

Sir Seretse Khama International Airport (IATA: GBE, ICAO: FBSK), located 15 kilometres (9 mi) north of downtown Gaborone, is the main international airport of the capital city of Botswana. The airport is named after Sir Seretse Khama, the first president of Botswana.[3] It was opened in 1984 and offers limited capacity to handle regional and (especially) international traffic. Nonetheless, it has the largest passenger movement in the country. In 2017 the airport got its first special economic zone which will house in the following departments: CAAB, Botswana Innovation Hub, ITPA and diamond hub for diamond sector.[4][5]

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Airlines and destinations[edit]

Airlines Destinations

Air Botswana Cape Town, Francistown, Harare, Lusaka, Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo, Kasane, Maun

Airlink Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo

Ethiopian Airlines Addis Ababa<sup>1</sup>, Livingstone, Victoria Falls

Qatar Airways Doha<sup>2</sup>

<sup>^</sup>1 This flight operates between Addis Ababa and Gaborone via Victoria Falls, however Ethiopian Airlines does not have rights to transport passengers solely between Gaborone and Victoria Falls.

<sup>^</sup>2 This flight operates between Gaborone and Doha via Johannesburg, however Qatar Airways does not have freedom rights to transport passengers solely between Gaborone and Johannesburg.

Incidents and accidents[edit]

Further information: 1999 Air Botswana incident

On 11 October 1999, an Air Botswana pilot, Captain Chris Phatswe, commandeered a parked Aérospatiale ATR 42 aircraft A2-ABB without authorization in the early morning and took off. Once in the air, he asked by radio to speak to the president, Air Botswana's general manager, the station commander, central police station and his girlfriend, among others. Because the president was out of the country, he was allowed to speak to the vice president. In spite of all attempts to persuade him to land and discuss his grievances, he stated he was going to crash into some aircraft on the apron. After a total flying time of about 2 hours, he did two loops and then crashed at 200 knots (370 km/h; 230 mph) into Air Botswana's two other ATR 42s parked on the apron. The captain was killed but there were no other casualties.

Airline sources say the pilot had been grounded on medical reasons, refused reinstatement and regrounded until February 2000. Air Botswana operations were crippled, as the airline

temporarily only had one aircraft left – a BAe 146 that was grounded with technical problems.[6]

Statistics[edit]

Fiscal year Passengers Ref

2014/15 740 733 [7]

2015/16 727 912 [8]

Botswana Defence Force Air Wing[edit]

Botswana Defence Force Air Wing VIP Flight Wing is based at the airport.

Gallery[edit]

Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone, Botswana

Construction on the airport expansion

Air Botswana ATR 72-500 at Khama Airport 2011

Airport before expansion

Old interior of Khama Airport

Air Botswana ATR42 A2-ABN