

wean refugees remained in Botswana, prompting the Government to announce that refugee status for nationals was to be revoked; by September 2003 Zimbabwean refugees had reportedly left Botswana. In the mid-1990s, however, the Government reported that at the growing number of illegal immigrants in Botswana, the majority of whom were from Zimbabwe; of those illegal immigrants repatriated during 1995, 80% were Zimbabwean. Relations between the two countries have strained in 2000, when Zimbabwe's con- trol line from Bulawayo (its second largest city) to the border with South Africa) severely reduced traffic on Botswana Railways. In late 2001 and early 2002, Botswana participated in SADC efforts to encourage the President, Robert Mugabe, to conduct his Government programme within the rule of law. Following the re-election of Mugabe to the Zimbabwean Presidency in March 2002, the Botswana Government became concerned about its government policy in Zimbabwe, as the economic crisis prompted an influx of immigrants into Botswana, many entering illegally. In late 2003 the Botswana Government began erecting a 3m-high electrified fence along the border with Zimbabwe, ostensibly to prevent the spread of the mouth disease, although it was widely expected to prevent the entry of further illegal immigrants. Those already in Botswana estimated to number 10,000 in early 2004; by the end of that year the number had increased to more than 200,000. Some 2,500 Zimbabweans—were being deported every month. The Government sought to amend the Immigration Act to impose higher fines and stricter sentences on those who entered the country illegally.

Namibian independence, in July 1990 it was a condition of bilateral co-operation was to be a condition of Botswana and Namibia. In 1992, however, a dispute developed between the two countries regarding territorial claims over a small island (Sedudu-Kasi) in the Orange river. In early 1995 the two states agreed to refer the demarcation of their joint border for resolution to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in The Hague. In late 1995 and in February 1996 the two countries agreed to submit themselves in advance to the ICJ's judgment. Meanwhile, Namibia appealed to Botswana to remove its troops—stated by the Botswana authorities as patrolling—and national flag from the island. In 1997 it was reported that Namibia had been accused of Botswana's erection of a fence along Namibia's border which separates the two countries to the north; the fence, however, that the fence was simply a measure to prevent the spread of livestock diseases. In January 1998 a joint commission of the Botswana-Namibia joint commission on security was held to discuss ownership of the island (Sedudu) in the Chobe river, following allegations that the BDF had occupied the island and was interfering with Namibian farmers resident there. In March 2003 the ICJ granted Botswana control over Sedudu. A technical commission was subsequently established to resolve other demarcation disputes between Botswana and Namibia. In March 2003 its report was accepted by the two countries.

In late 1998 relations between the two countries were strained by the arrival in Botswana of more than 100,000 refugees, many of whom were reportedly leading a guerrilla life from the Caprivi Strip in Namibia. President Festus Mogae's demands for the extradition of the guerrillas had increased to more than 2,000 by late 2001, however, a formal agreement was signed by the two countries, according to which prominent dissidents would be allowed to leave Botswana for Namibia and an amnesty would be extended to other guerrillas returning to Namibia. In response to a request from the Government, in September 2001 the Gaborone Parliament in favour of the extradition of a group of 13 guerrillas who were wanted to stand trial for treason; however, this decision was reversed by the ICJ in December 2002. Meanwhile, in April 2003 Botswana and Namibia concluded a tripartite agreement with the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the voluntary repatriation of Namibian guerrillas. Between August and October around 800 guerrillas were repatriated to Namibia (although UNHCR

reported that none of them originated from the Caprivi Strip), leaving some 1,200 in Botswana, who remained reluctant to return. In December 2003 UNHCR and human rights groups criticized the deportation from Botswana to Namibia of a further eight Caprivians, seven of whom were subsequently charged with high treason over alleged separatist activities; the authorities in Botswana claimed that the eight had lost their refugee status by visiting Namibia after being granted asylum in Botswana.

### Government

Legislative power is vested in Parliament, consisting of the President and the National Assembly. The National Assembly is elected for a term of five years and comprises 57 members directly elected by universal adult suffrage, together with four members who are elected by the National Assembly from a list of candidates submitted by the President; the President and the Attorney-General are also *ex-officio* members of the Assembly. The President is restricted to two terms of office. He appoints and leads a Cabinet, which is responsible to the Assembly. The President has powers to delay implementation of legislation for six months, and certain matters also have to be referred to the House of Chiefs for approval, although this advisory body has no power of veto. In December 2005 the Assembly approved legislation according to which the House of Chiefs would be renamed the Ntlo ya Dikgosi and its membership increased from 15 to 35, comprising 30 members elected by senior tribal authorities and five members appointed by the President; elections to the Ntlo ya Dikgosi would be held every five years. Local government is effected through nine district councils and four town councils.

### Defence

Military service is voluntary. In August 2005 the total strength of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) was some 9,000, comprising an army of 8,500 and an air force of 500. In addition, there was a paramilitary police force of 1,500. There were plans to enlarge the strength of the army to 10,000 men. Projected budgetary expenditure on defence in 2005 was P1,700m. In August 2005 the Government announced plans to recruit women into the BDF.

### Economic Affairs

In 2004, according to estimates by the World Bank, Botswana's gross national income (GNI), measured at average 2002–04 prices, was US 7,490m, equivalent to \$4,340 per head (or \$8,920 on an international purchasing-power parity basis). During 1995–2004, it was estimated, the population increased by an average of 1.6% per year, while gross domestic product (GDP) per head also increased, in real terms, by an average of 4.0% per year. Overall GDP increased, in real terms, at an average annual rate of 5.7% in 1995–2004; growth in 2004 was 4.6%.

Agriculture (including hunting, forestry and fishing) contributed 2.4% of GDP in 2004 and engaged 43.9% of the total labour force in 2003. The principal agricultural activity is cattle-raising (principally beef production), which supports about one-half of the population and contributes more than 80% of agricultural GDP. As a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states and a signatory to successive Lomé Conventions, Botswana has traditionally enjoyed preferential trade relations with the EU, including a quota to supply 18,916 metric tons of beef per year. However, Botswana has never met this quota: in 2003 some 8,500 tons of beef was exported to the EU. Under the Cotonou Agreement, which was concluded in mid-2000, the quota was to be phased out by 2007, when Botswana and the other ACP states were to establish reciprocal trade arrangements with the EU in order to achieve compatibility with the rules of the World Trade Organization (see p. 370). The main subsistence crops are roots and tubers, sorghum, pulses and vegetables although Botswana is not self-sufficient in basic foods. Agricultural GDP decreased at an average annual rate of 0.4% in 1995–2004; however, it increased by 0.3% in 2003 and by 4.0% in 2004.

Industry (including mining, manufacturing, construction and power) engaged 25.5% of the employed labour force in 2001 and provided 44.1% of GDP in 2004. Industrial GDP increased at an average annual rate of 5.7% in 1995–2004; growth of 3.7% was recorded in 2004.

Mining contributed 36.4% of GDP in 2002/03, according to provisional figures, although the sector engaged only 2.9% of the employed labour force in 2001. In terms of value, Botswana is the world's largest producer of diamonds (which accounted for 87.1% of export earnings in 2002, according to provisional figures, and