REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SPEECH

ORGANISATION 0700

2026/2027 ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

FROM THE CONSOLIDATED AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

BY

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MINISTER OF TRADE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

3RD MARCH 2026

INTRODUCTION

1. **Mr. Chairman,** let me take this opportunity to present the budget proposals for organization 0700, Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship for the 2026/27 financial year. I will also present budget performance for the current financial year 2025/26. The Ministry continues to drive its expanded mandate following the integration of the Ministries of Trade and Industry and Entrepreneurship, positioning the Ministry to better serve the nation's economic transformation agenda.

2. **Mr. Chairman,** the Ministry has made strides in advancing Botswana's economic transformation through strategic reforms and institutional modernization. Key achievements include the enhancement of the Online Business Registration System by Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) improving turnaround times and data integrity, and continued development of national standards by Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) aligned to priority sectors. These efforts, alongside transformational investments by Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) and Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) in food security, manufacturing, and healthcare infrastructure, strengthen Botswana's regulatory and quality framework, enhance private sector development, attract investment, and support sustainable economic growth.

Conducive Business and Investment Environment

3. **Mr. Chairman,** the World Bank's 2025 Business Ready Report provides critical insights into Botswana's business environment. While acknowledging our strong legal frameworks and digital front door through CIPA, it highlights urgent areas requiring attention, including business insolvency procedures, tax compliance systems, dispute resolution mechanisms, and market competition frameworks. The report underscores that Botswana has excellent laws but suffers from a 'hollow middle' where inadequate public services and archaic systems prevent businesses from scaling efficiently. This assessment reinforces the Ministry's commitment to fast-track digitalization and improve online visibility of Government services in 2026/27.

4. **Mr. Chairman**, Botswana One Stop Service Centre (BOSSC) continues to excel in facilitating business operations. During April to September 2025/2026, 1,696 Government authorizations were processed, with a 91% approval rate. Land allocation efforts have been particularly successful, with five (5) companies receiving allocations representing a projected investment of **P72.2 million** and creating 349 job opportunities.

BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2025/2026

Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment

5. **Mr. Chairman,** Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) continues to play a pivotal role in driving Botswana's economic transformation. During the 2025/26 financial year (April to September 2025), P3.387 billion worth of Foreign Direct Investment was recorded, against a target of P2.5 billion. Domestic Investment and Expansions reached P3.195 billion, while BITC-assisted companies created 3,495 jobs through FDI, Domestic Investment, and Investment Expansions, with the Mining and Energy sectors leading job creation.

Market Access for Locally Produced Goods and Services.

6. Mr. Chairman, the #PushaBW campaign continues to be a success in driving nationwide awareness and support for locally produced goods. The campaign has been driven through capacity building of producers and manufacturers, establishing partnerships with retailers, corporates and government for product listing, instore branding and countrywide activations.

7. **Mr. Chairman**, the **#PushaBW** Store launched in May 2024, at the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport continues to record steady growth. During the reporting period the store generated average monthly sales of P 70, 000.00 from 38 companies listed. The top-selling product lines are clothing, brand Botswana merchandise, cosmetics, crafts, beadwork and apparel.

Enterprise Financing

8. **Mr. Chairman,** BDC has embarked on transformational projects including the Milk Valley Farm optimization with procurement of 600 Girolando dairy cattle from Brazil (first 300 arriving in April 2026), Lobatse Clay Works transformation into a one-stop building supplies manufacturing company, development of a 150-room Radisson branded hotel, and establishment of the Unity Health Care Fund for medical supplies and infrastructure. The Corporation has a robust investment pipeline valued at P741 million for closure in June 2026 and P1 billion to be completed in June 2027, focusing on mineral beneficiation, ICT, electronics, automotive, renewable energy, financial services, and infrastructure development.

9. **Mr. Chairman,** CEDA has funded 586 MSMEs with a total investment of P230 million, creating 744 new jobs and sustaining 835 existing jobs. Sectoral allocation concentrated in Agribusiness (47%) and Services (43%). Collections exceeded the annual target, reaching P337 million against a P264 million target, representing 28% overachievement reflecting strengthened credit management. For 2026/27, CEDA projects P950 million in new approvals including new product offerings such as poultry production, hemp production, green finance, and creative arts. Further, the Wealth Creation Programme has funded 100 new enterprises comprising 108 beneficiaries during 2025/26, bringing the total to 41,869 funded

enterprises since inception in 2011, with 73% remaining operational and creating employment for 34,731 individuals.

Entrepreneurial Development

10. Mr. Chairman, Local Enterprise Authority's (LEA) import substitution initiatives have reduced the national import bill by P452 million. Further, the Department for Co-operative Development trained approximately 537 people on governance and financial literacy, registered 13 new Co-operatives with 269 members, and mobilized P3 million from strategic partners. The financial Co-operative sector has evolved with new investments of P64.6 million, savings of P2 billion, and membership of 75,948 people

Competitive and Productive Economy

11. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry continues with efforts to improve competitiveness of locally produced goods and services. To this end**,** Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) developed and approved 64 standards across various sectors including agriculture, agro-processing, indigenous products, tourism, solar energy, information security, and medical devices. Testing services were provided to 154 customers with 1,701 samples handled generating 1,096 test reports. Standards Import Inspection Regulations processed over 8,000 applications, inspecting more than 13,000 consignments with 97% compliance levels. These services supported certified products exported to Angola, DRC and Zambia, thereby enhancing regional trade and industrial competitiveness.

12. **Mr. Chairman,** a key achievement was Botswana's Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) re-rating outcome in September 2025, where Recommendation of 24 under CIPA's responsibility was upgraded to 'Largely Compliant' from Partially Compliant. This progress reflects Government's commitment to improving beneficial ownership transparency and strengthening corporate registries. The enhanced Online Business Registration System launched in March 2025 has improved turnaround times for business registration and strengthened data integrity, laying the foundation for future integration with other Government services.

Diversified Industries.

13. **Mr. Chairman**, the 'Motshameko-o-Phepha' public education campaign has visited 173 sites across the country reaching over 22,000 citizens, conveying responsible gambling messaging. The National Lottery operationalization has progressed with BDC establishing a Special Purpose Vehicle on behalf of Government. Licensed betting shops have created 368 jobs with 1,918 additional jobs expected in 2026/27

14. **Mr Chairman,** SPEDU has rolled out its strategic plan for the 2026/27 planning period in alignment with National Development

Plan 12 and Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) as well as Vision 2036. The Strategic plan is accompanied by an ambitious investment strategy of 14 programmes to the value of more than P6 billion aimed at creating key service delivery in the economy and will see companies investing in blending of flocculants, rolling out of the milling plant to unlock the value chains in metallurgical sector. Among the new industries setting up will be solar panel manufacturing, fertilisers and agro chemicals manufacturing, food processing and increased participation in the tourism space. In this regard, the SPEDU region has been classified as the metallurgical hub for Botswana and the region and the e-mobility Programme has since moved to the SPEDU region.

Export Led Growth

15. Mr Chairman, in contribution to achievement of the national vision of an export led economy, the Ministry facilitated enterprises which recorded export revenue of P3.582 billion against a target of P3.250 billion in 2025, representing 12.9% growth compared to 2024, driven by priority value chains including meat and livestock products, automotive components, salt and soda ash, citrus, and industrial batteries.

16. Mr Chairman SEZA has increased its licensed companies from 17 to 24, with infrastructure development at SSKIA SEZ and Pandamatenga SEZ positioning these zones for accelerated investor uptake.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED.

17. Mr. Chairman, the year 2025 witnessed significant shifts in global trade patterns due to U.S. tariff wars and geopolitical tensions. The U.S. imposed tariffs on diamonds from Botswana which previously had duty-free access under AGOA, and the non-renewal of AGOA which expired on 30th September 2025 and its extension by an unprecedented one year running up to 31st December 2026 and with indications of AGOA being reworked to benefit the United States leaves our trade prospects clouded in uncertainty. These developments, coupled with the downturn in global diamond markets which remain the main driver of the Botswana Economy, have resulted in low economic growth and budgetary constraints affecting our efforts to grow and sustain local industries and revive the economy.

18. Mr. Chairman, implementation challenges included funding constraints limiting stakeholder outreach and public education on amended company laws and OBRS enhancements, absence of a dedicated AML/CFT office within CIPA placing pressure on existing officers, limited capacity development and staff training, and delays in operationalization of OPMS due to government support systems experiencing challenges. Additionally, implementation of Infant Industry Protection for thermal paper, shade nets and surgical masks was delayed by protracted consultations with SACU Member States, exposing these industries to continued existential threats.

19. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to inform you that the Government has introduced infant industry protection measures to safeguard these industries against established competitors while they grow and mature.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2026/2027

Policy and Legislative Reforms

20. Mr. Chairman, in 2026/27 the Ministry will introduce the Regulatory Guillotine to systematically review regulations for efficiency and relevance. With rollout across Government, this will visibly reduce costs and risks of doing business in Botswana, improving competitiveness, investment, and facilitating job creation. The Ministry has initiated review of critical legislation including the Trade Act, Liquor Act, Gambling Act and Regulations, and the Cooperative Societies Act to address AML/CFT concerns and align with international best practices. Bills for the Trade and Liquor Acts are envisaged to be tabled during the July 2026 Parliamentary Session.

21. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry has made significant progress in finalizing a new investment incentives framework. The proposed incentives represent a departure from profit-based to cost-based incentives, targeting renewable energy, manufacturing, and services sectors while placing ease of doing business at the core of an effective incentives regime. Additionally, the Ministry is advancing development of an Investment Law which will guarantee legal protections for investors and their investments as well as a revised National Investment Strategy that seeks to provide a blueprint for the country in driving increased investment flows into Botswana. The Industrial Country Diagnostics study to be undertaken in 2026/27 will unlock the full potential of our manufacturing sector, which has been positioned as the cornerstone for Botswana's economic transformation under NDP 12.

Digital Transformation and Corporate Regulation.

22. Mr. Chairman, in the 2026/27 financial year, MTE through CIPA will establish a dedicated AML/CFT Office to strengthen supervisory capacity and support preparations for the 2027 Mutual Evaluation, further enhance and localize the OBRS including enabling licensing and regulation of company secretarial services, undertake a Sectoral Risk Assessment for legal persons and legal arrangements, advance the Digital One-Stop Shop initiative positioning CIPA as a core implementation anchor for integrated business registration and licensing, and implement and manage the National Collateral Registry to enhance SME access to credit through a secure digital platform. Government has committed P40 million towards development of a home-grown Company Registration System to support citizen-owned ICT companies, stimulate skills transfer, and reduce current annual system support costs of approximately P8 million.

23. Mr. Chairman, CIPA is implementing a comprehensive records digitization initiative which will significantly reduce reliance on physical storage, resulting in an estimated reduction of rental costs by nearly 50 percent, while improving records security and operational efficiency. In 2026/27, OPMS will be optimized and housed in a high-availability host environment to ensure full functionality and availability to the business community, realizing the digitalization vision of streamlining public service delivery.

24. **Mr. Chairman,** for 2026/2027, BOBS will focus on development and adoption of additional standards aligned to national development priorities including green economy, digital transformation and climate resilience. Acquisition of testing and verification equipment with planned development budget of P34.6 million over NDP12, implementation of ICT strategy with planned budget of P42.5 million over NDP12 providing end-to-end automated online services, and development of land in Maun for training and testing facilities budgeted at P800 million over NDP12 will position Botswana products through quality certification to access AfCFTA and other international markets.

Standards, Quality Infrastructure and SEZ Development.

25. **Mr. Chairman,** four SEZs have been prioritized for implementation during NDP 12 through BETP in partnership with the private sector: SSKIA, Lobatse, Pandamatenga and Sowa. At SSKIA SEZ, a project funded at approximately P579 million to provide utility services to 92 plots is nearing completion, while construction of four factory shells with total capacity of 4,000 square metres is in progress with revised completion date of May 2026. At Pandamatenga SEZ, the newly completed grain storage silos are almost filled with grain from the 2025/26 bumper harvest and are being equipped with grain dryer, automated sampling system, and fumigation systems. A feasibility study exploring PPP models for infrastructure development within the nine SEZs has been completed, with preliminary results indicating viable bankable PPP projects.

Enterprise Development and Wealth Creation (Social Entrepreneurship)

26. Mr. Chairman, the Wealth Creation Programme continues to transform lives, having funded 100 new enterprises comprising 108 beneficiaries during 2025/26, bringing the total to 41,869 funded enterprises since inception in 2011. With 73% of enterprises remaining operational and creating employment for 34,731 individuals, the programme demonstrates Government's commitment to poverty alleviation. For 2025/26, P85 million was allocated with P20 million cut due to budgetary constraints. The Ministry is currently reviewing the programme to align it with NDP 12 and BETP, ensuring it continues to facilitate participation of vulnerable members of our communities in sustainable enterprises with scalable potential.

27. Mr. Chairman, for cooperatives development in 2026/27, the Ministry will finalize review of the Cooperative Societies Act and Cooperative Transformation Strategy to ease cooperative business operations and ensure compliance with international best practices, expand the digital cooperative platform to integrate advanced data analytics and real-time monitoring, intensify cooperative training and community outreach programmes, and operationalize the ICA Africa Southern Sub-Regional Office to strengthen knowledge exchange and create opportunities for cross-border partnerships.

BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2025/2026

I. DEVELOPMENT BUDGET FOR 2025/2026

28. Mr Chairman, I wish to provide an overview of the current year's Development Budget performance. The Development Budget for the financial year 2025/2026 stands at **Three Hundred and Sixteen Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety Pula** (**P316 233 590.00**). As at 27th February 2026, the Development expenditure stood at **Sixty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty Pula** (**P67 987 780**), which translates to **22%** of the allocated budget.

II. RECURRENT BUDGET FOR 2025/2026

22. Mr Chairman, as at as at 27th February 2026, the total Recurrent Budget Expenditure stood at **Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight**

Million, One Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety-Three Pula (P758 187 193), translating to **65%** of the estimated budget of **One Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Two Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Pula (P1 172 838 370)**. Of this expenditure, Personnel Emoluments amounted to **One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Six Pula (P137 392 136)**, representing **18%**; Subventions to State-Owned Enterprises amounted to **Five Hundred and Fifty-Eight Million, Six Hundred Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Eight Pula (P558 600 888)**, representing **74%**; and the remaining balance of **Sixty-Two Million, One Hundred and Ninety-Four Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty-Nine Pula (P62 194 169)**, representing **8%**, was allocated for the day-to-day running operations of the Ministry. The bulk of the expenditure is directed to the Eleven (11) Ministry's State-Owned Enterprises, which are CEDA, SEZA, BOBS, CCA, CIPA, CCT, BOTC, BITC, Gambling Authority, LEA, and SPEDU.

RECURRENT REVENUE FOR 2025/2026.

29. **Mr Chairman**, as at 27th February 2026, revenue collection stood at **Eighty-Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty-Three Pula (P89 757 153)** against the overall revenue estimate of **One Hundred and One Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand, Nine**

Hundred and Thirty Pula (P101 297 930), which represents **89%** of the estimated revenue. The major revenue source is Company Registration Fees, which amounted to **Eighty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Four Pula (P86 792 374)**, representing **88.7%** of the estimated revenue of **Ninety-Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Six Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety Pula (P97 856 190)**. Scrap Metal collections amounted to **One Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand and Fifty Pula (P1 579 050)**, representing **73%** of the estimated **Two Million, One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Pula (P2 160 000)**, while Import and Export Permit Fees exceeded expectations, totalling **Seven Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Two Hundred Pula (P770 200)**, which is **128%** of the estimated **Six Hundred Thousand Pula (P600 000)**.

BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2026/2027

I. DEVELOPMENT BUDGET FOR 2026/2027

30. **Mr Chairman,** the Ministry's proposed Development Budget for the financial year 2026/2027 stands at **Three Hundred and Thirty-One Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty Pula (P331 332 520),** representing an increase of **Fifteen Million, Ninety-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Pula (P15 098 930),**

which is **5%** over the current year's budget of **Three Hundred and Sixteen Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety Pula (P316 233 590).** This significant increase in the Development Budget is attributed to the merger of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Entrepreneurship.

31. **Mr Chairman,** under MTE Infrastructure Development, the proposed budget is **Seventy-Four Million Pula (P74 000 000)**, allocated to cater for the Grain Dryer for the silos with a recommended budget of **Thirty-Four Million Pula (P34 000 000)**, and the construction of four factory shells at SSKIA SEZ with a recommendation of **Forty Million Pula (P40 000 000)**.

32. **Mr Chairman,** under MTE Computerisation, the proposed budget is **Twelve Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety-Six Pula (P12 853 196)**, to cater for MTE Systems Development with a recommended budget of **Eleven Million, Seventeen Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-One Pula (P11 017 231)**, and the Trade and Industry In-House Statistics Database Project Phase II (System Integration) with a recommendation of **One Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Six Pula (P1 835 966).**

33. **Mr Chairman**, under Doing Business Reforms, the proposed budget is **One Hundred and Ninety-Two Million, Thirty-One Thousand and Fifty Pula (P192 031 050)**, to cater for the following initiatives: the Doing Business Reforms Roadmap with a recommended budget of **Nine Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, One Hundred and Three Pula (P918 103)**; Transactional Advisory Services for Special Economic Zones with a recommended budget of **Three Million, Six Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Ten Pula (P3 672 410)**; Development of E-commerce Strategy for Botswana with a recommended budget of **Six Million, One Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty-Four Pula (P6 120 684**); AfCFTA Consultancy Driving for Quality with a recommended budget of **Fifteen Million Pula (P15 000 000)**; MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program with a recommended budget of **Fifty-Four Million, Three Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirteen Pula (P54 319 613)**; Wealth Creation with a recommended budget of **Sixty-Five Million Pula (P65 000 000)**; and Chema Chema Fund with a recommended budget of **Forty-Seven Million, Two Hundred and Forty Pula (P47 000 240).**

34. **Mr Chairman**, under Research and Policy Development, the proposed budget is **Fifty-Two Million, Four Hundred and Forty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-Four Pula (P52 448 274)**, to cater for Trade and Industry Economic Research and Policy Reforms with a recommended budget of **Two Million, Four Hundred and Forty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-Four Pula (P2 448 274)**, and the National e-Mobility

Programme with a recommended budget of **Fifty Million Pula (P50,000,000)**.

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR 2026/2027.

35. Mr. Chairman, the proposed 2026/2027 Recurrent budget estimate for the Ministry is **One Billion, Two Hundred and Three Million, One Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Four Hundred and Ten Pula (P1 203 190 410)**, representing an increase of **P30 352 050** or **3%** over the current year's budget of **One Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Two Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy Pula (P1 172 838 370).**

36. Mr. Chairman, out of this amount **Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty Pula (P895 101 720)** or **74%** is allocated to the Ministry's eleven (11) State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) leaving only **Three Hundred and Eight Million and Eighty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Pula (P308 088 690)** to be shared among the Ministry Departments.

37. Mr. Chairman, My Ministry's eleven (11) SOEs namely; CEDA, LEA, BOBS, BITC, BOTC, CIPA, Competition and Consumer Authority, Competition and Consumer Tribunal, Gambling Authority, SEZA and SPEDU have been allocated **74%** of the Recurrent budget amounting to **Eight Hundred and Ninety-Five Million, One**

Hundred and One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twenty Pula (P895 101 720). Out of this amount the largest share of **Two Hundred and Ninety-Four Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty Pula (294 486 620)** which is **33%** is allocated to CEDA. The second largest share of the subvention amounting to **One Hundred and Forty-Five Million and Eight Thousand, Four Hundred and Twenty Pula (P145 008 420)** or 16% goes to LEA.

38. **Mr. Chairman,** from the Departments' budget **of Three Hundred and Eight Million and Eighty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Pula (P308 088 690)** an amount of **Two Hundred and One Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty Pula (P201 891 630)** or **66%** goes to personnel emoluments. The remaining **33%** amounting to **One Hundred and Six Million, One Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand and Sixty Pula (P106 197 060)** goes to other Operational Charges.

I. RECURRENT REVENUE FOR 2026/2027

39. **Mr. Chairman,** the proposed revenue for 2026/2027 amounts to **Eighty-Six Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Pula (P86 436 750)**. The proposed budget indicates a decrease of **Fourteen Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty Pula (P14 861 180)** or **15%** from the current year estimate of **One Hundred and One Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-**

Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Pula (P101 297 930). A major decrease is expected under Company Registration Fees due to economic and social initiatives associated with the current financial situation that Government is facing.

CONCLUSION

40. **Mr. Chairman,** the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship stands at a pivotal moment in Botswana's economic transformation journey. The proposed budget of **One Billion, Two Hundred and Three Million, One Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Four Hundred and Ten Pula** (**P1 203 190 410**) for Recurrent expenditure and **Three Hundred and Thirty-One Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty Pula** (**P331 332 520**) for Development expenditure reflects our unwavering commitment to creating an enabling environment for business growth, fostering innovation, and ensuring sustainable economic development. Through strategic initiatives including the Regulatory Guillotine, digital transformation of business services, enhancement of our quality infrastructure, and continued support for SMMEs through CEDA and the Wealth Creation Programme, we are positioned to overcome the challenges posed by global economic headwinds and regional trade dynamics. The Ministry remains steadfast in its mandate to diversify the economy, create employment opportunities, and improve the livelihoods of all Batswana. I therefore humbly request this August House to approve the budget proposals as presented, and I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Members, our stakeholders, development partners, and the dedicated staff of the Ministry and our State-Owned Enterprises for their continued support and commitment to national development. I move accordingly.

Thank you, **Mr. Chairman**.