

13th
PARLIAMENT



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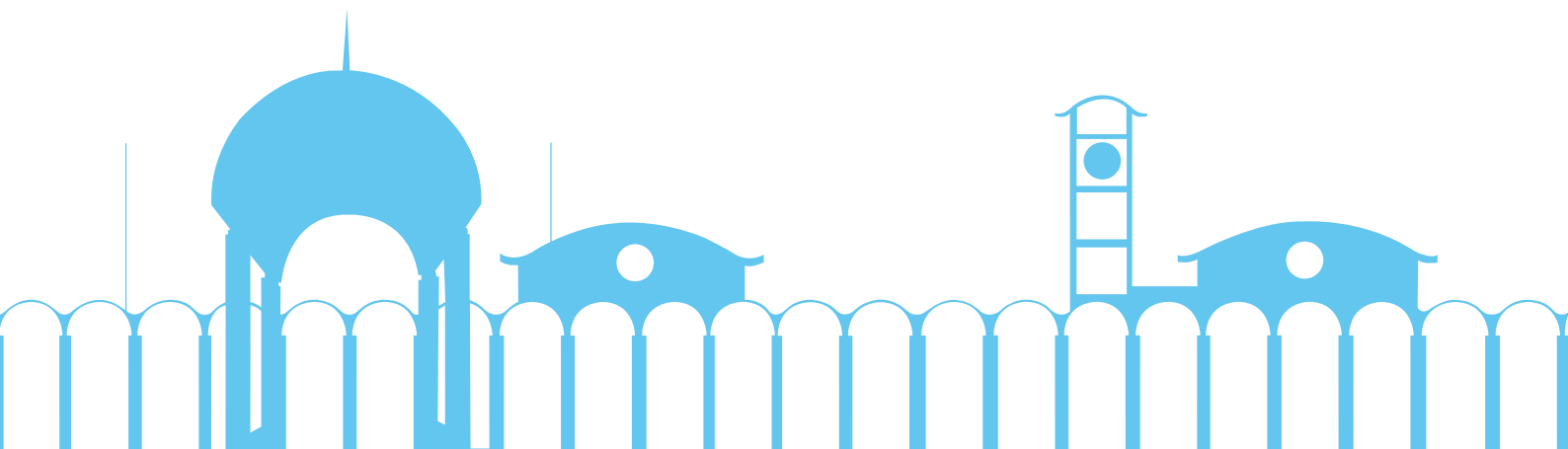
YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT

**THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SECOND
SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT**

TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2026

MIXED VERSION

HANSARD NO: 220



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Hon. H. P. Manyeneng, MP. (Mmopane-Metsimotlhabe)

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Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly	- Ms K. H. Ketshajwang
Learned Parliamentary Counsel	- Dr A. R. Masuku
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His Honour N. N. Gaolathe, MP.	- Vice President & Minister of Finance
Hon. M. C. Mohwasa, MP.	- Minister for State President, Defence and Security
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
Vacant	- 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 Entrepreneurship
Hon. L. Chombo, MP.	- Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs
Hon. J. Kelebeng, MP.	- Minister of Sport and Arts
Hon. N. S. L. M. Salakae, MP.	- Minister of Transport and Infrastructure
Hon. M. B. Mophuting, MP.	- Assistant Minister, State President, Defence and Security
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 Entrepreneurship
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

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Hon. M. I. Moswaane, MP.	Francistown West
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Hon. O. Ramogapi, MP.	Palapye
Hon. D. Tshere, MP.	Mahalapye West
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Hon. S. Ntlhaile, MP.	Gaborone North
Hon. N. S. L. M. Salakae, MP.	Ghanzi
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Hon. C. K. Jacobs, MP.	Lobatse
Hon. J. Hunyepa, MP.	Tati West
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Hon. O. Kwapa, MP.	Jwaneng-Mabutsane
Hon. G. Lekau, MP.	Mogoditshane West
Hon. R. M. Lekutlane, MP.	Kgalagadi North
Hon. H. P. Manyeneng, MP.	Mmopane-Metsimotlhabe
Hon. Brig. D. Mokgwathi	Lethakeng
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
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Hon. G. Sedombo, MP.	Tonota
Hon. P. M. Segokgo, MP.	Tlokweng
Hon. J. T. I. Modise, MP.	Kgalagadi South

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(Botswana Congress Party)

Hon. D. Saleshando, MP. (Leader of the Opposition)	Maun North
Hon. C. K. Hikuama, MP. (Opposition Whip)	Maun West
Hon. Dr U. Dow, MP.	Kgatlung 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
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Hon. M. Moalosi, MP.	Nkange

(Botswana Patriotic Front)

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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.	Kgatlung East

(Independent Member of Parliament)

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

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Tuesday 7th April, 2026

THE ASSEMBLY met at 2:00 p.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

P R A Y E R S

* * * *

SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

MADAM SPEAKER (MS MANYENENG): Pray be seated. Good afternoon Honourable Members. Welcome back from the holidays, I hope you rested.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Murmurs)...

MADAM SPEAKER: Go ne go le thatanyana.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Murmurs)...

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members, there is an announcement to be made. It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of former Minister of Justice and Chobe Constituency Member of Parliament (MP), Honourable Ronald Machana Shamukuni who passed on on the 3rd of April 2026. Let us all rise and observe a moment of silence in honour for the former Honourable MP.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

MADAM SPEAKER: May his soul rest in eternal peace and rise in glory.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Murmurs)...

MR MOSANANA: *On a point of procedure.* Ke go dumedise *Madam Speaker.* Re na le leso le lengwe le o sa le umakang la motshameki wa pele wa *national team* e bong Talk Talk Motlhabankwe. Ke ne ke re gongwe le ene re ka mo *usher* fela ra bolelela batho. *Thank you.*

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable Mosanana* ga re ise re amogele tatolo semmuso, re e bona mo maranyaneng. Ga se gore o ba kgotlhatse ba tlise ka kwano. O bua sentle mme gantsi...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ...(Inaudible)...

MR MOSANANA: Tanki *Madam Speaker.* Le nna ke motsadi ke ka tlisa fela ga go re sepe.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Murmurs)...

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

PURCHASING BULLS AND HEIFERS FROM TEXAS

DR K. GOBOTSWANG (TSWAPONG SOUTH): asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture to state:

- (i) whether the utilisation of public funds to purchase bulls and heifers from Texas in the United States of America was consistent with existing laws governing public finance and budget allocations;
- (ii) the specific vote used for the procurement of the specified livestock; and
- (iii) the role played by the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) in the process, if any.

Later Date.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT OF 2021

MR T. FURNITURE (TATI EAST): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs whether, following the implementation of the Public Procurement Act of 2021, procurement oversight structures have been established in all Local Authorities; if not, to state:

- (i) the reasons for the delay in operationalising them;
- (ii) who is currently responsible for performing the procurement oversight functions within Local Authorities, and at what salary grades or positions these officers are appointed;
- (iii) the implications of the absence or delay in establishing formal procurement oversight structures on the decisions of Accounting Officers in the award of tenders;
- (iv) whether his ministry has assessed if the lack of fully established oversight structures may be contributing to corruption, maladministration or the increase in tender related complaints; and
- (v) corrective measures being put in place.

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (MR MOTSHEGWA):

Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Mma ke leboge Mopalamente ka potso e a e boditseng.

Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, mealo ya tshekatsheko ya tsa theko ga e ise e simolodisiwe kwa dikhanseleng tsotlhe tse di masome a mararo le bongwe. Go santse go emetswe gore Molao wa Lephata wa Tshekatsheko ya Theko wa Dikhansela gore o bo o ka tlhomamisiwa. Jaaka theko ya ditirelo le dithoto e le tiro e e diriwang ke maphata otlhe kana a farologanyeng, Lephata la Dikgaolo le Merero ya Ngwao le dirisanya le Lephata la Madi go tlhomamisa gore mealo e mesha ya theko e tsamaelana le Molao wa Theko le Thekiso ya Dithoto tsa Setšhaba wa 2021 le gore go direlwe mo seelong se se ka tshegediwang ke madi a a leng teng.

- (i) Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, lephata le amogela tiego mo go tsenyeng mo tirisong Molao wa Theko ya Dithoto le Ditirelo tsa Setšhaba wa 2021 o ke setseng ke buile ka one kwa dikhanseleng. Go tsenya mealo ya tshekatsheko ya theko mo tirisong, go santse go sekasekwa mo go tseneletseng. Se, se tlaa tlhomamisa gore diphatlha-ditiro tsa lekalana la tshekatsheko ya theko di neelana le mealo ya dikhansela.
- (ii) Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, Bakwaledi ba Dikhansela, jaaka ba filwe boikarabelo jotlhe jwa theko mo dikhanseleng, ba dirile dithulaganyo tsa nakwana go tsamaisa ditshekatsheko tsa theko go sala morago ditshetlana tsa molao, ba tlhomamisa tekatekano le boammaaruri mo go tse e leng gore di a tlhokega.
- (iii) Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, Puso e tlhomamisitse gore mo boseyong jwa moalo o o tlhomamisitsweng wa tshekatsheko ya tsa theko, tiro e a tswela.
- (iv) Fa ke tsamaela kwa bokhutlong Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, mo dithulaganyong tsa nakwana tse lephata le di dirileng kwa dikhanseleng, mo bogompionong ga re ise re lemoge makgwere ape a a ka bong a bakile mathata. Ke sone se re tlhalosang gore go tsamaela kwa pele ke gore go nne le tiro ya go naakanya mealo e le molao. Molao wa theko o tlama dikhansela go tlisa mananeo a theko le dipego tsa kgwedi le kgwedi, go tlhomamisa tsamaiso e e lolameng ya molao.

Go tla go tsena nako e jaaka ke setse ke supile, ke yone tsela e go santseng go tsamaisiwa ka yone fa re tsamaela kwa go e ke reng re e tshwaraganetse le ba Lephata la Madi. Lephata le tswelutse ka go ithulaganya le batsaya-karolo gore Moalo wa Tshekatsheko ya Theko wa Dikhansela, o wele go nna bontlha bongwe jwa molao wa lephata. Mo godimo ga moo, mo nakong ya gompiono bodiredi jo bo leng ka fa tlase ga lekalana le, bo filwe boikarabelo ka fa tsamaisong, go tla dingongorego le ditsheko mabapi le tsa theko. Ke a leboga.

MR FURNITURE: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ke a leboga Tona. Ke leboegele gore o supile gore le amogela tiego e e ka tswang e le teng. Ke boikarabelo jwa ga mang kana jwa lephata lefe go bona gore ba fefosa molao o gore o bo o le mo tirisong?

Sa bobedi, fa re lebile botlhokwa jwa go tlhodumela mo go tsa theko le thekiso ya dithoto tsa Puso, ga le bone go le botlhokwa gore ntlha e, le e fe *priority* gore re se ka ra iphitlhela e le gore fa gongwe bo rankoteraka ba gwetlha ditshwetso dingwe tse di tswang ke bo *Accounting Officer*? Ke a leboga.

MR MOTSHEGWA: Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, tla ke leboge Mopalamente. Go a lebega paseka e nnile le seabe, o tla o le wena sentle. Ke dumalana le wena gore, fa o tsaya gore molao o ke wa 2021, mme re mo ngwageng efe, go raya gore go nnile le tiego e tona thata e e sa tshwanelang gore e ka bo e le teng. Tiego kana *deficiencies* tse, e ka nna diphatlha tsa gore ba bangwe ba se ka ba direlwa sentle, tsa gore go nne le tshenyetso-setšhaba kana dilo di se ka tsa dirwa sentle. Ke sone se re tsayang boikarabelo jwa gore go nnile jalo mo nakong e e fetileng.

Go tshwaraganya le potso ya gago ya bofelo, boikarabelo jo re bo tsayang ke gore go fefoge, ka gore re tshwanetse go baakanya melao le ditsamaiso go tlisa tsamaiso e e siameng. O ne o re e ka nna tiro ya lephata lefe, tota ke jaaka ke setse ke tlhalositse gore re e tshwaraganetse le ba *Ministry wa Finance*, ka gore go na le fa re neelanang teng boikarabelo jwa teng. Ke a leboga ka fa o tsibosang ka teng, le rona re lemoga gore go botlhokwa gore se se fiwe *priority* go nne bofelo, re tle re dire dilo sentle *in the spirit ya good governance and good administration*, jalojalo. Ke a leboga.

TRANSPORT PERMIT REGULATIONS IN KGATLENG EAST

MR M. M. PULE (KGATLENG EAST): asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure to state what interim measures the ministry intends to implement to assist passengers and support taxi drivers while awaiting road rehabilitation given that some taxi drivers cannot access some roads and drop off passengers nearer to their homes due to poor road conditions in Kgatleng East; and to further state:

- (i) whether there are plans to adjust taxi permit regulations or service guidelines to reflect these challenges and ensure safe, convenient access for users; and
- (ii) when taxi routes will be increased within these villages to cater for population growth and village expansions.

MADAM SPEAKER: Leader of the House, *ba kae* Transport and Infrastructure Ministers?

LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR MOHWASA): Ga ba ise ba *communicate sepe* le nna.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Mohwasa, ga se gore o re thuse o ba tlhole gore ba kae, *before* re ba tlhoboga.

MR MOHWASA: Ee, ke a utlwa. O kgaleme bagarona ka kwa, ke a itse gore ba tswa pasekeng, mme itshware sentle.

MADAM SPEAKER: Re tlholele hoo, ke emetse *response from you*.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT AND QATAR AL MANSOUR HOLDINGS

MR D. SALESHANDO (MAUN NORTH): asked the Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship to provide an update on the agreement signed between the Botswana Government and Qatar's Al Mansour Holdings for the investment of USD12 billion in Botswana.

MINISTER OF TRADE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MR NTSIMA): Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I wish to inform this

Honourable House that the agreement for the investment of USD12 billion in Botswana between Government of Botswana and Qatar's Al Mansour Holdings was signed in August 2025. The agreement represents commitment by Al Mansour Holdings to accelerate a national development goal in Botswana. The agreement is simply a pledge to invest in viable large-scale projects once they need requirement standards.

Madam Speaker, potential investments are expected to span key sectors including energy infrastructure logistics, mining, diamond industry, agriculture, tourism, cyber security and defence, driving economic stability diversification in long term prosperity. In this regard, Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) act as a catalyst working with other stakeholders across Botswana to bring these projects to investment stage. The identified projects must first move from concept level to feasibility and bankability, before they can be submitted for funding consideration.

In this regard, on 25th September 2025, Government of Botswana through BDC submitted 21 projects proposals which are awaiting feedback. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR SALESHANDO: *Supplementary.* Ke botse Tona gore, kana potso e ne e re o *provide update, in other words* re bolelele gore go sale go bewa monwana go diragetse eng. *It has now been 7 months*, mme karabo ya gago ga e mpolelele sepe se sesha se ke neng ke sa se itse fa go begwa ka di 24 tsa ga *August 2025*. A o raya gore *7 months later* mo kgannyeng e, le ntse le eme gone fa le neng le le teng ka *August last year*?

Number two, projects tse di solofetsweng tseo a di teng mo National Development Plan (NDP) le mo Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP)? Fa di le teng, a o ka re bolelele gore ke dife?

MR NTSIMA: I thank you Madam Speaker. I thank you Rre Saleshando for the follow up question. *O ne o botsa gore a re ntse re eme fa re emeng teng* since signing, I have since said we have submitted 21 projects *tse re dumelang gore ba tlaa di leba, fa re dumalana ba bo ba fund* those projects.

E nngwe ke ya gore a di teng mo BETP, there was no way *re ka di tsenyang* in the BETP if we did not agree with them *gore di ka bo di ya* to be funded *jang*. So

until *re goroga kwa* funding stage, that is when we could have put them in, but *ka gore e ne e santse e le dikopo tsa gore le rona re eletsa gore re dire eng, le bone ba di lebe pele, re ne re ka se ke re dire jalo. Ke a leboga* Madam Speaker.

MR SALESHANDO: *Further supplementary.* Kana mme fa go begwa ka di 24 tsa ga *August, part of the announcement* e ne e supa gore *this is to address immediate infrastructural needs.* Le ne le begela eng *if you were so unready and unprepared,* mo e leng gore re ne re fetisa NDP re bua dilo tse madi a re buang ka one, *it is equivalent to about P160 billion? Why was it announced* go sena sepe se se dirilweng go baakanyetsa thulaganyo e?

MR NTSIMA: Thank you again Madam Speaker. *Ke tsaya gore ya ga Rre Dumelang jaanong ke go tlhola fela gore ene o ka bo a dirile eng, rona re dirile eng. Re ne re announce an agreement ya a partnership that can in the future e re tlele maduo.* I do not see anything wrong with us saying we have agreed with the partner *gore o tlaa re thusa* on immediate *kana* long term, *mme go diragetse fela jalo,* we have announced and it is something that we cannot take back. *Ke a leboga* Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Kekgonegile Member of Parliament Maun East.

MR KAPINGA: Good afternoon Madam Speaker, *ke tlaa mo e tseela.*

MOPHANE WORM INDUSTRY

MR T. B. LUCAS (BOBIRWA): asked the Minister of Environment and Tourism to apprise this Honourable House on what his ministry has done or is doing in respect of the Mophane worm industry in the following key areas:

- (i) expansion of the industry;
- (ii) import and export issues; harvesting permits;
- (iii) safety and protection of harvesters
- (iv) conservation of the worm; and
- (v) value addition initiatives.

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM (MR MMOLOTSI): Thank you very much Madam

Speaker. Madam Speaker, the ministry has undertaken and continues to implement initiatives to expand the phane industry through supporting community trusts such as Tshimoyapula, Topisi and Bobirwa to manage and benefit from *phane* resources through Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Programme, promoting *phane* harvesting as a climate resilient livelihood for rural communities, especially in eastern and northern Botswana. Communities have been supported with inputs in the past under the...

MR LUCAS: *Procedure Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker,* ke a itse gore gongwe ke tlaabo ke ka gotlhana le wena, mme ke re, fa re lebile gore batho ba kwa phaneng tota go bua nnete bontsi jwa bone ga ba tlhaloganye teme e ya Sekgoa, ke kopa gore Tona fa a ne a ka kgona a arabe ka Setswana, gore le ba ba kwa phaneng mo bogompionong ba utlwe gore a reng.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable Minister,* a o ka kgona go e soboka ka Setswana.

MR MMOLOTSI: Ee mma, ke tlaa e soboka ka Setswana. Ke tlaa e soboka *Honourable* Lucas. Fela mo ke setseng ke go buile go go soboka ke ne ke re, lephata le tsweletse ka go senka ditsela le go diragatsa ditsela tsa go leka go bona gore re leka *to expand industry* ya phane ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Nngwe ya tsone ke gone gore, *we support* kana lephata *supports community trusts,* jaaka Tshimoyapula, Topisi le kwa Bobirwa, gone gore ba kgone go nna le bokgoni jwa *to manage* tse ba di bonang go tswa mo phaneng. Ba dira jalo ka *programme* ya rona e e bidiwang gotwe Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Programme. Re ba thusa ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Gape re leka gore re ba thuse ka gone gore, jaaka ba tshwara phane jaana ba e tshware ba tlhaloganya gore ke selo se se tlang ka nakwana, se e leng gore mme e bile fa se tla ka nakwana jaana go re ba bone gore maduo le dipoelo tsa sone di bereka ka tsela e e ntseng jang, gone go thusa gore e se ka ya re e seyo a bo e nna e kare ga ba ise ba nne le sepe se ba kileng ba ithusa ka sone.

Jaanong *addressing phane harvesters on sustainable harvesting methods, environmental health through the law enforcement committees during pre-harvesting and post-harvesting seasons.* Ke nngwe ya dilo tse di dirwang gore, go a lekwa gore go buiwe le bone

pele ga ba tshwara phane. Go buiwa le bone ka fa ba tshwanelwang ke gore ba tshware phane ka teng, ditsela tsotlhe tse di dirang gore ba ka tshwara e e mo *stage* se se ntseng jang, efe e se ka ya tshwarwa, fela ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Ke dingwe tse go buiwang le bone ka tsone. E bile gape sengwe se se dirwang ke gone go rotloetsa, kana *we are talking about expansion*, banana le bomme gore le bone ba tseye karolo mo thulaganyong e ya go tshwara phane. E bile jaanong re setse re fetetse pele go leka go ba rotloetsa gore e se ka ya nna kgang ya go tshwara phane fela, *maybe* re akanye gone gore *after* ba sena go nna ba tshwara phane ba ka dira eng gore phane e e kgone *to be processed* mo lefatsheng leno. Go na le ka fa go diragalang ka teng, e le gore phane e a tshwarwa, go tswa foo e rekisiwa kwa ntle ga lefatshe, go bo go raya gore jaanong tota fela ga go na *any value chain* e e diragalang mo lefatsheng leno, ka lebaka la gore sengwe le sengwe se tsamaela kwa ntle ga lefatshe.

Now Madam Speaker, regarding the import and export of phane, the ministry has tightened oversight to ensure that Botswana benefits from its natural resources while maintaining regional trade. Jaaka re bua *Honourable Lucas*, re leka ka bojotlhe go bona gore jaanong re gagamatsa *security* around go tshwarwa ga phane. Ka maikaelelo a go bona gore phane tota ga e tshwarwe le ke ba ba tswang kwa ba ba felelang ba e rekisitse kwa ntle, ba e tsere mono, e bo e sa tlhole e thusa Batswana. Ke sone se e leng gore jaanong *even if we export* go a patikesega gore fa phane e tswa mono e ya kwa lefatsheng le lengwe go bo go tserwe *an export permit* e e leng gore eo e a patikesega. Mongwe le mongwe o tshwanelwa ke gore a bo a e tshwere. E bile *export permit* eo e madinyana a o kileng wa nna wa ngongorega ka one gore o kare a mantsi. E bile gape jaaka o kile wa nna wa ngongorega, *export permit like they are exporting* jaana, go raya gore *each time you export* o tshwanelwa ke go duela madi ao a o ngongoregang ka one. Jaanong ke go arabele ruri o ise o botse *supplementary*, re baakanya *regulations* because *this thing* e mo *regulations* gore, re tswelele *to charge them* fela ka tsela e e ntseng jalo *those exporting*. Jaanong Batswana e bo e le gore re leka gore *we can charge them per season*. Batswakwa *when they export, we charge them* nako le nako *consignment* ya bone e tswa ka gore *ultimately* re batla *to discourage* gore fa re setse re na le madirelo mono e bo e le gore phane e tswela kwa ntle. Re eletsa gone gore fa re setse

re na le madirelo *that will be processing* phane e bo e le gore ba ba tshwarang phane ba e rekisetsa madirelo ao go na le gore jaanong ba bo ba tla ba tswelela ba e rekisetsa kwa ntle.

O tlaa tlhaloganya *Honourable Lucas* gore, mo Botswana fela fa o tshwara *permit* go na le *fee* e e duelwang. Mme *fee* ya teng ke matsana fela a a kana ka P5.00 gore Motswana o ka tsamaya a ya go tshwara phane. Jaaka ke ne ke bua *those that are exporting will be charged P2 200 per consignment*. Se se diragalang ke gone gore, go a lekwa ka bojotlhe gore phane *that is exported, it is exported* jaana e fitlhetse mo gotweng *international health standards*. Go raya gone gore *exporters require a Phytosanitary Certificate to confirm the product is free from pests and contaminants*.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, go raya gone gore fa re sena go nna re amogela molao wa Forestry Act, 2025 lephata le simolotse go dira *regulations* tse tsa Forest and Range Resources Regulations and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) tse di tlaa re thusang gone *to effectively facilitate trade of Non-Timber Forest Products, including phane*.

Madam Speaker, on harvesting permits, the ministry regulates harvesting through a permit system to ensure sustainability. Ke kgang ya gore, tota re leka gone gore ba ba tshwarang phane ba e tshware ka ditesi, ka lebaka la gore fa go ka tlogelwa mogoro fela, mogoro o o ya go dira gore ba tshware le mo ba neng ba sa tshwanela go go tshwara. Mogoro o o ya go dira gore ba tsene mo *areas* tse phane e iseng e lekane gore e ka tshwarwa, e bo e le gore golo mo go dira gore jaanong go ya kwa pele phane e bo e ka felela e nyeletse, e sa tlhole e le teng.

Jaanong *the key measures to regulate over-harvesting of phane include:*

- (a) Gone *to issue harvesting permits* tse di dirwang ke ba Forestry and Range Resources District Offices.
- (b) Le gone go beela ba ba tshwarang phane nako gore, le bo le tshwere phane mo nakong e e kana. Ke gore le simolola fa le ya go felela fale. Gone gore go bo go na le dinako.
- (c) Le gone *to set harvesting quotas* mo mafelong a mangwe.

- (d) Gape re rotloetsa gone gore batho ba dire Community Based Organisations (CBOs) tse e leng gore ba ka dirisa tsone jaanong gore e re fa ba ya go tshwara phane ba bo ba tshwara phane *through* Community Based Organisations.

Re a lemoga gone gore batshwari ba phane go na le *risk* e e leng gore e teng. *Ministry recognises risks faced by harvesters and has taken steps to improve safety.* Se re se dirang gone go leka go fokotsa *risk*:

- (a) Batho ba leka go rutiwa ka ditsela tse di siameng tsa go tshwara phane. Thatathata re ba ruta ka gone gore ba tshwanelwa ke gore ba bo ba apere diaparo tse di ntseng jang, ba tsentse eng le eng; (*gloves, boots, goggles*) gore ba se ka ba tloga ba felela ba bone dikgobalo kana ba sa tseega sentle.
- (b) Gape re dira *campaigns* tsa *human-wildlife conflict risks* tse di ka diragalang gone kwa go tshwarwang phane teng.
- (c) E nngwe ke yone *coordination with wildlife authorities in high-risk zones. Relocate to safe and designated camps and patrols.* Gone gore *from time to time*, Member of Parliament (MP) Lucas, batho ba go nna go sekwasekwa fa ba leng teng go bona gore fa go na le tse di diragalang tse di diphatsa ba ka isiwa kwa mafelong a a *safe* a a tshwanang dikampa jalojalo.
- (d) Le gone gore ba bo ba ka rutiwa ka *hygienic standards* tse ba tshwanelwang ke gore ba di dire, go leka gone gore ba se ka ba re fa ba le kwa phaneng ga nna le seemo se ba kgotlelang tikologo. Ke sone se e leng gore mo *regulations* tse re di dirang mo nakong ya gompieno sengwe sa dilo tse di tlaabong di patika fa go ya go tshwarwa phane ke gore go bo go na le matlwana a boitiketso, a e kareng batho fa ba le koo ba bo ba ka kgona gore ba a dirise. Matlwana one a, a tlaa tsamaisiwa ke *the private sector*, yo o tlaa tlang fela a goga *toilets* tsa gagwe, e bo e le gore batho ba ba patikesega gore fa ba le mo phaneng, ba dirise matlwana a boitiketso ba se ka ba felela e le gore jaanong ba dirisa gongwe le gongwe mo e leng gore kwa morago dikgomo di felela...

MADAM SPEAKER: Ga se gore le e wetse bagaetsho, le sale le gogile?

MR MMOLOTSI: *E telele. Jaanong ka tsela e ntseng jalo, contamination e tlaa kgona gore e laolwe. Gore ke e fetse ka bofelo, ga se gore ke e bale ka Sekgoa?*

- (vi) Madam Speaker, to conserve the Mophane worm, the Forest and Range Resources Act (2025) strengthens the ministry's ability to protect the larvae. The Act classifies Mophane worms as a protected forest resource, giving the ministry the power to enforce strict penalties for illegal or unsustainable harvesting practices. Prior to harvesting, the department assesses the *phane* for readiness to be harvested. Habitat protection is done through conservation of mopane woodland ecosystems by encouraging and supporting land-use planning.
- (vii) Madam Speaker, the ministry is currently developing initiatives which will transition the *phane* sector from a purely extractive activity into a structured green value chain. These initiatives include:
- (a) By marketing *phane* as a sustainably harvested, organic superfood, the ministry is creating a position for Botswana-branded products that appeal to the global conscious consumer.
- (b) Marketing of the *phane* by supporting communities' participation in trade fairs and exhibitions.
- (c) Encouraging Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in processing and packaging. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR LUCAS: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga Madam Speaker. *Industry* e ya phane, e kgolo. Ke a bona gore go na le ba e reng fa *Minister* a nkaraba, e bo e ka re ba fela pelo ka gongwe ga e yo ka kwa dintlheng tsa bone.

Sa ntlha *Minister*, kgang ya go godisa *industry* e ya phane ga o bone gongwe go le botlhokwa gore go dirwe *research* e e tseneletseng, e e ka tlang *to inform* kgotsa ya kgona go thusa gore e re fa go dirwa mananeo, e bo e le gore go ne go kile ga dirwa *research* e e tseneletseng? Ke bua jaana ka gore go na le mafelo a e leng gore phane jaanong kwa e neng e kile ya bo e le teng, ga e sa tlhole e le teng gongwe ka mabaka mangwe a o a buileng. Ke re, selo se sa *research*, a le a tle le se akanye gore le tle le se dire gore se tle se *inform expansion of industry*? E le potso ya ntlha.

Ya bobedi ke e o neng o bua o re ke ngongoregile ka yone, e bile o re o nkarabela kwa pele, gore kana jaanong *export permit* ya P2 200 e turu, mme letsatsi leno ke utlwa o re, e bile ke batla gore o tle o ntlhomamisetsa. A o a ntlhomamisetsa gore, a wa re le dira *regulations* tse di tlaa dirang gore P2 200 yo fa a duelwa, a bo a duelwa gangwefela mo ngwageng fa e le Batswana, mme fa e le batswakwa, ba mo duele fa ba tlola nako le nako? Ke batla o *confirm* jalo. O bo o mpolelele gore, mme yone thulaganyo e, le akanya go e wetsa leng ka gore batho ba le bantsi ba babalelwa ke P2 200 yo ka gore ba isa phane kwa e rekiwang botoka teng kwa Aferika Borwa. Le ikaelela go fetsa leng *regulations* tse, ka gore phane e nngwe e etla, jaaka o bona e nngwe e fetile jaana e nngwe e etla gape, gore gongwe o tle o ba neele lesedi le bone ba ba kwa phaneng?

Sa boraro, kana go na le bothata jwa gore *industry* e, *illegal immigrants* ba ba tswang kwa mafatsheng a sele bogolo jang ba bangwe *to the north*, ba tsena ka mmetela, mme ba goroga foo ba bapala bokomane. Ke a itse gore o a bo itse bokomane. Mo go rayang gore gone foo, ba tsenya *industry* e mo diphatseng. Bone bao tota la re le dira eng ka bone?

Ke utlwa o bua ka *security*, mme kana le gompiano jaana go tsweletse, mme *security* se o se buang ga seyo. Le ikaelela go dira jang go tlhomamisa gore bokomane ga bo gole gore phane *industry* e tle e tswelele pele?

MADAM SPEAKER: Bokomane ke eng *Honourable* Lucas? Ga se gore o re tlhatswetse? E nnyennyane?

MR LUCAS: *Honourable* Mohwasa o itse thata ka bokomane. Kana rona re godisitswe ka phane le *Honourable* Mohwasa. Jaanong dikgang tse re a di tlhaloganya.

E ke ya *processing*. Ke a itse gore gongwe e ke ya *Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship*. Kana go lebege o kare kwa South Africa *already* phane *is packaged* e bo e rekwa e le *packaged*. Gape phane e dira difuru tsa dikgomo ka kwa Aferika Borwa, mme rona ka kwano go lebege re ise re simolole. Ga o bone go le botlhokwa gore o *liaise* ka bofefo re ise re tswe mo Palamenteng e, gore phane e bo e kgona *to be processed and packaged*, fa e le gore ke dijo tsa dikgomo, e dire dijo tsa dikgomo mo nakong e khutshwane e e tlang, gona le go bua fela ka gore fa gongwe re na le go ipuela fela mme re se *committed*? Ke a lebege rraetsho.

MR MMOLOTSI: Gongwe ke simolole ka yone e a fetsang ka yone e. Ke dumela gore kana ke tsone ditiro tse e leng gore gompiano *the private sector* e tshwanelwa ke gore e nne le ditshono tse e leng gore *private sector* e ka di tsaya, yone ya *processing of phane, creating value chain* ya phane mo lefatsheng la Botswana. Goromente ka boene, ga a ka ke a dira jalo. Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, rona re ka rotloetsa Batswana fela gore ba ba ka bonang *opportunity on processing and packaging of phane* le go dira *stock feed* ka yone, tota *by all means*, a ba leke go dira jalo.

Ke sone se kgantele ke neng ke re, P2 200 yo, fa o bona a le kwa godimo jaana, kgang ke gone gore fa go ne go na le madirelo a a ka dirang *finished products* tsa phane mono, *the P2,200 is discouraging* gore go isiwe koo, mme go rekisiwe mono gore re tle re kgone gore re dire jalo. Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo Rre Taolo Lucas, re dumela gore Batswana *should take this opportunity*. Motho a tshwana le *Honourable* Mmusi ke batho ba dikgwebo ba ba tlhaloganyang kgwebo mo go tseneletseng, mo e leng gore fa a ne a ka e akanya nako nngwe, go ne go ka thusa lefatshe la rona mo go gaggamatsang.

Kgang ya *research*, go ne ga dirwa dipatlisiso e se tse di kalokalo. Tse di neng tsa supa gore phane ya rona tota gongwe ga e tle ka dipalo tse e leng gore di ka kgona *to sustain industry* ka lebaka la gore e tlaabo e tla gabedi mo ngwageng, mme jaanong e bo e nna yone kgang ya gore jaanong fa go ntse jalo, a mme *stock* se re se bonang se ka kgona *to support* madirelo a phane. Kakanyo nako ya teng e bo e nna gore, *maybe* re simolole phane *farming*, gore go nne *deliberate* fela go iwe kwa mafelong a e leng gore a na le maphane mme ga a na phane, go bo go ka jwalwa phane kwa mafelong ao. Ke nngwe ya dilo tse di mo dikakanyong tse e leng gore go ya kwa pele, re tlaa leka go di sekaseka mo go tseneletseng.

Ke ne ke sa re P2 200 yoo *would be charged per year*, ke ne ke re, se re akanyang gore re se baakanye mo *regulations* tse ke gone gore re bo re ka *charge* P2 200 *per season*. *Season* meaning, go na le phane ya *April*, go bo go nna le ya *December*, so go raya gore ka dinako tseo tsa *April and December*, re bo re ka dira *charge* eo. Motswakwa fela fa a tlola, *we charge*, fa a tlola re a *charge*. Motswana ra re, re tle re leke go dira *per season*. Jaaka ke bua, re bereka mo *regulations* tse, mme ke dumela gore di tlaabo di fedile *very soon for us to*

be able to implement. Ya gore ka labokae, mo nakong ya gompiano gongwe *I am not in a position to say* ka labokae.

Ke boammaruri gore batswakwa le bone gatwe ba a tsena, mme dipatlisiso di re bontsha gore bontsi jwa ba ba tlang ba a bo ba hirilwe ke Batswana, ba bo ba ba neela *permits* tsa bone ka gore rona ga re neele batswakwa *permits*. Jaanong kwa ba tshwarang phane teng, Batswana ba ba tshwarang le bone ba re, re tshwara le bone mme ba tshwere *permits*. Jaanong re lekile gore nngwe ya dikgang tse re ntseng re di buisana le batshwari ba phane mo dikgaolong, ke gone gore a e nne rona mapodise gone koo ka gore ba rona ba lephata ga ba ka ke ba bo ba le kwa mafelong ao otlhe ba leka go bona gore yo e leng motswakwa ke mang, yo e seng motswakwa ke mang.

Se se tshwenyang ke gore, batswakwa bone ba, o ya go ba fitlhela le kwa kgaolong e e leng gore tota le nna leina la yone ke lantlha ke le utlwa, o sa itse gore ba gorogile jang koo, go kgakala le kwa ga bone, mme ba fitlhelwa ba tshwara koo, o bo o bona gore ba tlisitswe ke rona re bo re ba tsenya koo. *So*, ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, ke kgang ya gore gongwe le rona re le Batswana re leke go bona gore batho ba ga re ba dirise go re tshwarela bokomane jwa rona, ka gore bokomane fa o bo tshwara, go raya gone gore phane e tlaa felela e nyeletse gotlhelele.

HUNTING CONCESSIONS

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

- (i) the years in which Hunting Concessions CT1, CT2, CT3, CT4, CT5 and CT6 were established;
- (ii) the number of companies and individuals who won the license to hunt in the mentioned concessions and to list their names;
- (iii) the amount raised in terms of BWP value to date; and
- (iv) where the lease agreements are being held and their expiry dates.

Later Date.

MODE OF TRANSPORT USED BY PUPILS

BRIG. D. MOKGWATHI (LETLHAKENG): asked the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education to apprise this Honourable House on:

- (i) the number of primary school pupils commuting on a daily basis between Maratswane and Malwelwe to Malwelwe Primary School;
- (ii) the mode of transport used by these pupils and its reliability; and
- (iii) future plans (both short and long term) for Maratswane Primary School.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education.

...Silence...

MADAM SPEAKER: O kae *Leader of the House*? Ke ntse ke bona *Honourable* Hunyepa fa, ga se gore ke ene a e filweng?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Murmurs)...

MADAM SPEAKER: *Chief Whip*, tlhola gore a Rre Hunyepa o ne a tsamaya.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Murmurs)...

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Hunyepa, go na le potso ga ke itse gore a o filwe gore o e arabe, ya *Child Welfare and Basic Education*?

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF CHILD WELFARE AND BASIC EDUCATION (MR HUNYEPA): Question number eight?

MADAM SPEAKER: Ee rra.

MR HUNYEPA: Ya ga *Honourable* Mokgwathi?

MADAM SPEAKER: Ee rra.

MR HUNYEPA: Madam Speaker, it has been redirected to the Ministry of Local Government. They communicated with the Clerk of the National Assembly, I understand.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa, a re, o a mo golega.

MR HUNYEPA: Madam Speaker, that is what I enquired *ka gore ke ile ka bona potso ya teng* in the

Order Paper. I enquired, *go bo gotwe potso e, ke ya* Ministry of Local Government because they are the ones dealing with transport issues and so on.

MADAM SPEAKER: O ne o utlwa ka mang?

MR HUNYEPA: *From the officers tsa rona kwa lephateng.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Se ke leakang go se tlhaloganya ke gore, a o ne a re ba buisantse le *Clerk*, o go bontshitse *communication? What time did they communicate?*

MR HUNYEPA: I am not sure because I took their word *fa ba re*, they communicated.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Murmurs)...

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members, Honourable Thomas Mmusi, *aa! Aa!*

MR HUNYEPA: Madam Speaker, *tota* the right thing *ke gore*, we were communicating *gore potso e, e lebagane* le Ministry of Local Government. The communication was made as such. *Ga se potso ya kwa lephateng la rona.* Thank you Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ee, mma ke riane...

...Silence...

MADAM SPEAKER: A re reetsaneng *Honourable Members*, go na le sengwe se se sa dirweng sentle. Gone jaana, *Clerk* yo o ntseng a bodiwa kwa ofising a re, “ke gone e gorogang *this time*,” bona gore ke nako mang. Ke gore go na le mathata. *Every time Minister when you redirect*, buang le mmotsi wa potso, le ene a tlhaloganye gore go diragala eng. O ka bo a sa e botsa fa le ne le dumalane le ene, le mo tlhaloseditse. Jaanong le tlaabo le rwesa *Clerkship* morwalo wa gore ke bone ba bolelele *honourable* mmotsi wa potso. *Ministry* wa gago, ke one o tshwanetseng o bone maikarabelo a gore ba bolelele *Honourable* Mokgwathi gore nnyaa, *it has been redirected*. Le bone ba le e isang kwa go bone, le bue le bone, le fa e ka tla fa, lona ka koo le bo le e tlhatswitse gore e re fa re tsena fa, re se ka ra senya nako. Jaanong ga le tsamaisa dilo sentle *Honourable Members*, a ko re ipaakanyeng. Ga go a tshwanela gore motho a boditse potso, a bo a tla go utlwa *on the floor* gore *it has been redirected*. Lona le itse gore *it has been redirected*, a sa itse.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Murmurs)...

...Silence...

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Mpho Morolong, Member of Parliament (MP) for Kgatleng Central.

MR HIKUAMA: *Point of procedure. Madam Speaker, I do not want to argue in your ruling, but go a tshwenya.* Potso e fa o e lebile, *Child Welfare* le *Local Government* ga ke bone nnetlane ya teng e le *justified* gore go ka twe e isiwa kwa. Go tswa ga bana kwa malwapeng ba ya kwa sekoleng, *Minister* wa *Child Welfare and Basic Education* a tshwanetse a arabe, go bo gotwe *Local Government*, ke bona e ya go boa gape *Madam Speaker*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ee, *Honourable* Hikuama, ka gore *I have made a ruling*, a re e letele, re tle re e bone gore e ya go dira jang. Ba reeditse le bone beng ba dikgang tsa teng, gore re se ka ra e bona gape e boile. Ke tsaya gore go a bo go rerisantswe *before redirecting*.

BANNING OF PIT BULL DOGS

MR M. M. MOROLONG (KGATLENG CENTRAL): asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture if he is not considering banning the domestic rearing of pit bull dogs due to safety concerns.

Madam Speaker, le fa ke se *Minister* wa *Agriculture*, o kopile gore potso e e tlaa arabiwa ke *Honourable* Ramogapi, mme go lebega a ise a goroge. Ke a leboga.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable Members*, re amogetse *apology* ya ga *Honourable* Dikoloti le *Honourable* Ramogapi. *Honourable* Ramogapi go lebega a ile *across the border* ka tsa tiro. *Honourable* Dikoloti gatwe o patile Tautona. Ga ba yo botlhe ba ba neng ba tshwanetse go araba. Se re ka se supang ke gore, re amogetse maipato a bone. Ke yone kgang e e boelang kwa go reng, go raya gore mmotsi wa potso, ga a itse. *Honourable Leader of the House*, ke kopa o reetse dikgang tse gore o tle o bue le bo *Minister* gore ka fa ba dirang ka teng, ga ba supe ba tlhwaafaleitse...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ... (Inaudible)...

MADAM SPEAKER: Tima *microphone* Mpho. *Issue* ke gore, ba tshwanetse go ka bo ba ipoleletse babotsi ba dipotso gore fa a sa kgona go e neela mongwe mo Ntlong go e araba, a kope gore ba e suteletse kwa. O e

neela Rre Ramogapi, le ene ga a yo, o a bona gore ga go nne sentle. Ke kopa o bue le bone re baakanye. Ke go senya nako, go fitlhela re tla go bua ka dilo tse. Ga se lantlha di buiwa, di nna fela di boelela.

MR MOHWASA: E a utlwala *Madam Speaker*, phoso e dirwa ke motho, e baakanngwa ke motho. Ke tsaya gore ba tlaa ipaakanya.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Who are you ordering?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: I am ordering the Minister.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa, nna fa fatshe re feditse ka potso ya gago *sir*.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ... (Inaudible) ...

MR LEKAU: *Point of procedure.* Ke a leboga. Mma ke simolole *Madam Speaker*, ka ba Botswana Congress Party (BCP) ba re ke a simolola. Ke re, re baakanye fela, *it will go on record* go builwe gotwe “Mpho,” o kare re go tlodisa matlho. Re baakanye fela gore *honourable*...

MADAM SPEAKER: Ee, ke *Honourable* Mpho Morolong.

MR LEKAU: Thank you very much.

DECLARATION OF LESHIBITSE AS A SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL AREA

DR U. DOW (KGATLENG WEST): asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture whether he is aware of the special and unique opportunity presented by the Motion adopted in this Honourable House which was to the effect that Leshibitse be declared a special agricultural area and the subsequent inclusion of the same in the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP); more particularly:

- (i) how he plans to operationalise the Motion;
- (ii) whether he will support Phase 2 of the Parliamentarians for Climate Finance Project – Botswana; and if so, how; and
- (iii) whether he is aware that Leshibitse has the potential to not just contribute to feeding the nation, but

also to demonstrating the use of modern and green food growth and processing technologies.

MADAM SPEAKER: *I think* ke yone ya ga *Honourable* Dikoloti, ga a yo o ile tiringing.

DR DOW: *Procedure.* Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. *Madam Speaker*, ke ntshe *point* ya gore fa *Speakership* e ka ya fela *to the* Hansard ya *the* 12th *Parliament* and 11th *Parliament*, e tlaa lemoga gore *within a year*; gompiano jaana dipotso tse e leng gore ga di a arabiwa gotwe *Minister* ga a yo, di feta tse tsotlhe *in those two Parliaments*. *Procedure* *Madam Speaker* ke gore, *this is one Government*. Fa go na le karabo, e neelwa *Minister* mongwe le mongwe, gakere e a bo e kwadilwe. *Procedure* ke gore, kwa diofising, *these answers are collected by public servants*, ba bo ba go kwalela. Letsatsi le o seyong, o neela yo mongwe. Gore *Minister* ga a yo, ga se lebaka la gore go bo go sa arabiwe. Gompiano *I got communication from the office* ya ga Rre Dikoloti *in writing* ka WhatsApp, “re kopa maitshwarelo gore re tlaabo re seyo, mme *Honourable* Ramogapi ke ene a tlaabong a araba potso.” Ke bo ke botsa gore a wa re Rre Ramogapi o tlaabo a le teng go araba potso ba re *yes in black and white*, gompiano ga a yo. Go raya gore potso e arabilwe e golo gongwe. E ka bo e filwe Matona a matlhano a a mo Palamenteng gompiano. Ke ne ke re golo mo go baakanngwe ke *the Leader of the House* le *Whip* gore dipotso di arabiwe. Ke mong wa potso a ka reng ke ne ke batla gore e boele kwa morago mme fela ba teng, a dipotso di arabiwe ka gore *public servants* ba di kwadile. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Dow o a utlwala, ke kgang e ke fetsang go e bua gore ga go gontle. Ga go lebege sentle gore gongwe le gongwe fa o bona gore o tshwaregile, neela yo mongwe gore tiro e tsamaye. Fa o nna ka yone o bo o re o tlaa tla o e dira kana o e neela yo o seng *sure* gore o teng, re boa gape re boela fa o kare ga re a tlhwaafala. Ke tsaya gore *Leader of the House* o a e utlwala, o tlaa ba kgarametsa.

BOTSWANA TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

MR L. LESEDI (SEROWE SOUTH): asked the Minister for State President, Defence and Security to state:

- (i) how much the Government pays France 24 for the evening Botswana Television (BTV) broadcast, how the television (tv) station was selected and what procurement model was followed to contract the station;
- (ii) how much Mass Media pays for foreign films vs local produced content/films on average and what procurement models are being followed for the same;
- (iii) when BTV will practise Affirmative Action and give preference to procure only local content;
- (iv) how much was paid for the Family Feud Show, why the show was not shot in Botswana and which group is benefitting from the Steve Harvey Show; and which company supplies BTV with cameras, whether the said company has any links with any BTV employees and the procurement model followed for the same.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Mohwasa, e botelele jo bo kae?

MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE AND SECURITY (MR MOHWASA): E ka arabega.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ka re e botelele bo kae ka gore fa re leba nako e re siile mme go na le dipotso tse nne beng ba tsone ba seyo fa.

MR MOHWASA: Ke ne ke ka e ngotla gore re kgone go e araba fa o dumela.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Please*, e ngotle.

MR MOHWASA: Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, tumalano e e teng fa gare ga Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) le France 24 e simolotse ka ngwaga wa 2011. E kgona go emisiwa nako nngwe le nngwe fa ba ba e tseneletseng ba batla go e emisa mme thulaganyo e e dirwa mahala. Se sengwe ke gore fa godimo ga yone go na le dithutuntsho tse di dirwang ke ba France 24 jaaka ba kgonne go ruta babereki ba le 110.

BTV ga e reke *content*, kwa ntleng ga e e leng gore ke ya metshameko jaaka Olympics, mmabontle, Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) le metshameko ya bo Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). BTV 1 le 2 di ntse di tsenya tse re neng re di filwe ke bangwe

e le dikoleke tse di tshwanang jaaka tse di tswang kwa African Union of Broadcasting, West Africa le mafatshe a Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Re okeditse go kgaoganya *content*; pele e ne e le 60:40, gompiano ke 80:20. Se ga se kgonagale ka ntata ya ditlhaelo tsa madi. Re tswela ka go reka mo gae fa re bonang madi teng.

Family Feud e dirilwe ka madi a a kana ka USD 1 533 711, e le gore e tlaabo e nna le dikarolo di le masome a mabedi le borataro. La ntlha e ne e le gore e tlaa tla e kapiwa mo gae. Fa go ya go lemogiwa gore ga gona fa e ka direlwaneng teng ka gore go ne go batlega *space* se senti, go ne ga felela go sa nne jalo. Se se teng ke gore *Season 2* le *Season 3* di tle di dirwe mo gae.

Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, se ke ka se tlhalosang ke gore batho botlhe ba e neng e le gore ke *contestants* mo *episodes* tse 26 ke Batswana. Ga gona ba e leng gore ga se Batswana. 613 Batswana; go tsentswe ba ba masome a mabedi le bongwe e le dialogane tsa Film Development Training Academy, 260 e le Batswana, 332 e le ba ba tsentseng bo *security*, *transport* le tse dingwe fela jalo.

BTV e na le *cameras* ka methale e e farologaneng. Ka ngwaga wa 2024 go ne ga dirisiwa Outside Broadcasting Cameras (OBC) tse di neng di tsisitswe ke ba Hitachi. Go bo go nna le *eight* e nngwe e e neng e tsiswa ke ba News Gathering Game Coders. Ga gona mmereki ope wa BTV yo o neng a boelwa mo go tse. Fa go na le yo o itseng mongwe wa mmereki wa BTV yo go neng go na le dipoelo tse a di dirileng o ka tsisa *information* e e ntseng jalo, gongwe e ka re thusa gore re ka tla mo moding wa kgang e. Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente.

Potso jaaka ke ne ke tlhalositse, le ene mmotsi jaaka a ne a tlhalositse e telele. Ke ne ke re ke e kgaole, karabo o tlaa tla a e bona fa a sa e kgotsofalele.

MR LESEDI: *Supplementary*. Ke boammaaruri *Madam Speaker*, tota jaaka ke ne ke re e telele, ke ne ke ka bo ke dira ditatediso jaanong ga e a arabiwa. Ke gone mo ke neng ke dumela gore ga go tle go nna *fair* gore re bo re e shankodisa ka tsela e re e shankodisitseng ka yone. Ke tlaa kopa gore a tle a mphe karabo eo ke tle ke e bone le fa ke sena go e latedisa.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Disho, Member of Parliament, Okavango East.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke tlaa mo e tseela *Honourable Speaker*.

TRANSPORT PERMIT REGULATIONS IN KGATLENG EAST

MR M. M. PULE (KGATLENG EAST): asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure to state what interim measures the ministry intends to implement to assist passengers and support taxi drivers while awaiting road rehabilitation given that some taxi drivers cannot drop access some roads and drop off passengers nearer to their homes due to poor road conditions in Kgatleng East; and to further state:

- (i) whether there are plans to adjust taxi permit regulations or service guidelines to reflect these challenges and ensure safe, convenient access for users; and
- (ii) when taxi routes will be increased within these villages to cater for population growth and village expansions.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (MR SALAKAE): *Ke a leboga Madam Speaker. I apologise for go goroga thari, I was held up by issues beyond my control.*

Madam Speaker, my ministry is aware of the conditions of our national roads, including internal roads in the villages of Kgatleng East Constituency and the fiscal challenges that the country is experiencing. It is also public knowledge that our roads require major rehabilitation. However, we are limited by budgetary constraints. While still awaiting the road rehabilitation as the Honourable Member correctly points out, we appeal that there be greater collaboration exercise between taxi operators and the Government in order to bring better services to our people.

- (i) Madam Speaker, there are major reforms underway to address the challenges of taxi operators and those of the transport sector in general. While my ministry acknowledges the importance of safety and convenience of passengers, I wish to share with this Honourable House that the transport

permit regulations are meant to regulate and guide the broader road transport operations, including taxi service.

- (ii) Madam Speaker, taxis are not allocated specific routes, only combis are. In terms of the Road Transport (Permits) Act, taxis operate within the boundaries of a specific area (city/town or village). Therefore, my ministry is open for applications for taxi permits for any village.

Madam Speaker, my ministry is alive to the fact that with the growth and expansion of villages, one of the critical services needed by the public is the provision of public transport within and between villages. In order to respond to the demand for local taxi service, my ministry conducts an assessment of the availability of the services to determine the extent to which the number of taxis could be increased. Thus, my ministry encourages interested members of the public to apply for local taxi passenger permits. I thank you Madam. Speaker.

MR PULE: *Supplementary. Ke a leboga Madam Speaker. Ke leboge Tona, o arabile ka botswerere jo ke bo ratileng jaaka gale. Ke ne ke na le legotlhonyana lengwe ke le Tona and maybe you should understand why I am asking that question because fa o ka lebelela botlhoko jo re bonang bommaarona le borraarona ba ba tona ba bo utlwanng ka mabaka a ditsela tse di mo motseng o ka futsafala. O fitlhela e le gore mosadimogolo o batla go ya kokelwaneng kana a batla to board taxi mme gongwe o feta a bewa mo sekonetereng and will walk another 500 metres (m) to reach the clinic mo metseng yotlhe ya rona ka go farologana. A tota go ne go sa tla nako Tona ya gore o bue le Honourable Motshegwa gore a release madi a Constituency Community Project (CCP) gore e re fa o santse o ipaakanya kwa Ministry wa gago wa Transport re bo re ka dira ditsela ka gore re ntse re di dira ka madi a CCP? Go eme tuutuu! for the past two years, no project is moving. A ga o bone gore nako e tsile ya gore o nne le dialogue le Tona Motshegwa gore a ntshe madi re tle re tswelile re lebelele ditsela tse ka fa di ntseng ka teng?*

Tona, fa o ka lebelela motse o o tshwanang le...

MADAM SPEAKER: Botsa potso *Honourable Mabuse Pule.*

MR PULE: Ee, ke a botsa, ga ke itse gore a o a itse gore motse o o tshwanang le Oodi ka fa o ntseng ka teng today, it is a peri-urban village? It is very disastrous kwa Oodi fa o bo o lebelela the transport services tse di le teng ka gore bo taxi men ba a complain gore kana they really want to help people mme jaaka o bua problem ke ditsela. Ke a leboga.

MR SALAKAE: Thank you Madam Speaker. Thank you Honourable MP. Le nna ke tlhomamise gore potso ya gago e lebane e bile e tletse tirisano-mmogo e ke e itseng fa gare ga me le wena. Ke supe fa gore jaanong o a bo o batla go nkgolega e re Tona a le teng fela o tshwanetse gore o mo lebaganye potso eo bo o re ke go boletse. Ke tseela gore ka ga a yo, ke tlaa dira jalo. Ke kope fela gore tsamaiso ke gore tsenya potso tlhe o mmotse, le rona gongwe we might benefit from the response that he might give. Ke a leboga Madam Speaker.

MR MOROLONG: Supplementary. Le fa go buiwa ka permits, ke ne ke re gongwe Minister a ga o tshwaraganye kgang e le ya gore o approach lekgotla la ditsheko mabapi le kgang e ya tsela ya Modipane-Mabalane gore tota ba go fe thata ya gore bogolo o baakanyetse batho kwa Dikwididi? Batho ba a sokola kwa Dikwididi. Ke ne ke re o ye go kopa lekgotla gore le relax muscle wa lone mo go reng a go ka se ke ga twe sepe ka tsela eo gore go baakanngwe gore batho ba kgone ba tlolele ka fa le ka fa. Tanki.

MR SALAKAE: Thank you Madam Speaker. Ke utlwa matshwenyego a ga motlotlegi. Lekgotla fa le setse le ntshitse judgement ya gore ope a se ka a atumela dikgang tse di amanang le tsela ya Mabalane le Modipane, gongwe sengwe se ke ka se dirang se ke ka se go solofetsang ke gore ke buisane le Tona yo o lebaneng wa Madi gore ga re ka ke ra bona sengwenyana ra dira tselanyana e e itiketsang re santse re lebile kwa lekgotleng gore le re fe karabo ya kgang e e leng gore e isitswe ke boradikonteraka ka bobedi. Ke kopane le Dikgosi, ke tswetse ke bua le Mopalamente. Kgang e le nna e a ntshwenya ya go bona gore tota re dire jang ka batho ba Dikwididi le Mabalane. Ga ba bogisiwe thata ke lephata le ke leng mo go lone, mathata ke gore kgang e e amang tsela ya bone e kwa makgotleng a ditsheko. I will take advice comrade mo go se o se buang. Ke tlaa leka go botsa bomaitseanape gore is that possible.

Thank you very much.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members, ya dipotso e tšhaile, let us go to Government Bills.

MR NKAWANA: Procedure. Ke a leboga Madam Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Murmurs)...

MADAM SPEAKER: A re reetsaneng Honourable Members.

MR NKAWANA: Kana maloba go ne go na le potso e e neng e lebagane le Honourable Salakae ke e boditse mme go lebeba o ne wa ntsha ruling ya gore a tle ka karabo. Ke potso e e amanang le Railways. Fa ke kopana le ene kwa ntle Madam Speaker, o lebeba e le gore he is out of the hook, ga go ka ke ga tlhola go diragala sepe, o nthuse gore a tle a kgone go araba potso e ya maloba a sa e arabe. Le wena o ne o dumalana le nna gore o tshwanetse gore a e arabe. Ke a leboga.

MADAM SPEAKER: Go lebeba a timetse fa ke leba matlho jaana, ga a itse gore o bua ka ga eng. Ke ya leng o e mmolelele?

MR NKAWANA: Ke a leboga Madam Speaker. O a gakologelwa, ke e e amanang le Railways. Ke lebetse gore ke question number mang mme re ne re bua maloba kwa...

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Salakae, ga se gore le tle le botsane sentle o tle o tsise karabo? Ke a gakologelwa gore ke ne ka rialo gore o tsise karabo. A ko le gakololane, o tsise karabo sentle le fetse kgang.

MR MOALOSI: Procedure. Ke a leboga Madam Speaker. Go ne go na le dipotso tsa Ministry of Agriculture mme o ne wa bua gore Tona Ramogapi o ntshitse apology a re ga a yo mo Botswana. Ga ke itse gore a ke bona moriti wa gagwe kana ke eng. Gongwe ba nne ba go bolelela nnete Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa, jaanong e tšhaile.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: E tšhaile, re kopa go tsena mo Government Bills.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nnyaa, ke ne ke re *point of order*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa, ga go na *point of order Honourable Ramogapi*. A ko le reetseng, re na le *Government Bills* di le *four* tse re tshwanetseng to deal with. A ko le leseng go tshamekisa nako.

First Readings

PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS

The following Bills were presented and read a first time.

INCOME TAX BILL, 2025 (NO. 36 OF 2025)

(Minister of Finance)

Second Reading - **Later Today**.

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 (NO. 37 OF 2025)

(Minister of Finance)

Second Reading - **Later Today**.

TAX ADMINISTRATION BILL, 2025 (NO. 38 OF 2025)

(Minister of Finance)

Second Reading - **Later Today**.

VALUE ADDED TAX BILL, 2025 (NO. 39 OF 2025)

(Minister of Finance)

Second Reading - **Later Today**.

MADAM SPEAKER: I understand Honourable Minister of Finance has a Motion to move regarding rearrangement of the Bills.

BUSINESS MOTION

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE): Thank you Madam Speaker. I beg to move in terms of Standing Order 30.2, a variation to the order of public business as it presently stands on today's Order Paper. In particular Madam Speaker, I propose that this Honourable House disposes of first the Tax

Administration Bill, 2025 (No. 38 of 2025) and all its stages followed by the Income Tax Bill, 2025 (No. 36 of 2025), then the Value Added Tax Bill, 2025 (No. 39 of 2025) and finally the Customs (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (No. 37 of 2025) in that order. I move accordingly Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the question is that the Motion be agreed to.

MR SALESHANDO: *Maybe before we vote Madam Speaker, I know this has not been an issue in the 13th Parliament, but it certainly has been in previous Parliaments.* Kana bothata jo bo teng ke gore fa re neetswe Order Paper, bona gore re sale re e tsere *last week Thursday*, re ipaakanyetsa *Tuesday*. O di lebelela ka fa di tlhomaganeng ka teng, o bo o ithulaganya le wena gore go raya gore gompiano tota re ya go lebagana le Income Tax Bill. *So*, fa e re nako e go bo gotwe a re fetole re ise e nngwe kwa godimo, *in future Ministers*, ke kopa gore le nne le bua le Palamente, *notice* e tswa nako e le teng. *It is going to compromise the quality of the debate* ka gore jaanong go raya gore go tsena e e leng gore re ne re sa akanye gore e tlaa tsena gompiano. *I know strictly speaking, we should get ready for everything that is on the Order Paper, but in real, in fairness*, re le Mapalamente fa re ipaakanya, re a bo re kaediwa ke ka fa di tlhomaganeng ka teng. *I am not opposed, but I would like to appeal* gore in future notify us in good time gore re ipaakanyetse *debate* nako e le teng. Ke a leboga.

Question put and **agreed to**.

BILL

TAX ADMINISTRATION BILL, 2025 (NO. 38 OF 2025)

Second Reading

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Members! Honourable Minister to present.

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE): Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, before I start, I need to acknowledge what the Leader of the Opposition (LOO) has just said, which is correct and I apologise. The only consolation is that the Tax Administration Act strictly speaking, paves a way for

everything else. I completely acknowledge our mistake at the Ministry of Finance. I embrace the mistake and I take responsibility for the mistake and I apologise. I blame myself.

As I had previously indicated Madam Speaker, it is a great pleasure to present to the Honourable House, the culmination of a decade-long effort to holistically review the Income Tax Act and the Value Added Tax Act, an undertaking that has also resulted in the drafting of a new piece of legislation, the Tax Administration Bill.

The Tax Administration Bill published in the Government Gazette of the 15th December 2025 as Bill No. 38 of 2025, seeks to harmonise, modernise and consolidate the administrative provisions drawn from both the Income Tax Act and the Value Added Tax.

Before I continue, maybe a little bit of context Madam Speaker, the context is that the legislated proposals before this Honourable House namely the Customs Bill, Income Tax Bill, Value Added Tax Bill and Tax Administration Tax Bills are not isolated measures. They form part of the deliberate coordinated and multi-year transformation of Botswana's Tax system, firmly anchored in the broader fiscal strategy as outlined in both the 2025 and 2026 budget speeches.

At the heart of the programme lies a National True North. A high-income Botswana that is digitally enabled, export driven, economically diversified where every citizen is employed, empowered and fulfilled. This vision calls for more than policy. It calls for a shared belief in what we can become together and a renewed commitment to the values that have already defined us as people. For many years, our development has been supported by mineral revenues, that model has served us well, but it has now reached its limit, as imprecise during the recent Tax Pitso. The next phase of our national journey requires that we increasingly finance our own development deliberately, fairly so and sustainably. This is not a matter of choice, it is a necessity if we are to secure the future that we seek as a country.

Madam Speaker, we must also confront a simple but important reality, Botswana's tax to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio currently stands at approximately 13.4 per cent, which remains below both our potential

and the levels observed in comparable economies. This is not merely a statistic, it reflects untapped potential of our national capacity. Our ambition must therefore be clear to steadily and increasingly increase this ratio to 25 per cent of GDP over the next four years. This is a bold but necessary aspiration. If we are to build a modern resilient and inclusive economy, capable of financing its own future.

Importantly Madam Speaker, this will not be achieved by playing heavier burden on the compliant few, rather it will be achieved by expanding participation, improving compliance, closing gaps inefficiency and building a system that is fair, inclusive and trusted by all.

Madam Speaker, allow me to state this clearly, the philosophy of this Government is not to build prosperity through ever increasing tax burdens, rather is to build a smarter, simpler and more efficient system; one that leverages technology, one that reduces complexity, one that broadens participation and makes it easier for every citizen and every business to comply. We are convinced that we can strengthen our revenue base through efficiency, inclusion and innovation. This is a shared national responsibility; one that calls on all of us, Government and citizens alike to play our part in building the Botswana we seek.

We recognise that too many of our people, particularly small businesses, informal traders and ordinary citizens are actually willing to contribute to national building yet too often excluded by the complexity and administrative barriers. These reforms are therefore designed to bring them into the system through simplicity, accessibility and fairness, not through burden but through opportunity.

Madam Speaker, this reform process has also been shaped by consultation through the Tax Pitso and other broader engagements. Botswana made it clear that they want a system that is fair, transparent and responsive and one-way contributions translate into visible improvement in their lives. This multiyear transformation of Botswana's Tax System reflects that collective voice. Madam Speaker, that is the context.

Returning to the Tax Administration Bill, the introduction of the Tax Administration Bill Madam Speaker, is expected to enhance the ease of doing business by reducing taxpayer compliance time and eliminating

duplication in the filing of tax returns and payment of taxes. Madam Speaker, allow me to highlight the main issues intended to be introduced by the Bill, that is its salient features.

Madam Speaker, to enhance user-friendliness, the Bill introduces definitions for new concepts recently incorporated into our tax system, including the Electronic Billing System. The Electronic Billing System will be used by Value Added Tax (VAT) registered persons for recording and transmitting sales and related transaction data.

Madam Speaker, the Bill provides for the registration of taxpayers and is structured into three divisions. The registration requirements apply uniformly across all tax types. In addition, the Bill establishes general rules for record-keeping, requiring taxpayers to maintain records in Botswana, to ensure accessibility to audits or investigations. These records must be preserved for a period of eight years.

Regarding the filing of tax returns Madam Speaker, the obligation to file will remain in the respective legislation, either the Income Tax Act or the Value Added Tax Act depending on the tax to which the return relates. The Bill sets out general rules on approved forms and enables electronic filing, which will be governed by overarching regulations. It also provides for the filing of advanced returns in special circumstances, such as when a taxpayer permanently leaves Botswana or in the event of a taxpayer's death.

Further Madam Speaker, the Bill provides for the various types of tax assessments, including self-assessments, estimated assessments issued when a taxpayer fails to file a return, advanced assessments and amended assessments. The Bill also recognises the role of registered tax agents, who may assist taxpayers in preparing their self-assessments. A taxpayer may only self-amend a self-assessment to increase their tax liability. In all other circumstances, the taxpayer must apply to the Commissioner General for an amendment to the self-assessment.

The Tax Administration Bill Madam Speaker, provides for three categories of decisions by the Commissioner General: tax decisions, appealable decisions and decisions that may be challenged under normal Judicial

review principles such as those involving distress proceedings or seizure of goods, where a taxpayer may seek an injunction. The Bill further establishes a legal requirement for the Commissioner General to provide reasons for any decision made. Importantly, the time limit for challenging a decision does not begin until those reasons have been communicated to the taxpayer.

The Bill also sets out provisions for objections and appeals Madam Speaker. These provisions clarify the procedures for lodging objections and pursuing appeals, thereby ensuring to timely resolution of tax matters. The Bill further outlines the requirement for taxpayers to pay one-third of the disputed tax, when submitting an objection to an assessment. The Commissioner General is obligated to issue an objection decision that includes findings of fact and the reasons for that decision.

Importantly, if an objection decision is not issued within six months, the taxpayer may deem the objection to have been disallowed and proceed to appeal the matter before the Tax Tribunal. Under the current law, there is no time limit for issuing objection decisions, resulting in some taxpayers waiting for extended periods before being able to take the next steps. The Bill therefore introduces the much-needed certainty and efficiency into the objections and appeals process.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also provides for the collection and recovery of tax, with this part divided into three divisions; payment of tax, late-payment interest and recovery of unpaid tax. In relation to late-payment interest, the Bill seeks to compensate Government for the loss of funds resulting from delayed tax payments. This interest will be imposed at market-based interest rates, calculated on a simple-interest basis. Late-payment interest is separate from the late-payment penalty, which serves as a sanction for the taxpayer's non-compliance in failing to pay tax when due.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also streamlines the process for the making of refunds to taxpayers who have excess refundable tax credits for a tax period. This ensures that refunds of excess tax credits are made on a timely basis. A separate process is provided for refunds of overpaid tax arising in other circumstances. The part also provides for the release of tax liabilities in the case of hardship, write-off of bad tax debts in the financial accounts of the Revenue Service.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also includes provisions on information collection, covering investigative and enforcement powers such as access to premises and inspection of records. Under these provisions, the Commissioner General is empowered to seize data-storage devices capturing a wide range of technologies beyond traditional computers to facilitate investigations. The Bill further authorises joint audits covering both customs duties and domestic taxes. Additionally, this Part provides for the issuance of tax clearance certificates, specifies the duration for which such certificates remain valid and allows for their revocation where a taxpayer is not substantially compliant with tax laws or defaults on agreed payment arrangements.

Madam Speaker, the Bill provides for the standardisation of rulings in line with international best practice by categorising them into public and private rulings. This allows taxpayers to understand the Commissioner General's position in areas of uncertainty before preparing their self-assessments. In addition, the Bill introduces a fee for applications in which a taxpayer seeks the Commissioner General's opinion on the interpretation of the law as it applies to a transaction already entered into or proposed.

Madam Speaker, still in this Bill, a special regime is introduced. A regime for notices as well as rules on when documents are treated as filed and these include rules concerning the service of notices and rectification of mistakes in forms. All documents to be filed should be in the approved form otherwise the document is not regarded as properly filed. Under this regime, there is a mechanism for identifying the approved form and for the Commissioner General to have a discretion to accept a form even though it is not fully in the approved form. There is also provision for an electronic tax system as a means of communicating regarding for filing documents or making payments. The Commissioner General has discretion to extend the period for filing and paying tax for taxpayers generally.

Also noteworthy Madam Speaker, is that the Bill also seeks to establish a Tax Tribunal, which will hear appeals from taxpayers who are aggrieved by decisions of the Commissioner General. Under the current tax framework, this function is performed by the Board of

Adjudicators, whose secretariat is housed within the Ministry of Finance, thereby limiting its institutional independence. The Tax Tribunal's mandate will also extend to hearing appeals on customs matters. To strengthen its independence and effectiveness, the Chairperson of the Tribunal will serve on a full-time basis. This is expected to promote impartial decision-making, expedite the hearing of appeals, and help attract and retain the requisite expertise through competitive, market-aligned remuneration.

The Bill Madam Speaker, also requires individuals and entities wishing to operate as tax agents to register with the Commissioner General. This measure ensures that taxpayers receive services from persons of good standing and is expected to enhance overall tax compliance, thereby improving revenue collection. Registration as a tax agent will be valid for three years and will be subject to renewal.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also addresses administrative penalties and tax offences. For example, any person who obstructs a tax officer in the performance of duties under the tax laws will be liable to a fine not exceeding P10,000 or to imprisonment for a term of up to two years, or to both. In addition, any tax officer who solicits or accepts any payment or reward whether financial or otherwise that they are not lawfully entitled to receive will be liable to a fine not exceeding P25,000 or to imprisonment for a term of up to five years, or to both.

Madam Speaker, I therefore move that the Tax Administration Bill, 2025 (No 38 of 2025) be read for the second time. I Thank you Madam Speaker.

MR SALESHANDO (MAUN NORTH): Ke a go leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo. *Let me point out fela kwa ntlheng gore I support the Bill, but I always want to be clear ka gore kana ka fa phathing e e busang ke ngwao to support o bo o opa diatla go fitlhela o nna fa fatshe. Ke buile mo nakong e e fetileng gore ke farologana le mafoko a a kileng a buiwa ke Rre Motsamai fa, ka fa a go tshephang ka teng, gore le fa o ka mo raya wa re botshelo jwa gago bo ka nna botoka fa o ka itatlhela mo sedibeng, a re o ka itatlhela. Nna ga ke wele foo, ke nna ke lebelela gore, a mme le fa ke dumalana le ka tshepho, a go na le fa ke ka ntshang kgakololo teng. Ke dumela gore...as I said, go oketsa the tax to a percentage e o e buang ya GDP, I think it is the right thing to do.*

Go rotloetsa Batswana, go ba ruta ka botlhokwa jwa go duela lekgetho, le go ba direla tiro motlhofo mo go dueleng lekgetho, ke dilo tse ke di emang nokeng. Ga ke batle kamoso re fitlhela re agile tšhaba e e reng e sa kgetha e bo e ikgantsha ka go sa kgetha, e bua bo gore le fa le ka tsaya se le se tsayang mo go nna ka gore ga ke a duela lekgetho ke tlaa boa ke ya *to swipe*, ke reka e nngwe. Ga re ka ke ra aga tšhaba ya mofuta oo.

Mr Vice President, sengwe se mafatshe a le mantsi a se dirisang ka lekgetho ke go kgonang dilo tse pedi. *Number one*; ke sengwe se o kgonang go se dirisa go itebaganya le kgang ya dipharologanyo, *levels of inequality*. *Number two*; ke sengwe gape se o kgonang go se dirisa go fokotsa lehuma. *Articles from World Bank sites* di tlaa go bontsha gore golo mo go palela mafatshe a Africa. Mafatshe a a kwa ntle ga Africa ba lebega ba kgonang go dirisa *the fiscal policy to address inequality and poverty*. *There are studies* tse di supang gore mo Africa go le gantsi *level of inequality if you compare it, before taxes and transfer, it is higher than the levels of inequality before taxes and transfers*. Se se raya gore, mo Africa go le gantsi o fitlhela e le gore makgetho a kgonang go oketsa pharologanyo fa gare ga ba ba nang le itsholelo e e botoka le ba ba senang itsholelo e e botoka. Botswana mo bogompionong, *we are in the Top 10* ka seelo sa dipharologanyo, *we are number nine* fa o ya ka *the gini coefficient*, gore ke kae kwa go nang le dipharologanyo tse di tona go feta ba bangwe. Ga ke tseye gore o ka itumelela gore *in the five years* e o tlaabong o filwe go tsamaisa tsa itsholelo ya rona mo Botswana, e ne e le gore re ya go fitlhela e le gore pharologanyo fa gare ga ba ba nang le itsholelo le ba ba senang itsholelo e oketsegile. Gompiono *like I say, we are number nine and I hope it is something* se o nngang o tshwenyega ka sone, o ipotsa ka melao yotlhe ya rona ya makgetho gore, ke eng se se ka dirwang go tokafatsa seemo.

I support fully issues around improving efficiency, kana go tokafatsa ka fa re phuthang makgetho ka teng, ka gore re ka phutha go oketsegile. Mafatshe a mangwe a kgonne go phutha go oketsegile fela ka go tokafatsa tsamaiso, le fa ba sa oketse bokete ja lekgetho. Ke na le dingwe tse ke batlang go di tlhagisa, ka gore go le gantsi fa mafatshe a le mo seemong se Botswana a leng mo go sone re akanya fela gore, a e re re lebelela makgetho re bone gore re ka oketsa jang. *There are certain*

categories mo Botswana tse e leng gore fa go okediwa, re tshwanetse re di lebelele. Botswana *in addition to having high levels of inequality*, dipharologanyo le lehuma tse di kwa godimo, re na gape le letlhoko la ditiro le le kwa godimo, kana go raya gore ba ba berekang ba rwele morwalo wa go tlhokomela masika a bone a a sa berekeng. *Before tax* batho ba ba rweleng morwalo wa go tlhokomela batsadi ba bone, bomonnaabone, ditlogolo tse di tlhokafaletsweng ke batsadi, fa re ka nna re sa lebelele gore bone ba gantsi go dirisiwang lefoko la bo *“the middle class”* re dira jang gore re se ka ra ba okeletsa bokete jwa botshelo. Ka gore gompiono fa o lebelela, kwa ntle fela ga *tax*, fa o lebelela ka fa ditlhwatlhwa tsa leokwane di pagamang ka teng, kana ka fa di setseng di pagame ka teng, le gore fa di pagama, go raya gore ditlhwatlhwa tsa dijo di ya go pagama. Re setse re bua ka go ya go oketsa motlakase, fa o bua gape o re, *let us say for argument sake*, o oketsa lekgetho le le duelwang ke dikgwebo, go le gantsi dikgwebo di na le kwa di ka sielang teng gore ba fetisetse lekgetho le *to the consumer, and working class* yo ke neng ke bua ka ene. *I think we need to be very clear and careful* gore ga re fitlbele re imeditse ba ba setseng ba tshwere bokete.

Cost of living, bokete jwa go tura ga botshelo go setse go le kwa godimo mo lefatsheng la Botswana. *This weekend* kwa Maun mongwe le mongwe o a itse gore *normally during Easter*, Maun *is buzzing with activity*, go a tlaa, e bile noka e na le metsi jaana, go na le *water activities*, go a tlaa, *but this time* o ne o kgonang go bona ka fa go didimetseng ka teng gore batho ba paletswa ke go etela Maun ka gore go turu, botshelo bo turu gore batho ba ka dikologa ba batla go ya kwa ba eleditseng teng mo nakong ya gompiono. Ke kgakololo gore a re ele dilo tse tlhoko.

Jaaka ke etle ke bue, tota kana *fiscal consolidation* ke itse gape gore e raya gore go fokotswe ditshenyegelo. *I want to repeat this Mr Vice President*, Batswana ba ka itumelela go duela lekgetho gape fa ba bona gore madi a bone a dirisiwa sentle. Mopalamente Motsamai o nna a gatelela kgang ya gore nnyaa kana gompiono go ntshitswe taelo ya gore re le Matona e bile ga re tsamae le bakwaledi, motho o ka tsaya gore go boammaaruri. Gakere ke rona re amogelang Matona, *I can tell you* gore ba ba yang Maun; *even as recently as the last seven days*, Matona ba tsamaya le bakwaledi ba bone. O kopana le Tona kwa *airport*, koloi e ntsho e kgweeditswe

ke mokgweetsi a tlile go mo tsaya kwa Maun, a bo a mo isa fa *hotel*, a bo a mo ntsha fa *hotel* a mo isa *meeting*, a bo a mmusetsa fa *hotel*, a bo a mo isa *airport*, a bo a kgweetsa a boela Gaborone Tona a le mo sefofaneng. Ga le itshware jaaka batho ba bona gore paka e fetogile ka fa go dirisiwang madi ka teng.

Batswana gompiano fa ba le bona le dira jalo, ba a ipotsa gore a re kgethela gone mo. Gakere mokgweetsi le ene fa a ile kwa, o duelelwa boroko le dijo. Tona o na le *option* ya gore a bue le molaodi kwa Maun gore ke a goroga, ke kopa le nthuse ka *transport*. *That can be done, but Matona prefer* gore *no, no*, e seng koloi ya kwa Maun, ke batla ya me e e mo Gaborone e tswe, e kgweediwe e ye kwa, fa ke fologa sefofane, ke e fitlhele. *That cannot be right. I really do not see any sense of urgency in cutting Government expenditure.*

Digitalisation, and this may be my last point because of time. I still agree and support digitalisation, making it easy go dirisa maranyane. *Let us be mindful*, o se ka wa lebala gore mafelo a mangwe fa o le kwa go one, go dirisa maranyane ke kgwetlho. Nngwe ya dikgaolo tse ke e ke e emetseng, nako le nako fa gotwe *virtual meeting*, ke a itse gore fa ke le kwa Maun ke ya go nna le mathata. Kana mme kgaolo ga se Maun fela, e akaretsa metse e mentsi e e dikologileng Maun, e e leng gore jaanong fa o tswela kwa ntle ga Maun, e nna kgwetlho e tona le go feta. *I know* gore *Honourable* Tshere le fa a seyo gompiano, go le gantsi o bua ka fa seemo se tokafetseng ka teng. *Not in some of our constituencies, we struggle with connectivity*. A re se ka ra fitlhela re dirile molao o e leng gore re tlhfofaletsa ba ba nnang mo Botswaneng yo o tlabologileng ka tsa maranyane re seegetse kwa ntle ba bangwe ba e leng gore ga ba na *technology* e e *accessible* jaaka mo mafelong a mangwe.

As I said, I wanted to just limit myself to the generalities that, yes, I support the Tax Admin Bill. I think the reforms are by and large progressive, mme jaaka ke bua, the biggest measure for me is that Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) a e tlaa kgona go dirisa lekgetho go fokotsa dipharologanyo le lehuma le le teng mo lefatsheng la Botswana. Ke a leboga.

MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR RAMOGAPI): Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ke ema fa go ema nokeng Tona wa Madi, e bile e le Motshwarelela Tautona mo letsatsing

la gompiano. Ke re bagaetsho, tota lekgetho le kana go baakanya melao e ya makgetho, ke selo se re ka bong re sa bolo go se dira bogologolo. Ke selo se e leng gore fa o ka lebelela fela sentle, e rile go boneng gongwe nako e re neng re bona diteemane di santse di dira sentle, ra bona gore nnyaa madi a santse a le mantsi, letseno le santse le le teng, ga go tlhokafale gore re baakanye dilo dingwe. Mo bogompionong jaana, re a patelesega re le Batswana, re le lefatshe, go bona gore re tshwanelwa ke gore re baakanye melao e e itebaganye le tsamaiso ya segompiano. Melao e ya rona e tlaa re thusa fela thata go bona gore re tlaa nna le letseno le le siameng. Melao e e ya go re thusa gore letseno le le siameng le re ya go le dira le sa kokonele Motswana, le sa kokonele *middle class*, e le gore ke lekgetho le e leng gore nnyaa fa o le lebeletse ka kakaretso, re bua ka gore pele ga re ka okeletsa Motswana lekgetho, pele ga re ka bolaya Motswana mo lekgethong, a rona re bone gore mme *we collect*, a rona re bone gore gone mo go re tshwanetseng, le rona ba re tshwanetseng gore re kgethe, re neela Kaisara se se mo tshwanetseng. Ga re tseye gore fa re duela lekgetho re tlaabo re jewa. Ke yone kgang e tona e e leng gore Tona o tla ka yone, gore gone fela mo e leng gore tota re tshwanelwa ke gore re go tseye, a re boneng gore melao e nna teng e siame gore re tseye lekgetho leo.

Jaaka re tlaabo re itebaganya le gore nnyaa tota fa e le gore wena o le Motswana kana o le mogwebi fa gotwe nnyaa tlisa lekgetho, o simolola o ngakalala, ke gore molao jaanong gone foo re o gagamatse, re re nnyaa o tshwanelwa ke gore o neele Kaisara se se mo tshwanetseng, gore ditlhabololo di tle di nne teng. Ke yone kgang ya rona e tona.

Bagaetsho, re tshwanetswe ke gore boammaaruri jone le fa re bua jaana, re bo bue. Matona a Puso ya rona ba rotlhe jaaka le nna ke tla ke tswa kwa South Africa jaana, ke tsamaya ke le nosi fela ke sena ene yo gotweng ke mokwaledi wa me, e le gore ke tshwetso e e leng gore ga re a e patelediwa. Go dule mo go rona re re bagaetsho seemo sa itsholelo ga se letle, a ga re re fokotse ditshenyegelo. Ke tsamaya ke le nosi, ke itshwarela beke, ke a ikwalela, ke dira sengwe le sengwe. Jaanong se re tshwanelwa ke gore re leboge Matona ka fa ba lekang go fokotsa ditshenyegelo ka teng.

Mo ga se gone fela, fa re tsamaya mesepele e mengwe jaaka maloba Matona ba ne ba tsamaya Tautona a ne a

ya go apesiwa purapura ya bo *Doctor* kwa Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), selo sa ntlha ga ba a tsamaya le *secretaries* le ka dikoloi tsa bone di tlhomaganye jaaka batho ba etle ba bue ba re, ba nne ba dirisa *transport* e le nngwefela. Tse tsotlhe tse, di supa gore Matona ba a tlhwaafetse, ba leka go fokotsa ditshenyegelo tse di ka tswang di le teng. Bagaetsho, go fokotsa ditshenyegelo ke ga mongwe le mongwe, gore a re ipofeng ka lebante, itsholelo e fetogile. Go dira jalo, re a bo re ipeela. Re tla ka metlhale e e farologanyeng gore bagaetsho...

MINISTER OF CHILD WELFARE AND BASIC EDUCATION (MS KGAFELA-MOKOKA):

Elucidation. Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*. *Honourable* Ramogapi, o tshwere sentle kgang e ya *to cut the costs*. Ke ne ke raleitse go tswa fa go ya Ghanzi, ke dikologa Maun, Nata le Francistown, ke sena le fa e le mokwaledi a le mongwefela ka mabaka ao fela. Ke raya mo kgannyeng ya beke e e fetileng. O e tshwere sentle, re fokotsa *costs*. Ke a leboga.

MR RAMOGAPI: Tota e ntse fela jalo, fa e se gore re tlaabo re leka di sele. Tona wa tsa Madi le ene, o gagamaditse. A re, “bagaetsho, ga re batle go tsena mo ditshenyegelong tse e seng tsone.” Dikgang di tshwana le Government Purchase Order (GPO), e nne *in a centralised place*. Ke mengwe metlhale e a reng, bagaetsho, ditshenyegelo tse, ke batla re di fokotse.

Go boammaaruri, go na le dikgang tse re santseng re lwa le tsone, go bona gore re ka tsenya lekgetho fa kae, Motswana a sa kokonelwe. Sekai; Motswana kana mohumi fa a batla, o ka reka koloi e e turang. Bogologolo go ne gotwe Porsche, ga ke itse gore e ja bokae. Gatwe koloi eo, e a tura, ke ya madimadi. Fa motho a reka koloi e e turang jalo, go supa gore o itshwareletse. A lekgetho re le ise kwa go ba ba rekang *luxury cars*, gona le ba ba ithekelang mmaofit. Dikgang tseo, re di tshwere, re tsentse kwa pele. Go na le dikgang tse re reng fa motho a batla go reka *wine* e e monate, e e turang thata, a duele lekgethonyana le le kwa godimonyana. Go na le dikgang tse re reng motho o ka itirela *plate number*, a e kwadile a re, Ramogapi, a bo a okeletswa lekgethonyana ka gore go tswa mo go ene. Tshipi ya dikgomo o re, ke batla e e reng OR 5, ke gore Onneetse Ramogapi 5. Go tswa mo go wena, o bo o duela sengwenyana. *These are some of the things* tse e leng gore ga se gore re robotse, re a ne re

akanya ka tsone. Re ingwaya tlhogo ka tsone, gore tota re ka dira jang gore lefatshe le bone letseno le le botoka.

Toll gates; re ka tsenya madi ka tsone. Ga re a tshwanela go bua ka go kgetha fela, re tshwanetse re bone gore letseno la madi, re ka le tsenya jang, re sa bolaye Batswana. Dikgang tse o fitlhelang di buiwa mo Facebook gotwe go okeditswe ditlhwatlhwa ka 1000 *per cent*, nnyaa tseo Batswana ba a bo ba ipuela fela. Bagaetsho, molao o, o tlaa re thusa ka gore, ga go na gope fa o kokonelang Motswana teng. Ga go na gope fa o bolayang Motswana teng. One fela o mo go reng, a re gagamatseng, re boneng gore mo re go dirang, re go dira sentle ka fa tshwanelong. Re bona gore motho yo o kwa lelwapeng yole, mohumi le mohumanegi, ba duela sentle go sena yo o kokonelwang.

Fa re ka ela tlhoko, bahumanegi mo lefatsheng la Botswana ga ba duele lekgetho, e bile re dirile ka bomo gore ba se ka ba le duela. Sekai; gompieno jaana fa gotwe go oketswa lekgetho, gatwe o ka duela fela fa o amogela madi a a fetang P4 000, *if my memory serves me well*. Ke gone ka moo gape re reng, a Batswana bogolo ba ye go duelwa madi ale, a a kana ka P4000. O ka bona fela gore ba ba kwa tlase ba, ga re ba tshwenye gope ka makgetho. Rona ba e ka reng re tsaya mo go golwanyane, ke rona ba Puso e reng, e tlaa sela fale le fale. Ke bona mogopolo wa go baakanya molao wa makgetho gore re gagamatse molao, re bone se se botoka, o siame thata. O ya go tsenya le dikgang tsa *digitalization*, e re thuse go goga makgetho a a botoka. O ya go tsenya batho ba re ntseng re lela ka bone. Re a bona gore batho ba letso le le rileng, ga ba duele makgetho, e bile ba bangwe ga ba na *accounts*. O ya go tsena gone koo gore wa *shop* e, gantsi la re bangwe ba seAsia ga ba duele makgetho. Ba ya go tlisa makgetho ka tsela e e siameng. Go lebeletsewe molao, e bile go na le gone mo gotweng ke *self-assessment*. O nna o re, fa ke itebeletse jaana, ke tshwanetse go kgetha bokae. Ke a leboga.

MR SEGOKGO (TLOKWENG): Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Mma ke tseye fela metsotso e le merataro, ke amogele *Bill* e e buang ka makgetho, e e tlang ka Tona, e bile e le *Acting President* mo letsatsing la gompieno. Ke tlhalose jalo *Madam Speaker*, gore *it is very clear* gore for the past 10 years fa o lebelela *graph* ya *sources of revenue*, the dominance e ntse e le mo

makgethong. Fa o ka lebelela go simolola ka nako ya COVID ka 2020, go fitlha fa re leng teng, go a itshupa gore *collection* ya makgetho, ke yone e e ntseng e re tshedisa mo lefatsheng. Go botlhokwa *to exploit that component* ya itsholelo gore *we can capacitate* ka tsela e e ntseng jang, *so that we can collect more without exploiting or suppressing our principals*. Ke eng ke rialo *Madam Speaker*? Letswego le o fitlhelang le nna teng ke gore, fa gongwe bangwe ba akanya gore fa go diriwa makgetho kana a suteletswa fale, go ka nna ga felela go ama itsholelo ka tsela e e rileng, *more so that* lefatsheng le ntse le le mo mathateng a *liquidity squeeze* e re ntseng re e bona.

Fa ke tsena mo dikgannyeng tsa me, di tharo fela *Madam Speaker*, ke leboege Tona gore o kgonne go reetsa mo ngwageng o o fetileng. O kile a tlhalosa mo *Budget Speech* e e fetileng gore maikaelelo ke gore, a tlise molao o, mo ngwageng o o neng o feta wa madi. Ke mo leboege gore o tsere theetso, gore a tsamaye a ye *to consult widely* mo setšhabeng ka *the Bills* tse, pele ga re di tlisa mo Palamenteng. Golo moo, ke go leboege thata. Go a supa gore ka boammaaruri, ke Goromente yo o reetsang.

Kopo ya me fa ke bua tse di ka nnang teng *Madam Speaker*, ke eletsang gore re simolodise mo re go bitsang re re, ke *automated tax indexing*. Mo re lebelelang *the inflationary and deflationary rate* gore itsholelo e tsamaya ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Re bo re lebelela mo 12 months gore fa o lebile *graph* ya *inflation*, re a itse gore *the objective range is 3 to 6*. Ke fale le fale fa o fitlhelang e le gore *in a month or two, we go the upper or lower bound* fa gongwe kwa tlase ga 3 per cent yoo.

Go botlhokwa jaaka itsholelo ya rona e le ya *external shocks*, go na le *geopolitical tensions*, mo e leng gore *inflation* e ka nna ya felela e le gore *it shoots* fela gone foo. Re ne re bona maloba *petrol* le metlakase, di oketsega. Ke tsone dilo tse di felelang di dira gore *inflation* e ye kwa godimo. *When we introduce the automated tax indexing*, go felela go thusa Batswana ka kakaretso gore ba nne le *predictability* ya go itse gore mme fa e le gore *inflation* e tsamaya fa, re ka ya go kgethisiwa ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. E bile gape e bo e nna *across the board*, re sa e beye fela gore ke kwa *Corporate Tax, Income Tax* kana kwa VAT. Re bo re e dira *across the board* gore go itsewe gore mme fa e le

gore *inflation* e tsamaya gone fa, *expectation* ke go ya go kgethisa ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. *That is Number 1.*

Number 2; fa o lebelela *the* BETP e bua thata ka *creation of employment opportunities*, e bo e bua gore *the private sector* ke yone e e tlaabong e ya go etelela pele. *We have to capacitate even the private sector* gore e tle e kgone *to thrive and create employment opportunities* mo lefatsheng la Botswana. *Bill* nngwe le nngwe e e tlang mo Ntlong e re tshwanetse go netefatsa gore *there is confluence between the* BETP. E bile gape re sa tshose le bone babeetsi, e ka nna *the* Foreign Direct Investors (FDI) *or even the* Direct Domestic Investors (DDI) ba ba teng mo lefatsheng la Botswana.

Keletso ya me ke gore re tshwanetse *to expedite* molao wa rona wa *tax rebates* gore re dire *the scientific study* ya go lebelela gore ke dikompane di le kae. Le fa di le lesome kana di ka nna lekgolo re dira ditekeletso, re ba kopa gore re direng *tax rebates*. Ke e fa sekai; Ramogapi Investment kana Kelebeng (PTY) Ltd, fa e le gore gongwe e ntse e dira P50 million, re bo re ba raya re re jaaka ba tshwanetse go mo isa kwa Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS), re kopa gore le tsise P10 million fela, P40 million o tlhama diphatlha tsa meberekgo tsa banana ba kwa Tlokweng gongwe ba le 400. Re dira mo gotweng ke *work opportunity tax credit*, e e dirwang kwa lefatsheng la America le Australia. Fa o lebelela *the principal urgent theory*, a tshepho e ka nna kwa goreng Goromente ke ene yo re mo neelang madi a ye go tlhama diphatlha tsa meberekgo. Kana re beye fela gore ka gore *the private sector has to thrive*, re bone gore *how do we empower it*, gongwe re ba tseele mo gonnnyenyanyana. Re bo re ka kopa gore mo *millions* tse dingwe tseo, *create employment opportunities* le tseye banana ba e leng gore ga ba bereke gongwe ba ka nna 500 kana 600, le bo le ba tsenya mo tirong ya lona ka gore golo ga teng *balances twice* go tlhama *employment opportunities*, e bile gape madi a teng re ya go boa re a tsaya gone ka kwa. Kana fa ba amogela *more than* P4, 000, go raya gore *out of those* 500 ba ba tlaabong ba tsene gone moo, re ya go boa gape re ntse re tlopolo mo go bone, a boela mo letloleng la Puso.

Selo se sengwe se ke eletsang gore re tle re kgone go se dira ke go oketsa makgetho a mangwe a re iseng re kgone go a simolodisa. *To expedite* Tona go simolodisa dilo tse di tshwanang le bo *Carbon Tax*, ke gore ga go

batle re tsaya lebaka mo go tsone. Re tshwanetse go bona gore melao ya teng e goroga ka bonako, re tle re kgone go bona gore dilo tse di tshwanang le *Carbon Tax*, re ka felela re di dira ka bonako gore tle re kgone go tlatsa mo sekgwameng sa Puso.

Selo se sengwe se ke eletsang gore re se tsenye matlho thata ke diteraka *Madam Speaker*. Fa gongwe teraka e tswa kwa South Africa e bo e ralala Botswana e ya go latlhela kwa Zimbabwe kana Namibia, re bo re e bona e latlhela kwa Phakalane kana Commerce Park. A re tsholetseng dinao *in tagging* diteraka tse re di tsenye *chip* e e tlaa di latedisang (*track*) re ye go bona gore di ya go tshololela kae dithoto tse e di tsereng. *We are losing a lot of money in these trucks* tse e tlaabong e tlhalosa gore e ya kwa Zimbabwe, Namibia kana e ya kwa Angola, e bo e felela e tshololela mo lefatsheng la Botswana. Golo foo go supa gore re latlhegetswe ke madi a a seng kana ka sepe mo *collection* ya *tax*. Dilo tse ditona tse Tona a tlang ka tsone re a di amogela, *it is a step in the right direction Madam Speaker*. Re go eme nokeng ka sengwe le sengwe. Ditsholofetso di le dintsi tse re di solofeditsweng ke ba UDC, go a itshupa gore ka bonya ka bonya *on a daily basis*, di ntse di a goroga kwa re tshwanetseng teng.

These little victories tse di tshwanang le go tsisa molao o re tshwanetse *to celebrate so that* re tle re kgone go rotloetsa tse di tlang kwa morago, re tle re kgone go bona gore re ka *collect* ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Dilo tse di tshwanang le bo *point of sale taxation, digitilisation*, go oketsa gongwe le gongwe kwa re leng teng re ye go bona gore re ka phutha ka tsela e e ntseng jang.

The introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) e ka nna kwa melelwaneng, e ka nna kwa kae kwa e leng gore Motswana mongwe le mongwe *can be tracked* go itsewe gore o ka dira bokae. Ke dilo tse re di lebogelang fela thata. Re tlaa go rotloetsa thata Tona ka go fetisa molao o gore mo ngwageng o re ye go bona re phutha go le gontsintsi re oketse madi mo letsenong la Puso. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Kaizer.

MR KAIZER (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST): Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. *Madam Speaker*, le nna tla ke lebogele Tona go tsisa *the Tax Administration Bill before this Parliament*. *Historically Madam Speaker,*

the Income Tax Act and the VAT Act di supagetse fa di na le *a little bit of fragmentation* e e ntseng e tsisa *a lot of inefficiencies* mo ditirelong tsa Puso ka go farologana.

E re ntswa ke lebogela go tla ga *Bill* e *Madam Speaker*, *the Bill is not without flaws*. E na le fa o kareng ga e gate sentle teng. Ke tlaa supa dintlha di le pedi, di le tharo fela *in this Bill Madam Speaker*, tse di tlang lesokolela mo pelong ya me. Sa ntlha ke gore *the Commissioner General* go lebega o kare o neetswe dithata tse dintsi, *more especially the discretionary powers*. Ke tsaya gore re a itse le mo maphateng a mangwe a Puso a a farologanyeng gore baeteledipele ba ba nang le dithata tse di feteletseng, bogolo jang tse e leng gore *they are discretionary*, di ka feletsa di bakile ketsaetsego ya selebego se se ntseng jalo.

We all know gore *there is potential for abuse of these powers*, mme fa re mo neetse dithata tse di kanakana *without keeping him or her in check*, re ya go nna le mathata. Re ya go iphitlhela re na le lekalana le le tsamaisiwang ka mokgwa o e leng gore ga o a nna sentle. Mothusa Tautona, *why do you not define the scope of the Commissioner General so that* re itse gore tiro ya gagwe sentlesentle ke eng? A ga gona sepe se se mo letlelelang gore gotwe o ka tsaya ditshwetso ka fa ene a ka batlang ka teng, go sena ditsamaiso *that guide* ditshwetso tsa gagwe tse di tsayang letsatsi le letsatsi?

Lesokolela le lengwe la bobedi ke gore *this Bill* o kare *is all about enforcement, is not out there to protect the tax payer*, mme kana *the tax payer* ke ene re tsayang madi kwa go ene. Fa o ntse o tsamaya le *Bill* e o tlaa kgona go lemoga gore e na le *penalties* tse dintsintsi tse e leng gore *they are even overlapping*. *You file late, it is a charge*. *When you fail to file* se se lekaneng gore *you could have filed*, le gone ke ntse ke mathata. Fa e le gore re tsile go tla ka *charges* tse di kanakana *on the tax payer*, a ga se gore jaanong re a mo imetsa? Ke ne ke akanya gore e o e lebelele thata *because* kana fa re dira jaana, *we are creating a punitive tax environment* e e sa ikaelelang go leka go thusa ba ba duelang lekgetho *to comply*. E nna o kare re otlhaya batho kana dikgwebho tse di duelang lekgetho.

E nngwe e ke batlang go feta ka yone ke gore *it seems like there is a potential for human rights infringement*. Kana jaanong *the Commissioner General* o neetswe dithata tsa gore o ka gapa dithoto, *that is number 1. Number 2, o*

na le *access to premises without any judicial safeguards*. A ga se gore mo go ya go dira gore *at the end of the day* e bo lekalana le le iphitlhela le gataka ditshwanelo tsa batho? *To make matters worse, the Commissioner General can go to the extent of closing the business*. A ke sone se re se batlang sone seo? Fa e le gore jaanong o ya go tswala *business* mme ka fa o kolotiwa *tax*, wa re a tle go duela ka eng? *Why do we not implore some corrective measures* tse e leng gore *even going forward*, di tlaa kgona go dira gore *that individual* a tle a kgone go duela sekoloto seo sa lekgetho se e leng gore o na le sone? Gone fa gape re iphitlhela e le gore *the right to privacy is on the verge of being violated*. Le fa o lebelela *in terms of to act upon a warrant that has been issued by the Judiciary*, go kwa tlase. Ga ke bone gope fa e leng gore go laolela gore *Commissioner* mo go sepe se a se dirang a neelwe *warrant* pele ya gore o ka ya go tsaya dithoto tseo kana jang.

Fa o lebelela melawana e Mothusa Tautona, e baya bo rradikgwebo kana bo mmadikgwebo (*the informal sector*) ba ba botlana ka fa mosing. O ne o bua ka *eight years* wa *to file documentation*, ga ke itse gore a o raya gore le ba ba rekisang magwinya fela ba re ba itseng le bone ba tshwanetse gore ba dire jalo? Fa o bua ka *informal sector*, ke akanya gore gongwe o tle o e *clarify*, go tlhamalale gore ke bafe ba e leng gore lekgetho le le ya go ba ama? Fa o sa e tlhalose sentle e tsisa lesokolela.

Ya bofelo, *the Tax Tribunal is a very positive development*. Batho botlhe ba ba yang *to seat* kwa *this Tribunal*, ke ba ba tlhophilweng ke mang? A ga se gore batho ba ba tlhophilweng ba, go ya go felela go *jeopardise even the independence* ya *the Tribunal* fa e le gore ba tlhophiwa ke ba e leng gore ba ba eteletse pele? Ke tsaya gore ke tsone tse ke neng ke batla go bua ka tsone. Fa o ka tla wa di ntlhatswetsa, ke tsaya gore *this Bill* e tlaabo e siame. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*.

MR BOGATSU (LENTSWELETAU-LEPHEPHE): Tanki Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke re le nna ke eme ke latlhele a le mabedi a le mararo ke ema Mothusa Tautona nokeng ka ntlha e a re e beileng pele gompiano ya *Tax Administration Bill*. Gompiano ke ene Tautona *on an acting position*. Ke e *support* thata, ke mogopolo o montle. Fa o ka lebelela mo bogompionong, ga re sa tlhole re na le *luxury* ele ya bogologolo e re neng re na le madi a mantsi a a neng a tla ka diteemane e bile e ne e re fa motho a goroga mo Botswana a bo re

mmolelela *tax holiday* ya bo 10 years. *That is where we missed the opportunity*. Nako e ka bong re ne ra bona madi a mantsi ka makgetho, fa re santse re re re oka batho ka FDI, re ne re ba fa *holidays* tse dintsi tse e neng e re fa ba digela 10 years wa teng ba bo ba fuduga. Re ne ra bona dikompone tse dingwe ka bontsi di boetse *back to South Africa and Hyundai* e le *one of them*. Re ne re itse gore dikoloi tsa bo Daewoo le Leyland di ne di diriwa mo Botswana. E rile fa nako eo e wela e ba neng ba e filwe ya *tax holiday* ba bo ba fuduga ba tswa ba tsamaya. *By then*, re ne re beile mo diteemaneng tse re neng re na le tsone tse di neng di re fa madi a a seng kana ka sepe. Re ne re itse gore le tsone diteemane tseo, e ne e le makgetho, re ne re sa di *own*. *We had a small proportion* ya *ownership* ya *the diamond industry* mo Botswana. Madi a mantsi a ne a tsewa ke De Beers, rona re bo re tla re oketsa se re neng re se bona mo go bone ka lekgetho. *You will realise that* mo nakong e telele e yotlhe e e kanakana, *the main source of revenue for the Government* e ntse e le makgetho. Fa re re re a lebelela, re a bona gore makgetho a ka fa Mothusa Tautona a re bolelelang ka teng, a ne a sa *contribute* sepe *to the GDP* ka gore a ne a latlhela *only 13.4 per cent*. Gompiano keletso ke gore a re godiseng *to at least 25 per cent of the GDP*.

Se Goromente a ka se bonang, se se ka thusang *to resuscitate the economy* ya lefatshe la rona, ke se ema nokeng, segolo jang se tla ka Mothusa Tautona. Ke tlaa tshwana le Motsamai *today*, fa a ka nthaya a re golo mo ga se sediba a re tsene, ke ya go tsena le ene. Ke na le tumelo e ntsi gore yo, *this is what the doctor has ordered for the economy of this country* ka gore *for a very long time*, ba ba ntseng ba re eteletse pele, ba ne ba sa dire sepe, le nako ya ntse e wela kwa tlase. O kare ba ne ba sa kgone go lemoga gore golo fa re tsena mo mathateng a itsholelo.

Ke dumela ka botlalo gore re a tshwanela gore re le lefatshe re *finance our own development*.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR BOGATSU: Mma ke tsamayetsamaye, ke tlaa go gopola. Ke tlaa boela kwa go wena nkgonne mo metsotsong e mebedi.

Go a tlamega gore re dire jalo, re tsenye madi. Ga go na jaaka lefatshe le ka tlhabologa re beile mo go reng

gongwe re tlaa nna re ntse re bona dithuso go tswa kwa ntle kana re beile mo FDI. Re di lekile ka nako ya Puso ya ga Rre Mogae, *the former President, that was the time* e re neng re bua ka bo FDI. O ne a tsamaya lefatshe lotlhe a leka go ba kopa, a rotloetsa bagwebi gore tlang kwa Botswana, *it is a good environment for doing business* e bile ga re na maparego ape a a kalokalo *and then they came, they looked at the market, very small market of people who are very poor. For a very short time then they crossed the border into neighbouring countries.*

DR GOBOTSWANG: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker.* O tlaa intshwarela *honourable,* gongwe ke go busetse fa moragonyana. Kgang e ya gore le fa *the Vice President* fa a ka re mosima ke o a re tseneng mo teng, la re le itatlhela mo teng, kana go na le kgang ya sekoloto sa De Beers sa *7 billion* sa makgetho se e leng gore le letsatsi leno ga re ise re tlhalosetswe ke *His Honour the Vice President* gore gatweng ka *7 billion* yo re mo kolotiwang. Wa reng ka kgang eo *Honourable Member?*

MR BOGATSU: Tanki. Kana go tsena le ene mo sedibeng *is the trust that I have* mo go ene. Mme ka gore lona ka koo *you do not trust each other,* ga o ka ke wa tsena, o ka sala fa o ka tewa ke Kapinga a re tsene fa sedibeng, *you are going to refuse* ka gore o itse gore o ka go bolaya, ke a mo itse.

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

MR BOGATSU: Mme ke fete jaana, sekoloto go a tle go tualo gotwe *when you inherit the office, you inherit even the mess that you found in there. We are still doing something about the mess that we found in the office, we will address it,* gongwe ke gore o fela pelo. O fela pelo, *the solution* o tlaa go e bolelela. Se re ngaparetseng tseo tse re di fitlhelang di senyegile, sa botlhokwa ke gore le re thuse go bona gore *how do we get out of that problem,* ka gore re fitlhela go ntse jalo. E se ka ya tloga ya nna o kare molato o re o fitlhelang wa sekoloto se se kalokalo seo ke wa rona, re o fitlhela o ntse jalo, mme *we are doing something about it.* Tanki.

Ke ratile fa re bua gape gore, *we are going to increase participation. Problem* ya rona mo Botswana ka lebaka le le leele, re ntse re sa phuthe makgetho ka fa go tshwanetseng ka teng. Batho ba ne ba kgona go

falola mo go kgetheng ka fa go ntseng ka teng, *because people do not understand the importance of paying tax.* Go a tlhokafala gore le *element* ya thuto e tsene mo Batswaneng, ba tle ba tlhaloganye gore ke eng ba tshwanetse gore ba ntshe lekgetho. Lekgetho *is used for* gore rona re kgone re *finance our own developments.*

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR BOGATSU: Mongwe o a bua?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke nna.

MR BOGATSU: Ema pele ka koo, ke ntse ke go tlogetse o bua nnaka ka lebaka, le nna mma ke ngathengathe pele ke tsamaye go se kaenyana. Jaaka ke buile, go tshwanetse ga nna le *punitive measures* gore ba e leng gore *they dodge* lekgetho, ba tseelwe dikgato tse di gagametseng, ba itse gore ba tsietsa setšhaba. Eo ke e ema nokeng thata, a go tlhwaafalwe go dirwe jalo gore ba ba sa kgetheng ba tseelwe dikgato.

O buile ka gore go nne le *a smarter system of collection,* mme ke ne ke re ka re kana kwa dikgaolong tsa rona tse di kwa tennyanteng, gongwe fa re ka re re nna *more digital we might end up disadvantaging other areas* jaaka tse di tshwanang le kwa ke tswang teng tsa dikgaolo tsa me tsa Lentsweletau-Lephephe, ga re *into these things* tsa maranyane. Ke kile ka kopa fela gore a ko le re beele *office,* o tlhome *Honourable* Ramogapi lengole gore a tle a ye go bula *office,* o ganne. Ga ke itse gore Mothusa Tautona a go tlhome lengole, ka gore ke bona gore *we are losing more money due to lack of collection, that is where the problem is.* Re nna fela foo re ntse re bua gore go a tlhabela ga re na madi, mme e le gore ga go ye teng. Kana *this collection* fela jaaka o buile, *it is going to translate into the improvement* tsa matshelo a batho bagarona *because we will be having more money for development, more money for development projects.* Jaanong ke kopa gore gongwe re ka di emela ka dinao dikgang tsa mofuta o, go tlaa ya teng. Tsaya dikgato mo bathong ba ba sa dueleng lekgetho rra, tlhwaafala go tsewe dikgato tse di lebaneng gore ope a itse gore *to dodge* lekgetho, o sa le duele ke molato. Ke gone fa *problem* e leng teng, tsa ditshela ga ke tsene mo go tsone, ke bua ke tlhwaafetse gore *even* le yo o gaufi le nna jaaka *Honourable* Bagaisamang jaana, fa e le gore ga a duele kwa Mokgenene le Lentsenlentse, a a tseelwe dikgato tse di gagametseng gore re tle re tsamaye sentle go ntse jalo.

Tota fela dilo tse dintsi re ka di fenya ka thuto, *we need to improve all these things*, gongwe le *even in our curriculum Honourable Kgafela-Mokoka, taxation* e tsene le kwa dikoleng, bana ba gole ba itse go na le selo gatwe *taxation and its importance*. Fa re ka tsamaya ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, ke tsaya gore re tlaa ya golo gongwe. Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente.

MR NKAWANA (SELEBI PHIKWE EAST): Ke a go leboga *Madam Speaker*. Mma le nna ke akgele mo kgannyeng e re e beilweng pele ke Mothusa Tautona, ke mo ema nokeng. Ke mo ema nokeng mme ke mo kgwe kgaba ka tsela e e ntseng jaana, ka gore tota makgetho a botlhokwa. Makgetho a botlhokwa Mothusa Tautona, ka gore le mo botshelong tshimologo ya lefatshe la Botswana re a itse goo-Lowe gore go ne go na le makgetho, e bile go na le babereki ba ba neng ba bidiwa bakgethisi, le batho ba ba neng ba tla lekgetho ka go sia, ka go iphitlha. Fa re ntse re utlwa gatwe bangwe ba ne ba gana ba bo ba agelwa lesaka lengwe, gotwe ba iteelwa gore ba gana lekgetho. Le kwa gaetsho kwa Bobirwa re a itse gore Dikgosi tsa teng di ne tsa sia, gatwe ba ne ba nna ka kwa ga dinoka, ba tshaba lekgetho. Jaanong mo ke lelang go go bua ke gore, go gontsi, go na le batho ba le bantsi ba ba lelang *to avoid* go duela lekgetho.

Go na le Sekgoa se se reng..., *I am not an expert in this area*, mme re utlwa gore go na le Sekgoa se gotweng, sa ntlaa gatwe ke *“tax evasion”* le *“tax avoidance.”* Ke tsaya gore *those evading tax* go motlhofo go ba tshwara, *avoidance* gatwe ba dira dilonyana tse di *legal* tse di itsang gore ba ka duela lekgetho, mme fela tota fa o tsenelela sentlentle kwa tengteng o bona gore ba ne ba tshwanetse gore ba ka bo ba duetse lekgetho. Gatwe ba bangwe e tlaa re fa a le mo kgwebong a tshwere madi a mantsinti a ba a reka dithoto tse e leng tsa kompone e a e tsamaisang, ga ke itse gore a ke boammaaruri, gore a se ka a duela lekgetho le le tshwanang le fa a ne a ka tsaya madi a tsena mo pateng ya gagwe a reka koloi.

Madam Speaker, ke eletsa gape ke supe gore ke lemogile gore golo gongwenyana le one makgetho a rona a, fa gongwe re kgethisa batho gabedi. Re kgethisa batho gabedi ka tsela e e ntseng jaana, fa o reka ntlo o duela lekgetho, fa e le gore go santse go ntse jalo, fa o rekisa ntlo o duela lekgetho, ke gore jaanong ga gona kwa go siametseng Motswana teng, gore ntlo ya gago fela o e

rekisa ke lekgetho go siame ka gore o bona madi. Fa o na le madi o e reka, lekgetho jaanong le ya go lebagana le wena moreki e seng yo o neng a reka mo go wena. Ke tsaya gore fa e le gore go santse go ntse jalo, *Honourable Mothusa Tautona*, dilo tse re di lebelele.

Ke rata gape gore ke tshware kgang e ya me, ke name ke emisitse makgetho ke tsene mo dikgannyeng tsa *digitalisation*. Tota foo re na le mathata a matona, re saletse kwa morago mo tsamaisong ya boitseanape jo bo tshelang bo buiwa ke *Honourable Tshere*. Sekai ke maabane fela, gatwe *system* e ne e dirile sengwenyana gore dikoloi di tsamaye fela di sa kgethelwa, gakere ke one makgetho a o a batlang. Dikoloi tsa ba ba neng ba sa shafatsa (*renew*) *licences*, tsamayang mo Botswana fela le tlaa tla le kgetha *system* e siame. Ga re itse gore e tlaa siama leng, mme ga ba a kgetha batho bao *Honourable VP*. Ke leka go supa gore *networking*, letsatsi le letsatsi o tlaa utlwa gotwe *system* e *down-system* e *down*, kgantele go itsapisa batho ba ba ka bong ba ema ka dinao ba ya go duela makgetho nako e le teng, ka nako e le wena o a bong o tlhoka madi a go nna jalo.

Mma gape ke tsene mo go e nngwe ya..., ke utlwile maloba *Honourable Salakae* a supa gore fa dikoloi tse di tonatona di dirile molato wa gore di rwele dithoto tse di seng kana ka sepe ba a mo emisa, ba a mo kala ba bo ba re nnyaa o fetile duela, a ba a duela. Fa o sena go nna o duela, tswelela ka molato. Ke gore *drive home or your final destination*, ka one molato oo. Ga ke bone gore re a bo re ntse re le mo tseleng ya go phutha makgetho a rona sentle, ka gore batho fa ba tshwerwe ba tshwanetse gore ba baakanye pele, pele ga ba ka tswelela ka melato ya bone.

Bangwe ba buile ka *road tax* kana *road tolling*, e re nnang re e bua malatsi otlhe. Ke madi a a seng kana ka sepe, a gompieno o ka bong o sa imelwe ke bokete jwa gore o batla go dira tsela e ya A1 e nne tsela e e botoka, ka ditshenyegelo tse e leng tsa madi a masesanyane a re nang le one. Re ka bo re itse gore go dirisa tsela ya A1, e tlaa itirela madi ka makgetho a a mo tseleng, go nne le makgetho a a *road tolling*, go nne le makgetho a go tsena kwa *border*. Fa o tsena fa o ya Namibia kwa *border* kwa maNamibia *they charge you*, ba batla Blue Book le eng ba bo ba go duedisa sengwenyana. Ga ke *sure* gore a re dira jalo mo Botswana, mme fa e le gore ga re dire, a e nne sengwe se re ka se lebelelang.

Ke eletsa gape ke supe gore kana tota makgetho ga e a tshwanela go nna *punishment* mo Motswaneng, ga re a tshwanela gore re kgethise motho e kare re a, ka Sebirwa go a tle gotwe re a mo *soza*. Motho o bona fela gore kana o a bo o mo leba gore o ntse jang, e bo o mo tobelela ka lekgetho, segolo jang *at the borders*. Go na le mo e leng gore fa Batswana ba tla ka dithoto kwa ba tswang teng, Director General o tlaabo a re e le sekai, nnyaa e koloi ya gago o bua fela ga o a e reka P100 000, le fa o ka bo o e rekile jalo, yone tota sentlentle ke ya P100 million. Ke gore ka gore...

MR KAIZER: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ke ne ke re ke *clarify* mo go *Honourable Nkawana* gore, fa Mothusa Tautona a ntsha *speech* sa gagwe fale gompiano, o ne a bua mafoko a a reng go na le bangwe ba ba direlang mo dikgwebong tse di ikemetseng ka bonosi, ba ba neng ba re ba supa gore ba na le keletso ya go ka duela makgetho. Ga ke itse gore a kwa toropong e o tswang kwa go yone kwa Selebi Phikwe, a mme o teng Motswana yo o ka emelelang mo seemong sa *economy* se re leng mo go sone mo nakong ya gompiano, a bua gore o batla go duela ka fa Tona a tlisitseng *charge sheet* ka teng? Ke a leboga.

MR NKAWANA: Ntle ke go leboge moagisanyi. Tota fela *generally*, Batswana botlhe ba na le tumelo le kgatlhego ya go duela lekgetho. Ke gore fa gongwe go ba kganela go dira, segolo jang fa e le batho fela ba ba sa tshwarang le fa e le sepe, fa gongwe go nna thata gore re ye kwa go bone re re kana le tshwanetse la duela. Ba a tla kwa diofising tsa Mapalamente ba re, nna kana jaanong ke a tswala. O a tswala wena? Ee. Kgwebo ya gago e ntse e siame jaana? Nnyaa ke a tswala, batho ba tsere dilo tsa me gatwe ga ke duele lekgetho, mme re sa mo neele sebaka bogolo sa gore matsananyana a a nang le one, gongwe a ntshe *arrears* jalojalo.

Honourable Speaker, dipeterolo tsa rona di na le *levies* tse batho ba di duelang. Fa re le mo seemong se re leng mo go sone, re bone mafatshe a mangwe ba kgaola makgetho a dipeterolo, ba dira jalo ka gore ba ne ba lemoga gore go tlaa nna bokete. Kana kgwebo, gore re tshele ke gore go nne le dikgwebo tse di tshelang, batho bao ba duele makgetho. Fa e le gore re ya go ba paledisa ka gore re bo re re peterolo e nne jaaka e ntse gompiano, re palelwa ke go bona gore re ka fokoletsa Batswana ka tsela e e ntseng jaana, gore dikgwebo tsa bone di tle di kgone go di dira.

Se sengwe sa bofelo ka metsotso ya me e fedile *Honourable Speaker* ke gore, ke tshwenngwa ke *spending* sa babusi. *A lot of Ministers* ba ya kwa magaeng, ba ya dikerekeng, ba tsamaya ka ditshenyegelo tsa Puso. Ba bangwe o tlaa fitlhela e bile ba le *under escort*, mme motho a ya kwa gabone. A ya kwa Ghanzi, a tsamaya a le *escorted* ka dikoloi tse dintsi, ma *security*, fa a tsena kwa...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Murmurs)...

MR NKAWANA: Nnyaa, ke e fa e le sekai. Fa a tsena kwa a tla a ntse jalo, go bolelelwa Molaodi gore kana *Minister* o etla, re tlhokana le *protocol*. Bana ba Modimo kwa Phikwe e bile ga ba ya dipasekeng, ka gore *they had to protocol the senior Minister who came over*. Ke gore e le sekai fela sa gore, *a lot of Ministers* ba ba dirisang ditshenyegelo tsa Puso ba bantsi thata, mme ga ke dumele gore ga gona kgalemo, gongwe ke gore re tshaba go ntsha lentswe. Ke ne ke re e re fa o ntse o tsamaya jaana, ba dikoloi o fitlhelang di le *four* di ba setse morago mme go sena *any danger*, a ko ba fokodiwe. A ko ba fokoleliwe tsamaiso e gore re boloke madi a setshaba. Ke a leboga.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable Members*, ke ne ke re re dire jaana, le a itse gore *we have four bills before us*. *Let us close* re tsene kwa go e nngwe, *because* fa re ka re re dira jaana, ga ke itse gore re ya go felela kae. E jaaka e le buletse jaana, tse di latelang le tlile go nna le akgela. Ke kopa re e tswale.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (MR SALESHANDO): *Procedure.* Le fa ke sa ganetse, ke ne ke re ka gore e ke yone *the anchor one*, ke eng re sa letlelele *more time on this one*, re bo re fokotsa mo baneng ba yone fa re ntse re tswetsetse. *As the Vice President (VP) said*, ke yone e bulelang tse dingwe tseo, gongwe re nne *a bit more generous on this one and limit on the following ones*. Ke a leboga.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Elucidation.* Gone foo, ke mo tlatsa.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ke a go tlhaloganya *Leader of the Opposition*, but gakere ke leba nako. Re ya go feletsa gongwe ya bobedi re sa e fetsa, kana re tswa ka *seven*. Fa a *respond*, o tsaya 30 minutes kana. *So*, e tlile go re *cost*. *Already* ke tsere six; three/three. *Honourable Mapulanga*.

MR MAPULANGA (CHOBE): Tlaa ke go leboge *Madam Speaker*. Ke go leboge Tona...

MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR RAMOGAPI): *Procedure.* O tlaa intshwarela motlotlegi, ga se go go kgoreletsa *Madam Speaker*; ke raya gore re tsamaisa botoka gore gongwe rona ba re setseng re buile gape, ba bangwe ba ba tlang re ba fe *chance* ba kgone gore ba bue, gore go tle go nne botoka.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ee, ke ne ke e lebeletse jalo gore ga ke na go boeletsa *the first speakers*.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Procedure.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Le ja nako *Uncle Shima* ka *procedures*.

MR MONAGENG: E *one* fela. *Madam Speaker*, fa o ka reetsa mongwe le mongwe *who is presenting for 10 minutes*, o a lemoga gore motho o feletswe. Ke eng re sa re *five minutes per member*. Ke kopo.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa *Honourable Members*, le ya kgakala. Kopang *elucidation* mo mothong yo o emeng. Fa a sa go fe, ga a go fe. Tswelala *Honourable Mapulanga*.

MR MAPULANGA: Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Tlaa ke go leboge VP, ka molao o o beilweng fa pele fa. Ke supe jaana *Madam Speaker* gore, mo botshelong jwa me ga ke ise ke dumalane le lekgetho, ka mabaka a ke dumelang mo go one VP;

- (i) Lefatshe la Botswana, batlapele fa ba goroga mo go lone ba supile gore Puso re go neela tetla yotlhe ya go dirisa ditsattholego tsa rona gore o re tshetse ka tsone. Ke lebaka la ntlha le ke dumelang mo go lone, *gore with vast resources* tse re nang le tsone, Botswana ba ka bo ba sa duele lekgetho, *but the unfortunate part is* ke mang yo o kgweetsang, o kgweetsa ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Re tlamega gore re bo re wela gone fa, gongwe re dumalane gore mo nakong ya gompiano, ee, molao o re o dumalane wa gore jaanong lekgetho re ka le phutha ka tsela e e ntseng jang go leka go oketsa sepatšhe sa rona. Ke na le tumelo VP gore, fa dilo di ka siama a re boele kwa morago, re fokotse bokete jo re bo isang kwa Batswaneng *Madam Speaker*.

- (ii) *Salaries* sa Batswana di kwa tlase *and* golo mo fela go imela Puso, ka gore jaanong fa go sa kgethise batho mo *salaries* tse ba di amogelang, go raya gore se o se phutlhang se kwa tlase. Go raya gore re tlhoka gore Batswana ba amogele madi a a kgethang, gore ba kgone go itshetsa, ba sale ka sengwe le fa ba go neetse sengwe o le Puso.

- (iii) Kgang e nngwe e ke dumelang gore o ye go e lebisisa Tona, kana re santse re na le dikgwebo mo lefatsheng la Botswana *which entice* Batswana *not to swipe*, gotwe tsena fa Automated Teller Machine (ATM) fale. Fa go ka twe ke bitse maina, beke e e fetileng ke ne ke baakanya *phone* ke bo ke ya mo *shop* e nngwe ke ya go reka. *Madam Speaker*, ke fa gotwe ATM ke ele, *go and cash* mo teng. Fa o duela ka *cash*, re go neela *voucher* ya P50. Dilo tse VP, a ko dikgwebo tse tsotlhe tse fa go ne go kgonagala, re *move away from this cash society*, re ye *to a cashless society* re *tap/swipe*. Mongwe le mongwe yo o tsamaisang kgwebong, a re mo direle tirelo e e ka mo tlhofofaletsang go phutha madi a gagwe, gore re kgone *to track it*, ka sengwe se se dirang gore re se ka ra nna la madi sentle ke...*(interruptions)*...*transactions* tsa lefatshe la Botswana.

MR HIKUAMA: *On a point of clarification.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Mapulanga*. *Honourable Mapulanga* fa o akgela jaana go lebega e kete o motho yo o nang le kitso e e tseneletseng ya makgetho le itsholelo. Fa o leba *statistics*, go supega gore lehuma le ganeletse mo go bomme le banana. A ga o bone gore go leka go imolola *these two sectors of the society* lehuma, bomme le banana ba ka nna le lekgetho le le fokoditsweng, re bo re leka *to empower them* gore le bone ba tswa *from this trap* ya lehuma? A ga o bone gore nako e tlile ya gore re nne le *a deliberate policy* e e itebagantseng le *these two sectors* go leka go lwantshwa lehuma le le leng mo Batswaneng? *So that* le bone ba ye kwa pele gore ba kgone go kgetha, ka gore ga o ka ke wa kgetha o le mo lehumeng, ga o ka ke wa kgona *to contribute* mo itsholelong o le mo lehumeng fa e se o ka ntshiwa mo go lone e bo e le gone go ka thusang. Ga o bone gore nako e tlile ya gore re lebelele ka tsela e e ntseng jalo?

MR MAPULANGA: O e botsa sentle, e a tsamaelana, e bile go a tshwanela. Mo mafatsheng a mangwe kana mo

ntlheng tse dingwe go a tle go diragale gore fa re rotloetsa batho gore ba hire...e tsamaelana le go dira dikgwebo *which is industrialisation*, go na le dikompone tse e leng gore fa re batla go nna *deliberate* re kgona go ba bolelela gore fa o hira banana kana kgwebo e le ya mme, e na le se re se tlhofofatsang mo go ene gore kgwebo ya gagwe e se ka ya imelwa ke morwalo wa lekgetho. Ke dilo *that are possible Honourable* Hikuama.

Fa ke tswela *Madam Speaker*, Tona ke kopa gore o bue le Commissioner General. *Refunds* tsa Batswana ga di tsene. O tlaa dira *returns* gompiano, o bo o bona gore o na le lekgetho le o tshwanetseng go le busediwa kana *refund*, ngwaga o a fela o dira lekgetho le lengwe, wa bobedi, wa boraro. Fa o tshwanetse *to claim* o bolelelwa gore, mathata *you are overdue, submit* pele *we will refund you*. A ko o lebesise kgang e Vice President *so that* Batswana *are refunded* madi a bone. Madi a Batswana a mantsi a a tshwerweng kwa lekgotleng la lekgetho ba sa a busetswe, mme ba dira *returns* ngwaga le ngwaga. Lebisisa dikgang tse fa o tswelsetse.

Vice President, ke supe jaana, re kgetha gararo kwa Botswana Power Corporation (BPC); *Government levy, domestic, I think* le VAT. Motlakase wa P100 o go neela motlakase wa P70, P30 o ile. Dilo tse le fa re batla go phutha madi, re felela re tsenya Batswana gape mo lehumeng. *Let us standardise*, go lebagane fela gore re batla go tsaya eng mo Motswaneng. Fa a setse a kgetlha gararo le fa re ka dira molao o re ya go felela *buying power* ya Batswana e ile kwa tlase le go feta.

Se ke dumelang gore re ka tswa ka sone *Madam Speaker, let us industrialise*. Kgang ya gore Puso *is not running* kgwebo ga ke itse gore re e leba ka tsela e e ntseng jang. *There are companies, lodges and fleets in other countries* tse e leng gore ke tsa Puso, tse e leng gore mmereki wa *cleaning company, cleaning company* kana Hotel eo ke tsa Puso. Ke babereki ba Puso, e bile ba amogela mo Pusong. Ba na le *package* yotlhe ya mmereki mongwe le mongwe. Fa re ka tswela re taboga thata ka *privatisation*, mme melao ya rona e repile jaaka e ntse jaana, ke gone fa go tlaa tlang *advice* tsa gore fokotsang *wage bill*, kgaolang babereki ka gore ga re itirele. *Even in agro-processing* ga re itirele. A ko re lebagane le go bona gore *we industrialise* ka *the resources* tsa rona. Mmidi o a tswa, *trucks* tse di tsayang phane e re neng re bua ka yone e gotweng e ya go dira

feeds, e dirwa kwa ntle, *simple factories* tse re ka bong re di itirela gore re fokotse lekgetho mo Batswaneng di dirwa kwa ntle.

Fa ke wela *Madam Speaker*, kwa Kgaolong ya Chobe *over 64 000 square kilometres* re setse ka 22 000 *square kilometres, 40 plus square kilometres* e mo diatleng tsa Puso; *forest reserves, national parks, the rivers, diphologolo, dikgwa, di kwa Pusong*. Re a kgetha ka dilo tseo. Gompiano re ya go kgetha gape *without* sepatela, *education infrastructure, road network*, re ipotsa gore a re tswela re kgethe *Honourable* Tona wa tsa Madi, mme tiriso ya lekgetho le re sa e bone mo kgaolong.

Fa o kgetla bojang o duela *permit*, fa o tshwara tlhapi o a duela, mme fa o re o tshwara tlhapi o bolelelwa gore foo ga go letlelelwe. Ga o re o batla dikgong o a di duelela.

Tourism Levy gompiano e felela mo Gaborone. Madi a a tswang kwa a jewa mo Gaborone, *BURS was declaring, I think plus 60 billion. Six borders* di mo Chobe tse di phuthang lekgetho, mme kgaolo ga e tlabologe. *I am worried Honourable* VP gore, a lekgetho le fa re le duela jaana kwa kgaolong a re boelwa ke sengwe. Jaanong tsayang madi re tswela, mme re kopa gore le rona le re tlabolole. Ke a leboga.

MR MONAGENG (MOLEPOLOLE SOUTH): Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Tota fela lantlha ke re, ga gona jaaka lefatshe lepe le ka tshela le sa kgethise batho ba lone. Kwa mafatsheng a mangwe le gongwe le gongwe lekgetho le nna teng. E bile gompiano lekgetho le bo le nna teng ka ntata ya gore itsholelo e wetse kwa tlase, keletso ke gore go direlwe Batswana sele le sele mme madi a a tlhela. Jaanong fa madi a tlhela ke gone gore re nne re bone gore madi a ka tsena jang ka ditsela tse di farologanyeng. Ka fa ke bonang ka teng ke gore, tota e kare re a tlhela ka ditsela tse dintsi go phutha makgetho; a e ka ne e le a eng kana a eng, re tlhela fela thata. Ga ke itse gore a bodiredi ke bone bo seng *trained* go phutha makgetho, go na le boitseme kana mathata ke eng. O ka utlwa fela le mo ditoropong o fitlhela e le gore *rates* ga di phuthiwe. Motho o na le ntlo o tshwanetse go duela *rates* tse e leng gore ga di kwa godimo mo go kalokalo, gantsi di lebe ga di le ditona, di le kwa godimo, ka gore o tlaabo gongwe o nnile lebaka le le leele o sa duele, o le mong wa ntlo, wa *shop* kana wa *property*. Mme fa o ne o di duela kgapetsakgapetsa o ya go fitlhela

e le gore ga di bokete mo go kalokalo. *So go phuthiwa ga makgetho leaves a lot to be desired.*

Ke a tle ke nne ke bue gore, a re lebeng *issue* e ya Old Age Pension (*tandabala*) ka e tura fela thata. Pele ga re e oketsa to P1 400, e ne e re ka ngwaga e bo e le gore Goromente o kgaogana le bo P1.2 *billion* go duela *tandabala*. Gompiano re e okeditse *it has almost doubled, for 2026/2027 we are talking of over P2 billion*. Fa re le mo leshekereng jaana, re ya go bona kae *two point something billion*? Nna *I qualify*, mme ga ke ise ke ye go ikwadisa ka gore ke batla go tlisa *Motion* mo gore rotlhe ba re berekang mme e bile ditiro tsa rona di le *secured* ka gore *once* o le Mopalamente kana Mokhanselara, *for five years unless* Modimo a dira thato ya one, kana o ya go nna le *a criminal case*, ke gore le fa ba ka ngongorega kwa kgaolong ya gago gore ga o bereke, *you are assured of go tswelera* o le Mopalamente kana Mokhanselara *for five years*. Ke eng re sa re *once* fela o nna Mopalamente kana mokhanselara, jaanong *tandabala* a e eme, e tlaare fa o boela o ya go nna motho le wena jaanong o boela kwa setšhabeng e bo e simologa?

Ba bangwe gape ba e leng gore tota *tandabala* ga e tlhokafale mo go bone thata, ke ba ba amogelang madi a mantsintsi. Ke gore o le *Permanent Secretary* fa e le gore o santse o bereka o le *over* dingwaga tseo, o neelwa *tandabala*. Fa o le *retired* o le *President* Khama, *President* Mogae, *President* Masisi; ke di bua ka tlotlo, o neelwa *tandabala*. Ke gore P1, 400 fa a tsena mo *these previous presidents, they are not even aware* gore a P1, 400 o tsene. A o a mo tlhoka? Nnyaa...

MR SALESHANDO: *Elucidation. Thank you Madam Speaker.* Ke ne ke re mo go yone eo, mafatshe a mantsi a kwala ka *packages* tse di fiwang *former presidents*, *but* go na le ba ba reng a mme go matshwanedi gore fa o le *a former president* o bo o fiwa *package* go sa kgalhalesege gore a o dirile *one term* kana *two terms*. *Should it not be* gore yo o dirileng *one term* o bona *half of* yo o dirileng *two terms*?

MR MONAGENG: Ke dumalana le wena *Honourable* Saleshando, dilo tse re di le balebe tota. Gongwe mo nakong e e fetileng, re ne re kgona gore botautona ba ba duleng mo tirong re ba kgobelele *benefits* tse di kalokalo. Gompiano a di lebiweng gore jangjang.

Le yone e re e tlisitseng, le tlaa nkomanya kwa thoko legale, ya P300 *for* ngwana yo monnyennyane yo e

leng gone a tsholwang, go na le ba ba sa e tlhokeng. E bile ke a ba kgothatsa gore gongwe motho a tshotse ngwana mme a kgona, a bue fela gore mme ke tlaa se ke ke ikwadise gore ngwanake a bone P300. Ke gore o le *Minister* kana *Judge*, o bo o itetlelela gore o bone P300 gore o godise ngwana wa gago, *it is not necessary at all.*

MR HIKUAMA: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker. Honourable* Monageng, gakere *this is a means tested allowance*, mo e leng gore ka fa e dirilweng ka teng, ga e a tshwanela go akolwa ke mongwe le mongwe, jaanong o raya gore gompiano e abiwa fela, ga e sekasekwe?

MR MONAGENG: Nnyaa, le fa o ntsenya mo tlhaelong mme ke tlaa araba ka fa nna ke ithayang ke re ke itse ka teng. Ga ke gakologelwe gotwe nnyaa ba ba ntseng jaana ba se ka ba *apply*. Ke gore mongwe le mongwe, *no matter* gore o mang mo setšhabeng, fa o tshotse ngwana, fa o batla *to apply*, o ka *apply* o nna *eligible*. Nna ke ithaya ke re e ntse jalo. Jaanong ka re a ba bangwe ba re nnyaa, mma ke eme pele itsholelo e santse e le kwa tlase...

DR DOW: *Elucidation.* Ke a leboga. Ke ne ke re ga ke itse kwa dikgaolong tse dingwe, mme kwa Kgatleng West gone ga go na yo o setseng a filwe maP300, go santse go kwadisiwa bana. Gatwe e tlaa re kwa morago go bo go nna le *criteria*, ba tlaa bolelelwa gore ke mang yo o tlaa tsayang. Ga go na ope yo o filweng le fa e le P10 kwa ke tswang teng. Ke ne ke re ke *elucidate* ka tsela e e ntseng jalo.

MR MONAGENG: Ke leboga thata Mme Dow, kana wena o motho wa molao o a di tlhaloganya dilo tse. Ke santse ke gatelela ke re *let our conscience lead us*, fa e le gore o na le itsholelo e e botoka, *do not apply for* maP300 ao. Kana fa ba ikopetse, tsholofelo ke gore ba tlaa thusiwa.

A re lebeng gape *the ways we can boost revenue and structure economy* mo Botswana, *resource taxation* re lebe gore jangjang. *Mines* jaaka go ntse jaana, gongwe go bonwe gore go a okediwa *and make sure* gore *the mining sector* e duela *tax* ka fa tshwanelong. Go na le *indirect taxes* tsa bo VAT, *let us introduce taxes* tsa VAT mo dilong tse tota di sa tlhokafaleng thata. Ba ba hupang, motho e re a akanya go reka *whiskey* e e turang thata, a bo a itse gore *tax* ya yone e kwa godimo, *that*

is why e tura. E bile e bo e re re oketsa mo majalweng jalo, re bo re gagamatsa gore fa bo tswa kwa Aferika Borwa, bo se ka ba tsena, e seng jalo, e tlaabo e re fa re sa gagamatse, ba ba yang South Africa o ya go itlela ka bone.

Gape e bile re lebe gore *as time goes on*, kana VAT o ka bona gore *it is currently 12 per cent*, kwa mafatsheng a mangwe bo South Africa, *it is over 40 per cent*. Fa e tsenngwa, gongwe e tsenngwe mo go reng tota itsholelo ya motho go ntse jang. Ke gore fa e le gore gongwe ke duela VAT ke ntse jaana ke le moreki, gongwe go lebiwe gore mme yo ke yo o kgonang kana yo ke motlhoki. Ga ke itse gore a go ka se ke go kgonagale gore ba ba dikobo dikhutshwane ba duele VAT e nnyennyane. Ba e leng gore ba eme sentle tota fela ke bahumi ba reka tsone dikoloi tse di neng di buiwa tse di turang, VAT e bo e nna teng.

Le mo *tourism*, *let us increase more and more of tourism related taxes*. Le mo *property*, ke a itse gore *tax* e fa godimonyana, mme gongwe gotwe fa e le gore o ithekela *low cost*, *tax* e nne jaaka e ntse. Ba ba rekang ntlo ya bo ma P10 *million tax* e nne teng. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*.

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE): Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Go a bonala gore batlotlegi ba a dumalana ka bongwefela jwa pelo gore re tswelile ka fa go akantsweng ka teng. Ke ne ke re ke ba kgwe dikgaba fa go kgonagalang teng. Tota se re lehang go se dira, ke gore rotlhe re a bona, ga go na Motswana yo o sa boneng gore letseno la rona le re ntseng re remelete mo go lone la diteemane ga le sa tlhole le lekane gore re ka tsamaisa ditirelo tsa setšhaba. Re tshwanetse go senka methale e mesha e re ka tokafatsang letseno la rona, rotlhe re a dumalana gore seemo se ntse jalo. Jaanong maikaelelo a a leng teng fa ke gore re dire jalo, mme go dira jalo ga go reye gore re oketse ka fa re kgethisang ka teng, ke gore *rates*. Ke gore re tokafatse go kgobokanya letseno la rona la makgetho. Re tokafatse ka fa re dirang ka teng. Re tokafatse, re simolodise maranyane a a ka re thusang go kgobokanya madi botoka ka bonako le kwa mafelong a a ka tswang a iphitlhile. Go a supafala gape gore mafatshe a a tsweletseng, mangwe e le a itsholelo ya rona e botoka mo go one, a lebega a gatetse pele go re feta. Fa o lebile botona jwa itsholelo ya mafatshe a, mo lekgolong

lengwe le lengwe, fa o ka akanya lesaka la dikgomo di le lekgolo, ba setse ba kgona go kgobokanya dikgomo di le masome a mabedi le botlhamo. Rona mo lesakeng la dikgomo di le lekgolo, re santse re le fa dikgomong di le lesome le boraro e le *tax*. Se re lehang go se dira ra re, ga re ka ke ra gaisiwa ke mafatshe otlhe fela ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. A re iteke, re itsholetse, re ikoketse, re tswa kwa go reng re kgobokanya dikgomo di le lesome le boraro mo dikgomong kana mo itsholelong ya dikgomo di le lekgolo. Re oketse gore bogolo mo dingwageng di le nne, re ka goroga mo goreng re kgone go kgobokanya dikgomo di le masome a le mabedi le botlhamo mo itsholelong ya bokete jwa dikgomo di le lekgolo.

Motlotlegi Saleshando o supa gore lekgetho gore re re, le a bereka, ke fa le kgona go dira dilo dingwe. Nngwe ya dilo tse lekgetho la lefatshe lengwe le lengwe le tshwanetseng go se dira, ke go fokotsa dipharologanyo mo itsholelong ya batho ba rona. Ke nngwe ya dilo tse a reng, o elets a gore fa re ntse re re re kgobokanya makgetho, e bo e le gore o a di bona. Mo go yone eo ke re, methale e a farologana ya go fokotsa dipharologanyo. Phokotso ya dipharologanyo ya konokono ke gore, Batswana kana batho ba lefatshe lepe, ba nne le thuto. Ba bone thuto e ba ka e dirisang go itshedisa, e ba ka e dirisang gore le bone ba nne le seabe mo itsholelong ka bophara. Le rona fela jalo mo lefatsheng la Botswana, tsholofelo ya rona ke gore, re kgobokanye mo re tlaa kgonang go tlisa thuto e re reng lefatshe la rona le a e tlhoka gore re tlhabolole itsholelo ya rona. Re dumalane gone fa mo Palamenteng gore, thuto ya bogologolo e go neng go rutiwa bana go lebiwa boleng jwa thuto, go lebiwa ka fa a buang Sekgoa ka teng le ka fa a kwalang ka teng, ga e sa tlhole e lekana. Lenaneo la rona la BETP le NDP le supa jalo gore re oketse mosepele. Re oketse madi a re a dirisang le maiteko a re tsenang mo go one a gore thuto ya segompiano, e nne e bana ba rutiwang go dirisa diatla tsa bone. Bana ba rutiwa go dirisa maranyane le mafaratlhatlha ka gore thuto eo, ke yone e e ka tsholetsang Motswana mongwe le mongwe gore a nne le seabe se se bonalang mo itsholelong. Gape fa lefatshe le kgona go kgobokanya madi kana letseno le le ntseng jalo, le ka atametsa ditirelo kwa Batswaneng le go tlhokomela dikgang tsa botsogo. Lefatshe leo le tlaa kgona go aga ditsela tse di tshwanetseng go agiwa, tse e leng gore fa di seyo, ga re ka ke ra kgona go godisa itsholelo ya rona.

Ke dumalana le ene gore fa re ntse re kgethisa, re lebile gore kwa bofelong jwa letsatsi, dipharologanyo tsa matshelo a batho ba rona di fokotsege. O na le bogakolodi jo a bo fang jwa malatsi otlhe jwa gore, e re re kgethisa jaana re le Goromente, re le Botswana, a madi a re a kgobokanyang, a dirisiwe sentle. E se ka ya nna madi a a dirisiwang go tshameka. O supa gore ene ka leitho la gagwe, a le nosi ka gore mmualebe, o dumela gore madi a a tshamekisiwang ke baeteledipele ba lefatshe la Botswana, ga a mo itumedise. Ke mo kgothatse jaaka ke tlhola ke dira gore re lwa ka sengwe le sengwe gore madi a a tshamekang, a se ka a nna teng. Re lwa ka sengwe le sengwe, mme o a itse gore ntwangwe le nngwe fela, ga e fele gone foo. Ntwangwe le nngwe e tsaya nako. Re dumela jalo gore re le barongwa ba batho ba lefatshe la Botswana, re dira ka tsotlhe. Re tlaa tswelala re dira ka tsotlhe go fokotsa ditshenyegelo bogolo jang kwa e leng gore ga di tlhokege teng.

Kgang e, le nna ke rata go e fetola ka gore mafelo a mantsi kwa re le kang go kgaola teng; go tsamaya ga bodiredi, go kgaola bogolo jang mo *projects* tse e leng gore bogologolo e ne e re fa di tlhamiwa, a bo di sa tlhamiwe sentle, tsa bo di felela di turela Goromente go feta jaaka di tshwanetse. *Projects* tse e leng gore fa di setse di simolotse, ga go na yo o di bayang leitho le le ntšhotšho, re simolotse go baya leitho le le ntšhotšho. Dilo tse bontsi jwa tsone fa re ka tswelala re di dira ka botlalo, re dumela gore re ya go fokotsa ditshenyegelo tsa lefatshe la Botswana go menagane, le bodiredi ke balela le jwa Lephata la tsa Madi. Dikgwetlho tsa bogologolo ga di tshwane le tsa gompieno. Bogologolo letseno le ne le le ntsi thata la diteemane. Dikgwetlho e ne e le gore jaaka e tla e le boidiidi jwa madi jaana, re a dirisa jang sentle. Boidiidi joo, ga bo sa tlhole bo le teng. Dikgwetlho tsa gompieno ke gore, ga go na le fa e le sepe se se tsenang. Mo leshekereng le, go tlhokega boitseanape jo bo farologanyeng le jo bo lebaganeng le dikgwetlho tsa sesha. Re setse re kenta Lephata la Madi, maphata a mangwe, boitseanape le bodiredi jo bo itebagantseng le dikgwetlho tsa segompieno. Ke lebogela gore o a dumalana Motlotlegi Saleshando, gore nako e gorogile ya go oketsa mosepele wa go kgobokanya letseno.

Motlotlegi Segokgo, o supa fa o itumetse, e bile nako e gorogile ya go oketsa lebelo la go tokafatsa letseno. Go na le dintlha dingwe tse o neng o re o eletsa gore Puso

e ka di tsibogela. Ke tlaa umaka dingwe tsa tsone. O ne o supa gore nngwe ya dilo tse o di akantseng ke gore, go nne le se o se bitsang o re, *automatic indexing*. Ke gore lenaneo kana tsamaiso e e leng gore mo go yone fa go lebilwe ka fa ditlhwatlhwa di tlhaganetseng go gola ka teng, e bo go na le ka fa go lebiwang makgetho ka teng. Go lebilwe tlhatlogo e gore fa di gola ka bonako, batho ba solofele eng mo dikgannyeng tsa makgetho. Bontlha bongwe jwa thulaganyo ya *indexing* bo setse bo simologile go lebilwe dikgang di tshwana le *capital expenditure*. Ke gore madi a a dirisetswang tse di rekwang gore di kgone go fetlha itsholelo. *Indexing* e setse e simolotse.

Rebates tse o buang ka tsone ke gore dikgang tsa gore dikgwebo di supa gore ba dirisa dipoelo tsa bone ka tsela e e agang ditiro tse disha kana go rutuntsha go isa babereki kwa ditirong, le lone lenaneo leo le teng. Se se leng teng e ka nna gore gongwe go na le kwa re ka atolosang kana ra tokafatsa ka teng. *Rebates* kana *incentives*, go na le tsa dikompone tsa International Financial Company (IFC), tse di nang le setlankana sa gore dikompone tse di ntseng jaana di ikagile mo Botswana mme di dira mo mafatsheng a mangwe, ba na le thotloetso ya gore makgetho a bone a kwa tlase a ka tshwara bo 15%. Re na le dikompone tsa Special Economic Zones (SEZs) tse e leng gore makgetho a bone le one a kwa tlase, 5% dingwaga tsa ntlha di le lesome. Re na le tsone tsa bo SPEDU, le bone 5% dingwaga tsa ntlha tse tlhano. Re na le *hub companies* tse e leng gore ke 50%.

Mananeo ao a teng mme le fa melao e mesha e tla, o tlaa bona le meakanya e mesha ka dikompone tsa ditswammung. Di lebile gore ba ba simololang *to mine*, kwa tshimologong masaitseweng a mantsi ka gore dikompone di kgona go latlhegelwa ka bokete go feta tse di setseng di itshetsetse. Le tsone tseo o tlaa lemoga gore go na le mananeo a go leka go fokotsa ka fa ba kgethang ka teng re lebile gore ba fa kae mo dikgwebong tsa bone.

Le wena Motlotlegi Rre Bogatsu, re lebogela kgothatso le bogakolodi jwa gago. O supa gore nako e gorogile re dirise maranyane a a ka fitlhelang kwa ba kgonang go duela lekgetho mme ga ba le duele. Ba bangwe ba dira ka bomo tota, bontsi jwa bone ba e leng gore ga ba a duele mme o bona gore ga ba eletse go duela. Yo mongwe o ne a bua ba e leng gore ba gatelela gore go dirisiwe *cash*

fela. Ba ba ntseng jalo, molao o mosha o letla bone fa re tsena mo VAT jaaka o setse o fetile ngogola e bile re o dira sesha. Lenaneo la gore dikompone tse di lekanyeng go duela jaanong go tlaabo go dirisiwa maranyane a a supang se se tshwanetseng go duelelwa. Le *invoices* di romelwa gone foo ka *machines* tse di tlaabong di rebotswe.

Motlotlegi Bogatsu o supa gape gore ka dikgang tsa makgetho, a re tokafatse go ya kwa pele. A bana ba rutwe ba santse ba le bannye mosola wa lekgetho. Mosola wa lekgetho ke gone jaaka setšhaba se itelela gore a re itireleng, a re ikageleng lefatshe la rona, a re se ka ra letlelela gore lefatshe la rona le agwe ke batho ba tswa go sele, gongwe kgantele e bile ba re bolelele gore re dire se, re se ka ra dira se.

Motlotlegi Nkawana le wena ke lebogela kgothatso ya gago. Le wena fela jaaka Motlotlegi Saleshando, go na le dikgang tse le nngwe le gakolola ka tsone. E le tshwanelo ya lona e bile le nna ke itumela gore le nna le gakolola ka tsone ka gore a re fokotseng ditshenyegelo re le Goromente, baeteledipele le badiredi ba ga Goromente. Ke a rata fa e tswa kwa go lona, e sa tswe fela kwa go nna. Go lebea o kare gongwe le gongwe kwa ke tsenag teng Motlotlegi Saleshando, fa ke leba batho mo matlhong o kare ba re o a bo a tlile go re bolelela gore...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ... (Inaudible)...

MR GAOLATHE: Ke ne ke sa batle go dirisa lefoko le, mme o bona dikgang tse ke di buang. Ke itumelela gore dikgang tse di tswa kwa batlotleging botlhe gore re tshwanetse go fokotsa ditshenyegelo.

O fa bogakolodi gape jo ke ntseng ke go reetsa mo nakong Motlotlegi Nkawana ka dilo tse di ka dirwang gore re tokafatse letseno la rona. O motho thata a tlotlile *digitalisation*. Le tsone dikgang tsa gore *system is down*, o supa gore ga re ka ke ra ya gope fa e le gore kgang e ga re e emele ka dinao.

O motlotlegi gape yo o ratang bogakolodi jwa gore kgang e ya *toll roads*, ya makgetho kwa meletwaneng e lebelelwe ka leitlho le le tseneletseng. Gape o bua ka kgang ya *levies*, bogolo jang mo leokwaneng. Ke dumela gore eo Tautona le Goromente o e amile gore jaaka re lebile dintwa tse di diragalang, go tlhatloga ka bonako ga tlhwatlhwa ya leokwane re lebile dikgang tse

tsotlhe, re balela tsa go fokotsa *levies* mo leokwaneng, bogolo fa e ka nna selo sa nakwana.

Motlotlegi Mapulanga...

MR SALESHANDO: *Elucidation.* Ke ne ke re gongwe o digele mo go ya *levies* ka gore fa Tautona a dira dikitsiso, o ne a re di tlaa nama di sa duedisiwe mo leokwaneng. Batho ba le bantsi ba ne ba solofetse gore go raya gore tlhwatlhwa ya leokwane e ya go wela fa tlase ka pharologanyo ya *levies* mme ga go a diragala. *Is it something that is still going to happen?* Go ne go raya eng?

MR GAOLATHE: Se se tsileng go diragala ka gore Tautona o fa bokaedi ka bophara, go na le dilo tse dintsi tse di santseng di tlile go buiwa. Se se diragalang ke gore Goromente mongwe le mongwe mo lefatsheng ka bophara, o lebanwe ke kgwetlho ya gore ditlhwatlhwa di ya kwa godimo. Go na le bo Goromente ba ba nang le itsholelo e e lekanyeng gore ba ka duelela setšhaba sengwe le sengwe go oketsega. Bogoromente ka bontsi ba tshwanetse go tlhopha sentle, ba ya go felela ba remeletse mo go dueleleng ba ba kobo dikhutshwane, gongwe ke ba temothuo jalojalo. *Details* di santse di tlaa buiwa.

Honourable Mapulanga, o bua gore o tswa kgakala o sa rate lekgetho. Kgang ya gago e tona e e leng gore ga o nke o lebala go e nkgakolola ke gore o kare kgaolo ya Chobe le dikgaolo tse dingwe di tshwana le bo Ngamiland, Bobirwa le Kgalagadi di sadiseditswe kwa morago. Motlotlegi Lucas, o rata go bua thata gore o kare go na le dikgaolo tse di lebalesegileng mme ga o bone sepe se se supang gore Goromente o eme ka dinao gore dikgaolo tse di se ka tsa lebalesega. Ke dumela thata gore go na le dikgaolo tse go lebegang o kare mo tsamaong ya nako di ntse di saletse kwa morago. Kgang e ke e buile thata, Ngamiland e le nngwe ya tsone. Ke rata go bua ka Ngamiland ka gore ke tshedile thata le batho ba teng, ba ntlhokometse thata. Go utlwiswa botlhoko gore motse o ke neng ke nna kwa go one kwa Tsau le e e bapileng le one e tshwana fela le jaaka ke e tlogetse bogologolo jole, ga e ise e fetoge. Eo ke boammaaruri.

Se ke tshwanetseng gore ke se supe ke gore re eme ka dinao mme fa e le kwa Chobe, ga ke buie. Pandamatenga o kwa Chobe, re ne re le mmogo maloba. Nngwe ya *projects* tse di tona kwa Chobe ke e e amang go gopa

metsi go tswa kwa dinokeng gore go nne le temo-thuo ya nosetso. Ke nngwe ya dilo tse di lebilweng e bile ke nngwe ya *projects* tse di tona thata mo Botswana jaaka re lebile.

Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, ke dumela gore ga re a lebala Chobe, re e emetse ka dinao. Fa o lebile SEZ, re tswa teng maloba. Fa o lebile SEZ le se re leakang go se dira kwa BETP, go a bonala gore tiro e setse e simologile. Re bua ka bagwebi ba ba mo Botswana ba ba setseng ba neetswe ditlankana tsa bone tsa ntlha. Ba thusitswe gore ba ka simolodisa go dirisa ditswammung le dijwalo go dira dijo tse di ka rekisiwang kwa mafatsheng a mangwe. Ya Chobe ke bua ke sa belaele gore re eme ka dinao mme e bile ditlhabologo tseo di tsile go bonala fela mo go bonalang.

Le wena Motlotlegi Rre Monageng, go lebega o le mongwe wa batho ba ba sa rateng gore madi a senyega go feta jaaka a tshwanetse. O kare selepe sa gagwe se bogale go feta ba bangwe. A re le ya bagodi o kare go tsentswe lentswe le legolwanyane mme e bile o supa gore re ka fokotsa ka fa re dirisang madi ka teng mo lefatsheng la Botswana. Sengwe le sengwe se a se buang ke boammaaruri. Re motse o le mongwefela, dilelo di dintsi. Se re tshwanetseng go se gakologelwa ke gore re tshwanetse gore re itse gore re bana ba motse o le mongwefela, ga re na eng, ga re na eng mme se se leng teng, mongwe le mongwe setoki, setoki. Ga go na ope yo e leng gore o tsile go bona setoki se se lekanang le tsa ba bangwe mme go tlaa nna le setoki, setoki. Mongwe le mongwe o tlaa bona sengwenyana.

Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, Melawana-kakanyetso ya makgetho e mentsinyana. Dikgang tse dingwe di tlaa tshologela mo melawaneng e mengwe. O kare ke ba kgwile dikgaba ka fa ke kgonang ka teng. Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, *I therefore move Madam Speaker, that the Tax Administration Bill, 2025 (No. 38 of 2025) be read for the second time. I thank you Madam Speaker.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Minister.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Applause!)

Question put and **agreed to.**

Committee - **Later Date.**

INCOME TAX BILL, 2025 (NO. 36 OF 2025)

Second Reading

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Members, I now call Honourable Minister to present.

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE): Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to present before this Honourable House, the Second Reading speech on the Income Tax Bill, 2025 that was published in the Government Gazette on 15th December, 2025 as Bill No. 36 of 2025. I have already given context Madam Speaker.

So, this marks the completion of a decades long effort that included a comprehensive review of Income Tax Act and the Value Added Tax Act as well as the development of a new piece of legislation which we discussed earlier on, the Tax Administration Bill which I have already presented.

Madam Speaker, this work involved the modernisation, harmonisation, and consolidation of the administrative provisions of both the Income Tax Act and the Value Added Tax Act into a single legislative framework. The consolidation aims, among others, to enhance tax compliance and reduce duplication of processes, particularly for taxpayers.

Madam Speaker, the Income Tax Act, last substantively reviewed in 1995, has become outdated, inconsistent and overly complex due to numerous amendments over the years. These repeated changes have resulted in inconsistencies in terminology, drafting styles, and overall lack coherence, increasing the risk of misinterpretation. The review therefore sought to simplify and modernise the legislation while relocating procedural and administrative provisions to the new Tax Administration Bill.

Against this background, Madam Speaker, the Bill introduces several new concepts and revises existing provisions. For example, the current Income Tax Act does not define interest. Ordinarily, interest arises from borrowing or debt accrues from day to day and is tied to the cost of financing. This Bill expands the definition to capture payments arising from derivative instruments or hedging agreements related to borrowings, as well as

financing costs under Islamic financing arrangements. This broader definition ensures more consistent and equitable taxation.

Madam Speaker, the Bill introduces the concept of a permanent establishment as the basis for allocating taxing rights over the business income of non-residents, in line with the United Nations (UN) Model Tax Convention.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also introduces general geographic source-of-income rules for Botswana, under which any income not expressly identified as Botswana-sourced will be treated as foreign-sourced. This approach aligns Botswana's rules with internationally recognised source-based taxing principles reflected in tax treaties. Currently, the Income Tax Act imposes tax on gross income that has accrued or is deemed to have accrued from sources situated or deemed to be situated in Botswana. Section 11 then sets out specific categories of income that are deemed to accrue in Botswana. The practical effect of this framework is that residents are taxed on a worldwide basis. The new rules therefore modernise the sourcing principles and provide greater clarity and consistency.

Madam Speaker, through this Bill, the 30 per cent corporate tax rate applicable to non-resident companies is abolished and instead introduces the Repatriated Profit Tax to align with dividend withholding tax payable by Botswana subsidiaries. The higher rate charged to non-resident companies was intended to equalise the tax treatment between subsidiaries and branches. The introduction of the Repatriated Profit Tax seeks to ensure parity in the taxation of profits earned by foreign entities operating in Botswana through branches and those earned through locally incorporated subsidiaries as well as eliminate what looks like discrimination between resident companies and non-resident companies.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also introduces a simplified income tax regime for individuals and sole proprietors operating small businesses with annual gross income of below P1 million and who are not registered for Value Added Tax. The objective is to ease compliance on micro and small enterprises. Currently, all businesses, including proprietors must maintain comprehensive business records and retain them for extended periods, or requirement that can be onerous for small

operators who may lack the financial resources to secure professional support for record-keeping and reporting under the standard income tax system. This was Honourable Kaizer's problem, I hope is resolved, for small proprietors is not eight years, it would be three years. The Bill proposes that eligible businesses be taxed using individual marginal tax rate structure, allowing them to benefit from the zero-tax bracket on taxable income up to P48,000. They will also face reduced reporting obligations, although they will be required to file tax returns even where their income falls below taxable threshold.

Madam Speaker, the Income Tax Bill, 2025 seeks to clarify and harmonise the tax treatment of mutual associations. A mutual association is a body, society or organisation that is established and operated solely for the benefit of its members (*motshelo*). Common examples include co-operatives, burial societies, and savings and loan associations. In essence, a mutual association functions as a member-owned enterprise. Currently, inconsistent provisions in the law result in some mutual associations being taxed while others with similar objectives are exempt. The Bill addresses this inconsistency by introducing a unified definition of "mutual associations" and standardising their tax treatment. Under the proposed framework, mutual associations will be subject to a reduced tax rate, Honourable OomLu, a reduced tax rate, please note that down, of only five per cent, supporting their growth while ensuring an appropriate fiscal contribution.

Furthermore, to ensure equitable treatment with other employees under the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) system and to prevent large year-end tax liabilities, the Bill introduces a self-withholding requirement. Under this provision, employees of international organisations, embassies, diplomatic missions and other entities exempt from PAYE obligations will be required to withhold and remit their own tax.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also introduces a variable income tax rate for diamond mining companies in which the Government has no ownership interest. Under the current framework, all mining companies except diamond mining companies are subject to a variable income tax rate of up to 55 per cent. Extending this regime to non-Government-owned diamond mining

operations promotes equity in the taxation of mining companies, it ensures a fairer sharing of revenue and maintains Botswana's competitiveness as an investment destination.

The Bill also introduces the deduction rules to the three phases of mining, namely, prospecting, development and rehabilitation stage recognising that the risks and profitability differ across phases. Based on phases of operation and risk, a distinction has been made between prospecting expenditure, which is high risk and tax sensitive and development and production expenditure, which is lower risk as the mining company have necessary information after exploration that there is a valuable resource to mine. The current Act does not split mining operations in phases for purposes of allocation of expenditure.

Madam Speaker, I therefore move that the Income Tax Bill, 2025 (No. 36 of 2025), be read for the second time. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR LUCAS (BOBIRWA): Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ke re kana tota go thata gore re bue kगतलhanong le lekgetho, tota le a tlhokafala. Maloba ke ne ke botsa mongwe wa *economists* tse ke di ke tshepang thata gore, ke gore fa lefatshe le tšhonne jaaka re le bolelelwa jaana, go raya gore ke gotweng. *He depressed me*, a bua gore ke *tax, tax and tax*, ka fitlhela go ntshulafaleitse thata. Makgetho mokgwa wa one, a direlwa gore lefatshe le tle le nne le bonnyennyane jo le ka kgonang go itsamaisa, re dumela gore botlhe ba ba tlaabong ba tshwanelwa ke go nna le seabe ba ka nna le seabe seo.

Re tshwanetse ra ela tlhoko gore lefatshe le tshwana le la rona la itsholelo ya mofuta wa lone, le ka nna le mokgwa wa go imetsa bangwe lekgetho. Ke gore *an economy that is undiversified, economy* e e beileng mo diteemaneng fela, itsholelo e e leng gore *has not industrialised*, ke gore ga gona *firms* tse dingwe tse di dirang dithoto tse di feletseng, e felela e dira gore kwa bofelong go nne le letlhoko la ditiro le le kwa godimonyana. Fa letlhoko la ditiro le le kwa godimonyana go raya gore batho ba ba kgethisiwang e nna palo potlana, go bo go raya gore jaanong gore go tshetswe ba ba sa berekeng ke gore go raya gore go bo go kgethisiwa palo potlana e e berekang.

E re fa re bua ka makgetho jaana, re bo re itse gore re na le kgwetlho e tona e ke dumelang gore Mothusa Tautona

a reng, re tlaa felela re e kgonne, mme a re re tlaa e kgona ka BETP. Ya gore jaanong re nne le *a diversified economy*, e e tlaa kgonang gore e nne le batho ba le bantsi ba ba kgonang gore ba kgethe, e bo lekgetho leo le ka kgona go thusa tšhaba ya lefatshe la rona. Nngwe ya dikgang tse di tona tse re tshwanetseng gore re di gatelele ke gore, re tshwanetse ra kabakanya itsholelo ya rona gore e nne le batho ba le bantsi ba ba berekang, ba kwa morago ba ka kgonang go kgetha. Go bo go raya gore fa ba kgethile ka bantsi, lefatshe le ka nna le madi a le a bonang.

Sa bobedi se ke neng ke re ke se gatelele e bile se tsamaelana le se ke se buileng la ntlha ke gore, itsholelo e e tshwanang le ya rona *is a low wage economy*. Batho ba le bantsi ba a duelwa, mme ba duelwa madi a a kwa tlase fela thata. Fa o re o a ba kgethisa ke moka o ba sokodisang, ka gore madi a bone ga a tsamaelane le boturu jwa botshelo bantsi jwa bone. Ke sone se *the tax threshold* ya rona, e gompiano re reng batho ba ba duelwang *less than* P48 000 ka ngwaga ba tshwanetse gore a bo ba sa kgethe, e raya motho yo e leng gore o amogela P4 000. Gakere ke ene P4 000 ole wa *manifesto* wa UDC. Kana mme fa motho gongwe a amogela P4 500, P5 000 *even up to* P6 000, tota gore o re wa mo kgethisa o a bo o dira gore a sokole le go gaisa, a sokodisiwa ke gore jaanong botshelo jone bo tura le go gaisa. Lotlhe le itse ka fa e leng gore mo nakong e khutshwane, ditlhwatlhwa tsa motlakase, metsi, leokwane...

MR MAPULANGA: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga, ke a leboga *Honourable Vice President (VP)* Taolo, re se ka ra *confuse* batho. Ke ne ke re o wele thata mo kgang e gotweng, mo Botswana bodiredi *especially* badirelapuso, ga gona yo o amogelang kwa tlase ga P4 000. A Puso e gakologelwe gore, *there is a difference between a basic salary and a gross salary*, ga o ka ke wa tsaya *allowance* o e kopanyetsa mo *salary* e e kwa tlase ga P4 000, o bo o re motho yo o amogela P4 000, golo mo ga o ka ke wa go kgethisa fa go nna jaana. Ga ke itse gore a mme P4 000 o a amogelwa mo lefatsheng la Botswana mo badirelapusong.

MR LUCAS: *Honourable Mmolotsi* a re o bua ka ga eng, o bua kgang e e tshelang. P4 000 yoo, bontlha bongwe jwa yone bo dirwa ke *allowance*, e gongwe e ka tswang e le bo P700-P800. Ka jalo go bua gore motho yo

o amogela P4 000 e le *basic salary*, ga go boammaaruri e bile ke bona e le boferefere jwa Puso, gore e ne e rile e tlile go amogedisa batho P4 000 jaanong Puso e itshwanela fela le Choppies. Choppies le yone e ne e re e tlile go amogedisa batho P4 000, go tsweng foo e bua gore sa ntlha fa e le gore o na le *less than a year* ga o ka ke wa bona P4 000 yoo, go tswa foo bontlha bongwe jwa *pay* ya gago e nna *food parcels* tse o di neelwang. O a bona fela gore golo ga teng ke boferefetshananyana jo bo dirwang ke Puso, jaanong Choppies le yone ka fa e a bo dira. Ke dilo tse re sa tshwanelang gore re ka bo re di bona.

Se ke neng ke batla go remelela mo go sone...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: On a point of order.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure.

MR LUCAS: *Procedure* gape, dikgang di ise di ye gope fela e bile *procedure*.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Laughter!)

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (MR MOSWAANE): *On a point of order.* Mogolwane Lucas o e tshwere sentle, mme ke bone gongwe a tla a itebala a bua ka *companies* tse di mo kgwebong mo lefatsheng la Botswana, mme di seyo kwano go ka ikarabela seemo se se leng teng. Kopo ya me ke gore, melao ya Ntlo e ga e letle gore ope...*(Interruptions)*... kante lona le tsena kae, le tswa kae?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Laughter!)

MR MOSWAANE: Ma BCP go rileng?

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane!

MR MOSWAANE: Ke ne ke re melao ya Ntlo ya Palamente kwa ntle ga gore Moswaane a reng, o kare ke yone e ke e gopolang gore e a sireletsa. Fa ba batla go bua ka Goromente ba ka bua ka ene, mme Goromente fela tota kwa go P4 000 o gorigile, *whether by allowance, it is an amount that is...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane, *ga se* point of order.

MR LUCAS: Ke a utlwa gore a re ka fa o leka go hemela se se diragalang kwa ntle, gore ke se ka ka bua

companies ka maina. *Company* eo go lebege e le rutile botsipa jwa gore fa o sa batle go neela batho P4 000 e le *basic salary*, o dira jang. Bontlha bongwe o ba neela phaletšhe, le lona ke dumela gore le ka dira jalo.

Ke ne ke batla go supa jaana VP *and Minister of Finance* gore, fa re bua ka gore jaanong batho ba ba amogelang P4 000 go ya kwa tlase ba se ka ba kgetha mo nakong ya gompiano, ke dumela gore ke nngwe ya dilo tse re tshwanetseng ra di sekaseka, ke tlaa supa gore madi a bone a tlaa emisetswa ke mang. Re tshwanetse ra di sekaseka ka gore botshelo bo a tura. O bona motho yo o amogelang P6 000 kana P5 000, fa o tsaya boturu gompiano jwa ditlhwatlhwa tsa dijo, di oketswa tota ke *shops* tse Rre Moswaane a di hemelang. Ke gore *when it is announced* sepe fela gotwe *petrol* e simolotswe go oketsega, ba oketsa ditlhwatlhwa mo dijong le sepe se nngeng se ntse se le teng foo...

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (MR MOSWAANE): *Procedure.* Nnyaa, ke ne ke sa re ke hemela dikompone, Rre Lucas o kare o nkokometsa lekape la motsotsojane. *I quoted* fela gore melao ya Ntlo e, e batla re sireletsa ba ba senang go ikarabela, ka gore ke itse gore fa ke go raya ke re ke go amogedisa P4 000 ke bo ke go neela P3 800, ke bo ke re P200 ke wa *funeral scheme* ke ntse ke go gorisitse.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Laughter!)

MR MOSWAANE: Ke go gorisitse. *Thank you.*

MR LUCAS: O senya kgang ya me le *Minister of Finance*, ka go e tsenya megatlananyana. Ke dumela gore o ka e utlwisisa sentle gore, tota mme ga se gore re atumele fa pelenyana re bo re simolola gongwe re re ba ba amogelang P6 000 go ya kwa tlase, bao bone *they be exempted from tax*. Re amogela rotlhe gore botshelo bo a tura fela thata, le rona ba re berekang fa jaaka bontsi jwa rona re amogela ka di 7, ka di 10 ga ba na le fa e le sheleng. E ka se ke ya re go turelwa rona, e bo e le gore jaanong batho ba ba amogelang P6 000 ra re ba kgethe. Ke dumela gore o tshwanetse gore o e akanyetse eo rraetsho, e nne nngwe ya dilo tse o di lebang tota ka tlhwaafalo.

O e lebe jaana gape, gakere o utlwile gore jaanong madi re a tsaya kae. *The highest tax rate* mo bogompionong e nna *around 27.5*, ke ne ke re batho ba ba amogelang

kwa godimo le bone o ba kgaoganye. Ba ba amogelang madi a a tshwarang P100 000, *the high tax rate* ya bone e tshwanetse ya nna e e botokanyana e e oketsegileng, gona le gore motho fa a amogela P33 000, o mo kgethisa fela ka 27.5 jaaka yo o amogelang P100 000. Go na le bodiredi jwa Puso jo bo amogelang P100 000, fa ba bangwe ba santse ba ikgatilha ka gore ba bangwe ba amogela P4 000, ba bo ba re gone moo go siame, mme go na le ba ba amogelang P100 000. Ke re *tax rate* ya ba ba amogelang P100 000 *and I want to be very clear on this*, ba ba amogelang P100 000 go ya kwa godimo, *tax rate* ya bone a e ko e palame le yone gongwe e ye go goroga kwa go bo 35. E tlaabo e se bothodi golo moo ka gore, go na le mafatshe a e leng gore batho ba ba amogelang kwa godimo *are taxed* go gaisa ba ba amogelang kwa tlase fela go menagane. Jaanong kwano o kare re a itshireletsa ba re amogelang madi a a kwa godimo. Re lekangwa fela le yo o amogelang C1 kana D4. Fela fa o tsena mo go bo E le F, fa o utlwa gotwe motho o amogela F, o itse gore madi a gagwe a kwa godimo thata *and* motho yoo go raya gore *tax rate* ya gagwe e ne e tshwanetse go nna kwa godimonyana. Mme go lebege o batla *to lump them together*, gore batho ba ba tshwanetse go tshwana fela ka *tax rate*. Ke re madi a ba ba kwa godimo a tlaa emela bale ba ke neng ke ba kopela ke re, motho fa a amogela P6 000 go ya kwa tlase, *they should not be taxed*. E bile kana a le a mantsi, *if you tax a le mongwefela, you cover* bale ba le 200. So, o a bona gore gone moo go ka re thusa thata VP. Ke bua le wena, ke bona monna yo o bapileng le wena a tshegatshega, o akanya gore re tlaa mmabalela ka lekgetho.

MADAM SPEAKER: E go tshwere *honourable*.

MR KEDIKILWE (SEROWE WEST): *Thank you Madam Speaker.* Mma ke go leboge ke bo ke leboge Tona, e bile letsatsijeno a kotame setilo sa lefatshe le. Ke lebogela pego kana molao o a o tlisitseng fa pele ga Palamente e, ka gore tota ke le nosi ga ke ka ke ka fapaana le ene go le kalo, ka ke a tlhaloganya gore makgetho ke one a ka dirang gore lefatshe le tswelole le itsamaisa le fa go tlhaela. Mme e nne mengwe ya metswedi e e dirang gore lefatshe le kgone go tswelola ka ditiro tse di tlhokafalang, gore le dire ditlhabololo. Maphakela ke ne ke reeditse ke utlwa gotwe ba ne ba ipetse seelo ba makgetho, segolo thata ba BURS, ba re ba kgonne *to collect P60 billion*. Ke bo ke bona gore,

mme go raya gore motswedi ke oo o a utlwala. Mme e bile ba na le tsholofelo ya gore ba ka dira botoka go na le ka fa ba dirileng ka teng mo ngwageng o o tlang wa madi, jaanong ba itshuteletsa kwa go P65. Ke bo ke bona gore, go raya gore ba ikala mo go botoka ka ba bona gore o kare gompieno gongwe ga ba gagamatsa setoropo thata ba ka kgona go phutha madi a mantsi.

Ke tshwenyega thata Tona fa e le gore e santse letsatsijeno mo lefatsheng le...le fa wena o ne o bua kgantele ke utlwa o re, le fa re ka tokafatsa re dira ka maranyane, go santse go na le ka fa re ka dirang sentle ka teng, ra kgona go kgethisa mongwe le mongwe. Ke tshwenyega thata fa ke santse ke bona gotwe go na le batho jaaka nne Tona a bua fa, e bile gotwe *if you do not swipe* re ka go neela *bonus*-nyana ya bontilha bongwe. Ke gore o bona gore ke thotoetso ya gore *people should not keep records* tsa bone sentle. Kana gore Goromente a kgone go phutha makgetho sentle ke gore go nne le *records* tse di papametseng, tse di supang letseno la madi. Fa *records* di seyo, e le go abelela fela, ke santse ke na le pelaelo *unless* o ka dira gore ke dumele tota gore o ka ba bona jang bone bao. Le nna ke kile ka fa sekai gore, ke ne ke reka sengwe golo gongwe ka madi fela a magolwane, mme e rile ke reka ka gore ke ne ke dikologile gotlhe go sena kwa ke ka duelang teng, ke bo ke fitlhela bone bao ba nthaya ba re, “mme rona fa o duela gompieno jaana, maphakela o olela dithoto tse o di batlang.” E le gore *they do not want me to swipe*. Ba re ga ba na *swiping machine*, ba bua maano otlhe a gore, *we applied to the banks*, ke tsone tse di re diileng. Ka re, ga gona mo go ntseng jalo, ga le bolelele ruri. Ke a itse gore le dira eng, ke tlile go le tlhola nna. Ke tlaa le boela. Ke a di duela, mme ke tlile go le boela. Ga ke ake, ke ya go ba boela. Ka gore *business* e ba e dirang, ke bone gore e ntsi ya *wardrobes*. Jaanong, go a tshwenya fa e le gore go santse go na le batho ba ba mo kgwebong mo lefatsheng la Botswana ba ba batlang go gweba ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Gongwe ba lemogile melao ya rona gore e iketlile thata Tona. Le fa le ba tshwara dikotlhaio tse le ba otlhayang ka tsone ga le ba re sepe, ka gore e bile ba a bo ba tshwere madi, fa gongwe go motlhofo... jaaka o utlwa Motlotlegi Lucas a bua gore babereki ba rona ke ba ba amogelang kwa tlase, fa gongwe go motlhofo thata gore fa a tsena re re re ba latile, gongwe ba re reke ka tsela nngwe, gore ba bo ba tswa o kare ga ba a dira sepe. Jaanong golo mo ga re go elwe thoko

thata. Ke a tshwenyega thata Tona ka kgang e e ntseng jalo. Ka gore le nna ke ba bone, le gone mo mmolong gone fa. Re kaile gantsintsi, mme ke bona e ntse e re fa o tse na mo mmolong gompiano, gone fa gare ga mmolo tota o fitlhela dishopo tse di tletseng fale e le gore *they do not swipe*.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Tsa ditlhako.

MR KEDIKILWE: *They do not swipe* tsa ditlhako le tsa disutu, tse di fa tse. *They do not swipe*. Ba go raya ba re duela *cash*. Jaanong ke kgang e e tshwenyang thata Tona. Gone re a tlhologanya gore...mme fa go sa nna jalo, fa makgetho a seyo, jaaka re lela ba re emetseng dikgaolo tse o tlaa fitlhelang di imela Goromente, le nna tota ke bona gore di imela Goromente ka *social protection*. Go a tshwenya thata, jaanong Goromente o tlaa tlhokomela batho ba ka eng. Re a tlhologanya. Pele ke ne ke na le go tshwenyega gore batho ba ke ba emetseng kwa dikgaolong tsa bo Malatswai, Dimajwe, o ba duedisa VAT. Golo mo go ne go ntshwenya, mme kwa mafelelong ka fitlhela e le gore mme *in turn*, ba bona *benefit* ya lekgetho leo fa ba le duetse, ka gore makgetho a a boa gape a tlile go bereka mo go bone. Jaanong ke bo ke bona gore, mme go na le karabo ka gore kwa bofelong ke bone *that benefit* gape, Goromente o kgona go ba tlhokomela sentle ka makgetho a ba a duetseng a.

Go na le lekgetho le le ntshwenyang thata Tona. Lekgetho le ke le le duediswang morui wa kgomo, le bitswa gotwe *Withholding Tax* la 4 *per cent*. Lekgetho le le a ntshwenya Tona. O a bona gore Mopalamente wa Bobirwa Rre Lucas, a re fa motho *income* ya gagwe ya ngwaga e le P48 000 ga a kgethe, a rialo. Ga ke itse gore a ke a mo pateletsa...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke nnete.

MR KEDIKILWE: Le *Honourable* Ramogapi o buile jalo a re, fa e le gore *his memory is serving him well*, fa motho a amogela P48 000 ka ngwaga ga a kgethe. Mme Motswana wa sekei, wa mosadimogolo, monnamogolo le motholagadi, fa a rekisa kgomonyana e nngwefela ka ngwaga, e e bonang P5 000, o kgetha *Withholding Tax* ya 4 *per cent*. Ke re le fa re ka bo re bapala madi jang ka pelo e e bothoko, lefatshe le le kwa tlase, leba seo fa o dira dipaakanyo. A re lebelele *income, at least* ya motho fa a rekisa gongwe *per invoice* kana *whatever yield* e dikgomo di e mo neetseng *on that period* e a

rekisitseng ka yone. Ke gone re mo kgethise jalo. Re se ka ra kgethisa motho kgomonyana e nngwefela. Fa gongwe kgomo e nngwefela o e rekisa morago ga *five years*. Kana kgomo ga e gole letsatsi le letsatsi jaaka dikoko tse ditshweu tse tsa nama. Kgomo e gola morago ga *five years*. Go raya gore motho yo o sokotseng *for five years*, re bo re tla re mo kgethisa jalo mo go P5 000.

MR HIKUAMA: *Clarification*. Kgang e ya lekgetho la dikgomo e o e buang ya 4 *per cent*, akere ka fa ba duela go ntshiwa lekgetho le la 4 *per cent*, go bo go bowa go ntshiwa le VAT.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ...(Inaudible)...

MR HIKUAMA: Ee, e a ntshiwa gape. Fa e le gore wena ga ba ntshe kwa ga lona, ke kgang e sele.

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

MR HIKUAMA: A ga o bone golo moo go kokonela barui?

MR KEDIKILWE: Ee, mme jaaka o dumalana le nna, gone fela tota ke gore go ne go sa lebiwa sentle. Se ke se buang ke gore, motho yo e a bo e le *income* ya gagwe ya ngwaga, a rekisa gangwefela mo ngwageng *after five years*. Jaanong ke gone fa ke reng, ke kopa Tona gore eo a e sekaseke thata, ka gore e seng jalo go raya gore re tlaabo re mo soketse dirope motho wa Modimo, re mmolaile la bofelo. Re a tlhologanya gore makgetho ke one fela a Goromente a ka kgonang gore... jaaka gompiano re bua ka bo *social protection*, fa re bua ka P300 yo o neng a buiwa, ke fapaana le ene a re, go se ka motho...yo a bonang gore ga a ka ke a kgona... Kana ke tshwanelo ya gagwe rra. Le ngwana yo a mo imileng o tshwana fela le yo o imilweng ke yo mongwe. Ga ke tseye gore ke *double dipping*. Nna ka re, a godise ngwana fela, a se ka a ithontsha tshwanelo ya gagwe, P300 yo wa gagwe le ene ngwana wa gagwe a kgone *to benefit*, foo ke fapaana le ene Tona, nna ga ke bue jalo.

Madi a ke a gompiano re buang ka *disability* gore, banalebogole ba tshwanetse gore ba tlhokomelwe, a tswa mo makgethong Tona. Ke dumalana le wena gore, o tshwanetse wa bona gore *records* di nna *perfect*, batho ba ba a kgethisiwa ka botswerere. Re kgone gore re phuthe madi a lefatshe le, ditsela di kgone go nna teng tse re ngongoregang ka tsone letsatsi le letsatsi. Re ngongorega ka dikole gore di matanta, di nna matanta

jalo ka gore re ngongorega ka gone gore makgetho ga a phuthiwe sentle. Fa a phuthiwa sentle, ke tsaya gore dilo tse di tlaa baakanngwa.

MR LUCAS: *On a point of clarification.* Kana Rre Kedikilwe e ne e setse e kete o feta kgang e ya go kgethisa *Withholding Tax 4 per cent*. Kana jaanong go na le kgang ya gore bone barekisi ba, fa ba rekisetsa *butcheries*, di felela di tsere mateng a; dibete, diphilo ba a tsaya, ga ke itse gore a ba ituela ka tsone. Ga ke itse gore a moo le gone o a go itse?

MR KEDIKILWE: Moo e a bo e le tlolo molao fa e le gore go ka nna jalo. O nkgakolotse kgang e nngwe e e botlhokwa thata, e bile jaanong bone ba ba tsayang *Withholding Tax* ba, ga se batho *who submit tax*. *From the farmer* o e tsere, go tswa fa ga a e fetisetse kwa go Goromente, ka gore o lemogile gore lona le le Goromente ga le dire *follow-ups* go bona gore a batho ba ba kwadisitseng ba ba re ba tlaa tsaya makgetho mo Batswaneng, ke moka a neng a gamola motho yole wa Modimo fela go tswa foo a bo a itirela *profit on top of that*. Jaanong jaaka Mopalamente Lucas a bua, o a boa o tsaya mateng a kgomo ya motho gape mme ka fa o tsere *4 per cent*. Moo ke go tsietsa Motswana.

Ke wele ka gore, nna ke dumalana le Tona, *I support you*. Kana batho ba dikgwebo, ba bangwe e bile ba ba dirang jaana, ga se ba Botswana, go na le *possibility* ya gore e re a sena go bona gore o tsere madi jaaka ke ne ke bua gore ke mmone fale yo ke mo itseng, fa o re ke ye go go ba supegetsa, ke ka ya go ba go supegetsa, ba ka nna ba tsamaya ba ise ba ye go kgetha wena o ntse o re re tlaa ba leka ka tsela nngwe e e leng gore re ka ba leka ka yone. Ke re a re dire jalo Tona, ke go ema nokeng.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

(MR MOSWAANE): *Thank you Madam Speaker.* Ke tseye nako e ke leboge *the Vice President of the Republic of Botswana*, Rraetsho Ndaba Nkosinathi Gaolathe go bo a re beile pele Tshutiso e ya go baakanya tsamaiso ya makgetho ka fa re a kgobokanyang ka teng mo lefatsheng leno. Rraetsho, mma ke leboge bononofi, tlhalefo le go berekisana mmogo le ba o nang le bone go tla le tla go goroga mo tshwetsong e e tshwanang le e. Ke re o tshwanelwa ke tlotlo le kgaleletso mo tirong ya gago e e molemo.

Go a bonala gore lefatshe leno re mo mathateng, mme jaaka re le mo mathateng jaana, go a bonala gore kgetsi ya tsie e kgonwa ke go tshwaraganelwa, letsema le thata ka mong wa lone. Motswana ke ene mong wa letsema le, fa go le thata, diteemane le *tourism* di sa tlhole di re neela sepe, sengwe fela se re ntseng re itshetsa ka sone re se tlwaetse, ke gore re ikgadime re le Batswana gore re ka dira jang gore re tokafatse gore re ka kgabaganya jang mola go ya go tsaya makgetho mo go ba re tshwanetseng gore re a tseye mo go bone.

Rraetsho, ke tswa kgakala ka *the 11th Parliament*, re ne re santse re na le Rraetsho Kenneth Matambo, ra nna le Dr Matsheka, ra nna le Mmaetsho Peggy Serame, ke supa thata gore makgetho a jaanong o kare a tsewa mo go ba ba ilwang, ba ba ratiwang ga a tsewe mo go bone. Seemo se se tlišitse gore re bo re khubame ka mangole re le tšhaba ya Botswana re sa tlhole re na le dinonofa tsa madi. Jaanong rraetsho, ke ne ke go kopa gore a re le beng tsamaiso e mo go yone re yang go patika mongwe le mongwe yo o tshwanetseng go duela makgetho gore a a duele ka tsamaiso, e bile re sa mo direle *favour*. Ke na le tumelo ya gore go na le batho ba ba tshabiwang ba go sa gorogiweng kwa go bone. Tumelo ya me ke gore, re le phathi e ntšha ya UDC re se ka ra boifa ba ba neng ba ntse ba boifiwa ke Puso ya pele ka gore ba re beile fa re leng ka go sa dueleng makgetho. Bagwebi ga ba duele makgetho mo lefatsheng la Botswana, ba a ikitse.

Dikgwebo tse ditonatona ga di na sepe le go duela makgetho mme e bile ga di banke. E bile bontsi jwa bone o tlaa fitlhela e le ba letso le lengwefela ba e leng gore mo pheletsong ya letsatsi *they trade amongst themselves*, ga ba batle go tsenya ope fa gare. O tlaa fitlhela yo mongwe e le *the wholesale distributor* a bo a nna le *retailers*, jaanong o *supply* le tsone fela ba mo duela *cash*. Fa o re o a ba tlhola batho ba, o fitlhela ba setse e bile o kare ba nna dibanka tse di *illegal*, le go fetola madi, ba fetolela Batswana.

MR LEKAU: *On a point of clarification.* *Thank you very much.* *Honourable* Moswaane o bua sentle ka gore e bile gone mo ga go je lefatshe la Botswana ntsoma fela, go tswelela mo e leng gore le bone Batswana ba bangwe fa ba ya go reka gone kwa dikgwebong tseo, ga ba rekisetswe ka tlhwatlhwa e go rekang ba letso leo. E bile fa yo mongwe wa bone a dira *tender*, ke banka fela e e kgonang *to finance* yo mongwe mme madi a sa tsamaye a ya go tsena gope mo dibankeng tse re di di itseng.

MR MOSWAANE: O bua nnete rraetsho. Kgang e ke batlang gore Mothusa Tona a e lemoge ke gore, batho ba ke setseng ke ba kaile, ba gweba ka ntata ya ditumelo, dingwao le matso a bone fela, wena o le Motswana o nna *consumer* fela. Jaanong ba kgona go re ba re tsietse mo makgethong, o bo o fitlhela e le gore ga go duelesege. Kopo ya me ke gore, a re lekeng ka bojotlhe go bona gore banna ba ba bahumi, kana o tlaa fitlhela motho wa teng a bereka e kete ga a amogele, mme e le gore *turnover ya business* ya gagwe ke *millions and millions of Pula*, mme ene e kete ke mmereki fela mme e le mong wa kgwebo ya teng.

Let us introduce mogopolo ole wa gore diphathi tsa sepolotiki di neelwe dithuso tsa madi ka gore fa o ntse o tswetse, ba ya go go kaya ka mokao wa go kopa dithuso mo go bone. Fa o kopa dithuso mo go bone, o a kaiwa, kamoso fa e le ene a sa dueleng lekgetho, o go gopotsa gore kana maabane o ne o le fa, ga ke itse gore a o a gakologelwa. Ka jalo, ke re rona ba re mo Ntlong e le diphathi tsa sepolotiki, a re tsweng mo go reng re ka ya go kopa madi ao ka gore ba a re kaya, *and* ba tlile go kaya mongwe le mongwe ka gore thuso e e ntseng jalo ke ya mookisa e e feletsang jaanong e go iteisa letswalo, le bo le fifala, o sa tlhole o ema mo boammaaruring jo bo leng teng. A re lebeleleng dikgang tse sentle.

MR LUCAS: *On a point of elucidation.* Ke emela fela go go ema nokeng gore tota diphathi tsa sepolotiki di neelwe lemmonyana ka gore e seng jalo re tlile go rekwa rotlhe fela gone fa. Ke leboga go menagane rraetsho.

MR MOSWAANE: Jaaka ke go tshepha *the Vice President of the Republic of Botswana*, dikgang tse re di buang, ke itse gore o di tsaya ka tlhwaafalo, mme go tlile gore re gagamatse setoropo gore lefatshe leno le kgone go emelela fa le le teng, re kgone go itshetsa le go ikemela ka gore batho ba fa o ba lebeletse, re ba tshepha fela, mme ke baeng, ba na le kwa ga bone. Ba berekela mono gore letsatsi le letsatsi ba bo ba rora madi a bone a boela kwa a tswang teng, kana ba tla ka bonnyennyane ba gweba ka bo 20 *per cent*, mme fa ba sena go tsaya *profits* tse di kanakana tse, e bile ga ba na sepe le gore mono ba dira eng. Le fa o ka re go na le monalebogole ke yo o batla thuso, o itse gore o ntse o itsenya mo setoropong, ga o ka ke wa kgona go tswa mo teng. A re berekeng re le setšhaba le Puso ya Botswana go bona gore makgetho a re a tsaya mo go mongwe le mongwe yo o lebehang.

Go na le ntlha e nngwe VP e ke nang le selelo mo go yone ya gore re phuntshe letshoba kwa Department of Tertiary Education Financing (DTEF), *we sponsor* batho go ya dikoleng, *for the past 30 years* batho ba ga go na motlhala wa gore fa ba feditse ba setse ba bereka ba duela jang. E bile morago fa ba se na go fetsa, ba bereka, o tlaa bona e le gore batho ba ga go na le fa e le sepe se ba se duetseng. Ga ke itse gore ka gore re mo konterakeng e re e beileng monwana, ke eng fela go sa dirisiwe tsamaiso ya gore motho jaaka a na le Omang, fa a simolola go bereka, fa e le gore o bereka mo Pusong, *automatically* e bo e supa, *blinking* mo *dashboards* ya gago Mothusa Tautona gore *so and so* o tshwere tiro, jaanong re simolola *to deduct*. O sa mo latela, *system* e mo latele.

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION (MR MAELE): *Clarification.* Ke ne ke re, fa o ntse o tswetse o e bua, o gatelele thata mo go ba ba mo *private sector* because ba ba mo Pusong, re kgona go tsaya madi mo go bone, *as we know where they are.*

Secondly, o leke go bua thata le ka ba ba senang ditiro, ba sa theogela. *It is very difficult for us to say pay back*, motho a sa bereke.

MR MOSWAANE: Nnyaa, o bona motho fa a sa bereke, ga re ka ke ra lata lentswe ra re, “ntsha madi.” Ka jalo, ke dumalana le wena. Re mo Pusong, a *systems* tsa rona di tsamaelane le ba *private sector*. Batho ba bangwe ba ba berekang mo Debswana, *it is very easy to trace them.* Ba bangwe ba bereka mo ditirong tsa *mines* tse re di itseng. Ba bangwe ba bereka *in the shops* tse di tona tse re di itseng. Re ka kgona go ba latedisa mo *systems* tsa bone *to declare* gore ba na le batho ba mofuta o o ntseng jang.

Selo se Mothusa Tautona, re kabeng letshoba le ka gore o kare le re apesitse kobo ka letshoba. Ga re kgone go latedisa *millions and millions* tse re di tshelang kwa DTEF. Ke seemo se ke se kopang. Fa go ne go ntse jalo, golo mo e ne e ka nna tsamaiso e e supang gore boammaaruri, o ka kgona go latedisa madi a rona.

Ke batla go feleletsa kwa ke simolotseng teng, a re lateng batho ba ba tshabegang mo lefatsheng la Botswana. Re ye go tsaya makgetho kwa go bone. Banna ba le borre ba, ga ba ikutlwe go duela makgetho. Rre Kedikilwe o buile ka bone le ba bangwe, ke bagwebi ba ba tshabegang mo

lefatsheng la Botswana. Batho ba ba tshabegang mo Botswana, ga ba duele makgetho. Ka re, a go iwe kwa go bone, go ye go tsewa makgetho, re kgone go tla go direla Batswana ditiro. Ga ke batle go ba bua ka maina ka gore le itse melao ya Ntlo e. A go iwe kwa go bone go tsewe madi, re thuse tšhaba ya Botswana. Re ye go goroga mo ditsholofetsong tsa rona. Makgetho ke one fela letseno le mo nakong ya gompiano, le ka bolokang tšhaba eno. Batho ba mo nakong ya gompiano, ba setse ba le bosilo, e bile Goromente e kete o a ba tšhaba. A re yeng, ba setse ba itirela diorata. *Thank you.*

MR LEKAU (MOGODITSHANE WEST): Ke a leboga. Le nna ke eme gompiano, ke eme nokeng. Ke tlaa leka go nna mokhutshwane gore nkgonne Mosanana, a tle a leke go tsena. Tota ke batla go lebelela mo kgannyeng ya dikgomo. Fa o lebelela Tona, o kare *withholding tax* segolo jang ba ba mo *red zone*, *they could be exempted* ka gore ba tsene mo lehumeng. Fa o tsaya tlhwatlhwa ya dikgomo tse di kwa *red zone* le tsa *green zone*, o fitlhela *difference* ya teng e le kwa godimo thata. Batho bao ba gateletswe ke lehuma le le ntsi thata. Jaanong o kare re tsaya madi le mo mohumaneging yo o tseneletseng. Batho ba dikgaolo tse di mo *red zone* fa go tla mo *withholding tax*, o kare ba ka sekasekelwa *to be exempted*. E re bone fa ba rekisa, bogolo ba sekegelwe gore fa kgomo ya bone kwano e e ja P7 000, ya gagwe kwa ke P1 800. Seemo seo, re se tsenye leitlho.

Se sengwe gape se ke batlang go bua ka sone, ke batho ba dikgwebo ba ba reng ba dumela mo *cash*. O tsenye selo se leitlho thata ka gore se re baya ka fa mosing. Ke eletsa gore e re fa re supa gore fa o na le letseno la P4 000 ka kgwedi o tlaa kgethisiwa, le bone ba dikgwebo tse re ka bo re supa gore fa ba dira *a minimum of P4 000* ka kgwedi, ba nne le Point of Sale (POS) *machine*, so that re kgone *to trace funds* tse.

Gape go na le sengwe se sesha se se tseneng, *trend ya to dodge* gore ba ka kgethisiwa. Fa o tsena, ba go raya ba re, “*television; small money, no tax.*” Go raya gore “*no swipe, small money, television, mole le mole.*” BURS ga e ise e supe gore *we do not tax televisions, radios, batteries*, ke *small money*. Ga go na *small money*.

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE): Elucidation. Thank you Madam Speaker. As it is the tradition, I was hoping to answer at the end, but there is a recurring theme around the 4 per cent withholding,

that all of you are unhappy and opposed to. I just wanted to say that it is actually one of the proposals that it be removed. So, we clear that but I will answer all the others later.

MR LEKAU: Ke a leboga VP. O nkarabetse kwa pele. Ke tsaya gore fa o nkarabile, le Omluu ga o tlhoke go mo araba.

MR MAPULANGA: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga Madam Speaker. Mma ke go leboge *Honourable* Lekau. Go na le kgang e o ntseng o e tshwere foo, e o fitlhelang gotwe mo ke P50, *there is no swiping*. Go na le *trend in these other shops* tse e e leng gore fa selwana sa bone e le P50, ba go raya ba re, “*we do not swipe less than that.*” Ga go na molao ope wa *visa* o o reng madi a *swiping* a simolola mo go bokana. Ba ipeela melao, ba batla go kganela Batswana *to swipe*.

Then the other issue e o neng o e bua, e ke batlang *to clarify* ke ya gore, jaaka re fitlhela e le gore *cashflow* ga e sa tlhole e le teng, a ga se nako ya gore Puso e sekaseke kgang e? Ke kile ka e bua maloba gore re fetole *bank note*. *Our highest bank note* ke P200. Batho ba ba tshwereng madi ao, ba sa batle go a isa kwa dibankeng *to deposit, if we can change that bank note* ra e busetsa kwa go P100, ba patelesege go a tlisa. Re kgone go a kgethisa, gongwe re ka dira sengwe.

MR LEKAU: Nnyaa, mme e bolaile Kasane. Ke dumalana le wena 100 *per cent*. Madi a a saleng a nna *in safes* le mo ditankeng, re kgone go a ntsha Tautona wa gompiano, ke gore a re fetoleng le ledi la rona. Fa e le gore ga re a fetole, P200 kwa re beileng motho yo o lebeleletseng diteemane, re mo fetole e nne nna. O bo o fitlhela batho bao botlhe ba batla go tlisa madi.

Se sengwe se ke batlang go bua ka sone Tona, *Honourable* Disho ga a yo fa, o ne a ka ntshupela ka sone, fa o tsena kwa makgobokgobong gompiano *if you want to book*, ga o ka ke wa *qualify for December, you qualify for 2027*. Bontsi jwa dikampa tsele, o fitlhela kompone e na le dikampa di le *four* mme madi a otlhe a sa duelelwe kwano. Madi a re a dirisang kwano, ke a kampa e le *one* fela. Ke one *manning all these camps*. Ke gore *it is a way of dodging* lekgetho. Go raya gore o dueletse koo, e bile madi a gago ga a tle kwano. Go nne le tsela e go ka lebelelwang gore *when you book* mo kampeng e e mo teng ga *delta*, o duelele kwano. Fa e le

gore ba a a tsaya, a tswe fa. Motho a se ka a tla go dirisa *resources, everything here*, o bo o fitlhela madi a teng fa a tswa fa, a ile koo. A a dirisitsweng *for* lekgetho, ke a kampa fela e le *one*.

MR MAELE: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker. Thank you so much sir.* O itse gore kgang e o e tshwereng, e bothokwa. E kile ya re ke e bua le mongwe nako nngwe, a bo a nthaya a re, “le lona go tlaabo go raya gore jaaka le reka Toyota jaana, madi a re a batla kwa Japan ka gore di tswa teng.” Ke batla gore re *reconcile* golo fa, o go nthuse. Go ne ga ntsenya dingalo thata, mme ke dumalana le wena *in principle*.

MR LEKAU: O ka tswa o bua nnete, mme nnete ya teng e se ntsi thata. Fa ke ka go fa sekai sa tiragalo ya kwa Maun, a re tseye fela tse di diragalang kwa *deltas* kana Kasane, o fitlhela motho a tswa kwa mafatsheng, a bo a tsena mo South Africa. Ba bo ba mmolelela gore kwa Botswana ga go na dijo le fa e le sepe, a bo a tla a rekile sengwe le sengwe. Go bo go raya gore se a tlelang go se dira mo *economy* ya Botswana, ke go leba ditlou, le eng, le eng, ga a dirise sepe. Go bo go raya gore rona mo mothong yoo, *we do not benefit* sepe. Kampa e e mo tshwereng, ga go na sepe se se dueletsweng fa go rona.

MR NKAWANA: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker* le *honourable* go mpha sebaka se. Ke batla go tlhaloganya sengwe fela, ka re bua ka batho ba ba tswang kwa mafatsheng. Fa gongwe ba tlisiwa ke *travel agents* tsa gone koo, e bile e le bone ba ba duedisang. Ba ka mo raya ba re, madi a o re a neelang, re *sure* gore o ya go ya kwa Botswana, o sa tsiediwa ke ope. A wa re ba se ka ba duelwa, go duelwe kwano, ke gone a bo a busediwa kwa *travel agents*? O tlhalose gone foo gore re tle re e tshware sentle.

MR LEKAU: *I want goods and services rendered in Botswana to be paid in Botswana.* Gongwe Setswana se ne se mpalela. Ka Sekgoa ke raya gore sepe se o se dirisang, a ke metsi kana ke go tsena mo *delta*. E bile Tona re bo re boa re tsenya leitlho la gore gongwe e bile ka o bapile le Tona wa Bojanala, go nne le mo molaong gore ga go motlhofo gore o bone Motswana a tswa fa a ya go tsena mo kampeng kana a ya go tsena mo *parks* tsa South Africa a ikgweetsa jaaka bone ba dira ka kwano mme dilo tseo tsotlhe ba di dueletse koo, fa e le go tla go dirisa ditsela tsa rona. Rona re boelwa ke eng mo tiragalong e e ntseng jalo? Keletso ya me ke

gore a re tsenyeng leitlho mo *services* tse di dirisiwang ke Batswana kana ba di dirisa ba le mo Botswana. A *services* tseo re bone gore go nna le letseno le re le bonang mo go tsone.

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM (MR MMOLOTSI): *Clarification.* *It is an interesting debate* e ke akanyang gore gongwe e siame thata, re tle re tseneng mo go yone. Kana gompiano jaana fa ke batla go ya kwa America *or elsewhere, booking* e dirwa mono, a dira sengwe le sengwe *all the way*. Jaanong yo o kwa le ene *when making a booking* a le kwa America a tla kwano, le ene *booking* e dirwa ke *travel agent* ya koo *all the way here*. Le rona kwano re a dira fa re ya kwa. Le bone fa batla kwano, ba a dira. *It is an interesting debate* e go tlaa reng re tle re tsene mo go yone.

MR LEKAU: Ke dumalana le wena, segolo jang ka gore e bile re batla go dira kgang ya *tourism* gore e nne yone *the second driver* ya *economy* ya Botswana. Go bothokwa gore re tsene mo go yone. O tlaa lemoga gore dilo dingwe tse ke di buang tse di ka nna le *an economic benefit* mo Botswana.

Sa bofelo ke gore nako e tshalele ya gore re bone gore Batswana ba bona dipoelo. *This visa*, a o raya gore ga go kgonege gore re itirele ga rona mo go ka duelwang madi a sala, e seng go nna gotwe *visa* e ile kwa ntle. Tla ke fe Rre Mosanana a tsene.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Nnyaa Honourable Members, lona jaanong le ja monate.* We agreed *fa re simolola kwa gore e ga re ye go tsaya nako.* If you look at the time *fa VP* a respond, *e tlaabo e le seven re tswala*, and we will be done with two, left with two. *Re a tswala, ke bitsa VP* to respond. We are still remaining with two Bills. Honourable VP, you may respond.

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE): Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Fela jaaka re dirile, re lebogela gore le a dumalana, batlotlegi ba a dumalana, re se ka ra boeletsa dikgang. Gongwe ke kgwe dikgang di le pedi, di le tharo dikgaba. Motlotlegi Lucas, dikgang tsa gago o tsweletse ka tsone tsa gore mo tebong ya gago, o kare re neneketsa ba dikamogelo tse dikgolwane. Ke bone ba ba tshwanetseng go duela makgetho go feta jaaka ba a duela. Ba ba kwa tlase ba tshwanetse gore le bone re leke go isa seelo kwa godimo gore ba ba sa dueleng re lebile go taboga ga ditlhwatlhwa,

re ba akanyetse. Pele ke re eo re e lebile. Kana se re se dirang ke se se bidiwang *multi-tier tax reform*. Ga re ka ke ra dira sengwe le sengwe nako e le nngwefela. Nngwe ya dilo tse re di lebileng ke yone eo ya gore re ka leka go fokotsa lekgetho le le duelwang ke ba dituelo tse di seng kalokalo. Gore P48, 000.00 re lebile tlhatlogo ya ditlhwatlhwa le dintwa tse di diragalang mo lefatsheng, ke sengwe se ke reng re tlaa se lebelela.

Kgang ya go oketsa gore o kare re tsenye bogolo jang ba ba amogelang go feta P100, 000.00 lentswenyana, o lemogile gore re okeditse ka sengwenyana. Se o se buang ke gore re tsenye lentswe go feta, bogolo jang ba ba kwa godimo ga P100, 000.00. Kana fa o aga itsholelo gope fela jaaka lelwapa lengwe le lengwe, fa o kopana le ngwana a tswa kwa lelwapeng gotwe ke ngwana wa Goora Lucas, le fa o sa itse ngwana wa teng o kgona go fopholetsa gore botho jwa ga Rre Lucas ka fa re bo bonang ka teng mo Palamenteng, re bona o kare bana ba gagwe e tshwanetse a bo e le batho. Ke gore lefatshe le ntse fela jalo gore re le lefatshe la Botswana, re tshwanetse go itsiwe re le lefatshe le le tlhoafetseng gore re senka batho ba ba nang le madi. Ke bo ramadi le mmamadi gore ba tle go beeletsa kwano mme ba amogela madi a mantshi bontsi jwa bone. Fa ba bolelelana ba kopana ba re, “go na le motse ke ole gatwe Botswana, koo le fa o na le madi a mantshi o le motho wa maiteko ga ba na swele, ga ba na mogopolo wa gore ka gore o humile re tshwanetse go go nota.”

Selo se ga se gore re tshaba bahumi kana re tshaba dikompone tse di nang le madi a mantshi, re direla gore lefatshe la Botswana le tshwane le tswina ya dinotshe. Ke gore babeetsi le batho ba kgone gore ba rate lefatshe le, ba bone gore ke lefatshe le le ratang mongwe le mongwe, bogolo jang ba ba nang le maiteko, ba ba itseng go aga madirelo. Batho ba ba ntseng jalo ke ba ba nang le madi. Ga go a tshwanela gore re lebege o kare re batla go ba nota. O bona gone gore a re mo note re mo okeletse ka 5 *per cent*, re ithaya re re ka gore o na le madi, re mo notela dinyana. Se se bothokwa ke gore a goroge a rate lefatshe, a bitse ba bangwe. Ke gore ba fetlhe ditiro. Ke gore ba fetlhe, ba fetlhe, ba fetlhe, ba fetlhe ditiro. Kgantele le ene 5 *per cent* yo o mo lelelang, o lemoga gore fa o mo tshwantshanya le se se diragetseng ka go oka madirelo, ditiro le mehama e mesha e e diragalang, ke selo se se yang go aga lefatshe la Botswana ka tsela e e tseneletseng. Mafatshe a mantshi

a tletse ba ba notang batho ba ba humileng. Go nota ga se sepe se o kareng se ka aga itsholelo kana se ka re agela lefatshe la Botswana. Re e lebile ka tsela e e ntseng jalo.

Ke e bua jalo ke sa tswa gore mme re e okeditse ka bonnyennyane. Golo mo go ntsha molaetsa gore lefatshe le le mo dipharagobeng go thata, ba senka madi mme le fa ba dikaganyeditswe ke diemo tse di ntseng jaana, batho ba a bona gore tse ba di dirang, ba di dira ka kelelelo, ka go ela tlhoko, ka go lebelela bokamoso ka tsela e e tseneletseng. Ga ba dire dilo ka gore ba tshogetse gore go maswe, ba a phadimoga. Nnyaa, go phadimogela dikgwetlho tse re nang le tsone ga se sepe se se ka agang lefatshe la rona.

Jaaka ke ne ke bua, re nna re lebile kgang e ya gore ditlhwatlhwa mo lefatsheng la Botswana di gola ka bonako. Re tshwanetse ra lebelela gore re ka fokoletsa Batswana morwalo ka ditsela tse di ntseng jang. Ditsela tsa teng ga se makgetho fela, ke ditsela tse dingwe. Motlotlegi Rre Kedikilwe, le wena re lebogela mafoko le kgothatso ya gago, bogolo jang mafoko a dikompone tse le reng o kare maikaelelo a bone ke go tla lekgetho.

Bontlha bongwe jwa tlhabololo ya go kgethisa mo lefatsheng la Botswana ke gore ba BURS ba setse ba le mo lenaneong la go ikoketsa boitseanape re balela le ba ba bidiwang *auditors*. Ba tlaabo ba na le methale e e farologanyeng ya go dupa se se diragalang. Ba tlaabo ba kgona go dupa gore go na le ba ba nang le mekgwa e e rileng kwa boketeketete gore ba kgone go tsaya dikgato tse di maleba. Ke bontlha bongwe jwa *tax reform* e re e buang go oketsa boitseanape mo maphateng a ga Goromente go lebaganya le dikgwetlho tsa sešha.

Le yone *withholding tax* e le e tlhalosang Motlotlegi Kedikilwe, le e bua sentle. E bile go supa gore o moeteledipele yo o eleletsang batho ba ba dikobo dikhutshwane kana ba e leng gore ba a sokola... Go a itumedisa go bona baeteledipele ba eme ka dinao. Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, fa re ntse re reeditse le mo Pitsong ya Makgetho, Batswana ba buile jalo. Ba buile gore *withholding tax* ya dikgomo tse di rekisiwang gore di tlhabiwe e phimolwe ka gore e na le ditlamorago tse e leng gore ga di eme matshelo a batho ba rona sentle. Ke nngwe ya dilo tse e leng gore ra re di phimolwe. Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, re dumalana thata le se le se buang.

Le wena fela jalo Motlotlegi Rre Moswaane, o bua mafoko a mantle thata ka nna. Ke go leboge rra, o mpha matshwao a a kwa godimo thata. Ke lebogela bopelonomi joo.

Le wena o supa gore go na le batho ba ba tshabawang ba e leng gore ga o ba bue ka maina.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Murmurs)...

MR GAOLATHE: Nnyaa, o supa gore ga a ba tshabe, ke sa gane se le se buang. A re o tshaba molao wa Palamente. Mme fela le ene ke mo kgothatse gore tsamaiso e re leng mo go yone ke gore re tsaya Motswana mongwe le mongwe ka go lekalekana. Re dumela mo go se se bidiwang gotwe *fairness*. Motswana mongwe le mongwe, gongwe le gongwe kwa a leng teng, o tshwanetse gore a itse e bile a tshephe gore Goromente ga a kitla a mo sokamisetsa sepe, Goromente wa gompiano o tlaa lwa ka sengwe le sengwe gore dikgang di lebelelwe ka fa di ntseng ka teng go sa lebiwa gore o mang kana ga o mang.

Kgang e Motlotlegi Mmolotsi a neng a e bua e matswakabele. O ne a bua gore le rona kwano fa re ya kwa re yang teng kwa moseja, *travel agent* o dira sengwe le sengwe. O kgona go duelela sengwe le sengwe kwano. Ke kang e e leng gore re ntse re e lebile le rona.

Se ke batlang gore ke se gatelele ke gore *this is a multi-year reform process*. Ke gore re tsaya dilo ka bongwe ka bongwe ka kelelelo. Ga re ka ke ra fetola sengwe le sengwe nako e le nngwefela. Go na le tse e leng gore re di tsereng teng kwa Dipitsong tse e leng gore re tlaabo re di sutisa go baakanya fale le fale mo *Committee Stage*.

Ke boele gape kwa go wena Motlotlegi Rre Lucas, o bua gore kana itsholelo ya rona ke *low wage*. Batho ka bontsi mo lefatsheng la rona, dituelo tsa bone di kwa tlase mo e leng gore tota ga re go dirwe sengwe le sengwe gore re ba imololwe morwalo. Ke kang e ke reng re a dumalana le se o se buang.

Se re tshwanetseng go dumalana le sone ke gore lelwapa lengwe le lengwe, a le humile kana ga le a huma, se se botlhokwa ke gore le itlwaetse ngwao, le nne le ngwao ya gore bonnye jo bo leng teng, a go ngathiwe, re beeletse go aga lelwapa la rona, go aga se re se dirang re le lelwapa. Le Botswana o ntse fela jalo. Batho ba

la bantsi ba ka tswa ba amogela go le go nnyennyane mme ga re a tshwanela gore re re ka gore ga o amogele, go raya gore o se ka wa ntsha le fa e le sepe. Nnyaa, re tshwanetse gore re nne le ngwao, re e age.

Fa o ka lebelela dilo tse di agegileng mo lefatsheng la Botswana, University ya Botswana, Stadium sa Botswana le dikole tse di tshwanang le bo Moeng College, go ne go koleka batho ba ba kobo dikhutshwane gore di agiwe, e seng bahumi. E le batho ba na le ngwao le tumelo ya gore fa re ka kopana re dira re le mmogo, re tlile go aga lefatshe le.

Ke yone ngwao e e leng gore...

MR NKAWANA: *Clarification.* Ke a go leboga *Madam Speaker*. Mothusa Tautona, ke ne ke reeditse, ke ne ke tseetse gore ke tlaa utlwa o bua ka makgetho a boswa ka gore fa gongwe bahumi ba madi a mantshi fa ba didimala jaana, bana ba sala ba kgaogana *millions*. Ke batla go tlhaloganya gore a boswa joo jwa *millions* jo bo tswang kwa batsading, a bo a kgethisiwa? Ke a leboga.

MR GAOLATHE: Boswa bo a kgethisiwa. E ntse fela jalo.

Ke tsaya gore ke le kgwile dikgaba. Jaaka le itse, re santse re na le Melao-kakanyetso e mengwe ya makgetho, tse dingwe di tlaa nna di arabesega fa re tswetse. Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo *Madam Speaker, I therefore move that Income Tax Bill, 2025 (No. 36 of 2025) be read a second time. I thank you Madam Speaker.*

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Applause!)...

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Minister.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee - **Later Date.**

VALUE ADDED TAX BILL, 2025 (NO. 39 OF 2025)

Second Reading

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Minister of Finance, please present.

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE): Thank you Madam Speaker. I present to this Honourable House, the Second Reading, of the Value Added Tax Bill, (2025), which was published on the 15th December 2025 as Bill Number 39 of 2025.

Madam Speaker, the current VAT Act was enacted in 2001 and came into effect in July 2002. Since then, the tax landscape has evolved significantly, necessitating periodic amendments to the Act. Despite these updates, several gaps and inconsistencies have persisted, prompting the need for a comprehensive and holistic review. As part of Government's broader tax reform programme, a comprehensive review of the Value Added Tax was undertaken alongside the development of the new Tax Administration Act. This process has now been completed, informed by extensive engagement with relevant Government departments and the private sector and culminating in the national Tax Pitso held on 19th to 20th March 2026.

Madam Speaker, the current VAT regime was designed for a traditional economy focused on tangible services and physical goods, and therefore, does not adequately capture the growing digital economy or the provision of remote services. The objective of the Bill is to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, the Value Added Tax to modernise and broaden its scope.

In July 2025, this Honourable House passed the Value Added Tax (Amendment) Act, 2025, which introduced the taxation of remote services and mandated electronic invoicing. This Bill retains and builds on those reforms, further expanding the VAT framework to ensure that it remains responsive to the realities of an increasingly digital and technology-driven economy.

Madam Speaker, the Bill maintains the standard VAT rate of 14 per cent on taxable supplies, taxable imports and reverse charged supplies. Importantly, it refocuses the list of zero-rated goods to ensure that essential items, particularly those consumed by low-income

households remain protected. This ensures that support is targeted where it is most needed, while maintaining the sustainability of our revenue base.

Madam Speaker, the Bill makes it compulsory for persons making taxable supplies with an annual turnover above the VAT registration threshold to apply for registration. Persons making taxable supplies below the threshold may voluntarily apply to register for VAT. The manner of registration, obligations of registered persons, application for cancellation of registration, if the person has ceased to make taxable supplies, or where the value of taxable supplies made by the person is below the registration threshold are also provided for under this Part. The Bill further provides for rules relating to pricing of a taxable supply, advertising and display of prices of a taxable supply. The Bill provides that the prices of taxable supplies shall be advertised or quoted as inclusive of the VAT.

Madam Speaker, the Bill establishes general rules governing supplies for VAT purposes. It specifies how to determine when a supply of goods, a supply of services or a reverse-charged supply occurs, as VAT liability arises at the time the supply is made. The Bill also sets out the rules for determining both the value and the place of supply for goods and services, ensuring clarity and consistency in the imposition of VAT.

Madam Speaker, the Bill provides for the claiming of input tax credits by a registered person for purposes of computing the amount of VAT payable by the person for a tax period in which the supply or import occurred. A registered person is allowed a credit for the input tax in respect of a creditable acquisition that was made for the purpose of making a taxable supply. However, a registered person, is not allowed input tax credit for input tax payable in respect of certain creditable acquisitions mainly of recreational or consumption nature. The Bill further provides a special input tax credit rule applicable to a newly registered person for VAT-paid stock on hand at the time of registration.

Further, Madam Speaker, the Bill provides rules for the treatment of adjustments made to a supply after the time of supply. An adjustment arises where a registered person has already accounted for VAT on a supply, but the nature of that supply subsequently changes, or the consideration later becomes a bad debt. Such

an adjustment event Madam Speaker, may result in VAT being either undercharged or overcharged. If the adjustment results in VAT being undercharged, the excess amount is treated as output tax of the supplier in the tax period in which the adjustment event occurs. Conversely, where VAT has been overcharged, the supplier is entitled to an input tax credit for the excess in the relevant tax period. A corresponding adjustment must also be made by the recipient of the supply, provided they are a registered person. In addition, the Bill includes provisions for the recovery of VAT relating to bad-debt adjustments.

The Bill also provides for the treatment of an excess input tax credit of a registered person for a tax period and for the interest payable on late refunds, which Madam Speaker, is a positive for taxpayers.

Madam Speaker, the Bill also contains general rules relating to the issue and maintenance of VAT documentation. A registered person is required to provide the recipient with a tax invoice for the taxable supply. For post-supply adjustments to a supply and bad debt adjustments, the registered person is required to issue a tax credit and a tax debit note, as the case may be.

Further Madam Speaker, this Bill sets out specific procedural rules relating to the filing of returns and the payment of VAT. It prescribes the due dates for payment by registered persons, Government entities, and importers. The Bill also provides for the recovery of VAT on taxable imports and from recipients who misrepresent the nature of a supply. In addition, Madam Speaker, it outlines the procedures for refunding VAT on taxable supplies made to the President, diplomats, public international organisations and other eligible persons.

Madam Speaker, for special cases involving business or entity structures, the Bill provides specific rules. Where a taxable activity is conducted by a registered person through branches or divisions, the person is treated as carrying on a single taxable activity, unless they apply to have one or more branches or divisions registered separately. The Bill further provides that where a registered person dies, or where their estate is placed under sequestration, the transfer of assets from the taxable activity to the executor or trustee, is not

treated as a supply. In such cases, the estate represented by the executor or trustee is regarded as continuing the taxable activity of the deceased or sequestrated person. Additionally, a person who serves as a trustee in more than one capacity is treated, for purposes of this Act, as a separate person in each of these capacities.

The Bill also provides for general provisions, including transitional arrangements and regulations. Madam Speaker, it extends the application of the Tax Administration Act to this Act. The Bill further allows for adjustments to the consideration for a supply where a change in the VAT rate occurs after consideration has been agreed. It also introduces rules to counter VAT avoidance arrangements and to address variations in the VAT rate. In addition, the Bill empowers the Minister, on behalf of the Government, to enter into agreements with foreign governments or territories on matters relating to VAT.

The zero-rated list under Schedules has been carefully revised to reflect a basket of the essential goods typically consumed by the average household, while ensuring that the system remains targeted and fiscally sustainable. It includes staple foods such as maize meal, sorghum, bread, fresh vegetables and fruits, cooking oil, sugar, items that form the foundation of daily household consumption. It also covers essential household needs such as cooking gas and a basic supply of water, as well as critical health-related products including infant formula, sanitary products, prescription medicines and other essential health-related items, some of which are now being moved from the exempt to the zero-rated category.

Beyond households, the Bill provides meaningful support to our farmers by zero-rating key agricultural inputs and equipment such as ploughs, seeders, fertiliser distributors and tractors, thereby lowering the cost of production and strengthening food security. At the same time, by enabling manufacturers to claim input tax on certain supplies used in production, this shift enhances the competitiveness of local industry. Taken together, these measures ensure that the tax system actively supports low-income households, promotes agricultural productivity, strengthens local manufacturing, and contributes to a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy.

As I move towards conclusion Madam Speaker, the Bill introduces the charging of VAT on supplies made by Deputy Sheriffs. This amendment addresses the current unequal tax treatment between sales conducted by Deputy Sheriffs and those conducted by auctioneers, and it also responds to revenue losses arising from the sale of high value goods such as immovable property by Deputy Sheriffs without VAT being charged. The proposed change ensures equal treatment of similar transactions and is expected to enhance revenue collection.

Madam Speaker, I now move that the Value Added Tax Bill, 2025 (No. 39 of 2025) be read for the second time. I thank you Madam Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Applause!)...

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Minister. Honourable Members, I think we can now adjourn. Let me call upon Leader of the House to move a Motion of adjournment.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR MOHWASA): Thank you Madam Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 7:05 p.m. until Wednesday 8th April, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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