

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Botswana Monthly Briefing June 2022

Botswana Summary 10 June 2022

Botswana's prosecuting authority indicates it is considering applying for the extradition of former president Ian Khama (2008-2018) from South Africa so that he can appear before the Regional Magistrate Court in Broadhurst (Gaborone) to respond to the 14 criminal charges against him. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says it expects Botswana's economy to return to a growth trajectory following a record contraction in 2020 due to Covid-19. Statistics Botswana indicates in its latest report released on 13 May that inflation in Botswana eased slightly to 9.6% in April, a decline of 0.4 of a percentage point from the March rate of 10.0%. Recently published World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) figures indicate that Botswana's local tourism and travel sector lost at least 17,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2020, while spending by foreign tourists dropped by nearly 80%. Covid-19 cases in Botswana have been doubling in the previous two weeks and hospital admissions are also increasing.

Botswana prosecutors consider extradition bid for Khama...

Botswana's prosecuting authority indicated on 6 June that it would consider applying for the extradition of former president **Ian Khama** (2008-2018) from **South Africa** so that he can appear before the **Regional Magistrate Court in Broadhurst (Gaborone)**.¹ Khama has been formally charged with 14 criminal offences, becoming the first former head of state of Botswana to face criminal charges (see *ARC Briefing Botswana May 2022*).² Khama has been in self-imposed exile in South Africa since the **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** launched its investigation in November.³ Khama can no longer claim presidential immunity, as he has been out of office for four years, meaning that a conviction could result in a prison sentence.⁴

Khama failed to appear for a second time before the Broadhurst court on 6 June, and said he welcomed an extradition request should the state pursue it.⁵ Khama said extradition is a legal process requiring his appearance in a South African court, and the evidence presented to the extradition judge would be widely published:

*"I would very much welcome an extradition request because that would give me and my associates an opportunity to expose the lies and fabrications that President **Mogweetsi Masisi** [2018-present] and his cronies have been embarking on against me."*⁶

Due to his exile status, Khama did not attend the funeral of his elder sister, **Jacqueline Khama**, who was buried on 3 June in **Serowe**.⁷

¹ Sunday Standard, 6 Jun 2022

² Daily Maverick, 21 Apr 2022

³ Mmegi, 22 Apr 2022

⁴ Mmegi, 22 Apr 2022

⁵ Mmegi, 6 Jun 2022

⁶ Mmegi, 6 Jun 2022

⁷ Daily News, 3 Jun 2022

IMF expects economic recovery in Botswana...

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** announced on 3 June that it expects Botswana's economy to return to a growth trajectory following a record contraction in 2020 due to **Covid-19**. IMF researchers expect that good rainfall, higher prices and demand for diamonds, and increasing tourists will anchor the domestic economy's return to a growth path this year.⁸ The IMF released its statements following its team's visit to Botswana from 4-8 May and held discussions on the 2022 Article IV consultation.⁹ The IMF's **African** department conducted the board assessment in collaboration with local fiscal and monetary officials.¹⁰

Following their Article IV consultations, IMF officials provided an update on Botswana's growth, which is now estimated at 4% in the medium term. In its **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** released on 19 April, the IMF said it expected Botswana's economy to grow by 4.3% in 2022, down from an earlier projection of 4.7% (see *ARC Briefing Botswana May 2022*).¹¹ Botswana's GDP growth projection of 4.3% in 2022 is above the 3.8% growth average that the IMF projects for **sub-Saharan Africa** and is the highest within the **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** region.¹² However, the current growth projection is below the 5% required to achieve the government's goal of reaching high-income status by 2036.¹³ **Statistics Botswana** noted on 13 May that Botswana registered economic growth of 11.4% in 2021, the highest annual growth rate since 1989.¹⁴ Fiscal and current account deficits narrowed sharply and foreign reserves stabilised.¹⁵

IMF African Department assistant director and mission chief for Botswana **Papa N'Diaye** said that Botswana's successful Covid-19 vaccination campaign, strong demand for diamonds, and prudent macro-economic management had allowed the country to recover to its pre-pandemic output level.¹⁶ N'Diaye suggested that "*robust diamond production, favourable terms of trade, improvements in tourism, and smaller portfolio outflows*" should further strengthen Botswana's external position.¹⁷ The researchers also noted that prolonged sanctions against **Russia**, the world's largest rough diamond producer, could increase demand for Botswana's diamonds.¹⁸

However, IMF researchers warned that risks to Botswana's outlook remain elevated as growth is heavily dependent on the trajectory of commodity prices.¹⁹ Longstanding challenges remain, such as unemployment, which increased to 26% in 2021. Inequality and poverty also increased. The IMF expects higher prices for energy and food to weigh on fiscal and external balances and threaten food security and energy affordability for the most vulnerable citizens, with monetary policy tightening necessary to reduce inflationary pressures, having opened the year above 10%.²⁰

While the financial sector appears sound, IMF researchers recommend monitoring the impact of higher rates, declining liquidity, and recent monetary reforms.²¹ IMF researchers note that more robust policy frameworks, fiscal consolidation and the advancement of structural reforms are

⁸ Daily News, 3 Jun 2022

⁹ Daily News, 3 Jun 2022

¹⁰ Mmegi, 3 Jun 2022

¹¹ International Monetary Fund, 19 Apr 2022

¹² International Monetary Fund, 19 Apr 2022

¹³ Mmegi, 3 Jun 2022

¹⁴ Mmegi, 13 May 2022

¹⁵ Daily News, 3 Jun 2022

¹⁶ International Monetary Fund, 19 Apr 2022

¹⁷ Mmegi, 3 Jun 2022

¹⁸ International Monetary Fund, 19 Apr 2022

¹⁹ International Monetary Fund, 19 Apr 2022

²⁰ Mmegi, 3 Jun 2022

²¹ Mmegi, 3 Jun 2022

required to create a more resilient and diversified economy.²² These reforms are expected to help create jobs to reduce unemployment and absorb the 35,000 annual labour market entrants.²³ The IMF team also recommended that the government avoid excessive reliance on import substitution and restrictions to promote industrialisation, but accelerate the 'Reset Agenda' to:

"diversify the economy towards financial services, manufacturing, and tourism. Reforms should include deeper trade integration, implementation of planned visa and work permit reforms, and faster investment in renewable energy".²⁴

Public transporters strike as inflation declines moderately

Rising inflation has led to skyrocketing energy and food prices and social unrest in Botswana. Public transporters embarked on a national strike on 17-19 May, demanding that government either decrease fuel prices or increase the transportation fees.²⁵ Assistant minister of local government **Mbuse Pule** said the conflict between Russia and **Ukraine** has affected the general cost of living, noting that distributors had hiked prices amid the shortage of petrol, diesel and grains.²⁶

During the commemoration of the international day of families in **Francistown** on 18 May, Pule urged families to persuade their relatives in the local public transport sector to call off their strike action. While acknowledging that the strike was reasonable, Pule said it had affected thousands of families' livelihoods across the country:

"Please talk to your relatives who are public transporters and reason with them as families so that they stop the strike because this situation is beyond the government's control."²⁷

Statistics Botswana indicated in its latest report, released on 13 May, that inflation in Botswana eased slightly to 9.6% in April, a decline of 0.4 of a percentage point from the March 2022 rate of 10.0%.²⁸ Inflation was recorded at 10.6% in February and January.²⁹ Statistics Botswana notes that the major contributors to the April inflation rate were transport (5.5%); housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels (1.4%), food & non-alcoholic beverages (0.8%), and miscellaneous goods & services (0.7%).³⁰ Inflation in Botswana rose to a 13-year high of 10.6% in January, an increase of 1.9 percentage points from the December rate of 8.7%.³¹ Local analysts warn that the overall high prices for goods and services are set to continue throughout most of the year, as the Ukraine conflict continues adding pressure.³²

The **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) expects inflation to average 10.4% in the first three months of 2022, before easing off in later months and settling at between 3% and 6% in the third quarter of the year.³³ In its **World Economic Outlook** released on 19 April, the IMF expects Botswana's inflation to average 8.9% this year and average 4.5% in 2023.³⁴

²² International Monetary Fund, 19 Apr 2022

²³ International Monetary Fund, 19 Apr 2022

²⁴ International Monetary Fund, 19 Apr 2022

²⁵ Mmegi, 18 May 2022

²⁶ Mmegi, 18 May 2022

²⁷ Mmegi, 18 May 2022

²⁸ Statistics Botswana, 13 May 2022

²⁹ Statistics Botswana, 15 Feb 2022

³⁰ Statistics Botswana, 13 May 2022

³¹ Statistics Botswana, 15 Feb 2022

³² Mmegi, 20 Apr 2022

³³ Mmegi, 15 Feb 2022

³⁴ International Monetary Fund, 19 Apr 2022

New data shows extent of tourism's Covid-19 collapse...

Figures published by the **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)** on 27 May provide a glimpse into the impact of Covid-19 on Botswana's tourism sector, a key foreign currency earner. Botswana's local tourism and travel sector lost at least 17,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2020, while spending by foreign tourists dropped nearly 80%.³⁵

For the first time, the domestic sector in 2020 was reliant on local tourists for its revenues, rather than external arrivals. Spending by local tourists in 2020 is estimated to have reached P3.3 billion (\$274m), compared to P1.4 billion (\$116m) for external tourists.³⁶ In 2019, foreign tourists spent nearly P6 billion (\$499m) in the local tourism and travel sectors, compared to P4.9 billion (\$407m) by local tourists.

Removal of the State of Emergency (SoE) on 30 September 2021 appeared to provide a window for the recovery of the tourism sector. However, barely two months later, the discovery of the Omicron variant led to new travel restrictions against Botswana and fellow **Southern African** states, halting the sector's recovery.³⁷ With the sector entering its peak season, traditionally between April and September, local tourism and travel operators are once again hoping for a recovery.³⁸ Tourism minister **Philda Kereng** applauded the sector's resilience for having survived the worst of the pandemic and said current conditions set it on a "*straight path*" to rebuilding.³⁹

Covid-19 cases and hospital admissions rising

Health ministry permanent secretary **Grace Muzila** told parliament's **Public Accounts Committee** on 6 June that Covid-19 cases in Botswana had been "*doubling and doubling*" in the previous two weeks and hospital admissions increasing, indicating a possible start of a fifth Covid-19 wave in Botswana.⁴⁰ Health services director **Pamela Smith-Lawrence** said Botswana is "*seemingly entering a fifth wave*" following trends in the Southern African region, particularly South Africa, where cases surged recently.⁴¹ Smith-Lawrence said health officials noted that Botswana's cases usually rise three to four weeks after South Africa registers increases; however, the neighbouring country's cases had started dropping.

The health ministry did not record any Covid-19 cases on 9 June and the seven-day moving average as of the same date is 329 new cases per 100,000 people countrywide.⁴² A month ago, the seven-day moving average on 9 May was 31 new cases per 100,000 people countrywide.⁴³ Between 27 May and 9 June, Botswana recorded 3,305 new cases of Covid-19.⁴⁴ The **Omicron** variant detected in Botswana on 25 November led to an average 2,500 new cases every three days, compared with fewer than 300 over the same period before Omicron (see *ARC Briefing Botswana Dec 2021*),⁴⁵ As of 10 June, the health ministry had recorded 310,431 cases of Covid-19 in Botswana's population of roughly 2.4 million, with 304,887 recoveries and 2,701 Covid-19-related deaths.⁴⁶ The health ministry reported on 7 June that Botswana had 2,843 active cases of Covid-19.⁴⁷

³⁵ World Travel and Tourism Council, 27 May 2022

³⁶ World Travel and Tourism Council, 27 May 2022

³⁷ Mmegi, 27 May 2022

³⁸ Mmegi, 27 May 2022

³⁹ Mmegi, 27 May 2022

⁴⁰ Ministry of health, 6 Jun 2022

⁴¹ Ministry of health, 6 Jun 2022

⁴² Worldometers, 9 Jun 2022

⁴³ Worldometers, 9 May 2022

⁴⁴ Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, 10 Jun 2022

⁴⁵ Reuters, 3 Jan 2022

⁴⁶ Worldometers, 10 Jun 2022

⁴⁷ Botswana Covid-19 Task Force, 7 Jun 2022

Smith-Lawrence recommended that health authorities focus on boosting the country's Covid vaccination rate, particularly the number of citizens coming forward for booster shots.⁴⁸ The rate of fully vaccinated people in Botswana has stalled at 62% for some time, while booster intake is under 40%.⁴⁹ Smith Lawrence noted that immunity from vaccination wanes over time:

“For the past few months up to now, the few hospitalisations we have had involved people vaccinated when the programme began last year between March and July and some of them did not come for their second doses or boosters.”⁵⁰

The health ministry reported on 7 June that it had fully vaccinated 1,512,567 of the total population of 2.4 million Botswana, or 63% of the total population, while 1,696,430 had received a first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine (70% of the total population).⁵¹ A total of 378,565 had received booster shots.

Botswana ended its Covid-19-induced **State of Emergency** on 30 September; however, President Masisi emphasised this did not signal the end of the pandemic, and encouraged Botswana to continue abiding by Covid-19 health protocols.⁵² All fully vaccinated people are required to self-isolate for five days if they test positive for Covid, while partially vaccinated and unvaccinated people are required to isolate for seven days.⁵³ Travellers who are not fully vaccinated will be required to produce a 72-hour valid negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) result at their own cost or undergo vaccination at point of entry.

Health minister **Edwin Dikoloti** noted in February that preliminary research on Covid-19 indicated that the virus might become endemic sooner than anticipated.⁵⁴ However, the health ministry said it would occasionally “*introduce new measures as may be necessary in order to help save Botswana from the pandemic*”.⁵⁵ The emergence of new variants is still a major concern.

⁴⁸ Mmegi, 6 Jun 2022

⁴⁹ Mmegi, 6 Jun 2022

⁵⁰ Ministry of health, 6 Jun 2022

⁵¹ Botswana Covid-19 Task Force, 7 Jun 2022

⁵² Office of the President, 8 Nov 2021

⁵³ Sunday Standard, 8 Mar 2022

⁵⁴ Daily News, 11 Feb 2022

⁵⁵ Ministry of health, 11 Feb 2022

Planner

Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Kimberley Process** meeting;

Jun 2022 **(Botswana)** End of current **De Beers**-government diamond sales deal;

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

Sep 2022 **(Botswana) Constitutional Review Commission** to submit a report with recommendations to the president not later than end of September;

2022 **(Botswana)** National Census;

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

2024 **(Botswana)** Presidential elections

Chronology

9 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. The **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank), acting as government's agent in the capital market, reports it raised an additional P1.1 billion (\$91.1m) in debt for the fiscus, through the auction of three bonds and two treasury bills on 27 May;

8 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard**. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** attends **World Economic Forum (WEF) 2022** post analysis seminar in partnership with **Stanbic Bank Botswana** in Gaborone;

8 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Bridge engineer **Kobamelo Kgoboko** says **Okavango River** bridge is expected to be opened on 18 June;

7 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. **Russia** and its ally, **Belarus**, have reportedly blocked proposals by the **United States (US)**, the **European Union (EU)**, **Ukraine** and a civic group to include the invasion of **Ukraine** on the agenda of the upcoming **Kimberley Process** meeting set for 20 June in **Kasane**;

7 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime**. **Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC)** reveals that the ministry of local government and rural development has the highest number of reported corruption cases followed by the ministry of transport and communications;

6 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Acting agriculture ministry permanent secretary **Coleen Diswai** says a bill that will liberalise the beef industry and promote the competitiveness of the sector, is awaiting approval by the cabinet;

6 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Ministry of health**. Health ministry says Covid-19 case numbers have been "*doubling and doubling*" in the past two weeks, with hospital admissions also increasing, signalling the possible start of a fifth wave;

6 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. The State indicates it will consider applying to extradite former president **Ian Khama** who failed to appear in court again on charges including unlawful possession, illegal acquisition, and stealing of firearms;

6 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Only one cryptocurrency operator has approached the **Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA)** for licensing, as a three-month grace period to comply with the new law expired on 31 May;

5 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard**. **Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)** caucus kicks out **Father Maphongo** as mayor of **Gaborone**, with the BDP councillors caucus reportedly voting for **Sebele** ward councillor **Austin Abraham** as Maphongo's replacement;

3 Jun 2022 **Serowe (Botswana) Mmegi**. The Khama family, including former president **Ian Khama**, member of parliament **Tshekedi Khama** and his twin brother, **Anthony Khama** watch the funeral proceedings of their sister **Jacqueline Khama** on television at an undisclosed location ;

3 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** expects higher prices and demand for diamonds, good rainfall, and increasing international tourist arrivals to anchor the local economy's return to a growth trajectory this year;

2 Jun 2022 **Stockholm (Sweden) Daily News**. Addressing the **Stockholm + 50 International Environmental Commemoration in Sweden**, President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** appeals for the international community to support **Botswana** and other **Southern African** states seeking to sell their ivory stockpiles;

3 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Daily News**. **Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)** has assured the nation of a constant power supply this winter when peak electricity demand is expected to reach 600MW between 6 am and 10 am and from 6 pm to 10 pm;

1 Jun 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard**. Former president **Festus Mogae** sends a message of condolence to the **Khama** family on the passing of **Jacqueline Tebogo Khama**, elder sister of former president **Ian Khama**;

31 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. **United States (US)**-based publication **TIME** names **Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership (BHP)** research laboratory director **Sikhulile Moyo** to **2022 TIME100**, its annual list of the world's 100 most influential people;

30 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Ministry of health**. Health ministry reports no monkeypox cases have been detected in Botswana;

30 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Finance ministry expects to spend about P10.4 billion (\$865m) settling the principal and interest on local and external debts this financial year, over 33% higher than it paid out two years ago;

27 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)** figures show the local tourism and travel sector shed at least 17,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2020, while spending by foreign tourists dropped nearly 80%;

27 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Finance ministry estimates show that government plans to inject P100m (\$8.3m) into the **Kasane-Kazungula** re-development project, increasing the project budget under the **National Development Plan 11** from P323m (\$26.8m) to P423m (\$35.1m);

27 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Final budget estimates for the 2022-2023 financial year see the creative industry sector receive a P160m (\$13.3m) budget allocation as part of improvements to the **Broadcasting Services Programme**;

27 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Daily News**. The health ministry introduces an online **Covid-19** vaccination certificate application system;

27 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Former **Bank of Botswana (BoB)** (central bank) deputy governor **Andrew Motsomi** is appointed managing director of local diamond company **Debswana** with effect from 1 June, taking over from **Lynette Armstrong** who has acted in the position since August 2019;

27 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Daily News**. **South Africa's** energy minister, **Gwede Mantashe**, is in Botswana for talks on issues including Botswana's bid to host the **Kimberley Process (KP)** secretariat, which South Africa has pledged to support;

25 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. **Civil Aviation Authority of Botswana (CAAB)** has grounded the national carrier **Air Botswana** ERJ170 Aircraft, registration A2-ABM by suspending its Certificate of Airworthiness for safety reasons;

25 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Homegrown pan-African microlender **Letshego Holdings** maintains its spot as the **Botswana Stock Exchange's (BSE)** top gainer for the year, despite recent turbulence within its top management;

24 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard**. Former president **Ian Khama** announces that his elder sister, **Jacqueline Tebogo Khama**, has died aged 72;

24 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard**. **Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS)** deputy director **Edwin Matlhegela** and two senior pilots have been detained following allegations that they leaked information on the flight plan of President **Mokgweetsi Masisi's** presidential jet;

24 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard**. Acting president **Slumber Tsogwane** survived a Monday night car crash involving his convoy on the A1 highway;

25 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. The **Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)** reveals that it spent P2.8m (\$232,940) on the last 13 by-elections;

23 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. State-owned petroleum utility **Botswana Oil** has finalised studies towards the P30 billion (\$2.5 billion) coal-to-liquids plant and is due to launch a fresh search for private sector partners by mid-year;

23 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. **Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)** plans to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to replace diesel as the source fuel for its 90-megawatt **Orapa** plant;

24 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard**. **Botswana Meat Commission (BMC)** board has localised the chief executive officer post by appointing **David Tsheboeng** to the position;

23 May 2022 **Mmadinare (Botswana) Daily News**. Local enterprise authority's channel network head **Fana Kelebogile** says restrictions on the importation of certain vegetables has increased local production from 37,000 tonnes in 2018/19 to 40,000 in 2020/21;

21 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard**. Botswana government reportedly owes fuel companies over P1.2 billion (\$99.8m);

20 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Appearing before the **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**, foreign affairs permanent secretary **Gladys Makhawa** says the rivalry between President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** and former president **Ian Khama** has tarnished Botswana's integrity;

19 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Transport minister **Eric Molale** says government plans to increase public transport fares by 15%, rather than the 61% that the public transport association requested, bringing shared taxi rides to P8.00 (\$0.67), minibus P7.00 (\$0.58), and special taxi P33.00 (\$2.75);

18 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Sunday Standard**. President **Mokgweetsi Masisi** is scheduled to go on a three-week international trip to **Stockholm** and **Davos**, among others;

17 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana) Mmegi**. Public transporters go on a national strike, demanding that the government either decrease the fuel prices or increase the transportation fees;

17 May 2022 **Cabo Delgado (Mozambique)** *Sunday Standard*. Vice president **Slumber Tsogwane** visits **Cabo Delgado** to check on the **Botswana Defence Force (BDF)** contingent;

17 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *The Monitor*. Agriculture minister **Fidelis Molao** says the vegetable import ban is not only 'here to stay' but will possibly be expanded to include more produce in the next two years;

13 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Statistics Botswana** says the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 11.4% last year, the highest annual growth rate since 1989;

13 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **United States (US)** ambassador **Craig Cloud** departs Botswana;

13 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. The **Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS)** says that up to 60% of taxpayers evade taxes;

12 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Sunday Standard*. Fuel prices increase for the seventh time since January 2021, rising by P1.48 (\$0.12) for Petrol 93, P1.54 (\$0.13) for petrol 95, P2.74 (\$0.23) for diesel, and by P2.06 (\$0.17) for paraffin;

10 May 2022 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *Mmegi*. **Statistics Botswana** publishes preliminary results of the **2022 Population and Housing Census**, showing that the estimated population of Botswana increased from two million in 2011 to 2.3 million in 2022;

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