

## 1 **A good example**

2 *(original at [http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14699869](http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14699869))*

3 It is not surprising that Botswana has topped polls as continental Africa's best-run  
4 country. Since independence in 1966, it has consistently held multi-party elections. It  
5 was blessed with a fine founding president, Sir Seretse Khama. After him three decent  
6 leaders have succeeded. It has an abundance of diamonds and this resource has been  
7 prudently managed by all Botswana's governments. Average income has tripled in two  
8 decades, putting Botswana on a par with Mexico.

9 You can pick holes in the idea of Botswana as a model for Africa. It has been lucky in its  
10 mineral wealth. Its population of barely 2m is ethnically pretty homogeneous, whereas  
11 most African countries have a far more diverse mix of tribes within their boundaries. And,  
12 above all, its leaders have yet to be challenged by a strong opposition; a single party has  
13 ruled since independence. That is one reason why Ghana, and not Botswana was the first  
14 sub-Saharan country visited by Barack Obama.

15 Ghana is exceptional in letting power change hands after a really close election result. As  
16 for Botswana, its people merrily vote the same party back into power. Over the years  
17 their country has proved an example of good governance to its bigger African brothers.  
18 Can others follow?

19 The habit of democracy is on the rise. It was not until 1991, in the modest west African  
20 country of Benin, that any leader in mainland Africa let himself be peacefully ousted at  
21 the polls. Since then, however, at least nine men have admirably accepted the same  
22 fate—a far better record, incidentally, than in the Arab world.

## Questions:

- 1) What is the **general** message of the article? Find a part of it which does not specifically relate to Botswana or Ghana, but rather examines the broader context.
- 2) Why is Botswana the best run country in Africa?
- 3) What suggests that Botswana might perhaps **not** be a good example for Africa?
- 4) Why was Ghana honoured by the visit of Barack Obama? What does this country have that Botswana does not?
- 5) The word "polls" appears in lines 3 and 21, each time though, the meaning is different. Can you explain the difference?
- 6) What is special about the country of Benin?
- 7) Find a synonym for "mainland" (20) (look in the first paragraph of the article)!
- 8) Do you think that the examples of Botswana and Ghana demonstrate that the situation in Africa is improving?
- 9) Do you know any African countries where (relatively) recent elections have not gone as smoothly as in Botswana or Ghana?
- 10) Why do you think politicians in Africa (and elsewhere) are often unwilling to give up power after a lost election?

## Vocabulary:

be etc. on par with (lines 7 and 8)

challenge (line 12)

change hands (line 15)

a far better record (line 22)

Přejeme Vám mnoho studijních úspěchů.

Tým jazykové skupiny Spěváček: