elections

### Chronology

10 Feb 2020 **Gaborone (Botswana) MmegiOnline**. **Barclays Bank Botswana** completes P17 billion (\$1.6 billion) transformation to **Absa Bank Botswana Ltd.**;  
 10 Feb 2020 **Letlhakane (Botswana) CanadianMiningJournal**. **Canada**-based **Lucara Diamond Company** announces the recovery of an unbroken 548-carat white diamond from **Karowe Diamond Mine**;  
 10 Feb 2020 **Toronto (Canada) GalaneGold**. **Canada**-based **Galane Gold Ltd.** announces 2019 production results. 30,294 ounces of gold (859kg) was mined at its **Mupane** property in

<sup>56</sup> Botswana Government's official Facebook page

<sup>57</sup> Botswana Government's official Facebook page

<sup>58</sup> Botswana Government's official Facebook page

<sup>59</sup> Botswana Government's official Facebook page

<sup>60</sup> Botswana Government's official Facebook page

<sup>61</sup> World Bank's Doing Business Report 2020, 24 Oct 2019

<sup>62</sup> World Bank's Doing Business Report 2019, 31 Oct 2018

**Botswana** and 2,905 ounces of gold (82kg) at its **Galaxy** property in **South Africa**;

10 Feb 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Botswana Daily News*. **Botswana** invests \$11m in the construction of embassy offices in **Ethiopia** with completion set for August 2020;

7 Feb 2020 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Reuters*. Botswana auctions off six licences to hunt a total of 60 elephants, the first permits since President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** revoked the 2014 ban;

5 Feb 2020 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *MmegiOnline*. **Health and Wellness Ministry** announces that all five suspected Coronavirus cases tested negative;

31 Jan 2020 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *MmegiOnline*. The **Botswana Stock Exchange**-listed grocer **Sefalana Group** posts best half-year results with a 48% sales growth and a revenue of P2.8 billion (\$257m);

22 Jan 2020 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. National data authority **Statistics Botswana** says youth unemployment rose by 1.6 percentage points from 25.1% in 2015/16 to 26.7% in the third quarter of 2019;

16 Jan 2020 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mining Review*. **Canada**-based **Lucara Diamond** enters into collaboration with **France**-based luxury fashion house **Louis Vuitton** and **Belgium**-based diamond manufacturer **HB Company** to manufacture its 1,758 carat **Sewelô** diamond recovered from its **Karowe** diamond mine;

15 Jan 2020 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Court of Appeal** grants opposition party **Umbrella for Democratic Change** permission to inspect materials used in the October 2019 disputed general elections, throwing out an application by the **Independent Electoral Commission** and the ruling **Botswana Democratic Party** to block a request;

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