

*For God so loved
the world...
shouldn't we?*

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***Praying for the World
One Country at Time***



**Botswana
June 5, 2011**

Botswana

Full Name

The Republic of Botswana

Capital

Gaborone

Location

Botswana is a country in Southern Africa and is slightly smaller than the state of Texas. It is bordered by South Africa to the south and southeast, Namibia to the west and north, and Zimbabwe to the northeast. It meets Zambia at a single point. Geographically the country is flat and up to 70% of Botswana is covered by the Kalahari Desert.

Leadership

Botswana has a flourishing multiparty constitutional democracy. General elections are held every 5 years. Each of the elections since independence has been freely and fairly contested and has been held on schedule. The country's minority groups participate freely in the political process. The openness of the country's political system has been a significant factor in Botswana's stability and economic growth. The president of Botswana is indirectly elected. The presidential candidate from the political party that wins the majority of the 57 seats in the National Assembly is sworn in as president. The cabinet is selected by the president from the National Assembly; it consists of a vice president and a flexible number of ministers and assistant ministers. President--Seretse Khama Ian Khama. Vice President--Mompoti S. Merafhe (acting Vice President is Ponatshego Kedikilwe)

Overview

Formerly the British protectorate of Bechuanaland, Botswana adopted its new name upon independence in 1966. Four decades of uninterrupted civilian leadership, progressive social policies, and significant capital investment have created one of the most dynamic economies in Africa. Mineral extraction, principally diamond mining, dominates economic activity, though tourism is a growing sector due to the country's conservation practices and extensive nature preserves. Botswana has one of the world's highest known rates of HIV/AIDS infection, but also one of Africa's most progressive and comprehensive programs for dealing with the disease. Botswana is dominated by the Kalahari Desert, which covers up to 70% of its land surface. The Okavango Delta, the world's largest inland delta, is in the northwest. Botswana has diverse areas of wildlife habitat. In addition to the delta and desert areas, there are grasslands and savannas, where Wildebeest, antelopes, and other mammals and birds are found. Chobe National Park, in the north, has the world's largest concentration of African elephants.



Religion

- Christian 71.6%
- Badimo 6%,
- Other 1.4%,
- unspecified 0.4%,
- none 20.6%

Population

2,065,398 (July 2011 est.)

Economy

Botswana has maintained one of the world's highest economic growth rates since independence in 1966, though growth fell below 5% in 2007-08, and turned sharply negative in 2009, with industry falling nearly 30%. Through fiscal discipline and sound management, Botswana transformed itself from one of the poorest countries in the world to a middle-income country with a per capita GDP of \$13,100 in 2010. Two major investment services rank Botswana as the best credit risk in Africa. Diamond mining has fueled much of the expansion and currently accounts for more than one-third of GDP, 70-80% of export earnings, and about half of the government's revenues. Botswana's heavy reliance on a single luxury export was a critical factor in the sharp economic contraction of 2009. Tourism, financial services, subsistence farming, and cattle raising are other key sectors. Although unemployment was 7.5% in 2007 according to official reports, unofficial estimates place it closer to 40%. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS is second highest in the world and threatens Botswana's impressive economic gains. An expected leveling off in diamond mining production within the next two decades overshadows long-term prospects.

Prayer Concerns

- HIV/AIDS rate (24.8%) is the 2nd highest in the world; high orphan rate
- Periodic droughts
- Overgrazing; desertification; limited freshwater resources