



**U.S. Embassy, Gaborone
Warden Message – 14 April 2011**

POSSIBLE NATIONWIDE STRIKE BY PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

The U.S. Embassy wishes to advise U.S. citizens that a country-wide strike by some public sector employees of the Government of Botswana may take place beginning Monday, April 18, and could last up until April 28. The embassy encourages U.S. citizens living in and traveling to Botswana during this period to stay abreast of local news coverage and the embassy website for up-to-date information.

A wide-spread strike could have the following effects:

- Customs, and immigration services at airports and border crossings may be affected which could lead to delays;
- Major border crossings are likely to remain open, but smaller low-volume border crossings (e.g. Ramotswa and Martin's Drift) could close;
- Spot shortages of food, fuel, and other commodities may occur.

The embassy has been advised that the delivery of electricity, water, and telecommunications are unlikely to be affected. Essential services such as military, police, and hospitals are prohibited from striking.

While the embassy is not aware of any planned demonstrations which may accompany the strike, we wish to remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

Additional tips and guidance on security are available in our regular consular section newsletters. (For copies, please contact the consular section at the U.S. Embassy in Gaborone by email [ConsularGaborone@state.gov].) For emergency services outside regular business hours, please call the after-hours emergency number: (+267) 395-7111.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the U.S. Embassy's website the U.S. Department of State's, [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review "[A safe trip abroad](#)", which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

All U.S. citizens in Botswana are urged to register online at the [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#). Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within Botswana and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency. Please note the following contact information:

U.S. Embassy to the Republic of Botswana

Embassy Drive

Government Enclave

Gaborone

Tel: 395-3982 (+267-395-3982)

Fax: 318-0232 (+267-318-0232)

Email: ConsularGaborone@state.gov

After-hours emergencies: 395-7111 (+267-395-7111)

Local Botswana Emergency Contact Numbers:

Police: 999

Fire: 998

Ambulance: 997