

**Botswana  
Notes and Records  
Volume 57, 2025**



**A special issue on  
Botswana's 2024 general election**



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# **Botswana Notes and Records**

**Volume 57, 2025**

A special issue on  
Botswana's 2024 General  
Election



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### **The Botswana Society**

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### **Aims and Objectives**

The Botswana Society was founded in 1969 to encourage discussion, research, and publications about Botswana. Botswana Notes and Records is the Society's annual journal, which has provided a forum for researchers in a wide variety of fields and has given academics and lay persons with an interest in Botswana the opportunity to contribute their particular knowledge, whether in the form of histories, biographies, memoirs, and anecdotes, or in standard articles on a wide range of Botswana issues. The Society invites articles, 'notes' (brief submissions), and book reviews on all Botswana-related topics.

### **Guidelines for Authors**

The editor of Botswana Notes and Records is pleased to receive manuscripts (maximum 6,000 words) from any contributor as long as it is typed and written in a clear style free of jargon and is appropriate for non-specialist readers. Scholarly submissions must be original and be related to the existing literature. Scholarly articles are refereed before acceptance. Final acceptance is at the editor's discretion, as is a submission's appearance in the articles or notes section. The editor reserves the right to make changes to all manuscripts accepted for publication, in consultation with the authors.

### **All submissions**

- Email to: Editor, Botswana Notes and Records, [botsoc@info.bw](mailto:botsoc@info.bw), with the manuscript attached.
- Microsoft Word 1997–2003 or later.
- Illustrations (maps, charts, diagrams, graphs, etc.) in good contrast black and white, preferably in digital form, minimum 300 dpi.
- Author's full name, address and current position to appear in an unnumbered note on first page.



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This special issue of *Botswana Notes and Records* examines the country's extraordinary 2024 general election. The Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), which had governed the country for 58 years, crashed to defeat, winning only 4 out of 61 parliamentary constituencies. The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) won an outright majority (with 36 seats) and proceeded to invite the small Botswana Patriotic Front (with 5 seats) and one independent MP to join it in government. The UDC's leader Duma Boko became president of Botswana. The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) won 15 seats to become the official opposition.

The parties' vote shares (and shares of District Council seats) suggested a much tighter election. Whilst the BDP's vote share plummeted from over half to only 30 per cent of the vote, the UDC won a parliamentary majority with only 37 per cent of the vote. The BDP not only won more votes than the BCP, but it also won more votes than the largest of the parties within the UDC coalition (i.e. the Botswana National Front, BNF).

The articles in this special issue provide the fullest analysis of any election in Botswana to date. Articles examine long-term, medium-term, and short-term factors that shaped the 2024 elections. Contributions on the long-term background focus on the history of coalitions that led to the UDC, the BDP's shrinking base of loyal supporters, generational changes in the electorate over time, and the controversies over constitutional reform under the final BDP government. Electoral administration and citizens' perceptions of this are assessed in a pair of articles. The challenges facing women candidates and the factors driving turnout among younger voters are analysed. Finally, articles examine elections in selected constituencies (Kgatleng West and Shoshong) and regions (the former Central District).

The authors, mostly from the University of Botswana and the University of Cape Town, were all involved in the Botswana Election Research Network. The authors of the articles are (in alphabetical order): Sonia Gaobolae, Bame Gaonyadiwe, Carla Grahl, Angela Joubert, Mogopodi H Lekorwe, Christian John Makgala, Bontle Tumedisio Masilo, Monageng Mogalakwe, Wilford Molefe, Godisang Mookodi, the late Sethunya Mosime, Dorothy Mpabanga, Jeff Ramsay, Batlang Seabo and Jeremy Seekings.