

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Botswana Monthly Briefing November 2021

Botswana Summary 11 November 2021

Botswana's delegation to the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow (United Kingdom) signs onto a global commitment to ease the use of coal, but opts out of committing to not issuing new licences. President Mokgweetsi Masisi (2018-present) delivers his second State of the Nation Address (SONA), against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, focusing on Botswana's anticipated economic rebound. Covid-19 cases and deaths are on a declining trend in Botswana but the vaccination rollout is slower than expected. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says it expects Botswana's economy to expand by 9.2% in 2021, the highest in Africa, in a major revision of the 7.5% forecast it made earlier this year. The Bank of Botswana (BoB) (central bank) reports in its biannual Business Expectations Survey that local firms are feeling significantly more optimistic about economic activity in the third quarter of the year. Analysts say tension between President Masisi and former President Ian Khama (2008-2018) threatens to tarnish the presidency.

Botswana partially signs COP26 deal against coal...

Botswana has taken cautious steps to reduce its use of coal and transition to clean energy. The country's delegation to the **United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)** summit in **Glasgow (United Kingdom)** on 4 November signed onto a global commitment with about 49 other countries to ease the use of coal and transition to clean power.¹ However, with more than 200 billion tonnes of untapped coal resources, Botswana has opted out of a clause committing to not issuing new licences for coal. Botswana's mineral authorities intend to exploit the country's coal resources within the three-decade window provided by global climate change commitments.² **Botswana Chamber of Mines** CEO **Charles Siwawa** highlighted the importance of coal to the local economy:

"We have a lot of coal and even if we gain \$10 billion between now and when they want us to stop, for us it means a lot for our economy, even if for some people it may not be anything... We are also not irresponsible in the development of our coal and the mining has to be done responsibly."³

Clause three of the agreement, to which Botswana's COP26 delegates refused to commit, requires signatories to:

"cease issuance of new permits for new unabated coal-fired power generation projects, cease new construction of unabated coal-fired power generation projects and to end new direct government support for unabated international coal-fired power generation".⁴

However, Botswana agreed to endorse clauses one, two and four of the agreement. Clause one requires signatories to agree to the deployment of new clean power generation and energy

¹ Mmegi, 4 Nov 2021

² Mmegi, 4 Nov 2021

³ Mmegi, 4 Nov 2021

⁴ UN Climate Change Conference, 4 Nov 2021

efficiency measures in their economies.⁵ Clause two requires the rapid scaling up of technologies and policies “*in this decade to achieve a transition away from unabated coal power generation in the 2030s or as soon as possible thereafter*” for major economies and 2040s (or soon afterwards) for the rest of the world.⁶ Under previous agreements in the **Paris Climate Agreement**, developing countries had until 2050 to transition from coal. Clause four requires the strengthening of domestic and international efforts to provide “*a robust framework of financial, technical, and social support to affected workers, sectors and communities*” impacted by the transition from coal.⁷

Botswana has recently made significant investments in coal mining and use. Through agencies such as the **Botswana Development Corporation (BDC)** and the **Minerals Development Company**, the government is supporting other independent coal producers such as **Minergy Ltd**, Botswana's only privately-owned coal mine.⁸ **Australia-based Tlou Energy Limited** signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the **Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)** on 18 October to secure power supply from Coal Bed Methane (CBM), the first-ever commercial extraction of a resource estimated to contain as much as 40 trillion cubic feet in Botswana.⁹ State-owned **Morupule** coal mine is currently expanding its coal production capacity from 2.8 million tonnes to 3.8 million tonnes per annum to meet power generation and exports.

Botswana is regarded as a country that is highly vulnerable to climate variability and change.¹⁰ According to **ReliefWeb**, a humanitarian information service provided by the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**, Botswana's vulnerability stems from its high dependence on rain-fed agriculture and natural resources, high levels of poverty, particularly in rural areas, and low adaptive capacity to deal with these expected changes.¹¹ Changing precipitation patterns, water resource availability and increasing population demands present the main challenges.¹² Communities in semi-arid regions in Botswana are vulnerable to food insecurity, face unstable livelihoods, crop failure, unsustainable agroecological systems and unproductive rangelands. However, Botswana is not a member of the **African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group**, a specialised agency of the **African Union (AU)** established to assist governments improve their capacities to better plan, prepare, and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters.¹³ ARC is working to include more countries to support its mechanism, which currently has 35 AU member states.

Masisi delivers upbeat State of the Nation Address...

President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** (2018-present) on 8 November delivered his second **State of the Nation (SONA)** address against the backdrop of the **Covid-19** pandemic. In a generally upbeat and optimistic address, Masisi focused on Botswana's anticipated economic rebound, the pandemic, his **RESET** agenda and upcoming constitutional review. Masisi said the government is doing everything possible to manage Covid-19, rebuild the economy and make Botswana better and stronger.¹⁴

Masisi confirmed Botswana's ambitious goal of becoming a high-income country by 2036, saying it will require government to take deliberate steps to transform the country's

⁵ UN Climate Change Conference, 4 Nov 2021

⁶ UN Climate Change Conference, 4 Nov 2021

⁷ UN Climate Change Conference, 4 Nov 2021

⁸ Mmegi, 4 Nov 2021

⁹ Esi-Africa, 18 Oct 2021

¹⁰ ReliefWeb, 18 Jan 2021

¹¹ ReliefWeb, 18 Jan 2021

¹² ReliefWeb, 18 Jan 2021

¹³ African Risk Capacity, 10 Nov 2021

¹⁴ Office of the President, 8 Nov 2021

institutions, thought patterns and actions.¹⁵ Masisi is counting on his “reset agenda”, launched in May (see *ARC Briefing Botswana June 2021*)¹⁶ to shore up public support and confidence in his administration.¹⁷ The reset agenda introduces major reforms that will affect cabinet, the ruling **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** and the public service, with the aim of improving service delivery and the country’s economic standing.¹⁸ Masisi stressed the need for a new mindset, seeking new and smarter ways of implementing projects on time and budget, whose focus is citizen economic inclusion.¹⁹ Among key priorities of the reset agenda, Masisi has included the implementation of life-saving programmes, including successful and timely vaccination against Covid-19.²⁰

Masisi reiterated that his administration will follow through on its pledge to embark on constitutional review.²¹ Masisi said he would appoint commissioners to lead the process, largely delayed by the outbreak of the pandemic, by mid-December this year, noting that the envisaged constitutional review is a delicate and intricate process that requires careful reflection and consideration. Masisi promised to hold countrywide engagement meetings with Batswana.

... as economy picks up amid declining Covid cases

President Masisi noted in his SONA that the impact of Covid-19 on the economy has been easing in recent months, offering improvement in economic growth, particularly in the mining sector.²² The pandemic led to an 8.5% contraction of most sectors in real terms, compared to 3% growth in 2019. Masisi said the global diamond industry has recovered since the last quarter of 2020, maintaining this momentum in 2021, and as a result, the domestic economy is expected to grow by 9.7% in 2021.²³ Despite the anticipated growth, the president warned that growth prospects are subject to downside risks, mainly due to tightening of global financial conditions, general decline in global trade, spread of Covid-19 infections and emergence of new variants.²⁴

Covid-19 cases and deaths are on a declining trend in Botswana.²⁵ As of 11 November, the health ministry had recorded 193,449 cases of Covid-19 in its population of roughly 2.4 million, with 188,361 recoveries and 2,409 Covid-19-related deaths.²⁶ There were roughly 2,679 active cases in the country as of 11 November. Masisi emphasised that the ending of the State of Emergency (SoE) on 30 September is not an indication of the end of the pandemic and encouraged Batswana to continuing abiding by Covid-19 health protocols.²⁷

Botswana’s Covid-19 vaccination roll-out has been slower than expected. As of 5 November, the health ministry had fully vaccinated 357,216 of the eligible population of 1.53 million Batswana while 770,879 had received a first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.²⁸ The health ministry announced on 25 October that its vaccination programme would start including those aged 18 and above.²⁹

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

¹⁵ Office of the President, 8 Nov 2021

¹⁶ Standard and Poor’s, 17 Sep 2021

¹⁷ Mmegi, 4 Jun 2021

¹⁸ Daily News, 9 May 2021

¹⁹ Daily News, 9 May 2021

²⁰ Daily News, 9 May 2021

²¹ Office of the President, 8 Nov 2021

²² Mmegi, 8 Nov 2021

²³ Mmegi, 8 Nov 2021

²⁴ Mmegi, 8 Nov 2021

²⁵ Mmegi, 21 Sep 2021

²⁶ Worldometers, 11 Oct 2021

²⁷ Office of the President, 8 Nov 2021

²⁸ Botswana Covid-19 Task Force, 5 Nov 2021

²⁹ Ministry of health, 25 Oct 2021

departure. 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.

IMF expects Botswana to top sub-Saharan Africa's growth...

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** is equally upbeat about Botswana's economic prospects. It noted on 21 October that it expects Botswana's economy to expand by 9.2% in 2021, the highest in **Africa**, in a major revision of the 7.5% forecast it made earlier this year.³⁰ IMF researchers did not provide reasons for Botswana's improved forecast, however, local fiscal authorities say that the expected resurgence of the minerals sector, led by diamonds, will propel the economic comeback from the Covid-19-induced recession from last year.³¹ Botswana's mining sector is expected to rebound by 34% this financial year, and by 3.5% in 2022-2023 and 2% in 2023-2024.³²

The resurgence in the current financial year is significant given the 26% contraction in the mining industry in 2020 following underperformance in previous years. That view is shared by **United States (US)**-based ratings agency **Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings**, which on 17 September revised its outlook for Botswana from negative to stable, citing stronger prospects for economic recovery (see *ARC Briefing Botswana October 2021*).³³ S&P researchers said:

*"We anticipate the economic recovery will largely be driven by a strong performance of the mining sector starting 2021. We expect Botswana's diamond export-dependent economy will rebound by 8.5 percent in real terms in 2021 because the diamond industry is rebounding from 2020's large pandemic-induced contraction."*³⁴

Debswana, Botswana's main diamond producer and the government's 50:50 joint venture diamond company with UK-headquartered **De Beers Group**, reportedly produced 10.7 million carats in the first half of this year, 43% higher than in the same period last year.³⁵ Developments at Botswana's only privately-owned coal mine, **Minergy**, and at the high-grade underground copper-silver mine **Khoemacau** have also raised prospects for a healthy economic recovery led by the mining sector.³⁶

IMF researchers expect Botswana's economy to outperform that of its **sub-Saharan African** peers, with **Seychelles** second with 6.9% growth, **Burkina Faso** third with 6.7% and **Cote d'Ivoire** fourth with 6%.³⁷ Botswana's predicted growth is well above the sub-Saharan average of 3.7% forecast by the IMF. Regionally, **Zimbabwe** is forecast to come second after Botswana with 5.1%, **South Africa** third with 5% and **Lesotho** fourth with 2.8%.³⁸

Local firms more optimistic as economy warms up

Local firms are sharing the optimism about economic recovery. In its biannual Business Expectations Survey released on 1 November, the **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) reported that local firms are feeling "*significantly more optimistic*" about economic activity in the third quarter of the year (and into the next 12 months), compared to their second quarter

³⁰ International Monetary Fund, 21 Oct 2021

³¹ Mmegi, 15 Oct 2021

³² Mmegi, 15 Oct 2021

³³ Standard and Poor's, 17 Sep 2021

³⁴ Standard and Poor's, 17 Sep 2021

³⁵ Mmegi, 18 Sep 2021

³⁶ Mmegi, 18 Sep 2021

³⁷ Mmegi, 15 Oct 2021

³⁸ Mmegi, 15 Oct 2021

pessimism.³⁹ The perceived improvement in economic performance likely reflects the expected resumption of economic activity following the end of the State of Emergency (SoE) on 30 September.⁴⁰

The BoB survey sampled businesses across 13 different sectors, gauging their perceptions about the prevailing state of the economy and expectations going forward.⁴¹ The survey covers opinions from when SoE restrictions were in place to the period after they were lifted. BoB researchers noted optimism evident in the anticipated improvement in profitability, sales volume, imports of goods and services, and investment in plant and machinery:

“Notably, firms in manufacturing and, mining and quarrying were optimistic about economic growth prospects in the third quarter of 2021 compared to the prior quarter. This aligns with the less stringent COVID-19 movement restrictions.”⁴²

BoB researchers also noted that firms in all sectors are optimistic about economic recovery in the year to September 2022,

“led by the retail and accommodation and trade, hotels, transport and communications, mining and quarrying and finance and professional and administrative activities sectors”.⁴³

However, BoB’s survey noted that many local firms expect cost pressures to rise in the fourth quarter of the year.⁴⁴ Access to credit is also expected to be tighter in the 12 months to September 2022.⁴⁵

Masisi, Khama fight frustrates Batswana...

Calls are growing for the feud between President Masisi and former president **Seretse Ian Khama** (2008-2018) to come to an end. Local commentators say the Masisi-Khama rivalry is an unprecedented and strange affair in the history of Botswana and threatens to tarnish the good name of the presidency as an institution if not dispensed with timeously.⁴⁶

Masisi and Khama have not been on speaking terms for almost three years, despite their cordial relations leading up to the seemingly seamless and peaceful transfer of power from Khama to Masisi in 2018.⁴⁷ At the time, Khama described his successor as an intelligent and able leader, who would take Botswana forward. The former president reportedly single-handedly fought for Masisi’s endorsement to the presidency despite opposition from within the ranks of the ruling **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** in parliament.⁴⁸

Many Batswana reportedly claim that Masisi owes the nation an explanation for the irretrievable breakdown of the relationship with his former mentor.⁴⁹ There were expectations that Masisi would take advantage of his visit on 2 November to **Serowe**, Khama’s homeland, to disclose the source of the feud, but he reportedly chose to speak *“in parables”*.⁵⁰ Masisi told elders of the community that once details on their differences are released, *“the nation will be shocked”*. In some quarters, Masisi’s silence has reportedly been misconstrued to mean abuse of

³⁹ Mmegi, 10 Oct 2021

⁴⁰ Bank of Botswana, 1 Nov 2021

⁴¹ Mmegi, 10 Oct 2021

⁴² Bank of Botswana, 1 Nov 2021

⁴³ Bank of Botswana, 1 Nov 2021

⁴⁴ Mmegi, 10 Oct 2021

⁴⁵ Mmegi, 10 Oct 2021

⁴⁶ Mmegi, 5 Nov 2021

⁴⁷ Mmegi, 5 Nov 2021

⁴⁸ Mmegi, 5 Nov 2021

⁴⁹ Mmegi, 5 Nov 2021

⁵⁰ Sunday Standard, 2 Nov 2021

office. There is also frustration that Khama has failed to share his account, while expecting the nation to sympathise with him. A local source suggested that both men should leave the political scene:

“Botswana is suffering just because of two grown men who can’t end their misunderstanding. Why must we keep chasing them for details on what happened. Masisi must be serious we can’t have our country’s image being ruined by personal vendettas.”⁵¹

Planner

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

Mid-Dec 2021 **(Botswana)** Deadline set by President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** to appoint commissioners to lead the Constitutional review;

31 Dec 2021 **(Botswana)** Deadline set by President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** to fully vaccinate 975,782 Batswana (64% of the target population);

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;

2022 **(Botswana)** **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** elective congress;

2022 **(Botswana)** National Census;

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

2024 **(Botswana)** Presidential elections

Chronology

8 Nov 2021 **Paris (France)** *Daily News*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** participates in the 41st **UNESCO** general conference following which he will undertake working visits to the **United Kingdom (UK)** and **Belgium**;

8 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** delivers his annual **State of the Nation Address (SONA)** which revolves around the RESET agenda announced in May and outlines a raft of new people-centric priorities;

8 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA)** says in its 2021 Annual Report that non-bank financial institutions withstood Covid-19’s impact in 2020, with their collective pre-tax profits rising to P2 billion (\$176m) from P1.7 billion (\$149m) in 2019;

8 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Botswana Development Corporation (BDC)** reports its income from dividends declined to P72 million (\$6.3m) in the year to June 2020 from P134 million (\$11.8m) in the previous reporting period, as the Covid-19 pandemic impacted its investments in various companies;

6 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **BBS Ltd** is set to become Botswana’s first indigenous bank after the **Bank of Botswana** (central bank) granted it provisional approval of a commercial banking licence;

⁵¹ ARC Source, local resident

5 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Former president **Seretse Ian Khama** tells **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** director-general **Peter Magosi** that he will not deliver any weapons to his office;

5 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Government raises P986 million (\$86.7m) of the P2.1 billion (\$185m) it was hoping to secure at an auction of bonds and treasury bills;

5 Nov 2021 **Rakops (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** holds a consultative meeting with community leadership in **Rakops**;

5 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Botswana's labour movement condemns President **Mokgweetsi Masisi's** comments on the impending constitutional review, stating that his actions are pre-empting and influencing the process;

4 Nov 2021 **Glasgow (United Kingdom)** *Mmegi*. Botswana's delegation to the global **COP26** climate change summit in **Glasgow** signs onto a global commitment to ease the use of coal, but declines to sign a pledge to stop issuances of new licences;

4 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. **African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA)** commends Botswana in its **Africa Regional Tobacco Industry Interference Index** for its commitment to complying with Article 5.3 of the **World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** to prevent the tobacco industry from influencing tobacco control policies;

3 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Botswana Congress Party (BCP)** chair **Motsei Rapelana** leaves the position after 23 years in party leadership;

3 Nov 2021 **Gasita (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Health and wellness assistant minister **Sethomo Lelatisitswe** says the government is considering the decentralisation of primary health care services from the central to local government in order to improve service delivery;

3 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. **High Court** judge **Chris Gabanagae** has dismissed with costs an urgent application by former president **Seretse Ian Khama**, member of parliament **Anthony Khama**, and former chief of **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** **Isaac Kgosi** challenging the legality of the search and seizure warrant against them;

3 Nov 2021 **Sebele (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** orders former president **Seretse Ian Khama** to report at its **Sebele** office to hand over his weapons;

2 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The latest **United Nations (UN)** report estimates that about 36,000 Batswana are food insecurity with **Covid-19** causing unemployment, weakening the economy and adding to the country's traditionally poor agricultural performance;

2 Nov 2021 **Serowe (Botswana)** *Daily News*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** holds a consultative meeting with community leadership in **Serowe**;

2 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. The **Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU)** wants serious dialogue to take place among key stakeholders on the pros and cons of introducing new technology into the mining sector in Botswana;

2 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. **Greater Gaborone District Health Management Team (GGDHMT)** starts a four-day drive-through vaccination campaign at **Notwane Grounds** and **University of Botswana** stadium parking lot using the **United States** manufactured **Johnson & Johnson** Covid-19 vaccine;

1 Nov 2021 **Sandton (South Africa)** *The Monitor*. **Rand Merchant Bank** “Where to Invest in Africa” report ranks Botswana as the continent’s fifth-best destination for investment;

1 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** has appointed Justice **Tebogo Tau** as **Court of Appeal** president to replace Justice **Ian Kirby** when he retires at the end of November;

1 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** performs the ground-breaking ceremony of the **Gmononyane-Molepolole** water supply pipeline;

30 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Health and wellness ministry announces that Botswana has received another consignment of 57,600 doses of **United States** manufactured **Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Covid-19** vaccine purchased through the **African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT)**;

29 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Ruling **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** vice president and party chairperson **Slumber Tsogwane** and two party elders have reportedly met President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** and party secretary-general and cabinet minister **Mpho Balopi** in a bid to repair relations between them, and have requested Balopi to step down;

28 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Health and wellness ministry announces that Botswana has received another consignment of 64,800 doses of the **United States** manufactured **Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Covid-19** vaccine purchased through the **African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT)**.

27 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Former **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** director **Isaac Kgosi** is granted bail, facing several charges of unlawful possession of weapons;

26 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Local asset managers handling billions of pula in local pension and insurance funds are reportedly staying away from cryptocurrencies, the volatile but increasingly popular class of virtual currencies;

26 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Botswana Accountancy Oversight Authority (BAOA)** has singled out the **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank), the **Botswana Meat Commission (BMC)** and several other state-owned or controlled entities as those operating without sound corporate governance;

25 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Directorate of Intelligence Services (DIS)** has re-detained former director **Isaac Kgosi** following a court order to search and seize possible firearms and other weapons of war in his possession;

25 Oct 2021 **Francistown (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **South Africa’s** ruling party, the **African National Congress (ANC)**, will start the consultation process of exhuming the body of liberation struggle hero **John Taolo Gaetsewe** who was buried at Area A, in **Francistown**;

25 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Ministry of Health and Wellness*. Anyone aged 18 years and older in Botswana is officially allowed to visit a **Covid-19** vaccination centre to vaccinate with effect from today;

23 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. **High Court** judge **Chris Gabanagae** has granted the **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** a warrant of search and seizure against former president **Seretse Ian Khama**, and former DIS director **Isaac Kgosi**;

22 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. National carrier **Air Botswana** has failed to finalise its financial statements for the year ended March 2020, as it waits for a letter of support from government without which, auditors would be forced to declare the national

airline insolvent; the **Air Botswana Act** requires that the airline submit its audited financial results not more than four months after the end of the relevant financial year;

21 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** announces that Botswana has been delisted from the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** grey list;

21 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. The health and wellness ministry announces that Botswana has received a consignment of 72,000 doses of the **United States** manufactured **Johnson & Johnson (J&J)** covid-19 vaccine purchased through the **African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT)**;

21 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** performs the ground-breaking ceremony of the **Lobatse Water Master Plan (LWMP)**;

20 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Botswana's four largest commercial banks cut 116 jobs in 2020, as increased automation and the use of digital channels impacted employment levels;

20 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. Members of parliament have criticised the **Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO)** for presenting unaudited numbers after it appeared before the **Committee on Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises**;

20 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. The **Civil Aviation Authority's** newly appointed chief executive officer, **Bao Mosinyi**, says the loss-making parastatal's largest expense is its monthly wage bill of roughly P17 million (\$1.49m);

20 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. The **Botswana Land Board and Local Authorities and Health Workers Union (BLLAHWU)** has called on government to pay health workers a monthly uniform allowance of P500 (\$44);

19 Oct 2021 **Dubai (United Arab Emirates)** *Mmegi*. State-owned diamond trader **Okavango Diamond Company (ODC)** opens a trading platform in **Dubai**, with local rough diamonds being offered for the first time on 13 October;

19 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)** has spent P2.2 billion (\$194m) importing electricity in the current financial year, after delays in the finalisation of repairs to the 600MW **Morupule B Power Station**;

18 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Esi-Africa*. Australia-based **Tlou Energy** signs a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the **Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)** to secure power supply from Coal Bed Methane (CBM), the first ever commercial extraction of a resource estimated to be as much as 40 trillion cubic feet in Botswana;

18 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Botswana Examinations Council (BEC)** has partially blamed students' continuing poor final examinations performance on teachers' low qualifications;

15 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** expects the local economy to expand by 9.2% in 2021, the highest in **Africa**, in a significant revision of its 7.5% forecast made earlier in the year, based on the depths to which the economy fell in 2020 and the rebound it will experience this year;

15 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** commissions the **Masama-Mmamashia** 100km water pipeline;

15 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** suspends four loyalists of ruling **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** party secretary-general and cabinet minister **Mpho Balopi**;

14 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Ministry of Health and Wellness*. Botswana receives 49,200 doses of the **United States** manufactured **Moderna** Covid-19 vaccine;

13 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The trade ministry says the government has banned imports of school uniforms, aiming to stimulate local production, boost the textile sector and create jobs;

13 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **European Union (EU)** and **Germany** have given **Cally Clothing**, a local firm manufacturing branded clothing and other promotional material, a P1.3 million (\$114,684) grant to expand into the production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as re-usable unisex scrubs and surgical gowns;

12 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Court of Appeal (CoA)** has reserved judgement in the case in which government is appealing the ruling in which the **High Court** decriminalised same sex sexual conduct in 2019;

12 Oct 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. **Botswana National Sport Commission (BNSC)** has started the process of allowing spectators back into events following the end of the State of Emergency (SoE) in September.

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