13th PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

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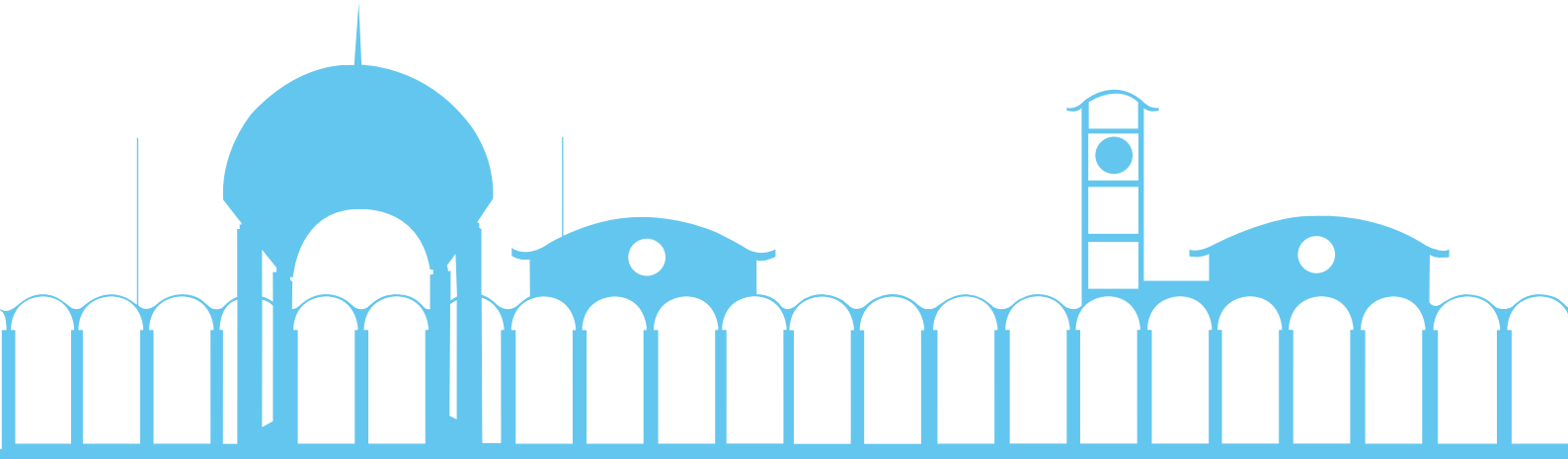
THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 01 APRIL 2025

MIXED VERSION

HANSARD NO: 216



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SPEAKER
The Hon. Dithapelo L. Keorapetse, MP.
DEPUTY SPEAKER
Hon. H. P. Manyeneng, MP. (Mmopane-Metsimotlhabe)

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Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly	- Ms K. H. Ketshajwang
Learned Parliamentary Counsel	- Advocate L. O. Tlhowe
Senior Assistant Clerk	- Mr C. S. Nfila
Assistant Clerk (E)	- Ms K. Nyanga

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His Honour N. N. Gaolathe, MP.	- Vice President & Minister of Finance
Hon. M. C. Mohwasa, MP.	- Minister for State President
Hon. Dr P. Butale, MP.	- Minister for International Relations
Hon. N. Ramaotwana, MP.	- Minister of Justice and Correctional Services
Hon. K. Motshegwa, MP.	- Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs
Hon. Dr M. Chimbombi, MP.	- Minister of Lands and Agriculture
Hon. D. Tshere, MP.	- Minister of Communications and Innovation
Hon. N. Kgafela-Mokoka, MP.	- Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education
Hon. P. Maele, MP.	- Minister of Higher Education
Hon. W. B. Mmolotsi, MP.	- Minister of Environment and Tourism
Hon. Dr S. Modise, MP.	- Minister of Health
Hon. Maj. Gen. P. Mokgware, MP.	- Minister of Labour and Home Affairs
Hon. O. Ramogapi, MP.	- Minister of Water and Human Settlement
Hon. B. J. Kenewendo, MP.	- Minister of Minerals and Energy
Hon. T. Ntsima, MP.	- Minister of Trade and Enterpreneurship
Hon. L. Chombo, MP.	- Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs
Hon. J. Kelebeng, MP.	- Minister of Sports and Arts
Hon. N. S. L. M. Salakae, MP.	- Minister of Transport and Infrastructure
Hon. M. B. Mophuting, MP.	- Assistant Minister, State President
Hon. A. Nyatanga, MP.	- Assistant Minister, Justice and Correctional Services
Hon. M. I. Moswaane, MP.	- Assistant Minister, Local Government and Traditional Affairs
Hon. Dr E. G. Dikoloti, MP.	- Assistant Minister, Lands and Agriculture
Hon. S. Ntlhaile, MP.	- Assistant Minister, Communications and Innovation
Hon. L. Ookeditse, MP.	- Assistant Minister, Health
Hon. B. Mathoothe, MP.	- Assistant Minister, Trade and Enterpreneurship
Hon. J. Hunyepa, MP.	- Assistant Minister, Child Welfare and Basic Education
Hon. M. G. J. Motsamai, MP.	- Assistant Minister, Water and Human Settlement
Hon. K. Atamelang, MP.	- Assistant Minister, Transport and Infrastructure

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES

Names	Constituency
RULING PARTY (Umbrella for Democratic Change)	
The President Mr D. G. Boko, MP.	President
His Honour N. N. Gaolathe, MP.	Vice President (Gaborone Bonnington South)
Hon. S. O. Digwa, MP. (Government Whip)	Boteti West
Hon. W. B. Mmolotsi, MP.	Francistown South
Hon. M. I. Moswaane, MP.	Francistown West
Hon. M. G. J. Motsamai, MP.	Charles Hill
Hon. O. Ramogapi, MP.	Palapye
Hon. D. Tshere, MP.	Mahalapye West
Hon. Dr P. Butale, MP.	Gaborone Central
Hon. P. Maele, MP.	Tswapong North
Hon. S. Ntlhaile, MP.	Gaborone North
Hon. N. S. L. M. Salakae, MP.	Ghanzi
Hon. K. Atamelang, MP.	Boteti East
Hon. M. Bagaisamang, MP.	Shoshong
Hon. L. Barongwang, MP.	Mogoditshane East
Hon. T. Bogatsu, MP.	Lentsweletau-Lephephe
Hon. Dr M. C. Chimbombi, MP.	Kgalagadi South
Hon. C. K. Jacobs, MP.	Lobatse
Hon. J. Hunyepa, MP.	Tati West
Hon. J. Kelebeng, MP.	Takatokwane
Hon. A. K. Khan, MP.	Molepolole North
Hon. O. Kwapa, MP.	Jwaneng-Mabutsane
Hon. G. Lekau, MP.	Mogoditshane West
Hon. R. M. Lekutlane, MP.	Kgalagadi North
Hon. H. P. Manyeneng, MP.	Metsimotlhabe-Mmopane
Hon. Brig. D. Mokgwathi	Letlhakeng
Hon. S. D. Monageng, MP.	Molepolole South
Hon. M. B. Mophuting, MP.	Gaborone Bonnington North
Hon. M. M. Morolong, MP.	Kgatleng Central
Hon. P. M. Mosanana, MP.	Kanye East
Hon. K. Motshegwa, MP.	Mmadinare
Hon. T. Ntsima, MP.	Francistown East
Hon. A. Nyatanga, MP.	Mahalapye East
Hon. N. Ramaotwana, MP.	Gaborone South
Hon. V. B. Phologolo, MP.	Kanye West
Hon. G. Sedombo, MP.	Tonota
Hon. P. M. Segokgo, MP.	Tlokweng

OPPOSITION

(Botswana Congress Party)

Hon. D. Saleshando, MP. (Leader of the Opposition)	Maun North
Hon. K. C. Hikuama, MP. (Opposition Whip)	Maun West
Hon. Dr U. Dow, MP.	Kgatleng West
Hon. Dr K. Gobotswang, MP	Tswapong South
Hon. K. K. Kapinga, MP	Okavango West
Hon. G. Kekgonegile, MP.	Maun East
Hon. T. B. Lucas, MP.	Bobirwa
Hon. K. Nkawana, MP.	Selebi Phikwe East
Hon. P. Aaron, MP.	Ngami
Hon. G. Disho, MP.	Okavango East
Hon. T. Furniture, MP.	Tati East
Hon. R. W. Kaizer, MP.	Selebi Phikwe West
Hon. B. B. Mabeo, MP.	Gamalete
Hon. S. O. Mapulanga, MP.	Chobe
Hon. M. Moalosi, MP.	Nkange

(Botswana Patriotic Front)

Hon. L. Lesedi, MP.	Serowe South
Hon. B. Mathoothe, MP.	Serowe North
Hon. O. Kedikilwe, MP.	Serowe West
Hon. J. J. Frenzel, MP.	Shashe West
Hon. L. Ookeditse, MP.	Nata-Gweta

(Botswana Democratic Party)

Hon. K. S. Gare, MP.	Moshupa-Manyana
Hon. K. T. Mmusi, MP.	Gabane-Mmankgodi
Hon. P. K. Motaosane, MP.	Thamaga-Kumakwane
Hon. M. M. Pule, MP.	Kgatleng East

(Independent Member of Parliament)

Hon. Dr E. G. Dikoloti, MP.	Goodhope- Mmathethe

SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon. Maj. Gen. P. Mokgware, MP.	Specially Elected
Hon. B. J. Kenewendo, MP.	Specially Elected
Hon. M. C. Mohwasa, MP.	Specially Elected
Hon. N. Kgafela-Mokoka, MP.	Specially Elected
Hon. Dr S. Modise, MP.	Specially Elected
Hon. L. Chombo, MP.	Specially Elected

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 1ST APRIL, 2025

CONTENTS ***PAGE (S)***

Tuesday 1st April, 2025

THE ASSEMBLY met at 2:00 p.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

P R A Y E R S

* * * *

MADAM SPEAKER (MS MANYENENG): Order! Order! Honourable Members. Let us start the business of today with questions.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

STATE MEDIA COVERAGE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

DR K. GOBOTSWANG (TSWAPONG SOUTH): asked the Minister for State President if he is aware that under the previous administration the Ombudsman found that the state media coverage of political parties disproportionately favoured the ruling party and to state whether the situation has changed and in the spirit of inclusivity and equity he should state:

(i) the number of persons representing civic organisations and opposition political parties interviewed by state media especially Botswana Television (BTV) in response to the 2025/2026 Budget Speech;

(ii) the number of Union Leaders interviewed by state media especially BTV concerning the 2025/2026 Budget Speech;

(iii) the number of persons with disability interviewed by the state media especially BTV over the 2025/2026 Budget Speech;

(iv) the number of young people interviewed by state media especially BTV over the 2025/2026 Budget Speech; and

(v) when the state media will become a public broadcaster to ensure editorial independence.

ACTING MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT (DR BUTALE): *Thank you Madam Speaker. We are aware of the findings of the Ombudsman, I think that report* ke ya 2017 *on disproportionate state media coverage of the ruling party as it was then as to the opposition. It is in that regard that the new* Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) *administration and the ministry has publicly stated our intentions to transform state media into an independent public broadcaster in the spirit of equity and inclusivity amongst others. We therefore, do not want to be given any special treatment at the expense of other political parties hence our position to convert the state broadcaster to a public broadcaster.*

I want to preface the following answer Madam Speaker, ka go bua gore ga re kgotsofalele fa re setseng re le teng. Tse ke tlaa di buang fa re setse re di kgonne. Re dumela gore phetogo e re yang go e dira e ya go fetola *state media into public service broadcaster* e tlaa dirang gore go nne botoka.

Mmotsi wa potso o boditse gore fa gare ga 6 *February* le 6 *March,* ke nako e re dumelang gore re ne re baakanyetsa *budget*. Re nnile le *interviews* tse di lesome mme borataro mo bolesomeng joo, e ne e le jwa go bidiwang gotwe *civic organisations* mme ga nna le bobedi jo bo neng bo tswa mo phathing e e busang le bobedi jo bo neng bo tswa kwa *opposition.* Ke na le *annexure that I will share* le mmotsi wa potso e e supang gore batho bao ke bo mang ka maina fa e le gore o nna le keletso ya gore a itse gore ke bo mang. Dipuisanyo tseo di ne di itebagantse le dilo di le mmalwa. E ne e le go araba kana go tsibogela *Budget Speech*, go e lebela kwa pele le gore go lebelelwe gape gore ka fa e ntshitsweng ka teng, a e itebagantse kana e araba matshwenyego a bagwebi, bogolo jang ba bomme. Go ne ga botsolotswa gape moeteledipele wa *unions* a le mongwefela mo nakong e ke e buileng eo. Ka maswabi, go ne ga se ka ga nna le ope wa banalebogole yo o neng a botsolotswa mo nakong yone eo. Maikaelelo magolo mo go baakanyeng ka fa e leng gore *public broadcaster* e dira ka teng, ke gore re netefatse gore ba nna le seabe. Mme jaaka le itse, go nna go nna le mo gotweng *Sign Language* e e leng gore ka nako e *budget* e dirwang ka yone, le yone e a bo e supa gore batlhokakutlo ba se ka ba salela kwa morago. Ke dumela gore e tlaa re mo paakanyong e re e dirang, go nne le *deliberate and intentional policies* tse di tlaabong di ikaelela go akaretsa banalebogole.

Go ne ga nna le banana ba le bane ba ba neng ba tla gone kwa BTV. Go ne go buiwa jalo ka se banana ba se solofetseng fa go tla mo *budget,* go tsiboga ga bone

ka *budget* le gore ba bona e le gore e tlaa tlhabolola matshelo a bone ka tsela e e ntseng jang.

Jaaka ke tlhalositse, ke bue ka kgang e ya go fetola *state media to public broadcaster* gore re setse re le mo thulaganyong ya go rerisanya le banaleseabe. Re ne re beetse *end of March* gore ba Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) le ba Editors Forum ba bo ba setse ba nnile le seabe kana ba nnile le go lebelela *draft Cabinet Memo,* ba nne le dikakanyo tsa bone gore go nne le *a scope* sa gore gone mme fa re ya go fetola, re ya go fetola fa kae e bile *what is the international standard in terms of a public broadcaster* vis-à-vis *what I have always called the colonial era style of state media.* E ne e le gore *end of March* megopolo ya bone e tsenngwa jalo mo go se se tlaa felelang se isitswe kwa *Cabinet.* Go setse go dirilwe mo gotweng *an* Invitation To Tender (ITT). Go tlaabo go ya go hirwa *consultant* gore a ye go lebelela kgang e ya go baakanya.

O tlaa gakologelwa *Madam Speaker*, gore re kile ra bo re na le Broadcasting Act ya 1988 *that was repealed* go tsenngwa Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) Act *of* 2013. Kana go raya gore fa re fetola jaana, re ya go felela re tshwanelwa ke gore re fetole BOCRA Act ka gore yone e bua ka *state media.* Re tlaa e fetola gore e bue ka *public broadcaster*. Ke kopa go ema go le kalo. Ke a leboga.

DR GOBOTSWANG: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Minister.* Ke tsaya gore wena le rona o a itse re tswa kgakala re ngongoregela ka fa e leng gore BTV, RB1 le RB2 di dira tiro ka teng. A o batla go tlhomamisetsa Ntlo e gore o bona pharologanyo gone jaana? Ke gore *there are engagements in public discourse,* o fitlhela o kare ba tshela mo lefatsheng le sele. A o a lemoga gore mo dikgannyeng tsa moruthutha tse e leng gore di teng gone jaana; RB1, BTV le RB2 ga ba itse kwa letsatsi le tswang teng le kwa le phirimang teng?

A re tseye kgang gongwe e tshwana le ya ga *Honourable* Jacobs e go neng gotwe Tautona o ne a mo tshosetsa matshelo; *number one. Number two…*

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

DR GOBOTSWANG: *It is a very serious matter*, re bua ka *treason sir*. Legale wena o lesole, ga o tshabe leso.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)…

DR GOBOTSWANG: Go tshwana le kgang ya ga *Honourable* Boko ya *discourse between himself and* Members of Parliament (MPs). *It was a very serious debate* e e neng e le *public discourse* e o neng o sa solofela gore a bo a le mo teng. Gompieno re bua ka *hemp* le dikgang tsa sika la motokwane, ga o ka ke wa utlwa gore *the varied opinions* mo dikgannyeng tse di kae. A mme pharologanyo o a e bona?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

DR GOBOTSWANG: Le kgang ya *furniture* tseo tsa *millions,* ga o ka ke wa e fitlhela mo *public broadcasters* tse di teng.

Ya bofelo ke gore kana e rile re ntse re tsweletse, Goromente yole a bo a sia ka BTV a ya go e fitlha mo *set top box*, Batswana ba bo ba sa tlhole ba bona Palamente mo *station* se ba neng ntse ba se lebelela. Golo fa *Honourable Minister,* le busetsa leng Palamente kwa setšhabeng le e ntsha kwa e neng e fitlhilwe teng kwa *set top box* kwa lefifing? Tanki *Madam Speaker.*

DR BUTALE: Ke a leboga motlotlegi. Gongwe ke e tlhalose jaana gore jaaka ke tlhalositse, ga ke dumele gore pharologanyo e e teng e lekane, ke sone se o bonang re ikaelela gore re ye go dira phetogo e. Kana segolobogolo fa re batla gore e nne *public broadcaster,* ke gone se re reng re tlaa tshwanelwa ke gore jaanong e lebelele se se siametseng setšhaba. Kana fa gotwe *state media* go tewa gore jaanong e tabogile le se babusi ba nako eo ba batlang se buiwa, *that is the difference.* Jaanong *the reason why* re re, e nne le *an independent body,* go raya gore e a go tshwanelwa ke gore e bo e le gore ga go na gope fa e leng gore dipolotiki tsa gore, ba ba busang ke ba, ba ba sa busing ke ba, di tlaabo di sa tsene gope.

Gongwe mme se sengwe se o neng o bua ka go gasiwa ga *topical issues,* ke tsaya gore le fa re ka nna *public broadcaster,* ga ke solofele gore *public broadcaster* e ka tshwana le gongwe *a tabloid.* Babegadikgang ba ba leng mo ba a itse le bone gore le bobegadikgang bo a farologana, go na le bobegadikgang jo bo itebagantseng le tsa kgwebo, akere, e bo e le gore jaanong, *you would not go there and expect* gore e re o tsena teng o bo o fitlhela e le gore ba itebagantse le gore OomLu o ka

tswa golo gongwe a na le dithai tse dintsi tse di *green,* nnyaa, ba na le tse ba itebagantseng le tsone. Gape ke dumela gore, *because a public broadcaster* e nna *more developmental* gongwe o tlaa fitlhela e le gore tse dingwe tse gongwe motlotlegi a neng a solofetse gore go buiwe ka tsone ga di tlhagelele ka gore bone ba mo go reng ba lebelele se se isang ditlhabololo tsa lefatshe kwa pele. Fa e le *public discourse that entrenches, enhances development, of course they should have* mo *talk shows* tsa bone tse di farologaneng, go tshwanetse go supagale gore ba gasa mo lefatsheng la Botswana.

E nngwe e ke gore, kana Palamente e a gasiwa mo Botswana Television (BTV) *news,* ke tsaya gore ba le nang le BTV le a e bona Palamente koo. Ya *set top box* ke kgang e sele e e farologaneng, e gongwe re tshwanetseng re e lebelele, e e tsamaisanyang le go anamisiwa ga maranyane kana ga kgaso eo ya rona. Ke dumalana le wena gore, ae ga se gore go lekane, mme ke dumela gore re tlaa atumela fa e setse e nna a *public broadcaster*. Ke tswa kgakala ke bua ka kgang e gore, ga re ka ke ra nna le *colonial legacy* ya *state*, eo kana go raya gore le tlaa tlhola le… jaaka ke le *Acting Minister* jaana, le ne le tlaa tlhola le bona nna fela motshegare otlhe, le fa gongwe ke sa bue sepe, mme fa gongwe go na le ba bangwe ba ba neng ba tshwanelwa ke gore ba supiwe. Ke tsaya gore go tlaa tokafala.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE A33 ROAD

MR K. K. KAPINGA (OKAVANGO WEST): asked the Minister Transport and Infrastructure to give this Honourable House an update on progress made in the project to refurbish the A33 road from Gumare to Mohembo; especially the Sepopa/Mohembo section which appears to have failed to take off successfully.

MR KAPINGA: Thank you Madam Speaker. The Honourable Assistant Minister has pleaded with me for a later date.

Later Date.

GBV INCIDENTS WITHIN DISCIPLINED FORCES

MR G. LEKAU (MOGODITSHANE WEST): asked the Minister for State President to state:

(i) what action he will take in relation to the prevailing institutional culture among disciplined forces where there is reluctance to attend to reported incidents concerning their members, protecting each other and encouraging reconciliation of the affected parties even though there is always possibilities of incidents recurring;

(ii) plans in place to address rampat Gender Based Violence (GBV) incidents within disciplined forces;

(iii) plans in place to address bullying and ill treatment of junior officers by senior officers in the disciplined forces; and

(iv) if it is not opportune to establish independent bodies to deal with incidents of ill treatment.

ACTING MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT (DR BUTALE): Thank you Madam Speaker. *Ke a leboga motlotlegi.*

(i) Madam Speaker, the Ministry for State President is presently unaware of any prevailing institutional culture that the Honourable Member of Parliament is alleging to be in existence within the Disciplined Forces. It may be instructive to inform the House that the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) and the Botswana Police Service (BPS) have robust disciplinary processes and conflict resolution mechanisms, clearly articulated by law, as provided for in the BDF Act of 2018 and the Police Act of 1972 respectively.

Madam Speaker, where a member is found culpable through these internal correctional measures, appropriate action is taken in accordance with the provisions of both Acts herein referred to. Presently, there are several members of the Disciplined Forces who are on interdictions following administration action against offences committed while some have been dismissed depending on the gravity of the offence committed.

(ii) Madam Speaker, since their formation, the Disciplined Forces have always maintained mental health support services within their organisational structures to support service members. For instance, the mental health support structure including Welfare Officers, Chaplains, Psychologists in all BDF installations that aim

at averting Gender Based Violence (GBV). The services are also linked to programmes such as: Family Care Plan, Suicide Prevention Programme, Mental Health Mass Lectures, Gender Based Violence Awareness Programmes and Marriage Seminars amongst others.

(iii) Madam Speaker, my ministry is not aware of any cases related to bullying or ill-treatment incident of junior officers by Senior officers in the Disciplined Forces. Nevertheless, it is important to inform the Honourable House that the BDF Act of 2018, Section 133(a) criminalizes such conduct and provides that; a member that subject to this Act strikes or otherwise ill-treat any person also subject thereto of inferior rank or less seniority, or any soldier subject to this Act commits an offence shall on conviction by a court martial or by the High Court be liable to imprisonment for two years or any less punishment provided by this Act; The aggrieved member may initiate a complaint through Section 241 of the BDF Act of 2018, whereupon the matter would be dealt with accordingly with provisions of the Act. Section 23(b) of the Police Act of 1972 also deals with oppressive or tyrannical conduct.

(iv) Madam Speaker, the BDF complaint procedure provides, that if any member is not satisfied with remedies as provided by Section 241(1)(a) the person may seek redress through Section 241(4)(b) and Section 241(1), which provides that the Defence Council, may to such an extent and subject to such conditions as they consider appropriate delegate to a panel of persons (hereinafter referred to as the "service complaints and appeals panel") all or any of the functions conferred to the defence council.

The Botswana Police Service (BPS) on the other hand Madam Speaker, has what is called the Internal Affairs Branch that is mandated to investigate issues of misconduct by any members of the police service, including GBV related matters.

Madam Speaker, an independent body called the Police Council has been established by Section 62 of the Police Act with the responsibility of considering any complaint against the Police Service generally or any of its members which the Commissioner cannot successfully resolve. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR LEKAU: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga. Ke itumelela karabo eo, *the Acting.* Ke re ke supe fa gore, kgangkgolo fela ke gore, mo dikgweding tse di neng di feta tse re ne re itemogela gore ba garona ba sesole e kare go nna *common* gore go nna le dipolaano, e bile e kare di tshabelela ka koo. Mme fa o lebelela ka kwa go ba sepodise e kare gone go ne go le kwa tlase. Re re, a o ne o sa ela tlhoko *Minister* gore gongwe nako e ne e setse e fetile ya gore go nne le lekalana mo teng ga kampa, ka pele go ne go tlwaelesegile gore kampa ke borre fela, jaanong gompieno go na le borre le bomme mo kampeng. A go ka se nne le lekalana mo teng ga kampa le e leng gore *it will address issues* tsa Gender Based Violence (GBV)?

Ya bobedi ke gore, a o bona go nonofile, ka gore…ke ne ke le kwa Mogoditshane mo mosong ke lebeletse seemo sa sepodise sa Mogoditshane gore, le fa a ngongorega ga go na gope kwa a ka buang teng, ke gore le fa o fitlhela ba go thusa *locks* di lepelela o go raya a re, "re bona one a." A wena o le *Minister* a o bona lekalana le o reng *it is set,* le le lebeletseng *welfare* kana sepe sa *complaints* tsa ba sepodise, a o bona gore setse go bereka kana ke fela golo mo go mo pampiring? Ke tlaa ema go le kalo, ke a leboga.

DR BUTALE: Ke a go leboga motlotlegi. Ke tlhalositse gore go na le makalana a a ikemetseng ao, a maikaelelo magolo a one e leng go rarabolola dikgang tse. Ke supe gore sengwe sa dilo tse ke di dirileng pele ga ke tla go araba potso e, ke ne ke na le bagolwane ba sepodise le ba sesole, ke tsile go ba botsa gore a mme le bona go lekane. A mme dikgang tse di teng, tse ke belaelang gore Mopalamente o botsa ka tsone, tsa kgokgontsho fa gare ga ba ba ka tswang ba le mo maemong a a kwa godimo le ba ba kwa tlase?

Ba ne ba ntlhomamisetsa gore, nnyaa gone jaana ga gona *any registered case* ya kgokgontsho jaaka ke ne ke e botsa. Ba bo ba tlhalosa gore kana mme gongwe ka fa go diragalang ka teng gantsi ke gore, batho fa gongwe ba didimalela dikgang fela, e bo e re gongwe morena yoo a setse a dule…, ka ke ne ke ba botsa gore a mme batho ba ba tshaba go bua ka gore ba tshaba barena.

Gakere jaanong nna ke le *civilian* ke bua fela, gongwe ba tshaba barena. Ba bo ba re nnyaa fa gongwe gone go ntse jalo, motho o emela gore morena a tsamaye e bo e le gone a buang kana gongwe le ene a setse a dule mo tirong.

Ke dirise sebaka se go ba gakolola gore, tota fela rona re dumela thatathata gore *even as they are disciplined forces,* ditshwanelo tsa mongwe le mongwe di tshwanetse di tlotliwe. Jaaka fa go beilwe makalana a a buiwang a, ba ikuele. Ba ne ba ntshupegetsa gore nnyaa ba ba neng ba ikuela, ba bangwe gongwe ba sa tsewa sentle ba felela ba le *demoted,* fa ba ikuela ba busediwa maemo a bone. Jaanong gongwe mo gongwe go dirwa ke gore, ga ba ikuele ba tshaba gore gongwe ba ka tloga ba tseelwa dikgato.

Ya gore go nne le *a specialised* Gender-Based Violence (GBV) *Unit,* ke dumela gore ba ne ba supa gore maiteko a teng gore dikgang tse di teng tsa GBV di akofelwe. Ba ne ba supa gore *they have shortened the route from the complaint to action,* mme ke sengwe se re tlaa se lebelelang ka gore ba *police* ba setse ba na le yone e e itebagantseng le dikgang tsa bana le bomme, mme ba re e *service* le bone ba sepodise.

Ke selo se re ka se tshwaraganelang, ka gore GBV *is a national crisis that we should all find ways* tsa go e araba. Ke dumela gore re tsere mogopolo o, gore fa go na le fa go tlhaelang teng, *let us have specialised units which are standalone and are enhanced and capacitated* gore re itebaganye thata le GBV. Ke a leboga.

SCHOOL SPORTS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MR M. MOALOSI (NKANGE): asked the Minister of Sports and Arts:

(i) when his ministry intends to fully resume school sports and co-curricular activities which have been on hold since 2019;

(ii) what measures are being taken to address the welfare concerns of teachers who serve as coaches, ensuring that they are motivated and adequately supported to manage school sports programmes effectively;

(iii) to provide clarity on the utilisation of the P55 million allocated to school sports last year and why sports activities were not implemented despite this funding; and

(iv) if he will consider reallocation of the school sports budget back to the Ministry of Child welfare and Basic Education, where teacher coaches are employed to ensure better coordination, accountability and inclusivity in this programme.

Later Date.

E-MOBILITY PROGRAMME

MR M. M. PULE (KGATLENG EAST): asked the Minister of Communications and Innovation to provide an update on progress of the e-Mobility Programme, particularly regarding current developments and future plans for its expansion in Botswana.

Later Date.

MAINTENANCE OF SEWAGE MANHOLES

MR P. M. SEGOKGO (TLOKWENG): asked the Minister of Water and Human Settlement:

(i) if he is aware that sewerage manholes in Tlokweng are old and need maintenance; and

(ii) if in his budget he cannot help Tlokweng residents by maintaining the manholes.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR MOTSAMAI): Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Tlaa ke tsene mo karabong ya potso ka boripana.

(i) Ee, ke boammaaruri re a tlhaloganya Mopalamente ka seemo se o buang ka ga sone sa kwa kgaolong, sa gore *manholes* tsa kgopo ya metsi a a leswe di mo seemong se se tlhabisang ditlhong kana se se sa jeseng diwelang. Ke ka go rurifaletsa gore di sale di baakantswe ka 2008, go tla gompieno ga di ise di ko di kgongwe, mme go supega go na le mathata one a a ntseng jalo.

Nngwe ya dikgwetlho tse re kopanang le tsone ke gore di dikgologolo, motse wa Tlokweng o godile, o a di feta. Fa di le dikgologolo jaana, go raya gore ga di sa tlhole di batla go atolosiwa fela, di batla

go tlharamololwa gore di dirwe sesha ka lebaka la go itepatepanya le seemo.

Nngwe ya *challenges* tse re kopanang le tsone re le lephata ke gore, go na le fa gongwe tshenyo e e ka tswang e dirwa ke botlhoka tsebe jwa bana kana batho, gore *manholes* tseo go bo di sa bereke sentle, gongwe e le gore *they are blocked,* go dira gore metsi a se ka a feta, go dira gore jaanong go elele go ye gongwe le gongwe le kwa go sa tshwanelang gore go ye teng. Mathata a re kopanang le one ke a go latlhela dipe tse di sa tlhokafaleng mo teng ga tsone, jaaka gongwe bangwe ba latlhela matlakala, ba bangwe ba latlhela dilo tse di tshwanang le dibatana bo ntša jalojalo.

(ii) Mo potsong ya gago ya bofelo Mopalamente, mo *budget* e ya 2025/2026 ga re na madi a a lekaneng a gore re ka itepatepanya le seemo se. Maikaelelo a matona ke gore re tlaa tswelela re ntse re dira, fa o kuelang mathata teng lephata la Water Utilities ka bonnyennyane jo le nang le jone, le tlaa nna le tswelela le ya go ketola. Fela maikaelelo magolo ke gore madi a batliwe, go ye go dirwa tiro eo gangwefela e wele. Ke a leboga.

MR SEGOKGO: *Supplementary.* Ee, ke a utlwa Tona, ke lebogela karabo e. Tota jaaka ke ne ke bua maabane, Tlokweng o mo tlhaloganya botoka thata, mme dikarabo tseo di a supa tota gore Tlokweng o mo tlhaloganya botoka thata Tona. Ke re Tona, mo godimo ga moo kana go na le diemo tse di kwa Ranfurwa, tse go neng ga ntshiwa *tender* ka 2011, rakonteraka a bo a katela *pipes* fela ka fa tlase ga mmu, a sa tswelele go sa diragale sepe. Batho ba Ranfurwa ba a sokola, le ba dikgaolo tse ke neng ke bua ka tsone maabane. Mo godimo ga moo, mo shelengnyana yo o ka bonala *to maintain…,* ka gore jaaka ke ne ke tlhalosa, motse otlhe wa Tlokweng tota o a nkga ke *manholes* tse. A mme e kare ka fa o ketolang ka teng, a ba Ranfurwa bogolo o ka se ke o ba gopole, ka gore go ne go setse *about* P6 *million or so,* o ka se ke o tlatse mo go one bogolo wa ba direla le bone ba tle ba kgone gore ba nne le *sewerage* e e botoka. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker.*

MR MOTSAMAI: Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker.* Tota fa ke wela ke rile, kwa go nang le bothata teng *we can attend to it.* Kwa Ranfurwa fa re bua ka gore fa re bona madi re tlaa itepatepanya le seemo sengwe le sengwe kwa bothata bo leng teng, ke tsaya ke re o bitsa lefelo le le mo teng ga Tlokweng. Re bua jaana re raya gore re le tsentse mo teng, fa go na le boikuelo jo o ka tlhomamisang gore bo teng jwa gore batho bao ba na le mathata, re ka ya go bona fa go na le madi ra thusa ka fa re ka thusang ka teng.

Ke felele ke ntse ke mo gakolola gore, e tloga e nna o kare o a tlhwaafala fa a re ke itse *corners* tsotlhe tsa Tlokweng. Ga ke di itse rraetsho, o tlaa nkgolega, Tlokweng ga se Charles Hill. Ke a leboga.

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT DEALS AT BDC

MR L. BARONGWANG (MOGODITSHANE EAST): asked the Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship whether the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) made any new financial investment deals in the past five years excluding the already existing projects, e.g. Lobatse Clay Works, Milkafric, Lobatse Leather Park etc. and if any, he should state:

(i) the various projects and the sectors involved;

(ii) the total amount invested in each project;

(iii) the level of citizen participation (citizen inclusion) in the various projects;

(iv) the number of jobs/employment created; and

(v) the performance of these businesses.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF TRADE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MR MATHOOTHE): Thank you Madam Speaker, *ke leboge le mmotsi wa potso Rre* Barongwang.

Madam Speaker, over the past five years, Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) has made several strategic investments across a range of sectors both locally and offshore, aligned with its mandate and commercial objectives. These sectors include; manufacturing, healthcare, financial services, hospitality, agri-business, retail and real estate. These investments were selected to stimulate economic diversification, job creation, industrial development, and value chain development.

Furthermore, the corporation was mandated to administer P300 million under the Industry Support Fund (ISF) to large scale businesses. BDC disbursed P172 million

to businesses operating in the manufacturing, health services, real estate, hospitality, and retail sectors.

In total, BDC has invested approximately P1.408 billion into these new businesses. These investments span both equity and debt instruments, as well as infrastructure financing. The corporation continues to prioritise citizen participation in its investment decisions and actively promotes citizen joint ventures.

Through the aforementioned investments, the corporation has contributed meaningfully to national employment. Approximately 4 200 jobs have been created, with an additional 3 200 jobs anticipated as projects reach full operational capacity. Additionally, six new deals totalling P679 million have been approved and are awaiting disbursement. Furthermore, the corporation has made additional investments into existing portfolio companies, amounting to P396.2 million. These companies currently sustain 627 jobs.

The overall performance of BDC's investment portfolio is positive, with most projects progressing in line with commercial expectations. However, some of the investee companies have had some operational challenges that have affected their performance. The corporation has strategies put in place for the monitoring on non-performing projects; which are either start-ups and those recovering from the effects COVID-19 and Ukraine-Russia conflict. In addition, the corporation has made additional investments into existing portfolio companies, amounting to P486.2 million. These companies currently sustain 627 jobs.

The overall performance of BDC's investment portfolio is positive, with most projects progressing in line with commercial expectations. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR BARONGWANG: *Supplementary.* Ke a go leboga Tona. Gone o nkarabile. O arabile le dikakanyetso tsa me. Ke eletsa gore o beye Ntlo e pele *performance* ya BDC ka gore re tshwenyegile re le Palamente, ka *performance* ya *our* State Owned Enterprises (SOEs). Tona, *mandate* wa BDC mo go lekeng go ngokela Batswana *into the business* ke eng? A mme gone fa Batswana ba leng teng, a *performance* e teng? A go na le sekao sa gore go na le maduo? Kwa bofelong, ke go botse fela gore a BDC e na le *any policy* e e itebagantseng le go ngokela Batswana *into business*? Ke a leboga.

MR MATHOOTHE: Ke a leboga. BDC ka fa e ntseng ka teng, ga e tlhaole. *I have attached a document* e e supang *the number of projects* tse le Batswana ba leng mo go tsone. Ke tlaa tla ke go e neela fa ke sena go araba mme fela ka bokhutshwane ke re, ba gololesegile. *Some of these projects* di dira sentle fela thata. Re tlaabo re ntse re beile leitlho mo go tse dingwe ka gore ga go nke go tlhoka gore go nne le mathata.

MR BARONGWANG: *Further supplementary.* A mme yone BDC e na le *policy*? Ke a leboga.

MR MATHOOTHE: Ee rra, e teng e re e setseng morago. E re kaela gore re tshwanetse ra ntsha madi ka tsela e e ntseng jang, go simologa fa kae bogolo jang fa re bua ka dikgwebo tse di tona. Ke ka go fa sekai ka ya ISF, e ne e lebile thata *companies* tse di dirang P50 *million annually,* ba ka kgona gore ba thusiwe ka madi a a kwa godimo thata. *Thank you.*

BOROLONG CLINIC

MR J. J. FRENZEL (SHASHE WEST): asked the Minister of Health when Borolong Clinic will start operating a 24-hour facility taking into consideration the population size of Borolong and its catchment areas.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR OOKEDITSE): Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker.* Motlotlegi, re na le maikaelelo a gore sepatela sa kwa Borolong se e leng gore *we have proposed* ka Development Manager (DM) *model,* fa se a go bulwa, e bo e nna se e leng gore *it operates* 24 *hours.* Jaaka o itse, *ministry* o o maleba ba santse ba dira *review* ya *these* DM *projects. So*, e tlaare fa ba feditse…

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MR OOKEDITSE: Nnyaa, fa go isitswe *report* ga se gore go fedile, *until you get the final aspect. So, after the report has been tabled,* re fiwa maduo a teng. Fa re aga kwa Borolong, re bo re lebile gore re go bulele 24 *hours*. Ke a leboga.

MR FRENZEL: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker.* Ke ne ke sa bue ka sepatela se se tlaa agiwang motlotlegi, ke bua ka se se teng gompieno, se se mo tirisong, se batho ba tlang mo go sone. Borolong re bua ka motse o o bapileng le metse e mengwe, e bile o bapile le toropo ya Francistown. O na le *population*

ya *over* 9 400. Motse o o tshwaraganyeng le one wa Chadibe o na le *over* 6 000. Metse ya Makobo, Jamataka le Natale e na le 6 210. Fa ke bua ka *catchment area*, ke ne ke bua ka metse eo. Fa o lebelela *population* e, go raya gore *clinic* e, *services over* 20 000 ya batho ba e leng gore mo nakong ya gompieno jaana, fa e re 11:00, *Saturday* le *Sunday* e a tswalwa. Ke batla go itse gore o tlaa simolola go se bula 24 *hours* leng gore se fokolotse Nyangabgwe mokgweleo?

MR OOKEDITSE: Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Jaaka ke tlhalositse, ga re na *plan* ya go bula sepatela se se leng teng 24 *hours. Plan* ya rona ke gore, re age *clinic* e e nang le *maternity.* Ke yone e e leng gore *we have proposed* gore re ka bo re ne re e agile. Fa go ne go sa seegiwa kwa thoko, re ka bo re bua jaana go tsweletse. *So, clinic* eo *with maternity* fa e ya go fela, re tlaabo re go bulela 24 *hours*.

The reason ke gore, gore go bulwe 24 *hours,* o gakologelwe gore go na le tse di mmalwa tse di tlhokafalang *including staffing* ya teng gore *at the establishment* e tshwanetse go nna ka tsela nngwe e e rileng. Tota fela go go bolelela nnete, ke gone fela gore *the current clinic we are not planning to open* 24 *hours. We are planning* go go bulela 24 *hours as soon as we build the clinic with maternity* e re e dirang ka Development Management (DM) Model fa e le gore *review* ya teng e tlaa pasa, mme ke dumela gore e tlaa pasa. Ke a leboga.

MR FRENZEL: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker.* Ke gore ke utlwa ke tshoga fa Tona a nthaya a re - kana jaanong e tlaa nna o kare ke a mo tlhasela mme e le mokaulengwe, mme ga ke batle gore go nne jalo…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)...

MR FRENZEL: Nnyaa, o tlaa tshwanelwa ke gore a ye go nkaraba…

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa, *Honourable* Frenzel, ke tloga ke go baya fa fatshe.

MR FRENZEL: Tanki *Speaker,* tlaa ke tlogele bo Lucas. Potso ya me ke gore, e rile fa o araba motlotlegi, o bua ka sepatela thata se o tlaa se agang, nna ke go bolelela ka fa gompieno batho ba kgaolo ele ba sokolang ka teng. Ke gore ke batla gore o se ka wa tsenya sepatela se sesha se se tlaa agiwang, ke batla re bue ka sepatela se se leng teng gompieno. Ke utlwile gore o bua ka *staffing*, mme ke raya gore a re ye go bona gore sepatela sele se ka dirwa ka tsela e e ntseng jang, sone se se leng teng. Re bone gore se ka bulwa dinako tse di leng teng gore se tle se kgone *to cater for* batho bao. Ga ke batle go nna moleele thata, ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Furniture.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa ga a bua sepe.

LACK OF BOOKS IN SCHOOLS

MR T. FURNITURE (TATI EAST): asked the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education if she is aware of lack of books in schools particularly Tshesebe schools and measures in place to normalise the situation.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF CHILD WELFARE AND BASIC EDUCATION (MR HUNYEPA): *Ke a leboga* Madam Speaker, *ke leboge* Honourable Furniture, *Mopalamente wa* Tati East.

Madam Speaker, the ministry is very much aware of the shortage of textbooks in schools across the country, including Tshesebe schools. There are two schools in Tshesebe; Thamane Junior Secondary School and Tshesebe Primary School. At Thamane Junior Secondary School we have 565 students, and only 10 per cent have books, and at Tshesebe Primary School, we have 497 students and only 12 per cent have books. This situation was created, largely by shortage of funds to procure enough textbooks for all our learners over the years, which has created a huge backlog of textbooks shortages.

Madam Speaker, let me record that we find ourselves in this predicament because our previous budget was cut by about P600 million which subjected us to the difficult situation we find ourselves in. That being as it may, the ministry pins its hopes on the new financial year to address this state of affairs which is generally a national concern. I take that supplementary questions have been covered Madam Speaker. I thank you.

CHOBE GAME RESERVE

MR S. O. MAPULANGA (CHOBE): asked the Minister of Environment and Tourism to state:

(i) the original total area of the Chobe Game Reserve at inception in 1960/61;

(ii) changes in the total area from 1968 when it was transformed from a game reserve into a national park;

(iii) any subsequent changes to the total area of Chobe National Park from 1968 to date, and when those changes were effected and why;

(iv) when Wildlife Management Areas were introduced in the Chobe District and what the justification for their introduction was;

(v) when the concept of wild animal corridors was implemented in the Chobe District and why these corridors lead to communal lands; and

(vi) whether he is not aware that the animal corridors that lead to communal lands have led to the escalation of human-wildlife conflict, loss of valuable human life, destruction of property and escalation of poverty.

Later Date.

CUBAN HEALTH CARE WORKERS

DR U. DOW (KGATLENG WEST): asked the Minister of Health to state:

(i) how much the Botswana Government has paid to Cuba for Cuban health care workers for the last 10 years;

(ii) how much the Botswana Government has to pay to each health care worker per month;

(iii) what benefits are provided to each health care worker;

(iv) how long the current agreement still has to run; and

(v) whether he has plans to continue with the current arrangement or whether he plans to address the shortage of health care professionals in some other way.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR OOKEDITSE): Thank you Madam Speaker.

(i) Madam Speaker, a total of P419, 360,047.00 was paid to the Republic of Cuba over the past 10 years for service rendered. It is worth noting, Madam Speaker, that Botswana has been benefiting through this cooperation for over 35 years. When it started, this was technical assistance where Cuba assisted Botswana with health workforce without any pay. During this time, Botswana was responsible for the upkeep and welfare of the team members during their term of service in Botswana. Since 2011, the cooperation between the two countries was amended to a model of "fee for-service" arrangement, where the professionals are remunerated.

(ii) On a monthly basis, members of the Cuban Medical Team are remunerated as follows;

Specialist - EURO 3,500.00 (Approximately P52,000.00) and Allied Services - EURO 2,800.00 (Approximately P41, 550.00). It is worth noting that the amount above is inclusive of withholding tax.

(iii) During their term of service to Botswana, Madam Speaker, members of the Cuban Medical Team are also entitled to the following;

- Economy class travel at the beginning (from Cuba to Botswana) and at the end of mission (from Botswana to Cuba).
- Free Accommodation on sharing basis with either security/alarm system and;
- Basic amenities: water and electricity capped at P1000/month.
- Transportation for official duties excluding daily transportation to and from work.
- Free access to basic dental and health care.
- Transportation of luggage (maximum 3 cubic meters) by land/sea at the end of mission.

(iv) Madam Speaker, the current Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed in August 2024 and will run for five years till August 2029.

(v) The current arrangement, Madam Speaker is not indefinite. Considering that there is still low

numbers of specialists on the ground, our ministry wishes to continue with the current arrangement until such a time when the situation has improved. Our vision is for Botswana to be self-sufficient in the provision of both basic and specialist health services including subspecialist. As such, our ministry has put the following interventions in place in the short to medium term.

We are engaging local Batswana specialists to work within Government health facilities through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), while at the same time utilising the private facilities where there is no capacity within public.

We also are engaging the DPSM to review the working conditions of health care workers in an effort to attract and retain health care specialists in the public health system.

The ministry has also increased the number of staff that has been sent for specialist training. During the 2023/24 financial year, the number of doctors sent for further training (to specialise) increased double fold to 300.

The ministry has also made a deliberate decision to revitalise primary health care as an investment towards reducing the need for specialized services. That is to say to invest more on preventive health care interventions as treatment is generally viewed as more expensive to undertake.

In the medium to long term, we will increase investment in specialist training. We are also looking at technology such as the use of tele-medicine which will reduce the need for the physical presence of specialists in areas with reduced access to healthcare.

Lastly Madam Speaker, we are activating the Teaching Mandate of SKMTH to produce locally trained specialists and sub-specialists which will then also reduce the burden that we have been having in the shortages. I thank you.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Supplementary.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members, time up for questions; long time up.

MR HIKUAMA: *Procedure*. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ke raya ka dithata tse o nang le tsone ka gore potso gongwe e boditswe, a mme o ka se letlelele gore go nne le *supplementaries* gore e se ka ya felela e kete e mo phefong?

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Aaron, fa *Honourable* Hikuama a bua o ntse o re, "*yes*, *yes*", ga ke itse gore o dumalana le eng. *Can you sit down,* o bo o emela gore ke tlaa go fa *chance to supplement*. *Go on and supplement and do not take long*.

MR AARON: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga mongwashadiame. Tla ke tseye sebaka se ke leboge *Assistant Minister for* karabo ya gagwe. Fa o lebile dikgwetlho tse re nang le tsone mo lefatsheng la rona, bogolo jang dingaka tsa benggae ba e leng gore ke *specialists* mme bangwe ba bone ba bona go le botoka ba ka berekela kwa mafatsheng a a kwa ntle, a ga o bone go le botoka gore madi a re a duelang maCuba, re ka a duela benggae?

Le gore mo dipateleng tse re dumelang gore ke tsone di ka re thusang go ntsha dingaka, di dira go le kae? Ka gore ke nnete re na le bo Sir Ketumile ba re neng re solofetse go le gontsi mo go bone mme ke *white elephants*. Bo Sir Ketumile ba ntsha dingaka tse kae mo ngwageng? Ke a leboga.

MADAM SPEAKER: You can respond. I think I will give you up to 3 o'clock.

MR OOKEDITSE: *Thank you Madam Speaker*. Motlotlegi, ke supe pele gore ke ne ke supa mo karabong ya me gore *relationship* ya rona le maCuba *at a diplomatic level* ke e e neng e ntse e tla, ba ntse gongwe ba re thusa go sena fa go duelwang teng. Re tswa go simolola go duelana ka bo 2011, e le gone jaanong re duelang *service* ya teng. Fa gongwe ga re fa o na le ba o dirang le bone, *especially* ba sa le ba simolotse bogologolong jole ba re neela *services,* re tswelele re bereke le bone mme e se ka ya nna e kete jaanong re tswa mo go bone. *We still need their services*.

The solution to us of having specialists does not quite lie in us getting rid of the Cubans. Sa ntlha ke gore mo Botswana fela *there are still areas of specialisation* tse e leng gore ga re na *enough of the personnel that we actually need*.

Fa o nkisa kwa *white elephant* e o reng ke Sir Ketumile Masire, o nkisa kwa karabong e e leng gore ga le rate go

e utlwa mme e le nnete, ya gore *we are five months in office and it does not take five months to train a specialist*. *We cannot possibly already have trained specialists that we need. In my answer* kwa bofelong ke ne ke go raya ke re se re se dirang ke gore *we are going to ensure that* Sir Ketumile Masire jaanong e nna le *mandate* wa yone wa go nna *a teaching hospital*. Ke ne ke bua ka yone maloba gape *two weeks back* mo Palamenteng ke supa jalo gore se re se dirang ke gore *we have looked into the memorandum* wa yone gore jaanong sa ntlha e ya *to operate as any other public hospital*. Go raya gore jaanong e simolola gore batho ba ka isiwa teng go ya go thusiwa. *We have moved quite a number of services to* Sir Ketumile Masire. *We have put together a board* e e leng gore le yone jaanong se e se dirang *they are putting into place mechanisms to ensure* gore sepatela se dira tiro ya sone le ya go ruta.

To train a specialist will obviously take a bit of time. Ga ke itse gore a mme ke go utlwa sentle ka yone *but* fa e le gore ke go utlwa sentle, karabo ya me ke gore ke maikaelelo a rona ke gore sekole se simolole go ruta. Go na le tse di tshwanetseng tsa diragala pele ga *teaching* e simologa. *That is to look into the relationship between our ministry, the Ministry of Education* le University of Botswana (UB) *and the memorandum* e e leng teng *in place*. *We have a taskforce that we put into place to get that done. It cannot be expected to have been done already given that we just started.* Ke a leboga.

MR HIKUAMA: *Last supplementary*. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ke a leboga fela thata *Honourable Minister*. Potso ya me ke gore tlhaelo yone e ya baitseanape, a mme o lemoga gore e tlisa seemo se se maswe mo balwetseng ba rona, mo e leng gore gompieno *your ministry still* e na le *bookings* tse e di dirang tsa bo *November*? A ga o bone gore go na le thulaganyo gongwe e e faphegileng e le ka e dirang gore *at least to push* batho ba ba setseng ba beetswe bo *December* le *November*? Ke na le *statistics, more especially from* dikgaolo tsa batho ba ba setseng ba beetswe bo *December* le *November*, ba ba tlhokang maaro le boitseanape jwa dingaka jo bo faphegileng, e le gore bone malwetse gongwe a mo dikarolong tse di borai tse di batlang gore go dirwe gompieno. A mme ga le ka ke la dirisa dingaka tse le nang le tsone tsa *private*, gongwe fa le setse le tlhaelelwa ke diemo ka gore *to train* gone go go leele?

MADAM SPEAKER: O a bona gore nako e tsamaya fa kae gakere.

MR OOKEDITSE: *Thank you Madam Speaker*. Tota motlotlegi, *you are right* mo lefatsheng la rona ka bophara re ne re tla re fitlhela seemo se e leng gore *the numbers were quite high*. Fa e le gore o bua ka *orthopaedic surgeries* jaaka o ntse o supa, o tlaa lemoga gore ka *December* re ne re fitlhetse *a huge backlog but* se re neng ra se dira, ra bo re tsaya *theatres* tse re nang le tsone, re tsaya balwetse ba re ba phatlalatsa re ba isa kwa *theatres* tseo. Re bo re tsaya batho *from private sector* gore ba ye go ba *operate within public facilities*. Go ne ga re thusa thata go diga dinomoro tsa *surgeries* tsa teng. *Unfortunately*, gompieno *because of the disaster* ya *flooding and all these things* fa o tsaya Marina, *a number of theatres* di ne tsa tsena metsi. *As of I think last week, I was looking at the numbers* re ne re le kwa go 117 tsa batho ba ba nang le *backlog* gape ya *orthopaedic surgeries*. *What we have done* ke gone gore *we have started preparations yet again* ya gore re ba ise jaaka re ne re dirile re tseye *from private sector* ba tle ba re thuse *to operate so that* re di busetse kwa morago. *We cannot just look in terms of incidents now*…O eme, ke tlaa go kgaola gone foo.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we are moving to Bills; second reading.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL PARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 (NO. 8 OF 2025)

Second Reading

(Resumed Debate)

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Members, this Bill is resuming. When the House adjourned yesterday, Honourable Mabuse Pule was on the floor debating and he was left with 5 minutes and 53 seconds. Honourable Mabuse Pule, continue with your debate.

MR PULE (KGATLENG EAST): Ke a leboga Motlotlegi Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke dumedise batlotlegi le Tona yo o tlileng go baya kgang e fa pele ga rona. Ke re pele fa ke tsena foo mongwame, ke mo khutsafalong e e seng kana ka sepe.

Tshokologong ya gompieno ke amogetse molaetsa o o tswang kwa ga Mochudi kwa ofising ya ga Molaodi gore mohumagadi wa Mothusa Kgosikgolo ya rona ya Bakgatla Kgosi Sekai o tlhokafetse. Jaanong bagaetsho re mo mathateng a a seng kana ka sepe mo letsatsing la gompieno, re hutsafetse kwa Kgaolong ya Kgatleng. Ke tsaya gore ga se kgang e e tlaa le kgoberang maikutlo ka gore ke belaela gore e setse e le mo *social media, in the public domain* ka gore e tswa kwa ofising ya ga Molaodi.

Fa ke tswelela Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, maabane ke ne ke tlhalosa fa ka fa ke emeng nokeng Tshutiso e. E bile ke batla go bua puonyana nngwe e o kareng e nnye mme e le tona. Ke gore nna ga ke rate gore fa re le mo Ntlong e Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, a bo go nna le bangwe batho, bogolo jang ka kwa ba e reng fa ba ema ka maoto ba bo ba batla go ikgatlha ka Phathi ya Domkrag gore e paletswe. Phathi ya Domkrag, *the security apparatus* tsotlhe tse di mo lefatsheng la Botswana ke megopolo ya yone, *including wildlife*.

Jaanong ke ne ke utlwa maabane go buiwa mongwe a re *we disarmed* Wildlife Anti-Poaching Unit. Nna ka fa ke itseng ka teng, Wildlife Anti-Poaching Unit e ne e le *a mixture of* masole le ba *Wildlife Game Scouts* ba e leng gore re a itse gore masole ga o ka ke wa tsaya dibetsa mo go bone, *military weapons* tse ba di dirisang. Jaaka ke ne ke bua maabane ke re ke ne ke kopa gore Tona e re fa a *respond,* a leke go tlhalosa pharologanyo ya *arms of war* le *weapons of war because* fa ke re ke lebelela *concepts* tsa teng, *they are almost used alternatively* kana a a kabakanngwa mafoko a teng.

Fa re bua ka *wildlife* re e neela *weapons of war* kana *arms of war*, gongwe re tlaabo re ba lekalekanya le masole. Ga ke itse gore a re tsena gone foo jaaka ke ne ke bua ke re ga ke solofetse gore a go buiwa ka bo *bomber aircraft* le eng le eng, dilo tse re tsayang gore ka *artillery* ya maemo a a kwa godimo a masole ba a dirisang fa e setse e le gore jaanong lefatshe le a menogelwa. Jaanong ke raya gore gongwe ke ne ke tlaa kopa Tona gore e re fa a fetola, a leke go dira pharologanyo e gore rona *civilians*, ka e bile ene ke lesole, a re baakanyetse gore re tlhaloganye gore fa gotwe *we are going to arm* Anti-Poaching Unit e ke dumalanang le mogopolo wa teng ka gore tota fela malatsi a gompieno re bone gore *poachers* tsa rona fa di tla, ba bangwe ba bone e ne e le *the mercenaries* mo mafatsheng mangwe ba lwa dintwa, mo eleng gore tota ba tla ba tshotse *artillery* fa ba tsena gone koo kana ba tla ka ditlhobolo tse di ditona. Rre Mokgware o a di itse, go na le bo Glock 22.40 *caliber pistols* tse re itseng gore ba bangwe ba tla ba di tshotse. Ke ditlhobolo tse di tona tse e leng gore le fa ke le *civilian* jaana, ke etle ke utlwalele ka tsone. Ke ipotsa gore a le bone ba *wildlife* ba tlaabo ba neelwa *pistols* tsa mofuta oo kana jang.

Selo se se tona se ke batlang gore ke se gatelele Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, bana ba rona fa re ba neela ditsompelo tse di tshwanang le tse, re se ka ra ba neela fela, nna ka gore ke *social worker, we should also subject them to some thorough counselling and training*. Re etse tlhoko gore bana ba rona fa ba simolola ba nna le *access to such kind of weapons*, ba nna le *confidence* le *bravery* tse di kwa godimo. Fa gongwe ba bangwe ba ikgantsha ba nna *arrogant* ka tsone. E le gore jaanong motho o felela a tshosetsa batho fela gongwe le mo lelwapeng a nna a e ntsha a supa mosadi ka yone a mo raya a re fa o bula molomo ke tlaa go phatlola tlhogo. Ke dilo tse re batlang gore ba sidilwe maikutlo ba bo ba katisiwe gore ba di dirise *thoroughly,* ba itse gore ba di dirisa gongwe jaaka masole ba di dirisa. Kana masole *are highly disciplined personnel* e re itseng gore *they are trained* ka dilo tse di ntseng jalo. Le fa ba bangwe le bone ba re tšhwamogela o a ne o utlwa gotwe lesole le hudile le lengwe ka tlhobolo. Ke dingwe tsa dilo tse tota fela go bua nnete, re tshwanetseng *to emphasise on their discipline.*

Point e nngwe e ke neng ke batla go feta ka yone ke ise wele Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ke ne ke leleditswe ke mongwe maabane yo o neng a nkutlwa gore ke ne ke *debate*, a bo a re ke kopa gore o nkopele Puso e e mo setilong, e e itseng ditshwanelo tsa batho, e e direlang dilo mo pontsheng jaaka le tlhalosa le re le direla dilo mo pontsheng, e bile le itse ditshwanelo tsa batho gore ka *wildlife* tota dipalo tsa bone di kwa tlase, jaanong a re akanyeng gore *even if we arm them, we should also increase the personnel. Not only increase, also re-tool them* jaaka ke ne ke bua gore tota ba nne le *confidence* mo tirong ya bone.

Kwa kgaolong ya me ke a tle ke tshwenyege fa gongwe ke bona ma-*wildlife* ba bangwe ba apere *uniform* e thuntse.

Ke dingwe tsa dilo tse di re swabisang bagaetsho, motho a bereka Puso a apere *uniform* e e thuntseng. *So, welfare* ya bone le yone *is very important* Tona. *We should care for their welfare because* nako ya bone e ntsi ba e tsaya ba le mo sekgweng. Mo go rayang gore tota fela *they need a lot of support from Government as compared to* ba bangwe ba ba nnang mo *swivel chair* mo diofising tsa Puso. Ke bone ba e leng gore tota *attention* ya rona e tshwanetse e nne mo go bone, re netefatse gore ba ja sentle, ba tlhapa sentle, ba bona nako ya go ya go ikhutsa jalojalo. Dilo tse re solofela gore motho re bo re re o a dira a bo a na le tsone. Ka mafoko a a kalo Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ke ema fano ke ema Tona nokeng. Ke a leboga.

MR HIKUAMA (MAUN WEST): Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ka re le nna ke eme nokeng mosutisi kana Tona yo o e re beileng pele Molao-kakanyetso o, gore re o atle ka mabogo oo mabedi. Ke sone fela se ke reng ke se papametse gore ke molao o o sa bolong go fetiwa ke nako re ka bo re o diragaditse. Maabane *when elucidating* ke leka go supa go ema go tlatsa *Honourable* Motsamai fa a bua, ke ne ka supa gore *Honourable* Nkawana o ne a tsisa Tshutiso mo Palamenteng e e fetileng a supa fa go tshwanela gore re busetse ditlhobolo kana didirisiwa tse di botlhokwa mo bathong ba *Anti-Poaching* gore ba kgone go itepatepanya le seemo. Ka maswabi nako eo ba ne ba gana ba ba neng ba na le dipalo tse dintsi.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MR HIKUAMA: Nnyaa, mme gompieno ka gore mabaka a mantsi a a neng a dira jalo, Rre Mabuse Pule yo o buang ka ene o ne a dumalana le molao o, o ne a le kwa ntle ga lefatshe ka ke gone ka fa a supileng ka teng, gore o ne a seyo mo Palamenteng e.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ao!

MR HIKUAMA: O supile jalo maabane*, I cannot recall well* gore a mme o ne a bua nnete, mme ke sone se a se buileng.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MR HIKUAMA: Dikoloti o ne a bua gore o ne a seyo, o ne a le kwa ntle ga lefatshe. Go raya gore ga go na yo o nang le bothata jwa…

ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI): *Point of procedure.* Ke a go leboga *Madam Speaker*. Kana kgotsa Motlotlegi Hikuama o tloga a natefelelwa, mme ke dumela gore kgang e e botlhokwa e Batswana ba batlang go utlwa gore go ya pele go tewa eng. Ga ke itse gore mathata a gagwe le Mma Dow ke eng mme ba bapa, ke tsaya gore fa go ne go tlhokafala, o ka bo a bua tse di ka fetolang matshelo a batho le gore go neelwa ditlhobolo mo go tle go nne le sengwe se se ka re tokafaletsang botshelo. *Mentioning me* a ntse a re Dikoloti o rile, Dikoloti o rile, ga ke itse gore go mo tokafatsa jang, ke kopa gore a tsene mo tseleng a dire se se tshwanetseng.

MADAM SPEAKER: Tswa mo maineng a batho *sir,* o tswelele o *debate*.

MR HIKUAMA: Akere o a lemoga *Madam Speaker* gore ga go na *procedure*. Kana fa motho e le tsala ya gago, o kgatlhiwa ke go bua leina, ga o tshabe go bua ka ene. Jaanong ke ne ke bua le ene fela mo seemong sone seo sa botsala, gore e ne e le bangwe ba batho ba ba neng ba na le bothata, mme o ne a re ga a na bothata le gompieno. Ke sone fela se ke neng ke se bua ke leka go gatelela gore ka gompieno ga go na ope fela yo o nang le mathata le gore batho ba ka neelwa tsone didirisiwa tsa maemo a a kwa godimo go leka go sireletsa; santlha ke go sireletsa dithoto tsa rona e leng diphologolo tsa rona mo dilalomeng le baitseanape ba ba nang le dikitso tse di farologaneng tsa go ka dirisa ditlhobolo tsa mefuta e e farologaneng. Kana *Honourable* Lucas ga a itse ditlhobolo, nako ya teng ke ne ke mo ruta le maina a ditlhobolo, bo 306 ga a ba tlhaloganye…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nna ke itse dihala fela.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)…

MR HIKUAMA: Jaanong Tshutiso e ke e e leng gore mongwe le mongwe mo Ntlong e, ga ke dumele gore o ka ganana le yone, bogolo jang rona ba re tswang kwa kgaolong e e tshabelelwang ke dihawa tsa batho go bolawa ba le gone koo, ba bolawa ke batho ba ba tlang ba leka go utswa diphologolo tsa rona le diphologolo tse. Fa batho ba *wildlife* ba na le didirisiwa tsa maemo a a kwa godimo, ba kgona go re sireletsa le rona, le dithoto tsa rona botoka tse di mo malwapeng.

Maloba kana kwa Sehithwa gone ga nna le tiragalo e e ngomolang pelo e e leng gore batho ba rwele dihala fela ga ba na ditlhobolo fela tse di siameng ba batla gore ba atumele nare gore ba kgone go e ntsha mo malwapeng. Ke fa e felela e utlwisa batho botlhoko, kana mo sebakeng se sengwe go ne ga diragala gone *this year*, ya tsenenela batho mo jarateng gone kwa Sehithwa ya kgakgamolola koloi ya gagwe, ya senya e sa dirwe sepe fela. E tla e tshaba koo, fa e bona batho mo motseng ke fa e shakgala. Fa ba ka bo ba na le dibetsa tsa maemo a a kwa godimo tse, gongwe ba ka bo ba e kgarameditse ba le kgakala e bo e tlhoka go ka senya dilo tse di ntseng jaana tse.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MR HIKUAMA: Re kile ra nna le bothata le Mokhanselara yo o neng e le wa rona, a tlhaselwa ke nare.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nnyaa, ke ene a neng a e tlhasetse.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)…

MR HIKUAMA: A tlhaselwa ke nare wa Khwai-Mababe. Dilo tse ga se *jokes*, di bolaya batho mme di dirwa ke gore badisa-diphologolo ba rona ga ba na ditlhobolo tse di ka ba sireletsang mo dilong tse. Le bone go ka itshireletsa.

Madam Speaker, mo ngwageng o o fetileng *or* 2023, nare e bolaile *Wildlife Officer* kwa Maun ka gore ba ne ba e latela ka dihala tsone tse. Go raya gore ba ne ba tlhoka gore ba tle gaufi, gongwe fa re ka ba neela Simonovs le ditlhobolo tsa maemo a a rileng ba ka e kuka e le kgakala ba bo ba sa amane le yone. Ke dumalana le gore Tshutiso e re tshwanetse go e atla fela ba rotlhe.

MR LUCAS: *Clarification*. Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker.* Rre Hikuama, wena ke a itse gore o itse ditlhobolo ka mefuta ya tsone yotlhe, bogolo jang tsone tse tsa diphologolo…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MR LUCAS: Nna ke itse dihala fela. O kare ke tshosiwa ke lefoko le gotweng ba letlelelwe go dirisa *weapons of war,* a wena ga le tshose le fa o itse ditlhobolo mo go kalo?

MR HIKUAMA: Nnyaa, ga go na se se tshosang, o bona fa o tlwaetse sedirisiwa, o itse gore tiro ya sone ke eng, ga e ka ke sa nna borai mo go ope. Kana gompieno ke tsamaya ka thipa...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)…

MR HIKUAMA: Ke tsamaya ka thipa gongwe le gongwe fa ke tsamayang teng. Ke tsamaya ka thipa, molamu kana tlhobolo, le mo koloing ya me. Ga nke ke e dirisa gope fela fa go sa tshwanelang teng. Ke gore fa o tlwaetse sedirisiwa, o bona gore tiro ya sone ke e, ga o se dirise mo tirong e e seng yone. Kana…

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Hikuama, a wa re o tshotse thipa mo Palamenteng?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)…

MR HIKUAMA: Ee, ka re fa ke tsamaya gongwe le gongwe…Gongwe ga ke a e tshwara gompieno, mme fela fa ke tswa mo Palamenteng…

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MADAM SPEAKER: *Order! Order! Honourable Members*, ke eng le le *excited*, a le tshotse dithipa?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa, a re ga a e tshola.

MR HIKUAMA: *Madam Speaker*, gongwe fa o ka tlhaloganya, molamu le thipa, ka ngwao ya segarona, ke dilo tse e leng gore mosimane mongwe le mongwe fa a gola o di fiwa e bile o rutintshiwa gore a…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MR HIKUAMA: *It is part of that culture* le ka fa re godisiwang ka teng. Ga o ka ke wa tlhola o re o tlhaba motho ka yone. Ga re dire dilo tse ke tlholang ke utlwa gotwe motho o tlhabile moratiwa wa gagwe ka gore re itse gore ga se sone se o se fetsweng thipa gore o tsamaye ka yone, o itse gore tiro ya yone ke eng.

The point I am trying to make ke gore *let us not be afraid.* Le fa go ka buiwa ka bo *arms of war, those who have been given those arms of war, they would not turn war into us* ka gore *we are not the target*. Ba itse fela gore fa ba le fa ba le fa gare ga rona, sa bone ga se go dirisa *those weapons,* ke gore ba di tshware fela. Gore fa

seemo se letla jaaka diemo di a tle di letle mo mafelong a ba berekelang mo go one a a borai, ba kgone go itshireletsa le dithoto tsa rona le lefatshe la Botswana.

MR LUCAS: O nkarabile.

MR HIKUAMA: Ke tsone dikgang tse re tshwanetseng go di lebelela, re se ka ra lebelela gore gongwe re ka tshaba gore… kana mongwe o kile a bua gore a la re mongwe le mongwe kgantele a nne le tlhobolo, ga e re sepe fa e tshotswe ke batho ba ba siameng ba ba *trained. I think I have dealt with that one.*

HONOURABLE MEMBER: E seng Tshere.

MR HIKUAMA: …(*Laughter!*)… Ba re e seng *Honourable* Tshere. *Yes,* ke yone kgang e neng ke re ke eme ke e gatelele. *Madam Speaker,* ke ne ke re molao o, o amana le go sireletsa dilo tsa rona le batho ba *Wildlife from the gangsters* ba ba tlang ba *poach*. Batho ba ba *trained* go sireletsa diphologolo ke bone ba *Wildlife*, ga se ba bangwe bape gape. Ba letlhakore la bo Rre Mokgware, sa bone ke go sireletsa setšhaba, e seng diphologo le go di disa. A ba ntshiwe mo teng gore go se ka ga nna le *conflicts*. Fa ba tlisiwa, ba thusa *to compliment* beng ba tiro. Beng ba tiro bone ba nne *at the forefront* ya go dira tiro ya bone, ba sesole ba thuse fa go tlhokafala, ke gore se se ka ya ne o kare re beile mo go bone ka gore bone *they have been trained* go hula motho le go mo sireletsa, e seng go sireletsa diphologolo le go di tlhokomela. Ke yone kgang e ke neng ke re go botlhokwa gore re tle re dumalane le kopo kana Tshutiso e re e beilweng pele ke Tona gore re tle re sireletse dilo tsa rona ka manontlhotlho le botswerere jwa maemo a a kwa godimo. Ka mantswe a a kalo *Madam Speaker*, ke ne ke re ke latlhele go le kalo. Ke a leboga.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF CHILD WELFARE AND BASIC EDUCATION (MR HUNYEPA): *Tanki* Madam Speaker. I support the Wildlife Conservation and National Park Amendment Bill No. 8 of 2025. Madam Speaker, we are faced with sophisticated military grade weapons and tactics. So, the position is that we need to arm Wildlife Officers so that they can counter these poachers who are well armed. Current Wildlife Officers are at a tactical disadvantage with standard arms. *Ba dirisa fela bo* 303 rifle gun. *Wa re di bitswa eng* Hikuama? So, we need to arm them properly. There have been cases where poachers outgun Anti-Poaching Units leading to loss of lives and national resources. We have not only had that in Botswana, even in other countries. So, we need to arm these people.

In Tati West and of course the whole country where there are Wildlife Officers, they need military type of drones and vehicles. We should not only give them these arms, they also need military type of drones as well as vehicles so that they can really contest and fight these poachers. I would like to emphasise this issue *e ya batho ba ba* Wildlife, I would specifically pick Masunga as an example that their vehicles are all down. *Ga ba na dikoloi* as we speak and what will be the use of arming them when they do not have vehicles in the first place? They are taking care of 43 villages in the whole of North East. They have only 10 officers. In other words, we are saying let us arm them and increase the numbers as well so that they can fight these poachers.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Elucidation.

MR HUNYEPA: I will give you, just a moment, I will note you comrade. We have serious challenges of elephants as well as buffalos. Two people were recently attacked by buffaloes at Kalakamati because the guards that they had were just useless. So, that is why I stand here to support these types of weapons.

Still in North East, Tati West specifically, these people, Wildlife Officers, they do not have offices. Like I said, they are taking care of 43 villages. They are using a rented office within the Masunga Stadium and yet they are taking care of the whole district, 43 villages and they do not have offices. So, these are some of serious concerns and worse, what is the use of giving them arms and at the same time, they do not have accommodation? *Bana ba Modimo ga ba na boroko. Ba bangwe ba hirisitse kgakala.* We are saying that let us arm them with these smart weapons and give them decent accommodation as well, otherwise these sophisticated guns will not be of any good use.

We are also saying that beside the guns, let us also have surveillance cameras in these hotspots to support them so that they can easily monitor and fight poaching effectively.

So, we take it that the recently launched BOTSAT-1 *satellite should help us even monitor our wildlife.*

Madam Speaker, I would like also to emphasise that, we have some special species that are under serious threat, elephants and rhinoceros, so this there is a need to protect this treasure which is an important economic asset to Botswana. So enhanced fire power will deter cross-border poaching activities, as well as strengthening national security. So it is not strange that we are arming the Wildlife officers, the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Act and Police Act already provide for the use of force where necessary. Therefore, this amendment aligns with national security legislation, so it is something that is already there. Similar measures have been adopted even in other countries, Kenya and South Africa, they have armed their wildlife officers, so it is not strange that we are amending this legislation, because it is something that is not strange, we are just aligned like others. You have to put this emphasis that we have to train these officers accordingly, so that they use the weapons very well.

Madam Speaker, we also see this as a job opportunity, because from the same, we will have to employ people who are going to fix these guns when they are down. So I think that is another opportunity of creating jobs. Again a lot of psycho-social training and support, will be needed for these armed officers to guard against misuse and the escalation of Gender Based Violence (GBV). So they will need to be trained because given such dangerous weapons they will need such psycho-social support.

Madam Speaker, arming these people will help us really fight poaching, because as it is right now it undermines Botswana's tourism industry, which contributes significantly to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment creation. So loss of key species disrupts ecosystems affecting biodiversity and conservation efforts. So I support this, and still emphasise that…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Elucidation.

MR HUNYEPA: I will give you Honourable Moalosi, just a moment, I am just winding up. I was saying that, these are concerns over human rights. We have concerns over human rights and excessive force. Now the amendment should include strict guidelines on the use of force, oversight mechanisms and accountability measures. So there you need to put these in place. Training, professional conduct and clear engagement rules will ensure responsible use of force.

So this is my emphasis Madam Speaker, but I would like to sum up before I give Honourable Moalosi, that the amendment aligns with regional and anti-poaching agreements strengthening cross-border cooperation. It also demonstrates Botswana's commitment to international wildlife conservation. This amendment is necessary as it responds to an evolving security threat. Wildlife officers need to be adequately equipped to protect national resources. Proper implementation, training and oversight will ensure responsible enforcement. I yield for Honourable Moalosi.

MR MOALOSI: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga Mothusa Tona wa Thuto ya bana ba ba nnyennyane. Ke ne ke batla go akgela mo kgannyeng ya babereki ba ba 10, ke ipotsa gore kwa *Wildlife* go raya gore *district* nngwe le nngwe e neelwa 10, ka gore le kwa kgaolong ya me re neetswe 10, *and* ba na le koloi e *one,* e *last week* e neng e sena *petrol.* E le gore ba re ga go na *petrol in the whole area. So* ke kopa gore gongwe ba *ministry* o o amegang gongwe ba lebelele dinomore tseo, ka gore fa o lebelela kgaolo ya me kana ba tsaya *from* Maitengwe *all the way to* Dukwi ba tsentse le Mosetse. Jaanong ke *belt* fela ya ditlou e e leng gore *almost on a daily basis it is reported* gore ditlou di tsene mo masimong, mme ba sa kgone go goroga teng ka gore ditsompelo tota ga di yo. Gongwe fa re ba neetse ditlhobolo jalo, re ba neele le ditsompelo tsa gore ba kgone go thusa batho. Gompieno ga ba *assess,* gatwe fa gongwe tau e fetile o khurumele motlhala ka *bucket,* gongwe e tlaa re *after* nako ba bone sebaka ba tle. Jaanong tota selelo kwa kgaolong ya me ke kgang ya gore *they do not respond* ka nako. Ke a leboga *Mr* Hunyepa.

MR HUNYEPA: Ke a leboga. Wena o botoka e bile dikoloi di teng, ke gore ga go na *petrol,* kwa Masunga ba kopa *lifts when cases are reported, so* ke mathata mokaulengwe. Ke dumalana le wena, ke sone se o bonang gape ke tlhalosa gore, a go tsenngwe *cameras as well,* di tle di thuse le tsone mo twantshong ya borukutlhi jo bo kalokalo. Ke go leboge mokaulengwe, ke re *I support* kgang e *Madam Speaker.* Tanki.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (MR NYATANGA): *Thank you very much Madam Speaker.* Le nna ke batla

go ema *supporting this Bill,* gore go botlhokwa General o emetse *Minister* wa *Wildlife* gore, *we should support this department* ba kgone go nna le ditlhobolo tse di maleba tse ba ka di dirisang. *Contribution* ya me *is going to be premised* mo *concept* ya *risk,* General Mokgware, ya *unified risk oversight.* Fa re bua ka *risk we need to look at the risk across the border. So I understand* gore gompieno *we want to give* ba *Wildlife* ditlhobolo, mme ke gakolole ke re, mo dikgannyeng tse *you need an integrated security management strategy*. Ke raya jang; o tshwanetswe ke gore o kgone go nankolola dilo tse dingwe tse di botlhokwa, *so critically* mo lephateng le *you need public awareness. We assume people know* gore *wildlife* e dira eng, e tshwanetse go dira eng, *but I will tell you if you judge on the basis of a reasonable man in the society,* o tlaa bona gore go na le *information gaps.*

So the other thing ke *critical infrastructure* General. *My understanding of critical infrastructure,* e bile o bua ka dikgang tsa *poaching* ke gore, *you must look at* Botswana *as a country* le diphologolo tse re di lebeletseng, le gone gore *what is the risk. So there is no doubt Honourable* Mokgware gore, *the species that we keep* mo lefatsheng le batho ba a di batla. E bile go na le *understanding* ya gore, dikarolo dingwe tsa tsone di ka ntsha madi a mantsi. Jaanong fa o dira *risk management you look at those four* Ds Rre Mokgware, ke gore *our focus is to deter. This is why I am talking about public awareness, because* fa batho ba ka itse gore go diragala eng *in the space, even the community,* re bua le batsadi kwa gae, ba tlile go re thusa, ka o tlaa tlhaloganya wena Rre Mokgware gore dikgang tse dintsintsi fa o batla go tsaya ditlholwa batho ba tlaa go thusa, go itse gore *the risk* e o nang nayo ke eng. Mme ditlhobolo di tla fa re tlang go bua re re *detain,* ke tlaa tla ke tswelela ka tsone.

Ke re D yo mongwe ke wa "*detect*," o e leng gore *you need to strengthen your intelligence collection*. Gompieno mo Botswana batho ba le ba ntsintsi ba tsena o kare ke *tourists,* kwa *borders* tsa rona re ithaya re re ke *tourists.* Fa ba tsena mo Botswana mo ba a bo ba na le maikaelelo a mangwe. *So* ba Lephata le la *Wildlife need to check* gore *wing* ya bone *are they competent enough* gore ba ka kgona *to deal* le dikgang tse. Ke itse gore gompieno jaana *they refer to others, but I will strongly suggest that we need to set up very strong intelligence wing* ya *Wildlife* Rre Mokgware, gore e tle e ba thuse, *because they will provide the information timely and at the right time, very-very key.*

E ya ditlhobolo, ke dumalana le tsone gore bagaetsho fa go na le bothata, banna ba ba tshwanetswe ke gore ba ikarabele. Kana *the risk in this environment* ga se diphologolo fela, *you must also consider* gore batho botlhe *who do poaching, they are very smart.* Bontsi jwa bone o fitlhela e le batho *who were trained in the armed forces.* Fa ba go fitlhela wena o kganela diphologolo ka molodi, *you become an easy target.* Jaaka Rre Hikuama a bua fale *it is very clear, we have the statistics* tsa gore *we have lost some of our cadres, because* ba ne ba sena botsipa jo bo ka emelelanang le *poachers.*

Fa o bona ke ema nokeng se, go botlhokwa thata gore *we must make sure that we have the right ammunition and guns to respond.* Re lebeletse gore *what is currently happening in the environment.* South Africa; *there is a lot of information* e e go bolelelang gore *almost every other day in a year, they lose* diphologolo tse re nang le tsone. Kana gakere gape *the other thing* Rre Mokgware, *we need to be very careful* ka go ntsha maina, *because open intelligence is our risk also.* Fa re bua gore re tshotse eng mo Botswana, *people easily come and target us.*

Ke batla go ema nokeng kgang ya ditlhobolo *on the following points, generally this department of wildlife let us make sure* gore re a e thodumela, *because there are concerns on the ground from staff.* Le rona mapolotiki ba a tla kwa go rona, *because* go lebega go sena tirisanyo mmogo ya bone le ba ba kwa godimo. *Because of that,* go raya gore *they become so disgruntled,* ka gore gape ba supa gore go na le *fatigue management,* ba theogeletse ruri jaaka o ne o utlwa bakaulengwe ba ntse ba bua *because of the numbers. For example,* fa o tsena fa Mahalapye fale, ke kile ka ya teng, Mahalapye *is looking after* Machaneng *and* Mahalapye. *They have seven officers* le dikoloi tse pedi tsa *off-road. No, we are not serious. This thing* Rre Mokgware, *it was very worse* maloba, gakere ke rona ba re sa direng *risk assessments, the thinking is that* ditlou di bonala fela kwa go bo tsala ya me Carter. Go ne go tletse ditlou mo kgaolong ele, *and the public was in shock, they ran to wildlife.* Fa o ya kwa *wildlife* ba na le dikoloi tse pedi, *they are so fatigued because they are only seven, so we need to say* e re re batla gore re tlise ditlhobolo, *let us also check*

gore *the resources in terms of manpower* di teng. Fa re sa dire jalo, mme re ba neela ditlhobolo, *you are creating another risk. When they are disgruntled* jaaka *Honourable* Hunyepa a bua, ba bangwe ba ya go nna le *problem* ya gore fa ba na le mathata ba itse gore ba a *solve* jang. *They are going to think that the trigger of the gun is the solution*. Re bo re simolola re nna le *issues* tse re utlwang gotwe ba a hulana. *So we need to take some of these things very serious, because* fa o lebelela *they are complaining* ka *uniform and overtime,* e bile go supagala gore le *staff meetings* le *senior leadership* ga di yo. *So we must have a way of making sure that* batho ba ba bua le bagolwane gore mathata a rarabololwe.

Le kgang ya *progression* bagaetsho, a e se ka ya nna gore re ba neela ditlhobolo, *let us look at this department and make sure* gore *is it properly structured.* Batho ba ka gore *they are uniformed, they also want to see themselves growing, but* fa e le gore *they are not going to grow, you are going to create other problems. I want us to approach this thing* ka mo re go bitsang re re *unified risk oversight. We must not look at one aspect* re bo re tseela gore *that is the problem. If we want to get to the bottom of it, we must make sure that we look at this thing holistically. Even in the nature of their jobs,* re ba thuseng bagaetsho *and train them,* go nne le *some debriefs because* nako tse dingwe ba nna le *confrontation* le tsone diphologolo tse di maswe, re bo re tla re tseela gore *they are just fine. We need to make sure that we have got interventions and programmes that address their character, to make sure that these guys continue living positively with others. We do not want a situation where we will start making references to the statistics* tsa kwa *wildlife,* go simololwa gotwe kana ba *wildlife l*e bone ba simolotswe ba dira jaana le jaana.

Ke batla gore ke go kope General o emetse mokaulengwe wa gago gore, *let us look at this issue of resources.* E re fa re ya go tla go le ditlhobolo jaaka ke di ema nokeng jaana, *make sure that wildlife* ka yone fela *it is properly resourced.* Gore fa go na le bothata, *they should be able in terms of their risk management to respond efficiently to these things.* Le *to train,* ditlhobolo o tlaa dumalana le nna Rre Mokgware, *you use* ditlhobolo *to train.* Fa re ka tla ra ba di neela, re sa nna le *policy* ya gore re ya *to train* jang, *it is going to be creating another weakness.*

Ke ne ke batla gore ke rialo, ke go ema nokeng e bile ke na le tumelo ya gore ditlhobolo tse mokaulengwe le di neelwe, di dirisiwe *to protect* meamuso ya Botswana. *Thank you very much Madam Speaker.*

MR KEDIKILWE (SEROWE WEST): Tanki *Madam Speaker,* mma ke go dumedise. Le nna ke eme ke supe gore ke ema mogopolo o nokeng thatathata tota, ka gore lephata le le botlhokwa fela jaaka re itse gore diphologolo tse ba di tlhokomelang tse, di tlisetsa lefatshe le madi ka go le gontsi thata. Tsone kana ke *resources* tse ka botsone di ka ikoketsang, fa di tlhokomelesegile sentle. Ga se tse o solofelang gore ga di tlhokomelwa sentle, e tlaa re letsatsi le lengwe di bo di tshwana diteemane gotwe di fedile. Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, ke lengwe la lephata le e leng gore fa di ka tlhokomelwa sentle, itsholelo ya lefatshe le e ka nona ya ya kwa pele, jaaka re itse gore re na le *tourists* tse di tlang mono ngwaga le ngwaga, di tla go di bona. Fa ba sena go di bona, ga ba tsamaye ka phologolo, ba tlogela phologolo foo. Yo mongwe le ene o tlaa tla a di fitlhela foo, e bile gongwe di ntsifetse di tsetse gabedi, gararo. Jaanong ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, go botlhokwa thata gore re di tlhokomele le tsone. Ke lengwe la lephata le le tsenyetsang lefatshe madi.

Jaaka motlotlegi a kopa gore re busetse kana go dirwe molao, ke tsaya gore o a baakanya, gore go busetswe seemo jaaka se ne se ntse, ka gore lephata le le ne le na le ditlhobolo. Puso e e neng e feta ke gakologelwa moetedipele wa yone a bua a le kwa America a re, re di tsere ditlhobolo. Mo go rayang gore fa o rialo, ke gore le batho ba ba neng ba ntse ba itse gore lephata le *is well resourced,* ga o ka ke wa tsena mo wa utswa phologolo o bo o tswa o tsamaya, o ba bolelela gore ba itse gore ga gona sepe, jaanong *they can go in* ba ya go tsaya diphologolo. Fa o ka tsaya sekai fela, fa go sena go nna go tualo, ditshukudu gone fa Khama Rhino Sanctuary di bo di simolola di nyelela fela ka dipalo, ka gore go ne go supagala gore jaanong ba a itse gore owaii, batho ba ga ba na meno ga ba ka ke ba tlhola ba re dira sepe. Go tswa go itsisiwe kgakalakgakala *internationally,* kwa batho ba reetsang dikgang tse, go bo go supagala gore jaanong mongwe le mongwe o a itse.

Jaanong rra ke go lebogela gore, fa o busetsa gore batho ba le bone, kana ke batho, ke bana ba bo mmaabone, ke bana ba rona, ke bo monnaarona, ke bo mogoloarona,

re a ba rata. Ga o ka ke wa bereka tiro e e *risky* go le kalokalo, go bo gotwe wena o tsamaye fela o kgalemele diphologolo ka diatla, tse e leng gore ga gona yo o ka di atumelang. Le gone moo fela go le nosi, go ba tlhatafatsa moko, gore le bone ba ka itshireletsa fa ba ka tlhaselwa. Kana ka gore diphologolo tse, e re ntswa di ne di ka ba tlhasela, gongwe ba ne ba ka di tila ka tsela nngwe, mme kana botshelo bo tla gangwefela. Jaanong *what about* fa ba rakana le ba e leng gore jaaka re ntse re bua, ba bangwe ke ba ba leng *well trained, they are from the disciplined forces* tsa bone kwa ba tswang teng. Jaanong ka gore kwano ba tlile go senya, ba tla ba le *armed* ba itse gore ga ba ye go dira tiro e e letlelesegang. Kana magodu a gompieno ga a tshwane a bogologolo, gakere golo mo ke magodu. Kana legodu pele e ne e re fa le go bona le bo le tswa le sia. Ba gompieno fa o sa sie, ke wena o nang le mathata. Jaanong go bo go raya gore fa e le gore ba rona ba re reng ba disa diphologolo, mme ga ba a tshwara sepe, go raya gore ba tlamega go sia fa ba bona magodu a diphologolo, gore ba ipabalele le bone. Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, ke a go akgola rra e bile ke go tlatsa go menagane gore busetsa ditlhobolo tseo, o sa tshoge sepe. Ke itse gore batho ba *wildlife are trained*. Nkawana ke mosupi. Ke ne ke na le ene kwa Tanzania ba ithutela nnetlu ya diphologolo. Ba itse phologolo go feta mongwe le mongwe. Ba itse mmele wa phologolo jaaka ngaka e itse mmele wa motho. Ga go na se ba se tlhaelang. E se ka ya re le akanya go ba neela ditlhobolo, la tsaya gore *they are not trained.* Ke itse gore *they are well trained.* Ba tlhoka fela gore wena o ba neele tse di tlhokafalang gore ba dire tiro ya bone. Jaaka re bua, o tlaa fitlhela e le gore le gone kwa diofising tsa bone, ba palo potlana thata. Ba fekeetswa ke tiro mo e leng gore fa motho a tla *to report,* fa gongwe ba tsaya dikgwedi go tla.

Ke na le *case* e nngwe; maloba ke ne ke romelela Motlotlegi wa lephata le, Mmolotsi, dinepe e le gore motho o a nteletsa polase ya gagwe e phatlaladitswe ke ditlou. O a itse gore le fa a ka ya kwa *wildlife,* batho ba ba foo ga go na gore ba ka dira eng. Ba a tla fela, ba okomela, ba bo ba re, "re bone," ba bo ba tsamaya. Di a boelela gape kamoso, ba a tla, ba a okomela, ba bo ba tswa ba tsamaya. O setse a re, botoka a tle go bona Tautona ka gore bale o buile le bone. Ga ba gane ba a ya, mme ga go na se ba ka se dirang. Ga go na gore ba ka mo thusa jang, ba itshwanela fela le ene. Ba na le dihalanyana le fa e le go tshosa, ga ba kgone go tshosa ditlou tseo. Ke go tlatsa ka one mabaka ao go menagane rra gore ka tsweetswee, busetsa ditlhobolo tse o sa tshabe sepe. Batho ba, ba ne ba sa bolo go tshwara ditlhobolo tse. Fa e ne e le gore go di tshwara ga bone ba ne ba sa di tshware sentle, ba ka bo ba sa bolo go supa. Ke itse gore *they are trained*.

A e se ka ya nna ditlhobolo fela, a dikoloi di nne teng. Kwa Serowe go na le koloi e le nngwefela e ke reng, *it covers* kgaolo ele ya Serowe, e ya go tsena le kwa Lentswelemoriti. O ka bona gore le fa gotwe ke Cruiser e bothata bo kae, mo e ka kgonang go dira jalo. Fa e ile *for service,* e ela ruri. Fa e santse e le kwa tiriping e tsamaetse ntlheng ya Sandveldt kwa dipolaseng, ka gore ditau di senya ka koo, ba masimo kwa ditlou di sentse, o tlaa fitlhela e le gore fa o ya kwa *register* ya bone, e kana e tletse, ba tlaa go raya ba reng.

Kwa ga me di ne di ntshenyeditse, tsa thuba *drums* di le pedi. Ba nthaya ba re, "Rre Kedikilwe, o se ka wa tsaya gore ga re tle kwa ga gago, ga go na gore re ka tla jang koo jaaka o bona ga re na koloi." Fa ba phutholola ba re, "bona *reports* tse di tlileng pele ga gago." Le nna tota ke bo ke tsamaela ruri, ga ke ise ke tlhole ke boela kwa go bone. Ke bona gore ga go na gore ba ka dira eng ka gore ga ba gane batho ba Modimo, ga ba na *the resources.* Le fa ba na le keletso ya go dira, ba le tlhaga go le kae, ba kgobiwa marapo ke gore, ga go na tse ba berekang ka tsone. A e re le ba okeletsa ditlhobolo jalo, jaaka ke dumela gore go botlhokwa, le dikoloi o di oketse rra. Batlotlegi ba ntse ba bua gore a go nne le *helicopters* tse ba ka kgonang *to patrol* ka tsone. Ba bone le *drones* fa e le gore go a tlhokafala.

Fela jaaka ke bua, le bone ba oketse kapari ya bone e bonale gore batho ba, ba bereka Puso. *Overalls* tsa bone fa di le di sha, di di ntle. Fa di setse di tsofetse, o tlaa di bona o kare ba ne ba bidikama mo leroleng. Le fa gotwe go a somarelwa, ga go na madi, ga di sa tlhole di le mo *quality* e e leng gore modirelapuso, o ka di apara. Gone moo fela go le nosi, go dira gore le ene a bone gore fa ke berekang teng, ke fa Goromente a latlheletseng. Le ene ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, go bo go raya gore o kgobega marapo. Le fa e ne e le motho yo o tlhaga go le kae, go felela go pala gore a supe bothakga jwa gagwe.

Maloba fa ke le fa rra, o bona ke go tlatsa jaana, ke go boleletse gore *poaching* mo kgaolong ya rona segolo thata bogare jwa Serowe le Mmashoro, e oketsegile. Go

ne go na le diphala le ditholo gone fale, mme ga o ka ke wa di bona gompieno. Go na le batho ba ba tsomang ka *torches* bosigo. Gatwe di rekisidiwa maChina. Batho ba hula diphologolo bosigo jotlhe. Ba dira jalo ba itse gore ga go na jaaka batho ba ka tla kwa go bone ka gore ga ba yo, *they are not visible on the ground*. Batho ba gololesegile. Motho o kgona go bolaya diphologolo, a di tlatsa ka koloi. O utlwa gotwe motho yo o o hula go tswa fa setimamelelo se tswang teng mo Mmashoro, go ya go felela kwa Topisi, a lala a hula bosigo jotlhe. O kile wa bona motho yo o ntseng jalo. Go botlhokwa thata rra, gore o *reinforce* lephata le, diphologolo tse di se ka tsa nyelela.

Ke ne ke tsaya gore ke matshamekwane gotwe diphologolo tse di tlaa fela. Maloba fa ke *debate* fa, ke supile gore ke ne ke na le rre mongwe wa Cameroon, a mpolelela gore kwa ga bone fa ba re ba ya go tsoma, ba raya ba ya go tsoma kgatlampane yo o tlhogo tala le peba. Ba bona fa dipeba di tsenang teng ka gore bo mmutla ba bonwa fela mo *television* le mo ditshwantshong go tshwantshitswe. Ga ba ise ba ba bone. Ke raya ke bua le monnamogolo a re ga a ise a ko a rakane le mmutla. Go re supegetsa gore a re se ka ra tsaya gore di di ntsi, di tlaa fela.

Ke ne ke lemoga gone foo gore ke boammaaruri diphologolo di a fela. Ke ne ka bona a se na go mpolelela ke lebile *television* go na le *strike* se se neng se supiwa kwa London, e le *programme* ya Africa. *The whole of* Cameroon *strike because* go ne go na le ditshwene tse *four,* e nngwefela e bo e lwala e bo e ya go katelwa. Batho ba bo ba *strike* ba re, e ka bo botoka e neetswe malwapa a mabedi a mararo ba e ja, ka gore ke makgetho a bone. Ba lelela gore phologolo e latlhilwe. Golo mo rona re sa itseng gore motho o ka go lelela. A re dumeleng gore le rona re tlaa goroga gone foo, fa re sa di tlhokomele. Go botlhokwa Rre Mokgware gore go itsiwe gore lephata le, le tshwana fela le la diteemane. Fa teemane e disitswe, ga e a tshwanela gore e latlhege motlhofo. Phologolo a e se ka ya latlhega motlhofo ka mabaka a gore, ga go na gore re ka reng. Re e dibele ka ditsela tsotlhe ka e tsaya madi, e bile *it creates employment* mo lefatsheng le. Ka a le kalo, ke a go leboga *Madam Speaker.*

MR NKAWANA (SELEBI PHIKWE EAST): Ke a go leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ke eme le nna ke akgele go ema Tona Mokgware yo o emetseng *Honourable* Mmolotsi ka kgang ya ditlhobolo. Ditlhobolo tse di leng teng tse di rekilweng, tse di neng tsa tseelwa badirelapuso ba diphologolo, tsa ya go bewa golo gongwe. Ba sale ba theogetse ba duelwa, mme ba sa bereke ka ba ne ba se na didirisiwa dingwaga di ka nna di ntsi go fitlhelela Domkrag e tswa mo Pusong. Puso ele e ne e le setlhogo thata.

Ke kile ka ema fa ke ntsha *Motion* wa gore batho bao ba busediwe ditlhobolo tseo ka gore ke tsone didirisiwa tsa bone. Ke yone pena ya bone e ba kwalang ka yone fa go na le tshenyetso-setšhaba mo nageng. Ke ne ka bitswa maina le mainane gore ke romilwe ke boora Khama. Ke solofela gore fa e le gore ke ne ke romilwe, le wena o romilwe. Fa e le gore re romilwe, a re buelele Batswana. Re buelele diphologolo tse di ka se keng di kgone go ipuelela, tse batho ba di utswang ba di bolayang, di sa ka ke tsa ikuela gope.

Molao o wa re, Wildlife Conservation Act e seng *preservation,* gore re tlhokomele diphologolo tsa rona. Tiro ya modisa diphologolo e tona ke to *manages* diphologolo tse di mo nageng *and then manages* le motho ka gore *the poachers* ke batho. *They have to be managed Honourable Minister.* Tiro e ya bone, e feta ya mongwe le mongwe. Ba dira ditiro tse pedi tsa *to manage* diphologolo le *to manage* batho. Ba bangwe e le ba re ba itseng. *They encroach into the areas* tsa diphologolo. Bangwe ke bone ba re buang ka bone gore ba utswa diphologolo. Bautswi ba diphologolo go na le ba e leng gore *they do that for subsistence*, ba se mo seemong se se tshwanang le sa *commercial poachers. Subsistence* ke raya motho yo o tlaabong a tsaya segai kgotsa dintša a alola mmantseane a bo a o bolaya, a ya go ja. Ga a ka ke a ya go tsoma, a ise a fetse se a se bolaileng. *A commercial hunter* ke yo o tlatsang Cruiser jaaka *Honourable* Kedikilwe a ne a bua. A feta a leleanya bosigo le motshegare, a bo a rwala a ya go rekisa kwa a boneng mmakete teng.

Jaanong ke feta ka dikgang tse ka gore re tswa kgakala re bua ka gore badisadiphologolo ke ba wena o itseng o ne o ba *train* go tshwara tlhobolo. *We are not inventing a wheel,* le gone ga re bue gore go ya go rekwa ditlhobolo dipe, re bua ka ditlhobolo tse di leng teng, tse le neng la di tsaya le le Puso la ya go di baya golo gongwe. Ke gakologelwa *Honourable* Mmusi ke bua a bo a re, re a di tsaya ka gore le tloga le ikgolafatsa, a re *wildlife*

officers who have been trained, ba tloga ba ikgolafatsa. Go supa fela gore ke motho yo o neng a sena kelelelo. Legale gompieno ka ke ba ba kolobeditswe, ba fetogile, ba dumalana le rona, ke batla go dumalana thata le kopo ya gago *Honourable Minister.*

Ditlhobolo tse re buang ka tsone tse, re bua ka tlhobolo e e leng gore modisadiphologolo o kgona *to engage* legodu la diphologolo, segolo jang ba ba tswang kwa mafatsheng a sele ka ke bone ba re buang ka bone. Re bua ka batho ba ba tswang kwa mafatsheng a sele ba tla go utswa diphologolo tsa rona, ba tla go utswa *rhinos*, ditau, ditlou ba batla dinaka tsa tsone mo Botswana.

Se sengwe se se tshwenyang ke gore, rona re itse gore Motswana fa a ya go tsoma, o tsomela bana le masika gore ba je. Yo ene o tsoma a bo a ntsha dinaka a somola a bo a tswa a tsamaya a tlogela mekoakoa ya nama ya phologolo e ba tlaabong ba e bolaile. Gone moo re tshwanetse go itse gore lefatshe la Botswana le a bo le senyegetswe thata. Yone *poaching* e re buang ka yone e dirwa ke batswakwa ka ditlhobolo tse re senang boitseanape jwa go ka dira sepe fa ba sa tshola se ba se rutetsweng, ba kopana le motho a tshwere tlhobolo gatwe ke *automatic gun,* gone moo. Ene a tshotse 458 e e thuntshang lerumo le lengwefela *at a time,* motho a tshotse *automatic* e e hulang marumo a le 50, 20 *per minute or less.* Re bo re akanya gore gone moo o ka nna le kgaisano e e rileng le motho wa mofuta oo.

Madam Speaker, ke ne ke re ka ke *support* mogopolo o, e bile ke itumelela gore jaanong *you are born again,* keletso ke gore *wildlife officers* ba fiwe ditlhobolo tseo di le mo seemong se se siameng. *Of course* di ka tswa di setse di siilwe ke nako ka gore ditlhabololo tsone di ntse di nna teng, *poachers* kana bone ba *advanced all the time.* Se re se buang gompieno le fa o ka se ke o ba neele tse le neng le di beile kwa le neng le di beile teng, mme gone a re ba batleleng tse di tshwanetseng tse di ka kgonang *to match poachers* tseo. Le fa re re ke batho ba ba tswang kwa ntle, le mo gae ba teng. Re a utlwa gore bangwe ba bone ke *retired military officers, retired wildlife officers*, mme ba felele re ba neele ditlhobolo tse di tshwanetseng tsa segompieno tsa nako ya gompieno.

Ke digele gape *Honourable* Mokgware gore le fa re bua ka ditlhobolo, kana ga go iwe ka dinao kwa nageng. Ga ba ka ke ba tswa fa ba tsamaya ka dinao ba tswa mo Gaborone ba ya kwa diphologolo di leng teng. Ba tshwanetse go neelwa didirisiwa ka go farologana; dikoloi, ba apesiwe sentle ka fa go tshwanetseng ka teng, ba neelwe le jone boroko tota. Kana ba bangwe fa re bua jaana, go na le dikampa gone kwa mafelong a a farologanyeng mo *game reserves,* ba foo, ba bangwe ba nyetse, ba na le bana mme ga go na dikole gone koo. Jaanong se se raya gore o ba akanyetse gore fa o mmeile kwa nageng koo, bana fa ba setse mo Gaborone, Molepolole, ba nna kae gore ba kgone go ya sekoleng. Le gone ba ya gone koo o ba isa ka gore rraabone kana mmaabone a seyo, ga go na ope yo o ka ba isang sekoleng ka gore *taxis* le eng di a duelelwa, mathata a nna teng. Fa o dirile thulaganyo e e tshwanang le e o neng o e dira kwa BDF, ka gore batho ba ba tshwana le ba BDF, gore go nne le dikoloi tse di ba tseelang bana go ba isa dikoleng. E bile gape ke re a re ba okeletseng dipalo gore ba bonale ka gore fa ba apere *uniform* ba bonala kwa go tlhokafalang teng, *visibility* e dira gore *poaching* e ye kwa tlase.

Ke eletsa go ema gone foo *Honourable Minister*, mme ke supe gape gore ga se keletso ya me go bona *wildlife officers* le masole ba rwele ditlhobolo *in tourist areas.* Fa o dira jalo, mojanala fa a go bona o tshwere tlhobolo, o tlaa re golo fa go a lowa, a bo a tshoga a ya go bolelela ba bangwe gore kwa Botswana *it is a no go area,* fa o re o tsena fa o kopana le tlhobolo. Re eletsa fela gore go nne sentle go nne *orderly* bajanala ba ba tswang kwa mafatsheng ba se ka ba kgorelediwa ba tshosiwa ke go bona ditlhobolo gongwe le gongwe. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker.*

MR LEKAU: *Point of order.* Ke ema ka *Standing Order* 56.1 *Madam Speaker,* ke tlhalose fela gore a go ne go se matshwanedi mo tshekatshekong ya gago gore o kare rotlhe re a dumalana, gore mogopolo o re o atle fela re o khutlise? Ke a leboga.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Lekau, I was about to do that, but let me call the Honourable Minister to respond.

ACTING MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE): *Thank you very much Madam Speaker.* Mma ke eme jaana ke leboge thata batlotlegi jaaka ke ntse ke ba utlwa ba akgela. E bile ba botlhe ba atla ka dipelo tse di ntle mogopolo o wa gore re simolole re leke go fa badiredi ba *wildlife* ditlhobolo tse di maleba, tse di siameng, tse

ba ka berekang sentle ka tsone, e bile di ka lebana le dikgwetlho tse di ba lebaneng. Rotlhe re a dumela mo Ntlong e gore dikgwetlho tseo di bokete.

Selo sa ntlha ra re ba tshwanetse gore ba itshireletse, sa bobedi ba sireletse badiri ka bone ba ba nang le bone, sa boraro ba sireletse dithoto tsa lefatshe le. Dithoto tsa lefatshe le ke tsone diphologolo tse re di bitsang makgabisanaga fa re setse re itumetse. *It is a national strategic resource* e e leng gore ba rotlhe re tshwanetse go e tlhokomela.

Ga ke batle go tsamaya ka bongwe ka bongwe jwa batlotlegi ka fa ba buileng ka teng, mme ke batla go ba solofetsa ke bo ke ba tlhomamisetse gore tsotlhe tse ba di buileng jaaka ba di kopa ba re re ba fe ditlhobolo fela…

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Jacobs, fa *bell* e lediwa, go supa gore re diga *quorum, so* ke kopa gore le se ka la nna le tsamaya fela fa le utlwa *Clerk* a a fa *warning, you must sit and wait for someone to come* le bo le *exchange, please. Sorry Honourable* Mokgware, *you can continue.*

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you very much Madam Speaker*. Gore ga re a tshwanela go tsamaya fela re ba fe ditlhobolo, a re ba fe le tsone dikoloi gore ba tle ba kgone go ya go bereka sentle ba bo ba ya go goroga kwa ba tshwanetseng go goroga teng.

Selelo se sa lona batlotlegi se a utlwala mme e bile go lebega se apere lefatshe lotlhe gore bodiredi jwa *wildlife* ga bo na dikoloi. Re a utlwa, re tlaa leka gore e re fa *budget* e tsena fa bagaetsho, le tle le leke go e ema nokeng. Ke dumalana le lona gore ga ba na tsone dilo tse di tshwanang le *uniform* e e maleba. *Uniform* ga e a tshwanela go nna *uniform* fela, e tshwanetse go nna *the right protective uniform*.

MR HIKUAMA: *Clarification*. Ke go utlwa thata *Honourable Minister*, bogolo jang fa o bua ka kgang ya gore fa *budget* e tsena fa. Ke ne ke tsaya gore gongwe *budget* re e dumalane. Kana o raya efe gape, le batla go tsenya e e tlaabong e itebaganya le *welfare* jaanong ya bodirelapuso jone jo? Ke ne ke batla gore o tlhalose sentle gore ke efe?

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Tanki motlotlegi. Re a dumalana rotlhe fa le maloba re dumalane gore *budget* e re neng re e tsisitse fa e ne e sa lekana mme ra re fa Goromente a bona madi re tlisa *budget* fa, a re e emeng nokeng. Re lebile gore modiri wa *wildlife* yo o berekelang mo dikgwetlhong tse di maswe, mo sekgweng se se mmitlwa re se ka ra ba ra bona a rwele raba, *monangaso* jaaka ke kile ka bona ba apere *overalls* tsa bo mapentane. Ga re a tshwanela go dira jalo, re tshwanetse go ba neela *uniform* e e thata e e leng gore fa a e apere e a mo sireletsa kana ke mo go eng, mo dikgwetlhong tseo, mo mitlweng, mo ditlhareng tse di sa siamang.

Kana re tshwanetse go tlhaloganya gore nako e nngwe ke a tle ke bone batho go lebeletswe *uniforms* tsa mapodise, sesole le tsa bo *wildlife. Those uniforms should have what is called heat resistance, a certain percentage of it* gore le fa go ka kapa molelo mo koloing, mo kae kana mo tanteng e a robetseng mo go yone, *it should resist* molelo ka nako e e kalo. Ga e tshwane le *ordinary clothes* tse re di bonang tse. Re bona gompieno fa motho gotwe a *supply uniform,* o tsena fela mo shopong a bo a reka nngwe le nngwe. *That uniform should be heat resistant and able to withstand the weather*. E se ka ya re kamoso e re o e tsenya, e bo e tla e thuntse.

E bile ke a dumela gore la re re bo re bona le gore jaaka ba tsamaya ba ya kwa ditiriping koo jaana, a *welfare* ya bone yone re e tlhokometse go fetelela. Kana pele ba ne ba neelwa *ration pack*, gompieno ba tewa gotwe ba ithekele dijo. *The danger of this is that* fa o re ba ithekele dijo ke gore fa gotwe tlou ke ele e kgabotse kwa e tlhasetse batho, ba ya go reka leng dijo gore ba tsamaye ba latele tlou? Ke sone se o neng o bona go na le dilo tseo tsa bo *ration pack* jaana. Re re gongwe dilo tseo di tlaa sekwasekwa, le di eme nokeng batlotlegi di tle di kgone go nna teng, *wildlife* ba tle ba di neelwe sentle.

Ke boammaaruri ke a le utlwa le bua ka *progression* le *promotion*. Gone go botlhoko ba bangwe fa o ba fitlhela motho a go raya a re o na le dingwaga tse kana a le mo *rank* e le nngwefela. Ke dumela gore *the time has come for us to restructure and transform the Wildlife Department. This is the time* e e leng gore le ene Motlotlegi Tona fa a tsena fa ke tlaa mmolelela gore batlotlegi ba lela thata ka selelo sa gore *restructure and transform the wildlife so that it can be able to perform its duties as per its own mandate* o ba o neetsweng ke Batswana. Fa re ka se ka ra dira jalo, re tlaabo re sa itirela sentle.

E bile ke dumalana le lona gore jaaka ba dira, *training* ya bone e nne ya tlhwatlhwa e e kwa godimo gore ba tle ba kgone go bereka sentle. Nako e gorogile bagaetsho gore *security agencies* gongwe di tshwana le bo *wildlife* jaana di kgone go dirisa maranyane, go na le gore ba bo ba nna ba tsaya nako e telele ba *patrol* ka dinao. Go na le *drones* di kgona go dirisiwa gompieno jaana. Le yone *drone* kana *it can be armed*, le kgona go e tsenya ditlhobolo *and then picks target* e ntse e le kwa godimo kwa e bo e betsa. Fa e le *poacher* o sa batle gore e tlole molelwane o e emisa go le gonnyennyane ka sengwe, o a e tlhaeletsa ka *drone* e e ntse e le kwa godimo e le *armed*, e bo e go beletsa *target* sentle, a bo o e fitlhela, o kgona go ya go e tshwara kana go mmiletsa ba ga bone gore a se ka a tlola molelwane.

MR AARON: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga Motlotlegi Tona. Ke supe gore kana golo fa, fa re bua ka go neela ba *wildlife* ditlhobolo, gongwe re tlhomamise re bo re supe gore *wildlife* e na le maphata a a farologaneng. Fa re bua ka *Anti-Poaching Unit*, go ntse jalo gakere *Minister* gore fa re bua ka *weapons of war,* re bua ka ba ba ithutetseng sesole go ka itepatepanya le *poachers* tse di tswang kwa mafatsheng a sele, tse di borai go gaisa go na le ba pitsa. Ke bua jaana ka gore ke ne ke utlwa o kare bangwe ba ne ba etsaetsega fa o bua ka gore o kopela ba *wildlife* ditlhobolo tsa ntwa. *Thank you.*

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you Madam Speaker*. Tanki motlotlegi. O bua sentle, fa ke bua ka *anti-poaching* jaana, ke raya ba e leng gore dingwe tsa ditiro tsa bone ke go tlhokomela diphologolo le go di babalela gore batho ba se ka ba di bolaya ba sena tetla. Ke sone se o utlwang ke ne ke simolola fela ke re go itshireletsa bone le ba ba nang le bone, le dithoto tse tsa Puso; diphologolo. Ke a itse gore *wildlife* e ntsi, go na le ba ba ithutetseng ditlhare, tota re bua ka bone ba re reng ke ba *anti-poaching* gore a ba neelwe ditlhobolo tse di maleba, tse di ka itepatepanyang le bone ba bangwe ba ba nang le tsone tseo.

Ke ne ke santse ke bua ka gore kana fa re bua ka go ba neela ditlhobolo, re reela gore ba ka tsaya *advantage* ya dilo tse di dirisiwang gompieno jaaka *drones*. Ke tshwere kgang e re neng re bua ka yone ya gore *promotion* ya bone ke sengwe se se tshwanetseng go elwa tlhoko thata, se lebelelwe gore a re ba rutuntsha sentle, re ba neela dithuto tse di maleba; *knowledge* epe fela e e rileng. Jaanong motho a se ka a nna fela mo *rank* nako e telele. Golo moo re bone gore go dira gore *morale* wa bone o boele kwa tlase. Ke a le utlwa, le bone ba teng fale boeteledipele jwa yone *wildlife* gore la re ga ba ke ba etela *juniors* tsa bone kwa ba berekelang teng, bone ba nna mo *air-conditioned offices*. Le ba ikutlwetse, e re fa le tswa ka koo le lona boeteledipele, le nna ke tlaa tla ke bolelela Tona jalo, le ye kwa le ye go bona kwa batho ba berekelang teng, le ba rotloetse. Kgang e ke e utlwang e buiwa ke batlotlegi ba ka nna bararo fa ba re go na le pharologanyo fa gare ga *officers* le boeteledipele. Re tshwanetse go tlhoafalela kgang eo, re e tseye ka tlhoafalo ka gore fa o eteletse batho o tshwanetse go itse le kwa ba direlang teng. O se ka wa nna fela mo ofising o bo o nna o tsaya *reports* fela o di isa kwa pele mme o sa itse gore tota batho ba ba berekela fa kae. E bo e re kamoso ba go raya ba re motho o ipolaetse mo setlhareng se se ntseng jaana, o bo o sa itse gore se fa kae. O tshwanetse gore o bo o se itse, le tsamaye le bone batho bao.

Ka mafoko a a kalo ke sa batle go go senyetsa tiro *Madam Speaker*, ke ne ke kopa gore kgang e ke amogele mo bakaulengweng mo letsatsing le la gompieno gore…

MR LEKAU: *Clarification*. Ke re ka re e re fa o wela rra, o supe gape gore kana dikole tse di tshwanang le tsa *wildlife* tse di rutuntshang ma-*wildlife*, se se tshwanang le sa kwa Maun, o supe gore le dikago tsa teng di setse di siilwe ke nako le bonno jwa bone. Gore o wele ka go gatelela gore a ba se ka ba neelwa fela ditlhobolo, ba neelwe le dithuto tse di botoka mo lefelong le le tokafetseng. Dikago tsa bone fa ba nnang teng, maroko a bone e se ka ya re a tswa *trip* a bo e re fa a tsena mo Maun go bo tshwana fela le jaaka a ne a ntse a le kwa *trip*. Ke a leboga.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you very much*. Motlotlegi, kgang e o e buang e maleba e ke e gatelelang e ke reng ke e utlwile thata gore la re re ba rute, re baakanyetse le kwa ba rutiwang teng. Maroko a bone kwa ba nnang teng, e bo e le a a siameng, a a maleba a e leng gore motho ga e ka ke ya re a le kwa, a bo a santse a akanyetsa gore kwa a teng o ya go fitlhela bana ba ba gagwe ba ntse fa kae, ba le mo go eng. Ga ba na *accommodation* jaaka motlotlegi a ne a bua ka fale a re matlo a ba nnang mo go one a ba a hirisitseng le one tota ga se matlo a a ka bong a tshwanela badirelapuso, kana

batho ba ba dirang tiro e e masisi e ba e dirang e. Ke go utlwile mongwame, re tlaa leka ka bojotlhe.

On that note, Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (No. 8 of 2025) *be read a second time. Thank you Madam Speaker*.

Question put and **agreed to.**

Committee- **Later Today.**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

(CHAIRPERSON in the Chair)

BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS PENSION FUND (BPOPF) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL, 2025 (NO. 7 OF 2025)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON (MS MANYENENG): Order! Order! Honourable Members, please note that the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2025 (No. 7 of 2025) has six clauses. No amendments have been noticed, I shall therefore call all the Clauses at once.

Clauses 1-6 **agreed to.**

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL PARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 (NO. 8 OF 2025)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Members, please note that the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (No. 8 of 2025) has four Clauses. No amendments have been noticed, I shall therefore call all the Clauses at once.

Clauses 1-4 **agreed to.**

BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS PENSION FUND (BPOPF) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL, 2025 (NO. 7 OF 2025)

Bill reported from Committee **without amendments.**

Third Reading**-Later Today.**

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL PARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 (NO. 8 OF 2025)

Bill reported from Committee **without amendments.**

Third Reading**-Later Today.**

Third Readings

BOTSWANA PUBLIC OFFICERS PENSION FUND (BPOPF) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL, 2025 (NO. 7 OF 2025)

(Minister of Finance)

MADAM SPEAKER (MS MANYENENG): Order! Order! Honourable Members, the question is that the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2025 (No. 7 of 2025) be read a third time.

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE): Madam Speaker, I move that the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2025 (No. 7 of 2025) be read a third time and do pass.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, in accordance with Standing Order 62 (c) I should order a division. The division shall be held in a manner prescribed in Standing Order 63. The Clerk should ring the bell for two minutes.

Question put and **Division Ordered.**

…Silence…

DR DIKOLOTI: Point of procedure. Madam Speaker, *ke kopa gore ka* that relevant Standing Order *re* suspend *kgang ya* bell *gore re kgone go soboka re fetse go tlhophela* Bills *tse*. I so submit.

…Silence…

Question put and **agreed to.**

MADAM SPEAKER: We are supposed to go into voting *gakere.* Honourable Members, you can now vote.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MADAM SPEAKER: I am trying to tell others like me, *ma* Standard 1 maybe *ga ba itse gakere.* Honourable Members, you should press "one" to activate. Those ones who agree should press "two," those ones who

are not on agreement press "three," and those ones in abstinence should press "four." You can start.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MADAM SPEAKER: I have activated *kana mme.*

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MADAM SPEAKER: Go raya gore ke ne ke tobeditse go le go nnyennyane.

…Silence…

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you finished?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MADAM SPEAKER: Should I stop?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. The results are, the "Ayes" 24, the "Noes" zero, "Abstain" one. I think the Ayes have it.

Bill read a third time and **passed.**

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL PARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 (NO. 8 OF 2025)

(Acting Minister of Environment and Tourism)

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Members, the question is that the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (No. 8 of 2025) be read a third time.

ACTING MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE): Thank you Madam Speaker. I move that the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (No. 8 of 2025) be read a third and do pass.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in accordance with Standing Order 62 (1) (c), I should order a division. A division shall be held in a manner prescribed in Standing Order 63. I shall order the Clerk to ring the Bell for two minutes.

Question put and **Division Ordered.**

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Straight away, we go to voting Honourable Members. I have activated.

…Silence…

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you through? Should I stop?

…Silence…

MADAM SPEAKER: Results; "Ayes" 24, no "Noes" one and "Abstain." I think the Ayes have it.

Bill read a third time and **passed.**

ADOPTION OF THE POLICY ON THE LICIT USE OF CANNABIS IN BOTSWANA FOR INDUSTRIAL AND MEDICINAL PURPOSES

Motion

ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI): *Mma ke go leboge* Madam Speaker.

INTRODUCTION

Madam Speaker, it is an honour, for me, to stand before this National Assembly today on the 1st April 2025 to present Botswana's Policy on the Licit of Cannabis. This initiative represents a significant step forward in our national economic diversification strategy, and demonstrates our Government's commitment to exploring innovative approaches to development while maintaining our dedication to public health and safety.

The policy I present, for debate, and approval today hopefully, is the culmination of extensive research, analysis, and consultation undertaken by various Government ministries working in collaboration. It establishes a comprehensive framework for the controlled cultivation and use of cannabis for medicinal and industrial purposes, while maintaining strict prohibitions on recreational use.

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Madam Speaker, as Honourable Members will recall, during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) on November 19th 2024, Mr President announced the intention to introduce the cultivation and use of medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp, as part of this

country's economic development and diversification efforts.

Madam Speaker, cannabis sativa is a highly versatile plant used for industrial, nutritional, medical, and recreational purposes. Its utility stems from its chemical composition, which includes cannabinoids, terpenes, and other bioactive compounds that determine its effects, applications, and legal status.

The primary psychoactive compound in the cannabis is the delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). In addition to THC, cannabis contains structurally similar compounds collectively referred to as cannabinoids. Among the 104 known cannabinoids, THC and cannabidiol (CBD) are the most extensively studied.

Madam Speaker, THC is primarily responsible for the psychoactive effects of cannabis, whereas CBD is a non-psychoactive and has been widely recognised for its therapeutic potential, including anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and anti-anxiety effects.

Madam Speaker, by understanding the plant's unique properties, Botswana can leverage its potential for both medicinal and industrial applications, ensuring alignment with international regulatory standards while fostering economic growth.

Madam Speaker, following this important pronouncement my ministry, the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, started in January 2025, working with other ministries, and convened a series of meetings to chart the way forward in enabling the cultivation of cannabis in Botswana.

The Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee composition was representatives from the Ministries of Lands and Agriculture, Health, State President, Finance, and Trade and Entrepreneurship. The outcome of this initial consultation was a decision to develop a comprehensive position paper that will inform Cabinet deliberations and guide policy development.

Madam Speaker, to ensure or to assure balance, rigour, inclusivity all these were taken into consideration to develop this position paper. This committee completed its work on the 29th January 2025, producing a detailed analysis of the opportunities, challenges and considerations related to cannabis cultivation in Botswana.

The position paper on cultivation of cannabis presented several important findings, which are important for this August House to note:

(1) It highlighted the significant economic potential of the global cannabis market, which was valued at U$D43.72 billion in 2022 and is projected to reach U$D444.34 billion by 2030. This represents a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 34.03 per cent, indicating substantial growth opportunities for countries that establish well-regulated industries.

(2) It identified several key benefits that Botswana stands to gain from, by embarking on developing regulated cannabis industry:

- That is job creation across farming, processing, research and related industries
- Economic diversification, reducing our reliance on traditional sectors like the diamond mining
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from international entities seeking to participate in the African cannabis market
- Improved community livelihoods through participation in the cannabis value chain
- Stimulation of new industries, including those producing hemp-based textiles, bioplastics and cosmetics

(3) The Position Paper conducted a thorough analysis of Botswana's existing legislative framework governing cannabis, identifying the need for amendments to several pieces of legislation including:

- The Medicines and Related Substances Act
- The Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act
- The Plant Protection Act
- The Noxious Weeds Act

(4) It examined our international obligations, particularly under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, that of 1961, which Botswana acceded to in 1996. The analysis confirmed that while these treaties place controls on

narcotic substances, they explicitly recognise the medicinal value of these substances and therefore provide frameworks for their legitimate use under appropriate regulatory conditions.

Regionally, several countries, including Lesotho, Zimbabwe and South Africa have advanced legislative measures to permit cannabis cultivation and use. Internationally, jurisdictions such as Australia, Singapore, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, United Kingdom (UK) and United States of America (USA) have adopted a comprehensive legislation for *Cannabis sativa*. This demonstrates a growing recognition of the plant's significant economic and medicinal benefits.

Recommendations emerging therefrom:

Based on its analysis, the Position Paper recommended that:

- The formulation of a comprehensive National Cannabis Policy be done.
- Legislative amendments to create an enabling legal framework be done.
- The development of a robust regulatory system.
- Investment in necessary infrastructure.
- The implementation of public awareness and education programmes.
- International collaboration to adopt the best practices.

Madam Speaker, these recommendations formed the foundation for the Policy on the Licit Use of Cannabis in Botswana, which I will now present to this Honourable House.

THE POLICY ON THE LICIT USE OF CANNABIS IN BOTSWANA

Madam Speaker, the Policy on the Licit Use of Cannabis in Botswana, establishes a comprehensive framework for:

(1) Facilitating the licit use of cannabis for industrial, that is hemp, and medicinal purposes

(2) Providing an enabling environment for cultivation, processing and end production

(3) Developing a comprehensive legal framework for production and use

(4) Ensuring compliance with international obligations and standards

(5) Protecting public health through robust regulatory controls

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Madam Speaker, the Honourable Members, I now wish to outline key components of our policy framework.

This framework represents a carefully balanced approach to cannabis regulation that enables legitimate medical and industrial applications, while maintaining stringent controls to prevent misuse and diversion.

The Government's approach is guided by four fundamental principles:

(1) Public Health Protection – ensuring that all activities prioritise the health and wellbeing of our citizens and all those who use our products

(2) International Compliance – maintaining strict adherence to our treaty obligations

(3) Economic Development – creating sustainable opportunities for growth and diversification

(4) Social Responsibility – ensuring that cannabis development benefits our communities

INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Madam Speaker, it is my assumption that, Honourable Members will appreciate that Botswana's approach to cannabis regulation must operate within our international commitments, particularly our obligations under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, that of 1961, which Botswana acceded to in 1996. This Convention establishes specific requirements for countries permitting cannabis cultivation. These include:

(1) Establishment of a National Cannabis Agency (NCA), as the sole authority to designate areas for cultivation

(2) Implementation of a comprehensive licensing system for all aspects of production

(3) Maintenance of detailed records of all cannabis produced and distributed

(4) Submission of regular statistical reports to the International Narcotics Control Board

(5) Assurance that all production is purchased and taken physical possession of by the Government agency

Madam Speaker, the Government's proposed policy framework fully addresses these requirements, ensuring that Botswana will remain in complete compliance with our international obligations.

Additionally, we have examined approaches of several Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries that have established cannabis regulatory framework, including:

- Lesotho, which in 2017 became the first African country to legalise medicinal cannabis cultivation
- Zimbabwe, which established its framework in 2018 with a focus on export markets
- South Africa, where a 2018 court ruling decriminalised the private use alongside a medical programme
- Malawi, which enacted its Cannabis Regulation Act in 2020, which is focused on industrial hemp and medicinal use

These regional examples have provided valuable insights that have informed our own regulatory approach, while being adapted to Botswana's unique social, economic and cultural context.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

Madam Speaker, the implementation of this policy will require amendments to several pieces of existing legislation, in order to create an enabling legal environment.

The Medicines and Related Substances Act (2013), it currently classifies cannabis as a banned substance with limited exceptions. The Illicit Traffic in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Act (2018), is the primary legislation controlling cannabis in Botswana. The Plant Protection Act, impacts cannabis cultivation by listing Cannabis sativa as a quarantine pest. The Noxious Weeds Act is currently classifies cannabis as a noxious weed requiring mandatory destruction.

Our legislative review, hitherto has confirmed that these amendments will be sufficient to establish a robust legal framework for the regulated use of cannabis, while maintaining prohibitions on recreational use.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Madam Speaker, a robust regulatory framework is essential to the successful implementation of this proposed policy. The cornerstone of our regulatory approach will be the establishment of a dedicated cannabis regulatory agency responsible for;

(a) Issuing licenses for all cannabis-related activities;

(b) Monitoring compliance with regulations and standards;

(c) Conducting inspections of facilities and operations;

(d) Tracking all cannabis from cultivation to final use;

(e) Enforcing regulations and addressing violations;

(f) and Coordinating with international regulatory bodies.

This agency will implement a comprehensive licensing system covering;

(a) Cultivation licenses for both medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp;

(b) Processing licenses for extraction and manufacturing;

(c) Distribution licenses for transportation and wholesale;

(d) Research licenses for scientific and medical studies;

(e) Import and export licenses for international trade;

(f) Retail licenses for approved dispensing locations.

Madam Speaker, a key component of the regulatory framework will be a seed-to-sale tracking system that;

(a) Assigns unique identifiers to all cannabis plants and products;

(b) Tracks movement through the entire supply chain;

(c) Monitors inventory levels at all licensed facilities;

(d) Generates comprehensive reports for regulatory oversight;

(e) Prevents diversion to illicit markets.

Madam Speaker, quality control standards will be established for all the value chain aspects of cannabis. The regulatory framework will also establish security requirements for all licensed facilities.

CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION

Madam Speaker, the policy establishes distinct regulatory approaches for medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp, recognizing their different risk profiles and applications for medicinal cannabis cultivation. Medicinal Production will occur in secure, controlled environments and for industrial hemp cultivation will be done in open field cultivation and under protected environment.

A key feature of our approach will be the designation of specific geographical areas for cannabis cultivation based on;

(a) Climate suitability and growing conditions and growing conditions;

(b) Security considerations and monitoring capabilities;

(c) Proximity to processing facilities and transportation infrastructure;

(d) Distance from sensitive locations such as schools and residential areas;

(e) Environmental factors including water availability and soil quality.

Madam Speaker, I have explained and outlined the policies objectives and its utility. I have an appendix which covers the implementation process aspect. I propose to have copies made for the members of this house. Let me just enunciate the elements by heading what will be covered. Honourable Members, implementation will entail, economic development and investment, research and development, public education and awareness, risk management, implementation plan, monitoring and evaluation and resources requirement.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker and Honourable Members, the Policy on the Licit Use of Cannabis in Botswana represents a significant milestone in our nation's approach to economic diversification and healthcare advancement. This comprehensive framework Madam Speaker, establishes the foundation for a regulated cannabis industry that prioritizes public health and safety, while unlocking substantial economic opportunities. It reflects our Government's commitment to evidence-based policy development and responsible innovation in pursuit of national development goals.

Madam Speaker, through careful alignment with international obligations and adoption of global best practices, this policy creates pathways for Botswana to participate in the rapidly expanding global cannabis market, while maintaining strict controls to prevent diversion and misuse. Our phased implementation approach ensures that development proceeds in a measured, responsible manner that allows for adaptation based on ongoing evaluation.

Madam Speaker, the success of this policy will depend on effective collaboration between Government agencies, industry participants, healthcare professionals, research institutions and the broader community. By establishing clear regulatory parameters, robust oversight mechanisms, and comprehensive monitoring systems, Botswana is positioned to develop a cannabis industry that serves as a model for responsible development in the region.

I therefore move that this Honourable House approves the Policy on the Licit Use of Cannabis in Botswana, for the benefit of our nation's economy and the wellbeing of our citizens. I so submit Madam Speaker.

DR GOBOTSWANG (TSWAPONG SOUTH): Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Fa go na le molao kana mogopolo o o tshwanetseng gore o busediwe kwa Batswaneng, ke one o. *Yes, this is a very controversial policy as you might appreciate Madam Speaker.* Ga se e re ka bong re e bua ka lepotlapotla le le kana, e tshwanetse gore e boele kwa Batswaneng. *I cannot imagine* ke tswa fa ke bo ke ya go buisa phuthego kwa kgaolong ya me, ke tla ke ba bolelela gore re dumalane gore jaanong re simolola go lema le go rekisa motokwane...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)...

DR GOBOTSWANG: That is what it is.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)...

DR GOBOTSWANG: *Nnyaa,* that is what it is.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)...

DR GOBOTSWANG: Nnyaa, a re se iphitlheng ka monwana. A re boleleleng Batswana boammaaruri, gore re simolola kgwebo ya motokwane. *Yes, that is what it is.* Jaanong re bo re ba tlhalosetsa sengwe le sengwe, bomolemo le masula otlhe a a ka tlang ka go gweba le go lema motokwane ka tsela e e gakgamatsang.

Ke na le bothata lantlha *as a Shadow Minister of Lands and Agriculture* gore, re bo re tla ka lepotlapotla, ka *policy* ya go ya go lema le go gweba ka motokwane, mme re itse gore re santse re kolota Batswana *the* National Agricultural Policy, *that is the policy we need*. Ke e e ka bong e tsile fa, ke yone mma *policy* wa temo le leruo. Re emetse gore le tle ka *policy* e e paletseng maDomkrag, re ne re solofetse gore fa le tsena le tlaabo le tla ka *policy* ya temo le leruo, jaanong le tla ka *policy* e e tshwanetseng go tsena ka fa tlase ga *policy* ya *agriculture,* ya go lema le go gweba ka motokwane.

Jaanong ke na le bothata gone fa *Madam Speaker.* Re emetse *a National Policy on Horticulture,* gore *at least a strategy paper on horticulture.* Bona gore gompieno re ne re na le dikgang tsa go lema merogo e e lekaneng, mme go na le dikgwetlho tse re ka bong re itebagantse le tsone tsa *policies and regulations.*

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR OOKEDITSE): On a point of elucidation. Thank you Madam Speaker. *Motlotlegi a re,* Policy *ya Hemp fa e fetisiwa, e kganela jang tse dingwe tse tsotlhe tse*? Why can it not be done and others also be done?

DR GOBOTSWANG: Tanki. Se ke se buang ke gore, *you need a National Policy on Agriculture.* Ngwana ga a ka ke a tshola mmaagwe. Ra re, motsadi wa mananeo a, ga a yo. *You cannot be rushing this policy* motsadi a seyo. Re batla *policy* ya *horticulture.* Re mo mathateng gompieno ka *horticulture.* Ga re na melao e e tsamaisang *horticulture.* Ga re na *infrastructure* e e thusang temo ya merogo. *Laboratories* di ole *Honourable Minister*. O ye kwa Sebele go bona kwa *laboratories* di neng di le teng, matlotla. *That is what we need*. E ya go rekisa motokwane e ne e tlaa tla kwa morago. Ke sone se ke se buang.

Se sengwe bagaetsho, gatwe o dikologe bodiba jo bo jeleng ngwaga wa ga mmaago. Heela! Bodiba ke joo le tlaa wela mo teng. Bodiba jo, ke mananeo a ga Tautona. Fa le ka tla ka mananeo a ga Tautona, le ya go wela fela fa ba bangwe ba wetseng teng. Mananeo a ga Tautona ga ka ke a le isa gope. Lenaneo le fa o le lebeletse le ka fa le tlang ka teng, le tla ka diamaramara tse, ke la ga Tautona. Mananeo a ga Tautona ga a ke a ya gope. Ga se gore a bo a sa siama, a a bo a siame mme mathata ke gore a tla ka diamaramara. A tla ka *speed* sa noga, a bo a sa elelele dilo tse di ntsi, a bo a felela a padile. E kae *backyard garden*? E feletse kae? Mo phefong. Dipoo tsone tse le meroto e, ga go na kwa di yang go felela teng.

ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI): *On point of clarification.* Ke a go leboga thata *the Shadow Minister* Gobotswang. Ke ne ke batla o ntlhalosetsa dikgang tse pedi. A o tlhaloganya *the Policy on Industrial Cannabis* gore *it is a policy* e e leng gore *it is multispectral and multidisciplinary*? *Two*…

DR GOBOTSWANG: Go siame nna fa fatshe, ke go utlwile. O ka bo o tlhaloseditse Batswana santlha gore *cannabis* o raya eng, e bile o e bua ka Setswana. E na le *industrial hemp* le marijuana (motokwane). Jaanong oo motokwane ke one wa melemo. Ke gone fa melemo e yang go dirwa teng. E ya *hemp* ke e e dirang dithoto tse re di dirang letsatsi le letsatsi. Bothata jwa tsone ke '*o*' yole wa bofelo *cannabinoids*. '*O*' yo wa bofelo, ke ene yo o tlileng go di farologanya ka gore ke tagi e e mo go tsone ka bobedi. Marijuana, e leng motokwane, ke e e nang le tagi e re e itseng. Jaanong ele ya *hemp,* ke e tagi ele e e nang le yone, mme tsotlhe ke tsone tse o tlang ka tsone. Ke yone *cannabis* e o e beileng pele setšhaba sa Botswana. Ke yone e ke reng e na le bothata. Gakere ee kana nnyaa *Honourable Minister*, ka re, a e boele kwa Batswaneng ka gore le a itse gore dikgang tsa teng di bokete jang. *We are inundated with substance and drug abuse and* Batswana ba ya go omana ka dikgang tse. Re tshwanetse re e busetse kwa go bone, re ye go e buisanya le bone.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Nnyaa rraetsho, o ka ntiela nako. O ne o bua ka *research, Honourable Minister, there is no research. You have not cited a single scientific research* ka dikgang tse o tlang ka tsone mo Botswana. *There is no data*. Fa o sena *data,* o ka bo o supile. *You will cite it* ka nako ya gago. Ga ke batle o ntiela nako. Ga e yo, le wena o a itse. Ga go na *research* ya gore ditlamorago tsa lenaneo le ke eng mo Botswana. Ga go na *research* ya gore mo Botswana e ya go lemiwa kae? Fa o araba, o tle o re bolelele gore e ya go lemiwa kae re lebile mebu ya Botswana le dilo tsotlhe tse re di tlhokang. A *laboratories* di teng fa o dira *research*…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

DR GOBOTSWANG: Ka re ga go na *research,* o se ka wa mpolelela ka *policy* ka gore *is problematic.* Ga go na *public education.* Gompieno jaana bo *honourable* ba bangwe gone fa le Batswana ba ba reeditseng, ga ba itse gore *cannabis* ke eng. Fa o mpotsa, re tlaabo re nganga ka gore rona re badile go se kae. Emelela o ye go tlhalosetsa Batswana ka Setswana gore wa re o tla ka eng. *Cannabis* ke eng ka gore ke e tlhalosa ke re ke ditlhatshana tsa lesika la motokwane, *if I want to be polite*. Fa re bua re tlhamaletse, ke motokwane. Fa re sa batle go tsietsa Batswana ka sepe bakaulengwe, a re bolelaleng Batswana gore mo Botswana re batla go simolodisa kgwebo ya motokwane. Re tshwanetse re ba *convince* gore *why* motokwane, re se na dijo. Ga re na merogo, mabele, mashi le ditlhapi tse di lekaneng. *Why* le tla le tabogile ka kgang e e masisi go le kanakana ya motokwane?

Fa o batla go bona gore e, e na le beng ba yone, o tlaa bona gore go tsena bomang; *licencing*. Owaii! Ba Sefhare ga ba yo mo teng. Ba Mathako ga ba ka ke ba tsena le fa e ne e le gore ba ka eletsa go lema motokwane wa teng. Ba Pilikwe ga ba ka ke ba tsena ka gore go beilwe melangwana (*vetting*). O ya go tshwanelwa ke go nna le *a registered business.* Go na le *standard operations procedures,* go buiwa Dikgoa tse di maswe. *There are fees*, go ya go duelwa. Ke mmila o mosesane. *Honourable* Motsamai, ga go na ba Ncojane fa ba yang go tsena teng, o itapisa fela. Ga go na ba Charles Hill, ga ba ye go tsena gone fa.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR MOTSAMAI): *On a point of order. Madam Speaker,* motlotlegi ga a itire o feletswe. O ka bo a badile *policy,* a bo e a tlhaloganya gore sengwe le sengwe se na le melawana ya sone ka fa se tsamaisiwang ka teng. Jaaka ene e le ngaka ya dijo e se ngaka ya ditlhaka, o itse ditsamaiso ya dijo gore go dirwa gore sejo se se nna jaana.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MR MOTSAMAI: Nnyaa, le o gogile lona ka fa le o ilang ka teng.

MR LEKAU (MOGODITSHANE WEST): Ke a dumedisa mo tshokologong. Ke ema fa *Madam Speaker*, ke emetse *communities* tse di farologanyeng. *Community* ya ntlha e le ya rona ya dikereke tsa tšhukutšhuku tse e leng gore ke sebaka se se leele, re sa letlelelwe go dirisa setlhatshana se mme re itse e le molemo.

Ke ema fa gape la bobedi, ke emetse bo *rasta* ka gore ke tshedile le bo 'tsena *rasta*' ba bantsi. Ka nako ya rona fa go lengwa, re ne re itse gore fa *rasta* a ka tla a tsere setlhatshana se, le fa se ne se sa letlelelwe, re ya go golola fela ka 12:00.

MR HIKUAMA: *On a point of clarification.* Ke a leboga. O e tshwere sentle *homeboy*. Ke eng o sa bue gore setlhatshana se, ke sefe gore motho a utlwe gore o bua ka sefe?

MR LEKAU: Ke tlile go bua ka setlhatshana se ka Setswana gore Motswana kwa gae, a ntlhaloganye. Pele ga ke se bua ka Setswana, ke supe lereo la Setswana gore o ka le bitsa le le nosi mme yo o kwa Shakawe ene a itse gore le raya se, yo o kwa Mogoditshane a itse gore go raya mo. Jaanong lefoko le ke yang go le bitsa ke tlhalosa setlhatshana se, ba kwa Kgatleng ba tlaa nkutlwa ka tsa bone, ke tlaa ba tlhalosetsa, mme ba ba kwa Mogoditshane ba tlaa utlwa ka tsa bone. Setlhatshana se ke motokwane, mme kwa Kgatleng ke o sele, kwa Mogoditshane rona re bua ka Sekgoa re re re ya go batla *hemp.*

Ke ne ke batla go ema ke sosoetsa gore fa gongwe go botlhokwa gore re bale, mme e bile re lemoga gore re kwa morago thata ka dikitso ka gore go raya gore re diegile. Fa re ne re kile ra tsena mo Pusong ka 2014 nako e re neng re tsieditswe, re ka bo re sa bolo go lema

re gata kgakala. Fa re leng teng fa, fa o ka tsaya *police records* tsa setlhatshana se se tshwerweng mo bathong o bo o se tshwantshanya (*compare)* gore mo mading a dipula kana US Dollar, go ka bo go dirilwe bokae. E bile gape ke supe gore setlhatshana se motho yo o se gogang o kgona go felela a se tlogetse ka gore fa o lebelela *value* ya go goga le ya go rekisa, o ka mpa wa tlhopha go o rekisa go na le go o goga.

Ke batla go dumalana go le go nnye le Rre Gobotswang gore fela fa a tswala ka Labotlhano a ye go tlhalosetsa batho. *We need to be very honest with this implementation so that the public could trust the implementation.* Ka gore re a itse gore le gone fa re na le bangwe ba ba tshwarelang thateng, go tlaa re re ba rute gape, bone ba ba fa. Re ba suge mo polelong e gore e re fa re kgaogana le *policy* e, ba bo ba sugegile gore ba ka ya go tlhalosetsa batho…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)...

MR LEKAU: Nnyaa, Lucas o kolobile thata malatsi a…

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Lekau, I think you are joking *jaanong, o senya nako.* Can you be serious and continue.

MR LEKAU: Bagaetsho, ke ne ke batla gore mo setlhatshaneng se, re itse gape gore *even the licensing* go na le merafe mengwe e e leng gore mo Botswana re ntse re ikhinne maoto ka gore ba ka bo ba na le *cultural events*. Ka tsone e ka bo e re fa ba re ba na le *cultural event* ka di kana, ga bo go itsiwe gore le setlhatshana seo se a bo se le teng kwa go bone, ba ba rekisang ba bo ba ka rekisa…

DR DIKOLOTI: *Clarification.* Tla ke go leboge *Madam Speaker.* Ke ne ke re *Honourable* Lekau, o dire pharologanyo golo fa, o bua thata ka *the use of cannabis for recreational purposes* e e leng gore molao o ga o e letlelele. Fa o ka bala sentle *policy* e, o tlaa utlwa gore re bua ka gore ga re bolo go nna re ntse re re re tlaa nna le ditsholofelo gore diteemane di tlaa rekwa, re tlaa dira madi, mme re bone tsela e ntsha ya go dira letseno mo lefatsheng le gore bana ba kwa Mogoditshane ba ba ntseng ba sa bereke ba kgone go bona mebereko. Bana ba kwa Mogoditshane ba ba ntseng ba reka dikoloi di sa kgone *to transport the produce from this cannabis,* ba kgone go nna banaleseabe mo teng. Ke ne ke re a ko o e tlhalose sentle gore o tle o farologanyetse Dr Gobotswang le Rre Moalosi ka gore Rre Moalosi kwa BCP o na le *Motion* o a neng a o tsentse ka gore ba BCP ba dumela tota ka botlhokwa jwa *cannabis.*

MR LUCAS: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker.* Ke ne ke re rraetsho o bua sentle gore o kare go na le ba ba tshwarelang thateng ba go tlileng go nna thata gore ba tlhaloganye kgang e. Rraetsho, fa e le gore le gone mo Ntlong e wa re go na le bothata jwa kutlwisiso, ga se gore mme o dumalane le Rre Gobotswang gore pele ga re fetisa *policy* e, re ye kwa bathong pele re ba reye re re, kana mme go na le kgang ke e, re sena go e tlhalosetswa pele gore le rona re tle re kgone go e tlhalosetsa setshaba. Ke a leboga rraetsho.

MR LEKAU: Ke a leboga. Lona ga se gore ke ka le kala ka sekale sa gore le thatathata, le ka tlhalosetswa la tlhaloganya. Se ke lekang go se tlhalosa ke gore, ke ema fa go ema mogopolo o ka gore a re se ka ra o leba fela ka gore o tlile ka rona, re bo re o baya gore e bile o tlile ka Tautona. Ka kwa *Madam Speaker,* ba a itse gore Rre Moalosi mogopolo o o o rata le go feta mongwe le mongwe mo Ntlong e. E bile re fa go *support* Rre Moalosi ka gore e ka bo e nnile ene a tlileng ka one. Ke ema fa *Madam Speaker,* ke *support* mogopolo o…

ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI): *Elucidation.* Tla ke go leboge *Madam Speaker.* Ke ne ke re kana re tloga re latlha setshaba, mo *policy* e re e beileng Palamente e pele, go na le *component* ya *public education and awareness.* Batlotlegi ba a itse, ba badile, mme gape *the economic potential of cannabis* ga e kana ka sepe. *Madam Speaker,* ga re bolo go nna ka tsholofelo ya gore kamoso diteemane di tlaa rekwa, kamoso diteemane go tlaa re, ga go diragale. Nako e tlile ya gore re tlelwe ke boammaaruri jwa gore re tshwanetse go fetola. Re le Puso ya UDC re dumela gore dingwe tsa ditsela tse re ka fetlhang mebereko, tse e leng gore re ka kgona go ntsha Batswana mo lehumeng ka tsone, ke go tla ka thulaganyo ya temo ya *cannabis.* E bile re na le tumelo e e tletseng ya gore dipatlisiso tse di leng teng le mo *policy document* e, di a supa gore re na le mebu e e leng gore e ka lengwa mo go yone. E bile le mo *policy document* e, re buile gore *cannabis* e kgone go lengwa *even in climate controlled houses,* mo e leng gore ga go tlhokane le gore o itse gore mmu o ntse jang. *We know*

gore *the soil health is what you can make it to be, to grow that which we feel it can be grown in it.* Ke ne ke batla gore kgang ya teng re e tlhamaletse, mme batlotlegi, kana banana, Batswana, ba reeditse ka kelotlhoko ka gore setlhako se babalela morwadi. *The unemployment that our youths is facing is unimaginable,* ba letlile gore re fetse golo mo re tle ka *Bills,* re kgone go diragatsa go feta selekanyo gore *within the value chain of cannabis* ba kgone go e akola. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker.*

MR LEKAU: Ka sebopego se se ntseng jalo *Madam Speaker,* ke ema nokeng gore mogopolo o re a o atla ka gore o ya go re tlhamela ditiro. *I therefore support the Motion. Thank you.*

MR JACOBS (LOBATSE): Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Madam Speaker, let me greet you and all the Members of this Honourable House here today as we discuss the policy on the licit use of cannabis in Botswana. Madam Speaker, I endorse and support the approval of the policy on the licit use of cannabis in Botswana. The Bill has potential and power to transform and diversify the economic situation of our country in a broader scope, and this is through job creation, businesses and entrepreneur development, herbal medicine treatments on advancement as well as improvement on industrialisation of farming practice in our country, Madam Speaker. The time is now for our country to advance and undergo the medical economic agro transformation and development in the industry of herbal medicine.

This is not just a presidential dream, but reality expressed in terms of this Bill and the opportunity to changing people's lives in our country. Madam Speaker, the scope of this hemp Bill is such that Botswana comply with the Single Convention of Narcotic Drugs which includes…

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MR JACOBS: Le se ka la simolola.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Jacobs.

MR JACOBS: Yes madam.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mathata ke eng?

MR JACOBS: My laptop, I am sorry. Madam Speaker, the time is now for our country to advance and undergo the medical economic agro transformation and development in the industries of herbal medicine. This is not just a presidential dream but a reality expressed in terms of this Bill and opportunities to changing people's lives in our country.

Madam Speaker, the scope of this Hemp Bill is such that Botswana comply with the single Convention on Narcotic Drugs which includes the following measures;

(i) Restrict cannabis use to medical and scientific purposes.

(ii) Establishment of national cannabis agency.

(iii) Implementation of comprehensive licensing systems.

(iv) Maintenance of detailed production and distribution records.

(v) There shall be a submission of regular reports to the International Narcotics Control Board.

Madam Speaker, with all this being proposed and planned, the UDC Government is prepared and ready for adoption and proper implementation of policy on the licit use of cannabis in Botswana as a means of economic diversification.

Madam Speaker, there are favourable locations and climatic conditions around our country within Lobatse and Southern region included. In my constituency Lobatse, there are farms with good landscapes, fertile soils, free good irrigation locations such as Peleng Dam, where the plantation of hemp can absolutely prosper.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Applause!)…

MR JACOBS: Madam Speaker, I urge Batswana to change their mind-set on cannabis particularly hemp, which we consider in this Bill for mass farming, mass production and mass industrialisation.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Jacobs, you keep on saying Bill, Bill, Bill, this is a policy.

MR JACOBS: Okay, let me say policy. I hear you Madam Speaker.

Mass production and mass industrialisation to bring positive economic impact to our country on this illicit times, in which the UDC Government is fighting to rise the state of our country to a better living, healthier and working conditions. Madam Speaker, I endorse and support approval on the policy of the use of cannabis in Botswana. I thank you Madam Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Applause!)…

MR BARONGWANG (MOGODITSHANE EAST): Ke a go leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ke lebogela gore o bo o mphile sebaka se sa go ema ke akgela mo kgannyeng ya setlhatsana se. Ke tlaa akgela ka fa tlase ga setlhogo se se reng, '*A balanced approach*,'' re lebeletse *both sides for the future of our country* re itebagantse le gore re senke *the potential benefits*. Fa ke re *balanced again,* re leke gape re nne *blunt and clear and identify risks and deal with them.*

Madam Speaker, selo sa ntlhantlha gore re nne sentle, ke bona o kare *we are confused* gore re bua ka eng, yo mongwe a re setlhatsana, yo mongwe a re motokwane. Re bua ka sethunya, *a flowering plant* se e leng gore *when it flowers,* go tswa gore ke ya mofuta o o ntseng jang. Fela ke gore re bua ka Setswana. Go na le *the chemical levels that define* gore o o baya fa kae. Ke sone se ke reng ke sethunya se e leng gore ka fa se tsweletseng se thunya ka teng, se tlaa go bolelela gore o ke one o e leng gore ba bua ka botagi, o re leng mo go one gompieno ga se wa botagi ke wa diaparo, megala le *industry*. Ke sone se ke reng a re tsweng mo motokwaneng, re bue gore mo ga se motokwane ke sethunya. Re a tlhaloganyana akere.

DR GOBOTSWANG: *Procedure. Madam Speaker*, Ntlo e e tlaa tswa mo tseleng fa e le gore o ka letlelela batho *to misinterpret policy* e re e beilweng fa pele, e e nang le *medicinal aspect which is marijuana and* motokwane. *Then* go bo go nna le *hemp* e e dirang diaparo le tse dingwe mme tsotlhe di wela *under cannabis*. Jaanong fa *honourable* a ema a bo a re eo ga se e e dirang melemo, kana o raya gore jaanong motokwane ga o yo mo teng mme ke yone *aspect, the medicinal part*. Go tlaabo go *mislead Madam Speaker,* gore o letlelele gore Ntlo e ntshiwe mo tseleng. Ke a leboga.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Gobotswang, ga ke a utlwa mo *presentation* gotwe go na le motokwane. Ke raya fa ke reeditse fa. Jaanong *I think* ka fa o bonang ka teng, a bona ka teng, a e tsamaye fela re tlaa utlwa gore e wela kae.

MR HIKUAMA: *Further procedure. For the good debate* gore re itse gore re bua ka ga eng, *I think we should have a reference point and word* e re e tlhaloganyang ba rotlhe. Ke gore fa re sa tlhaloganye o tsaya gore mongwe le mongwe a tlhalose ka fa a batlang ka teng, *it would not make the debate to be a focused one*. Jaanong ka re na le motho yo e leng gore ke ene *who presented this Bill*, o itse gore go bidiwa eng. Le ka Setswana ke ene gongwe yo o ka emelelang, ga se gore o mo kope a tlhalose gore mme ka Setswana a ke sethunya, re itse fa e le gore ke sethunya kana ke motokwane gore re *debate with the common understanding of the words that we are using*. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Hikuama.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Further Clarification Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Iketle pele *Honourable* Jacobs. *Honourable* Dikoloti, a ko o tlhamalatse kgang ya *presentation* ya gago.

ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI): *Madam Speaker*, go botlhoko gore re tshwere kgang e banana ba reeditse ka dipelo tse di botlhoko ka *unemployment,* a bo mo Palamenteng e re tshwanetseng go dira melao e e ka fetisiwang gore e ba thuse, re bo re tla fa e kare re tshameka ka mafoko. Mo *presentation* ya me go tlhamaletse, ke ne ke bua ka Cannabis Sativa. Ke *hemp* fa e le gore o e dirisa *for industrial purposes*. Gore wena o tlhopha eng, a re tseneng mo lebitsong le le tlhamaletseng la Cannabis Sativa kana o ka nna wa re setlhatshana.

Ke gore *Madam Speaker,* fa o ka se ke o busetse Ntlo e mo tsamaisong, go se kgakala banana ba tlaa tla fa ba shakgetse le go feta. *The level of unemployment and the intervention that we now see by the* UDC *Government to create opportunities,* re bo re tsaya kgang ya teng jaanong e nna matshamekwane, e nna diketo ga go nne sentle. *Honourable* Moalosi *of the* Botswana Congress Party (BCP) *has a similar Motion, we are in agreement,*

he had advised them gore *this is the way to do things. I so submit Madam Speaker*.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Further Clarification Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: O supilwe ke mang *Honourable* Jacobs gore o eme o bue.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke ne ke kopa *Madam Speaker*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ga ke ise ke go supe. *Honourable Members*, mo *presentation* ya ga *Honourable* Dikoloti, ke kopa gore le dirise mafoko a a dirisitsweng mo *presentation*. *Anybody* yo a tlaabong a ipiletsa lefoko la gagwe, go raya gore ke ka fa ene a e bonang ka teng mme *presentation* ke *cannabis* kana setlhatshana ka fa e builweng ka teng.

MR MOALOSI: Procedure. Madam Speaker, the Minister is misrepresenting me. Motion *o ke tlang ka one ke wa* hemp, *ga o bue ka* medicinal marijuana. Medicinal marijuana is a separate plant.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Moalosi, o tlaa tla o bua ka nako ya gago, o tlaa fiwa nako. *Honourable* Aaron, boela kwa setilong sa gago.

MR LUCAS: *Point of procedure. Madam Speaker*, ke na le matshwenyego a ka fa re tsweletseng ka teng. Golo fa go na le lefifi le le gakgamatsang mabapi le kutlwisiso ya rona ya kgang e go buiwang ka yone. O tlaa utlwa lefifi le lengwe le mo go Motsamai…

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)…

MR LUCAS: O tlaa utlwa monna wa Mogoditshane a bua ka ma-*Rasta* le ka motokwane…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order Madam Speaker.

MR LUCAS: Go tswa foo o bo utlwa monna yo mongwe wa Mogoditshane a bua ka sethunya. Golo fa go na le tlhoko kutlwisiso e e ka se kang ya re letla go tswelela pele. Ke dumela gore re…

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Motsamai.

MR LUCAS: Ke ne ke re ke wetse *Madam Speaker*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ehe! Ke ne ke utlwa o didimetse…

MR LUCAS: Ke ne ke kopa gore *debate* e gongwe e ko e eme ka nakonyana e e rileng gore re tle re kgone gore rotlhe re nne le kutlwisiso e e tshwanang. Golo fa go tlhakakatlhane, go lefifi le le gakgamatsang *Madam Speaker*. A re boeleng kwa General Assembly.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable Members, I ruled* gore mafoko a a dirisitsweng gatwe *cannabis sativa*, a bo a re setlhatshana. *So*, le se ka la mo tsenya mafoko mo ganong, ke utlwile Dr Gobotswang le ene a re motokwane, le yo mongwe a bo a re motokwane. Dikgang tse le di buang le se ka la re Ntlo e tswa mo taolong, ke lona le e ntshang mo taolong ka gore mong wa *policy* ga a ise a bue ka motokwane *Honourable Members*. Lona ikgalemeleng le dirise mafoko a a dirisitsweng kwa. Fa le simolola le dirisa a lona, go raya gore jaanong ke lona le tswang mo tseleng. Ene a re *cannabis sativa*, a bo a re setlhare. Fa le ganetsa jaanong go raya gore *you are the ones presenting*.

MR BARONGWANG: Ke a go leboga *Madam Speaker*. Tota le ntshenyetsa dikgang, kana *I am exercising my representative role*, ke emetse batho ba Mogoditshane, ke leka go tlhalosa mafoko a a kwadilweng ka Sekgoa ke a tlhalosetsa batho ba ba kwa Mogoditshane, ke dirisa Setswana. Ke go raya ke re setlhare se o se bitsang *cannabis sativa* ke sethunya, ke tlhalosa gore se a thunya. *It is a flowering plant please* ke batla go tlhalosa fela re bo re ema gone foo. Fa re ntse re tsweletse, kwa tlase ke tlaa tla ke le bontsha gore ke eng ke bone go le mosola gore ke le tlhalosetse ka gore go na le gore o kare go nna le go sa tlotla dingwao tsa merafe e mengwe. *It is important to define this plant*. Re ka tswa re a biditse ka *scientific names* kana jang, mme ke kopa gore ke boele mo *debate* ya me.

MR JACOBS: *Point of clarification*. Ke a leboga. Bagaetsho, ke tlhalose, marijuana kana motokwane, go tewa ditlhogo tse di gogiwang, ba di bitsa ba re *dizolo*…

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)…

MR JACOBS: *Jaanong* hemp is a flowering plant, it is two different things, you cannot smoke a flower but you can smoke the head, *ke le tlhalosetse. Ke a leboga*.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Laughter!)…

MR BARONGWANG: Le njetse nako, nako ya me e tsamaile, *honourable* ke kopa gore re rianariana. Mo ga gago e ne e le go tlhalosa fela gore tota re bua ka eng. *My submission* ke gone e simologang gore re leke go nna *balanced*, re lebelele *the social and the economic benefit of this thing*. Jaanong go ne go le mosola gore ke tlhalose pele gore re bua ka eng.

Nte ke tsene mo *the social consideration, we should try and protect our communities as well*. Le fa re ntse re *debate* dikgang tse re dira *policies* tse, *our communities must come front*. *We must prioritise social impacts of cannabis use, especially in the vulnerable population. So*, fa re le mo *stage* fa re leng teng fa, re leke ka bojotlhe…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MR BARONGWANG: A re yeng kwa kgannyeng ya Mogoditshane, fa re le kwa Mogoditshane *when we are dealing with this thing*, kana re mo *implementation* ya *policy. When implementing this policy, when we are drafting it, we must as well look at the social impact part of it, we should try and implement a robust public campaign*, ke a bona gore fa e le gore mo Ntlong e re setse re kgaogana, jaanong batho kwa ntle bone? *There must be public awareness on this thing so that* re kgone go tsaya batho re tsamaye le bone, ba se ka ba salela kwa morago.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MR BARONGWANG: Good, *ke tsaya ke re jaanong le wetse fa ke batlang teng*. Let us at the same time *fa re dira jaana*, try and support local business. Honourable Dikoloti *o lekile ka bojotlhe gore* what are the benefits of these things. In as much as we studied the danger part of it, but at the same time, let us try and support the local business in developing auxiliary services like tourism and hospitality.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MR BARONGWANG: *Madam Speaker*, ke tlaa kopa gore ke sirelediwe ka gore ke bua le batho ba Mogoditshane…

MADAM SPEAKER: You are protected. Honourable Moalosi, *a ko o tlotle yo mongwe*.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR BARONGWANG: Nnyaa, ga ke na *clarification. Now, let us go to the national part of it* re ntse re le mo *the social impact*. Jaaka re le mo go sone *stage*, gone fa re leng teng fa, re leke *to develop a clear regulatory framework that will promote research, there must be thorough research on this, and we must establish a very clear and transparent licensing system*. Ke leka gotlhe gore re nne *balanced*. Fa e le gore re tla ka *something* se se sha, *at policing stage where we are developing the policy,* re leke go nna *balanced so that* re kgone go ya go neela batho se se ba tshwanetseng, e bile e re re ya go se ba neela, re bo re kgonne go se ba tlhalosetsa go le motlhofo. *Explore,* mme *at the same time* gape re ntse re le *in the social benefit part of it*, re leke *to explore the market that is available and maximise that market*. *The market is there*, fa e le gore *we have done the right thing, establish the facts, we will benefit out of this thing*. Ke ne ke batla gore re wele ka ya gore re nne *careful and culture sensitive, very sensitive towards other cultures, we must respect our heritage or other people's heritage. I would not want to define or mention any tribe*, mme fela ditlhatshana tse dingwe tse le bonang le bua ka tsone le eta le re bo semangmang, merafe mengwe e ikamanya le yone.

Re leke ka bojotlhe gore re nne *sensitive when it comes to this thing*. Re se ka ra e bua o kare ke selo se se lesweleswe, *yet* re ntse re batla go nna le *the benefits* mo go tsone. *We must approach a cannabis with a cultural sensitivity respecting our traditions and values*. Jaanong fa ke ya go tsenelela kwa Mogoditshane *when it comes to issue* ya *being culture sensitive*, ke tlaa dumalana le Mopalamente mongwe o ne a bua ka kwa gore *let us engage our traditional leaders because we are coming up with something that is new and* Magosi kwa Mogoditshane ba santse ba batla go tlhaloganya *this thing*, le nna ke a se tlhaloganya…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MR BARONGWANG: Le kwa Tswapong, Lobatse, *let us approach the leadership when dealing with this thing. That is what I am trying to say, let us be balanced when we are dealing with this thing. At the same time, let us promote a responsible and respectful use of* sethunya se. *During our awareness*, re leke ka bojotlhe gore re se fe tlotla setlhatshana se, e se ka ya nna o kare

ke setlhatshana sengwe se se maswemaswe fa e ne e le gore re kwa Mokwena go ne go ka twe gongwe ke se se bakang tladi. Ga se maswe mo go kalokalo ka fa batho ba se tlhalosang ka teng. Ke sone se ke reng *I wanted to be as balanced as I could be, because* setlhatshana se se mosola. Le ka fa re ikaeletseng go se dira ka teng, a re netefatseng gore *we are being balanced and we know* gore se re batlang go ya go se dira, ke sele, ga se se. Jaanong fa re ka ba ra di tswakanyatswakanya ka bomo, ga re kitla re kgona sepe.

Ke tsaya gore ka a le kalo *Honourable Minister*, ke a go *support* mme ke ne ke batla go tlhalosa fela ke le fa gare ke sa batle go tseela ope letlhakore. Mme fela tlhaloganyo yone eo fa re ka dira sentle *at policy stage*, gone fa re leng teng fa, re ya go boelwa ke mo go ntsi. Ke a go leboga.

MR MOALOSI (NKANGE): Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker.* Ke ema fa go ganana le *policy* yone e re e beilweng pele ke *Minister.* Ke ganana le *policy* e ka gore e kopantse dilo tse pedi tse e leng *industrial hemp* le *medicinal marijuana.* E tsere *hemp* e bo e e fitlha kwa tlase ga motokwane. Gongwe ke simolole fela ka *to define cannabis sativa*, ke kopa gore o ntetlelele ke *quote Madam Speaker.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do.

MR MOALOSI: "Cannabis sativa is an annual herbaceous flowering plant. The species was first classified by Carl Linnaeus in 1753. The specific epithet sativa means 'cultivated'. Indigenous to Eastern Asia, the plant is now of cosmopolitan distribution due to widespread cultivation. It has been cultivated through recorded history and used as a source of industrial fiber, seed oil, food and medicine. It is also used as a recreational drug and for religious and spiritual purposes." *Jaanong fa ke…*

MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (DR BUTALE): *Procedure*. *Procedure* ya me ga se sepe se se kalo, ke ne ke reela gore *for reference* a re tlhalosetse gore o nopola eng gore re tle re ipalele ka bopharanyana?

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Moalosi, can you give the quote.

MR MOALOSI: Ee, ke *quote* pampiri e e kwadilweng gotwe The Cannabis Breeder's Bible *by a man called* Greg Green, Candy Press, 2005. Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker.*

The reason why ke ganana le *policy* e *Honourable Speaker*…(*Interruption*)… go kopanya *industrial hemp* le motokwane go dira gore *regulation* ya teng e nne bokete. *Regulation* ya teng fa e nna bokete jaaka o bona *in the policy* go kwadilwe gore go ya go nna le *physical security* e e yang go nna le *access control, surveillance requirements*, *inventory security* le *personal protocols* fela ka gore e tsentse motokwane mo teng. Go raya gore molemi yo o kwa Marapong, Tutume kana Setlabanna, ga a ka ke a kgona *to afford to put up a surveillance system* mo masimong ya gagwe gore a *take advantage of industrial hemp* e e leng gore yone *it is a harmless plant.*

Kwa mafatsheng a mangwe *like* kwa Italy gore o leme *industrial hemp,* ga o tlhoke *permit,* o tlhoka fela gore *plant* e o e lemileng, fa ba ka tla ba *measure,* THC ya teng e nne *less than* 0.006 *per cent.*

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ga ba itse THC.

MR MOALOSI: *Challenge* ke gore jaanong fa re soboka *hemp* le motokwane jaaka re dirile mo *policy* yone e, go raya gore go ya go tlhoka gore go dirwe *regulation* ka gore *policy* yone e di kopakopantse. Nna ka fa ke akantseng *hemp* ka teng, ke batla gore e sologele Motswana mongwe le mongwe molemo, e se ka ya nna *plant* fela e e leng gore e ya go lengwa ke batho ba ba nang le madi ba e leng gore o ka nna le polase, a e ageletse, a tsentse *cameras, finger prints* kana *scanners*.

Fa o ka lebelela *policy* e, go na le fa ba buang gore *each plant should be tracked,* ke gore go nne le *control* ya bo *equipment*, go nne le bo *staff training*. Dilo tseo, Mme Mma Keniwe, ga a ka ke a kgona go di dira. Go tlaabo go raya gore fa a ne a tshwanetse *to benefit* ka go lema *industrial hemp*, ga a kgone *to benefit* ka gore *policy* e kopakopantse dilo tse pedi tse di sa tshwaneng, tse e leng gore ke dumela gore le *Minister* o a dumalana le nna gore dilo tseo ke dilo tse di sa kopaneng.

MR HIKUAMA: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga *Honourabl*e Moalosi. Ke gore se o se buang se o batlang gore re se tlhaloganye fa ke gore fa o lebile se se batliwang ke *policy* e, ke go batla go dira gore e nne *an*

elite kind of a process e nna le setlhophanyana sa batho bangwe ba ba itekanetseng ba ba nang le bokgoni go bo go ntsha ba botlhe mo *process* ya teng, a ke sone se o se buang?

MR MOALOSI: Ee, ke bua jalo *Honourable* Hikuama ka gore *requirements* tse di mo *policy*, ke na le lebaka ke e tshotse. *Minister* o sale a e mphile. Ke na le *almost a month* ke e tshotse le ise le e neelwe. Motho wa teng o go neela *policy* mme fa o re o bua le ene, ga o kgone go bua le ene gore le *discuss policy* ya teng gore o mmolelele gore baakanya fa pele ga o ya kwa bathong.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification Madam Speaker.

MR MOALOSI: Ke bue fela gore ka fa *policy* e e ntseng ka teng, ke batla go papamaletsa Motswana yo o kwa gae, yo o kwa Mmathethe gore *policy* e ka fa e dirilweng teng, *you are not going to benefit from industrial hemp*. O ka *benefit* gongwe o hirilwe mo *factory* kana mo tshimong o koba dinonyane mme fela gore o itemele wena, go ya go nna thata. Ka fa ba e beileng ka teng, le *to transport* lotlhaka la *industrial hemp,* o tshwanetse gore o bo o na le *permit according to the policy*. Ke gore *there is a licence for transportation, cultivation and processing.* Go raya gore go tlhoka gore o bo o na le *licence.* Kana ke gore ga o a e bala, le koloi e e lotlelwang. Jaanong fa go ntse jalo, go raya gore Batswana ba ba kwa Butale, ga ba na *to benefit* mo *policy* e. Jaanong fa re ka dumalana gore e fete e ntse ka fa e ntseng ka teng, go raya gore…

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable Members*, aah! Kana nna ga ke sa tlhole ke utlwa Moalosi, jaanong ga ke itse gore la re re dire jang tlhe batho. Ke kopa re *respect* yo mongwe a le mo *floor.*

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Elucidation.

MR MOALOSI: Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*. Se ke se buang ke gore fa re ka letlelela *policy* e gore e fete e ntse jaana, re bo re papamala re tlhobosetsa Batswana gore *policy* e re e fetisang e, ga se ya bone, ke ya batho ba bangwe ba o fitlhelang gotwe "re bone *investors,* di ya go tla kwano." E bile go na le menahune ya gore ba…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification Madam Speaker.

MR MOALOSI: …*the exemption*. Ke a go e tima *comrade.* Ba setse ba neetswe *exemptions* gore ba simolole. Go na le *rumour* e e ntseng jalo. Go supa gore tota *policy* e ke ya batho ba e leng gore ba setse e bile gongwe ba buile le ba ba busang gore "re etla, re tsile go lema *industrial hemp,* re direleng *policy*." Jaanong ke kopa gore Palamente e fa e le gore e tsaya Batswana ka tlhwaafalo, e batla *to include them* mo *economy* ya *hemp,* a re boeleng kwa morago re *separate policies* tse, re nne le ya *medicinal marijuana as a separate policy.* E nne le *requirements* tseo ka gore *medicinal marijuana* e na le THC. THC ke *chemical* e e tagang mo motokwaneng. E na le THC e ntsi, *so it should be separated. Industrial hemp* yone e bo e nna le *policy* ya yone e e ka dirang gore Motswana mongwe le mongwe a kgone *to benefit* mo go yone. Fa re e fetisa e ntse jaana, go raya gore go ya go nna thata *Madam Speaker.* Le wena fela fa e le gore o na le tshimo, o ya go palelwa ke go lema *industrial hemp* ka gore wa go palelwa fela ke yone *permit* selo sa ntlha fela ka gore *requirements* tsa teng ke tse di batlang motho a na le madi.

Fa o ka lebelela *Page* 30, *Producer Requirements, if you allow me to quote from the policy Madam Speaker*, "*Producers must adhere to strict facility management and inventory control requirements to ensure compliance with regulatory standards and maintain the safety integrity of cannabis products. This requirement covers physical security, operational producers, inventory tracking and supply chain management*." *Supply chain management* Motswana yo o kwa gae, go tewa gone fela gore o tsamaisa dilo tse ka dikoloi. *Industrial hemp*, go tewa setlhare se e leng gore o ka kgona go aga ka sone, o ka kgona go se *mix* o dira ditena o aga ka tsone. Fa e le gore o ya go tlhoka *licence* gore o rwale ditena tseo o di ise kwa o agang teng kana *to create* ditena tseo, kana o dire diaparo, o ya go tlhoka *policy* gore o tseye ditlodi tse di dirang diaparo gore o ye go dira *factory* kwa SPEDU kana kae, kwa o batlang go dira *factory* teng, go ya go nna thata gore Batswana ba *access.*

Ke ne ke kopa fela gore Tona, a re boele kwa morago, re nne fa fatshe. Ke na le dingwaga tse *over* 10 *years* ke dira *research* ka *industrial hemp. So, I am willing to help you to come up with a policy that will be inclusive,* e e leng gore ga go na Motswana yo o tlaa salelang kwa morago. Ke sone se ke se batlang fela. Ga ke re *industrial hemp* ga e a siama, ka re se kopanye *industrial*

hemp le motokwane ka gore *regulations* tsa teng di tlaa dira gore…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification Madam Speaker.

MR MOALOSI: Go kopakopanye, go tlaa dira gore Motswana a salele kwa ntle. Jaanong re batla Motswana yo o kwa gae yo o nang le tshimo ya 10 *hectares* a ka kgona go lema a dira madi ka *industrial hemp,* le ene a nne le *access*. E se ka ya nna dilo fela tsa gore go tlaa tla Lekgoa le tla le neelwa polase, le bo le e agelela ka diterata tse di kwa godimo ba tsenya *cameras*, ba bo ba tsenya *access control,* e bo e nna bone fela ba ba ka kgonang go dira. Batswana ba bo ba hiriwa gotwe, tsamaya o ye go tlhagola, o ye go koba dinonyane kana o ye go rema kana *to harvest,* batho ba bo ba dira madi, Batswana ba ntse ba sa dire madi. Go go ntsi mo *economy* ya Botswana mo e leng gore dilo ka bontsi di tshwerwe ke batswakwa, ka ke bone ba ba nang le madi. Jaanong e a re e tlogeleleng Batswana *Honourable* Hunyepa. …(*Speaking* Kalanga)...

MADAM SPEAKER: Ae *Honourable* Moalosi, ga re itse gore o bua eng jaanong.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Applause!)… …(Laughter!)…

MR MOALOSI: Ke a leboga.

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE): *Thank you very much Madam Speaker,* e bile ke leboge gore o bo o nneetse fela morago ga go bua ga ga Motlotlegi Moalosi. *It is good, democracy is very good but never abuse it*. *If you can abuse democracy* ya re o neetswe sebaka sa gore o tseye tšhaba e e go setseng morago o e ise kwa mafulong a matalana, *then you decide* go e tsaya o e latlhela mo lefifing, o bo o sala kwa ntle, *you are doomed, you are not a leader. You are not a leader!* Mongwe le mongwe wa rona yo o ntseng mo Ntlong e o tshwanetse gore la ntlha fela fa a ema...

MR MOALOSI: *Procedure Madam Speaker.* Ke kopa gore o *address the Speaker, do not attack me. It is my democratic right* gore fa ke neetswe *policy I should debate it* ka fa ke e tlhaloganyang ka teng. *So* ga o ka ke wa ema foo *and attack me personally* o re, "*I am not a leader,"* le wena *you are not a leader.*

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable Members, Honourable* Mokgware, *address the Speaker,* o se ka wa mo lebaganya mafoko, o kare o a mo tlhabantsha.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I am addressing you, I am not addressing ... I do not have time for him, why should I address him? So I am saying anyone of us in this House* yo o nang le *responsibility* ya go tsaya setšhaba sa Botswana a se neela lesedi, a bua boammaaruri, mongwe le mongwe wa rona mo Ntlong e o neetswe *that opportunity* ke Batswana ba re, re etelele pele, o matlho le ditsebe tsa rona, ke wena o kareng o tswa kwa wa re direla dingwe tse di botoka. *Now when we interpret things,* fa re bua mo Ntlong e a re bueng re na le boammaaruri jo bo tletseng, re a utlwana? Ga go na sepe, ga go na sepe sejo se o ka se jang. Gompieno jaana ke ntse ke utlwa go buiwa ka melao gore fa o goga motokwane fa o re o tla…sukiri*, there are more patients with diabetes today. With diabetes, today*! balwetse ba ba nang le sukiri ba kae, la reng ka yone? *Everything has to have a restriction*. Sengwe le sengwe se tshwanetse go nna le tsamaiso, ga se ka gatwe se direng jaana. Pampiri e e bua ka setlhatshana se se reng, go tlhalositswe gatwe *medicinal,* dikalafi, melemo. Se go buiwang gatwe, re se dirisetsa melemo, e e tlaa tlang e alafa malwetse a a tshwanang le *cancer. It is the truth, go and research more about it*. Fa gongwe re na le 10 *years* golo gongwe kana le 20 *years, go and research, they will tell you that,* batho ba le bantsi ba fodile ba dirisa setlhare se, se alafa kankere e e sa foleng.

MR JACOBS: *Clarification*. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Nnyaa Tona o e tshwere sentle. Mme ke ne ke re ke ba tlhalosetse borre ba, kana *flower*, o ka se ke o goge *a flower.* Ke go boleletse, ke tlhalositse gore kana se se gogiwang ke ditlhogo, *so do not mislead the public. I thank you Madam Speaker.*

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you very much* Rre Kamal. Ke gore *I want us to be very bold and straight to the point*. Re se ka ra ema jaana re batla go bolelela Batswana re ba raya re re, Motswana ga a tle *to benefit.* Sengwe le sengwe se o se lemang e le setlhare, *whatever you are planting, it has that...*

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (MR MOSWAANE): *Elucidation.* O e tshwere sentle

Honourable General Mokgware. Mme ke ne ke re, o kare letsatsi le le beilweng ke la gore re le Palamente re tseye tshwetso, mme ke ne ke utlwa mokaulengwe a re o na le 10 *years researching*. A e ne e se nako ya gore jaanong *he should present research* ya gagwe go baakanngwe *policy? Thank you.*

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you Madam Speaker*. Ke kopa gore jaaka re tshotse pampiri e rotlhe mo Ntlong, *go to Page* 9*,* e e go tlhalosetsang gore, tota setlhare se se batlelwa eng. Go bo go tlhamalalwa mo teng, ga go na ope yo o iphitlhang mo teng, a re setlhare se re a itse gore bangwe ba ka se dirisa botlhaswa. Re a itse gore bangwe ba ka se dirisa botlhaswa. Re leka go tla ka metlhale yotlhe gore batho ba ba se ka ba bona *that opportunity* ya go se dirisa botlhaswa. Re a go se tlhokomela ka tsela e e ntseng jaana. Le wena fa o se lema itse gore o tlaa se sireletsa gore batho bangwe ba se ka ba se tsaya ba se dirisa botlhaswa, akere re a utlwana? Setlhatshana se go buiwang ka sone se se kwadilwe teng moo se ...(*inaudible*)… re a utlwana.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: …(Inaudible)…

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Ga o batle go nkgogela… ga ke ka ke ka ya gone kwa o buelang teng koo kwa o batlang gore ke ye… ra re ke setlhatshana ka Setswana.

DR BUTALE: *Procedure.* Ke a go leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke ne ke re gongwe re e te re ntse re gakololana. Kana Ntlo e fa re sa gakololane e tlaa tswa mo tseleng re bo re palelwa ke tiro. Ke re re gakololane gore, fa o rile *elucidation* kana *clarification* fa motho a sa go fe ga a go fa, jaanong ga o buele ruri, o kgoreletsa tsamaiso ya Ntlo. Jaanong ke ne ke re re dire jalo. Gape mo gongwe fela ke gore, kana *politics is a contestation of ideas*, gongwe fa re ka nna le *tolerance* fela ya gore re ka farologana, mme kwa bofelelong jwa letsatsi go tlaa tlhotlhega gore se se siameng se bo se diragalela lefatshe la rona. Ke re re nne jalo, go ka re thusa. Ke a leboga.

MR AARON: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga *Minister* yo o tlotlegang. Tota ke supe gore, ke lemoga bothata jwa kgang ya rona. A ga o bone gore bothata bogolo ke gore, re ithatha ka leleme? Boammaaruri ke gore kgang ya *hemp* kana motokwane o o dirang diaparo le motokwane o o gogiwang tse tsotlhe Ntlo e e supa gore go na le ka fa di nang le mosola ka teng. Jaanong fa re tla re bua gore fa re bua ka motokwane o o nnang setagi, ke gone fa re tlang re ithatha ka leleme. Re ithathelang ka leleme fa e le gore ke nnete ra re, o kgona go alafa, e bile o ka tlisa letseno mo Botswana. Ke eng e sa re fa re e bua ra e bua ra e tlhamalatsa? Bothata bogolo bo gone fa, ka gore mongwe a re, setlhare se re ka se lema, re tlaa tsaya dithunya re bo re latlha ditlhogo tsa teng, ga go boammaaruri gone fa. Ke eng re sa bue nnete ra...

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Nnyaa, jaanong* he is debating please, please!

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Laughter!)…

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you very much*. Ke raya gore jaanong o ipolaile. *At any time,* go fitlhelela dingwaga tse *five* di fela, ga o kare o a bua fela ke a gana, *because* o tletse mowanyana o o sa siamang thata. *You cannot take my time like that.* O ipolaile, re a utlwana?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Laughter!)...

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Mme e bile ke wena o timetsang Batswana, ga re ithathe ka leleme, re tlhamaletse. *That is why* ke leka *to refer you to the page,* gore o tlhaloganye jalo. Ra re, re lebeletse dilo tse, sengwe le sengwe se se jewang, se sa dirisiwe sentle ka tshwanelo ya sone se tshwanetse go go tsenya bolwetse, e bile gape re tshwanetse go tswa ka melao…

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (MR NYATANGA): *Elucidation.* Ke ne ke re e batla re diga makgwafo General. Bagaetsho ke re, fa re le fa jaaka re ntse re re re itse *debate in general*, re dirile *research, there is a document in front of us, page* 23 e a bua, ya re, "*uses of cannabis sativa.*'

Ke batla motho yo o ganetsang Minister, *e bo e le gore* he is talking to this page, because this is empirical evidence that can be used as a yard stick of reference. *Jaanong fa o tla o re* I have done research, *o sa* provide an opportunity in terms of alternative, you are not assisting. This is why *gongwe* the Honourable Member is saying, we are not helping. So let us look at Page 23, *dikgang tse ke utlwang le di bua batlotlegi,* here they are explicit. Talk to this Page 23 and assist. Thank you sir.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Kana ke gore dilo tse di neng di buiwa ke Motlotlegi Moalosi fale a re, go batliwa *licenses,* phane e batlelwa *license* gompieno jaana. *For a reason* gakere, sengwe le sengwe se o se dirang go batliwa *license.* Jaanong fa fa re re o bo o na le *license,* re direla gore batho ba ba sa siamang, ba ba batlang *to abuse this particular substance* e re e tlhokang go alafa kankere e e kanakana mo garona e...

MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (MR RAMAOTWANA): Elucidation. Thank you Madam Speaker. *Mo* Page 17 Honourable Minister Mokgware, *e e tlhalosang* policy *e, gatwe ga e tlhalose. E* clear *gore,* the policy explicitly excludes recreational cannabis use, maintaining existing prohibitions...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Gatwe* use, not production.

MR RAMAOTWANA: …maintaining existing prohibitions, while creating pathways for legitimate medical and scientific applications.

Honourable Member *fa o ya kwa* Page 16, the objectives *tsa teng di* clear *gore* what is cannabis sativa. We are dealing in this policy *ka* cannabis sativa mo Page 5, cultivation of cannabis sativa. *Fa o ya kwa baitseanapeng* the Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance (CHTA) *ya re,* industrial hemp is made up of a variety of three cannabis sativas, *tse e leng gore* they only differ in terms of content. *Ke bona ba bua ba re motokwane mo gongwe ke* hemp, but here *mo* policy *ya rona, re bua ka* cannabis sativa. The sativa *e re buang ka yone ke* a sub-species of cannabis, known as hemp. So we are talking about a sub-species.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you Madam Speaker.* Ke ne ke batla go bolelela Motswana yo o kwa gae...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Murmurs)…

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable Members,* a ko le reetseng.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: …kwa Masunga kana kwa kae. Ke batla gore ke mmolelele ke mo reye ke re, UDC *is a responsible Government. We will never at any time expose this nation to danger. We have a responsibility to give them good life.*

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: …(Applause!)…

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: We are not irresponsible. We are well learned here, we researched on this particular topic, *ga re a e sela fela*. We researched it, *rona ga re a tsaya* 10 years. We lived it, we are here presenting it to you. *Re a utlwana. Re e neela* Motswana *gore, re tlile* to improve *botshelo jwa* Motswana *jaana, re a utlwana batlotlegi?* Approve it for your own good, for your cancer. *Ke a leboga.*

MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (MR RAMAOTWANA): *Madam Speaker,* ke ema nokeng pampiri e ka gore e itlhalosa fela fa re bala mo *Page* 5 gore re bua ka *cannabis sativa,* e e tlhalositsweng mo Page 23 e e neng e buiwa ke Motlotlegi Nyatanga gore re buile gore e ya go dira dife. Re buile ka gore ga re e lebeletse, e supa gore go na le melawana ya mafatshefatshe, e e re kaetsang gore fa o dira tiro e ya *cannabis sativa,* o tshwanetse *to adhere to these Conventions*. *We are going to adhere to these Conventions,* tse di tlhokafalang gore kamoso e se ka mongwe le mongwe a tsamaya a rwele motokwane a goga, a re ke *hemp.* E bo e le motokwane o o letleletsweng *for medicinal use*, go dira diaparo le go dira dilo tse dintsi tse di mo *Page* 23. Ke sone *policy* e e buang ka sone fela.

Ba ba etsaetsegang, ke letlelelwe *to quote* ka *the hemp plant,* ka gore ba tsiediwa ke kgang ya lee le koko. Fa ke *quote* mo CHTA, *this is a body* e e buang gore *cannabis sativa* e na le *three variegated types. These three types* di buiwa gotwe, "*industrial hemp is made up of varieties of cannabis sativa," which we are debating here.* Ya re, *"that contains less them* 0.3 *per cent of* Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) *marijuana."* Re bua ka *the type of hemp,* e gotweng e na le 0.3 *per cent content* ya *marijuana. Any hemp has this* THC *content, whether you call it a hemp or marijuana, it has this content.* E bo e bua gore, *"hemp and cannabis are common names of plants of the genus cannabis."* Ke gore mo ke *an umbrella body, the cannabis sativa is an umbrella body for different three types of cannabis.*

The other types go na le *cannabis indica, cannabis ruderalis and then cannabis sativa.* E bo e go bolelela gore *the one we are debating here* e ka dira eng, e ka dira eng. E bo e tlhalosa tse dingwe tseo, gore e nngwe ele ke yone e e nang le *content* ya motokwane. Jaanong *policy*

e ya re, *we are to exclude those that are for recreational purposes,* tse di tagang. Ya re re ya go tlogela fela tse e leng gore...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nnyaa, ga o a bala sentle. Ga di *exclude,* di a *regulate.*

MR RAMAOTWANA: That is understandable, but if you read on Page 17 Madam Speaker, the policy explicitly excludes, *ga e re* regulate. Exclude recreational cannabis…

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Use.

MR RAMAOTWANA: *Use.* Ee, *but what is it? Madam Speaker*, ra re *policy* ya rona *excludes recreational cannabis use,* ra re re ya go tswelela re *maintain* melao e e teng e e kwadilweng mo *policy* e, e e reng *currently if you are found in possession of cannabis,* ke molato, o ka seka wa ba wa tsenngwa mo toronkong. Jaanong ra re, re *regulate* gore tse di ka letlelelwang ke dife.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members, as it is now 6 o'clock, I shall call upon Leader of the House to move a Motion of adjournment.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

ACTING LEADER OF THE HOUSE (DR BUTALE): Ke a go leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ka one motsotso o ka gore nako e setse e le ya borataro, e bile go lebega thuto e tsenelela, batlotlegi ba ye go ikhutsa ba tle ba akantse sentle.

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until Wednesday 2nd April, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

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