

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Botswana Monthly Briefing August 2021

Botswana Summary 11 August 2021

Frustration grows in Botswana over delayed delivery of Covid-19 vaccine doses. The government has spent \$19.2m to purchase more than two million doses of Covid-19 vaccine from various pharmaceutical companies, but only 14% of ordered vaccines have been delivered. Botswana's economic trajectory becomes positive for the first time in nine months, registering a marginal 0.7% growth for the first quarter of 2021 led by the non-mining sector. Latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) data from national statistics agency Statistics Botswana reveal that Botswana's inflation rate reached a nine-year high in June, with year-on-year inflation increasing to 8.2%. Botswana Defence Force (BDF) deploys troops to join Southern African Development Community (SADC) forces in Mozambique's northern Cabo Delgado province, in a bid to neutralise Islamic State insurgents in the region and recapture seized territory.

Frustration grows over delayed Covid-19 vaccine delivery

Presidential Covid-19 Task Force deputy coordinator **Mosepele Mosepele** has voiced government frustration with the delivery of Covid-19 vaccines to **Botswana**. Although, the government has spent \$19.2m to purchase more than two million doses of Covid-19 vaccine from various pharmaceutical companies, it had only received 282,890 doses (14%) of ordered vaccines as of 3 August.¹ Vaccine manufacturers are frequently pushing back delivery dates due to high global demand for vaccines.² Expressing the government's frustration, Mosepele noted:

"When we asked, they said by June it will be delivered, then they said July, then August. We were expecting [United States (US)-manufactured] Johnson & Johnson [vaccines] earlier but these had to be disposed of due to safety issues. These things take us back."³

Botswana received an additional 38,400 doses of the **AstraZeneca** Covid-19 vaccine, purchased through the **World Health Organization's (WHO) Covax** facility, on 8 August. The health ministry confirmed on 9 August that Botswana would receive its first consignment of 108,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine on 12 August.⁴ The government also confirmed on 10 August that it expected to receive 81,900 doses of the **Pfizer-Biontech** Covid-19 vaccine on 14 August, donated by the US government through the Covax facility.

Addressing parliament on 23 July, health minister **Edwin Dikoloti** said while there have been short and delayed deliveries of vaccines, the Botswana government is "*doing everything under the sun, constantly engaging with the suppliers for an expedited delivery*".⁵ Dikoloti said Botswana has ordered a "*basket of vaccines*" including sufficient Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 doses to vaccinate 1.2 million people and 500,000 vaccine doses from US-based **Moderna Inc.** The government has also acquired vaccines from **British-Swedish** multinational **AstraZeneca**, the **Russia**-manufactured **Sputnik V**, **India**-manufactured **Covishield** and **Covaxin (Bharat)**, and

¹ The Monitor, 3 Aug 2021

² The Monitor, 3 Aug 2021

³ The Monitor, 3 Aug 2021

⁴ Daily News, 9 Aug 2021

⁵ The Monitor, 3 Aug 2021

China's Sinovac (see *ARC Briefing Botswana May 2021*).⁶ The government is expecting about 1.3 million vaccine doses from Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Sinovac between August and September, which should stabilise Botswana's vaccination rollout.⁷

President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** (2018-present) has faced criticism for the delay in vaccine procurement. A local source noted growing scepticism towards the government:

*"With our small population the government missed the opportunity to win against Covid. The president has been busy flying around tending to countries other than his own. They should produce the receipts of vaccine procurements because we no longer believe what this government says."*⁸

As of 6 August, the health ministry had fully vaccinated 132,466 Botswana while 243,894 had received a first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.⁹ As of 6 August, Botswana had recorded 130,771 cases of Covid-19, with 111,411 recoveries, and 1,832 Covid-19-related deaths in its population of roughly 2.4 million.¹⁰ There are roughly 17,528 active cases in the country. As of 9 August, Botswana has the second highest infection rate after **Florida** (US) at about 944.7 cases per million people.¹¹

Restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19 remain in effect. The alcohol industry is reeling from a sales ban instituted on 28 June, while nightclubs have not operated in the country since March 2020.¹² Curfew is in effect from 10pm to 4am. All gatherings are suspended with the exception of funerals, religious services, weddings, traditional or cultural occasions, meetings and workshops. Funerals, religious services and meetings are limited to up to 50 people and can last 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. However, **Botswana Football League (BFL)** CEO **Solomon Ramochotlhwane** said on 31 May that fully vaccinated football fans could be allowed into stadiums when the new season kicks off in September.¹³

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.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

Non-mining sector leads marginal GDP recovery...

The domestic economy has largely reopened to most activities. Botswana experienced a positive economic trajectory for the first time in nine months in Q1 2021, registering marginal 0.7% growth led by the non-mining sector.¹⁶ National statistics agency **Statistics Botswana** data released on 16 July showed that the gross domestic product (GDP) recorded a positive turn in

⁶ The Monitor, 3 Aug 2021

⁷ The Monitor, 3 Aug 2021

⁸ ARC Source, Botswana resident

⁹ Botswana Covid-19 Task Force, 6 Aug 2021

¹⁰ Botswana Covid-19 Task Force, 6 Aug 2021

¹¹ Our World in Data, 10 Aug 2021

¹² Mmegi, 26 Jul 2021

¹³ Mmegi, 31 May 2021

¹⁴ Mmegi, 26 Jul 2021

¹⁵ Mmegi, 26 Jul 2021

¹⁶ Statistics Botswana, 16 Jul 2021

Q1, after continuous contractions dating back to Q2 2020. However, local analysts say that while the first quarter growth is a good sign, it is far below the recovery needed to restore the local economy to its pre-pandemic path after its 7.9% contraction in 2021.¹⁷ Statistician general **Burton Mguni** noted that the Q1 improvement in GDP reflected continued efforts to reopen businesses and resume activities that were postponed or restricted due to the Covid-19 pandemic:

“During the quarter under review, public administration and defence became the major contributor to GDP by 18.4%, followed by wholesale and retail by 11.4%.”¹⁸

Non-mining GDP grew by 4.1% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to a 4% increase recorded in the same period in 2020. However, accommodation and food services contracted by 32%, mining and quarrying by 11%, and agriculture, forestry and fishing by 2%.¹⁹ Statistics Botswana noted that the decline in accommodation and food services real value added is largely due to a drop of 42.1% in real value added of accommodation activities.²⁰ The suspension of air travel due to Covid-19 containment measures decreased the number of tourists entering Botswana and thus affected the output of the hotel and restaurant industry:

“Covid-19 restriction measures resulted in reduced demand for leisure and conferencing activities, as conferences are [now] largely held through virtual platforms.”

The decline in mining and quarrying output is attributed to lower production of diamonds and gold during the first quarter. Statistics Botswana researchers said heavy rains and operational issues such as continued power disruptions have resulted in a lower grade feed to the **Orapa** plant and negatively impacted the diamond sub-sector.²¹ Lower gold output is due to the diminishing resource base.

... as inflation hits 8.2% in June

Inflation in Botswana reached a nine-year high in June, with year-on-year inflation increasing to 8.2%, according to Statistics Botswana **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** data released on 15 July.²² This is the third recorded rise in inflation within the space of two months. On 14 May, Statistics Botswana reported that inflation rose sharply in Botswana to 5.6% in April from 3.2% recorded in March (see *ARC Briefing Botswana June 2021*).²³ On 15 June, Statistics Botswana reported that inflation in Botswana reached 6.2% in May, the highest recorded since April 2013 (see *ARC Briefing Botswana July 2021*).²⁴

Statistics Botswana analysts attribute 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.²⁵ Local businesses have passed on increased costs to consumers in the form of higher prices, while supply constraints in an environment of rising demand have also fuelled inflation.²⁶

¹⁷ Mmegi, 26 Jul 2021

¹⁸ Statistics Botswana, 16 Jul 2021

¹⁹ Mmegi, 26 Jul 2021

²⁰ Statistics Botswana, 16 Jul 2021

²¹ Mmegi, 26 Jul 2021

²² Mmegi, 15 Jul 2021

²³ Mmegi, 15 Jun 2021

²⁴ Mmegi, 15 Jun 2021

²⁵ Mmegi, 15 Jul 2021

²⁶ Reuters, 29 Apr 2021

Inflation is expected to rise further due to June's fuel price increase. The **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) forecast in June that inflation will peak at 8.5% this year before returning to the medium-term objective range of between 3 and 6% by the second quarter of 2022.²⁷

Botswana deploys troops to Mozambique...

The **Botswana Defence Force (BDF)** has deployed troops to join the **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** forces in **Mozambique** to neutralise the **Islamic State** insurgents in the region and recapture territory they have seized. On 26 July, 70 of the 296 troops departed for Mozambique's northern **Cabo Delgado Province**, home to the country's potentially lucrative liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects.²⁸ President Mokgweetsi Masisi said the troops should brace for a "*deceptive enemy*" that is most likely to use "*underhand tactics*". Masisi encouraged the troops to observe internationally prescribed laws of armed conflict,

*"... as well as the **Status of Force Agreement** which establishes the framework under which the **SADC Mission in Mozambique** personnel will operate in Mozambique".²⁹*

Masisi reminded the troops that their deployment comes at a time when Botswana is facing dire economic challenges posed and exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, Masisi noted that his government, through the **Reset Initiative**, is working "*tirelessly*" to reinvigorate the local economy and will source some of the services for the mission locally.³⁰ Masisi said the BDF had in previous missions – including **Somalia's Operation Restore Hope**, the **United Nations Operations in Mozambique (UNOMOZ)** I & II in Mozambique, the **United Nations (UN)** observer mission in **Rwanda** and **Lesotho's BOLEAS** – received praise for its professional conduct in the execution of military duties.³¹

The conflict in Cabo Delgado has led to the deaths of more than 3,000 people since 2017, with reports of beheadings, disembowelling of expectant mothers and other brutalities. In April, a SADC technical and security team, led by Botswana, recommended the deployment of an almost 3,000-strong regional rapid response team into Cabo Delgado province (see *ARC Briefing Botswana May 2021*).³² As the SADC politics, defence and security chair, Masisi travelled between **Maputo** (Mozambique), **Gaborone** and several regional capitals rallying support to fight the **Islamic State** insurgency in Mozambique.

The BDF joins a **SADC Standby Force** of more than 800 forces from different countries in the region. **Rwanda**, which is not a member of SADC, has already deployed more than 1,000 troops in Mozambique, managing to secure a bilateral arrangement with Maputo. Some Western governments are also reported to have contributed military support to stem the conflict in Cabo Delgado. Masisi said each SADC member country deploying troops will fund its own costs, together with assistance from the SADC Secretariat.

²⁷ Mmegi, 15 Jul 2021

²⁸ Botswana Television, 26 Jul 2021

²⁹ Mmegi, 26 Jul 2021

³⁰ Botswana Television, 26 Jul 2021

³¹ Mmegi, 26 Jul 2021

³² The Daily Maverick, 27 Apr 2021

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

10 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Botswana Government Facebook Page*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** will address the nation on Covid-19 on 13 August at 7pm;

10 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The government has reportedly given the private sector conditional approval to acquire and distribute **Covid-19** vaccines among its workers, their families and communities in which they operate, working in close collaboration with government and health regulators;

10 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **United Kingdom**-headquartered diamond company **De Beers Group** reports rough diamond sales reached P28.5 billion (\$2.6 billion) in the first six months of 2021, more than 1.5 times the level in 2020, facilitated by resurgent demand in the **United States** and **China**;

10 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Botswana Government Twitter Page*. The government confirms expected delivery of 81,900 doses of **United States (US)**-manufactured **Pfizer-Biontech Covid-19** vaccine on 14 August, donated by the US government through the **Covax** facility, as well as delivery of **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine doses on 12 August;

10 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Botswana Defence Force (BDF)** has confirmed an incident in which a poacher was shot and killed during an encounter with the BDF patrol team at the **Okavango Delta**;

9 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *SKI Khama Foundation Press Release*. The **SKI Khama Foundation** says that it has through its network of international partners secured two million doses each of **Oxford-Astra-Zeneca** and **Pfizer BioNTech** Covid-19 vaccines for Botswana;

9 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. **Presidential Covid-19 Task Force** scientific advisor **Mogomotsi Matshaba** says a total of 1,832 Batswana have died due to **Covid-19**-related complications;

9 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. The health ministry confirms that Botswana will receive its first consignment of 108,000 doses of **United States**-manufactured **Johnson & Johnson** Covid-19 vaccines on 12 August;

9 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Office of the President*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** launches the **Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission to Mozambique (SAMIM)** in Pemba, Mozambique;

7 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **United States (US)** has excluded Botswana from donations of excess **Covid-19** vaccine doses;

6 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Alcohol producer **Kgalagadi Breweries Limited (KBL)** announces it will suspend most operations at all sites from 9 August;

maintaining a minimal number of critical operations at select **Gaborone** sites;

5 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Government, through the **Bank of Botswana (BoB)**, has raised P905m (\$81m) through the over-subscribed auction of three Treasury Bills conducted on 30 July;

5 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Gaborone High Court** orders government to reimburse former president **Seretse Ian Khama** for all costs including flights, security and per diem for five trips he made in 2019 including to see the **Dalai Lama**;

5 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Botswana to receive 38,400 doses of the **AstraZeneca** Covid-19 vaccine on 8 August, purchased by government through the **Covax** facility;

5 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Health minister **Edwin Dikoloti** announces that a 10-member emergency medical team from the **United Kingdom** has arrived in Botswana to provide support and specialist expertise to the **Covid-19**-besieged health sector;

4 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)**. *Mmegi*. The **Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)** announces it has postponed the unity retreat scheduled to be held on 7 August at **Mmokolodi**;

4 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Chinese** embassy in Botswana has donated eight oxygen concentrators and 20 ventilators;

3 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** appeals to **United States (US)** counterpart **Joe Biden** during a meeting with US under-secretary of state for political affairs **Victoria Nuland** to assist Botswana with **Covid-19** vaccines, through sale of excess vaccines or in the form of a donation;

3 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. The **Botswana Defence Force (BDF)** states that a member of its troops has died in a motor accident in **Cabo Delgado** in **Mozambique**;

3 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **High Court** rules that the case between alcohol producer **Kgalagadi Breweries Limited (KBL)** and government over the recent alcohol ban is not urgent and that the case should continue as a normal court matter in due course;

3 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Alcohol producer **Kgalagadi Breweries Limited (KBL)** says it is deeply disappointed by the **High Court of Botswana's** dismissal of the company's application to set aside the decision by the government of Botswana to impose an indefinite wholesale alcohol ban, on the basis that KBL's application was not of an urgent nature;

3 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. Botswana's largest retail operator, the **Sefalana Group**, has recorded profit before tax of P290m (\$25.9m), a 12% increase compared to the P258m (\$23m) recorded in the previous year in the corresponding period;

3 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **United States (US)** authorities assure Botswana that it will receive donations of **Covid-19** vaccine doses;

2 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Government, through the **Bank of Botswana (BoB)**, returns to the capital market today seeking P905m (\$81m) in local debt, however, no bonds will be offered to investors;

2 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Alcohol producer **Kgalagadi Breweries Limited (KBL)** CEO **Johan de Kok** accuses President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** of using the **Emergency Powers Act (EPA)** as a "*blank cheque to act willy-nilly at the expense of the country*";

2 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** appoints **Lephimotswe Boyce Sebetela** as chief of staff in the office of the president;

- 2 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi. Botswana Nurses Union (BONU)** president **Obonolo Rahube** warns the lack of personal protective equipment (PPEs) in hospitals may worsen the current **Covid-19** situation for nurses in the workplace if not addressed;
- 2 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi.** High number of **Covid-19**-related deaths has forced political parties to postpone their elective congresses and conferences;
- 2 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi.** The omission of Botswana's name from the 180-country strong **Covax** facility has fuelled further concerns about the local vaccine programme;
- 1 Aug 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard.** The government says it has noted with concern the unilateral decision by the chairperson of the **African Union Commission** to receive credentials from the ambassador of the State of **Israel**, and grant Israel observer status at the **African Union (AU)**;
- 31 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard.** The ministry of health receives oxygen concentrators donated by **United Kingdom**-headquartered diamond company **De Beers Group**;
- 30 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard. United States (US)** pharmaceutical company **Moderna** has withdrawn from the agreement to supply Botswana with **Covid-19** vaccines after Botswana's ministry of health reneged on its commitment to pay the Moderna invoice;
- 28 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Daily News.** During a virtual 13th **US-Africa Business Summit**, President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** appeals to cooperating partners for timely delivery, fairly priced and equitable distribution of **Covid-19** vaccines to developing countries;
- 28 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard.** President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** announces he will participate in the virtual 13th **US-Africa Business Summit** arranged by the **Corporate Council on Africa**;
- 27 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi.** The **Botswana Congress Party (BCP)** postpones its virtual elective conference to September;
- 27 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) The Monitor. Funeral Services Group** operations manager **Duncan Banyatsi** says mortuaries are coming under increasing pressure due to **Covid-19** deaths;
- 26 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi.** National statistics agency **Statistics Botswana** reports a positive trajectory in the economy for the first time in nine months, recording 0.7 % growth for the first quarter of 2021, led by the non-mining sector;
- 26 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard.** President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** says the use of the national carrier **Air Botswana** to transfers troops to **Mozambique** is an illustration of the commitment to ensure the survival of hard-hit sectors of the economy and their value chains;
- 26 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi.** The finance ministry is in talks with international lenders for a P6.7 billion (\$600m) loan to finance and support projects under the **National Development Plan (NDP) 11**, with plans to tap into the funds before the end of the year;
- 26 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi. Botswana Defence Force (BDF)** troops assigned to the **Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission to Mozambique (SAMIM)** in **Pemba, Mozambique** depart for Mozambique;
- 26 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi.** President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** accuses alcohol producer **Kgalagadi Breweries Limited (KBL)** of putting profit ahead of the people;

26 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Botswana Police Service (BPS)** places officers at **State House** to protect President **Mokgweetsi Masisi's** residence after intelligence information indicated disgruntled youths wanted to burn the building down;

23 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Southern Africa Alcohol Policy Alliance** Botswana chairperson **Prisca Mokgadi** says the ban on alcohol is necessary as the government tries to limit the transmission of the more contagious **Covid-19 Delta** variant;

23 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Botswana assumes the presidency of the **United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council** for the 2022 session for the first time and will be represented by its ambassador and permanent representative to the **United States in New York, Collen Kelapile**;

22 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Botswana's largest listed property company in terms of asset book, **Turnstar Holdings**, will focus on the local market for revenue growth, after recording a pandemic-related 13% drop in pre-tax profits to P81.9m (\$7.3m) last year;

21 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The health ministry says next category of those eligible for **Covid-19** vaccination are those aged 45 to 54;

21 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Botswana's **Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)** announces the appointment of **Bao Rasebolai Mosinyi** as new CEO;

21 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Debswana Diamond Company**, the 50:50 joint venture between the Botswana government and **United Kingdom**-headquartered diamond mining and training corporation **De Beers**, announces that production in Q2 2021 rose to 5.7 million carats, about 16% higher than the first quarter, with officials noting stronger demand for the precious stones;

21 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with six local banks to prioritise access to funding for small and medium enterprises (SME);

19 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC)** is targeting P180m (\$16m) in foreign direct investment (FDI) over the next five years from its investment promotion activities at the upcoming **Dubai 2020 Expo**;

19 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Government has shortlisted four local coal developers, **Minergy Coal, Sese Power, Jindal Africa** and **Maatla**, to develop a 300MW power station, the last fossil-fuel-based electricity the state plans to procure in the next 20 years; only Minergy is already in production while Sese, Jindal and Maatla have coal mining licences;

19 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Government urges citizens to avoid panic buying due to concerns of supply disruptions as a result of violence and unrest in **South Africa**;

15 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Statistics Botswana** reports that the average prices of goods and services reached a nine-year high in June, with year-on-year inflation rising to 8.2%;

14 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Health minister **Edwin Dikoloti** announces that non-essential interzonal travel will be suspended from 15 July until further notice;

14 Jul 2021 **Karowe (Botswana)** *Lucara Press Release*. **Canada**-based diamond mining company **Lucara** announces the recovery of a 62.7 carat pink diamond from its 100% owned **Karowe Diamond Mine** located in Botswana, naming the diamond "*Boitumelo*", meaning "joy" in **Setswana**;

13 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Botswana Federation of Public Private & Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU)** says President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** should not seek an extension of the State of Emergency (SoE) since he failed to control the pandemic;

13 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. The ministry of international affairs and cooperation advises citizens to avoid unnecessary travel to some parts of **South Africa**, particularly **KwaZulu-Natal** and **Gauteng** provinces due to the ongoing incidents of violence and unrest;

13 Jul 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** gives his first **RESET Agenda** update, announcing that curfew will remain from 10pm to 4am, and the suspension of trade in alcohol remains in place until further notice, with schools closed until 17 August.

About Africa Risk Consulting:

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

ARC's core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

www.africariskconsulting.com

About ARC Briefing:

ARC Briefing is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

ARC Briefing is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

www.africariskconsulting.com

Getting in touch

Please contact us by email info@africariskconsulting.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7078 4080

Follow us on Twitter: [@ARCBriefing](https://twitter.com/ARCBriefing)