

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Botswana Monthly Briefing July 2021

Botswana Summary 9 July 2021

President Mokgweetsi Masisi (2018-present) suspends all liquor licences until further notice, citing evidence that alcohol consumption increases the risks posed by Covid-19 by reducing compliance with Covid-19 protocols. The World Bank approves a \$250m loan to support Botswana's efforts to address the negative economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. National statistics agency Statistics Botswana releases Consumer Price Index (CPI) data indicating that Botswana's inflation reached 6.2% in May, the highest recorded since April 2013. Statistics Botswana reports that average monthly cash earnings in the fourth quarter of 2020 in the formal sector were P6,014 (\$549), raising concern over the growing income gap between professional and "elementary" workers. Debswana diamond company, jointly owned by the Botswana government and United Kingdom (UK)-headquartered De Beers Group, announces it has unearthed a 1,098 carat stone, believed to be the third largest diamond in history, at its Jwaneng mine. International affairs minister Lemogang Kwappe, representing President Masisi in his capacity as Southern African Development Community (SADC) politics, defence and security chair, leads a team of SADC ministers to Eswatini in an attempt to find a solution to the unrest in the kingdom.

Government reimposes ban on alcohol sales as Covid cases rise ...

Health services director **Malebogo Kebabonye** announced on 28 June that President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** (2018-present) had suspended with immediate effect all liquor licences issued in terms of **Botswana's Liquor Act**.¹ The ban on the sale of alcohol is the government's response to an increasing rate of positive testing for **Covid-19**. Kebabonye said the suspension of alcohol sales is based on evidence that alcohol consumption increases the risks posed by Covid-19, "due to its negative effects on adherence to Covid-19 protocols". All liquor stores in Botswana remain closed and liquor may not be sold or consumed in public places until further notice.²

Representatives of the local alcohol industry say the government is disproportionately targeting the sector in the fight against Covid-19. The government imposed a ban on the sale and public consumption of alcohol from 27 March 2020 to 30 May 2020, reinstated it again on 5 August, and lifted it on 4 September. The sale of alcohol was suspended again on 4 January, lifted on 1 March and reinstated again on 28 June. The bans have resulted in lost sales of P880m (\$80.6m) to the industry and foregone tax revenue to the government. Botswana's largest alcohol producer, **Kgalagadi Breweries Limited (KBL)**, filed an urgent application to the **High Court of Botswana** on 6 July to overturn the government's latest alcohol sales ban.

Concerned residents claim the alcohol ban is in response to neighbouring **South Africa** imposing a ban on the sale of alcohol on 27 June, the day before Botswana reacted:

*"So we were waiting for [South Africa's] President **Cyril Ramaphosa** [2018-present] to make a decision so that we could copy? Botswana is not a province of South Africa. We must learn to make our own decisions."³*

¹ Mmegi, 28 Jun 2021

² Mmegi, 28 Jun 2021

³ ARC source, Botswana resident

Other critics of the ban argue that the government should instead direct its efforts to procuring and administering Covid-19 vaccines for the population. As of 2 July, the health and wellness ministry had fully vaccinated 100,125 Batswana while 160,196 had received a first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.⁴

As of 2 July, Botswana had recorded 73,977 cases of Covid-19, with 68,069 recoveries, and 1,188 Covid-19-related deaths in its population of roughly 2.4 million.⁵ There are roughly 4,720 active cases in the country.

In addition to the ban on sales and public consumption of alcohol, curfew from 10pm to 4am remains in effect. All gatherings are suspended with the exception of funerals, religious services, weddings, traditional or cultural occasions, meeting or workshops, and restaurants subject to restrictions.⁶ Funerals, religious services and meetings are limited to up to 50 persons and no longer than two hours. Weddings are restricted to four people including administrators. Cultural or traditional occasions are restricted to 16 people and no longer than two hours. Restaurants may operate within curfew hours and at half capacity with no more than 50 guests at a time. All sports and recreational activities are suspended except national team and league events with no spectators.

All travellers to Botswana must have a printed medical certificate (in English) with a negative Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result issued no more than 72 hours before departure.⁷ Passengers are subject to medical screening upon arrival. However, travellers from high risk countries may be required to quarantine at a designated facility and at their own expense. Antigen (rapid) tests are available at the international airports and major land border crossings and testing centres around Botswana.⁸

... as World Bank lends \$250m for Covid support ...

Finance and economic development minister **Peggy Serame** said on 5 July that she will ask parliament to consent to government's request for a \$250m loan from the **World Bank**.⁹ While the World Bank has approved the facility, parliament must consent before the loan can be disbursed to Botswana. The World Bank approved the \$250m loan on 11 June, to support Botswana's recovery from the severe negative economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.¹⁰ The World Bank says its **Programmatic Economic Resilience and Green Recovery Development Policy Loan (DPL)** will support the implementation of Botswana's **Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP)** and is designed to strengthen its Covid-19 pandemic relief while bolstering resilience to future shocks.¹¹ The DPL is the World Bank's first-ever budget support operation for Botswana and the first of two planned operations. World Bank country director for **Eswatini, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia** and South Africa, **Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly** acknowledged the burden that the pandemic has placed on Botswana's economy, people and businesses:

"With this operation, the World Bank will support the government's reforms to ensure social spending reaches the poorest and assists Batswana who are most affected by the Covid-19. This operation will also support reforms to attract private sector investments,

⁴ Botswana Covid-19 Task Force, 2 Jul 2021

⁵ Botswana Covid-19 Task Force, 2 Jul 2021

⁶ United States Embassy in Botswana, 7 Jul 2021

⁷ United States Embassy in Botswana, 7 Jul 2021

⁸ United States Embassy in Botswana, 7 Jul 2021

⁹ Mmegi, 5 Jul 2021

¹⁰ Reuters, 14 Jun 2021

¹¹ World Bank Press Release no: 2020/170/AFR, 11 Jun 2021

contribute to diversification of exports, and increase job opportunities towards a green economy.”¹²

While Botswana has recorded relatively few cases of Covid-19, lockdown restrictions have disrupted economic activities and caused loss of income in key economic sectors such as diamond mining and sales.¹³ The pandemic led to real gross domestic economic contraction of 7.9% in Botswana in 2020, the largest in its history. However, the government sees the economy rebounding to growth of 8.8% in 2021 on the back of recovery in the global diamond market, as well as its own economic recovery efforts.¹⁴

Botswana’s parliament approved a P14.5 billion (\$1.36 billion) economic recovery plan in September, which government said would be funded through the combination of local borrowing and external sources.¹⁵ Botswana has traditionally funded deficits from its own reserves, however, Covid-19 spending in 2020 drained the country’s reserves, leading government to open negotiations with the World Bank in January.¹⁶ The 2020/21 deficit is estimated at P14.6 billion (\$1.3 billion), while the 2021 shortfall is expected to be P6 billion (\$548m) or about 3% of GDP.¹⁷

Inflation hits 6.2% in May...

National statistics agency **Statistics Botswana** released data on the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** on 15 June, revealing that inflation in Botswana reached 6.2% in May, the highest recorded since April 2013.¹⁸ This is the second recorded rise in inflation within the space of a month. On 14 May, Statistics Botswana noted that inflation rose sharply in Botswana in April to 5.6% from 3.2% recorded in March (see *ARC Briefing Botswana June 2021*).¹⁹ Statistics Botswana researchers attributed the rise in the inflation rate and cost of living to the 1 April fuel price increase, value added tax, as well as higher prices of food, alcohol, financial services, **Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC)** house rentals, electricity tariffs, water, gas and a range of other increases in administered prices.²⁰ The tax hikes are generally interpreted as local businesses passing on increased costs to consumers in the form of higher prices, while supply constraints in an environment of rising demand have also fuelled inflation.²¹

The latest increases are in line with **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) expectations that inflation would breach the upper cap of its 3-6% target in the second quarter of this year before returning below that level in the first three months of 2022.²² The BoB maintains a medium term inflation target of between 3% and 6%.²³ BoB governor **Moses Dinekere Pelaelo** said in April that the rise in inflation in the second quarter is driven by recent tax increases and Covid-19-related constraints.²⁴ Inflation dropped below 1% in 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic depressed economic activity but has been on the rise in the last few months, culminating in the 6.2% rate in May.

Rising inflation rates come amid concerns over the growing income gap between professionals and elementary workers in Botswana. Statistics Botswana describes elementary works as those

¹² World Bank Press Release no: 2020/170/AFR, 11 Jun 2021

¹³ Reuters, 14 Jun 2021

¹⁴ Reuters, 14 Jun 2021

¹⁵ Reuters, 14 Jun 2021

¹⁶ Mmegi, 14 Jun 2021

¹⁷ Mmegi, 14 Jun 2021

¹⁸ Mmegi, 15 Jun 2021

¹⁹ Mmegi, 15 Jun 2021

²⁰ Mmegi, 15 Jun 2021

²¹ Reuters, 29 Apr 2021

²² Mmegi, 15 Jun 2021

²³ Mmegi, 15 Jun 2021

²⁴ Reuters, 29 Apr 2021

including occupations such as “domestic workers, cleaners, security guards, labourers and jobs that do not require much education”.²⁵ In a report released on 22 June, the **World Wide Web Foundation** estimated average monthly incomes in Botswana at P7,400 (\$675.9)²⁶

Local commentators claim average monthly income is more in line with figures released by Statistics Botswana in its February labour report, noting that average cash earnings in the fourth quarter of 2020 in the formal sector were P6,014 (\$549) per month.²⁷ Specialised professionals earned about P20,338 (\$1,857.79), service and sales workers an average of P3,009 (\$274.8) per month, while elementary workers earned an average of P1,320 (\$120.5) per month. Service and sales workers together with elementary workers comprise 49.7% of all formal sector employees, about 240,000 people in total.²⁸ Specialised workers and managers accounted for only 8% of the formal labour sector, numbering 2,509 out of 477,714 in the formal labour sector. Statistics Botswana noted that as of 2019, 70% of all employed people in the country earned less than P4,000 (\$365) a month, while 16.4% of all households worried at least ten times a month about not having food.²⁹ Local publication **Mmegi** claims that P9,000 (\$821.70) is the average amount needed to survive in Botswana’s cities or towns, meaning that most formal workers struggle to sustain themselves.³⁰

The announcement on 9 July by the **Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA)** that retail pump prices for petrol and diesel will be increased as of 10 July will place further economic pressure on households and businesses. BERA has increased the retail pump price of unleaded petrol 93 by 61 thebe (\$0.056) per litre, unleaded petrol 95 by 63 thebe (\$0.058) per litre, diesel 50ppm by 53 thebe (\$0.049) per litre; and illuminating paraffin by 92 thebe (\$0.084) per litre.³¹ BERA said the increase in local retail prices is necessitated by the general increase of international oil prices, which have been on a constant recovery.

Debswana unearths world’s third largest diamond

Debswana, the government’s 50:50 joint venture diamond company with **United Kingdom (UK)**-headquartered **De Beers Group**, announced on 16 June that it had unearthed a 1,098 carat stone, believed to be the third largest diamond in history, at its **Jwaneng** mine.³² The as-yet unnamed stone is viewed as a blessing for Botswana and Debswana, which saw production and returns slump in 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19.³³ The firm’s production dropped 29% to 16.6 million carats in 2020, while the country’s total rough diamond sales fell 30% to \$2.1 billion.³⁴

Debswana’s senior management, led by acting managing director **Lynette Armstrong**, presented the large stone to President Mokgweetsi Masisi, first lady **Neo Masisi**, and a full sitting of cabinet ministers at **State House** on 16 June. The official government **Twitter** account said proceeds from the gem will be used to advance the country’s national development and encouraged Debswana to “use this latest discovery as an inflection point, for the mine to use its technology to realize more of these large discoveries”.³⁵ Armstrong said while the value of the

²⁵ Quarterly Multi-Topic Survey: Labour Force Module Report Quarter 4: 2020, Feb 2021

²⁶ Mmegi, 2 July 2021

²⁷ Quarterly Multi-Topic Survey: Labour Force Module Report Quarter 4: 2020, Feb 2021

²⁸ Mmegi, 2 July 2021

²⁹ Mmegi, 2 July 2021

³⁰ Mmegi, 2 July 2021

³¹ Mmegi, 9 July 2021

³² CNN, 16 Jun 2021

³³ Mmegi, 16 Jun 2021

³⁴ Mmegi, 16 Jun 2021

³⁵ CNN, 16 Jun 2021

stone is yet to be determined, “*in terms of sentimental value, it certainly has a lot.*”³⁶ Masisi noted that the government will get its returns in due course:

*“While government is not in the habit of manipulating companies, Botswana will tax them, they will pay royalties and help this country.”*³⁷

The Jwaneng mine was opened in August 1982 and unearths 12.5 million to 15 million carats a year.³⁸ Jwaneng is the world’s richest diamond mine by value and contributes 60-70% of Debswana’s total revenue.³⁹ The government noted that the new stone is the largest gem discovered by Debswana since diamonds were first discovered in Botswana in 1967. The largest diamond ever recorded is the 3,106 carat **Cullinan** diamond unearthed in South Africa in 1905. The stone was cut into smaller pieces, some of which form part of the crown jewels of the **British** royal family.⁴⁰ The second largest unearthed diamond is the **Lesedi La Rona**, a 1,109 carat stone found by **Canada-based Lucara Diamond Corporation** in Botswana in 2015. The diamond was sold to luxury jeweller **Graff** for \$53m in 2017.⁴¹ Lucara announced on 23 June that it had recovered a 1,174 carat diamond from its **Karowe** mine.⁴²

Masisi sends SADC team to quell unrest in Eswatini...

International affairs minister **Lemogang Kwape** arrived in **Eswatini** on 4 July, leading a team of **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** ministers aimed at finding a solution to the unrest in the kingdom.⁴³ Kwape represented President Mokgweetsi Masisi in his role of SADC politics, defence and security chair. Violence and a brutal response by security forces have gripped Eswatini (formerly known as **Swaziland**) since 22 June as citizens demonstrate in the continent’s last absolute monarchy. The ruling monarch, King **Mswati III**, is accused of living a life of luxury with his family, while blocking democratic reforms and economic measures to assist the country’s poor.⁴⁴ Reports on 5 July suggest that security forces have killed at least 60 people, although the government says the figure is 27 casualties.⁴⁵ Information and technology minister **Sikhanyiso Dlamini**, who is also the king’s eldest daughter, told UK-headquartered news outlet **BBC** on 3 July that mercenaries had invaded the kingdom and attacked citizens, posting the videos on social media to smear the king's reputation.⁴⁶ Although Dlamini said King Mswati was willing to engage with protestors, commentators within and outside the country dismissed her comments.

In statements shared by Eswatini’s government on its official social media, Kwape noted that SADC is committed to bringing peace to the country after days of public unrest:

*“SADC stands ready to support the people of the Kingdom of eSwatini in their quest to bring peace and calm that will lead to the socio-economic development of this country, something that we in the region cherish.”*⁴⁷

Acting prime minister of Swaziland, **Themba Masuku**, said the Eswatini government had set up a team to work alongside SADC in its engagements. It was unclear whether the minister toured

³⁶ Mmegi, 16 Jun 2021

³⁷ Mmegi, 16 Jun 2021

³⁸ Debswana, 7 Jul 2021

³⁹ Debswana, 7 Jul 2021

⁴⁰ CNN, 16 Jun 2021

⁴¹ CNN, 16 Jun 2021

⁴² Lucara Diamond Corporation Press Release, 23 Jun 2021

⁴³ Mmegi, 4 Jul 2021

⁴⁴ Mmegi, 4 Jul 2021

⁴⁵ Daily Maverick, 5 Jul 2021

⁴⁶ Mmegi, 4 Jul 2021

⁴⁷ Mmegi, 4 Jul 2021

violence-hit areas or spoke to pro-democracy and anti-monarchy demonstrators who have been leading the demonstrations.⁴⁸

Planner

Mar-Dec 2021 **(Botswana)** Timeline for Botswana's **Covid-19** vaccination campaign;

Aug 2021 **(Malawi)** **41st Southern Africa Development Community Summit** of Heads of State and Government;

2021 **Morupule (Botswana)** Expected commissioning of **Morupule Coal Mine** expanded mine;

Mar 2022 **(Botswana)** Target date to establish 2,400 new businesses, including 32 manufacturing companies;

Mar 2023 **(Botswana)** End date of **National Development Plan 11 (NDP11)**;

2024 **(Botswana)** Presidential elections

Chronology

9 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA)** announces that retail pump prices for petrol and diesel will be adjusted as of 10 July;

6 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Botswana's largest alcohol producer, **Kgalagadi Breweries Limited (KBL)**, files an urgent high court application to overturn the latest alcohol sales ban imposed by government on 28 June;

6 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. A **World Wide Web Foundation** study shows that the average person needs P9,000 (\$823) per month to survive in cities in Botswana; however, Botswanan workers earn P6,000 (\$548.8) per month on average;

6 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Office of the President Press Release*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** appoints deputy speaker of the national assembly **Mochudi East** member of parliament **Mabuse Pule** as assistant minister of local government and rural development;

6 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Tonota** member of parliament **Pono Moatlhodi** replaces **Mabuse Pule** as deputy speaker of the national assembly following his appointment as assistant minister of local government and rural development;

6 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. During a three-day visit to Botswana, **Commonwealth** secretary general **Patricia Scotland** says pricing for Covid-19 vaccines should be fair and transparent;

5 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Entrenched factions of main opposition party **Botswana National Front (BNF)** battle for control ahead of party leadership elections;

5 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Health and wellness ministry says **Covid-19** claimed the lives of 16 doctors between March 2020 and June 2021;

5 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Botswana continues to import up to 50 million litres of milk annually to meet national demand, despite steadily improving local production;

5 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Health and wellness ministry reports new **Covid-19** cases rose by 1,006 in the previous four days;

5 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** notes strong progress by Botswana in addressing deficiencies that have resulted in its three-year stay on the

⁴⁸ Mmegi, 4 Jul 2021

global anti-money laundering grey list;

5 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Finance and economic development minister **Peggy Serame** will ask parliament to consent to Botswana's request for a P2.6 billion (\$250m) **Programmatic Economic Resilience and Green Recovery Development Policy Loan (DPL)** from the **World Bank**, which has approved the government's request made after the midterm review revealed a budgetary deficit;

5 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) has paid government P2.9 billion (\$265m) in proceeds for the central bank's investment activities in 2020;

5 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. The **United States (US) Agency for International Development** has recognised **Flotek Pipes and Irrigation** and **DLG Naturals Ltd** as outstanding exporters for the **Botswana Exporter of the Year** award for their excellence and innovation in reaching export markets in **Southern Africa** and the US;

5 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. International affairs minister **Lebogang Kwape**, representing President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** in his role as **Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)** politics, defence and security chair, lands in **Eswatini** leading a SADC ministerial team aimed at finding a solution to the unrest in the country;

3 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi**, in his role as **Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)** politics, defence and security chair, says the regional bloc is sending a team of ministers to help quell the unrest in **Eswatini**;

30 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The local alcohol industry says government is disproportionately targeting the sector in the fight against **Covid-19** and law enforcement should instead attend to hotspots where non-compliance with Covid-19 measures is taking place;

30 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Botswana's **Elias Magosi** faces **Faustin Luanga Mukela** of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** for top post of **Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)** executive secretary; the interview panel is expected to make its recommendation at the SADC Summit in August;

30 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The health and wellness ministry anticipates it will vaccinate 80% of those aged 55 and older by the end of July;

29 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Local supermarket retailer **Choppies** has made a P1 million (\$91,476) pledge to Botswana gold medal winners at the upcoming **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games** to motivate the athletes;

29 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Political party chief whips say parliament could prioritise a constitutional review in its July sitting, but that it should give priority to **Covid-19** spread in schools, vaccination programme and strategies to address job losses and avoid business closures;

28 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) governor **Moses Pelaelo** says the bank recorded net income of P8.8 billion (\$808m) in 2020, from which it paid P2.9 billion (\$269m) to government;

28 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Government Gazette*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** suspends all liquor licences issued in terms of the **Liquor Act** with immediate effect on the basis that consumption of alcohol increases the risks posed by Covid-19 due to its negative effects on adherence to Covid-19 protocols;

28 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Debswana**, the world's leading producer of diamonds by value, and **Bank Gaborone** have partnered in a supplier development programme

that has so far created P850m (\$77.5m) in value for various citizen-owned businesses;

28 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Investment, trade and industry minister **Mmusi Kgafela** asks the **Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)** parliamentary forum to advocate for inclusion of the **African Continental Free Trade Area agreement (AfCFTA)** in national laws, national development plans and all other pieces of legislation existing in the member states;

28 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Botswana Oil Limited** says it will not appeal the decision by the **Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA)** to limit the oil company to importing and supplying only 25% of the volume of petroleum products consumed in the country;

28 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) opens discussions with the finance and economic development ministry to accommodate the higher yields investors are demanding in order to lend to government under the P30 billion (\$2.7 billion) domestic debt programme;

28 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)**'s attempt to put together a strong coalition to unseat the ruling **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** appears to be collapsing amid growing reports of sabotage and poor working relations among the coalition partners;

26 Jun 2021 **Francistown (Botswana)** *Daily News*. **Francistown** district commissioner **Chabongwa Matseka** says the increase in the number of **Covid-19** cases and related deaths has caused the city to be declared a red zone; the city has recorded a total of 8,474 cases and 90 deaths;

25 Jun 2021 **Francistown (Botswana)** *Daily News*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** says the standby troops that the **Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)** is sending to **Mozambique** will not wage war against the insurgents but aim to restore peace and normalcy to the **Cabo Delgado** region;

23 Jun 2021 **Karowe (Botswana)** *Lucara Diamond Corporation Press Release*. **Canada**-based **Lucara Diamond Corporation** recovers a 1,174 carat diamond from its **Karowe** mine;

23 Jun 2021 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Daily News*. **Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)** double troika members **Mozambique, Malawi** and **Tanzania** approve the deployment of a standby force to Mozambique during a summit held in **Maputo**, which aims to combat terrorism and acts of violence in Mozambique's **Cabo Delgado** region which has been under intense attack from insurgents for more than three years;

22 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** expresses concern that police detentions and arrests could interfere with the government's attempts to contain the spread of **Covid-19**;

22 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Government, through the **Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS)**, has signed a memorandum of understanding with **Steve Harvey Global (SHG)** regarding facilitation of the creative industry;

22 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The health and wellness ministry announces that Botswana will receive on 23 June 200,000 doses of the **Sinovac** vaccine that the government purchase from **China**;

22 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Botswana Entertainment Promoters Association (BEPA)** calls for reopening of live events and performances following government's decision to allow sports activities to return to action;

22 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Presidential **Covid-19** task force scientific officer **Mogomotsi Matshaba** announces that Botswana has surpassed the 1,000 mark in **Covid-19**-related deaths;

21 Jun 2021 **Walvis Bay (Namibia)** *Mmegi*. **Botswana Railways'** subsidiary, **SeaRail**, has completed the construction of a P6.8m (\$620,493) warehouse measuring 3,000 square metres at **Walvis Bay** port;

21 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** departs for **Narcala Porto** in the **Nampula Province** of **Mozambique** where he will officiate at the opening of the **Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)** humanitarian and emergency centre;

17 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Presidential **Covid-19** task force deputy coordinator **Mosepele Mosepele** says Botswana has fully vaccinated 23,018 people and administered a first dose to 151,315, noting it has completed 1,244,999 Covid-19 tests and 58,541 have recovered from Covid-19;

17 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** declares a seven-day mourning period in Botswana following the death of **Zambia's** founding president, **Kenneth Kaunda**;

17 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. **Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BOMRA)** maintains suspension of registration of **GrandPa** pain relief products because of safety concerns;

17 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** maintains bank rate at 3.75%;

16 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Debswana, the world's leading producer of diamonds by value, unveils a 1,098-carat rough diamond recovered from its **Jwaneng** mine;

15 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Statistics Botswana** reports that inflation reached 6.2% in May, its highest level since April 2013;

15 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The presidential **Covid-19** task force has engaged the private sector to raise the P590m (\$53.8m) needed to secure and distribute the balance of doses required to complete the national vaccination programme;

14 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Health and wellness minister **Edwin Dikoloti** says unforeseen circumstances are impacting the delivery of **Covid-19** vaccines to cover the eligible population;

14 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Higher fourth quarter revenues as well as underspending in the development budget helped the 2020-2021 deficit fall from a forecast record of P21 billion (\$1.9 billion) to P14.6 billion (\$1.3 billion);

14 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) has raised 53% of the P1.95 billion (\$177.9m) sought in its recent search for debt, as government continues to reject the higher returns being demanded by the market in order to lend funds;

14 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Former president **Seretse Khama Ian Khama** says he is anticipating a raid on him by the **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** for alleged possession of weapons;

14 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Local supermarket retailer **Choppies** CEO **Ramachandran Ottapathu** and founder **Farouk Ismail** are demanding further particulars in their P450m (\$41m) lawsuit against **PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)** Botswana;

11 Jun 2021 **Dodoma (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. Tanzania's President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** holds official dinner in honour of President **Mokgweetsi Masisi**;

11 Jun 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Monitor*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** receives his first dose of the **Pfizer Covid-19** vaccine at **Maruapula** community hall in **Gaborone**;

11 Jun 2021 **Washington (United States)** *World Bank Press Release*. Government has finalised a P2.6 billion (\$250m) loan with the **World Bank** to support the **Economic Recovery and Transformation Programme (ERTP)**;

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