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TESTIMONIAL

Thomas Tlou
Citizen of Botswana

At independence in 1966, Botswana was one of the poorest countries in the world. Thanks to diamonds Botswana is now regarded as a middle income country and provides its people with a good standard of living.

When Botswana gained independence, I was a young man and saw the development of the country from scratch. One of the major developments was the provision of clean piped water to the people. Virtually all major, medium size and some small villages have access to clean water and there are many water stand pipes in the villages where villagers draw water free of charge. Gone are the days in most places when women used to walk long distances with pots on their heads to fetch water. As a result, the health of the population has greatly improved, and the burden on women removed.

Healthcare is provided virtually free and the state government takes those who need specialist treatment to South Africa at its own cost. Healthcare facilities are readily available in urban and rural areas. Antiretrovirals (ARTs) are provided free of charge to those affected with AIDS. This is paid for by the state assisted by some donors. However, the state provided free ARTs even before the donors started to assist.

It cannot be overemphasized that Botswana diamonds have been and are being used for development.