



UDC

Umbrella_{for}
Democratic
Change

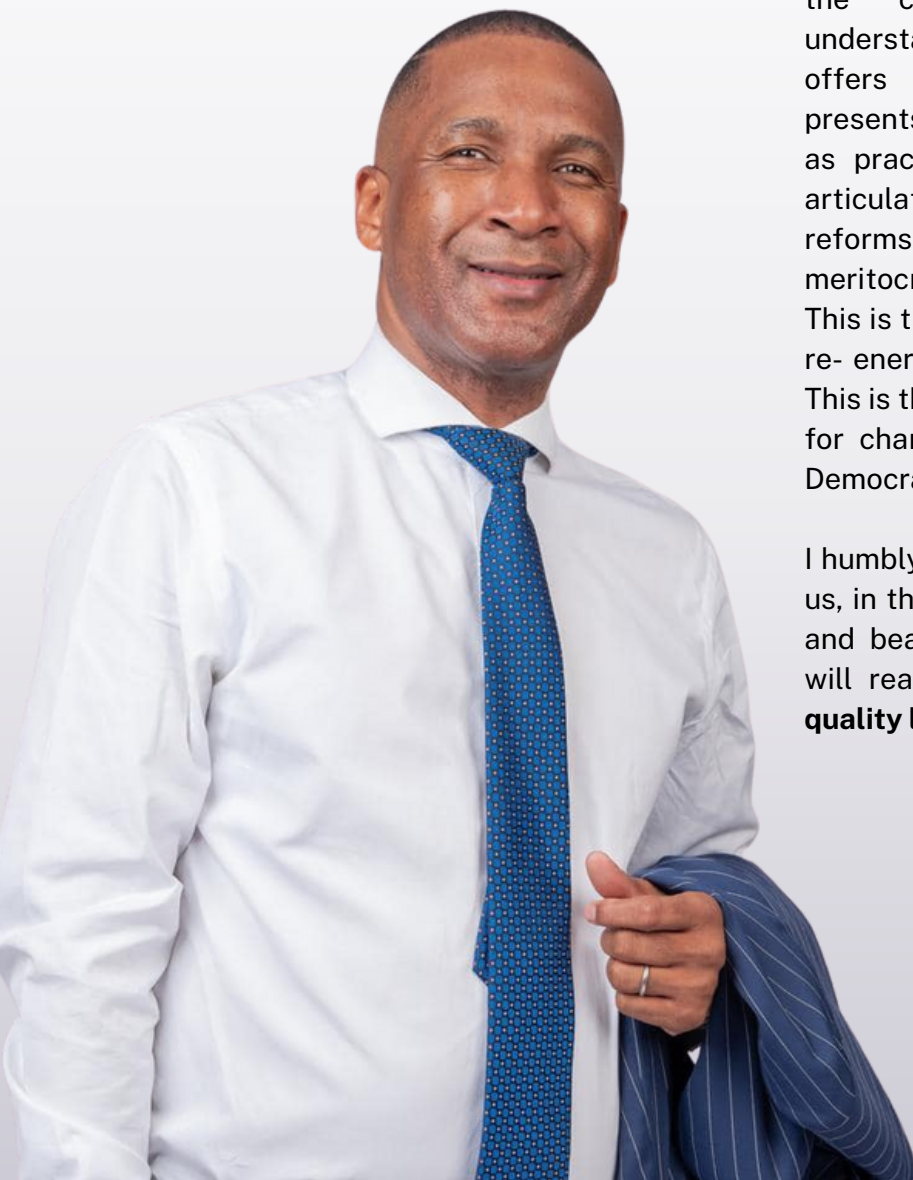
INCLUSIVE GROWTH QUALITY LIVES

UDC MANIFESTO FOR 2024
BOTSWANA ELECTIONS

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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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.