

# Facilitating Investment in SDG Projects: Investing in ICT and Education Sectors in Botswana

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Zoom Meeting  
Gaborone  
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# OVERVIEW

- Botswana at a Glance
- Botswana's Investment Climate
- Investment Incentives
- Market Access: Bi & Multilateral Trade Agreements
- Key Sector Opportunities: ICT & Education
- Sector Challenges
- Way forward
- About BITC

# BOTSWANA AT A GLANCE

## GDP Performance

GDP: US\$18.347Billion (WB, 2019)  
Per capita GDP: USD\$7,961(WB, 2019).



## Land Mass

582,000 SQ .KM

## Inflation

(2.4 % February 2021),  
BoB Target is 3 - 6%



## Borders

South Africa, Namibia,  
Zambia, Zimbabwe.

## Interest Rates

Bank rate 3.75%:  
Prime Rate 5.75%



## Population

2.3 million

## Key Exports (2019)

(Total merchandize exports =  
US\$5.23 million)  
Diamonds, copper, nickel,  
Ignition wiring sets and other  
wiring sets for vehicles,  
boneless beef, soda ash, and  
copper ores and concentrates

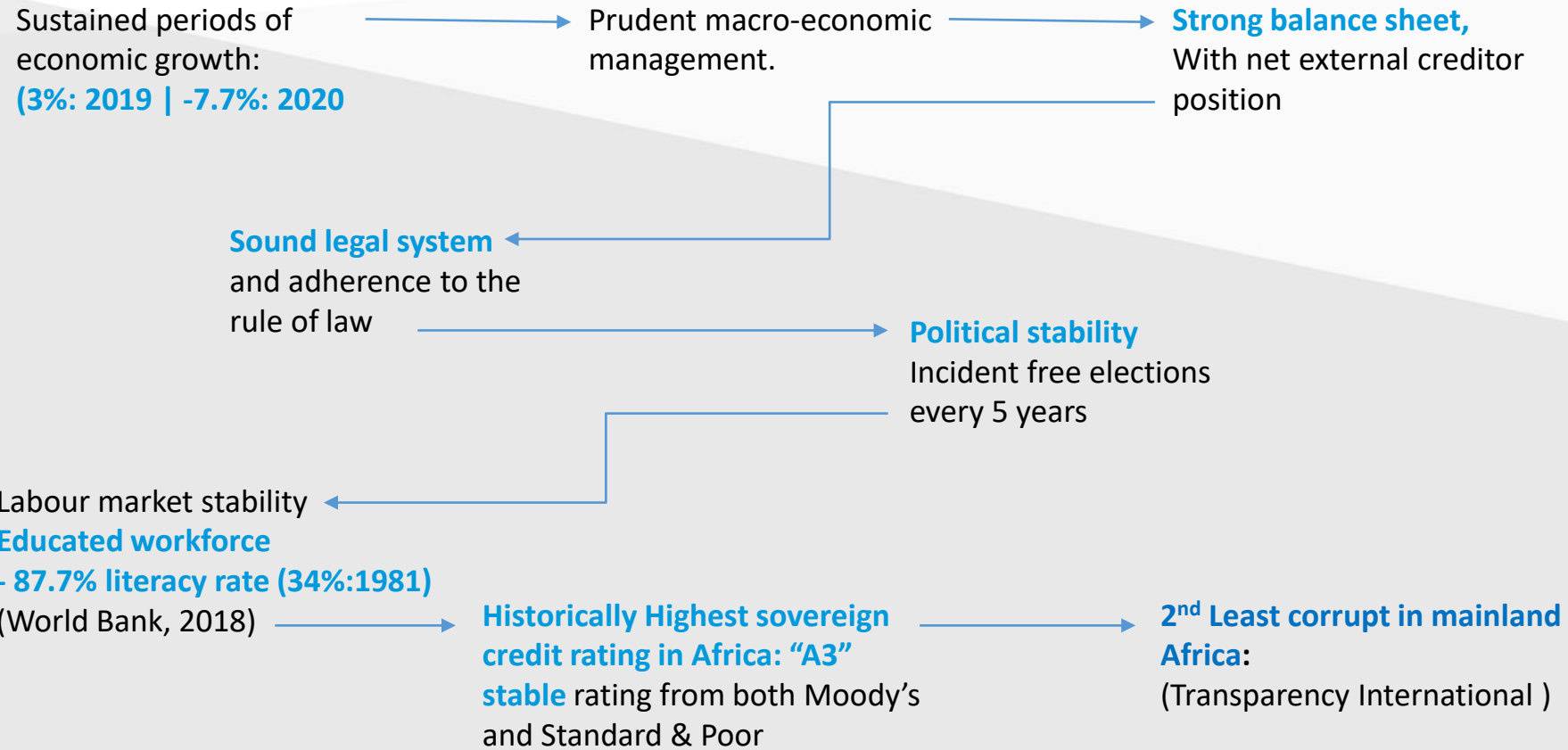


## Key Imports (2019)

(Total merchandize  
imports US\$6.56 million)  
Non-industrial diamonds,  
petroleum products,  
Industrial diamonds

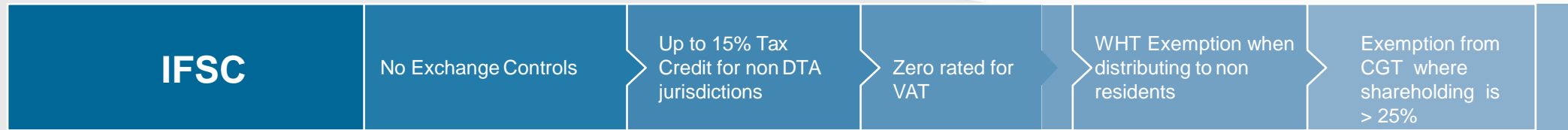


# BOTSWANA'S INVESTMENT CLIMATE



# INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

## Botswana's Corporate Tax Rate is Highly Competitive



| TAXATION          |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Botswana General: | 22%    |
| African Average:  | 27,5%  |
| Global Average:   | 23,57% |

# BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS TO SUPPORT ICT AND EDUCATION SECTORS

| SADC   | SACU   | SACU - EFTA  | SACU - MERCOSUR   | AGOA  | BOTSWANA - ZIMBABWE  | EAC-SADC-COMESA   | AfCFTA   | EU-SADC EPA  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>   |  |  |   |   |  |   |  |  |
| Preferential market access to more than 293 million consumers in the SADC region | Duty free and quota free market access - 61 million consumers (Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland) | The Free Trade Agreement between the Member States of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – and SACU | SACU signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with South American customs union known as Mercosur, comprised of: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. | Duty free and quota free market access to the USA | Goods originating from either of the trading partners are exempted from payment of customs duties on condition that the goods meet a minimum 25% local content | Create a single market comprising of Eastern and Southern African countries with ultimate aim of moving towards a continental African free trade area | Expand intra African trade through better harmonization and coordination of trade liberalization and facilitation regimes and instruments across RECs and across Africa in general | Duty free and quota free market access to the European Union |
| <a href="http://www.sadc.int">www.sadc.int</a>                                   | <a href="http://www.sacu.int">www.sacu.int</a>   | <a href="http://www.sacu.int">www.sacu.int</a>   | <a href="http://www.mti.gov.bw">www.mti.gov.bw</a>  | <a href="http://www.agoa.info">www.agoa.info</a>  | <a href="http://www.mti.gov.bw">www.mti.gov.bw</a>   | <a href="http://www.mti.gov.bw">www.mti.gov.bw</a>  | <a href="http://www.mti.gov.bw">www.mti.gov.bw</a>   | <a href="http://www.mti.gov.bw">www.mti.gov.bw</a>           |

# Key Sector Opportunities: ICT



# BOTSWANA ICT AND EDUCATION SECTORS OVERVIEW

- Botswana is a small, dynamic country with visionary leadership particularly in the sectors of ICT and Education.
- Its education and national ICT policies are linked to broader economic visions for the country.
- The **agenda** is to transform the economy from a resource led to a knowledge based economy driven by quality education using ICT as an enabler.
- Botswana arguably boasts among the highest computer penetration in education institutions in Africa.
- The government has committed financial resources to improve connectivity and to promote the educational use of ICTs for its transformation agenda.



# ICT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Artificial Intelligence  
Cybersecurity



Cloud and Edge  
Computing



BPO and Data Centres  
Financial & Business



Tech R&D



Internet of Things  
(IOT)  
E-commerce  
Digitization  
Software and App  
development



Fintech

# POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK - ICT

## Legal Framework - Connectivity Laws

Botswana Communications Regulatory Act of 2012

Electronic Communications and Transactions Act of 2014

Electronic Records and Evidence Act of 2014

Data Protection Act of 2018

Cybercrime & Computer related Crimes Act of 2018

National Cybersecurity Strategy – Draft

# POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK - ICT

## Policy Frameworks

National ICT Policy - Maitlamo

National Broadband Strategy

National Cyber Security Strategy

National e-government Strategy

National Universal Service and Access Policy [Draft]

Rural Telecommunications Strategy

Quality of Service Guidelines

National licensing Framework

# ICT & TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

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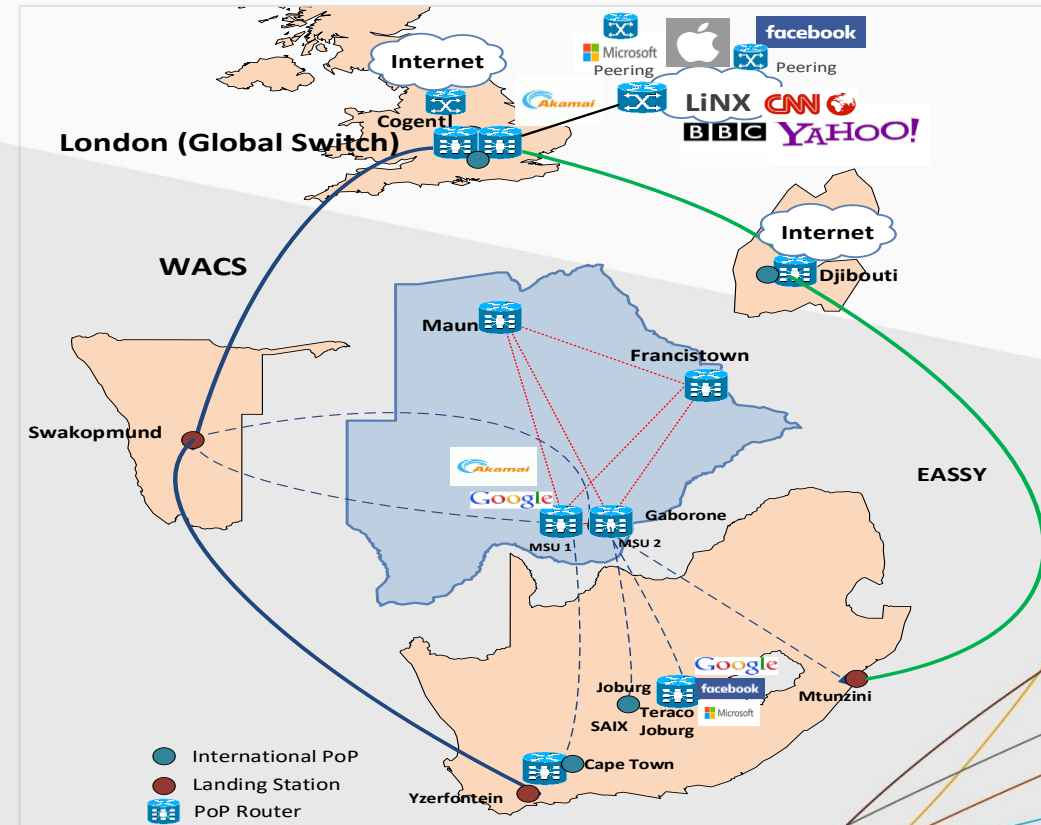
197 villages out of a target of 250 connected to 3G network

## Robust National Backbone Connectivity



Interconnects cities, towns and villages for smooth communication flow

## International Connectivity

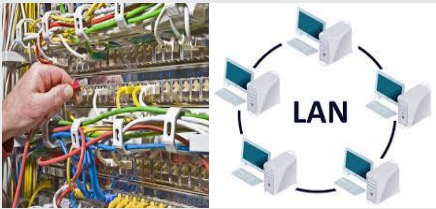


Connects Botswana to the rest of the world



# BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT ICT & TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS

## Local Access Connection



- Deployment of the access network in the last mile.
- Deployed in cities, towns and villages with a minimum population of 5,000 people

## Government Data Centre



## Government Multimedia Network



## Key Sector Opportunities: Education



# EDUCATION INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



E-Learning



Centres of Excellence



Infrastructure  
Development

# POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK - EDUCATION

## Policy Frameworks

Vision 2036

Revised Policy on Education Act 1994

National Development Plan 11 (NDP 11)

Draft Policy on Open and Distance Learning

Tertiary Education Policy

Inclusive Education Policy

Early Childhood Care and Education Policy

National Policy on Vocational Education and training



# SECTOR CHALLENGES

- Covid-19 pandemic
- Inadequate monitoring of Education policies and programmes implementation
- Weak institutional and industry linkages
- Inadequate supply of qualified vocational and technical staff in relevant fields
- Inadequate funding for Research and Innovation in both sectors
- Diversion of development funds and resources to enable and promote the sectors
- Relatively high cost of computers
- Absence of electricity in a number of rural areas
- Expensive internet usage

# WAY FORWARD

- There are ample unemployed graduates in Botswana who are trainable
- Botswana has put in place various enabling policy and regulatory frameworks for sector development
- There is continuous sector support and upgrades in infrastructure development by the government of Botswana and the private sector
- ICT and Education sectors are core to the Post Covid-19 National Economic Transformation and Recovery Plan (ETRP)

# WAY FORWARD

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- Development of robust investment attraction strategies and current incentives review
- Advocacy and policy review
- Continuous engagement between industry and institutions for development of future proof value chains and linkages
- Further reduction of tariffs and setup costs

# ABOUT BITC





# INVESTOR VALUE ADDED SERVICES

Investment facilitation services through Botswana One Stop Service Centre offering:



Company & Business Registration



Opening of Bank Accounts



Entry Visas, Work & Residence Permits & Exemptions



Trade & Business License Applications



Utility Connections



Income Tax & VAT Registration



Industrial & Commercial Land / Factory Shells



Incentives; IFSC, Manufacturing, Tax Holidays (DAO)



Aftercare Services – renewals, expansions etc.



Environmental Impact Assessment Compliance

**THANK YOU**

Twitter: @Go\_Botswana | Facebook & LinkedIn: Botswana Investment  
and Trade Centre

[www.gobotswana.com](http://www.gobotswana.com)