



Botswana

Defense Profile

September 2020

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1. General Data:

Capital: Gaborone

Total Area: 581,730 km²

Population: (2020) 2,317,233

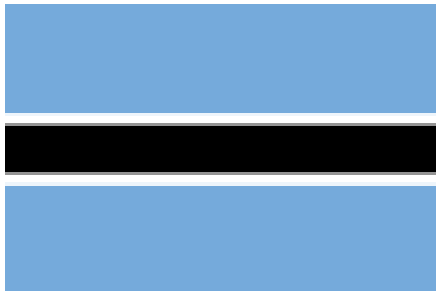
Borders: South Africa to the south and southeast, Namibia to the west and north, Zambia to the north and Zimbabwe to the northeast. Without marine boundary.

Ethnic division: Prominent tribal groups: Tswana - 79%, Kalanga - 11%, Basarwa - 3%, Kgalagadi - 3%, White Africans - 3%, Others - 1%.

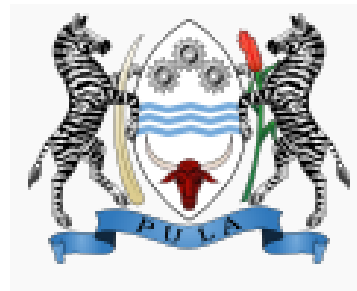
Religions: 79% Christians, 15% non-religious, 6% tribal and other 'local religions'

Administrative division: Botswana is divided into 10 districts and 6 city councils.

Nation Flag:



Country Symbol:



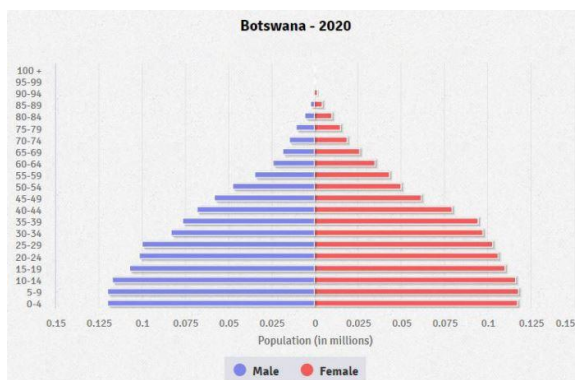
Country Map:



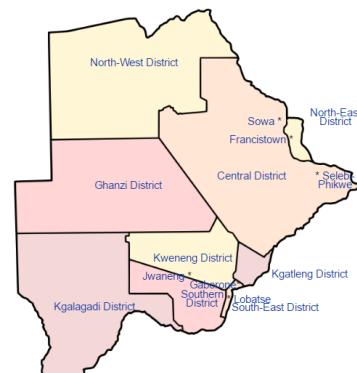
Geographic Location:



Population Pyramid:



Administrative Division:



2. Politics and Government

Botswana is a democratic parliamentary Republic, based on the constitution mainly derived from Roman-Dutch law. The state gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1966.

The president of Botswana serves as the head of state and also as the head of parliament, personally appointing the cabinet officials and judges. The National Assembly elects the president for a period of 5 years, with an option to extend his nomination for a second term. Citizens voting right is allotted from the age of 18.

In April 2018, Mokgweetsi National Assembly elected Eric Masisi to serve as president, after the previous president had completed 10 years in office. Masisi, a teacher by training, had previously served as vice president and minister of education. In early 2020, Masisi carried out a major reshuffle of cabinet and other governmental institutions new appointees, with the aim of reducing corruption and enhancing public confidence in the government and the party. Former President Seretse Khama Ian Khama, is the son of Botswana's first president, a British-born and former military general.



Slumber Tsogwane
Vice-president (Since 2018)



Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi
President and prime minister (Since 2018)

Botswana law maker body comprises dual House of Representatives. The first is the National Assembly - 63 seats - 57 elected representatives, a chairman, a spokesman, 4 appointments of a president and the president and the attorney general. The National Assembly serves for a period of 5 years. The second is the Assembly of Tribal Chiefs (Ntlo ya Dikgosi) - 35 seats with 'advisory' powers only - 8 Tribal Chiefs (title inherited) from the main tribes of Botswana, 22 indirectly elected by the chiefs of the tribes and 5 appointed by the President.

The last election was held in October 2019, in which the BDP - Botswana Democratic Party (52.7%, 38 seats) won. The party rules the country since it's established. The opposition consists of 3 parties:

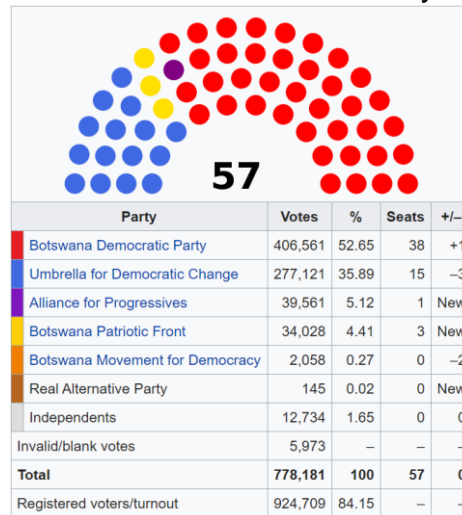
- Umbrella for Democratic Change - UDC (35.9%, 15 seats)
- Botswana Patriotic Front - BPF (4.4%, 3 seats)
- Alliance for Progressives - AP (5.1%, 1 seats)
- Botswana Congress Party - BCP (20.4%, 3 seats)

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In parallel with the general elections, local elections for the presidency of the districts are held on a party principal. The next election is scheduled for October 2024 and according to the rules of the ruling party, the head of the party may serve up to two terms.

As of 2019, the country was ranked 29th out of 167 in the World Democracy Index.

Election results for the National Assembly October 2019



Source; Wikipedia

3. Economy

Botswana's economy is considered as one of the stable and well established in the African continent. The country's credit rating is the highest in the continent. The national economy is reliant upon its rich minerals- mainly diamond sector. Other sources of incomes for the national economy are tourism (safaris), business services (local arena), agriculture and cattle breeding - also for export. The level of corruption in the country is considered as one of the lowest in the continent. In addition, the country is considered as one of most hospitable for conducting business in sub-Saharan Africa.

The diamond sector generates about a quarter of national GDP, accounts for some 85% of total annual exports and about a third of government revenue. The company that owns the mining and sales franchise is 50% government-owned while South African De Beers own the rest. The country is also blessed with other valuable minerals such as copper, nickel, salt, potassium, iron and silver. In recent years however, Botswana's economy has experienced a slowdown in growth due to various crises, whether global, due to reliance on a major export industry, or domestic crises. The slowdown reached a real decline of 1.7% in GDP in 2015, mainly due to an extreme slowdown in the diamond industry and a shortage of water and electricity.

In October 2015, the President initiated an economic stimulus program, by the utilization of infrastructure projects in water, electricity, agriculture, construction,

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and tourism sectors. The broad investment, along with some recovery of the diamond industry, led to renewed growth of the national economy in 2016 and 2017. The growth trend continued in 2018 and the tourism sector, for example, grew in about 6%. It will be emphasized that the diamond industry is still the main growth engine of the country. Botswana's economic growth to about 4.5% and foreign exchange reserves to about 45% of GDP. However, it seems that now the country's economy is experiencing a further slowdown in growth. As of early 2020, the slowdown in GDP growth is seen mainly in light of the slowdown in diamond mining output, which rose 2.1% in 2019 instead of 3.2% a year earlier.

In January 2020, the latest World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risk Report was published, indicating that Botswana, like other emerging markets, is facing high unemployment, climbing energy costs, water crisis and critical infrastructure failures. Since the launch of the 11th National Development Plan (NDP 11) At the end of 2016, the Botswana government is registered budget deficits. The budget deficit for 2020-2021 expected to reach 5.22 billion Pula (about \$ 534 million), or 2.4% of GDP. This figure is compared to the 2019-2020 budget deficit of 3.9 % of GDP. However, in light of the COVID-19 crisis plaguing the world, the local government has announced that to deal with the existing budget deficit and current crisis spending, the country needs some \$ 3.40 billion in aid over the next two and a half years. The country is facing economic difficulties mainly due to the slowdown at the rate of export of minerals- a major pillar of the economy. The expected slowdown is about 8.8%.

Botswana is fully reliant on its neighbors, mainly South Africa in importing electricity. The volume of imported electricity increased by about 120% between 2018 and 2019.

In 2012, a 10-year deal was signed between the government and the South African De Beers company, according to which all the sorting and trading activities will be transferred from London to Gaborone, the capital of the country.

Botswana was severely affected by the AIDS epidemic in the late 1980s, and it is estimated that about 20% of the population carries the virus. Botswana is the third most HIV affected country in the world. However, treatment and education programs have succeeded in reducing the mortality rate from the disease and the infections of children considerably in the last decade. As a result, the state has to cope with costly health expenditures, consequently hindering the development of the state economy.

In 2019, Botswana's exports amounted to \$ 3.528 billion. Main export destinations are Belgium - 27.7%, India - 21.6%, South Africa - 12.8%, Hong Kong - 8.3% and the US - 7.9%. Most of the national export consists of diamonds, copper, nickel, cattle and textiles.

In 2019, the volume of imports to Botswana reached \$ 6.517 billion. The main sources of imports were South Africa - 63%, Namibia - 9.9%, Canada - 6.2, China - 4.6% and India - 3.3%. Most of the imports include food products, machinery, electrical products, transport equipment and textiles.

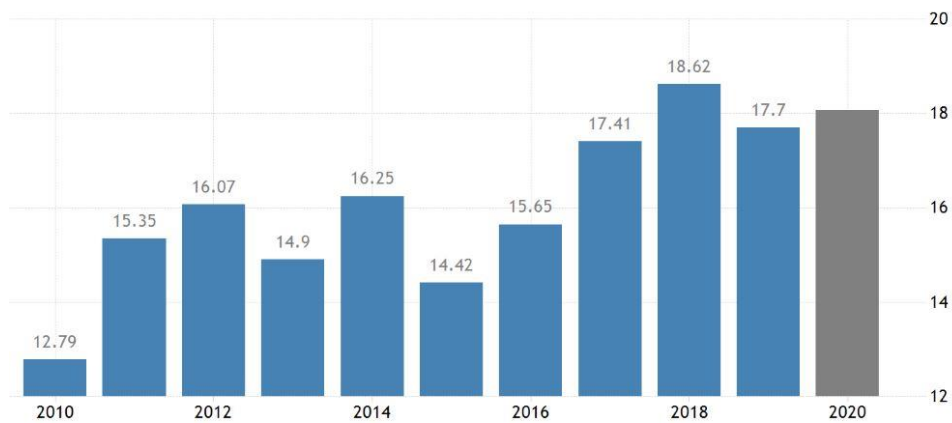
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Since the election of the incumbent president in 2018, Botswana has been tightening its relations with China mainly due to the latter's interest in investing in the Botswana's mining industry.

3.1 Selected Macro Data (2018-2019)

	2018	2019
GDP:	\$ 18.6 Billion	\$ 17.7 billion, according to Wikipedia - \$ 19.6 billion (estimated)
GDP PPP:	\$ 37.2 Billion	\$ 44.360 billion (estimated)
GDP per capita:	\$ 8,031	\$ 8,263 (Estimated)
GDP per capita PPP:	\$ 16,518	\$ 18,653 (Estimated)
Real growth:	4.4%	2.9% (estimated)
Unemployment rate:	17.9%	18.2%
Poverty rate:	13.9%	13.6%
State revenue:	\$ 4.2 Billion	N/A
State Expenditure:	\$ 3.7 Billion	N/A
National debt:	12.1% of GDP	N/A
Taxes:	19.6% of GDP	N/A
Import:	\$ 6.1 Billion	\$ 6.5 billion
Export:	\$ 6.5 Billion	\$ 3.5 billion
inflation:	3.5% (Dec.2018)	2.2% (Dec 2019)

GDP 2010-2019 (Billion \$)



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | WORLD BANK

GDP Growth Rate 2010-2020 (%)



4. National Defense

4.1 Security Threats

4.1.1 External Threats

Botswana's defense establishment does not currently perceive any sovereign external threat against the nation. Low-intensity political tensions with Namibia and Angola over territorial disputes, Sedudu Island, have been finally resolved via international court ruling. The eastern border with Zimbabwe is still a serious nuisance in terms of ongoing security. The border zone is exploited for small arms smuggling, theft and agricultural smuggling, economic crimes, along with influx of refugees from Zimbabwe, migrant workers, illegal hunting, the spread of disease. The construction of an electronic fence along the border (2003) aided in reducing the effects but has not totally resolved the challenges. During 2019, Botswana security agencies arrested over 4,000 Zimbabwean refugees seeking to illegally enter Botswana. The borders with Zambia and to a lesser extent Angola, are challenged by labor seeking infiltrators, smuggling and cross-border crimes. The main threats to the national security are small arms / sabotage weaponry into and through the country. In March 2020 in light of the spread of the corona virus, the government decided to block entry of foreigners arriving from COVID-19 infected countries. By July 2020, there were about 300 cases of COVID-19 in Botswana but no deaths were recorded.

4.1.2 Internal Threats

Botswana is considered a relatively politically stable nation, with a resilient domestic security policy, effective law enforcement. The latter is slightly undermined by the revelation of corruption cases among the country's intelligence organizations. During 2017, public demonstrations occurred protesting Khama's government policy. In recent years, there has been an increase in the extent of

local crime and the number of criminal murders. 2019 has been reported as one of the most tumultuous years, with a proliferation of murders, car accidents, corruption and thefts. It is estimated that the trend will continue in 2020 as well. Important mention - the country suffers from a very high rate of HIV carriers as well as high unemployment and poverty rates.

Some of the tribal minorities in Botswana are demanding the right to self-determination. Most of them inhabit the borders zones, which poses a potential risk in the event of a regional conflict. However, it is considered as a low-intensity threat and the Government is maintaining firm sovereignty in the frontiers. The vulnerability of Botswana's financial system exposes it more to economic crimes including cyber. Currently, the government's policy in cyber protection is failing to accomplish tangible results. In sum, Botswana's internal threats today include cybercrime, money laundering, human trafficking and drugs.

4.2 Organization, MoD and armed services

The president is the supreme commander of the armed forces. Under the Constitution he may resign his post directly or defer powers on the **Defence Council** (appointed by him). The mandate of the Defence Council is to supervise, and ensure the operational readiness posture of the armed forces. The council is staffed by members of parliament and cabinet. The President personally appoints all officers above the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the armed services.

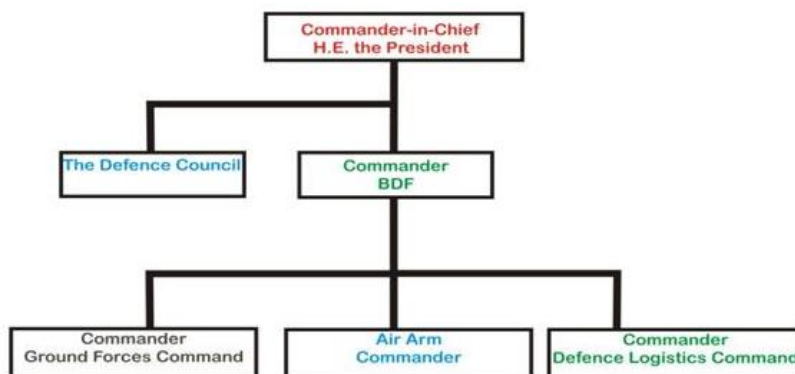
The office responsible for defense & security is the MDJS - Ministry of Defense, Justice and Security. The Minister of Defense and the Chief of Staff are direct subordinate to the President. The MDJS controls the Botswana Defense Forces (BDF), the National Police, the Prisons Department, the Administration of Justice (AOJ) and the Office of the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC).

The **BDF - Botswana Defense Force**, was established in 1977 and comprises a land force, air force, logistics corps and a small river fleet subordinate to the land force. The number of permanent / regular personnel in the BDF is about 9,000 men & women. The service is voluntary. As of 2015, female recruits were eligible for officer roles in the armed services. A designated volunteer reserve force was never recruited due to the high operating costs. However, in 2010 a small reserve force was mobilized to combat illegal hunting in a one-off course.

The BDF is currently designated to perform internal security missions.

Following the collapse of the apartheid regime in South Africa and the political stabilization of neighboring countries, the Botswana military missions also focused on peacekeeping missions, assisting civilian authorities in disaster management, disease prevention and the fight against illegal hunting. In addition, the military routinely supports civilian security forces. This is executed especially during the holiday seasons and as a routine in the ongoing fight against crime, armed robbery and drug trafficking. In June 2017 it was reported that the military was carrying out renovations at President Khama's designated retirement home, a move that provoked public criticism.

BDF – Chain of Command



4.3 Key Personnel



**Lt. Gen. Placid Diratsagae
Segokgo**
Chief of Staff (Since 2016)



Kagiso T. Mmusi
Ministry of Defense and Justice
(Sinse Nov.2019)



**Maj.Gen. Innocent Selekha
Phatshwane**
Air Arm Commander (Since 2015)



Maj. Gen. Molefi Seikano
Ground Force Commander (Since
2015)

4.4 Defense Budget

The budget of the Ministry of Defense and Justice (MDJS) covers the BDF, police and the prison service.

The defense budget for 2020-2021 stands at 8.56 billion Pula, about US\$ 715 million, which comprises 13.8% of the Government annual budget. This is the second largest government ministry allotment in terms of the current operating budget. The budget for 2018-2019 was 5.85 billion Pula, about \$ 590 million, and another 2.78 billion Pula (US\$ 230 million) deriving from the development budget.

The defense budget is formulated according to the 11th National Development Plan (NDP11), which was launched at the end of 2016. Under the plan frame-scheme, US\$ 2.04 billion were allocated for the strengthening of the MDJS during 2017-2023. The budget is designated mainly for the Land force. Lesser allotments are designated for the air force, the police and the prison service. The land force budget under the national development plan is US\$ 1.35 billion and is intended to fund, among other things, to purchase **fighter jets** and **armored fighting vehicles**. The MDJS routine annual budget, some 20-25% is allocated for equipment procurement and modernization.

The general development budget for 2020-2021, which stands at about US\$ 1 billion, includes the establishment of new police stations and the rehabilitation of the prison department, which includes the provision of prison infrastructure, equipment and storage facilities.

4.5 Procurement Policy

The PPADB (Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board) established in 2002 following the publication of the reform for the procurement and disposal of public assets (Cap 42:08 of 2001). The PPADB role is to award tenders to the central government. PPADB is also responsible for registering contractors, issuing standard bidding documents, determining tender documents prior to the issuance, building capabilities, overseeing and providing comprehensive public procurement advice.

PPADB website: www.ppadb.co.bw

Cap 42:08 : http://www.ppadb.co.bw/documents/PPAD_Act_revised.pdf

As part of this, the Ministry of Defense is obliged to comply with the Government Procurement Law - PPAD Act, which worded to meet clear transparency and control conditions. There are two types of purchasing channels - visible, open (Formal) and secret, closed (informal).

Full wording of the terms and procedures of the tender can be found at the following link:

http://www.ppadb.co.bw/Manuals%20%20Acts/ppadb_regulations_revised.pdf

Regarding the closed, secret tender channel:

In May 2016 Botswana press revealed a number of large procurement deals by the military and the intelligence organization DIS that were financed by a budget deficit or from the budgets of other ministries.

Purchase plans 2019-2020 of the Ministry of Defense and Justice and Security Forces of Botswana BDF:

<http://www.ppadb.co.bw/Procurement%20Plans/BDF%20PROCUREMENT%20PLAN.pdf>

http://www.ppadb.co.bw/Procurement%20Plans/MDJS%20Procurement_Plan%20-%20HQ%20AGC%20%20Prisons.pdf

5. Army



5.1 General



Army's Headquarters is located in Glenn Valley. Current manpower comprises 8,500 permanent/volunteers. Botswana's equipment inventories are evaluated as advanced compared to peer African land forces.

The Army is organized according to central command HQ and professional Corps. Maneuvering elements include : 2 infantry brigades, 1 armored brigade (2 battalions each), 1 engineering battalion, 2 artillery brigades (3 battalions each), 1 commando battalion, 1 presidential guard battalion, 1 air-defense brigade (2 battalions), 1 signal Battalion. Professional corps include: Intelligence, signal, medical, armaments/logistics, manpower and training unit.

(-) In 2013, with the assistance of special forces of the US Army AFRICOM about 60 BDF troops underwent commando course.

5.2 Current equipment inventories



Armor, protected vehicles

Qty	Designation, type	Origin	Remarks
52	Light tank SK-105 Kurassier 105mm	Austria	Surplus 
60	Light tank 76mm FV101 Scorpion	United Kingdom	Surplus 

Contd.

Qty	Designation, type	Origin	Remarks
50	MOWAG Piranha-3C 8x8 armored fighting vehicle	Switzerland	Additional 45 ordered 
60	BTR-60 8x8 Armored personnel Carrier 	Russia	Upgraded. Another 90 stored
50	Armored Recce. V-150 4x4	U.S.A	
6	FV103 Spartan tracked armored recce.	United Kingdom	Surplus 
64	VBL 4x4 armored recce car	France	
35	RAM-V2 4x4 Armored recce car	Israel	
150	ACMAT 4x4 armored truck	France	




Artillery

Qty	Designation, type	Origin	Remarks
16	155mm ATMOS-2000 SP Howitzer	Israel	Include advance command & control 
18	M71 SOLTAM 155mm towed Howitzer	Israel	


Contd.

Qty	Designation, type	Origin	Remarks
24	L118 105mm towed gun	United Kingdom	
6	M56 105mm towed gun	Italy	Stored 
20	BM-21 122mm Grad SP rocket launcher	Romania	Surplus 
12	M120 120mm towed mortar	U.S.A	

Anti-tank

Inventory	Designation, type	Origin	Remarks
24	MILAN missile launchers	France	
6	TOW launchers aboard V-150	U.S.A	Stored 
50	Recoilless rifle vehicles M-40 106mm	U.S.A	Stored 




Air-Defense

Qty	Designation, type	Origin	Remarks
6	MICA mobile SAM launchers + MISTRAL Manpads  	France	Including 50 missiles. See contracts

Contd.

Qty	Designation, type	Origin	Remarks
12	9K38 Igla MANPAD launchers	Russia	
5	Javelin MANPAD launchers	United Kingdom	25 missiles. Believed stored 
10	Type 65 37mm towed AAG	China	
10	M167 20mm VADS towed AAG	U.S.A	
2	AAG 20mm V-150 4x4	U.S.A	

Other vehicles

Qty	Designation, type	Origin	Remarks
150	ACMAT infantry trucks	France	
200	RMMV TG trucks	Germany	
5	SK105 4K7-FA Armored recovery tank	Austria	

Infantry weapons:

Assault rifles; AK-47 7.62mm, Galil 5.56mm, M-4/16 5.56mm, SAR-21 5.56mm,
Machine Guns; FN MAG-58 7.62mm
Heavy Machine guns; M2 12.7mm
Sniper; M82 Barrett 12.7mm
SMG; UZI 9mm, Sterling 9mm
ATRL; M2 Carl Gustav 84mm; RPG-7 73mm
Mortars; L16 81mm.

5.3 Identified equipment needs

- Reported negotiations for the purchase of 30-40 Leopard-2A4 120mm tanks (German surplus). A similar deal failed 8 years ago. No subsequent updates have been identified.
- By late 2015, during the visit of the President of Botswana to South Korea, it was reported that the BDF has expressed interest to purchase eight KAI T-50 training aircraft from local KAI and K2 Black Panther tanks (Hyundai/Rotem) in a deal valued approximately \$ 180 million. No updates have been identified since.
- Negotiations to implement an option - purchased 30 additional Kurrassier 105mm tanks from Austrian surplus.



- Interest in procuring close-range reconnaissance drones (radius 10-15 km) launched manually. No subsequent updates registered.

5.4 Contracts, selected past transactions

- In July 2018 it was reported that as part of the Gov-to-Gov deal, the UK Security Equipment Sale Authority (DESA) transferred 214 surplus logistics vehicles to the Botswana Army.
- In June 2018 it was reported that South Africa had exported 14 APCs (unidentified types) to Botswana. No further details were reported.
- In 2017, it was reported that the South African Army imported 8 APCs valued \$ 1.1 million from the United Arab Emirates. These APCs are estimated to be JAWS APCs intended for the Botswana Army. The vehicles are yet to be registered in BDF inventories
- In October 2017, it was reported that the BDF purchased 45 Piranha-3C 8X8 APCs made by the Swiss/US company MOWAG (GDLS US) for a budget of \$ 179 million. .
- In July 2017 it was reported that the BDF had received 20 items defined as optical or counter-equipment and related components from Finnish defense industries. The value of the transaction was € 502,729.
- In February 2016, a deal was signed with the French MBDA to purchase Mistral and VL MICA GNA systems. The value of the deal was € 400 million, with 50 missiles per system.
- 2004 contract worth \$5 million with the Israeli STARNIGHT for the supply of PVS-5/7 night vision equipment.

6. Air Arm








6.1 General

Designated as "Air Arm". Headquarters in Thebephatshwa, manpower - 5,000 volunteers and permanent. Organized according to single inclusive national space. Air Arm comprises 8 Squadrons, Tactical Command, Technical Training School, Maintenance Industry, Logistics Industry, VIP Squadron.

6.2 Equipment Inventory

Role	Qty.	Model	Origin	Remarks
Multi- role	10	CF-5A 	Canada	Surpluses. Poor condition, candidates for replacement (Gripen)
Transport	3	C-130B	U.S.A	
Transport	2	CN-235	Spain	
Transport	4	C-212 STOL 	Spain	See contracts
Light transport	1	Do-328	Germany	
Liaison	1	King Air 200	U.S.A	
VIP	1	Gulfstream-IV	U.S.A	
VIP	1	Global 5000	Canada	
Transport helicopter	6	BELL 412SP/EP 	U.S.A	1 of them in the VIP Transport Squadron
Transport helicopter	1	EC225LP Super Puma 	France	Surplus, ex-Spanish police. not clear if operational

Contd.

Role	Qty.	Model	Origin	Remarks
Liaison helicopter	10	AS.350 Ecureuil	France	
Jet Trainer	3	CF-5D	Canada	
Basic trainer	5	Pilatus PC-7 MK2	Switzerland	
Securing wildlife and borders	14	Bat Hawk 	South Africa	Used in anti-poaching and smuggling. 6 for military use, 4 for police and 4 for the Department of Nature Reserves.
Recce. Drone	3	Hermes-450	Israel	

6.3 Identified Needs

- On August 2019 it was reported that the Air Arm intends to weaponize five of the Bat Hawk aircraft with a 5.6mm light machine gun. [See procurement.](#)



- In July 2018 it was announced that budgetary constraints prevented progress in the purchase of **8-12 JAS-39 Gripen** jet fighters from Sweden. The BDF is still negotiating with a number of governments and aircraft manufacturers around the world in search of more affordable options to replace the aging CF-5 fighters bought from Canada in 1996. The proposed acquisition drew public criticism claiming that the deal may lead to an armament race in the immediate arena. In April 2018, former President Mogae joined the audit and argued that it is right to invest the money in the local economy. The value of the contract is estimated at \$ 1.8 billion and if signed, it is expected to be realized within 2-3 years. An alternative offer has been reported to upgrade the CF-5 aircraft in place of the expensive purchase. Also, in 2017, Bulgarian LASA offered its the T-Bird aircraft to the Botswana Air Force.



- In August 2017 it was reported that Botswana Parliament had approved the emergency purchase of 3 used helicopters of an unknown sample against illegal hunting. The cost of the deal is about \$ 4.1 million.
- Past reports suggesting that the US DoD is planning to relocate AFRICOM's base of operations to Botswana. In July 2016, the US Embassy in Botswana confirmed that there were plans at an advanced stage to establish a US air base in the country. The scheme apparently had not materialized.
- Reminder; By the of 2015, Botswana reported the intention to purchase 8 T-50 training aircraft from South Korean KAI. The latter was apparently discarded.

6.4 Contracts, selected past transactions

- In April 2019 it was announced that the Air Force had purchased 2 used C-212 aircraft from the American company Fayard Enterprises, operating in Suriname. The first aircraft was purchased as early as June 2018. The newcomer C212 aircraft replaced a sample that crashed in February 2017.
- In September 2016, a shipment of a single EC225LP Super Puma helicopter, previously used by the Spanish police, was received. It is not clear whether the helicopter is operational.
- In June 2016, a shipment of 14 Bat Hawk light aircraft from South African Micro Aviation was received. 6 were equipped with a pair of 5.56 mm FN MINIMI machine guns for military use, 4 were intended for police use and 4 for use by the Nature Reserves Department against illegal hunting.

7. River wing

7.1 General

The River Wing is part of the Army. Personnel - about 400 volunteers and permanent. The Wing is responsible for policing and securing the nations' major rivers. The Wing Includes a divers unit. No data identified as in regard to deployment, organization.

7.2 Equipment inventories

- 2 Light Cruise Ships Boston Whaler Rider-class PCs, USA.
- 15 Panther class jet boats, USA.



7.3 Identified Needs

- In October 2017, The River Wing has expressed interest to purchase of 10 inflatable rubber boats and 10 tugs, including ancillary equipment such as nori signaling guns. No updates have been registered.

7.4 Contracts, selected past transactions

- In 2018, another 5 Panther class patrol boats made in the USA were acquired by the Wing.

8. Para-military forces



Police Air Support Unit - Established in 2009. Unit comprises operations, flight crew, engineering team. The unit operates 5 light AS350B3 helicopters for patrol, equipped with night vision turrets, 3 of which were purchased in 2015. In February 2020, a contract was signed for the purchase of 3 Enstrom 480B helicopters from the South African company Safomar Aviation, representing US based Enstrom. The helicopters are expected to be transferred August 2020 after a two-month delay due to the corona virus situation.

SSG - Special Support Group of the police - the force supports the local police forces, in crime detection, border security, diving missions. No details regarding its manpower or organization scheme.



SSG police force



**Senior Assistant Commissioner
Kedikilwe Dikgang
SSG commander**

Since 2009, an effort has been made to establish a Para-military emergency reserve force that will be staffed by volunteers.

Note: The National Police ([see](#)) constitutes a significant armed force. Nevertheless, It is not defined as semi-military.

9. Peace Keeping Deployment



The BDF currently **does not participate in peacekeeping missions**. In recent years, the military has sent symbolic peacekeeping missions to Eritrea and Ethiopia, and has also dispatched military observers to Darfur. In March 2019, the president of Botswana declared that he was considering allocating forces for peacekeeping missions in the region. In August 2019, the Rwandan government hosted a military exercise for peacekeeping missions in which 26 countries participated, including Botswana.

Note: In the 1990s the Botswana army was active in peacekeeping missions in Africa. As part of this, the army sent units that participated in an international peacekeeping coalition in Somalia, and participated in UN peacekeeping missions in Rwanda, Mozambique and Lesotho.

10. Space



Botswana has no space agency or space industry, and has never been a member of an international space organization.

The Botswana government is acquiring satellite services for various applications such as agriculture, mining, updating maps, monitoring natural resources and reducing the effects of climate change. Although Botswana uses satellite services, it lacks dedicated space infrastructure and people with knowledge in space technologies.

It should be noted that meetings were reported in the media between representatives of government and educational institutions from Botswana and officials from SANSA, the South African space agency. No concrete engagement in space contexts has been identified and it is likely that the collaborations took place in the context of advanced studies in science and technology.

In October 2018, a workshop was held in Botswana on space science. One of the aims of the workshop was to examine how Botswana can expand its involvement in planetary research and create a solid network of collaborations with international partners, including Europlanet.

11. Defense Industries



Botswana has no defense industries. The armed forces are totally dependent on foreign imports, including high-level maintenance.

In January 2017, it was reported that Botswana Defense Ministry and South Korea had signed a memorandum of understanding to institutionalize security cooperation between them. It is not clear what this is and no further details have been provided.

In March 2014 the Swedish SAAB announced the opening of a commercial office in Gaborone, the third one at the continent after South Africa and Kenya, it was established to pursue regional business opportunities.

12. Internal Security



Internal security in Botswana is the responsibility of the MDJS - Ministry of Justice and Security.

12.1 BPS – Botswana Police Service



The BPS manpower comprises over 10,000 active officers, of whom about 2,000 are women. The BPS missions include: maintaining public order, preventing crime, ensuring public safety & security. The force is effective and disciplined. BPS budget for 2019-2020 stands at over 2 billion Pula, about \$ 166 million, compared to the 2018-2019 budget, which was over 1 billion Pula, about \$ 83 million. The budget increase will be allocated for the establishment of new police department in the northwestern region, about 300 more jobs and for boosting salaries.

In May 2018, the International Police Association ranked the Botswana police as the number one in Africa. In June 2020, it was announced that in August of that year the police would receive 3 [Enstrom 480B](#) helicopters. In November 2016 the BPS ordered 7 special vehicles to disperse demonstrations from the South African Denel LMT with value of approximately \$ 1.5 million.

Police Act (Cap. 21:01) :

<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/84991/94902/F230876518/BWA84991.pdf>



Keabetswe Makgophe
Police commander (since 2012)

Organizational Structure:

Police departments:

- Central-South Division
- Southern Division
- Central-North Division
- Northern Brigade
- Northwest Brigade
- Operation
- Anti-stock theft
- Traffic branch

Crime investigations:

- Forensic Science Services (FSS)
- Criminal Investigation Department (CID)
- Internal Affairs Branch
- Criminal Intelligence Branch (CRIB)
- Cyber Forensics Branch
- International Relations Branch

Support Services:

- Strategy development and performance monitoring (SD&PM)
- Special Support Group (SSG)
- Transport and Communications Branch (TTB)
- Departmental Management Services (DMS)
- Air Support Branch
- Development, Financing and Procurement (DFP)
- Training (Botswana Police College)
- International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)

12.2 Border Security

The border security is the responsibility of the Army, which is also assisted by the Air Arm. By 2003 Botswana's Government completed the installation of an [electronic fence](#) along the border with Zimbabwe, in order to prevent the infiltration of refugees and immigrants. The length of the fence is about 500 km. Is not so effective. Severe maintenance issues. [Hermes-450](#) UAVs and Bat Hawk aircraft are routinely used to monitor the borders.

13. Intelligence Organizations



General

The exact mandate of the intelligence institutions in Botswana and their organization scheme are unclear. The division of authority and linkage among the

institutions are not defined in open sources. According to media reports, the interface and inter-organizational coordination is lacking.

DIS / DISS - Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services - The main intelligence agency in the country, which employs about 3,000 men & women. Focused primarily on homeland security issues. Established in 2008, it reports to the President's Office and is officially overseen by the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee (PCIS), the Public Allocations Committee (PAC) and the Intelligence and Security Services Tribunal.

Media reports claim that the DISS monitors mobile phones and computers using malware from the German company FinFisher - FinSpy Mobile and FinSpy PC. In addition, according to open media, the organization uses the Israeli cellular interception system- Verint Engage G12- for monitoring and analysis of GSM and UMTS cellular networks, Wi-Fi networks, IP networks and ADSL lines. The organization's internal communication is based on Motorola's Tetra system, which provides fast and secure wireless communication all over the country.

Since its establishment, the DISS has been publicly accused for **politicizing and violating human rights**. It has been argued that its mission is to monitor opposition politicians, journalists and human rights activists. In recent years, accusations against the organization have multiplied and it has been alleged that it also employs terror tactics against selected cabinet ministers. In July 2017, it was reported that the organization was eavesdropping on talks to BCP's (opposition party) leaders, as part of Operation 'Tholwana Borethe' that aimed to prevent the loss of the ruling party (the BDP) in 2019 elections. In July 2019 it was reported that the Department of Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) had launched an investigation against DISS, regarding suspicion that 35 vehicles were purchased for cash, for covert purposes, and were not registered in the inventory book.

The head of the organization, Isaac Kgosi, was deposed in May 2018, less than a month after Masisi took office due to allegations of corruption and applying violent measures. The opposition parties welcomed his removal and called for his trial, as well as a re-examination of the organization's tasks and control over it. President Masisi has appointed Peter Magosi, former Botswana army chief of staff, as head of the DISS. It is yet early to assess how the appointment will affect the organization's activities.



Peter Fana Magosi
Head of DISS

Budget figures for 2019/2020 is unavailable.

In February 2019, it was announced that DISS had been allocated 33.9% of the development budget, which constitutes Pula 251 million (approximately \$ 21 million). In 2018, DISS budget stood at 410 million Pula (\$ 34 million),

approximately 29.3% of the total recurrent budget. In 2017, DISS was allocated 337 million Pula (about \$ 28 million) or 28% of the total recurring budget. At the same time, DISS received the largest share of the development budget in the amount of 261 million Pula (about \$ 21 million), 38.9% of the total development budget. In 2016, it was allocated about \$ 20 million from the development budget.

Military Intelligence - MI - Botswana Army Intelligence unit, headed by Colonel Cullen Nkete. No image detected. Responsible for gathering and processing military intelligence. In 2012, during a joint Botswana military exercise with the U.S. military, U.S. troops trained intelligence soldiers to fly "Raven" drones.

Financial Intelligence Agency - FIA - An autonomous agency subordinate to the President's Office. Was established in 2009 and functions as an intelligence body which monitors economic crimes in the country, including money laundering and terrorist financing.

In March 2020 it was reported that the unit had uncovered a network of law firms engaged in money laundering.

See-Financial Intelligence Act, 2019 -

<http://www.baoa.org.bw/sites/default/files/legal/Financial%20Intelligence%20Act%202019.pdf>



Dr. Abraham Sethibe
Head of FIA (Since 2013)

Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime – DCEC



An independent government agency directly subordinates to the President of the State. DCEC was established in 1994 vested with mandate to fight corruption, with an emphasis on economic crime. Works in collaboration with the FIA and police divisions. The agency consists of the Investigations Division, the Legal Service Division, the Money Laundering Unit, the Public Education Division, the Anti-Corruption Division and the Business Services Division. The agency played a key role in the investigations against Isaac Kgosi, which led to his removal from the DIS leadership.



Brigadier Joseph Mathambo
Head of DCEC (Since April 2019)

14. Cyber Posture



14.1 Existing Infrastructure

National cyber defense is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Transport & Communications). The national cyber defense strategy vision adheres to protect information infrastructure, provide information security, establish cyber threat prevention capability and build response capability to enhance Botswana's socio-economic development.



Thulaganyo Segokgo
Minister of Transport and Communication

Among the National Cyber Strategy recommendations is the establishment of the National Cyber Advisory Council (NCAC), which would include representatives from the private sector and relevant government institutions and agencies. The Council will oversee the activities of the Botswana Computer Incidence Response Team (BWCIRT) and the overall implementation of the National Cyber Security Strategy. The BWCIRT will serve as the NCAC Secretariat.

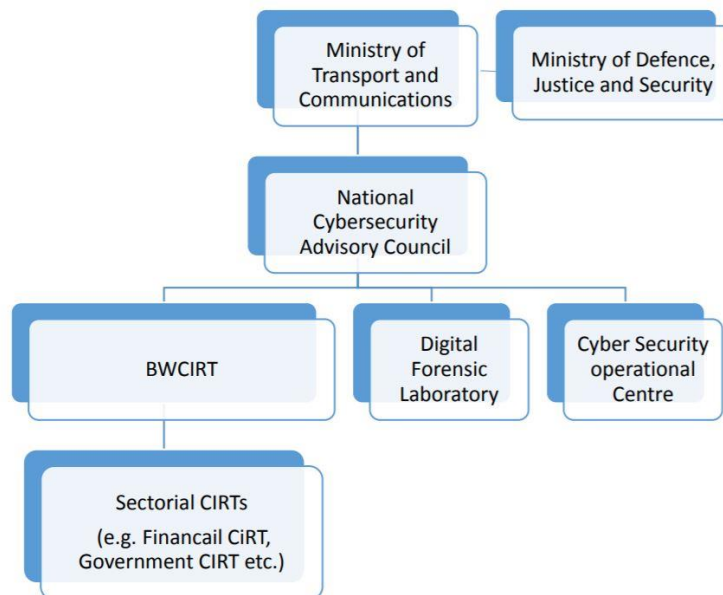
In addition, it was recommended to establish a special function, separate from the BWCIRT, of the COC (Cybersecurity Operation Center) to ensure high-level readiness to alert against cyber threats.

The strategy also recommends the establishment of a Digital Forensic Laboratory (DFL) that will assist in the processing and analysis of electronic evidence. It was recommended that the Botswana police receive the lead in establishing the DFL.

It was also recommended to set up CIRT (Cyber Incident Response Team) response teams to help the various sectors respond to the cyber security challenges. The CIRTs will operate under the BWCIRT.

The Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) currently provides regulatory oversight of communications.

A diagram summarizing the structure proposed in the national cyber strategy



The budget for implementing the strategy is estimated at 65.5 million Pula (\$ 5.45 million). Estimated budget for implementing the strategy:

Budgetary Activities	Estimated Amount
Establishment of CIRT	
Phase 1: Basic CIRT services	P5 Million
Phase 2: Enhanced CIRT services	P3 Million
Phase 3: Advanced CIRT Services	P 2 Million
Sub-total for BWCIRT	P 10 Million
Establishment of cybersecurity operation centre	P15 Million
Capacity building programmes	P 15 Million
Consume awareness programs	P 5 Million
Digital forensic laboratory	P 16 Million
Cybersecurity Research programme	P 4.5 Million
TOTAL	P65.5 Million

National Cyber security Strategy: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Documents/National_Strategies_Repository/00042_02_botswana-national-cybersecurity-strategy.pdf

As of today, there is no evidence of the establishment of any of the recommended bodies in the national cyber strategy.

Past milestones

In March 2013, the Transport & Communications ministry applied to the ITU in Switzerland for assistance in establishing a national cyber security system. The set-up is supposed to match in terms of goals and organization to the outline of requirements which has already been formulated by a special committee of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of which Botswana is a member. Since 2013, a steering committee has been established to recommend the formulation of a national NCPF policy: recommendations for the establishment of a CIRT alert center, recommendations for technical and budgetary procedures to prevent the threat of cyber attacks and to protect national critical infrastructure. Subsequently, in April 2013, the BOCRA (Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority) was established.

In 2015, an amendment was enacted to the Cyber Protection Law of 2007, which is intended to strengthen the law enforcement authorities in their fight against the growing crime in the cyber field in the country. In 2017, the UN media agency ranked Botswana tenth in Africa in terms of the country's cyber defense readiness.

14.2 Identified Threats

The types of threats and risks range from those at a relatively low level such as fake news to high-level risks such as financial crimes and disruptions in the ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) systems in the country. Cyber-attacks on critical national infrastructures may have negative consequences for the national security, economy or welfare of the country's citizens in areas such as electricity, water, transportation, communications, trade and health.

In addition, there are cross-border cyber threats: non-state actors like hackers who oppose government policies or terrorists, countries with conflicting interests and organized crime.

During 2018, approximately 63% of Botswana's businesses were affected by cyber-attacks. The estimated cost of cybercrime in Botswana in 2018 is about 300 million Pula (\$ 25 million). The most affected industries are banks and the public sector.