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BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 171002c

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Resignations and Appointments

Elevation to diocese of the apostolic vicariate of Francistown, Botswana, and appointment of first bishop

The Holy Father has elevated to the level of diocese the apostolic vicariate of Francistown, Botswana, making it a suffragan of the metropolitan see of Pretoria, South Africa.

The Pope has appointed as first bishop of the diocese of Francistown, H.E. Msgr. Franklyn Atese Nubuasah, S.D.V., currently vicar apostolic of the same see.

Statistical data of the diocese of Francistown

The diocese of Francistown is one of two ecclesiastical circumscriptions in Botswana. It covers all the northern centre of the country, an area of **472,995 km²**, equivalent to two thirds of the entire territory (600,370 km²). It has a population of **1,200,000** inhabitants, of whom only **17,000** are Catholics (**1.4%**), distributed among **17** parishes. There are **26** priests, assisted by **28** women religious belonging to **six** different Congregations and by **one** religious brother.