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# Settling In Amid Fiscal Challenges:

An Assessment of the  
Government of Botswana's  
First Year in Office

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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>The African Citizens Watch Platform</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Background</b>	<b>05</b>
The Botswana Democratic Party and Its 58 Years of Rule	05
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Findings: What Has Government Achieved?</b>	<b>12</b>
Social Services	13
Economy	16
Governance	18
Corruption	20
Climate Change	21
<b>Lessons Learnt</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>25</b>

# List of Tables

Overview of Progress Across Sectors	13
Overview of Social Services Sector Performance	14
Overview of Economic Sector Performance	16
Overview of Governance Sector Performance	18
Overview of Corruption Sector Performance	20
Overview of Climate Change Sector Performance	21

# List of Figures

Sources Used by Botswana Citizens Watch	09
Promise Assessment Scoring	11

# List of Textboxes

Case Study: Health Care in Crisis Mode	15
Case Study: Diamond Sales and the De Beers Deal	17

# List of Abbreviations

<b>ACW</b>	African Citizens Watch
<b>BCP</b>	Botswana Congress Party
<b>BDF</b>	Botswana Defence Force
<b>BDP</b>	Botswana Democratic Party
<b>BMD</b>	Botswana Movement for Democracy
<b>BNF</b>	Botswana National Front
<b>BWP</b>	Botswana Pula
<b>CPI</b>	Corruption Perception Index
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GIA</b>	Government Investment Account
<b>SONA</b>	State of the Nation Address
<b>SWF</b>	Sovereign Wealth Fund
<b>UDC</b>	Umbrella for Democratic Change

# Introduction

This report provides an analysis of the Government of Botswana's performance for the period from November 2024 to November 2025. The study is based on data collected using the Botswana Citizens Watch [Tracker](#). The tracker collects actions undertaken by the government to fulfil promises made in the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) 2024 election manifesto. The UDC was established in November 2012 as a coalition of opposition parties in Botswana, initially bringing together the Botswana National Front (BNF), Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD), and Botswana People's Party to contest the 2014 general elections. Its formation was a strategic response to the dominance of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), which had governed since independence in 1966. Scholars argue that coalition politics emerged as the most viable mechanism

for opposition parties to challenge the entrenched one-party dominance, despite historical difficulties in forging sustainable alliances (Sebudubudu, Bodilenyane & Kwerepe, 2016). The UDC aimed to consolidate resources, harmonise electoral strategies, and present a unified alternative government, later expanding to include the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) in 2017, which would later withdraw from the coalition in 2023. This coalition marked a significant shift in Botswana's political landscape, culminating in its historic victory in 2024, which ended nearly six decades of BDP rule and signalled a new era of democratic competition (Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2024; Botswana Youth Magazine, 2024).

The leader of the UDC, Advocate Duma Boko, was then inaugurated as President of Botswana on the 4th of November 2024. This report follows

the 100-day [report](#) published in February 2025 as an assessment of what the government had achieved in that period. Although we appreciate that the new government of Botswana has a five-year term the runs until

2029, we also believe in regular assessments of its performance in meeting electoral and other major policy promises, which are the sole purpose of this report.





# The African Citizens Watch Platform

The African Citizens Watch ([ACW](#)) Tracker is an independent platform developed and deployed by [SIVIO Institute](#) to track the performance and effectiveness of African governments based on the pledges made in election manifestos and other important policy pronouncements. The platform was initially piloted in Zimbabwe in 2018 and has since expanded to track four (4) other governments: Botswana (Botswana Citizens Watch), Malawi (Malawi Citizens Watch), South Africa (South Africa Citizens Watch) and Zambia (Zambia Citizens Watch). The platform captures and reports publicly reported actions of the various governments as they relate to the promises made to the electorate. These promises are categorised under five (5) sectors: economy, social services, governance, corruption, and climate change.

The tracking initiative serves as a way of empowering the citizens and other stakeholders with valuable information on the progress of the government, and

at the same time allows governments and policy makers to have a mirror view of their promises against their achievements during their term. The live tracking and the reports are, therefore, a valuable tool that allows for data and context-based analysis of a government.

The Botswana Citizens Watch [Tracker](#) is populated using promises drawn from the UDC manifesto and is regularly updated based on the actions that the government undertakes against these promises. The platform tracks the extent to which a government has made progress on promises made. Three (3) stages are considered: promises where no actions have been taken, those that are in progress to be completed and the promises that have been completed. There is also a fourth category, 'broken promise', which is flagged when a government does the exact opposite of what it had promised.

This Botswana Barometer report

focuses on the progress made by the Government of Botswana, led by President Duma Boko, in converting the promises made in the run-up to the 2024 general elections, which were won by the UDC party. This report established that there were 171 promises made, and of these, none have been fully implemented, 23 are in progress to be completed, and no actions have been taken towards the implementation of 148 promises. If, during its term of office, the Government of Botswana makes other major policy promises outside of the ones in the election manifesto, these will also be added to the tracker. The report covers the period from 4 November 2024 to 4 November 2025.

The report is divided into five (5) sections. The following sub-section provides a broader background and contextual analysis of policymaking and

implementation in the past year.

Governments do not operate in a vacuum and are not devoid of any legacy or historical issues or challenges that have a bearing on their performance. The methodology behind the tracker and the assessment of performance is discussed immediately after the background and contextual analysis. Then, we discuss the performance of the Government of Botswana using the five (5) themes in the tracker (Economy, Governance, Climate Change, Corruption and Social Services). In this section, we have added case studies about performance in certain areas to enhance the monitoring discussion by highlighting good and bad practices alike. The report concludes by outlining some of the key lessons learnt based on what the Government of Botswana achieved or did not achieve during this period.



# Background

## The Botswana Democratic Party and Its 58 Years of Rule

Over a period of almost six (6) decades, Botswana rose from a British protectorate with no recognisable economic activity to one of Africa's best-performing economies. Over the course of this period, the BDP was in charge, winning the country's previous 11 general elections. Throughout this journey, the country managed to build an economy centred on diamonds. The mining and selling of the precious stones in the country is done through the global diamond market leader, De Beers (Hillborn, 2008). Notably, the country managed to establish its own university and fund its education and health sectors to the extent that the services became almost free to all citizens (Taylor, 2005). This and many other achievements won the BDP the trust and, consequently, the vote of Botswana citizens, at least until 2024.

Despite the success of the country in the 58 years of the BDP, the majority vote of the BDP has been on a decline and eventually fell below the 50% mark. Among the key challenges,

unemployment and youth graduate unemployment skyrocketed to new heights (Seabo & Molebatsi, 2017). Heading to the 2024 elections, unemployment had risen to over 27% (Statistics Botswana, 2024), and the economy was besieged by many other problems. At the centre of the economic decline was the fall in diamond sales resulting from, among other factors, the global financial markets and the introduction of synthetic diamonds. De Beers, which is the major partner to the Botswana government and the largest diamond trader globally, reduced production across many of its mines as sales remain sluggish, especially in China - one of its largest markets (Graff, 2024). The BDP, under the leadership of Mokgweetsi Masisi (2018-2024), also struggled to keep the country's foreign reserves stable, and by 2024, the Government Investment Account (GIA) was almost running dry (Sekgweng, 2025). The poor economic performance, a struggling education and health system, and rising problems

such as unemployment and income inequality were key to plotting the downfall of the BDP. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Botswana declined by 3% in 2024, and half a million people out of a population of 2.5 million were living on less than US\$3 a day - a clear depiction of the struggle that the economy of the country was in (World Bank, 2025). Poor performance in the education sector, evidenced by declining pass rates in the Junior Certificate Examinations and the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education, low teacher morale, poor education facilities and many others, also added fire to an already burning government (Suping, 2022). The party, over the years, also saw a few splits emanating from power struggles within the party. This increased the number of opposition parties. The Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD) was formed as a breakaway party from the BDP in 2010, and the Botswana Patriotic Front, with former president Seretse Khama Ian Khama as its patron, was also born from the BDP just before the 2019 elections. These breakaways split the voter base of the ruling BDP, ahead of the 2024 elections.

Despite being ranked as one of the least corrupt countries in Africa, there was growing concern as the country's ranking in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) dropped (Gaolathe, 2025). In the 2024 CPI, Botswana scored 57 out of 100 and was ranked 43rd out of 180 countries (Transparency International, 2025). While this is a respectable score, it represents a

decrease of 2 points since 2023. This, therefore, marked a major shift in the political and governance landscape of the country.

### The 2024 General Elections, the UDC Manifesto and the New Government

On the 29th of October 2024, Botswana went to the polls with the UDC, BCP and the incumbent BDP as the key contesting parties. Going into the elections, all the parties had a manifesto that they used to garner support from citizens. The UDC, which would emerge victorious, had a manifesto that covered a variety of issues. At the centre of this manifesto was a renewed war on corruption, the creation of 500,000 jobs in 5 years, the provision of decent housing to all, and an increase in social nets such as the old age pension and student allowances, among other promises.

### Setting Up and the Initial Fiscal Challenges

The new Government of Botswana under the UDC was met with a myriad of challenges once it took office, largely owing to the fiscal position of the country. The Vice President, who is also the Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, in his inaugural budget speech, presented in February 2025, painted a gloomy picture as the country's key resource, diamonds, was not selling. The government reserves are also running almost dry, with the GIA having registered significant drops over the past few years due to declining exports and standing at just

over BWP2 billion from over BWP75 billion a decade ago (Mguni, 2025). This, without a doubt, meant that the initial stages of the new government will not be without its fair share of fiscal challenges. Despite the presentation of a budget which sought to renew hope, these challenges continue today and have hampered the implementation of many planned projects. At worst, the Ministry of Finance almost came to the brink of failing to fund the government wage bill, prompting the treasury to resort to local and international

borrowing (The Botswana Gazette, 2025a). On the health front, the shortage of medicine and medical equipment in almost all government hospitals, coupled with a huge bill that the government owes to private health providers, led the President to declare a State of Health Emergency in August 2025. Despite some improvements, the Ministry of Health still acknowledges that the challenges in its ministry are far from over (Mitchell, 2025).

# Methodology

This assessment of the performance of the Government of Botswana is based on empirical evidence that we have been gathering during the process of real-time tracking. The process entails tracking individual actions, verifying, and scoring the Government of Botswana's progress on its policy promises. The scoring approach ensures objectivity, transparency and sectoral comparability by applying a standardised scoring system to each promise, then aggregating results by sector. To build the tracker, 171 policy promises were extracted from the UDC manifesto, which was launched in Tlokweng before the 2024 general elections. The promises are categorised into five (5) key sectors: Economy (35% of promises),

Governance (25% of promises), Corruption (3% of promises), Climate Change (2% of promises), and Social Services (36% of promises). All governmental actions tracked in this report are captured and archived on the Botswana Citizens Watch [Tracker](#). This live, open-access digital repository compiles evidence-based updates and records progress made against each declared government promise. Each entry is supported by verifiable public data, including parliamentary records, departmental announcements, budget documentation, and independent audits. Actions taken by the government to fulfil each promise are tracked using a variety of reliable sources, as shown in Figure 1.

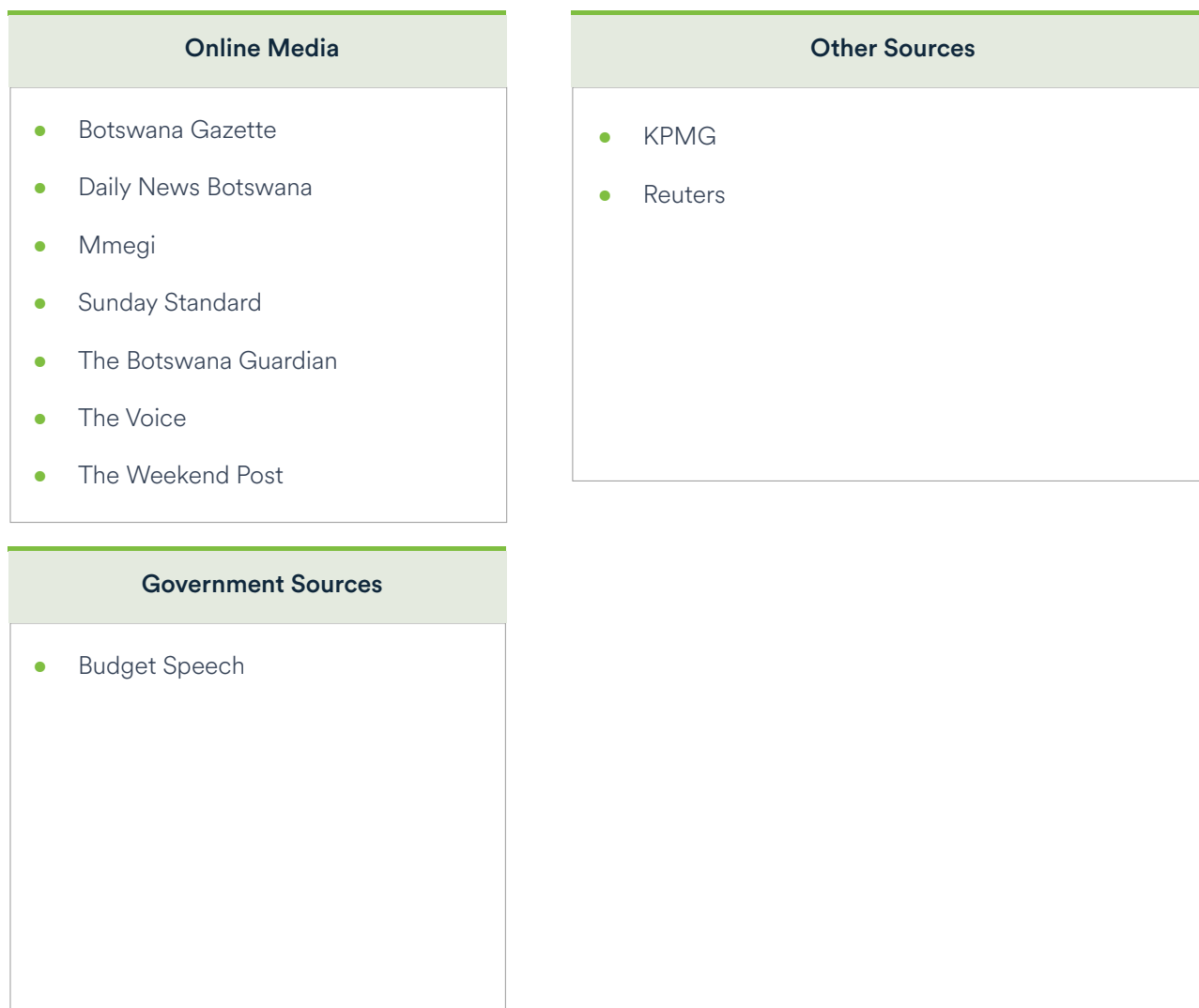


FIGURE 1 **Sources Used by Botswana Citizens Watch**

A tangible action that we record on our tracker comprises a set of activities spearheaded by the government, even in partnership with the private sector, multilateral agencies or bilateral partners, but there must be a direct government contribution. While using the sources mentioned above, the Botswana Citizens Watch Tracker

records only published developments; if the government has done something but unfortunately did not publish it, the tracker will not have knowledge of the action. We have established the five (5) categories of promise assessment as follows:

1

### **In Progress**

This is where the actions towards fulfilment of the promise have started, but are not comprehensive, and more should be done towards fully implementing the promise.

2

### **Implemented**

This is where the government actions have completely dealt with the promise, and work has been done to full capacity.

3

### **Not Commenced**

This is where there has not been any movement towards fulfilling the promise.

4

### **Modified**

This is when the government, due to other circumstances, has amended the promise to include/remove other things but towards the same goal.

5

### **Broken**

This is where government actions have gone directly opposite to what they initially promised.

All reported actions are triangulated and fact-checked across multiple sources before being recorded on the Botswana Citizens Watch [Tracker](#). Each promise is assigned a status and corresponding score based on its implementation progress.

Promises classified as "In Progress" are evaluated using a set of clearly defined indicators that measure the extent and quality of government action towards fulfilling each commitment. The scoring for "In Progress" promises ranges from 1 to 13 points, reflecting varying degrees of completion. This assessment considers the following key

factors:

- Legal Foundations: Has the necessary legal or regulatory framework been established to support the promise?
- Financial Commitment: Have adequate budgetary allocations or funding mechanisms been put in place?
- Human Resources: Are the required personnel or ministries available and mobilised?
- Time and Implementation Milestones: Has the government



set and met clear timelines or achieved significant milestones towards completion?

Each promise is scored based on how comprehensively these resources and actions have been deployed.

A higher score within the 7–13 range indicates substantial progress, with most critical resources and steps in place, while a score lower than 7 reflects limited action or partial fulfilment.

ACTION		MAXIMUM SCORE <b>14</b> points possible	
New Strategy		Yes = 1	No = 0
Policy Reform (+) Incentive	2x weight	Yes = 2	No = 0
Policy Reform (-) Dis-enabler	2x weight	Yes = 2	No = 0
Does it fit in an existing Legal Framework?		Yes = 1	No = 0
Has a new law been established?		Yes = 1	No = 0
Has budget implications: New resources have been allocated		Yes = 1	No = 0
Fits within an existing ministry		Yes = 1	No = 0
Cross ministry/agency collaboration established		Yes = 1	No = 0
Time-frame-fits within current annual planning cycle	2x weight	Yes = 2	No = 0
Is it a fully implemented policy?	5x weight	Yes = 5	No = 0
Barometer Action Score		TOTAL	

FIGURE 2 Promise Assessment Scoring

For each sector, the average score is calculated by summing the scores of all promises classified under that sector and dividing by the total number of pledges in the sector. This approach enables sector-by-sector comparison and highlights areas of relative strength

or weakness in government performance. The overall government assessment score is determined by aggregating sectoral averages, providing a comprehensive snapshot of progress across all policy domains.

# Findings: What Has Government Achieved?

This section unpacks the progress made by the Government of Botswana in fulfilling the 171 promises outlined in the UDC manifesto. In the past 12 months, 25 actions have been recorded, with the Economy sector leading at 10, followed by Social Services with seven (7) actions. No

promises have been fully “Implemented” or “Broken.” Twenty-three (23) promises (13% of total promises) are currently “In Progress.” After a year in office, the Government of Botswana has made 13% progress towards fulfilling the promises made in the election manifesto.

TABLE 1 Overview of Progress Across Sectors

Sector	# promises	# actions	% Fully Implemented	% Broken	% In Progress	Assessment Score
Social Service	62	7	0%	0%	10%	12%
Economy	57	10	0%	0%	18%	9%
Governance	43	3	0%	0%	7%	3%
Corruption	6	4	0%	0%	50%	22%
Climate Change	3	1	0%	0%	33%	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>

## Social Services

Unlike the other four (4) countries<sup>1</sup> being tracked, where the majority of the promises are under Economy, in Botswana, most promises are made under Social Services. A total of 62 promises are being tracked in this sector. The promises made account for 36% of all the promises made in the UDC manifesto. This is largely due to the socialist influence of the BNF, as well as the state-led economy of Botswana, with different social protection programs.

During the period under review, a total of seven (7) actions have been undertaken towards the implementation of the 62 promises under this sector. Six (6) promises in this sector are currently “In Progress,” while no actions have been undertaken for 56 promises; no promises have been “Implemented” or “Broken.” This sector has a total score of 12%.

<sup>1</sup> Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe

TABLE 2 Overview of Social Services Sector Performance

Subsector	# Promises	# Actions	Assessment Score
Land Allocation	5	0	0%
Land and Housing	5	2	11%
Levies and Rates	2	1	50%
Health	8	1	11%
Emergency and Disaster Management	1	0	0%
Electricity	8	0	0%
Education	9	1	11%
Sanitation and Water	3	0	0%
Youth, Sports and Culture	12	1	5%
Pension	1	1	50%
Social Security	8	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12%</b>

One of the promises made under this sector was to increase the old age pension from BWP830.00 (US\$60) to BWP1,800.00 (US\$130). The Government of Botswana has made progress towards fulfilling this promise by increasing the pension to BWP1,400.00 (US\$101) and promised to further increase it to the promised amount as the economy recovers. The increase came into effect at the start of the 2025/2026 financial year (BOPA, 2025).

The UDC, in its manifesto, made a promise to build 100,000 houses over five (5) years, and launched the Bonno Housing Scheme in March 2025 (News&All, 2025). The initiative aims to deliver 61,000 new homes across the

country's 61 constituencies, with each constituency set to receive 1,000 housing units to address the national housing deficit. The Minister of Water and Settlement in October 2025 advised that the government was in the process of constructing 34,567 houses countrywide, although a closer look at the numbers shows that almost 30,000 of these housing units will come from a collaboration with the Botswana Housing Corporation and the private sector (Mathala, 2025).

The Government of Botswana has also rolled out a program to offer free sanitary pads to all school-going girls at a cost of BWP69 million (US\$5 million) and as well as a BWP300.00 (US\$22) allowance to all new mothers as part of

post-natal care (The Botswana Gazette, [2025b](#)). The latter, however, has since been moved forward and will be implemented in the 2026/2027 financial year.

On water and electricity, the government in March 2025 announced a 30% cut for domestic users; however, in October 2025, remarks by President Duma Boko in an address to Batswana in Geneva during an official visit pointed out a possible increase since the government cannot afford to subsidise electricity (Timothy, 2025).

The UDC made a promise to increase tertiary student monthly allowances to BWP2,500.00 (*US\$180*) from the

current BWP1,900.00 (*US\$137*).

However, this promise is still to be initiated and has prompted grievances from student bodies, almost culminating in a demonstration (Mbuya, 2025). The government, however, has increased monthly allowances of vocational students from BWP300.00 (*US\$22*) to BWP1,900.00 (*US\$137*), therefore making it at par with those of all other tertiary students (Manyepedza, [2025](#)).

Overall, 55 out of the 62 promises under Social Services remain at the “Not Commenced” stage as the country marks its first anniversary of the new government.

### Case Study: Health Care in Crisis Mode

One of the main challenges facing Botswana and the new government is the healthcare system. Across the country, there is a shortage of medicine and medical supplies. The shortage is across a range of illnesses, including hypertension, cancer, diabetes, tuberculosis, asthma, and mental and sexual health. As of February 2025, the government also declared that it owed private hospitals more than BWP1.5 billion (*US\$108 million*) in medical bills (Tlthankane, [2025](#)).

The President declared a State of Public Health Emergency in August 2025 that lasted for 21 days. The aim was to accelerate the procurement and supply of medicines. However, the state of emergency did not fully bring the country out of this critical phase. In addition to government procurement, the country received several donations to its healthcare system from the Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation and countries such as Zimbabwe, the United States of America and the United Arab Emirates (APA News, [2025](#)). Despite the government's release of almost BWP250 million (*US\$18 million*) for the purchase of medicines and the different donations, the country's healthcare remains in crisis mode. The Minister of Health and the Head of State continue to promise that they aim to resolve this crisis in a short period. In his 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA) on the 10th of November 2025, President Duma Boko acknowledged that the supply of medicines was only 36%, which is critically low for a country where many citizens are fully reliant on the government healthcare system.

# Economy

Out of the 171 total promises made in the UDC manifesto, 57 promises fell under the Economy sector. During the period under review, a total of 10 actions have been taken by the

government. Ten promises are currently “In Progress” whilst 47 have not commenced yet. This translates to a 9% assessment score for the sector.

TABLE 3    Overview of Economic Sector Performance

Subsector	# Promises	# Actions	Assessment Score
Employment	6	1	5%
Transport	6	0	0%
Industry	9	3	17%
Agriculture	19	2	6%
Budget Allocation	11	3	17%
Project Management	6	1	11%
Total	57	10	9%

The economy of Botswana has been on a downward spiral in recent years, largely owing to the decline in diamond sales, which are the mainstay of the economy. After his inauguration, President Duma Boko promised to fast-track a new diamond deal with De Beers, but there has been very little information on the deal, and the public remains largely uninformed about the agreed deal. The sale of diamonds by De Beers also remains low, having fallen by almost 50% by the end of 2024 and still showing no signs of recovery in 2025 (Chibelushi & Ross, 2025), and this has had a significant impact on the economy of the country, and the almost depleted foreign reserves worsened the situation.

When the new Government of Botswana came into office, the

previous government had launched several development projects that included roads, schools and other forms of infrastructure under the Development Manager Model. This model meant projects were awarded to project managers who would engage a contractor of their choice to deliver the project on their behalf, and as a result, this increased the costs of these projects to the government. The new government, in alignment with its electoral promise of improving project management and early cancellation of wasteful projects, has since moved to cancel over 80% of these projects, citing mismanagement and financial irregularities (Thatayamodimo, 2025).

The government has also moved to create a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF), injecting BWP76 million (US\$5 million)



into the initial fund. This was in line with the promise to initiate and build an SWF, which will invest locally, continentally, and internationally. The Minister of Finance, Ndaba Gaolathe, in his first budget speech in February 2025, announced the expansion of the income tax bracket, which relieved those who earn less of the tax burden, while increasing taxes for those considered high earners. This was in line with the promise to introduce progressive taxation by the new government (PwC Botswana, [2025](#)).

One of the key challenges in the Botswana economy is unemployment, especially among youth graduates. In the first year, unemployment statistics are still on the rise, and the creation of

sustainable jobs is still a challenge, with the government citing the unfavourable economic conditions. The government, however, has cited projects such as the Khomeamacau Mine, the Selebi Phikwe Copper Mine opening and the Bonno Housing Scheme as some of the projects that will target employment creation against the UDC's 500,000 jobs in five (5) years promise.

In total, 33% of the UDC 171 promises from their 2024 manifesto fell under Economy. Despite efforts to direct the national budget to address some of the electoral promises, the bulk of the promises (47 out of 57 promises) remain as "Not Commenced".

### Case Study: Diamond Sales and the De Beers Deal

For decades, Botswana has had its economy highly reliant on diamonds. However, in recent years, the international diamond market has faced its fair share of challenges, including the introduction of synthetic diamonds and the decline in diamond sales due to the COVID-19 pandemic, among others. This has directly affected Botswana and the economy, with both the Minister of Finance and the President acknowledging the fiscal challenges the country faces due to a decline in the country's revenue. One of the first assignments of the new government was to renew its diamond sales agreement with De Beers to improve the benefits from diamonds for Botswana. In February 2025, this deal was signed (Benza, [2025](#)), and under the final deal, the share of Botswana's state-owned Okavango Diamond Company in Debswana (a 50-50 joint venture with De Beers) will reach 40% at the end of the agreement, revised from a provisional 50%. The majority of the details of the deal still largely remain secretive, hence only time will tell on the success or failures of this deal.

# Governance

Governance had the third largest number of promises after Social Services and the Economy. Of the 43 total promises made, three (3)

promises are in progress, while 40 are not commenced. The overall assessment score for this sector during the period under review is 3%.

TABLE 4    **Overview of Governance Sector Performance**

Subsector	# Promises	# Actions	Assessment Score
Human Rights	5	1	9%
Accountability and Transparency	3	0	0%
International Relations and Global Markets	9	0	0%
Public Service	6	2	12%
Legislation Adjustments	17	0	0%
Safety and Security	3	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3%</b>

Immediately after his inauguration, President Boko, in alignment with the promise to empower disadvantaged members of the society, led his government into the Central Kalahari Game Reserve for the state burial of Pitseng Gaoberekwe, a member of the San community, in his ancestral land. Gaoberekwe's corpse had been in a morgue for almost two (2) years, as the previous government objected to the requests of his family to be buried in his ancestral land. In an address at the

burial, which was done on International Human Rights Day (10 December 2024), the President reiterated the promise of his party to ensure justice and protect human rights for all, especially the marginalised groups.

Another key electoral promise that was made was a commitment to establish meritocracy as the single criterion to appoint public servants and leaders of public enterprises. Although this can be a subjective discussion, the President

has continuously reiterated his statement and promised to work with many of those from the previous government, provided their appointment was on merit. The appointment of a former president of the BMD, which is now an opposition party, to the bench of the court of appeal (Mosinyi, [2025](#)) and other key appointments that include the Commander of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), who assumed office in November 2025, are evidence of the commitment to this promise.

There are still 40 promises that have not commenced. Some of the key promises include the drafting of a new constitution; the complete overhaul of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services; ensuring that salaries and wages are based on a living wage, that they are decent for all and do not produce unwarranted inequalities; and promoting pro-poor policies and the reduction of inequalities within and between nations.



## Corruption

Corruption accounted for only 3% (6) of the total promises. In the first year of office, a total of four (4) actions have been recorded, yielding an overall

implementation score of 22%. Three (3) promises are currently “In Progress” while three (3) are “Not Commenced”.

TABLE 5 Overview of Corruption Sector Performance

Subsector	# Promises	# Actions	Assessment Score
Corruption	6	4	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22%</b>

International best practice today places the fight against corruption as one of the key areas of good governance. Some of the key electoral promises made under this sector include eliminating corruption and wastage currently costing the country some 37% of its infrastructure budget; ensuring genuine and fair trial of those caught in corrupt activities; as well as eliminating corruption by first declaring

it a high-level crime, among others.

There has, however, been very little progress, especially in empowering the Directorate of Corruption and Economic Crimes, but the trial and sentencing of the former Permanent Secretary to the President stands out as it speaks to the promise of ensuring a fair trial of those caught up in corrupt activities (Mokwape, [2025](#)).

## Climate Change

The UDC made only three (3) Climate Change-related promises out of the total of 171 promises. As of November 2025, only one (1) promise has been recorded as “In Progress” with the other

two (2) still “Not Commenced”. The government has made 17% progress in terms of fulfilling the promises made during its first year in office.

TABLE 6    **Overview of Climate Change Sector Performance**

Subsector	# Promises	# Actions	Assessment Score
Climate Change	3	1	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17%</b>

The fight against global warming and climate change constituted only 2% of the total number of promises made in the UDC manifesto. These promises include promoting and protecting the biodiversity plan to ensure peaceful human and wildlife co-existence, as well as promoting green energy initiatives as a practical option for farmers. In line with the promise to

promote and protect the biodiversity plan to ensure peaceful human and wildlife co-existence, the Parliament of Botswana, on the 7th of August 2025, passed the Forest and Range Resources Bill (Bill Number 12 of 2025). The bill consolidates all environmental and forest bills to improve sustainable environmental and forest resources management.

# Lessons Learnt

This report marks the first year since the ACW was introduced to track the Government of Botswana. In this journey, there have been several challenges that the tracking team encountered, and these provided valuable lessons that could be used to improve the platform.

## The Challenge in Drafting Promises

The UDC manifesto touched on many areas spanning across different sectors. The extraction of the 171 promises, therefore, was not an easy task, as some promises cut across different sectors or sub-sectors and, therefore, categorising them was a challenge. A key example would be a promise on the provision of sanitary pads to all secondary school girls, which had to be placed under either health or education in the Social Services sector.

## Access to Information

The tracking process relies heavily on the accessibility of information, especially on the actions of the government. Some actions, however, were not documented by ministries, and it can also be a challenge to find media reports that speak to the actions. Media reports in many instances focus on news that they deem to be of interest and can sell their platforms, and in the process, some government actions that are deemed not newsworthy can be left out. In some cases, media reports can be in hardcopy form and without an online copy, which therefore makes it difficult to report on an action and show the source. Government websites and ministerial platforms are also slow to publish information on government actions; hence, the tracking process can be slow.



## Launches, Speeches and Action: The Confusion

Government leaders, ministries and other officials in the first year have held a few launches that may be understood as the start of the implementation of the promise. However, there is a gap, and sometimes no further communication on whether any progress is being made after the launch. An example is a promise that spoke to the restoration of school sports. Despite the Minister of Sport

and Arts having launched an initiative for this action, there is still no evidence of school sports having started in schools. This, therefore, confuses whether a promise is in progress or not. Speeches made by government political leaders either in parliament or any official government functions can sometimes give the impression that there is an action undertaken to deliver a certain promise, but a closer look may show that there has been no action.

# Conclusion

The Government of Botswana officially clocked one year in office on 4 November 2025. During this period, the Government of Botswana has found itself battling an ailing economy owing largely to the poor performance of diamonds on the international diamond market. This has limited the implementation of many projects and promises that the new government had outlined in the manifesto. Despite this challenge, there has been some progress made in the delivery of some promises such as increasing the old

age pension, the creation of a SWF, and kickstarting the Bonno Housing Scheme. However, a significant portion (148 out of 171) of the promises remains at a stage of “Not Commenced”, showing the magnitude of the task that lies ahead for the government in the next 48 months. The Botswana Citizens Watch Tracker will continue tracking the actions of the Government of Botswana with timely reports in addition to the live tracking.

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