



UDC

Umbrella_{for}
Democratic
Change

INCLUSIVE GROWTH QUALITY LIVES

UDC MANIFESTO FOR 2024
BOTSWANA ELECTIONS



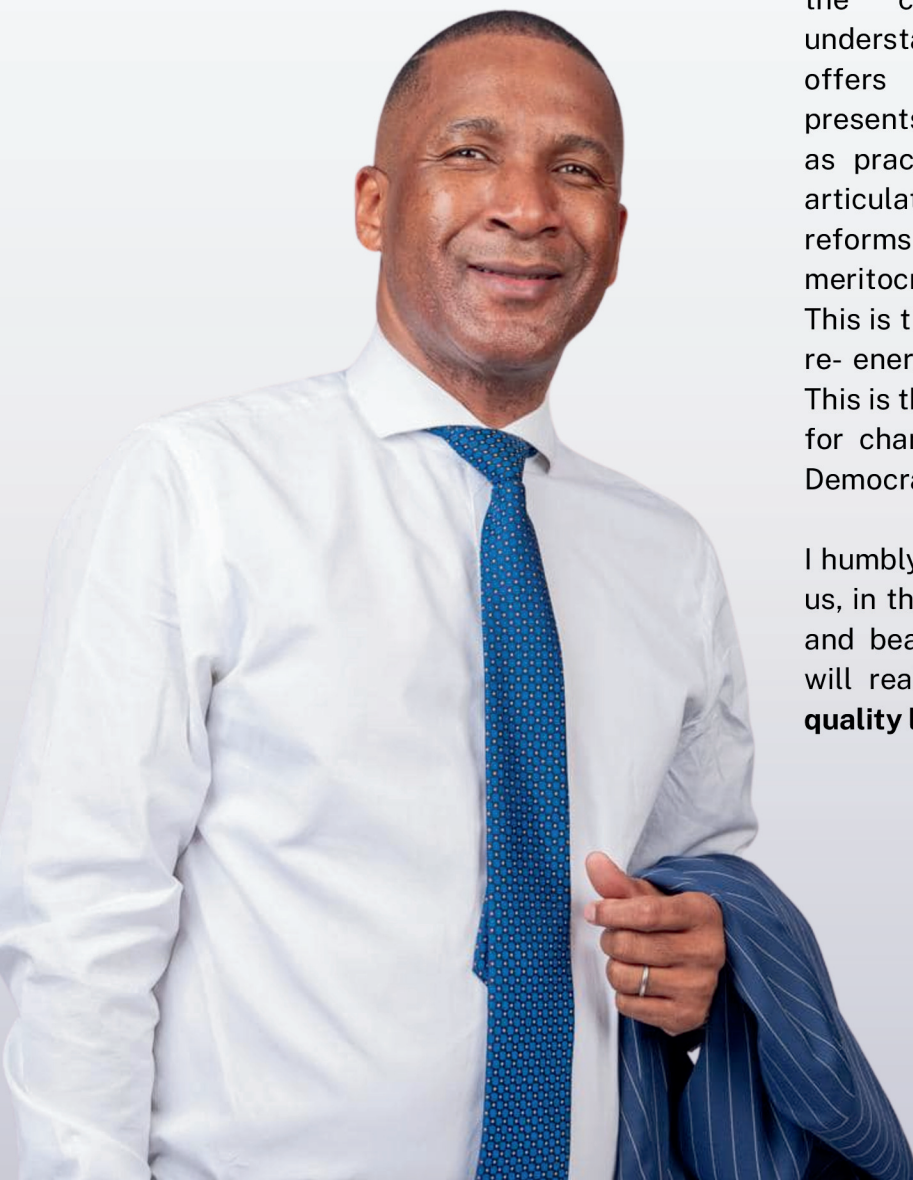
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Preface

Botswana faces a dire situation. A brisk survey of all the relevant facts reveals a painful reality: a discredited judiciary destitute of any integrity; compromised and powerless oversight institutions; an ineffectual legislature devoid of any independence, and long divorced from its constitutional duty of legislating for the order and good governance of the country; a rabid, uncontrollable President, perched above the Constitution, defined by an insatiable lust for wealth and power; greed and corruption run amok; a collapsing economy; a disempowered and battered citizenry; hopes raised in 2019, hopes dashed in the period that followed; generalised disenchantment. This is the raw reality. The country is on a perilous course.

But the road diverges in front of us. Two competing choices present themselves. The one, offered by the ruling Botswana Democratic Party, is a grievous distortion of the reality facing us. It seeks, at best, more of the same: dictatorial arrogance and institutionalized looting. It conceals the decay and denies the collapse. A single party in power for the last almost six decades has brought misery upon the country. There is need for change. And this brings us to the only other choice.



The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) is the appealing choice. It is acutely aware of the challenges facing the country, understands their causes and consequences; offers durable solutions. Our manifesto presents high impact policy outlines as well as practical and effective interventions. It articulates a comprehensive package of reforms based on a firm commitment to meritocracy, accountability and innovation. This is the choice of hope and regeneration; a re-energised democracy; a vibrant economy. This is the path of change. Our country yearns for change, It is time for the Umbrella for Democratic Change.

I humbly invite you, my fellow citizens, to join us, in the UDC, as we all stride to the rhythm and beat of a different drum. Together we will realize our hopes of **inclusive growth, quality lives.**

Duma Gideon Boko
Your Servant President

Summary of UDC Government Commitments

Our plan is about jobs - more jobs - higher paying jobs - sustainable jobs - diversified jobs.
We commit to:



Building an economy that is able to sustain average salaries of P10 000 or more



Create an equitable, dynamic, and diversified economy with an annual growth rate of at least 10%.



Create 450 000 to 500 000 jobs within 5 years across new and existing sectors



Jobs in our transformative infrastructure build (fast-train, water distribution systems, power, agricultural infrastructure, housing, logistic networks, mega-airport, smart city transportation – see section on infrastructure)



Jobs in our build of export-focused, non-mining, “megacompanies” with magnet effects towards creating new high productivity sub-sectors, or new industries and clusters.



Jobs from an elevated status of the “creative economy”, inspired by stronger strategic management of local creative talent in Indigenous arts, music, dances, paintings, design, productions, media – and the use of modern technological platforms and Botswana Television as a strategic asset for the export and commercialisations of our arts and culture.



Jobs from the impact of our systematic research development programme towards developing, packaging, and branding Indigenous foods, medicines, materials, inventions, and services in new age technology, data, and business process.



Jobs from a fairer economic landscape and equal access to opportunity for each citizen regardless of family background or personal access to those in power



Jobs from a new culture of learning, and smart partnerships with global companies and nations that have demonstrated high-impact ingenuity



Jobs from outcomes of our leadership ambition in food and meat products at a global scale



Jobs from an infrastructure-enabled, better coordinated, and significantly more diversified Botswana tourism product



Green jobs from our ambition to become a leader in solar and energy in general



Jobs from the transformation of agriculture and agro-processing



Jobs from the impact on SMEs from innovative funding and funding mechanisms through the establishment of sector funds



Jobs from a new culture of execution, meritocracy, and fairness in the public service



Jobs as a by-product of better-managed utility companies, and consequent lower power, water, and telecommunications tariffs



Jobs from stronger strategic collaborations with Africa and exploitation of the Africa-Free-Trade-Agreement

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Create an equitable, dynamic, and diversified economy with an annual growth rate of at least 10%.



Set up a grant fund system for the informal sector, and a sector fund (equity and debt funds) system



Introduce a mixed-member electoral system with specially elected members for women, youth, and disadvantaged groups, proportionally shared.



Launch a comprehensive and integrated National Community Service with a monthly allowance of P2,500.



Transform Botswana into a transport hub for the 363 million-strong SADC market.



Position Botswana as one of the top 10 diamond trading centers globally and top 3 in the EMEA region.



Provide free working internet to all government institutions and community centers.



Building an economy that is able to sustain average salaries of P10 000 or more



Launch a fund for an accelerated Green Economy program driven by new state-owned enterprises in partnership with the private sector.



Increase the living allowance for tertiary students to P2,500 for all tertiary and vocational training institutions.



Dismantle the constitutional dictatorship by drafting a new constitution and ensuring access to affordable justice for all.



Establish regional crop and agricultural markets for all farm-related products.



Introduce comprehensive health insurance for every citizen and permanent resident.



Attract at least P100 billion annually in domestic and foreign investment.



Triple our yields per hectare for cereals



Provide quality healthcare for every citizen



Construct over 100,000 houses in the first five years.



Distribute free sanitary pads to female students in primary and secondary schools.



Cut water and electricity tariffs by 30% and make them affordable for every home



Reduce the old age pension eligibility from 65 to 60 years and increase the pension allowance from P830 to P1,800 per month.

Preamble

The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP)'s neo-liberal free market economy and distorted democratic systems have reached a saturation point. The annual economic growth rate has stagnated at below 5% when it is required to grow at a minimum of 6.5%. Despite rhetoric to the contrary, economic diversification has failed as has the agriculture and manufacturing sectors which have collapsed. The mineral beneficiation process has stalled. All this scenario in the context of the rot in infrastructure and public buildings including schools, clinics, hospitals and roads. Underscoring the rot, are deepening unemployment, poverty, inequality, slave wages for the majority of workers and escalating corruption.

Our people have come to live in the conditions of the Biblical Lazarus. That is, they survive on crumbs falling from the dinner tables of the wealthy BDP leaders and its foreign sponsors. Besides, the BDP is lost in ideas on how to revive economic growth and create decent jobs for Batswana. The government has admitted that for over 50 years it has failed to create an "Indigenous Local Middle Class".

The UDC stands for a radically different system of economic and social equitable development. Our model of development will be spearheaded by a "developmental state" aimed at entrenching rapid and inclusive economic growth and achieving a social democratic programme for the benefit of all. Driven by the efforts of the small private sector (including small, micro, medium enterprises or SMMEs) and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in the strategic sectors of the economy, the UDC model will strengthen the role of our government in the economy, social development and deliberately achieve sustainable development agenda and just transition to the green economy.





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GROWTH

ECONOMY

PILLAR 1
BUILDING A DEEP ECONOMY
THAT OFFERS EACH CITIZEN
OPPORTUNITIES FOR A HAPPY
AND FULFILLED LIFE

PILLAR 1: BUILDING A DEEP ECONOMY THAT OFFERS EACH CITIZEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR A HAPPY AND FULFILLED LIFE

Objective: Adopt a new economic strategy that diversifies the economy, grows it sustainably above 10% GDP per annum, produces quality goods and services, create jobs and distribute wealth that empowers all citizens.

Botswana needs an economy with a capacity to sustainably employ and generate jobs, for an existing and increasingly youthful workforce of about one and half million people. The desire is not just to create jobs, but to create high-paying job opportunities. Botswana also needs a diversified economy that is resilient in the face of increasingly unpredictable global economic conditions, as well as an economy that generates and distributes wealth to the majority of citizens.

Current circumstances: The Botswana economy has for more than a decade now been experiencing a “jobless growth” phenomenon where there is no meaningful net add to jobs even in episodes of any economic growth. Official figures suggest unemployment figures of 35% or more (for the youth) even though common sense points to a more alarming joblessness crisis. The guinea coefficient is desperately skewed, dramatizing an extreme concentration of wealth in the hands of the privileged few.

1.1 BUILDING THE DEEP-ECONOMY

Together with the people of Botswana, we will build an economy whose fruits everyone cherishes – we call it the deep economy.

In response to the broad economic needs and circumstances, the **UDC Government will:**

- More than double the current economic rate of growth in less five years.
- Generates 450 000 to 500 000 new job opportunities in five years that are decent, sustainable and well-paying.
- Ensure creation of a diversified agriculture/ food production, manufacturing/ beneficiation, creative sectors, tourism and services (including technology) each growing by a factor of more than 10 percent annually, in real terms.
- Ensure that the economy possesses strong export-orientation (outside diamonds).

e. Diversify risk to ensure our economy is more resistant to exogenous factors including droughts, disasters, food/fuel shortages and global recessions.

f. Introduce modern infrastructure, digitized and green economic processes and projects to ensure economic diversification and adoption of sustainable green economy alternative production systems.

1.2 BUILDING MEGA COMPANIES

Together, we will build at least two “mega-companies” possibly in the areas of manufacturing (including of medicines) and energy development to power the economy.

a. These mega-state-owned companies will facilitate within 5 years, the emergence of industries with revenues potential to generate more than a billion United States dollars and by the sheer quantum, create high paying jobs in tens of thousands.

b. Have the effect of inspiring significant productivity gains on the rest of the economy by imposing strict, high-performing standards on the supply chains that involve local enterprises.

c. Have the potential to create large sustainable clusters of SMMEs and authentic long-term entrepreneurs that will most certainly flourish directly or indirectly as a result of access to large international markets.

1.3 NEW FUNDING MECHANISMS

New Funding Mechanisms - Together, will initiate and build a Sovereign Wealth Fund:

The UDC Government intends to build a Wealth Fund which will invest locally, continentally and internationally. The focus would be to aggressively build wealth for current and coming generations, while at the same time unlocking economic opportunities for both our labour force and entrepreneurs. The Wealth Fund will invest in sustainable mega-infrastructure-projects such as a fast-train that links major cities of Africa as well as in major food production, pharmaceuticals and mineral beneficiation supply chains. This process will entail cultivating partnerships with already successful wealth funds in different parts of the globe.

Current circumstances: The Bank of Botswana currently manages Fund(s), loosely referred to as “foreign reserves”. However, the focus and orientation of the Fund(s) is to provide insulation against unexpected monetary and economic fluctuations, and in a sense act as a tool for monetary policy. Profits from these funds continue to be a source of annual Government revenue. The range of investment options, orientation and management style of these Funds are different from that envisaged for the Sovereign Wealth Fund envisaged by the UDC Government.

1.4 MODERNISING AND TRANSFORMING TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Together we will overhaul, modernise and transform our transport infrastructure.

Our comprehensive infrastructure built will affect the Botswana economy in the following ways:

- a) billions of Pula in new African and international markets
- b) tens of thousands of more jobs created in response to expansion of agricultural and manufacturing sectors
- c) greater productivity gains and lower input costs (utilities and transport)
- d) new services and new sectors created by greater economic capacity
- e) better utilisation of skilled manpower. In addition, our built infrastructure will directly create tens of thousands of jobs in construction, engineering, and allied services during a building process which should last well beyond five years.

Current circumstances: Botswana’s current rail, road, power, water and sewerage infrastructure is not adequate to meet the needs of ordinary, especially low- income citizens in villages and the ghettos of urban centres (a large proportion of families are still not connected to flushing sewerage). Worse, there is no infrastructure back-bone to support modern agriculture in Botswana. An increasingly problematic handicap to unlocking markets for Botswana goods in other African markets, given the opportunities ushered in by the Africa Free Trade Area, is poor or underdeveloped rail, road and communication linkages among and across African countries.

Our infrastructure push will be transformative, in its reach, size and focus:

Together will build:

- a. Fast train between Gaborone, Johannesburg, Harare, Lusaka.
- b. Dual carriage way linking Gaborone and Francistown.
- c. Implement long standing plans to build rail links to either Namibia or Mozambique including one through to Kasane and Zambia.
- d. Airport with a global pull of transit traffic across continents.
- e. Fuel pipeline that connects the coast with Botswana and neighbouring countries.
- f. Comprehensive National water distribution system that covers key villages that are water-starved such as Molepolole.
- g. Integrated water-power-communications built and services to strategic farming zones.
- h. large scale servicing of plots especially around high growth areas.
- i. Modernised alternative transport modes in the Gaborone cosmopolitan area that include Ramotswa, Molepolole, Lobatse, Kanye, Mochudi and Gabane. These will include light rail, overhead-carts and others.
- j. Rapid development of townships/towns with modern housing and amenities, as part of attracting and in anticipation of major global investments and partnerships based in Botswana.

1.5 DEPLOYING THE NATIONAL BUDGET TO LIFT THE ECONOMY

Together we will exercise wisdom in how we deploy our national budget to lift the economy for the long term.

The structure of the Botswana economy is heavily dependent on diamond exports, and by extension the economic pulse is dictated by Government expenditure levels and patterns. The Government budget and procurement programme are an important lever for shaping the economy for the long term. Consequently, the UDC fiscal paradigm is premised on several key principles:

- a. As a nation we will not live beyond our means.
- b. Our nation is creative enough to find currently untapped, diversified and yet sustainable revenue sources.
- c. Promote fairness and empower disadvantaged members of our society.
- d. Use revenue to build anchors to and sources of future revenues (a good share should be invested in the development human and physical assets as opposed to just consumption).
- e. Progressive taxation – less taxes or even no taxes for the very low-income groups and gradually increasing taxes, with the highest levels of taxes lower than regional taxes.
- f. Expenditure patterns that minimise prospects for locally induced economic fluctuations especially economic busts
- g. Encourage transparency and accountability in fiscal management, and close loops for corruption.
- h. Use procurement as a lever to create sustainable, and subsequently, export- oriented businesses.

Current circumstances: Fiscal policy of the current Government does not meet many of the standards prescribed by our fiscal principles: Firstly, government expenditure patterns are not sensitive to the potential to exacerbate economic cycles. To be precise Government has *significantly cut* expenditures and increased taxes in downturns, causing further delay in recovery. Secondly Government expenditure is not adequately accounted for – we have seen Government muzzle or deprive the Auditor-General of funds necessary to conduct performance audits of major projects or departments, we have also seen failure to audit several key institutions on time. Third Government, through its large procurement budget continues to promote patronage and a culture tenderpreneurship, without a clear mechanism to cultivate genuine entrepreneurship. Fourth, Government does not possess a competent financing strategy, and does not know when to borrow and when not to borrow. Consequently, funds **which could have been invested for higher returns while borrowing at lower rates than returns are wasted through excessive consumption and leakage including corruption.**

Government is not tapping on obvious opportunities for broadening the tax base nor has Government invested any energy in building the capacity to manage large infrastructure Public Private Partnerships.

1.6 RESPONSIBLE MONETARY POLICY AND A DEEP FINANCIAL BANKING SYSTEM

Together we will instil a culture of a responsible as well as creative Monetary Policy, and a deep Financial and banking system.

The UDC Government believes that innovative shifts in our country's monetary and financial environment are necessary to ensure a well-oiled economy that is able to

- a) finance long term projects, both small and large
- b) finance business ideas that break the old trend or are not part of the low-risk establishment
- c) cultivate financial institutions that are home-grown which may subsequently become multinational banks or financial institutions
- d) significantly encourage personal savings among citizens of all economic segments.

Our strategy to achieve these aspirations will entail a UDC Government that

- a) respects the professional independence of the Bank of Botswana to conduct monetary policy without undue political interference
- b) directs a deliberate initiative to facilitate home-grown venture funds, deposit-taking institutions (including metshelo), fintechs and banks, innovative insurance
- c) facilitates a deep and significantly larger bond market.

Fact-check: The majority or almost all commercial banks or investment banks are foreign banks, and are largely directed from abroad. The only major local banks, such as Botswana Building Society and Botswana Savings Banks were founded by the state and we for decades run as state banks. There is no incidence of a bank founded by local bankers as a group – there have been several failed attempts in the past.

The UDC will guide and facilitate the successful founding of such financial institutions as Botswana prides itself in having some of the finest experienced bankers and financial practitioners). The Botswana system does not recognise local metshelo and there are no mechanisms to grow such community efforts into meaningful locally relevant financial institutions. Another area of concern is that the monetary world is becoming increasingly complex and in need of a new range of financial instruments via which the Bank of Botswana as a monetary authority is in a better position to influence monetary policy – our bond market is too small or too shallow to provide an option. The bond market is also too small to provide a mechanism with which to grounds for better long term borrowing for both Government and the private sector.

Noting the disadvantages citizens face when it comes to financial institutions and borrowing, the UDC Government will:

- a. Review the whole Financial Services Sector Act to ensure that citizens play an active role.
- b. Develop and encourage the creation of citizen-led and dominated financial institutions such as the savings and credit associations.
- c. Through the Cooperative Societies Act, identify potential areas for establishing financial services based on good governance and meritocracy.
- d. The existing Financial Institutions will be urged to create opportunities for broad-based citizen and SMME shareholding.

On where UDC Government will get money to finance most of the initiatives proposed in this Manifesto, the following are just a few of the many resources currently misused by the BDP government that UDC Government will tap into:

- a. Eliminate corruption and wastage currently costing the country some 37% of its infrastructure budget.
- b. Rationalize and reduce wastage by many of the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).
- c. Reduce a bloated top-heavy government created to compensate political agents of the BDP in councils, cabinet, political appointments in diplomatic service and so-called special advisors/chief of staff posts in the Office of the President.

d. Improved project management and assured early cancellation of wasteful projects in different sectors.

e. Improved tax collection coverage and re-negotiated agreements such as SACU.

f. Savings from untargeted/undeserved subsidies.

g. We will borrow responsibly, mainly for development and not scarcely for public consumption expenditure

The above, in addition to enhance productivity, improved salaries and a broader tax based due to higher employment and private sector growth as well as low interest domestic and external loans should go a long way in generating sustained income/revenue for the UDC Government.

1.7 BUILDING GLOBAL PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES

Together with the people of Botswana we will build public global utility companies

These companies will significantly drive down input (and consequently production) costs in a way that makes globally competitive and attractive to investors and industry. Some of these companies (parastatals) will be harnessed to become multi-nationals:

Together we will restructure the energy sector, including the power and fuel sector:

The UDC Government plans to:

- a. Facilitate the ramping up of electricity production in Botswana to at least 8000 MW/annum within 4 years.
- b. Exploit global funding available for solar generation, to facilitate IPP arrangements that will scale solar production to a minimum of 30% of electricity generation targets.
- c. Restructure the Botswana Power Corporation model, one aspect of which will be to separate ownership and management of generation and transmission assets.
- d. Coordinate all these efforts to bring Botswana's cost of power production to best 3 on the African continent within five years.
- e. Introduce smart grids.

f. Make electricity a major export and revenue earner.

g. Adequate, accessible and affordable for most households.

h. Make power accessible and affordable to all strategic arable centres.

The UDC Government is still as determined now as it was at its formation, to transform the power sector into a three-tier structure in the power sector consisting of:

- a) power generators,
- b) power distributors/power sub-distributors and,
- c) an energy regulator (which oversee more than just the power sector).

The UDC Government considers energy, including fuel supplies, a national security concern and will create an energy eco-system that takes into account the need to:

- a. Sustain energy costs that keep Botswana globally competitive.
- b. Make fuel and alternative fuels widely accessible to industry and all consumption segments.
- c. Minimise Botswana's vulnerability to instability among neighbouring (nearest port countries) and other risks such as we have seen with pandemics.
- d. Grow and empower an energy sector with potential to create wealth and generate tens and thousands of jobs.

The current ecosystem in which Botswana Oil enjoys a 90% import quota will undermine if not choke some if not all our energy sector objects. Consequently, the UDC Government introduce a managed competitive environment in which Botswana Oil will be guaranteed a quota along with several other players as is best practice in other sectors such as the telecommunications sector. The current ecosystem of our energy sector is not optimal and is operating far below its potential. The main energy producer, the Botswana Power Corporation operates on an outdated business model. It is intimately involved in the entire electricity value chain: BPC owns transmission lines, electricity-generation-capacity and also manages all the auxiliary services associated.

The BPC losses money almost every year and on occasion loses more than half a billion Pula. Electricity production costs are higher than they should and it is inordinately expensive to connect remote areas, specifically arable areas to the grid. These circumstances continue to undermine any aspirations to succeed in commercial agriculture or lure meaningful industrial activity into Botswana.

The UDC Government intends to establish the Botswana National Research and Development Council (BNRCD). A high-level Research and Development Council chaired by an accomplished scientist, innovator or leader of international standing responsible for setting priorities for short and long term scientific and innovation agenda. Council will set the agenda on what is possible in investigating, fully developing, and perfecting our potential niches in these areas. Its mandate will include the prioritization in the research, development and commercialisation of the following:

- a. Indigenous plants, medicines, agricultural processing and foods.
 - Competitiveness in indigenous health, medicines, flora and plants (conservation).
 - Competitiveness in natural fruits, truffles, mushroom, morama, kgengwe, sengwaparile,
 - masonja/phane honey, crop seeds, irrigation methods, local food recipes and foods.
 - An innovation programme to pursue the development of a diversified portfolio of foods
 - and food recipes that will become the healthy alternative of foods globally:
 - Research and development themes/ technologies.
 - Cheese, chocolates, yoghurts.
 - Dried fruits.
 - Healthy indigenous drinks, donkey milk.
 - Sausages, dried meats, bolognas and other processes foods.
 - High-yielding seeds suitable for local environment and circumstances
 - Cost-effective irrigation systems and methods.
 - Food processing technologies.
- b. Natural health and beauty products
 - Research and development to perfect indigenoes proprietary knowledge and formulae leading to packaging and commercialisation
- c. Information technology and computing
 - Learning technologies.
 - Software development, cloud computing & e-commerce.
 - Big data, artificial intelligence and data analytics.

- d. Material science and mineral processing
 - Competitiveness in manufacturing, materials science, mineral processing.
 - Cost effective building material for houses, roads, sewerages, drainage.
 - A innovation programme to improve manufacturing productivity.
 - Manufacturing informatics.
- e. Sports and creative arts
 - Competitiveness in the sports, arts, debate, theatre, music, design, culture and tourism.
 - Retail management.
 - Management practices, technology applications, making associations work.
 - Micro-businesses, SMEs and other institutions.
- f. Retail management
 - Management practices, technology applications, making associations work.
 - Micro-businesses, SMEs and other institutions.
- g. Operational excellence and innovation management
 - Supply-chain management
 - Management of procurement
 - Processes and technologies deployed in procurement
- h. Design including jewellery design, water technologies
- i. Solar technologies
 - Energy competitiveness
 - Sustainable energy, solar energy, gas-fired energy, other energy.

1.8 COMMERCIALIZATION, INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE-DEVELOPMENT

A commercialization, innovation and enterprise-development council which will be a manager of fund-deployment institutions (a manager of managers) responsible for building institutional capacities and capabilities across the economy so that Botswana has globally competitive enterprises (and institutions in generals) at all levels.

The UDC-government will, through the work of the National Research and Development Council, facilitate the commercialization and scaling of production in niche areas that can cause Botswana to be a major or significant player. The UDC target for the work of this council:

- a. At least 30 Botswana enterprises/joint ventures, new ones or expansions with capacity to export meats.

- b. At least 100 Botswana enterprises/joint ventures, new ones or expansions with capacity to export others foods.

- c. At least 300 Botswana enterprises/joint ventures, new ones or expansions, offering new services to international customers in the business out-sourcing, engineering, software development, cyber-security, financial services, and other services.

- d. At least 1 000 groups/individuals/companies in the creative economy who will break into the global market.

A constellation of collaborating fund managers, SMME enterprises across sectors, parastatals, universities, industry associations, academic institutions, research institutions, financial institutions, and entrepreneurs. The BNRCD system will consist of a multitude of collaborating agencies. Some of those will be involved with actual research, some will be involved with the capacity building before commercialization, some of them will be involved in assessing the feasibility of projects or feasibility of joint ventures, and some of them will be involved with the training of different types of personnel and some them will be the actual commercializing entities.

1.9 GLOBAL LEADER IN BEEF AND MEAT PRODUCTS

Together we will ensure Botswana assumes a leadership position as a producer of beef / small stock: goats, sheep and rabbit and relevant meat products.

The UDC Government plans to implement without delay, an independent beef and other meat products regulator that will issue export licenses and ensure the uptake of livestock from smaller farmers as well. New beef processors will add to what has to date been a monopoly of the Botswana Meat Commission.

Together we will work towards happy and fulfilled families.

On the whole, the deep economy is a key ingredient in securing happy and fulfilled families.

The UDC Government is determined that:

- a. Each family should own a home.
- b. We will work to make available serviced land, build affordable flats for sale and make long term available through a raft of financial institutions and arrangements.

c. Access to a reliable supply of basic amenities such as water, power, etc.

d. Our plan entails cutting the cost of power production by more than 30% and making power available to every home at affordable rates. We will build a water distribution network and drainage system that will ensure every family has access to affordable portable water supply and we can sustain an agricultural sector with a capacity to export.

Jobs and job choices

Our economic engine will inspire, and the responsible deployment and management of finances will create deep economy that will create at 450 000 to 500 000 jobs in 5 years with average wages of at least P10,000 per month.

a. Access to wealth creation opportunities

b. Citizens will have opportunities to be direct shareholders in a Sovereign Wealth Fund.

c. Talent development in sports, arts, debate, theatre, music, culture and the creatives will become part of our DNA.

In the UDC “everything will start from an early age”. We will:

- Build centres of excellence in specific sporting codes
- Build integrated sporting facilities in primary and secondary schools
- Creatively fund national teams
- Build a national state of the art national theatre and recording facility
- Populate all Government buildings with local art, design and historical inscription about the history of that building and neighbourhood (implemented by a self-sustaining arts and heritage Fund)
- Integrate into early curriculum the teaching of arts, music, debate and culture
- Enhance management capacity in the creative sectors.

Fair labour practices.

The UDC Government seeks a well-incentivized and accountable labour force, that is highly productive and cherishes its work. We will cultivate work environments in which employees and employers coexist harmoniously and workers enjoy such benefits or rights such as flexible working hours, work-from home options, access to pension funds, access medical insurance, paid maternity and paternity leaves, and self-improvement programmes.

a. Each citizen will enjoy access to quality medical services.

b. Each citizen will live in safe and secure neighbourhood.

1.10 DEVELOPING THE TOURISM SECTOR

a. Under the BDP government, the current tourism policy which is high-value-low-volume, excludes many Batswana from participating in the sector. Besides, it has low linkages with food, agriculture, domestic transport and produces only low skills jobs.

b. Tourism is a vital contributor to the Botswana economy with its extensive value chain and labour absorption capacity. As a sector with strong linkages with food and agriculture, transportation, consumer retail, financial services and other network industries, tourism’s indirect economic contribution is substantial.

c. The 2019 data from the WTTC, indicate that the Travel and Tourism sector directly accounted for 11.5% of the gross domestic product (GDP) and 26,000 jobs. In 2021, Botswana generated around USD 294.60m in the tourism sector alone. This corresponds to 1.4% contribution to GDP and approximately 11% of all international receipts in Southern Africa.

d. The UDC Government will develop a Comprehensive and Inclusive Tourism Plan which will empower Batswana to fully participate and benefit in the sector.

e. We will outline a set of interventions to protect and rejuvenate supply, reignite demand and strengthen enabling capability for long term sustainability.

f. One of the strategic outcomes of the UDC Tourism Sector Plan will be the implementation of the Tourism Equity Fund (TEF) as part of strengthening the sectors supply side in a manner that will address the reconstruction of the sector and advancement of transformation through enabling expanded participation of citizens in the sector.

1.11 EMPLOYMENT CREATION

a. Under the BDP government, extended unemployment rate stood at 32% or 250,000+ Batswana in 2022. The unemployment rates for

youth and women are 36% and 32% respectively. From all recent efforts it is clear that the current government has no solutions to the challenge of unemployment.

b. The UDC Government pledges to create 450 000 to 500 000 jobs within 5 years mainly from infrastructure, green economy initiatives and diversification.

The UDC Government will fund shovel ready project which will have a more immediate impact on the economy to create jobs for our youth.

c. Protect jobs - the UDC Government will not only focus on job creation but also on ways to address the crisis of jobless growth, job losses and retrenchments. The UDC Government will not allow any retrenchments in the public sector (including in Public Enterprises) and will fill all the available vacancies within the first 12 months. The UDC will get a firm commitment from the private sector to avoid retrenchments.

d. The UDC Government will stop outsourcing of services and instead will start a process of in-sourcing some of the services.

e. Procurement by large companies such as Debswana should be used to promote economic diversification.

Clothing, Textiles, Leather and Footwear Value-chain

Under the BDP government, the challenge of this sector are low productivity, influx of cheap and secondhand products and cost of equipment. Yet this is labour intensive industry for job creation with a big export market.

The UDC Government will work with the private sector to develop a plan on the resuscitation of the sector by:

Promoting manufacture of school, prisons, police and army uniforms in Botswana, including retail shops and private security companies through SMMEs, which are the backbone of any economy in the world.

UDC commit to protect domestic industries under the relevant trade provisions. This will spur up domestic demand which will increase job opportunities.

a. Strengthen government and parastatals procurement and encourage private sector to use its procurement to support local businesses especially those owned, managed or employing more young

people, women and people with disability. At least 25% of government procurement expenditure will be allocated to goods and services from SMMEs.

1.12 SUPPORTING SMMEs

Engage the local retailers to support SMME producers and suppliers.

a. Support for rural production clusters. Provide agricultural support systems that support clusters around a limited range of products. This will enable farmers and producers to take advantage of their specific agricultural opportunities, which vary by region, and achieve economies of scale in procurement, marketing, skills development, packing and transport and extension services.

b. Establish AGRIC-PARKS or Markets across the country to create market for communal farmers. Issue a clear directive that the rural produce should be bought at market price to encourage the rural economy.

c. As part of economic empowerment of women and youth, the UDC Government together with the private sector will create a special fund within the industrial development fund, to promote establishment of regional factories that will manufacture sanitary pads and other sanitary products. These firms will be exclusively owned and ran by females.

1.13 TRANSFORMING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Current Reality

Agricultural Transformation and the growth of Agro-Processing in Botswana

At independence in 1966, the agricultural sector accounted for about 40 percent of the country's GDP. The sector provided most of employment and raw materials for the then dominant meat processing industry based in Lobatse. Currently, the sector only accounts for less than two percent (2%) of the country's GDP and employs about 10 percent of total formal employment. The manufacturing sector which was dominated by meat processing during the first decade of independence now only accounts for just 5 percent of the country's GDP.

Clearly, the BDP government has failed the agricultural sector. There has been lack of transformation through a **sustained increase in productivity.**

All industrialized countries went through a sustained increase in agricultural output and productivity to generate a **surplus** for the emerging agro-industrialization! The surplus here represents the excess amount over and above the family requirements. This surplus is then used by agro-entrepreneurs to manufacture finished products for home consumption and exports. Under the BDP government, crop yields for more than 90 percent of the crop farmers are currently below 300 kilogrammes per hectare for sorghum and maize and yet the target yield for them is at least 1 tonne or 1000 kilogrammes per hectare. The same trend is witnessed in horticulture. Only very few farmers in Botswana especially in Pandamatenga, in the Chobe District, and Mosesidi in the Southern District, have reached crop yields beyond 2 tonnes per hectare. However, it should also be noted that both SADC and the African Union require a minimum target of **2 tonnes or 2000 kilogrammes** per hectare of sorghum, maize, millet and wheat from member states to transform the Continent's economy to address food insecurity, poverty and unemployment.

So, Botswana's crop yields are still very low to address these socio-economic challenges. In the livestock subsector, the picture is still the same with the majority of farmers only attaining less than sixty percent (60 %) of calving rate in cattle and yet the target rate is 80 percent (80%) while for smallstock, the actual birth rate is below 40 percent (40%) when the target level is 70 percent (70%).

Current challenges in the agricultural sector

- a. Almost Stagnant agricultural productivity especially in the dominant traditional farming sector despite reckless public funding.
- b. Decline of the national herd of cattle from around 3 million in the mid-1980s to the current to approximately 1 million now.
- c. Poor provision of infrastructure to reduce cost of production, marketing and distribution.
- d. High dependency on imports to more than 50 percent for cereals (sorghum, maize, wheat, etc.). Domestic output not growing to reduce imports for most commodities.
- e. Very limited surplus to grow viable and sustainable agro-processing and value chains.
- f. Limited employment opportunities in primary agriculture due to low productivity

g. Low adoption of technologies to increase production and productivity.

h. Very weak and ineffective extension services.

i. Poor provision of transport services and incentives to public support staff.

j. Weak farmers Association to influence peer behavior.

k. and Untargeted subsidies with minimum impact on total output and productivity.

Given the critical challenges facing the agricultural sector and yet recognizing the sector's potential contribution to the economy:

The UDC Government will:

- a. Classify farmers according to their environmental/geographical and socio-economic conditions in order to target appropriate technical and financial support.
- b. Intensify the adoption of and access to high yielding but appropriate crop varieties/hybrids and livestock breeds.
- c. Intensify and expand the commercialization of potential farmers through effective and efficient extension, research and appropriate Farmers Commodity Groups.
- d. Intensify investment in human resource development in extension services and management including working out a farmer/extension worker ratio of 1 to 100.
- e. Human Resource Development for extension services to be aligned with STEAM Education to provide applied and relevant skills and knowledge to transform farming.
- f. Intensify the supervision of extension staff by introducing 1:15 supervisor to extension workers in order to improve farmer-contact and interaction.
- g. Provide adequate transport for supervision and visits to farmers.
- h. Invest in critical infrastructure (roads, energy, information and communication technology/digital technology, water, etc.) to access production and market areas.
- i. Promote and intensify irrigated agriculture in potential areas of the country.

j. Provide water for irrigated agriculture targeted at export market.

k. Promote climate smart agriculture to mitigate challenges.

l. Provide targeted input subsidies in compliance with the Agriculture Agreement under the World Trade Organization for food security, rural development and poverty -eradication.

m. Heavily invest in Research and Development (R&D) to generate demand-driven appropriate biochemical and mechanical technologies. R&D in agriculture to be aligned with the 4th Industrial Revolution for Commercial Agriculture.

n. Strengthen joint peer review mechanisms especially between farmers on one hand and service

providers and buyers of farm produce on the other to maintain good customer service and quality of goods and service.

o. Provide a conducive policy environment to encourage investments in agricultural production and manufacturing by the private sector including farmers.

p. Monitor and evaluate the impact of public interventions and support.

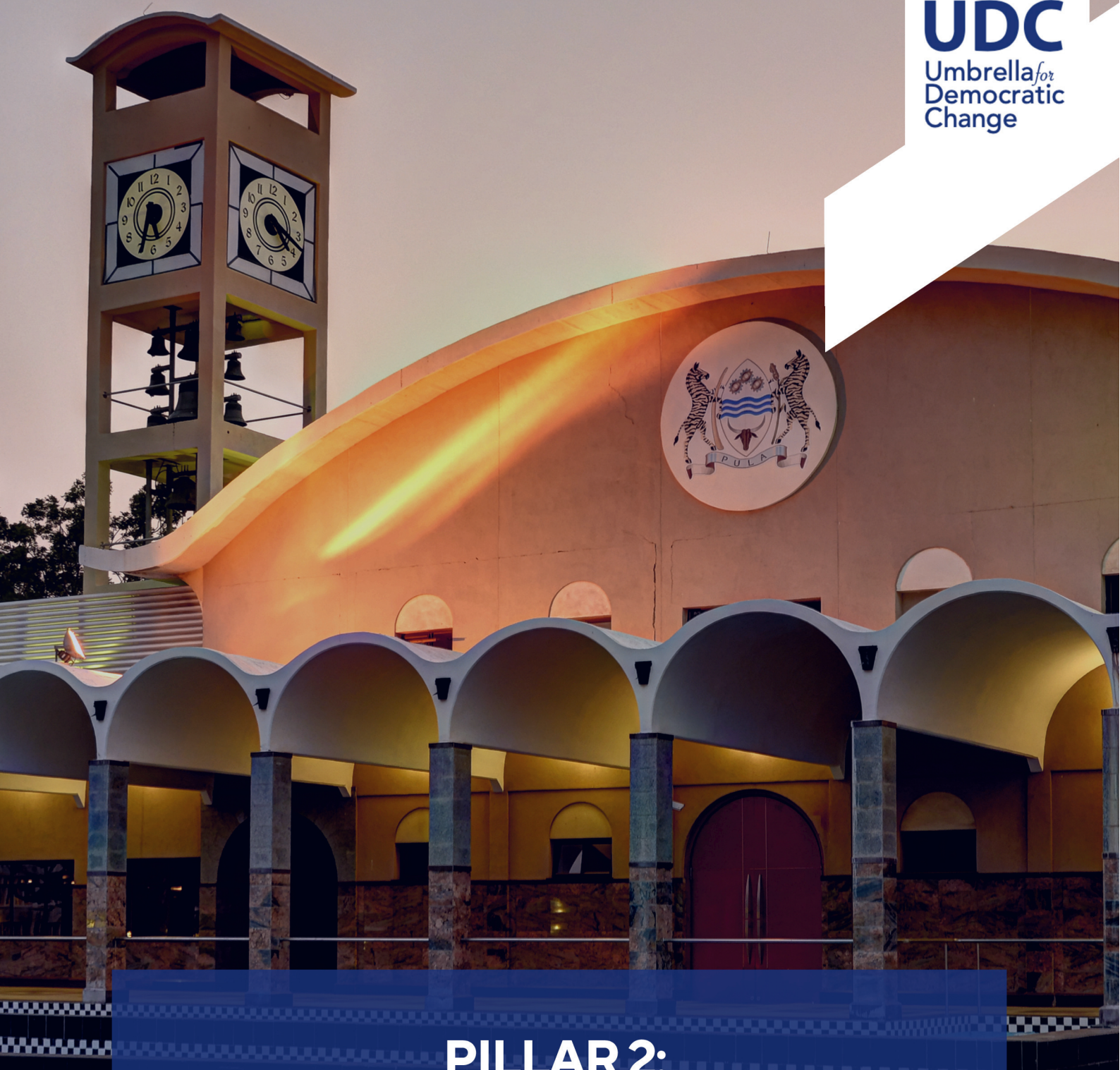
Outcomes: A diversified, high growth economy, with decent and secure and well-paying jobs has been established and has put Botswana on a desirable industrial and high growth path driven by empowered citizens as core-owners.





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PILLAR 2: DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

PILLAR 2: DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

Objectives: Re-write the constitution, revise the electoral system, empower and reform Parliament, the Judiciary, and other governance institutions to establish a of truly democratic, free, and secure nation for all to participate and fully enjoy their rights and freedoms.

2.1 WRITING A NEW CONSTITUTION

Current Reality:

Botswana adopted a constitutional democratic system of governance at independence in 1966. However, this system is constitutionally fundamentally flawed in many ways. It entrenches inequalities of the past, gives the president overarching powers that can be abuse, archaic electoral and judicial system that lack independence. Consequently, this constitution has been grossly abused by the BDP regime.

The current constitution is built upon traditional patriarchal, ethnic, cultural and age inequalities of the old society and has over the sixty (60 years) of the BDP rule simply reproduced these inequalities. Hence, under the current constitution, gender inequality, discrimination of minority ethnic groups and youth, suppression of minority languages of these groups and their subsequent exclusion from enjoying their full democratic rights and freedoms continues. Human rights have been limited to civil and political rights neglecting the socio-economic and cultural rights of all. The same constitution has not entrenched local government and an inclusive electoral system that promotes participation of all including women and youth.

Together with the people of Botswana we will:

a. We will act to establish a body and mechanism within the confines of the law to set in motion a comprehensive review and public engagement (people-driven, participatory, inclusive, and transparent) for a new constitution crafted to offer our nation an inclusive government system.

b. The new Botswana envisages a constitution with checks and balances, particularly versus the executive or Presidency to aggressively fight corruption and curb abuse of power.

c. The new Botswana envisages a judicial system whose independence and impartiality are entrenched in the constitution.

d. The new Botswana constitution shall assure/ guarantee [offers] a separation of power between the three branches of government as a way to increase the effectiveness of the government machinery.

e. The new Botswana envisages a constitution that enables fair representation of minorities, women, and disadvantaged groups such as people living with disabilities into various political and non-political roles of authority through changing the electoral system and having provisions that explicitly speak to the inclusion of women.

f. The new Botswana constitution offers independent and legislative branch oversight institutions and an empowered Parliament that is completely independent of and separate from the executive.

g. The new Botswana constitution will bring government closer to the people, through a local government structure that is self-contained and focused on the aspirations and the needs of the local areas.

h. The new Botswana constitution will lay the foundation for a clean and effective government and build trust in public institutions through having accountability mechanisms and independent institutions that promote accountability.

i. The new Botswana constitution envisages an expanded and justiciable Bill of Rights.

j. The new Botswana constitution will have efficient recall mechanisms for underperforming elected representatives, including impeachment articles for the Head of State.

k. The new Botswana constitution envisages institutional reforms to enhance and entrench the rule of law, accountability, and transparency.

l. The new Botswana Constitution will provide for the direct election of the President and abolish the "automatic succession" clause.

m. The new Botswana constitution envisages a merit-based and transparent process for appointing cabinet and other top government officials, including members of the diplomatic community.

n. The new Botswana constitution will promote public awareness of the constitution including among others incorporating it into the school curriculum from primary schools.

o. Introducing accountability as a national value and principle.

p. introduce a complete separation of powers between the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary, and to adequately resource each one of them so that they carry out their duties efficiently and effectively.

q. review and amend or repeal all laws in our statute books that serve to perpetuate inequalities amongst our people, such as the Tribal Territories Act.

r. drastically reduce the powers of the President, by assigning duties of appointment of people to senior positions within government and parastatals to either Parliament or specialised Organs, approved by Parliament, in order to achieve transparency and promote professionalism in the public service.

s. review the duties and responsibilities of cabinet as provided for by the Constitution, such that Ministers are duty bound to render quality professional advice to the President, and conversely, the President is duty bound to consider such advice seriously and show reasonable cause if such advice is not taken into account when State decisions are made.

t. establish a Constitutional Court, which will deal specifically with all cases that are a result of an improved level of people's understanding of their rights, and their inalienable right to litigate and claim those rights for themselves.

u. create a strong, working Local Government system by decentralizing responsibilities and resources to Councils to enable them to implement development projects on time and on budget and take crucial and essential services to the people.

2.2 DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

The UDC on Democracy and Good Governance **The UDC will:**

a. To reform our government so that it exercises inclusive, effective and accountable form of governance that values, inculcates, and cultivates competence, excellence, integrity, and decency in those who serve in it, and brings out the best in the people of Botswana.

b. promote the rule of law through predictable written rules, institutional capacity, education and the right to information.

c. reform essential services such as the police.

d. ensure that key oversight institutions are directly accountable to Parliament (Ombudsman, Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), Auditor General and Independent Electoral Commission).

e. completely overhaul the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services (DISS). This overhaul will entail a reconfiguration of the intelligence oversight role by a Legislative Committee to focus on several key tenets including a mechanism to verify whether the intelligence community is fulfilling its mandate and reflects policy or vision.

f. make it obligatory that international treaties are signed only through the consent and authority of Parliament.

g. give Parliament authority to approve Botswana envoys to nations and multilateral institutions

h. establish a Human Rights Commission, Youth Commission, Arts Council, and Gender Commission, all reporting to Parliament.

i. establish a framework to promote dialogue between people and their elected representatives – along the lines of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

j. every year dedicate a forum for Civil Society and other Actors to dialogue with Parliament in a formal setting, to share experiences, lessons and adopt resolutions.

k. introduce a public service reform to be termed "Batho ka batho" (By the people, for the people) – a whole new culture of work ethic based on a strongly defined Code of Ethics, inspired by belief in our people, love of country and pride in our workmanship.

l. Our approach to fighting corruption is anchored upon transparency and accountability. We believe that one cannot have an asset declaration law without access to information law, because one needs the latter to ensure a healthy balance between the right to privacy and the need to safeguard the foundational right to free expression and access to information.

m. Adopt a new fully democratic constitution that empowered all citizens and those who live in Botswana regardless of gender, ethnic origin, age and other traditional sources of inequality and disempowerment.

2.3 REFORMING THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Reform the Electoral System and establish an Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)

Current Reality

In a democracy, elections are a powerful tool for objective selection of leaders, their replacement and renewal of government at local, regional/provincial and national levels.

Electoral systems are expected to be just, fair and enabling to all citizens regardless of gender, age or social status to both stand for election without any inhibitions and to vote freely without fear or favor for the parties and leaders of their choice.

However, in Botswana's democracy, managed by the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has for close to sixty (60) years, failed to be free, fair and inclusive because the process is dominated by the Office of the President which also single-handedly appoints election officials in the form of the Chairman of the Election Commission, Executive Secretary of Elections, district commissioners and senior public servants to run elections using a rigid electoral, especially elected and nomination systems that have ensured that participation of women, youth and minor groups and opposition parties is blocked in favor of the BDP to stay in power forever. The currently the state machinery – public media, the police, the army, secret police have all been used to run elections in the manner designed to reproduce the BDP rule.

Elections in Botswana have therefore become a sham undermining political competition and blocking effective representation of women, youth and minority groups. With the lack of resources and deliberate denial of public funding to political parties whilst using incumbency advantage and private sector sponsorship, the BDP government has stifled political competition by denying opposition parties access to public media and external and local private sponsorship.

The UDC Government will:

- a. The new Botswana constitution envisages an electoral system that is representative, inclusive, and accountable, and elections that are administered in a free, fair, and transparent manner by a competent and impartial election management body.
- b. The new Botswana constitution offers a foundation for comprehensive electoral reforms in the administration of elections with adherence to international best practices.
- c. Establish a truly independent electoral commission to be accountable to parliament, appointed through a transparent public process and adequately funded to run an efficient and transparent election.
- d. Introduce a variety of mix-member proportional representative systems that will enhance the participation of women, youth, other minority groups, labour and civil society organisations including farmers associations, religious groups, etc.; are equitably represented in local councils and national parliament.
- e. Reform the specially elected member of parliament and nominated councilor systems to enable all political parties to proportionately elect citizens with special skills and needs to have their representation improved and the quality of parliament and councils truly inclusive of different interests of our society.
- f. introduce a hybrid electoral system that will enable the introduction of a quota system to enable marginalised groups such as women, youth and people with disabilities to participate at high levels of state decision making.
- g. allow for the legislation of Political Party funding as a way of nurturing our fledgling democracy.
- h. legislate for true independence of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), and set a date in the constitution, for general elections, for purposes of leveling the playing field among all political parties



2.4 AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

Judiciary

Current Reality

Under the BDP government, the judiciary which is supposed to be an independent pillar of democracy and the main source of people's hope for justice, has become highly partisan, divided and untrusted by the very people it is supposed to protect and guarantee protection of their rights and freedoms.

The UDC Government will:

- a. Re-establish a truly independent judiciary as an arm of a democratic government by ensuring that all major appointments such those of judges, chief justice and members of the Constitutional Court, Court of Appeal, Industrial Court and Judicial Commission are based on merit and public hearing and scrutiny process. The appointing authority shall be Parliament.
- b. Introduce a Constitutional Court as a specialist court to deal with constitutional and election matters.
- c. Improve working conditions of legal practitioners and all judicial personnel by reducing the current court structure to three levels of high court, district/town courts and magistrate courts. Further ensure that common law and customary legal systems are more integrated with levels of jurisdiction clearly defined and dovetailed.
- d. Ensure that various mechanisms are entrenched in the judicial system to make sure that every person in Botswana has access justice without inhibition of lack of resources or any other constraint.

2.5 GUARANTEE A SAFE AND SECURE NATION

National security is a pre-requisite to not only our survival as an independent nation but also on our right to enjoy peace and democracy, speak freely in international affairs and assurance of our peaceful co-existence with our neighbors and the international community. Security of UDC therefore include food security, environmental protection, security and sustainability of our tourist resources, waters, cyber security, protection from drugs and other corrupting substances and money laundary and other corrosive tendencies and behaviors.

Current Reality:

The BDP government has under invested in our security apparatus. The army, police, national intelligence, prisons service, wildlife officers and food and cyber security are not treated as a inter-connected, inter-relation and carefully co-ordinated system.

Instead often they are rewarded unfairly and treated as if some are less important than ours.

Employees have not been sufficiently rewarded whilst still at work and through retired packages. Cheap labour has been used instead of fully trained and commissioned officer. Shortage of police officers, in particular makes the work of policing not only stressful but also dangerous. Job satisfaction, training and continuous professional development (CPD) are low and often neglected.

The UDC Government will:

- a. Invest on improved productivity of agriculture to ensure sustained food security.
- b. Review employment laws relating to the army, police, prisons service and related security officers.
- c. Regulate private security companies to ensure that they operate decent pay and conditions of their employees.
- d. Ensure that laws relating pouching, cyber-crime, money laundering and drug and substance abuse are tightened and regularly review.
- e. Reward systems for different security officers are just, fair and justified.

2.6 COMBATting CORRUPTION

Current Reality

Under the current BDP government corruption has become entrenched and measures to deal with it have been superficial and controlled by the same key perpetrators of corruption generally go untried. As a result, research show that over P20 billions intended for water development, roads, schools and hospitals; public projects in electricity, agriculture and mining have gone instead pockets of individuals including highly placed political leaders. Consequently, under the BDP government corruption has reached intolerable levels and successfully diverted scarce national resources from addressing the challenges of poverty and inequality to the pockets of the filthy rich national and foreign BDP sponsors.

The UDC will:

- a. Eliminate corruption by first declaring it a high-level crime.
- b. Ensure genuine and fair trial of those caught in corrupt activities.
- c. Make the anti-corruption body directly answerable to parliament.
- d. Entrench anti-corruption culture into public education, and the culture of public and private sectors workforce.

2.7 EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICE

Public Service, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and Trade Unions

Current Reality

Under the BDP rule, the public service and SOEs have become partisan and employ the BDP cadre only regardless of their merit. As a result, the image and quality of Botswana's public service and public institutions has deteriorated over the years.

Further, senior appointments of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)/parastatals, just as senior public servants are political appointments carrying the card of BDP. During elections they are actively deployed to manipulate election outcomes in favor of the ruling regime.

The UDC will:

- a. Establish meritocracy as the single criterion governing all appointments into the public service and associated state enterprises.
- b. Re-establish a neutral and merit-based dedicated public service to transparently serve the nation freely and objectively.
- c. Entrench the ethical and patriotic values of serving the nation with distinction and bringing public interest first before self.
- d. Ensure all workers in the public and private sectors are unionized and that trade unions are treated equally as employers' associations and that the bargaining council is re-established and operates autonomously.
- e. Ensure that salaries and wages are based on a living wage as a foundation and that they are decent for all and do not produce unwarranted inequalities.

Outcome: A democratic, participatory, inclusive, well-governed, safe, secure and sustainable Nation of patriotic Batswana is established.





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PILLAR 3
LAND, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREEN
ECONOMY

PILLAR 3: LAND, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREEN ECONOMY

Objectives: Achieve fair distribution and efficient use of land, supply of decent housing, sustainable environmental management and transition to green economy and reduction of carbon-based production systems that destroy environment and cause global warming.

Current Reality

Land is a fundamental phenomenon upon which socio-political and economic activities are anchored on. According to the Botswana population and housing census (2022) approximately 33.5% of the Botswana population lives in rural areas. However, the majority of this population lives in poverty and has poor access to social services such as land and housing. At independence the BDP government did very little to address the land and housing issues inherited from the colonial administration. Instead, the BDP retained the setup as the status quo. If we look at the distribution of land in Botswana today, we see some shameful disparities in some districts particularly those surrounded by freehold farms like in the North East, South East, the Tuli and Lobatse Blocks and Gantsi, for instance and some of the farms have absentee landlords for many years. The large chunk of land is largely owned by foreigners at the expense of the Batswana.

Climate Change, environmental degradation, desertification and droughts; tsunami, flooding and many other environmental disasters of our time are the realities that affect every nation, region and the globe at large. The UN Agenda 2030 and associated Sustainable Development Goals are therefore important blueprint that all nations should be implementing as a matter of urgency. Yet for the BDP government climate change is “business as usual”. This government’s decades long policies and strategies on environment, conservation and climate change have not achieved much. Botswana is drought and climate change highly susceptible and directly affected.

The decline in agricultural performance and livestock production are partly a result of failed policies. Evidently, the BDP is not capable of implementing sustainable climate change initiatives to enhance productivity:

At the same time, the majority of the citizens do not have houses due to economic situations of poverty and/or lack of land. We still have poor people who live in sub- standard shelters or accommodation as squatters. The current situation where people are allocated un-serviced land is also a serious challenge which needs political intervention. The available little portion of land under the stewardship of the BDP is not equally distributed and in some cases is accessible to the elite group of the society who are mainly BDP supporters and leaders. The management and administration of land boards are in the hands of BDP loyalists and paid up members who have used their positions to corruptly sell tribal and state land to foreigners, BDP leaders and themselves.

The UDC Government will:

3.1 LAND ALLOCATION

- a. Review the Land Act and Land Management System with the intention to ensure equitable access to land by Batswana.
- b. Conduct Land Management and Tenure - a National Land audit to address issues of land allocation and ownership.
- c. Give priority to allocating land for human settlement and food production while ensuring citizens’ equitable access to land resources.
- d. Ensure transparency and accountability in land administration and management (land Allocation).
- e. Provide serviced land and housing to reduce the possibilities of disadvantaged people selling their plots out of desperation.

3.2 PROVISION OF HOUSING

- a. Develop policies and comprehensive schemes for affordable housing to ensure ownership and finance for first-time buyers/developers at fixed interest rates, making home-ownership more accessible to all.
- b. Use private sector and brigades, to improve housing scheme in villages and towns by erecting at least 100 000 houses within the five-year period in government.

c. Impose abandonment tax on absentee landlords as a way of promoting development and preventing land hoarding.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

a. The UDC will promote and protect biodiversity plan to ensure peaceful human and wildlife co-existence.

b. Promote afforestation in effort to address climate change and create employment.

c. Promote green energy initiatives as a practical option for farmers.

3.4 WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:

a. Cut water tariffs by 30% and make it affordable for every home.

b. To promote agricultural sustainability, the UDC will provide citizens with subsidize water including drilling boreholes for agricultural development.

c. Promote water conservation through harvesting rainwater.

d. Channel rainwater to storage tanks/dams by incorporating internal road design to create an enable environment to streamline water resources management.

e. Maximize the use of underground water resources and the Chobe river system.

f. Development Covenants (Standards)

3.5 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL:

Current Reality

There is acute shortage of infrastructure, technology and expertise on waste management system.

The UDC Government will:

Establish infrastructure and develop technology and expertise for the waste management system:

Implement Air Quality monitoring and control measures in line with World Health Organization guidelines.

a. Support industries that safeguard public health and the environment.

b. Build and expand sewerage system in all major settlements for use on irrigated agriculture and biological gardens

c. Explore sustainable and viable sewerage and sanitation options for rural areas.

3.6 ENERGY RESOURCE AND GREEN ECONOMY INITIATIVES

The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), recognizes the urgent need to transition towards renewable and sustainable energy sources to power Botswana's future. Our manifesto for green energy aims to harness the abundant natural resources of our country while promoting energy access, affordability, and environmental stewardship through:

3.7 RENEWABLE ENERGY REVOLUTION

a. Solar Power Expansion: Botswana enjoys abundant sunlight throughout the year, making solar power a viable and abundant energy source. We pledge to accelerate the deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for electricity generation, both at utility scale and distributed among households and businesses.

b. Wind Energy Development: In areas with favorable wind conditions, we will invest in the development of windmills/farms to harness clean and renewable wind energy. This will diversify our energy mix and reduce reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation.

3.8 ENERGY ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

a. Rural Electrification: We recognize the importance of extending electricity access to rural and underserved communities. Through targeted initiatives and investments, we will prioritize rural electrification projects, including off-grid and mini-grid solutions powered by renewable energy sources.

b. Cut electricity tariffs by 30% and make it affordable for every home.

c. Targeted Energy Subsidies for Agriculture, Industrialization and Low-Income Households: To ensure that energy remains affordable for all citizens, particularly low-income households and businesses.

d. **Investment in Energy Efficiency:** Energy efficiency measures will be integrated into our energy policy framework to optimize energy use across all sectors. This includes promoting energy-efficient appliances, building codes, and industrial processes to reduce energy consumption and lower utility bills.

3.9 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE:

a. **Grid Modernization:** We will invest in the modernization and expansion of the electricity grid to accommodate renewable energy integration and improve reliability and resilience. Smart grid technologies will be deployed to enhance monitoring, control, and efficiency of the grid.

b. **Energy Storage Solutions:** To address intermittency challenges associated with renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, we will invest in energy storage solutions such as battery storage systems and pumped hydro storage. This will enable better integration of renewable energy into the grid and enhance system stability.

c. **Decentralized Energy Systems:** In addition to centralized power generation, we will promote decentralized energy systems such as microgrids and community- owned renewable energy projects. These systems will enhance energy resilience, promote local economic development, and empower communities to take control of their energy future.

3.10 CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

a. **Carbon Neutrality Commitment:** The UDC is committed to achieving carbon neutrality in Botswana's energy sector by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration through reforestation/afforestation and other nature-based solutions.

b. **Transition Away from Fossil Fuels:** We will gradually reduce/phase out the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation and transportation, replacing them with clean and renewable energy sources. This will not only reduce our carbon footprint but also mitigate air pollution and its associated health impacts.

c. **Green Job Creation:** The transition to a green energy economy will create new opportunities for job creation and economic growth. We will invest in renewable energy infrastructure, research and development, and workforce training programs to ensure that Botswana's workforce is equipped with the skills needed for the green jobs of the future.

Outcomes: Equitable land and decent housing systems together with an environmentally sustainable management and green economy practices have been established to enable people live decent quality lives.





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PILLAR 4
EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND
HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT

PILLAR 4: EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Objectives: Produce from our schools, technical and vocational colleges and universities, multi-talented and multi-skilled human resources with comprehensive knowledge and science and technology capability to undertake research, innovate, and produce commercial ideas oriented towards economic diversity, high productivity and national patriotic values to make Botswana excel.

Current Reality

Education has been described as “a tool which provides people with knowledge, skill, technique, and information. Enabling them to know their rights and duties toward their family, society as well as the nation. It develops the capabilities to fight against injustice, violence, corruption and many other bad elements in the society” (Prasad and Gupta, 2020, p.1).

Like many former colonies, Botswana inherited an educational and human resource development system that was inappropriate because the skills and knowledge acquired could not transform the society and economy to achieve equality, justice and prosperity for all. The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) government has simply perpetuated and reproduced this type of education and human resource development for close to 60 years. As a result, Botswana’s educational and human resource development system has failed to address developmental, scientific, technological, industrial, economic and other social interests of the country. This is what led to the current mismatch between the supply of and demand for skills and knowledge to achieve an inclusive, equitable and sustainable socio-economic transformation for the prosperity of our citizens. On **Research and Development (R&D)**, the current system has also failed to provide adequate investment, vision and capacity to discover, design, develop, apply and commercialize technology and knowledge for economic growth, enhancement of productivity and competitiveness in the country.

As a result of the adoption and religious investment in an inappropriate education and human resource development system, the country under the BDP rule faces the following challenges:

a. Theory inclined graduates with very limited practical and entrepreneurial skills for the workplace. Education with Production which links theory and work as the best method of learning has been neglected and despised. Brigades/vocational education underfunded and have had very limited

impact due to small numbers engaged and half-baked support from government.

b. Failure to develop innovative, creative, critical, problem-solving and entrepreneurial skills among its educated population including students, teachers, workers, farmers and other businesses.

c. Mismatch in the supply of and demand for skills and knowledge to meet the needs of private sector, the economy in general, and lack of preparation to support sustainable environment and transition to the green economy.

d. Inequality in accessing quality education for future job opportunities especially by those from poor families and rural areas.

e. Serious dearth in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) skills in an integrated and mutually beneficial approach to address the country’s market skills and knowledge.

f. High wastage of learners from primary till tertiary education level. Every year close to 100,000 youth school going children are thrown into the streets. There is currently a high failure rate at both primary and secondary schools which leaves many students outside the training and skills development programme.

g. Dilapidated and poorly maintained school buildings, student hostels and staff - houses and general teaching and learning infrastructure.

h. Very limited research capabilities and facilities to design, develop, test, apply, commercialize and massive technologies and knowledge to transform, diversify and grow the economy, industry and services. Currently, almost all technologies are imported for use in the economy.

In short, the BDP education and human resource development system is the source of poverty, unemployment and inequality when it was expected to solve these societal challenges.

Recognizing the critical role of education, human resource development and research and development in socio-economic transformation and individual and national empowerment,

The UDC Government will:

4.1 INTRODUCE STEAM BASED EDUCATION

Overhaul the current education system and introduce and Institutionalize STEAM-BASED Education and human resource development system within a year. Globally, STEAM EDUCATION has become one of the best practices for countries to adopt and invest in because it is a holistic and integrated approach to generate, develop and massify skills and knowledge for the benefit of the economy and society.

4.2 PROVISION OF LEARNING FACILITIES

Provide funding for the establishment of state-of-the-art laboratories, libraries and computer facilities to improve STEAM skills and knowledge. These facilities will be provided with free and accessible internet at all times. UDC will partner with the private sector, appropriate non-governmental organizations and the international community in this regard.

4.3 IMPLEMENT AN ACCELERATED INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECT

Implement an Accelerated Infrastructural Project to build and maintain school buildings including classrooms, laboratories, libraries and information technology (IT) service centres, student hostels, staff houses and requisite infrastructure and facilities.

4.4 PRIORITISE VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Review the current policy, programmes and facilities on Vocational Training and align them with the requirements of the 4th Industrial Revolution and the demand for skills in the market. Further, a long-term demand -driven vocational training plan with the participation of the private sector will be put in place.

4.5 WORK ATTACHMENT AND MENTORSHIP SCHEME

Develop a work attachments and mentorship scheme with the private sector in particular will constitute a major component of the Vocational Training Plan.

4.6 ESTABLISH A NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

Further establishing a foundation for the 4th Industrial Revolution, UDC will establish a national Research and Development Fund which will be accessible to all accredited tertiary academic institutions to address the scientific and technological needs of the country as well as STEAM Education programmes. The private sector and international partners will be encouraged to contribute towards the Research Fund.

4.7 RESTORE SPORTS IN SCHOOLS

Restore sports in schools to maintain good physical and mental health among learners.

4.8 ESTABLISH A NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

Establish a National Scientific, Industrial and Research Council made up of competent academics, private sector, civil society organizations and labour to oversee the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the country's Policy on Science and Technology Development.

4.9 INTRODUCE CIVIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Introduce civic education curriculum at all level to ensure that the educational system also imparts desirable values among the citizens such that they become patriotic, accountable, self-less and responsible citizens and leaders who are committed to an inclusive, equitable and prosperous society for all.

Outcome: A creative, innovative and empowering education, research and human development system is established and its graduates are actively contributing to knowledge development for the global system.





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**PILLAR 5
HEALTHCARE, SOCIAL
PROTECTION AND GENDER
EQUALITY**

PILLAR 5: HEALTHCARE, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Objectives: Produce a healthy, caring, supportive and protective system which is integrative, respecting and inclusive to all Batswana regardless of their social stations and social status.

Current Reality

The Botswana health system can be described as inequitable, under resourced, overstretched, and generally inadequate/poor for providing healthy living. For an upper middle income country, the inequity in health services and the low health indicators like the high maternal and neonatal mortalities (maternal mortality of 193 per 100 000 live births), low numbers of health professionals for the population (two doctors, two midwives and 26 nurses per 10 000 people) and 1.8 hospital beds per 1 000 people is unacceptable. Health facilities are characterized by inadequacy of medicines and health utilities, overcrowding and unhealthy environs. Whereas a significant amount of the budget (9% 2024 budget) is provided for health services, the resultant services are far from satisfactory mainly due to corruption and inefficiencies within the current government system.

The country has failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for health, specifically goal 4 on child health, goal 5 on maternal health and goal 6 on reversing the prevalence and impacts of HIV/AIDS pandemic. Instead, the country has been caught in the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases; HIV/AIDS epidemic remains uncontrollable together with its associated conditions and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes are rampant.

There is total neglect of mental health support system in the country. The worst experience the nation has suffered due to the inadequacy and unpreparedness of the health system of the country was during the COVID outbreak. A health care system is more than just treatment of disease.

Health care systems need to be integrated with other services such as early childhood development to protect against sicknesses, generating a sense of life security and promoting health equity (Maganu in autobiography). It needs to be able to respond effectively and efficiently to emerging health challenges.

A Commission set up by the Director General of the World Health Organisation 2007, on Social Determinants of Health recommended areas governments could use to tackle health problems as:

- a. Early childhood development and education powerful equalizers (equity from the start).
- b. Healthy places - Healthy people: why place matters for health equity.
- c. Fair employment and decent work: Employment and working conditions effects on health and health equity.
- d. Social protection across life-course: Poverty and living standards are powerful determinants of ill health and health inequity.
- e. Universal health care. The relationship between health care and health equity.

Health care systems are a powerful determinant of health.

The BDP government's non-responsiveness to the above, aggravated by high staff turnover due to poor working conditions and dilapidated infrastructure from lack of maintenance has resulted in the almost total collapse of the health system in the country.

5.1 HEALTH AND HEALTH PROTECTION

The UDC Government intends to:

- a. **Introduce a National Health Insurance Scheme** that will afford all Batswana to access all the health services available.
- b.. **Establish** a comprehensive mental health system
- c. **Ensure a quality Ante and Post-natal care** that will ensure that both the mother and childcare are provided for from the beginning. The UDC believes that no mother has to die while delivering life.
- d. Provide three months package of sanitary ware for the mothers and babies and a three hundred pula (**P300/pm**) per month allowance for the baby thereafter until the baby turns one year old. Particular attention will be paid to early childhood development in keeping with the WHO recommendations on social determinants of health.
- e. Ensure **Regulated Medicines Pricing** - access to affordable medicines is critical in the functioning of a health care system. The UDC will ensure there is a transparent medicines pricing system that enables access to medicines at affordable prices by the public.

f. **Facilitate local production of vaccines and medicines** through collaboration with regional research institutions pursue development and production of vaccines for identified and emerging medical conditions locally. Medical research including research in the use of industrial Hemp and medical marijuana will be pursued.

g. **Provide for medical personnel training and specialization.** Training of medical personnel will be up scaled. The UDC considers the situation of two doctors and two midwives per 10 000 people and the long waiting periods of up to two years for patients to see specialists unacceptable. Medical practitioners will be encouraged to set up local health facilities and be paid through the National Medical Insurance Scheme.

h. **Establish a Patient Data Management System** that is confidential and secure which will enable real time access to patient data by medical practitioners and assist in medical research to inform policy. It will eliminate duplication and pills seeking tendencies.

i. **Intergrade rehabilitation for substance abuse victims and mental health patients in strategic localities** in the existing public health facilities in recognition of the huge challenge the nation is facing with substance abuse and associated mental health conditions.

j. The UDC Government will improve hygiene/ sanitation of our people by eliminating the pit latrines especially in schools.

k. The UDC Government will provide free sanitary pads for all primary and secondary school female students in Botswana. This will be implemented the very first month of assuming office.

l. Facilitate the private sector and NGO's to establish facilities to cater for old age pensioners

m. Establish world class health facility for non-communicable diseases such as cancers, kidney diseases, and others.

5.2 UDC'S GENDER EQUALITY ACTION PLAN

Gender Equality

Current situation

The total population of Botswana is 2,359 609 of which 1,209001 are female and 1, 150608 are male yet the labour force is 50.6% male and 49.9% female. Unemployment rates are 16.3% male and 18.9% women. Thus, the inequality of access to employment opportunities for women is glaring.

Employment

Women's Work is more unpaid than that of males. Cultural and current capitalistic norms devalue women's family responsibilities in day-to-day livelihood provision. There is no financial social security support for unemployed expectant women, despite the cultural and physiological obligations for childbearing. Women are the primary care givers within families from child rearing, care of the elderly and the infirm males. Notably 18.9% of the unemployed in Botswana are women. Whilst there is paid maternity leave for formally employed women, therefore financial support for pregnant and nursing women, the unemployed women lack equivalent social support at this crucial, family and nation building stage that is at a vulnerable child-bearing stage in women's lives. The absence of a social support structure for women at this stage establishes a cycle of financial dependency on extended family and especially male support in single family unit structures, which have become more prevalent with urbanization and therefore increases the lack of equity in economic access.

Discrimination

Women in Botswana experience insidious discrimination based on the entrenched cultural beliefs and practices that consider females as less deserving of respect and dignity than men. Women in Botswana only have 64% of the same rights afforded to men ([https:// blogs.worldbank.org](https://blogs.worldbank.org)). The gender equality rating for Botswana for 2022 was 0.719 compared to Namibia at 0.807 and Iceland which is the global leading country in gender equality rating at 0.908. Economic and political opportunities for women in Botswana are extremely limited.



Sexual violence

Women and Girls in Botswana experience more sexual violence thus live with underlying psychological and physical insecurities. Some 67% of women have experienced abuse in Botswana, a figure which is over double the global average (unfpa.org). According to the UNDP, patriarchal ideologies condone violence against women or, at best, ignore its perpetuation within the Botswana society.

More women and girls are victims of gender-based violence committed by family members or intimate partners estimated at around 55% of female homicides.

23% of Women and girls report experiencing sexual harassment in public spaces and at work (Botswana: GBV Briefing Note 2019).

Botswana's dual legal system which permits some customary laws to discriminate against women as reported through research studies that attest that gender inequity, such as "...a man's right to beat his partner if she disobeys him" (Shannon, 2012 in Botswana GBV Briefing Note 2019) among other examples of male power over females.

5.3 WIDOWS' RIGHT TO ACCESS AND/INHERIT LAND

The deprivation of inheritance at the death of a spouse, is encouraged by patriarchal customs which are manipulated in favour of the husband's close family relations, whilst the widow is confined to seclusion and isolation during the period of mourning, as dictated by custom. Eviction of widows from their land and property is perpetrated at this time and is inimical to the promotion of gender equality, human rights and the long-held culture of botho.

The UDC Government is:

- a. Commit to assuring Human Rights, dignity for all and specifically application of these principles for women to be guaranteed by the Constitution the rights to equity, personal respect and principles of dignity embedded in application of enhanced national principles of Botho, through the establishment of a Bill of Rights as a central core of the revised and Botswana Constitution.
- b. Will assure that Botswana is not only be signatory, but also, an implementor of the UN's instruments that support all aspects on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and assurance of their right to equity and life.
- c. Commit to providing social support system for all expectant mothers to assure safety nets for women's economic sustenance of mother and child well-being as well as equity.
- d. Will assure sustained empowerment of women through their direct consultation and engagement on issues of concern and gain women's perspectives and resolution of issues based on their experiences in living under the traditionally oppressive dominant patriarchal culture.
- e. Undertake regular policy gap analysis, identification of necessary constructive actions and establishment of essential regulatory frameworks supported by Laws created through the new Constitution.
- f. Confront GBV by establishing a capable, ethical and developmental state which guarantees safety and security for all its citizens: it will transform the economy to address poverty, income equality and create jobs and support women's political empowerment for equitable contribution to nationhood.
- g. Develop social welfare services for individuals, families and communities to promote mental well-being. The UDC Government will establish social grant systems to children, older persons, persons with disabilities to assist in reducing the emotional and financial burden for family caregivers and strengthen family support systems.
- h. Create special funds to promote startup and small businesses including SMMEs for all women encourage production clusters through cooperative community financing, micro-lending enterprises and training in principles of financial literacy and accountability to assure sustainable development and poverty reduction.
- i. Institute gender fair national strategic plan against Gender based violence and femicide. It will resource counselling services and provide safe houses and shelters for persons affected by gender-based violence.

j. The UDC will abolish the current system where women may be customarily deprived of access to their marital property and or are denied their right to access/inherit land and property through patriarchal customs that support from their land at widowhood state has emerged as a serious land grabbing practice in Botswana.

k. UDC will ensure that the relevant legal instruments in the new Constitution develop a coherent and overarching approach to inheritance of land and property for women and widows. It shall promote and protect women's rights to land and property; assure the rights of widows to inherit the family home, land and property acquired jointly through marriage.

5.4 CHILDREN, YOUTH, CREATIVE ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORTS

Current Reality

According to the 2022 Population Census, the youth (aged 18 to 35 years) accounted for 30 percent of Botswana's total population. A youthful population is potentially a great social and economic dividend for a country where innovations, creativity and critical analysis of ideas and adoption of technologies are critical to enhance productivity and competitiveness. Most of the youth reside in urban areas. Despite the advantages associated with a youthful population in the country, several challenges face this segment of the population and the BDP past and present governments have proved incapable of dealing with these challenges. These challenges include the following:

- a. High levels of unemployment currently estimated at about 44% and most of whom have post-secondary education and others school dropouts from primary and secondary schools.
- b. Lack of facilities to harness youth talent leading to high drug addiction, and involvement in crime activities such as robbery and theft
- c. Poverty leading to prostitution and sexual abuse
- d. Limited skills for gainful employment,
- e. Hopelessness and desperation among youth resulting in mental health problems.
- f. Neglecting of extra-curricular activities such as sports, music, art and craft and innovation and creativity, etc., in schools,

g. Femicide (Passion killing) and GBV.

5.5 YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

UDC Government will:

- a. Develop a comprehensive plan to unearth and encourage youth talent from primary schools throughout to tertiary education institutions.
- b. Prioritize the youth in employment creation initiatives across all sectors of the Economy.
- c. Re-introduce school sports and renovate all school playgrounds and reward sport teachers appropriately.
- d. Establish state-of -the-art youth infrastructure and facilities for arts, culture, music and sports to support the development of world class artists and athletes in the country. Support accredited sports academies to improve sports as part of youth empowerment.
- e. Establish a Fund for sports and creative arts promotion in both primary & secondary schools and identify and/or import teachers in these areas.
- f. Train teachers and pay them well to drive these neglected talents and economic drivers.
- g. Intensify youth training in tertiary and technical training to acquire appropriate skills for employment.
- h. Increase the acquisition of STEAM and 4th Industrial Revolution skills and knowledge to enhance innovativeness, creativity and problem-solving skills.
- i. Establish a Creative Arts Fund for the youth to access for self-employment and business growth.
- j. Promote and support district, regional, national and international youth arts, sport, cultural and music competitions to acquire technical and entrepreneurial skills and knowledge for business growth.
- k. Promote and support national and international job attachment.
- l. Build regional hubs/academies for creative arts, sports and athletes.
- m. Revive and improve the utilization of arts technical training institutions such as Oodi College of Applied Arts and Technology.

n. Promote community-based sporting facilities such as swimming pools, sports grounds and entertainment facilities where unemployed youth and retired sportsmen and sportswomen can use and keep active.

5.6 LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY AND TRADE UNIONISM

UDC Government is committed to:

- a. Enable growth of unionism and fully empowerment of the labour movement across all sectors of the economy.
- b. Encourage unionization of both public and private sector workers including those in Retail and Tourism industries.
- c. Ratify all critical regional, continental and international labour conventions and resuscitate the bargaining council.
- d. Ensure that labour is a fully recognized and consulted social partner in national development.
- e. Promote collective bargaining and unity among labour unions.
- f. Promote decent work, continuous professional development, re-skilling and invest and re-deployment of misplaced skills.

5.7 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, RETIRED PERSONS ORGANIZATIONS AND CHURCH/RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Under the BDP rule civil society organizations are marginalized and denied resources to play their independent development role.

The UDC Government will:

- a. Establish an independently managed fund by devoting 1% of annual national budget to Non-governmental organization(NGO) or civil society organization(CSO) and Retired persons development programmes.
- b. Encourage NGO/CSOs to use the fund to implement care-giving, educational, rehabilitation, old-age homes and recreational services to complement government provided services.
- c. Retired persons with experience, skills and expertise will be assisted to continue working in the areas of their expertise such as education, agriculture, counselling and crime prevention activities.

d. Ensure that religious and civil society organizations are allocated land to worship and run activities that serve the needs of the membership.

e. Establish a fund to subsidize community-based CSOs' and religious' activities in education, health, water, environment, etc.

f. Transform lpelegeng into public works with decent wages and centres for public education for skills development with opportunity to be promoted into public service or self-employment.

Outcome: A social empowered, healthy and health insured, participatory society and non-governmental organizations is created to give extra-care services, protect rights and freedoms, fight crime and degenerating behavior of drugs and substance abuse is democratic and sustained.





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PILLAR 6 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GLOBAL MARKETS

Charisma

PILLAR 6: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GLOBAL MARKETS

Objectives: Create a regionally and globally active, vocal and respected Botswana nation with clear democratic value system, enjoying fair share of its rightful benefits from international markets, competitions and job opportunities.

Current Reality

The world has become globally highly integrated through international law (the UN System), economy and international trade, technology, politically and through other systems of competition including sport and entertainment. These globalizing and integrating systems also bring with them positive and negative inequalities in trade, investment, technology, sport and entertainment which affect nations differently. It is in this context, that Botswana like other nations, must join and sustain all those relations with neighbours, the region, the African continent and the international community to ensure that her advocacy voice in among others promoting human rights and democracy, justice, good governance, fair treatment and international peace and economic and environmental justice is heard and implemented.

The BDP government stated very well in this regard, by opposing racial discrimination and Apartheid policies of the then oppressive white led regimes in Southern Africa and colonialism anywhere in the world. However, over the years, the same BDP government has allowed itself to fall into the trap of bipolar politics of superpowers and supported the one side against the other. This has weakened the country's voice in international community.

The UDC Government will:

- Establish a robust foreign policy that clearly defines the guiding principles of Botswana's international relations.
- Promote international peace, justice, democracy and good governance.
- Promote fair regional and international trade and competition for industrialization and prosperity for all.
- Support all sporting and entertainment competitions.
- Promote reform of the global governance system and rapid adoption of pro- environment policies and just transition to green economy.

f. Ensure sustained support and advocacy for the freedom of oppressed people of the world and openly condemn bad governance and undemocratic elections in any country.

g. Promote pro-poor policies and reduction of inequalities within and between nations.

h. Support, promote and adhere to all appropriate sport and entertainment competitions in order to set rules and ensure our sportsmen and women of all recognized sporting codes are integrated into global competitions and enjoy the associated financial benefits.

i. Introduce a robust security system which is also decentralize to local communities.

j. Review all the current signed trade agreements while at the same time adhering to the obligations and commitments of all the trade agreements.

Outcome: A well-respected nation of equals in the community of nations.





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UMBRELLA FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

This document expresses the ideas, aspirations, and hopes of citizens from across Botswana. They yearn for change and are indebted to a committee established by the UDC to collate and document what is in their hearts. The committee led by Dr. Patrick Molutsi included Dr. Sigwele Howard, Dr. Kay Raseroka, Mr. Edison Wotho, Dr. Marcus Chimbombi, and Mr. Pele Maunge.