



Republic of Botswana

Electoral Commission Website
<http://www.iec.gov.bw>

Parliamentary Structure
Unicameral

Election System
National Assembly: FPTP
District Councils: FPTP

Female Political Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Metafile

Administrative Divisions

Botswana's local government is divided into 16 administrative districts which consist of 10 rural and 6 urban councils. Some districts are further divided into 20 sub-districts, which include 4 administrative authorities. There is no constitutional provision for local government.

Botswana has a two-tier system of government: the first tier being the central government headed by the president, while the second tier is comprised of councils. These councils are administered by a mayor in urban areas and a council chairperson in rural districts (CLGF, 2016). Governance at the local level in Botswana is also premised on a traditional system of villages headed by a kgosi or chief. The village chiefs' work cooperatively with district councils and are ex-officio members of the district council in the district their village is situated.

Election System

The majority of councillors are elected through a first-past-the-post election (FPTP) system. Elections take place every five years. A small percentage are appointed by the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development. Villages are gathered into wards and are represented by a councillor at the sub-district and district levels. In urban areas councillor representation is determined in a similar method to rural councils. The area of coverage is determined by the size of the population in a constituency. Each council is divided into wards and each ward elects one councillor through a FPTP election system (CLGF, 2016). The President is the head of state and government and is indirectly elected by the members of National Assembly. 57 of the 61 members in the National Assembly are directly elected under a FPTP election system from single-member constituencies (CLGF, 2016). The remaining seats are filled by appointments made by the president.

The last national and local government elections were held in October 2014. The elections are held simultaneously.

Women's Representation & Quota Information

Botswana has no legislated quotas for female representation on neither the national nor the sub-national level. However, there are voluntary political party quotas (Quota Project, 2012). The Botswana Congress Party introduced a 30% quota for women on electoral lists in 1999. The target has not been reached consistently however in 2010 the target was achieved. The Botswana National Front introduced a 30% quota for women on electoral lists in 1999, the party has not consistently met the target.

Seats & Trends in Seat Numbers

At the national level, 5 of the 63 (7.94%) available seats in the National assembly were won by women following the October 2009 elections. The October 2014 elections saw an unimpressive increase in female representation to 6 of the available 63 (9.52%) seats. Following the 2014 elections, women represented 77 of the 490 (15.71%) positions at the local government level.

References

Botswana. 2012. [Online]. Available: <http://www.quotaproject.org/country/botswana.html>. [2016, December 20].

The local government system in Botswana. 2016. [Online]. Available: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Botswana.pdf. [2016, December 20].