

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Botswana Monthly Briefing December 2021

Botswana Summary 9 December 2021

Opposition leader Dumelang Saleshando tables a motion of no confidence in parliament. The Bank of Botswana (BoB) (central bank) says it expects inflation to drop to the 3-6% target range by the third quarter of 2022, revising its original forecast of a second-quarter drop. The Presidential Covid-19 Task Force announces the discovery by Botswana's Covid-19 genomic surveillance of the variant known as B.1.1.529 and classified as Omicron by the World Health Organization (WHO). President Mokgweetsi Masisi (2018-present) lobbies the European Union (EU) to secure its backing for Gaborone to be chosen as the location for the new secretariat of the Kimberley Process.

Parliament debates no confidence motion ...

Official leader of the opposition (LOO) **Dumelang Saleshando** tabled a motion in parliament on 29 November asking the **National Assembly** to declare that it has no confidence in the **Botswana** government, in accordance with Section 92 of the **Constitution of Botswana**.¹ Presidential affairs, governance and public administration minister **Kabo Morwaeng** dismissed the motion as “irrelevant” and “an abuse of the parliamentary process”.² Morwaeng called on parliament to reject the motion, warning that passing it would have far-reaching implications, and affect Botswana’s international standing.

A vote in favour of the motion would result in the dissolution of parliament and a general election within 60 days of dissolution. However, the ruling **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** has a strong majority in parliament. In the general elections held on 23 October 2019, the BDP won 39 of the 65 seats in parliament, while the **Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC)** won 14, the **Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF)** three seats and the **Alliance for Progressives (AP)** one seat. Specially elected members of parliament occupy six seats, while the president and attorney general each occupy one seat.³ A local source told **Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)** that the motion as “a waste of time”:

“We already know that the motion will fail because BDP has numbers.”⁴

However, despite the advantage of a parliamentary majority, the BDP is far from united. Party divisions have reached an all-time high, raising questions about President **Mokgweetsi Masisi’s** (2018-present) ability to deal with the rising factionalism. In addition, opposition parties accuse Masisi of failing to “fix the country” as promised in the 2019 election campaign and again in the “reset agenda” launched in May. Opposition UDC members, together with AP and BPF members, held a joint rally from 6-7 November, where they decided to tackle Masisi’s failure to “steer the ship out of the troubled waters”.⁵

BPF acting president **Caroline Lesang** said Masisi is more focused on persecuting his opponents than leading the country:

¹ Mmegi, 29 Nov 2021

² Mmegi, 29 Nov 2021

³ Parliament of Botswana, 9 Dec 2021

⁴ ARC Source, local resident

⁵ ARC Source, local resident

“We are about to go for by-elections and he is starting with his tricks. We are here to tell you that Parliament is starting and we will have a motion of no confidence. There are so many reasons why we want him out.”⁶

... amid continuing high inflation

The **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) announced on 2 December that it expects inflation to drop to the 3-6% target range by the third quarter of 2022, revising its original forecast that this would happen in the second quarter of next year.⁷ The central bank’s latest update will confirm the perceptions of consumers who have seen sharp increases in the prices of most goods and services this year. Higher value added tax and a fuel price increase as of 1 April have impacted the prices of food, alcohol, financial services, **Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC)** house rentals, electricity tariffs, and water and gas, amongst others.⁸ 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. Botswana’s inflation has been trending at nine-year high since June, peaking at 8.9% in July and then settling at 8.8% in October, from 8.4% in September, driven by the increase in fuel prices effected earlier in the month.⁹

According to the BoB’s director of research and financial stability, **Lesedi Senatla**, increases in private school fees and international oil prices influenced the central bank’s revision of when inflation will return to the 3-6% range:

*“Within the 400 items of the Consumer Price Index used by **Statistics Botswana**, private school fees are given a sizeable weight and that will have an impact on inflation... Also, with the increase in international oil prices, there is bound to be an increase domestically and we have calculated what this would mean for inflation.”¹⁰*

Senatla said the central bank lacked some intervening information when it made the original forecast.¹¹ The BoB made the inflation adjustment while announcing that it will maintain the bank rate at 3.75%.¹² As the benchmark rate for all interest rates in the local market, any adjustments of the bank rate impacts both borrowers and depositors.

Masisi slams Omicron-inspired travel bans ...

President Masisi has publicly criticised the travel ban imposed on several **Southern African** nations, including Botswana, by the **United Kingdom (UK)**, **United States (US)**, **European Union (EU)** and several other countries in response to the discovery of a new variant of coronavirus.¹³ The **Presidential Covid-19 Task Force** announced on 25 November that the local Covid-19 genomic surveillance, which actively monitors variants in Botswana, had discovered the new variant known as **B.1.1.529** and classified as **Omicron** by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in four samples registered on 22 November.¹⁴ The Omicron variant is reported to be carrying an extremely high number of mutations, which may drive further waves of Covid-19 by evading the body’s defences.¹⁵ Covid-19 Task Force coordinator **Kereng Masupu** said Botswana’s Omicron cases were detected among four fully vaccinated

⁶ Mmegi, 8 Nov 2021

⁷ Bank of Botswana, 2 Dec 2021

⁸ Mmegi, 2 Dec 2021

⁹ Mmegi, 2 Dec 2021

¹⁰ Mmegi, 2 Dec 2021

¹¹ Mmegi, 2 Dec 2021

¹² Bank of Botswana, 2 Dec 2021

¹³ Botswana Office of the Presidency, 1 Dec 2021

¹⁴ Mmegi, 25 Nov 2021

¹⁵ Botswana Office of the Presidency, 1 Dec 2021

foreign travellers who had tested positive for Covid-19 on routine travel testing.¹⁶ Masupu noted that the real-world impact of the variant had not been established, and advised the public to continue observing non-pharmaceutical interventions, which he described as effective.¹⁷

International bans were imposed on Southern African countries soon after the discovery of the Omicron variant.¹⁸ While addressing the country on 1 December, President Masisi said the bans defeat the spirit of multilateral cooperation in dealing with the pandemic, noting that Botswana had acted as a responsible member state in accordance with international obligations by submitting the suspected new variant in order to allow the global scientific community to respond to the early finding:

“The decision to ban our citizens from travelling to certain countries was hastily made and is not only unfair but is also unjustified.”¹⁹

Masisi added that Botswana will continue to carefully monitor all key Covid-19 indicators prescribed in the country’s national response plans such as “*flu clinic visits, COVID-19 hospitalisation rate, laboratory positivity rate, disease burden per 100,000 persons, and isolation bed occupancy*”.²⁰

... as Botswana hits Covid vaccination targets

Masisi reported during his address on 1 December that Botswana has made significant progress in its national vaccination programme. Masisi said that as of 29 November, an estimated 1,053,361 people or 75.7% of targeted Botswana citizens and residents over the age of 18 years had received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.²¹ A total of 950,973 people, or 68.4% of the targeted population, had been fully vaccinated by the same date.²² While the government set an initial target of vaccinating 1.5 million people, Statistics Botswana has revised the target population to 1.3 million. The vaccination rate thus exceeds the government’s target of 64% and the WHO’s 40%, making Botswana one of just three **African** countries to have met the WHO’s target.²³ However, there was some discrepancy between the statistics quoted by Masisi and those of the Covid-19 Task Force. The health ministry reported on 3 December that it had fully vaccinated 528,046 of the eligible population of 1.53 million Botswana while 955,135 had received a first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.²⁴ On 9 December, the health ministry reported that as of 6 December, it had fully vaccinated 982,275 people, or 64.2% of the eligible population, while 1,094,388 had received a first dose, 71.5% of the eligible target population.²⁵

Covid-19 cases and deaths are on a declining trend in Botswana.²⁶ As of 9 December, the health ministry had recorded 195,552 cases of Covid-19 in Botswana’s population of roughly 2.4 million, with 192,452 recoveries and 2,420 Covid-19-related deaths.²⁷ There were roughly 680 active cases in the country as of 8 December. Botswana ended its State of Emergency (SoE) on 30 September; however, President Masisi emphasised this was not an indication of the end of the pandemic and encouraged Botswana to continue abiding by Covid-19 health protocols.²⁸

¹⁶ Mmegi, 25 Nov 2021

¹⁷ Mmegi, 25 Nov 2021

¹⁸ Botswana Office of the Presidency, 1 Dec 2021

¹⁹ Botswana Office of the Presidency, 1 Dec 2021

²⁰ Botswana Office of the Presidency, 1 Dec 2021

²¹ Mmegi, 3 Dec 2021

²² Mmegi, 3 Dec 2021

²³ Mmegi, 3 Dec 2021

²⁴ Botswana Covid-19 Task Force, 3 Dec 2021

²⁵ Botswana Covid-19 Task Force, 9 Dec 2021

²⁶ Mmegi, 21 Sep 2021

²⁷ Worldometers, 8 Dec 2021

²⁸ Office of the President, 8 Nov 2021

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. Passengers are subject to medical screening upon arrival. However, travellers from high-risk countries may be required to quarantine at a designated facility at their own expense. Antigen (rapid) tests are available at the international airports and major land border crossings and testing centres around Botswana.

Gaborone seeks backing in Brussels to host Kimberley Process HQ

In line with his election promise to promote Botswana's presence in key international institutions, President Masiwa has been lobbying the EU, hoping to secure **Brussels'** backing for **Gaborone** to be chosen as the location for the new secretariat of the **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)**.²⁹ The Kimberley Process is a multilateral trade regime established in 2003 with the goal of preventing the flow of conflict diamonds.³⁰ Under the KPCS, member states implement safeguards on shipments of rough diamonds and certify them as "conflict free". The multilateral organisation, with more than 80 member states, seeks to increase transparency and oversight in the diamond industry,

"...in order to eliminate trade in conflict diamonds, or rough diamonds sold by rebel groups or their allies to fund conflict against legitimate governments".³¹

Masiwa announced on 15 November that Botswana will assume the rotating chairmanship of the Kimberley Process in 2022, succeeding **Russia**.³² On a valedictory call with the outgoing Russian ambassador, **Victor Sibilev**, on 12 November, Masiwa said the decision for Botswana to succeed Russia as chair was mutual and consensual by the two countries.³³ He added that Gaborone and **Moscow** enjoyed close cooperation in the Kimberley Process framework. Masiwa appealed for Russia's support for the Kimberley Process secretariat to be hosted in Gaborone, saying that Botswana remained committed to transparency and openness to the participation of other countries.

2021 highlights and key issues for 2022...

Despite the year ending with regional frustration over fresh Covid-related travel bans, Botswana will look back on 2021 as a successful year in regional and international relations. Kicking off the year, on 7 January Botswana became the 46th African state to officially sign the memorandum of understanding of the **China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**. On 26 July, Botswana 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 had seized. Botswana's **Elias Magosi** was elected to the coveted post of SADC executive secretary on 17 August, beginning his term on 1 September. In November, Botswana's delegation to the **United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)** summit in **Glasgow (UK)** signed onto a global commitment with about 49 other countries to ease the use of coal and transition to clean power.

Botswana also ends the year on a strong economic note. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** 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. US-based ratings agency **Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings** revised its outlook for Botswana on 17 September from negative to stable, citing stronger prospects for economic recovery. **Debswana Diamond Company**, the 50:50 joint venture between the Botswana government and UK-headquartered diamond mining

²⁹ Africa Intelligence, 25 Nov 2021

³⁰ [Kimberley Process website](#), accessed 9 Dec 2021

³¹ United States State Department, 2021

³² Daily News, 15 Nov 2021

³³ Daily News, 15 Nov 2021

corporation **De Beers**, is set to construct the world's largest underground diamond mine at **Jwaneng**, with a P65 billion (\$6 billion) investment. Inflation is, however, cause for concern, trending at nine-year highs driven by increases in VAT and other administered prices this year.

Going into 2022, some of the key issues government will focus on include chairing the 2022 Kimberley Process; containing and managing the Omicron Covid-19 variant; bringing inflation under control; reviewing the constitution; holding a national census; directing the conflict in **Mozambique**; and kicking off measures to merge, chop or sell off some entities in its portfolio of 64 parastatals.

Planner

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

18 Dec 2021 **(Botswana)** Date for by-elections in 11 wards countrywide;

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

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

April 2022 **(Botswana)** Government to kick off measures to merge, chop or sell off some entities in its portfolio of 64 parastatals,

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 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. A **World Health Organization (WHO)** official says that existing Covid vaccines should still protect people who contract Covid-19 from the Omicron variant of the coronavirus from severe illness;

8 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU)** president **Masego Mogwera** discloses that the union has recovered the P11 million (\$946,605) of which its business wing, **Babereki Investments**, was defrauded;

6 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. State-owned diamond trader **Okavango Diamond Company's** sales revenue increased from \$181m in 2020 to \$830m in 2021;

6 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF)** aspirant presidential candidate **Samson Moyo Guma** says the feud between President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** and former president **Ian Khama** should not involve Batswana;

6 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Botswana receives 200,070 doses of the **United States**-manufactured **Pfizer** Covid-19 vaccine;

6 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Botswana receives 151,200 doses of the **United States**-manufactured **Johnson & Johnson** Covid-19 vaccine;

6 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Former president **Ian Khama** says he was fully aware that the **Directorate on Intelligence and Security (DIS)** seeks to create an impression that he was a national security threat and committed treason;

6 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** says the decision by certain governments to ban Botswana citizens from travelling to their countries was hastily made, unfair and unjustified;

6 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The health and wellness ministry will announce the date from which all foreign arrivals in Botswana will be required to provide proof of Covid-19 vaccination;

3 Dec 2021 **Maun (Botswana)** *Daily News*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** attends a consultative meeting with community leadership in **Maun**;

3 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has recognised Botswana for its efforts to prevent the transmission of HIV from expectant mothers to unborn children, making Botswana the first high-burden HIV country to receive WHO recognition;

2 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) expects inflation to drop to 3%-6% target range by the third quarter of 2022, revising its original forecast that this would happen in Q2 2022;

1 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. Judge **Tebogo Tau** is sworn in as Botswana's first woman president of the **Court of Appeal**;

1 Dec 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** reports that all Botswana's key Covid-19 pandemic indicators remain stable following the discovery of the new Omicron variant;

30 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Some of the suspended **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** councillors, who are set to appear before the disciplinary committee for trial on 8 December, are reportedly looking to defect from the ruling party;

30 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The opposition **Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF)** is yet to commit to a date for the disciplinary hearing of suspended BPF president **Biggie Butale**;

30 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Fast-rising local LED manufacturer **The Bulb World** is finalising a P50m million (\$4.3m) round of funding that will enable it to expand further into the **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** region;

30 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Creditors of **Mowana Mine** have approved the takeover deal proposed by a **Dutch** wealth manager who has offered to clear up to P800m (\$68.8m) they have been owed since the copper mine went into judicial management in December 2018;

30 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. Presidential affairs, governance and public administration minister **Kabo Morwaeng** dismisses leader of the opposition (LOO) **Dumelang Saleshando's** motion of no confidence in the government;

29 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Assistant health minister **Sethomo Lelatisitswe** tells parliament that none of the coronavirus Omicron variant cases identified so far have required hospitalisation or oxygen support;

29 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** is appealing a judgment in which it was denied access to search former president **Ian Khama's** last remaining property;

29 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** interrogates former president **Ian Khama's** head of private security;

29 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Court of Appeals** dismisses the case by the attorney general to criminalise same-sex relationships, saying that the sections of the **Penal Code** that criminalise consensual same sex relations, encourage police to become “key-hole peepers and intruders into the private space of citizens”;

29 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** accuses former president **Ian Khama** and former DIS director-general **Isaac Kgosi** of stealing and stockpiling firearms from the **Botswana Defence Force (BDF)** and later the DIS;

29 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Foreign affairs and international cooperation minister **Lemogang Kwape**, local government and rural development minister **Eric Molale**, and health minister **Edwin Dikoloti** hold a joint press conference regarding the new **Omicron coronavirus** variant;

26 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** officiates the ground breaking ceremony of the **Motheo** open-cast at **Morupule** coal mine;

26 Nov 2021 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *SABC*. Former president **Ian Khama**, in a 21 minute televised interview on **South African** television channel **SABC**, accuses President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** of state capture, intolerance, corruption and self-enrichment and says he has communicated with the **United Nations** about threats to poison him;

26 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Court of Appeals** rejects an *ex parte* bid against former president **Ian Khama**;

25 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Presidential Covid-19 Task Force** reveals that four cases of a new **Covid-19** variant known as B.1.1.529 were reported and recorded on 22 November, after **British** media revealed that experts had discovered a new Covid-19 variant believed to have emerged in Botswana;

24 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Local microlender **ExpressCredit** has raised P103m (\$9m) in funding to support its loan book growth and reach in the market;

24 Nov 2021 **Sebele (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** has detained the head of private security of former president **Ian Khama**;

24 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Former president **Ian Khama** says he will return to Botswana once he has completed a round of consultations and meetings in **South Africa**;

23 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Daily News*. The **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** says it has never sought a warrant of arrest against former president **Ian Khama**;

22 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Opposition parties say they have started working on their submissions for the upcoming constitutional review;

22 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The auditor general has found that the department of mines has not been adequately verifying whether the royalties and other dues paid by mining companies match their production and sales, meaning government has potentially been receiving less than it should from the economically critical sector;

22 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Despite having achieved 22 hours of water supply per day against a target standard of 24 hours, the **Water Utilities Corporation’s (WUC)** debt strategy put in place last month, has failed to yield results;

21 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. **Courts of Appeals Judge Ranier Busang** dismisses a **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** application to search a house belonging to former president **Ian Khama**;

22 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Government announces it will kick-off measures to merge, chop or sell off some entities in its portfolio of 64 parastatals from April 2022, as figures emerge showing that nearly half were loss-making for the year ended March 2020;

18 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Botswana receives 100,060 doses of the **United States**-manufactured **Pfizer** Covid-19 vaccine;

18 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Water Utilities Corporation's (WUC)** debt level currently stands at P1.3 billion (\$111m);

17 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH)** has rebranded to the **Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH)** as part of Botswana's efforts to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and accelerate its digital transformation strategy;

16 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** has appointed a team of four members, chaired by former cabinet minister and lawyer **David Magang**, to advise the ruling **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** prior to its submissions to the commission tasked with reviewing the constitution of the country;

15 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Covid-19 cases in Botswana fall below 10 per 100,000 for the first time this year;

15 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. International financiers have committed nearly \$1 million in equity towards **Shumba Energy's** 100MW **Tati Solar Project**, which will be the country's largest when complete;

15 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** visits the **Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACP)** Secretariat in **Brussels**;

15 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. Finance minister **Peggy Serame** says that the **Retirement Funds Act** is being amended to allow pension fund members to get direct loans from their pension funds or to use part of the pension as security for mortgage loans;

15 Nov 2021 **Palapye (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Coca-Cola Beverages Botswana** has boosted its capacity to supply the central and northern parts of the country with the opening of a new depot in **Palapye**;

15 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Statistics Botswana*. The rate of inflation rose to 8.8% in October, from 8.4% in September, driven by the increase in fuel prices effected earlier in the month;

13 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Former president **Ian Khama** says the **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** raided his house the previous night in his absence and searched it without a warrant;

12 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. According to the attorney general's report, millions of pula went wasted, unaccounted for or abused in the first eight months after the declaration of Covid-19 as a global pandemic, with inexperienced companies grabbing tenders at inflated prices but failing to deliver;

12 Nov 2021 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. The **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** denies harassing its former director general, **Isaac Kgosi**;

12 Nov 2021 **Paris (France)** *Mmegi*. Former president **Mokgweetsi Masisi** addresses the 41st session of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** in **Paris, France** as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

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