



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

ORGANISATION 1300

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

**2026/2027 RECURRENT AND
DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PROPOSALS**

**PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
BY**

**HONOURABLE MINISTER OF JUSTICE &
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

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MARCH 2026

A. INTRODUCTION

- 1.** I wish to present to this Honourable House, the 2026/2027 Budget Estimates for **"HEAD 1300 – ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS."**
- 2.** The Office of the Attorney General (AGC) exists to provide legal services to the Government. This constitutional mandate is executed through four (4) functional areas, the Civil Litigation Division (CLD), Legislative Drafting Division (LDD), International and Commercial Division (ICD) and Corporate Services Division (CSD).
- 3.** There is also the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) which was established constitutionally in 2005 through the Constitution Amendment Act of 2005 as independent of the Attorney General's Chambers in terms of the execution of its mandate. However, in terms of Section 51(A) of the constitution, the DPP remains subject to the administrative supervision of the Attorney General.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING

4. **Mr. Chairman,** I am happy to report that twenty-five **(25)** Bills were passed by Parliament during the 2025 Meetings of Parliament. Thus, at the budget meeting, five (5) Bills were presented and passed as Acts of Parliament. During the Winter meeting, 14 Bills were presented and passed as Acts of Parliament. At the SONA meeting, seven (7) Bills were presented, and six (6) were passed as Acts of Parliament.
5. **Mr. Chairman,** with respect to updating the laws of Botswana, I am thrilled to announce that the tender has been awarded to Blackhall Publishing. In terms of this tender, the laws of Botswana will be updated to 31st December, 2025. In order to enhance access to laws, it is anticipated that the E-laws initiative will also be resuscitated within the year.
6. **Mr. Chairman,** as reported in last year's presentation to this Honourable House, a Law Reform Unit was established within the Legislative Drafting Division of the Attorney General's Chambers in March 2020. The process of operationalising the Unit is ongoing, and technical assistance has been sought from the United Nations Development Programme and the British High Commission. Furthermore, the Cabinet Memorandum proposing the establishment of an independent Law Reform Agency is currently in circulation.

INTERNATIONAL & COMMERCIAL DIVISION (ICD)

- 7. Mr. Chairman,** the International and Commercial Division continues to render legal services to Government Ministries and Departments in matters relating to commercial and international law. These services include the negotiation and drafting of commercial and international agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, as well as the provision of legal advice on national and strategic projects.

CIVIL & LITIGATION (CLD)

- 8. Mr. Chairman,** the Civil Litigation Division is mandated to handle all civil cases instituted by or against the Government, its departments, and public officers sued in the course of their official duties. In certain instances, Chambers outsources some matters to private legal practitioners. This outsourcing arrangement necessitates additional budgetary provisions to enable Chambers to meet the associated legal fees.
- 9. Mr. Chairman,** Chambers is of the view that one effective way of enhancing the delivery of legal services is through the deployment of civil lawyers across all Ministries, to complement those already seconded by the International and Commercial Division. This arrangement would ensure that legal officers are readily available to provide timely, on-the-spot legal advice, thereby promoting legally

sound decision-making and reducing litigation and the associated costs.

- 10. Mr Speaker,** engagements with the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) are at an advanced stage regarding the proposed increase in staff and the expansion of the complement of attorneys at CLD through the creation of additional posts. This initiative aims to establish specialized or dedicated teams/desk officers to support MDAs with a high volume of litigation matters or specialized areas, such as construction and arbitration.

DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS (DPP)

- 11. Mr. Chairman,** the Office of DPP aspires to prosecute all criminal cases as per the powers conferred upon it by the Constitution including those that are currently prosecuted by the Botswana Police Service. However, this ambition has been greatly impacted by an acute shortage of resources for the takeover project which is aimed at relieving the Botswana Police Service of the delegated prosecutorial powers previously bestowed upon them.
- 12. Mr. Chairman,** there is an increase in the completion of dockets/registration of Cases at Court. During the period commencing 1st October 2025 to date, the DPP has received 965 dockets. A total of 521 dockets (53.9%) have been completed. Notably, there has been

an increase in the registration of corruption cases and cases of national interest.

13. Mr. Chairman, the realisation of the mandate of the AGC and DPP is dependent upon a conducive working environment for the workforce. The conditions of service for the lawyers across Chambers need to be enhanced to attract, incentivise and retain experienced lawyers. Efforts are underway to address these challenges and achieve parity in remuneration across the public service, including responsibility allowance and commuted overtime allowance.

14. Construction of Maun DPP Office and Residential Houses

On the infrastructure front, the DPP's efforts to address the acute shortage of suitable accommodation have been hampered by challenges arising from project implementation delays. As previously reported, the Maun DPP office block and residential houses were nearing completion. However, the status remains unchanged due to a prolonged procurement process. The Project implementation is currently at 97% completion, against a target of full completion.

BUDGET UTILISATION FOR 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

RECURRENT BUDGET

- 15. Mr. Chairman,** for the financial year 2025/2026 the Attorney General's Chambers was allocated a recurrent budget amount of Three Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Eighty-Four Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Pula (P397 584 440,00). Expenditure to date stands at Two Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand, One Hundred and Forty-Six Pula, Thirteen Thebe (P298 797 146,18) or 75.15% of the approved budget. The expenditure is below the target for the quarter due to the standing GPO moratorium.

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

- 16. Mr. Chairman,** for the financial year 2025/2026, the Attorney General's Chambers was allocated a development budget amounting to **Ten Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pula (P10,200,000)** which has been revised to P8,977,662. The budget was approved for ongoing projects being the Refurbishment of the Attorney General's Chambers HQ Facilities, and the completion of the Construction of the Maun DPP/DCEC Office Block and Staff Housing. Expenditure as at end of February 2026 stands at **P3,638,256** or 41% of the revised budget. The under expenditure is due to delays in appointing a subcontractor for the remaining mechanical works in the Maun DPP/DCEC project as

well as delays in completing the AGC refurbishment project. The Refurbishment of Attorney General's Chambers Facilities is at 96% progress, with completion estimated in April 2026. The progress for construction of DPP/DCEC facilities in Maun is at 96% completion and the project is expected to be completed during the 2026/2027 Financial Year.

BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

RECURRENT BUDGET

- 17. Mr. Chairman,** I request for approval of **Three Hundred and Ninety-Nine Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand Pula (P399,361,000)** under the Recurrent Budget. This represents an increase of One Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty Pula (**P1,776 560**) or a miniature percentage (0.45%) over the 2025/2026 budget amount of **Three Hundred and Ninety-Seventy Million, Five Hundred and Eighty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty Pula (P397,584,440)**.
- 18. Mr. Chairman,** allow me to outline the major items that comprise this budget proposal. I request for Two Hundred and Sixty-One Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty- Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty Pula (**P 261 852 880,00**) for salaries and allowances. The salaries and allowances constitute 65,57% of the budget, followed by major operational items/expenses being Legal Costs at Forty-One Million Pula

(P41 000 000,00) or 10,27%, Service Charges at Twenty-Two Million (P22 000 000,00) or 5,51% and Travel Costs at Ten Million Pula (P10 000 000,00) or 2,50%.

The remaining balance of Sixty-Four Million, Five Hundred and Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Pula (P64 508 120,00) or 16,15 % of the budget proposal is required for other supporting services for AGCs operational activities.

19. Mr. Chairman, the slight increment goes to Salaries, Allowances, and Gratuities for Contract Officers. Although there is an adjustment for personal emoluments, it is important to highlight that the current economic status has enforced a significant reduction for Legal Costs by Sixteen Million, Three Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty Pula (P16 374 960) or 28.54%. This is despite an increase in the number of criminal cases emanating from emerging legal concepts/areas in which the AGC/DPP is under-resourced or lacks expertise hence the need to outsource to external senior or specialised legal counsel whose charges are on a higher legal fees scale. Therefore, the reduction of the budget allocation from Fifty-Seven Million, Three Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty Pula (P57,374,960) to Forty-One Million Pula (P41 000 000,00) may have a significant impact on court proceedings.

20. Mr. Chairman, we are still experiencing financial challenges regarding Subsistence Costs due to extensive travel for prosecutors serving in

areas which do not have DPP offices but provide prosecutorial services to citizens. The allocated budget represents an increase of One Million, Two Hundred and Twenty Pula P1 200 020.00 or 13.64% from P8 799 980,00 to P10,000,000. The funds are usually depleted as early as the second quarter of the financial year, therefore the increment is intended to minimise transfers from various votes.

In the current year, an effort was made to comply with the travel moratorium, however a waiver was requested to exceed the 50% threshold to minimise postponement of cases. However, in consideration of the economic outlook, AGCs will evaluate possible cost saving measures for 2026/2027 financial year.

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

- 21. Mr. Chairman,** I request an amount of **Twenty-Seven Million, Seven Hundred Thousand Pula (P27,700,000)** under the Development Budget. The budget will be used for further Refurbishment of AGC Facilities, that is following refurbishment of other areas in the building after completion of the Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) and the associated Building Management System. The budget will also be used for the completion of DPP/DCEC facilities in Maun.

B. CONCLUSION

22. Chairman, this concludes my budget proposal. I therefore move that the sum of **Three Hundred and Ninety-Nine Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-One Thousand Pula (P399,361,000)** under Recurrent Budget for Organisation 1300; be approved and stand part of the Schedule of the Appropriation (2026/2027) Bill, 2026 (Bill No.1 of 2026), and that the sum of **Twenty-Seven Million, Seven Hundred Thousand Pula (P27,700,000)** under the Development Budget for Organisation 1300 be approved and stand part of the Estimates for the 2026/2027 financial year.

23. I move accordingly.

I thank you, **Mr. Chairman.**