



Tsholetsa Domkrag

BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY 2019 ELECTION MANIFESTO

**ADVANCING
TOGETHER
TOWARDS**
A MORE INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

**MASISI O A
RE BITSA!**

RE A YA!



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FOREWORD

Fellow citizens, over the last year, we have travelled around our country to consult and listen to the dreams, wants, needs and aspirations of Batswana. These interactions have granted us an opportunity to learn about the kind of Botswana that our people wish for themselves. Batswana want a more inclusive economy in which they will participate in wealth creation. They want a transformed economy that is able to create jobs for our unemployed graduates. They want an improved education and training system that is innovative and creates a knowledge based economy. They want a free and fair society anchored on respect for the rule of law. They want a government that functions. They want superior customer service. They want a government that is committed to an environment that allows for a free, independent and viable media. They want a corruption free society. These are serious aspirations that are being articulated by people who have been part of their nation's transformation from one of the poorest countries to a middle-income state through hard work, self-reliance, transparency, and prudent economic management.

We have listened and heard our people. That is why the next BDP government will lead the country on a path to economic transformation and create jobs that will roll back the scourge of poverty. The transformation we offer will be brought about through legal and policy reviews to ensure that Botswana is poised for the flow of investment in areas where it has a competitive advantage. These areas include the entire value chains of agriculture, tourism, mining, motor, electronics and solar industries to name a few. We are determined to transform our country into a knowledge-based economy. To achieve this, we will bring together government and the private sector with a singular intent of changing the economy for sustainable growth. This will lead to sustainable jobs and wealth creation. It is a promise for a truly shared prosperity, it is in the interest of **Advancing Together Towards A More Inclusive Economy**. All of us should work hard and implement democratic principles, focus on development, self-reliance, and unity as a basis for KAGISANO and BOTHO. This will require that every Motswana must be given the platform to apply themselves fully in whatever vocation they are pursuing whether it is the public service, the private sector, entrepreneurship, or the arts.

Therefore, the BDP stands ready to form a partnership with Batswana for shared prosperity. I am ready to lead this transformation as President and marshal the BDP to achieve/realise it. I implore you to VOTE the BDP in the 2019 general elections so that we as a country may begin our road towards Vision 2036.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Dr. Masi'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi, MP. MCC.
President, Botswana Democratic Party

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The BDP 2019 manifesto is anchored on our plan to achieve economic transformation and outlines the pledges that we are going to implement in order to take Botswana to greater heights. These pledges and promises are based on the confidence that the new President brings to the party. Through his leadership, there is renewed hope for Botswana and the party. It is this renewed hope that the BDP will be modern and responsive to today's challenges while still being true to and deeply rooted on founding principles of democracy, development, self-reliance, unity as a basis for KAGISANO and BOTHO. These unchanging values are the anchors of the modern BDP from which springs the following pledges and promise to address the new and current priorities of Botswana:

We pledge to:

1. Create jobs in the entire value chains of the digital innovation, agriculture, mining, tourism, education, automotives, electronics, pharmaceuticals, solar and manufacturing industries.
2. Increase integrity and transparency in our governance system through introduction of legislation on declaration of assets, whistle blowers protection and strengthen administrative protocols. This will help in fighting corruption in all its forums and across all levels.
3. Encourage inclusive governance by picking lessons from the principles espoused in the traditional Kgotla system where 'MAFOKO A KGOTLA A MANTLE OTLHE', and all are encouraged to contribute through our belief system of THERISANYO (consultation), BOTHO, development, and making decisions freely through democratic processes;
4. Guarantee that the environment is conducive for a free, independent and viable media. It is our ambition to create an environment where the media can achieve self-regulation.
5. Conduct a comprehensive constitutional, legislative and policy review.
6. Improve education and training to create innovative systems in order to yield innovative young minds.
7. Achieve a knowledge-based economy as envisioned by Vision 2036 by incremental planning and funding.
8. Growing the private sector to be competitive and productive, as well as increasing the ease of doing business in Botswana. The BDP led government will relentlessly seek and encourage young local creative minds and holders of knowledge to convert such knowledge into commercial products, and register their Intellectual Property;
9. Prioritize the growth and empowerment of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through the creation of regional Entrepreneurship centres of excellence, and setting up Botswana as Southern Africa's Start-Up capital;
10. Commit to changing the current land tenure system under tribal land grant that

limits and affords the majority of Batswana only use rights. Our intention is to accord owners rights to such land, which they may use as security to unlock opportunities.

11. Create a conducive environment that allows for a competitive and productive work-force. We are committed to developing an industrial relations system in which employers; workers and their representative interact to set the ground rules for the governance of work relationships.
12. Pursue relentlessly a robust service delivery or improvement programme across all sectors of government and the private sector; to make Botswana competitive.
13. Deliver quality health care services to Batswana by developing and implementing various preventative and curative programmes and improved service delivery.
14. Revamp our commitment to state-led social protection programmes for the poor; vulnerable and excluded groups that breaks the cycle of impoverishment;
15. The BDP led Government will immediately evaluate and confirm the economic value of mineral assets of the BCL Mine to bring hope to Batswana, and provide the necessary data to potential investors. This will be succeeded by proper and speedy disposal of these assets by identifying a buyer or investor for the mine. The current liquidation process would have been curtailed, the estate brought to function, and jobs created for Batswana, including through additional economic activity in Selebi Phikwe and the SPEDU region;

We commit to implementing the above pledges in the next five (5) years. We ask voters to elect the BDP led government based on the plans and promises we have made in this manifesto. We have a proven track record, and are confident that we will achieve success that will lead to inclusivity.

At independence in 1966, Botswana was ranked as one of the poorest countries in the world. Over the years and under the stewardship of the Botswana Democratic Party, the country transformed from being one of the poorest countries to achieve an upper middle-income status. Thus, Botswana's first transformation was from a traditional low-income economy based mainly on the agricultural sector to an upper middle-income country based on mining and increasingly on tourism. This success was not accidental or out of mere luck. It was a result of prudent economic management and growth-promoting policies purposely put in place by the BDP-led government.

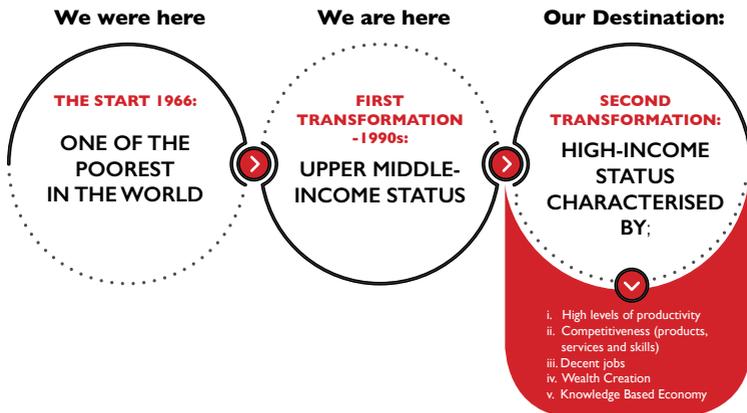
The 2019 Budget Speech aptly captures the successful story of Botswana when it notes "over the years, domestic economic performance, as measured by GDP growth rate, averaged 10% per annum between 1966 and 2008, before slowing down due to the financial crisis of 2008/2009. Real per capita income increased manifold from around US\$70 in 1966 to the present level of over US\$7 000. The domestic economy also transformed from predominantly agriculture to mining based; but has since diversified towards the services sector in response to a mix of macroeconomic policies pursued by [the BDP] Government".

Notwithstanding the colossal accomplishment of taking the country from being one of the poorest to the current upper middle-income status with accompanying benefits to Botswana, Botswana still faces significant growth-related challenges such as sustaining positive economic growth rates, reducing unemployment, and eradicating abject poverty. The BDP is aware of the need for further transformation. This time around, a transformation based on consolidation of our successes to catapult our economy to high-income status.

The BDP presents a manifesto for this necessary transformation aware that it is a daunting task. We are well placed and ready to embark on this journey. We have done it before, triumphantly, through the vision of our leaders, the talent of our people, their resolve, sacrifice, and hard work.

We will achieve our second transformation through continuous reform of our policies, streamlining processes, undertaking skills audits, improving on delivery, and increasing our competitiveness and productivity. For growth, we need investment in productive and export-focused activities. These will generate jobs, new sources of export earnings, and tax revenues.

Our journey can be summarized as follows:





Vision

BDP intends to pursue equality, justice, liberty, solidarity, peace, political, economic and social progress, and prosperity for all the people of Botswana.



Mission

The BDP is a party welded together by patriotism and voluntary desire. It shall maintain and consolidate its position as the leading political force in Botswana. It shall continue to be a constructive organization in which participatory democracy is maintained.



Values

Our values rest on our unchanging principles of Democracy, Development, Self-reliance, and Unity as a basis for KAGISANO and BOTHO. We bring these to life through our Setswana time tested concept of THERISANYO.



THE RISANYO CONSULTATION



2

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION



The BDP has led Botswana's transformation before: The first transformation was from a traditional low-income economy based mainly on the agricultural sector; to an upper-middle income resource-based economy. We have now started to lead Botswana on its second transformation: from an upper-middle income economy to a high income economy, from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based economy, and most importantly, a people centred, inclusive, sustainable economy. In this regard, we endeavour to prove that Botswana's trajectory is not that of being stuck in a middle income trap and a resource curse.

We offer this at the backdrop of our record, a testimonial of incremental growth founded on delivering a program of sustainable economic growth, based on common good and shared resources. Under the new BDP administration, we will place Botswana in a transformation course that ensures full and effective participation, and ownership of the economy by Batswana. This promise we will achieve, for all Batswana, through a clearly defined agenda. Our role is clear, it is about providing opportunities for jobs, wealth creation, and sustainable livelihoods. Our economy will be transformed, its performance deepened and diversified to provide wealth generation opportunities, decent jobs for all, especially the youth, as well as the provision of basic human needs of our people. Our employment creation will be enhanced through the development of agricultural value chains, tourism value chains, and diamond and other minerals beneficiation. Innovation and manufacturing sectors will be intensified for the production of goods and services for Botswana and the world market.

The modern BDP value proposition rests on an offer of doing things differently, efficiently, and is laser focused on transforming our economy. It is a proposition that sets Botswana on a path of change of leading a relevant, responsive, and responsible government.



Policy Review

The BDP led government aims to partner with the private sector to grow the country's economy. In this regard, we will undertake major policy structural reforms to make Botswana attractive and improve service delivery in order to stimulate domestic and international investment. The BDP led government will identify policies, legislation, and institutions requiring reform to make the environment conducive for economic transformation, and cause their necessary reform.

Succeeding in the transformation agenda will be driven by a change in policy implementation, in particular:

Consistency:

- Making sure that the policy framework is internally consistent, i.e. not having one policy that contradicts another policy;
- Making sure that the decisions taken by government are consistent with its policy framework; and
- Making sure that policy and programme design are evidence-based, and that sufficient data and statistics are available for the proper monitoring, evaluation, and analysis of policy and programme implementation, and hence are consistent with the achievement of agreed objectives.

Timeliness:

- Recognising that there is an urgency to bringing about change, and that business as usual is not an option;
- Making sure that BOLD decisions are taken QUICKLY.



Growing the Private Sector

The BDP led government will relentlessly seek and encourage young local creative minds and holders of knowledge to convert such knowledge into commercial products.

Our promises;

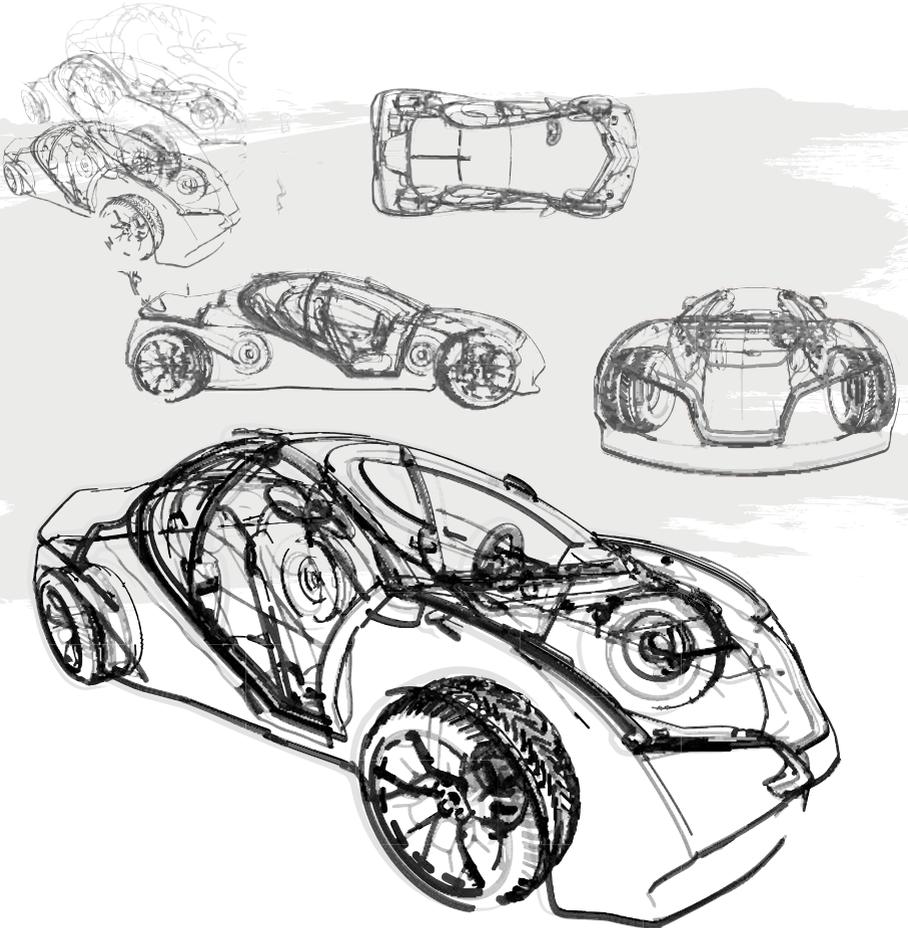
- a. Pursue public private partnerships to deliver development projects;
- b. Incentivise manufacturing;
- c. Develop an automotive industry to support Botswana's first car;
- d. Make Botswana a Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism hub;
- e. Grow small to medium scale businesses by establishing Centres of Excellence countrywide, and setting up to be Southern Africa's start-up capital;
- f. Review legislation and processes that impede entrepreneurship;
- g. Increase research and development budget, especially for research on plant varieties for agricultural and bio-medicine products;
- h. Review ISPAAD with a view to make it more relevant and impactful for subsistence and increased commercial farming;
- i. Review and enforce the economic diversification drive strategy to make it more relevant and impactful;
- j. Ease the doing business environment through the implementation of the doing business reforms roadmap including but not limited to Introduction of online company registration, reducing licensing restrictions and easing cross border trade requirements; and
- k. Stimulate foreign direct investment by relaxing visa and work permit issues, especially for highly skilled manpower and high net-worth investors who will support the government's job creation intentions.

Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIR)

Our people have rightly complained about the poor delivery of services, be they old age pensions, utility bill settlement, some health services, and others. The BDP holds strongly that some services ought to be automated. For example, the payment of old age pensions and utility bills can be made in an automated manner, through mediums such as mobile telephony.

Our promises;

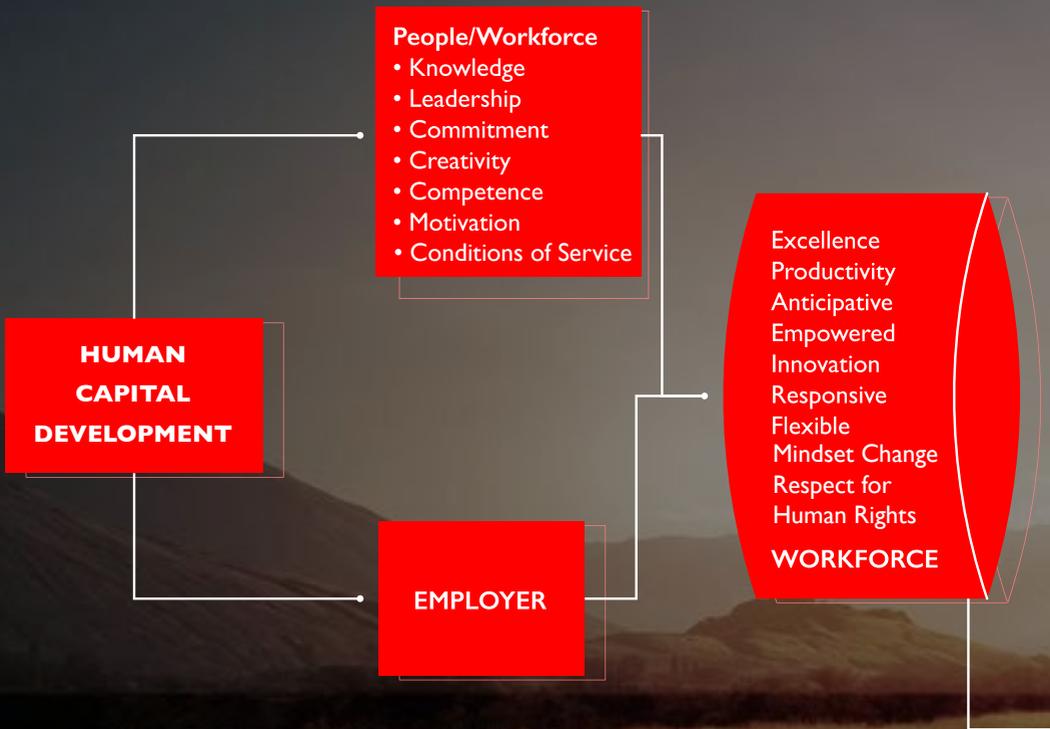
- a. Rationalisation and sharing of all government owned ICT Infrastructure;
- b. Intensify E-government;
- c. E-health;
- d. E- agriculture;
- e. E-business;
- f. Introduction of e-books and e-libraries to improve access to necessary instructional materials for all in schools;
- g. Develop an electric car and other associated innovative products;
- h. Research on robotics, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, bio-technology, and Internet of Things (IOT); and
- i. Roll-out the national backbone fibre network to villages and farms.





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THE JOURNEY TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY



**We are committed to
is of service to**

Our main target in the next five years is to train and re-tool our people to participate in the knowledge based economy so that we can realise our journey in 10 years. In order to realise this, there is need to review the structure of the public service, introduce Citizen Empowerment (CE) Laws, Economic Diversification (EDD) Laws, Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Laws and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to make the environment more responsive to the needs of a knowledge based economy.



**ensuring that the public service
the people of Botswana**

Digital Economy

The digital economy in the world is driving sweeping change in the way we communicate, work, learn, and live. The BDP will fund digital entrepreneurship and Research and Development (R&D), and deliver community-based training in basic internet skills, as well make Botswana a hotspot.

Our promises:

- a. Promote the development of Botswana as a digital society and economy through a renewed National Digital Strategy;
- b. Accelerate direct capital investment in digital investment in health, education, transport, energy, agriculture, tourism, and other sectors;
- c. Promote Botswana as the location of choice for ICT businesses through initiatives like the Digital Hub;
- d. Implement the National Broadband Plan, e-Government, and e-Health strategies;
- e. Introduce a free and secure Digital Portal, in order to transform the interactions of every citizen and business with the Government; and
- f. Develop and digitise indigenous games for commercialisation purposes.



Our promises:

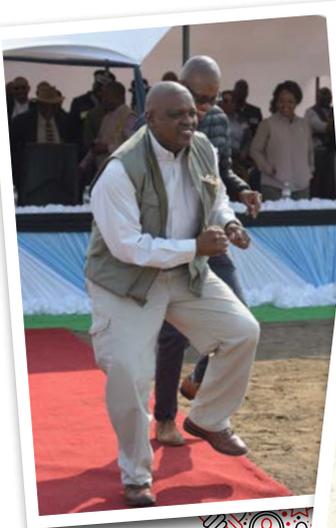
- a. Make Botswana a meetings place, conferencing, and a multi-sectoral tourism hub underpinned by unflinching quest for happiness, security, and comfort;
- b. Introduce a tourism scheme to support the regeneration of towns and villages over the next five years;
- c. Introduce new hospitality and catering traineeships and apprenticeships;
- d. Revitalise dormant facilities in rural areas as tourism training centres;
- e. Support the development of more community-led partnerships to create farm-walk landscapes;
- f. Increase the number of projects for heritage-led regeneration and preservation of farmland, forestry and waterways across rural Botswana;
- g. Put a comprehensive sports tourism policy at the heart of national sports policy;
- h. Deliver a new regional strategy to allocate substantial funding to key growth centres;
- i. Linking growth centres to their rural hinterlands to create corridors of economic and social activity throughout the country;
- j. Introduce elected councils for large and medium sized villages;
- k. Invest in regional skills forums which bring together employers and education providers;
- l. Rebrand and reposition Vocational Training Colleges (VTCs) to attract the youth and diversify the skills set;
- m. Comprehensively review the tourism value chain with a view of maximising returns to the Botswana economy and Batswana.

Arts and the Entertainment Industry

The BDP is committed to ensuring that the entertainment industry thrives as we position Botswana as a meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) hub. The BDP considers Botswana arts and cultures to be critical to the indigenous communities. They are also important contributors to a diversified economy. The BDP government therefore commits to the development of the local arts, music, literature, performance and theatre, film, dance, and crafts. We will finalise and implement the creative sector strategy that will see the commercialization of the artistry in Botswana up for sale in the world. Through this policy and the tourism strategy, we will strive to include more Batswana in the lucrative wildlife and tourism filming and photography industry. We will facilitate the growth of film festivals, music shows, and art auctions just to mention a few. The entertainment and alcohol-associated industry will be afforded the space to contribute meaningfully in the economy, and to conduct itself as a properly regulated entrepreneurial endeavour.

Our promises:

- a. Implement the creative sector strategy;
- b. Develop training opportunities through the expansion of programmes and courses at the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) at tertiary institutions and continue to make funding the arts a priority;
- c. Expose our arts and cultures to international markets, to ensure that they are key players in the diversification of the economy;
- d. Nurture the creative economy to make it a source of socio economic growth, jobs, innovation, and trade. These include architecture, archives and libraries, artistic crafts, audio visual (such as film, television, video games and multimedia), cultural heritage, design, festivals and music, performing arts, publishing, radio and visual arts;
- e. Develop the creative economy to contribute to social inclusion, cultural diversity and sustainable human development;
- f. Provide guidelines for large festivals, which would ensure the safety of patrons;
- g. Liaison with cabs and taxi service providers for purposes of availing call-cabs to overindulged customers, and retain customer car in safe custody at a nominal premium;
- h. Enforce the age of drinking restrictions; and
- i. Encourage beer halls to be transformed into entertainment centres attractive to both locals and tourists, thus broadening the client base.



Agriculture and agribusiness

The BDP led government will change the current land tenure system under tribal land grant that limits and affords the majority of Batswana only use rights over land. The new changes will accord owner rights over such land. Individual landowners will be able to use their land for entrepreneurial purposes such as presenting such land as equity or security in seeking development finance from financing institutions.

The BDP promises to use new technologies that create new ways of responding to existing needs and significantly disrupt existing agriculture value chain. Efficient technologies such as threshers, shelling of produce, and quality assurance of produce will be afforded to agricultural producers to participate in the industry in ways that are meaningfully profitable.

Processing of agricultural produce from local producers must supply and serve manufacturing entities resident in the country such as the National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC). Manufacturing start-ups will be supported in varied ways, including sourcing of raw materials where local produce falls short, through parastatals such as Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board (BAMB). Financing institutions, both private and state owned, will be supported to create financing ways opportune for start-ups and well-established incumbent entities. The BDP led government will stimulate start-ups through guaranteed access to captive markets, for example, sales to schools, institutions such as the police, prisons, army and other government institutions.

In the next five years, the BDP government will support small farms' viability, and in the process, unlock Botswana's potential as a food hub. We will fulfil Botswana's enormous potential as a producer of high-quality food and drink, both for local use and export. We will introduce and support a linked approach in government policy on agriculture to maximise the potential links between food production and tourism. Small-scale producers will be supported to go after niche markets through the innovative use of protected food designation. We will encourage greater emphasis on quality and uniqueness in Botswana produce. BDP's goal is to significantly increase Government support for training, upskilling, and getting start-ups for small farmers. We will roll-out training courses through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and BUAN, to better equip farmers with essential agri-business management skills, in order to give them the best possible start in farming. The BDP government will increase opportunities and support farmers to produce, process, market, and to sell directly to the public. We will better support the establishment of new producer groups across the country. We will also incentivise the development of new cooperatives, so that farmers can access appropriate marketing and financing.

Our promises:

- a. Support small-scale producers to go after niche markets through the innovative use of technology;
- b. Equip young farmers with agri-business management skills;
- c. Introduce a new Graduate Development Programme for the food SME sector;
- d. Increase support for the establishment of farmer producer groups and cooperatives throughout the country.
- e. Fully fund the fisheries development programme;
- f. Establish an Agronomic Board with the private sector. The Board will work on increasing the yield of grains consumed in Botswana;
- g. Use innovative technologies for the dairy industry by young people, women, and those who are strategically located in areas where the industry can thrive;
- h. Rigorously support diversification in agricultural production, marketing, and management;
- i. Promote and implement the domestication of plant assembly for agriculture;
- j. Promote the development of private sector participation by citizens in all value addition initiatives in the agricultural sector;
- k. Promote the development of private sector participation by citizens in seed production and seedling development business;
- l. Promote citizen research and development companies in agriculture;
- m. Promote innovation and incubation in agriculture; and
- n. Increase the participation of localised marketing management of the full value chain of Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) agricultural produce.
- o. Tweak ISPAAD for improved subsistence and commercial farming.

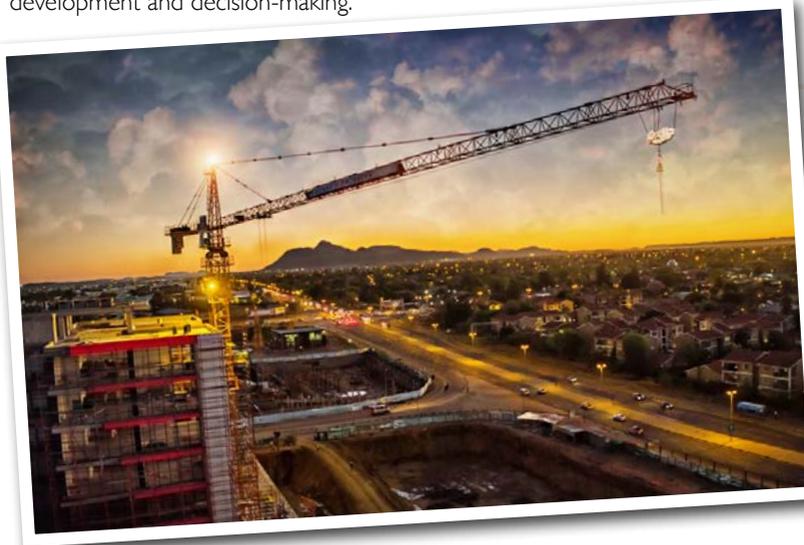


Cluster Development and Spatial Planning

The BDP led government aims to develop and implement spatial planning that will influence the future spatial distribution of activities. The primary aims of this development will be to create a more rational territorial organization of land use and the linkages between them, to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment, and to achieve social and economic objectives. This will be done through the coordination and improvement of the impacts of sectoral policies on land use to achieve an even distribution of economic development within a given territory than would otherwise be created. The BDP led government will implement Cluster Development and special economic zones across various sectors such as diamond, tourism, beef, mining, and financial services.

Our promises:

- a. Introduce planning regions based on economic activity, ease of travel, and limits on travel time;
- b. Develop special economic zones with clear specialised economic activities, and grow these as regions of excellence in a particular economic activity;
- c. Deliberately grow conglomerate settlements to reduce cost of service delivery; and
- d. Devolution of rural administrative centres to achieve ease of access to development and decision-making.



Land Tenure Reforms

Botswana has three categories of land tenure: tribal land, state land, and freehold land. The majority of Batswana reside and farm Tribal land, which accounted for 71% of the country's land in 2015. For the most part, rights over tribal land are limited to use rights. The BDP Government is committed to empowering Batswana through the Land Administration Procedures Capacity and Systems (LAPCAS) with this system all plots will be registered and given plot numbers thus making each certificate an equivalence of a title deed this will give plot owners not only use rights but ownership.

Our promises:

- a. Review the land policy and Tribal Land Act to rid it of any disadvantaging aspects to Batswana;
- b. Accelerate access to land for small businesses and corporate agribusiness both at production and manufacturing levels;
- c. Accelerate access to land for small businesses and corporate tourism business within towns, along main roads, and tourism corridors, as well as in Botswana's premier tourism enclaves of the Okavango, Chobe, Kgalagadi and others;
- d. Assist Batswana to optimise land use resources by ensuring that those with ploughing fields can utilise their land and other uses such as tourism and other commercial pursuits.
- e. Ensure that those with residential plots can convert them into Guest Houses or Offices.

Gaborone and Francistown Cities

The BDP will continue to develop Botswana's cities and make them compete regionally and globally. We believe that it is only through real vision and dedicated planning that we can unlock our cities' full potential and make sure their enterprise and living standards rival those of the best cities in the world.



Our promises:

- a. Develop both cities into economic engines of the country;
- b. Improve their security through the use of technology to ensure that citizens and businesses feel secure;
- c. Integrate more volunteers into local area community and small area policing;
- d. Prioritise bringing construction work on the underground transport system, bus, and taxi lanes;
- e. Introduce city cycle-way systems; and
- f. Pedestrianise more of the city centres.
- g. Strengthen the entertainment arms of the cities.
- h. Put in place strategies and investment to keep the cities clean.
- i. Brand the cities.

Sport

The BDP recognises benefits of physical activity that include health, financial gains, psychological gains, etc. We are therefore committed to sports funding at various levels, through the establishment of centres of sports excellence, Elite Scholarship programmes, and youth development programmes, etc. Our athletes have competed with the best in the world and continue breaking national, regional and international records, and flying our national flag high. We have also hosted world class events such as the Under 21 Netball World Cup, International Working Group on Women and Sports Congress, Region 5 African Union Youth games, etc.



Our promises:

- a. Establish a Health Performance Centre to enhance our athletes' performance, and to open it for other athletes within the region at a fee;
- b. Fund the training of athletes, and sport administrators including medical personnel, on issues affecting them such as nutrition, doping, etc;
- c. Renovate existing sporting facilities and develop more facilities that meet international requirements; and
- d. Fund more centres of excellence as per the different sports codes.





BDP

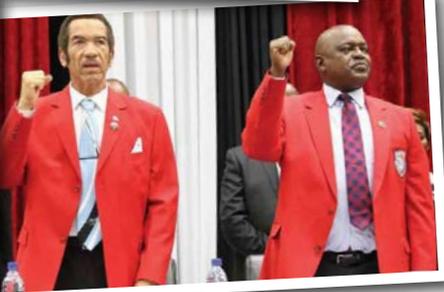
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**ADVANCING
TOGETHER
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**MASISI O A
RE BITSA!**

RE A YA!





Infrastructural development

The BDP-led government will continue to invest in infrastructural development projects across various sectors, including information and communications technology (ICT), water, energy, transport and road networks, to create an enabling environment for commerce and industry, as well as to stimulate the economy.

Our promises:

- a. Roll out solar energy use nationally, particularly in remote off grid settlements, masimo and farms;
- b. Develop the business space for more private sector participation. Government will focus on policy making, regulatory, and oversight functions while the private sector carries out physical infrastructure services;
- c. Ensure villages, towns, cities, businesses, and industries have access to reliable electricity, water, broadband, roads, etc; and
- d. Develop the road, rail, airports and communications technology (ICTs) needed to drive the economy.



Finance and Banking

An effective banking system is the backbone of a strong economy. We need a balance between competitive banks, available credit, and strong regulation. As stated in the State of the Nation Address on the 5th November 2018 by His Excellency, President of the Republic of Botswana and the President of the BDP, Dr: MEK Masisi, "Financial Inclusion is achieved when consumers across the income spectrum in a country can access and sustainably use financial services that are affordable and appropriate to their needs".

Our promises:

- a. Review bank laws on blacklisting workers for long periods (by e.g. Information Trust Company, ITC) in order to ensure that there is a provision that allows for rehabilitation of previous defaulters;
- b. Improve payments eco-system;
- c. Facilitate low cost, accessible savings products;
- d. Develop accessible risk mitigation products; and
- e. Improve credit market, and consumer empowerment and protection.
- f. Strengthen financial ecosystems to enhance compliance with international obligations and standards.

Job creation

All of the above efforts are towards the primary goals of empowerment, wealth creation, and job creation. Unemployment is not an issue that can be quickly or easily solved. Any solution needs to be focused on the long term to ensure sustainability. A stable economy and new drivers of growth will play a fundamental role for a stable and expanding job market that is based on good implementation, high productivity, and high wages. In the next five years, the BDP will seek to facilitate the creation of jobs in unprecedented numbers, including jobs in the digital economy, the financial and other services sector, and mineral beneficiation and manufacturing.

We will continue to invest in education while working hard at improving quality and standards, in order to make Botswana graduates internationally competitive. We will further invest in education through retooling and reskilling the current labour force for the new economy. We will train for the market to reduce the supply-demand gap, and make access into the Training Levy more flexible, making it easier for employers to make use of the scheme for reimbursement of training costs.



“Batswana want an inclusive economy in which they will participate in wealth creation. They want a transformed economy that is able to create jobs for our unemployed graduates. They want an improved education and training system that is innovative and creates a knowledge based economy. They want a free and fair society anchored on respect for the rule of law. They want a corruption free society. They want a government that is committed to an environment that allows for a free, independent, and viable media.”

Our promises:

- a. Put to work the best brains of Botswana to the best jobs in our areas of priority;
- b. Use ICT to generate employment and self employment across all sectors of the economy;
- c. Attract FDI by revamping investment and stimulating domestic investment;
- d. Open up the tourism space to many Batswana;
- e. Review a number of legislations and remove red tape;
- f. Expand internet accessibility and telephony to rural areas (including to masimo and meraka);
- g. Review land use legislation to make it possible for individuals to use their land (including farms) for tourism, warehouses and other processing businesses;
- h. Build more schools, transform a number of junior secondary schools to teach Form 1 to Form 5 classes. We will also reduce class size to under 30 students per class. These adjustments will create space for the employment of many teachers, and create jobs in the construction industry;
- i. Energize the solar industry across Botswana to create jobs;
- j. Transform Botswana into a knowledge-based economy through partnerships with industry leaders and academic institutions;
- k. Engage in more large-scale commercial farming for the export market;
- l. Undertake skills audit for job seekers and the employed; and
- m. Extend internship and give graduates the necessary experience.
- n. Re-open the BCL mine through private sector led participation.



3

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION



Education

Botswana want an inclusive economy in which they will participate in wealth creation. They want a transformed economy that is able to create jobs for our unemployed graduates. They want an improved education and training system that is innovative and creates a knowledge based economy. They want a free and fair society anchored on respect for the rule of law. They want a corruption free society. They want a government that is committed to an environment that allows for a free, independent, and viable media.



The Botswana Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP) was introduced to strengthen the match between qualifications and labour market requirements, ensuring that education outputs are more closely aligned to future employment needs. The BDP government will implement this plan fully since it facilitates improved outcomes for all learners by addressing quality, relevance, access, equity and accountability across the entire sector; from Pre-Primary school to Tertiary level.

The BDP will fully implement ETSSP to create a balance between academic pursuits and technical and vocational education thus challenging perceptions that the TVET pathway is inferior and less prestigious. The BDP government is fully aware that the successful implementation of ETSSP requires all stakeholders: teachers, the private sector, parents and government to work together as a team. The BDP government is therefore committed to building on its past successes to provide a balanced, modern and robust holistic education that responds to the challenges of the 21st century.

One of the key challenges facing the nation is the number of unemployed and under-employed youth. It is clear that existing labour markets cannot provide jobs for all who need work and this is compounded by the fact that many of those applying for employment are inappropriately qualified for the jobs on offer. The BDP government will therefore continue to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit in our youths and prioritize training to create a deliberate bias to develop appropriate skills required by the market.

Our promises:

- a. Accelerate and promote quality and access to early childhood education and care to reach at least 75%;
- b. Promote and facilitate the establishment of schools relevant to the international community at tertiary level;
- c. Merge and sharpen the focus of some tertiary institutions for efficiency as informed by the dictates of the economy;
- d. Facilitate private sector participation through conditional leasing of institutional campuses based on relevance of proposals;
- e. Review the Top Achiever's program for efficiency and effectiveness
- f. Develop and implement focused inputs to improve the quality of our education as part of its delivery of a lifelong learning ecosystem;
- g. Develop and leverage human, capital, and technological resources for a national research and development agenda;
- h. Overhaul and modernize the curriculum, so as to respond to the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Our curriculum will respond to the national needs and the country's developmental trajectory. The curriculum will support greater levels of research, development and innovation;
- i. Revise strategies that target the achievement of quality teaching and learning outcomes by enhancing the skills and competencies of educators, including the school management;
- j. Adequately resource schools with e-books, books, teachers, computers, and modern technology to facilitate learning in a modern classroom;
- k. Drive up standards of learning across different schools by putting in place some of the finest school leaders to lead our schools;
- l. Build more schools and transform them into integrated schools and reduce class to around 30;
- m. Work with teacher unions closely to remove any impediments and to ensure that their conditions of service facilitate and do not impede their delivery of quality education;
- n. Make our schools more accessible to children with special needs such as people living with disabilities and to members of vulnerable communities;
- o. Introduce the teaching of various indigenous languages in our classrooms and at university to ensure that learners' cultures and languages are developed and promoted;
- p. Continue to expand funding for learners at tertiary institutions by reviewing the current grant loan scheme and encourage private sector participation;
- q. Establish strong research and development at tertiary institutions with strong Intellectual Property (IP) arrangements;
- r. Translate research and development into products that will enhance our productivity standing. National Agric Processing (NAPRO) and its products with the brand name Harvest Haven points to an example of how Research and development can lead to manufacturing. Similar ventures must be grown either as start-ups or major players.
- s. Develop a robust knowledge economy; and
- t. Approve and implement in phases the national resources development plan.
- u. Fully implement the ETSSP to create a balance between academic pursuits and technical and vocational education

Health

The BDP remains committed to delivering quality health care services to Batswana. To achieve this goal we have developed and implemented various preventative and curative programmes such as HIV treat all, pre-cancer screening, sexual reproductive health, to mention but a few, through the Universal Health care access, with 95% of Botswana population within an 8km radius of a health facility with a remainder living within 8 – 15 km radius (Statistics Botswana). Additionally, the country has over 800 mobile clinics for remote areas.

However, emerging diseases and changes in lifestyle have resulted in an increase in non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, some cancers, drug and alcohol related diseases and other communicable diseases (e.g.TB, diarrhoea, HIV, etc.), thereby reducing some of the positive health gains that had been achieved.

Other challenges in achieving our set goals include the shortage of health care workers, weak supply chains, and the shortage of equipment in some of our facilities.

Our promises:

- a. To strengthen district health management teams by decentralising health care services and ensuring availability of resources;
- b. Increase the number of beds in the existing hospitals, and increase the number of district hospitals to decongest referral hospitals;
- c. Develop more 24 hour health facilities and strengthen our emergency medical services;
- d. Commit to strengthening e-Health and roll-out programmes such as patient management systems and telemedicine for specialised services to reach all corners of the country;
- e. Establish rehabilitation centres for clients addicted to alcohol and other drugs;
- f. Continue training health care workers, with a commitment to fund specialist training and funding of teaching hospitals;
- g. Increase the number of youth friendly health care facilities;
- h. Roll out outdoor gyms to rural communities for health promotion and prevention of non-communicable diseases;
- i. Continue with the Treat All HIV intervention to reach the 100% treatment goal for those affected; and
- j. Establish a national health insurance fund.



Social Protection

Botswana has a strong and long-standing commitment to state-led social protection programmes for poor, vulnerable and excluded groups. Efforts to tackle HIV/AIDS and its impacts have been outstanding. Mineral wealth, and biodiversity capital have been wisely harnessed for economic and social good, leading to impressive advances as evidenced by most social indicators.

Nevertheless, Botswana's new wealth is unevenly distributed socially and/or geographically. We acknowledge that the poverty headcount, at 16.3% (2015/16), is high and the BDP led government will work hard to grow the economy, create more jobs, create self-reliance programmes and create a conducive environment for entrepreneurial start-ups at local and national levels.

Our promises:

- a. Expand internship programme for job seekers for them to gain experience;
- b. Introduce career counselling to all unemployed (16-35 years old);
- c. Strengthen community home-based care (CHBC);
- d. Strengthen orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) programmes;
- e. Improve primary and secondary school feeding;
- f. Improve vulnerable group feeding;
- g. Improve the destitute programme;
- h. Improve state old age and war veterans' pensions; and
- i. Improve the Remote Area Dwellers Programme (RADP).
- j. Labour intensive public works ('Ipelegeng') to be improved to construct long term beneficial projects.



Childcare Quality

The BDP will make low-cost, high-quality childcare for all children under 12 a reality, while working to ensure those who provide childcare services receive the respect and remuneration they deserve. We will subsidise childcare available to low-income families, introduces the first support for children with special needs in pre-schools, and pass a law outlining the rights of children in our constitution.

Our promises:

- a. Maintain 84-calendar days maternity leave on full pay and introduce a 28-calendar day paternity leave on full pay;
- b. Improve workplace conditions for those who work with young children;
- c. Transform the quality of early childhood care and education (ECCE) by ensuring a higher premium for providers with highly qualified staff;
- d. Punish all those who abuse children; and
- e. Introduce a sex offenders and paedophile record.



Housing

The BDP will improve supply, protect tenants, and make it easier to buy a house. The BDP is committed to the delivery of affordable homes for families and youth, building up a properly regulated long-term rental market and investing in social housing.

Our promises:

- a. Provide funding for the development of affordable rental housing with rentals 20% or more below market levels;
- b. Establish a 'Save to Buy' scheme to make saving for a deposit easier for those aspiring to own their own home;
- c. Build up a stable and secure long-term rental market;
- d. Ensure we build balanced communities with a mix of private, rental and social housing;
- e. Provide better housing for students at tertiary institutions; and
- f. Improve the performance of the construction industry and housing sector by creating a self-regulatory environment.



Gender Based Violence (GBV)

GBV is ravaging our country. Botswana has high levels of rape and other types of sexual violence. The BDP led government believes that GBV must be prevented before it happens, and where it unfortunately happens, strict punitive penalties must ensue.

Our promises:

- a. Review relevant legislation to toughen sentences for perpetrators of gender based violence;
- b. Develop strategies which will reduce instances of gender-based violence;
- c. Train the police and provide the necessary resources to enable them to better deal with cases of gender-based violence;
- d. Provide facilities for counselling victims of gender based violence, as well as the rehabilitation of perpetrators of gender-based violence; and
- e. Introduce a sex offenders and paedophile record and identification system
- f. Review policies and conduct research to identify the root causes of GBV and develop appropriate interventions to curb it.

Climate change

Climate change requires more research. The BDP in the next 5years will intensify research and consult widely on the subject.

Our promises:

- a. Provide funding for research to investigate the impact of climate change in Botswana on the following: water; resilient crops, settlement structures and patterning, housing standards and materials, and recycling groundwater resource.

Dignity at work

The BDP will champion workers' rights and decency in the workplace. Our party believes that workers are entitled to job security in the workplace for them to live fulfilled lives. The BDP is the party of workers' rights. We will introduce collective bargaining legislation and sectoral pay increases.

Our promises:

- a. Outlaw abusive terms and conditions of employment;
- b. Safeguard the rights of workers in companies that collapse;
- c. Tackle workplace bullying and blacklisting;
- d. Introduce occupational pension schemes; and
- e. Entrench trade unions in our democracy, and accord them special status with our relations with them.

A Competitive and Productive Workforce

The BDP led government will continue to create conducive conditions for a competitive workforce, so that Botswana can be productive and improve productivity over time. The key ingredient lies in reforming the pre and tertiary curricular that recognizes knowledge as the basis of productivity, as well as the need to retool the incumbent workforce for this reality. Our path to greater productivity will be anchored on better skills, better ideas, and on a more efficient and competitive workforce. Competitiveness is reflected by the extent to which companies that invest and operate in Botswana do well. Equally, an important measure is when citizens run, work for, or own successful companies.

Our promises:

- a. Retraining of incumbent labour force;
- b. Reforming policy and legislative framework that impede productivity;
- c. Rewarding meritocracy and productivity;
- d. Reviewing Curriculum and ensuring that it responds to market needs; and
- e. Establish Career Centres to assist unemployed graduates with retooling and job applications.



Labour Relations

The BDP believes that to achieve the high level of productivity that is consistent with our journey towards a high income and knowledge-based economy, we must develop an industrial relations system in which employers, workers and their representatives interact to set the controls for the governance of work relationships. The BDP believes that the days of acrimonious relations with trade unions are behind us. The BDP prioritises good and cordial relations with the trade unions. We view trade unions and employers (including government) as partners in raising Botswana's competitiveness and productivity levels necessary to create wealth for Botswana. To this end, our industrial relations rest on a shared understanding of roles, responsibilities, and overall objectives of the trade union - employer relationship which will be achieved by setting Industrial Relations Councils across all sectors of the economy including the private sector:

Our promises:

- a. Instil a robust consultative process based on necessary disclosures for informed decisions;
- b. Ensure that there is a robust and functioning Bargaining Council;
- c. Retraining of workers so that their skills are responsive to their performance requirements;
- d. Create a culture of a workforce that strives for excellence and quality output; and
- e. Enhance the minimum wage for workers through consultation.
- f. Ensure that the private sector participates meaningfully in the enhancement of the welfare of their employees through a tripartite arrangement.

4

GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY





The BDP believes that a constitutional review is due. In the next five years, we will have a broad-based consultative process of the review of the Constitution of Botswana. The BDP believes that a nation of our size, scale, and composition needs a strong, directly elected parliament with real legislative and oversight powers, in order to effectively deliver national projects and curb corruption. The BDP will introduce new legislation making ministers and senior civil servants legally accountable for their decisions, and for the management of their departments in the public interest. The BDP government will reform the Botswana local government structure through a constitutional review.

Our promises:

- a. Prosecute those who misappropriated government funds and recover such funds.
- b. Strengthen parliament by making it more autonomous from government with strong committees and overseeing some organisations currently under government.
- c. Strengthen national unity, build stronger security and governance institutions, and promote the country's diplomacy in order to further improve development in Botswana and Africa at large.
- d. Accord national security the highest priority.
- e. Increase the capacity and capability of the military, police, and other security agencies through the employment of additional personnel, the provision of modern equipment, and a commitment to professionalism, merit and excellence in the respective services to meet the needs of our growing population.
- f. Run a government with an accountable, transparent, competent, and efficient public service with zero tolerance for corruption.
- g. Making sure that individuals are held accountable for delivering on goods and services procured by government (in the private sector) – i.e. contract enforcement including persecution of firms delivering sub-standard, delayed or well over budget projects, goods and services.
- h. Implement a law on the Declaration of Assets and liabilities and uphold the rule of law at all times.
- i. Enhance the quality of our democracy through the training of all government officials.
- j. Deliver a more integrated public service and increase the number of specialists in the civil service.
- k. Introduce a free and secure Digital Portal to transform and improve digital communication and doing business for our citizens, businesses and government.
- l. Ensure the digital agenda does not leave behind any citizens, especially older citizens who are most at risk of digital exclusion share.
- m. Increase targeted policing and ensure our streets, schools, borders and communities are safe.
- n. Strengthen the criminal justice system.
- o. Fight drugs, break-ins, human trafficking, money laundering, cybercrime etc.
- p. Review of local government systems to enhance local response to challenges and improve participation of local authorities in planning.

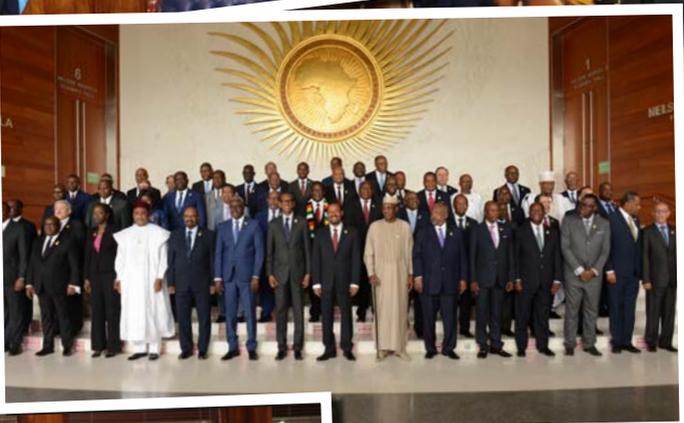
Constitutional Review

Since independence, the Constitution of Botswana has undergone very little review. The BDP therefore commits to a comprehensive review of the Botswana constitution with an aim to aligning it to international standards. As a republic, we need a constitution that guarantees all citizens equality before the law. All discriminatory provisions will be removed in favour of more inclusive provisions. The BDP will consult widely and open debates on the shape and form of the Botswana constitution.



Media

The BDP government is committed to a free and vibrant press. As a party, we will continue to promote cordial relations with the Press Council of Botswana, the Botswana Media and Allied Workers Union (BOMAWU) and the Botswana Editors Forum. We will create a conducive environment in which the media can function without harassment. The BDP led government will work toward developing a legislative framework that will allow the media to self regulate.



The BDP led government's foreign policy is influenced by a realisation that Botswana is a landlocked, semi-arid, middle income country that wishes for cordial relations with its neighbours and other international actors. Consequent to this understanding, Botswana's foreign policy under the BDP leadership will be shaped by the need to safeguard Botswana's interests and to achieve these goals by interacting with other countries and with non-state actors.

Multilateralism, Economic Diplomacy and Partnerships

Since Botswana is a small country geographically, economically, and politically, we are committed out of principle and necessity to support multilateralism. Given the strain that is placed on multilateralism by some powerful nation states who are friends of Botswana, we need to remain firm in our foreign policy posture, emanating out of our commitment to protecting Botswana's interest by taking a strong stand. The BDP government will reform diplomatic intents, in order to place more emphasis on economic diplomacy where diplomatic missions prioritise Botswana's economic advancement. The missions must look for opportunities to market Botswana products and attract investment from foreign countries. Equally important, the Missions must actively seek opportunities for markets, partnerships for Botswana entrepreneurs and products. Consistent with our level of international influence, our foreign policy will seek to build support to set and enforce international rules and norms so that corruption and bribery remain unacceptable, coupled with observance of predictable international governance.

Our promises:

- a. Increase reliance of diplomatic missions to actively seek foreign investors and investment by Botswana companies in Mission's host countries, as well as opportunities for the sale of products made in Botswana.
- b. Greater interaction with global entities such as the Southern African Development Community, the African Union, United Nations Organisation, the African Development Bank, World Bank, the World Trade Organisation and Brazil Russia India China and South Africa (BRICS).
- c. Increase the number of Botswana taking up positions in international organisations.
- d. Reviving global partnerships and alliances with countries, global entrepreneurs and innovators who can assist us in developing the nation.

Conclusion

In the next five years, the BDP led Government will place its citizens at the centre of its economic transformation and socio economic development. We plan to ensure that Batswana enjoy economic prosperity as well as individual and collective freedom and rights as enshrined in the constitution.

The manifesto has outlined among others, our commitment to;

- Job Creation
- Fight corruption,
- Govern through inclusivity,
- Create a conducive environment for media,
- Conduct a comprehensive constitutional, legislative, and policy review
- Improve education and training,
- Achieve a knowledge-based economy as envisioned by Vision 2036,
- Grow the private sector;
- Prioritize the growth and empowerment of SMMEs,
- Change the current land tenure system,
- Create a conducive environment that allows for a competitive and productive workforce,
- Deliver quality education & healthcare services,
- Re-energise our commitment to state-led social protection programmes,
- Enhance our Creative Industry
- Deliver quality products and services to Batswana

Tsholetsa Domkrag!

**BOTSWANA
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RONA!**

**MORERO
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BATSWANA!**

**TSHOLETSA
DOMI!**

**VOTE
BDP!**

THERISANYO!

**YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT!**

**PROSPERITY
FOR
ALL!**

**EQUITABLE
WEALTH
DISTRIBUTION!**

**WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT!**

**JOBS!
JOBS!
AND
MORE
JOBS!**

**LET'S
FIGHT
CORRUPTION
TOGETHER**

**#INNOVATIVE
IDEAS**

**#ROBUST
GOVERNANCE**

**UNITY
AND
KAGISANYO!**

**NATION
BUILDING!**

**MORERO
WA
BATSWANA!**

**HAPPY
AND
PRODUCTIVE
LABOUR!**

**LAND
REFORMS!**

**ACTIVE
LABOUR
MOVEMENTS!**

**SECURE
AND
HAPPY
NATION!**

**MEDIA
FREEDOM!**

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CAPITAL**

**#HEALTHY
NATION**

**#BOTSWANA
JWAME**

**INCLUSIVITY
AND
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