13th PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

PARLIAMENT OF BOTSWANA

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# DAILY HANSARD

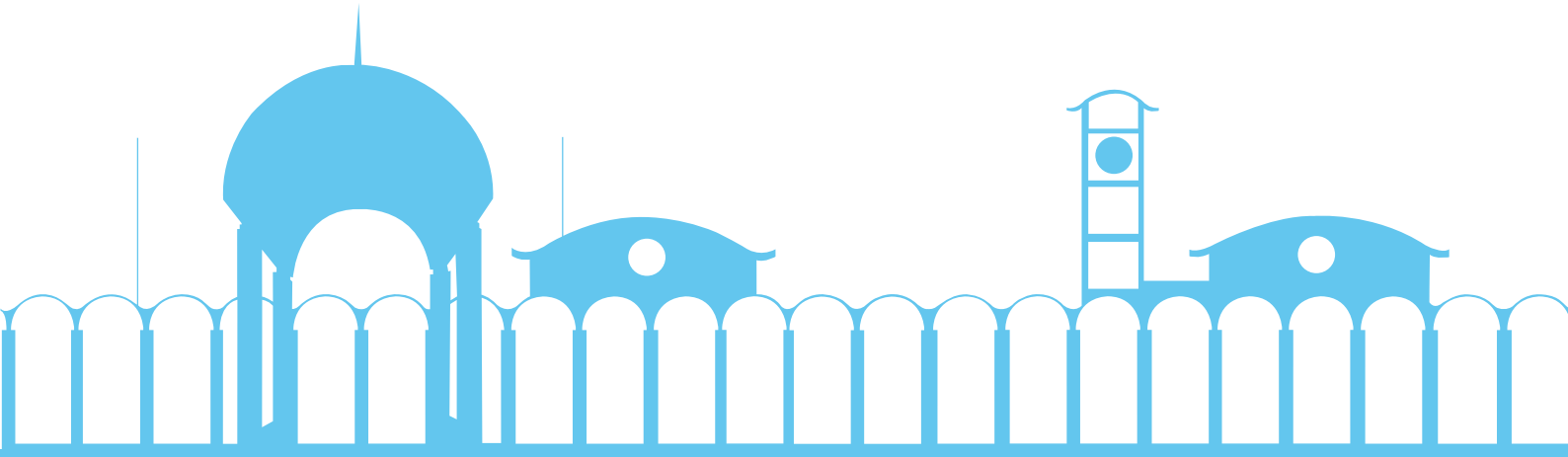
*YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT*

## THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

**MONDAY 14 JULY 2025**

## MIXED VERSION

**HANSARD NO: 217**



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

| | |
|---|---|
| Clerk of the National Assembly | - Dr G. G. G. Malebang |
| Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly | - Ms K. H. Ketshajwang |
| Ag. Learned Parliamentary Counsel | - Mr T. A. J. Seeletso |
| Senior Assistant Clerk | - Mr C. S. Nfila |
| Assistant Clerk (E) | - Ms K. Nyanga |

**CABINET**

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

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES

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

## OPPOSITION

### (Botswana Congress Party)

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

### (Botswana Patriotic Front)

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

### (Botswana Democratic Party)

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

### (Independent Member of Parliament)

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

## SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

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

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**THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION**
**OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT**

**MONDAY 14TH JULY, 2025**

**Monday 14th July, 2025**

**THE ASSEMBLY met at 2:00 p.m.**

**(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)**

**P R A Y E R S**

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## SPEAKER'S REMARKS

**MR SPEAKER (MR KEORAPETSE):** Order! Order! Honourable Members, good afternoon. I hope you had a restful weekend and you are ready to deal with the business of this week.

Honourable Members, if you look at the Order Paper, you have two Bills, if say, today you are done with Employment and Labour Relations Second Reading, you will then go to Committee Stage for Medical Aid Funds Bill, and there are some amendments which are noticed. Honourable Members, I was informed last week, unless something has changed that the Minister wishes to notice some amendments, but they are very minor amendments, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Maj. Gen. Mokgware, but those amendments do not appear in the Order Paper, they have not been noticed.

Secondly, Honourable Kekgonegile has also submitted instructions for amendments to the Bill. Those amendments, I am informed were handed in today in the morning at 10. That is why they are not in the Order Paper, because they are still being processed. So, the import of what I said Honourable Members is that you cannot go for Committee Stage of this Bill today.

For that to happen, maybe Honourable Tshere will later on, for Leader of the House, move in accordance with Standing Order 30.2, so that we rearrange the Order Paper such that the two policies, immediately after dealing with the Committee Stage of the Medical Aid Funds Bill, we then deal with policies.

Honourable Members, let me also advise, it is something that I will stress during our meeting at General Assembly or my discussions with leaders of political parties represented here in Parliament, about giving sufficient time to notice amendments. Once the Bill is gazetted, you must start thinking about the amendments, and possibly, submitting those amendments.

Honourable Members, let us now start the business of today with questions.

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE):** *Procedure. Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I think* kgang e o neng o e bua e a utlwala, gore re kope go sutisa gore Employment and Labour Relations Bill e se ka ya tsena mo *Committee,* go tle go tlisiwe *amendments* sentle. E a utlwala e bile bakaulengwe ba e tlhalogantse, *in that sense I think we can move in terms of...*

**MR SPEAKER:** Yes, I will call you later Honourable Tshere. Let us go to questions.

## QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

### ELEPHANT STATISTICS IN THE EASTERN PART

**MR G. SEDOMBO (TONOTA):** asked the Minister of Environment and Tourism to state:

(i) Elephant statistics in the Eastern part of Botswana being the North East, Tonota and Bobirwa Districts; and

(ii) Government plans regarding the human wildlife conflict, that is; if the Government has any intention to reduce the number of these elephants and if so, how.

**ACTING MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE):** *Thank you, good afternoon Mr Speaker.* Ke leboge motlotlegi ka potso ya gagwe, ke mo reye ke re go na le ditlou di ka nna 50 *to* 70 tse di tsamayang fa gare ga *border* ya Botswana le Zimbabwe. *Between districts* tsa Bobirwa le Tonota, re na le ditlou di le 1,800 tse di tsamayang fa gare ga *districts* tse pedi tseo. 500 di tsamaya *around* Letsibogo, Dikgatlhong le Legotlhong, *near* Tonota. Tse dingwe ka bontsinyana di le 1,300 re di bona ntlha ya Tuli Block.

*Mr Speaker,* go na le letshwenyego mo ka Sekgoa gotweng *human-wildlife conflict.* Ke batla go tlhomamisetsa Ntlo e ke re, re setse re simolotse *the strategy to try and manage this human-wildlife conflict.* Re dumela gore mo nakong e e sa fediseng pelo Motlotlegi *Minister* wa *Environment,* Rre Wynter Mmolotsi, o tlaa tla go se bega mo. Se tlaabo se tsenya mo go tse dingwe, phimolo dikeledi jaaka batho ba ntse ba golafadiwa kana ba senyediwa ke diphologolo. Ke batla gore ke eme fela go le kalo. Ke a leboga motlotlegi.

**MR SEDOMBO:** *Supplementary.* Ke batla gore Tona a tlhalose, ga ke a utlwa sentle, o ne a re ditlou di le 70 di tsamaya fa kae le fa kae? Ke batla go itse gore mo nakong ya gompieno, re santse re emetse *strategy* se go buiwang ka sone, ka fa e leng gore balemi ba senyegelwa ka teng ba ba jelwang ke ditlou, phimolo dikeledi ya bone e le nnye, go dirwa eng go tokafatsa matshelo a bone? Goromente o ba fa dipeo go lema, mme se se tswang mo masimo ga se na mosola ope o o kalo.

Sa bobedi e bo e nna gore, a mme re a itse ka fa e leng gore ditlou tse di senya naga ka teng, ka fa ke utlwang o supa gore go tswa Legotlhong go ya go tsena kwa Tonota di palonyana? A mme re a tlhaloganya gore seemo sa naga se senyega go le kae, e bile naga ya teng e ntse e tshabelelwa ke leuba go le kalo?

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** *Thank you* motlotlegi. Ke boammaaruri *sir,* re a itse tshenyo e e dirwang ke ditlou, ke sone se o bonang re eme ka dinao re dirile patlisiso ya gore re ka bona gore mathata a re ka a dira ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Re itse botlhoko jo bo welang balemi mo kgaolong e o buang ka yone ya gago. Ke sone se re reng mo nakong e e sa fediseng pelo, pele ga phelelo ya ngwaga o, ditshekatsheko tseo di tlaa tla mo Ntlong e le tla go di begelwa gore le wena o kgone go nna le kakgelo mo go tsone. Re a dumela e bile re a tlhomamisa gore phimolo dikeledi e e teng gompieno ga e *enough,* gore Batswana ba ka boelwa mo go yone.

Ka potso e o neng o e mpoditse o re ke rurifatsa, o re ga o a utlwa sentle, ke ne ke re ditlou di ka nna bogareng jwa 50 le 70 tse di tsamayang mo gare ga kgaolo e ya Tonota le Zimbabwe.

**MR HIKUAMA:** *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker.* Ke a leboga *General* Mokgware. Ke utlwa o bua ka tshekatsheko ya *compensation* le *strategies* tse le di dirang. Go nkgopotsa mo Palamenteng e re tswang mo go yone. Go ne go ntse go arabiwa fela jaana, *the same way* ka ditshekatsheko tse di tlaa dirwang, a bo Palamente e ya go fela. A wena o ka re beela molelwane wa gore ditshekatsheko tse re ka di emela go fitlhelela leng? Re nne le tsholofelo ka gore karabo ya ditshekatsheko, e sale ke tsena mo Palamenteng, e ntse ke ditshekatsheko fela. Gompieno ke Puso e ntša, ke ditshekatsheko fela. A mme re tlaa lala re di bonye?

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Tanki motlotlegi. Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) ga se mmoki, ga re ka ke ra bua dilo tse re senang sepe tse. Ke a go tlhomamisetsa Mopalamente, re a utlwana. Ke a go a tlhomamisetsa ka re, pele fa ngwaga o fela, *Minister* wa *Environment* o ya go tla fa a bega *strategy* sa *Wildlife/ Human Conflict*. A bo a go botsa gore a o rata madi a a duelwang batho ba. Ke a leboga.

## HORTICULTURAL AND ARABLE FARMING PROJECTS

**MR G. DISHO (OKAVANGO EAST):** asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture to state:

(i) if Government will consider piloting some horticultural and arable farming projects in Okavango East Constituency since it has vast land, fertile alluvial soils and plenty of water from the Okavango River which could be harvested from the subtropical rains up in the north;

(ii) if he is aware of any efforts in the past and why the projects were stopped;

(iii) if there is anything being considered as a massive horticultural and arable farming project to help create employment and improve food security in the constituency; and

(iv) when he will consider setting up an Artificial Insemination (AI) station to improve the cattle farming industry in Okavango East.

**ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, my ministry intends to establish an Artificial Insemination (AI) station at Kgomokgwana Camp to serve the Okavango East Region. However, due to the current economic situation, the AI centre will be considered in the 2026/2027 financial year. When future circumstances permit, the spreading of AI station service as an initiative will be revitalised across the country in an effort to positively impact on the national herd numbers.

In addition, Mr Speaker, in refurbishing and introducing new stations, my ministry plans to increase the service of testing for the fertility of animals. I thank you.

**MR DISHO:** *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke a leboga *Minister.* Ga ke itse gore o nkarabile tota *Mr Speaker*. Ga ke itse gore o e bonye *Mr Speaker*. Dipotso di tharo gone foo. *He has not attempted even one of them, not even one of them.* Ke utlwile a bua ka AI, *which is the fourth one.* Ga ke itse gore ke mmotse mo go yone kana o tlaa araba tse tharo tsele pele. Ga ke itse, ke tlaa utlwa ka wena *Mr Speaker.*

**MR SPEAKER:** *Honourable Minister*, a re ga o a mo araba.

**DR DIKOLOTI:** Tanki Motlotlegi Disho. Go lebega gore golo fa dikarabo tse ka fa ba di dirileng ka teng, ga di a tlhomagana sentle. Go go araba mo *supplementary* ya gago, dikgang tse o di boditseng, ke tse re di buileng thata nna le wena. *We have all agreed* gore *the time has come for us not to have a one-size-fits-all type of programmes*. Re buisantse thata gore re tlaa dira jang nna le wena go ngokela babeeletsi mo kgaolong ya gago. Re netefatsa gore dikgang tsa go diragatswa ga *horticulture*, e nne tsone. Re kile ra bua thata le ba bangwe ba e leng gore *they have started setting up some* maranyane kana *horticulture* e e tlhabologileng, e e leng gore e dirisa metsi a a seng mantsi. Nna le wena, re ne re dumalana gore tota *the most important thing about that which we want to do is to link them to the market,* o e leng gore *it is high-end tourism* e e leng gore kgaolo ya gago e mo go yone.

Re buile thata gore *even beyond horticulture, there are lots of opportunities* re lebile tomagano le ba ba ikemetseng ka nosi, go akaretsa le KBL. Re ne re bua gore go na le lefatshe lengwe, re batla go bona gore *we can explore* jang gore banni ba kgaolo ya gago motlotlegi, ba nne le tse di ka ba kgontshang. Mabele mangwe a a tlhokafalang mo dikomponeng tse di akaretsang KBL, ke a a tlhogang botoka mo kgaolong ya gago. Ke dikgang tse re di buisantseng.

Sengwe se o tlaa se itumelelang Motlotlegi Disho ke gore, ka tomagano le ba ba ikemetseng, bogolo jang ba Conservation International ka *programme* ya *Range Land Rehabilitation*, le a mangwe a a teng mo dikgaolong tsa gago, re leka go nna le *a better coordination of all these programmes*. Re netefatsa gore kwa bofelelong, banni ba kgaolo ya gago, ba ke itseng o kgathala thata ka bone, o kgathala ka go bona matshelo a bone a fetoga, ba akola mananeo a Puso a a ba lebaneng, e seng a *one-size-fits-all*. Mananeo a o itseng gore a *applicable to you, conditions* tse le tshelang le batho ba teng le diphologolo ka teng, gore kwa bofelelong, go nne le pharologanyo fela e tonatona e.

Ke dumela gore nna le wena re a dumalana, re mo tseleng. Re buile thata ka dikgang tsa go netefatsa go nosa ga leruo, go nne teng. Ya AI e ke neng ke e kgabodisa ke gore, nako e tlile fa ya gore re lemoge gore AI e tshwanetse e nne *mobile.* Go fitlhela re dumela gore AI *centres* di 10 mo Botswana, e nngwe e kwa, e nngwe e kwa, e nngwe e kwa, ga go re sologele mosola thata. Nako e tlile ya gore re leke go tla ka ditsela tse dingwe tse di farologanyeng motlotlegi gore kwa bofelelong, re thuse banni ba lefatshe la Botswana fela. Ke itse gore dipotso tsa lona di di ntsi tse di amanang le gore re bone gore re dira jang go atolosa dipalo tsa leruo la rona. Ke a go leboga motlotlegi.

## CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

**MR G. KEKGONEGILE (MAUN EAST):** asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy to brief this Honourable House on existing Citizen Empowerment Programmes (CEP) in different mines, their benefits and challenges experienced, in particular:

(i) the difference of operations between Debswana and Naledi;

(ii) if Naledi is a Debswana labour broker; if not, why Debswana workers are literally running Naledi as board members;

(iii) the number of citizen companies benefitting from CEP in different mines;

(iv) skills transfer development programmes in place to usher in a citizen and privately owned mine dispensation in the near future through CEP; and

(v) processes in place to curb citizens fronting for foreign companies in mines.

**Later Date.**

## AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES AND SCHEMES

**MR T. B. LUCAS (BOBIRWA):** asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture to apprise this Honourable House of any new agricultural programmes and schemes that have been introduced to improve or replace those that have existed in previous years.

**ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI):** *Mma ke go leboge* Mr Speaker. *Ke leboge* Honourable Lucas. Mr Speaker, in addressing the question from the Honourable Member from Bobirwa, it may help to inform this August House that Government is actively working on programmes that will assure food security and food sovereignty on sustainable basis. As part of universally dealing with the Food Security Agenda, Botswana signed earlier this year the 2025 Kampala Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agri Food Systems in Africa.

Mr Speaker, to date, the AI programme that was reviewed in 2021 to focus on leveraging on the adoption and use of other assisted technologies, such as introduction of Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET) and small stock AI. The Revised AI programme is aimed, *e Motlotlegi* Lucas *a neng a na le* the delegation *maloba teng kwa* Ramatlabama, at transforming the Ramatlabama AI and Training Centre of Excellence. The actual facility for germplasm. To date, a small stock AI and Embryo Transfer Laboratory has been completed *jaaka Motlotlegi* Lucas *a ne a isitse baeng ba gagwe kwa go yone maloba.*

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, the Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) was reviewed and paved way for Thuo Letlotlo which was launched last year. I must inform this House Mr Speaker, that Thuo Letlotlo is under review to align it to the National Transformation Agenda that emphasises on economic inclusivity, job creation, value addition and an export led economy. The review is ongoing and it is expected to be completed on the 31st July, 2025.

Mr Speaker, further to the above interventions, Government is designing a programme to commercialise the small livestock sub sector. The programme is a 10-year holistic project designed to tap into the skill set for the renowned International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) experts and with extensive consultation with the stakeholders. The programme is designed with the people for the people to ensure ownership and success.

The project is a blended finance model that includes; climate financing, loan and Government budget. It is intended to address all challenges in the goats, sheep and poultry value chains. It will cover water development for production, rangeland management, production and productivity, animal health and market access and the production environment. This is targeted to improve competitiveness of the products for food and nutrition security and value addition. The project is targeted for implementation by January of 2026. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**MR LUCAS:** *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Potso e ne e boditse ka mananeo a masha a a emisetsang a a neng a ntse a le teng. Ke tsaya gore Tona se a se buang ke gore, mananeo a masha ga a ise a nne teng. Ke tsaya gore wa rialo. O tlaa e tlhomamisa yone eo. Totatota se ke neng ke se lebile ke gore, paka ya temo e a simolola, balemi ba batla go ipaakanya, bogolo jang mo lefatsheng le lotlhe la rona, go ipaakanyetsa temo e e latelang. Mo go ipaakanyeng moo, kana ba tshwanetse ba itse gore mananeo ke eng, a mme e tlaa re mo nakong e khutshwane, re utlwe ka mananeo ape a a tsepameng a a ka thusang balemi mo ipaakanyong ya bone?

Ya bobedi ke e e neng e buiwa ke Tautona Boko a re go tlaa nna le thulaganyo e e leng gore o batla gore e re mo nakong e khutshwane, dipalo tsa dikgomo mo Botswana di bo di dule kwa go 1.1 di ile kwa go *five million.* A go na le lenaneo lepe le le berekang mo go lone gompieno le le ka isang palo ya dikgomo tsa Botswana gore e nne *five million* mo nakong e khutshwane? Ke re o e tlhatswe yone eo ka e botlhokwa thata, re e emetse, mme re batla go utlwa gore e tsamaya fa kae yone thulaganyo eo.

Ya bofelo rraetsho ke ya LIMID. Kana golo fale e rile fa LIMID e nyelela, go bo go raya gore go tsena mananeo a mangwe; bo Thuo Letlotlo. Ke re mme kana batho ba re ba tshotse dikwalo tse e leng gore ka tsone ba ne ba solofeditswe gore ba tlaa bona thuso ya LIMID. Thuso eo e bokgakala bokae rraetsho? Gongwe o ka thusa Batswana ka kitso ya go nna jalo, ba tle ba itlhoboge kgotsa ba nne ba letetse. Ke a leboga.

**DR DIKOLOTI:** Nte ke leboge Motlotlegi Lucas ka dipotso tsa gagwe tsa motlaleletsa *Mr Speaker.*

Motlotlegi Lucas, ke boammaaruri, mme e bile o tlaa dumalana le nna gore jaaka o ne o etle o bue, mananeo a a fetileng a ne a tshwana le mananeo a motho a epa mooka a bo a sa thibe tshoba la Badimo. Mo e reng fa o reng o bone pitsa teng, e bo mahura otlhe a tsene ka tshoba la Badimo. O tlaa dumalana le nna gore nako e tlile ya gore mananeo a a tlang a re tshwanetseng re a dire, a tshwanetse e nne mananeo a e leng gore ga a direlwe Batswana, mme a dirwa le Batswana. Batswana ba tshwanetse ba ipone mo go one. E tshwanetse e nne mananeo a a tlaa lepalepanang le seemo sa phetogo ya loapi. Go botlhoko gompieno fa o re o a tsamaya mo baleming ba go bolelela gore gotlhe mo re neng re go lemile go tshubilwe ke serame, re iphotlhere fela. O fitlhela e le gore *there is no proper compensation*, e bile ga go na *proper well defined agric-insurance* e e ka thusang gore mananeo a otlhe a kgone gore a bo a babalesegile. *So,* mo ke neng ke leka go go bolelela ke gore, Tautona Boko o romile Tona Chimbombi, re lebeletse dikgang tse tsotlhe tse gore mo re ka tlang re go neela Batswana, e nne mo go tlaa ntshang Batswana mo lehumeng, e seng mo e tlaa nnang o kare *you were ticking a box* ya gore ke ntshitse mananeo a le kana, e bile ke dirile. Re batla mananeo a a tlaa kgonang gore a dire pharologanyo e mo Batswaneng.

Ke dumalana le wena ka bongwefela jwa pelo gore *agriculture is seasonal, you do not need to miss anytime* e e leng gore ka nako e o tshwanetse gore o bo o dirile sengwe ka yone. Go santse go le teng, re a go baakanya mo e leng gore go tlaa kgona gore go thuse Batswana, *it even starts from your water conservation. It is very, very important for us to know* gore *in order for you to succeed in agriculture, you need to make sure that there is water for production. So, this wholesome approach to our programmes* e teng rra, re tlaa nna re ntse re go e ribololela.

Sengwe se re se eteleditseng pele thata, *Minister of Finance* a se etse tlhoko thata ke gone gore *you tap from climate financing, we have come up with different innovative ways* tsa gore re kgone *to mobilise a lot of other resources.*

Mananeo a mangwe a e leng gore ga ke a a bua gone fa, a re a pataganetseng le *our development partners,* sekai; ba Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) *they have approved the* One Country One Priority Product (OCOP), re simolotse go bua le balemi *to see how are we going to explore the whole value chain.* Re na le tumalano le bone ba FAO le ba European Union (EU) ka Support Towards the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Agriculture (STOSAR) II *which was launched earlier this year* e e leng gore *it helps push implementation of our policy. Above all* jaaka o ne wa bua fa re tlile kwano, fa ke tlile ka *policy* ya *Medicinal Cannabis,* re bereka mo *the Agric Policy,* e ke dumelang gore Palamente e tlaa re e ise e wele, re bo re kgona gore re e tlise. Ke *policy* e ke dumelang gore le wena o ya go ipona mo go yone o bo o dumela gore mo ke ntseng ke go letetse ke gone mo, mme e bile go tlile go mperekela.

*Now to livestock* le mo Motlotlegi Tautona a neng a bua ka gone ga gore dipalo di kwa tlase, ke boammaaruri. *We all know it*, le wena kwa kgaolong ya gago ya Bobirwa o tlaa dumalana le nna gore dipalo tsa dikgomo tse di kileng tsa bo di le teng kwa Bobirwa, ga di yo. Mabaka a mantsi a a dirang gore dipalo tseo di bo di le kwa tlase ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Ngwaga o fa o ntse o tsweletse, maloba jale, Tautona o ne a le kwa Tsabong a simolodisa lenaneo la go tsosolosa mahudiso. Ke sengwe se se ka thusang gore go ya pele, re kgone go bona gore re atolosa re bo re oketsa jang palo ya dikgomo.

Go na le lenaneo le lengwe le re santseng re le lebeletse, kana boammaaruri jo bo leng teng jo nna le wena re bo itseng ke gore ka tshwanelo kgomo e namagadi ka dinako tsotlhe, e tshwanetse gore e bo e le morotwanampeng. Nako ya morotwanampeng, ke nako e e tsetseng, e le gore *organs are just recovering, and then it must conceive again* gore *at anytime* o itse gore kgomo ya gago e diga namanyane. Le teng lenaneo rra, Motlotlegi Tautona o santse a le lebile, a le netefatsa gore kwa bofelelong *at any time* fa o bona dikgomo tse di namagadi di le nne di le mo tseleng ya A1, o bo o ka betšha le motho gore a bo a ipotse gore a Lucas ke *magic,* o mo raya o re kgomo e e a dusa ka gore o a itse gore lenaneo le le teng le e leng gore *we are outsourcing our extension veterinary services to our private sector, which are the vets* ba ba *well-vested on the issues of maximising from reproductive capability* ya dikgomo tsa rona. Le teng re a le ala rra.

Ke ka go netefaletsa gore o a itse le wena gore kgomo e tsala gangwefela mo ngwageng. Fa o dira tse tsotlhe, fa o ka simolola go balelela, o bo o tla gape ka mohuta wa gore o dirise mo gotweng *sac semen,* mo e leng gore le wena fa o itse gore re dirisa *sac semen,* ke gore o ka betšha le motho le wena Lucas o re kgomo ele e a dusa mme e bile e dusa bonamagadi ka gore o a itse gore e kopane le mankge wa matlhoko a leruo, o e pegile moroto o o yang go dira gore e tsale bonamagadi. Go raya gore *if you come up with a system where all your cattle will calve females, it is either for you to work on your numbers to make sure that in the shortest time possible, you can reach out to* dipalo tse Tautona a rileng o di re beetse pele.

*You cannot achieve all of this if all of us do not find ourselves in this programme.* Le wena o le mo teng o le Mopalamente wa Bobirwa, o tshwanetse gore o ipone mo teng, o tshwanetse o utlwe botlhoko o bona ka fa lephane le le ka fa Bobirwa e leng gore le babalela mafudiso ka teng gore le wena o nne bontlha bongwe jwa dithulaganyo tse tsotlhe tse gore bagarona ba kgone ba nne le dipoelo mo thuong ya bone. Ke a go leboga *Mr Speaker.*

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Further supplementary.

**DR DIKOLOTI:** Ya LIMID motlotlegi, lenaneo le ke buang ka lone la Botswana Livestock Commercialisation Project (BOLCOP) le re tlaa tlang re le neela leina sentle, ba gasame le lefatshe le, *they are doing all the assessments, we want to do the programmes. The most painful about* LIMID ke gore kana fa o ntse o neela batho dipodi Lucas *without even linking them to the market, so* fa o ya kwa go bone ke gore ba go bolelela gore kana rona re ntse re ipotsa gore le re neelela eng dipodi *because all that we need from you is link us to*

*the proper market so that we can realise true value out of this. So, we are looking at all this, there is a holistic approach, there is a team of experts from* IFAD ba e leng gore ba aname le lefatshe le, re lomagana le bone rra gore kwa bofelong Batswana mo re go ba neelang, go kgone go tlisa pharologanyo mo matshelong a bone. *Thank you, sir.*

**HUNTING BAN**

**MR A. K. KHAN (MOLEPOLOLE NORTH):** asked the Minister of Environment and Tourism to give an update on the following:

(i) how much communities have benefited from the lifting of the hunting ban;

(ii) what markets are open to selling hunting trophies;

(iii) how many concession leases ended in the last 20 years to date, how many have been renewed and which ones have been renewed;

(iv) the role of the land board, Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, and Ministry of Environment and Tourism in the allocation of concessions and leases, and what is delaying the renewal of leases and the effect on investor confidence, both local and international;

(v) the mandate of Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO), its successes and failures in the last five years as well as its compliance status with the Auditor General; and

(vi) how many concessions have been awarded to citizens in the last 10 years and/or how many Botswana have acquired shareholding in concessions in the last 10 years.

**ACTING MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE):** *Thank Mr Speaker.* Mma ke lebogele mokaulengwe gore a bo a boditse potso. Ke simolole ke bue gore karabo e telele thata *Mr Speaker.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Karabo e telele, *I shall invoke* Standing Order 38.4, o tlaa mo neela karabo.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Ke tlaa mo neela karabo. Nnyaa, ke ka leboga.

**MR SPEAKER:** *Honourable* Khan, o tlaa go neela karabo, a re e telele.

**IMPORTED CATTLE**

**MR K. C. HIKUAMA (MAUN WEST):** asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture to brief this Honourable house on the current, health, well-being and adaptation of the imported cattle to Botswana's environmental conditions. To further state:

(i) the current number, accounting for mortalities, or new birth since their arrival;

(ii) the uptake rate of the germplasm (semen and embryo) by the local farmers;

(iii) are there plans to distribute these important genetics (semen/embryos or even offspring) more widely across the country, beyond the Ramatlabama facility to ensure equitable access for all farmers; and

(iv) mechanisms in place to ensure that small holder farmers who constitute, the majority of cattle owners can affordably access these improved genetics.

**ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI):** Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, the cattle imported from the United States and Australia have adapted well to local conditions and the harvesting of semen from the cattle is progressing well. To date, a total of 131, 070 semen straws have been produced.

(i) Mr Speaker, from the American consignment of 140 bulls and 21 heifers received in May 2023, seven bulls and two heifers have died, leaving a balance of 133 bulls and 19 heifers. Most mortality was due to suspected infection from the tickborne diseases.

So far, only three cows have been born from the USA consignment due to the young age heifers at the time of arrival in Botswana. However, during the 2024/2025 breeding season, 82 heifers were inseminated.

Mr Speaker, a total of 92 cattle were imported from Australia comprising of 23 bulls, one calf and 68 heifers. Five animals; that is; two heifers and three bulls have died, including one heifer accidentally hit by a farm worker's vehicle. Nine calves have been born. However, one calf has died due to suspected pneumonia.

(ii) Mr Speaker, the ministry has not started supplying farmers with semen, pending approval of semen prices by our Cabinet. The enabling approval is underway.Mr Speaker, indeed intention is to ensure equitable distribution of semen or even offspring to all farmers in all parts of the country.

(iii) Mr Speaker, in order to ensure that small-holder farmers who constitute, the majority of cattle owners can affordably access these improved genetics, Government operates Artificial Insemination (AI) centres across the country, and will even have the mobile ones to make sure that farmers can enter up to more than just the 10 that we have been submitting to the AI centres at a time.

(iv) Mr Speaker, Government also sells semen and provide AI services at subsidized prices to farmers. The Botswana Government promotes on farm AI and encourages farmers to buy their own AI canisters. Resources permitting, and subject to cost-effective management, one of the initiatives is to outsource the delivery of extension services, including that of AI. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**MR HIKUAMA:** *Supplementary*. Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*. Ke a leboga Tona, ke lebogela karabo ya gago. Ga ke ise ke utlwe sentle, o ne o tlaa o metsa mafoko, kana gongwe ke tlaa ke palelwa ke Sekgoa. Tse di suleng ga ke ise ke utlwe palo ya teng sentle, gongwe fa o ka e boelela.

Ya bobedi ke ya boraro mo dipotsong gore maikaelelo a Puso ke gore e atolose dikgomo tse kwa baruing ka bophara jwa lefatshe. Ga ke ise ke utlwe sentle gore maikaelelo a Puso le *plan* ya bone go di fitlheletsa kwa bathong, ke ka tsela e e ntseng jang? A mme ke ka AIs kana le akanya gore le tsone dipoo tse di leng teng, gongwe nako e gorogile ya gore tse dingwe le fokotse le bo le sala ka palo e e leng gore *it is manageable?* E sa turele Puso gore dipoo ka bontsi di goroge di ye kwa bathong go dira tiro, gona le gore re di beye kwa Ramatlabama, Puso e di lebeletse foo, e gama ka gore gone go gama fa gongwe go gangwa e le nngwefela go siame. Tse dingwe di tshwanetse go ya kwa baruing di ye go dira tiro. A lona ga le na thulaganyo ya gore dikgomo tse le di fokotse di sale e le palo e e siameng, a bo le di phatlalatsa di ya kwa baruing? Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*.

**DR DIKOLOTI:** Ke a go leboga *Mr Speaker. Honourable* Hikuama, dikgomo tse di tswang kwa America, go sule dipoo tse supa le tse di namagadi di le pedi. Dikgomo tse di tswang kwa Australia go sule manamagadi a mabedi le dipoo tse tharo. Ke dumela gore e utlwetse.

Gore re akanya jang ka dipoo tse di kwa Ramatlabama, ke kgapetsakgapetsa ke bua fa ke fetola mo Palamenteng gore nako e tlile ya gore re lebelele gore re phatlalatse *the genetic material* o o kwa ole ka bonako jo bo teng, re ka dira jang. Moakanyo o teng, ba santse ba leka go o tlhotlha go bona gore a go ka se ke go nne bonako fa re ka dira gore Batswana ba kgone *to benefit* sentle. Ke gore fa e le gore a ke ka go di rekisa ka *auction*, e nne ka tsela e e leng gore *it is not going to disadvantage* ba bangwe, a bo ba bangwe ba nna le monyetla wa gore ba bone *those top genetics*.

Go na le tsela e nngwe gape e e leng teng ya *embryo transfer* e re tsweletseng re e baakanya, *very soon we will roll it out. We will make sure* jaaka o bua, *those genetics* ga di a tshwanela go bonwa fela kwa Ramatlabama. *They need to go all out in the veld to benefit the farmers*. Kgatlhego ya rona e tona ke kgomo e e reng e tsena kwa *cold storage*, e bo e roba sekale ka madi a dikgomo tsa Australia kana America. *So* ke mogopolo, re tlaa tswelela re o atolosa.

Re batla go atolosa AI *because we have a lot of semen straws but the uptake is not also up to the level that we wanted. We will want to do more, so that we spread these genetics* ka bonako jo bo rileng. Batswana ba na le kgatlhego e tona mo go tsone mme re tlaa tswelela re ntse re lekodisana le Palamente go bona gore re dira jang ka tsela e rotlhe re tlaabong re e ratile. *Thank you*.

**MR SPEAKER:** Honourable Simasiku Oscar Mapulanga.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Ke tlaa mo e tseela *sir*.

**PARASTATALS**

**MR S. O. MAPULANGA (CHOBE):** asked the Minister of Finance to state:

(i) the total number of parastatals in Botswana;

(ii) the total number of parastatals that are operating profitably;

(iii) the total number of parastatals that are not operating profitably and the specific constraints for each of these parastatals;

(iv) the criteria for the appointment of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and members of the Board of Directors of parastatals;

(v) if he will not consider making changes which will subject the appointment of CEOs and members of the Board of Directors of parastatals to approval by Parliament to curb political and prejudiced appointments and restore public confidence in individuals occupying these offices;

(vi) whether the salary scales of CEOs of parastatals are proportionate to the total revenue and profits of each entity; and

(vii) the remedy to parastatals that are not operating profitably.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** *O kopile* later date Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Later date. I know he is in Namibia but they are on their way back today.

**Later Date.**

**INJECTABLE ARVs**

**MR M. MOALOSI (NKANGE):** asked the Minister of Health to update this Honourable House on the plans to introduce Injectable Antiretrovirals (ARVs) for HIV treatment and to further state:

(i) what caused the delays in introducing the Injectable ARVs since they were long approved in 2022;

(ii) the opportunity costs caused by such delays; and

(iii) benefits that can be realised from using injectable ARVs instead of daily pills.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR OOKEDITSE):** Thank you Mr Speaker. The answer is Mr Speaker;

(i) Injectable ARVs were indeed approved in 2022 for use in Botswana. However, in 2022 the product was not available on the global market and research institutions had bought most of the product in the market leaving behind very little for treatment programmes. This trend continued up to early 2024. In early 2024, one of the companies responsible for these products actually came to Botswana to specifically inform the Treatment programme of the decision to withhold the product in view of some concerns that had arisen concerning one of the injections, as a result the product has not been used since then.

Mr Speaker, there is however some hope with the injectable ARVs, there is a promising new product called lenacapavir and the cabotegravir combination which is also being revived. However, it is not likely that these injectables will be used before the end of 2025.

(ii) Mr Speaker, it is difficult for me to speak about the opportunity costs of using these injectable ARVs as they are not quite readily available in the market as yet. This leaves us with at the moment oral formulations as the only option to use.

(iii) Lastly Mr Speaker, there are some great benefits to a long-acting form of treatment, especially around frequency of medication, convenience and privacy. Not having to take medication daily could come as a huge relief to a lot of our clients and because these injectable ARVs so far have to be administered by a doctor or a nurse, there is then no need for one to store the medication for themselves. So because of this, chances of other people finding out about your HIV status for instance are rather remote and therefore, this could help reduce stigma and discrimination. It is also the case Mr Speaker, that there is also great news for the patient's privacy. For example; if they are to travel for instance, with long-acting injectable HIV and education, they can go away for a long holiday without a need to carry heaps of medication on them. This offers a lot of convenience.

For those who occasionally forget to take their pills, injectable treatment might be the way to go because then you may do a doctor's appointment at the prescribed time and come back again after quite a while, and therefore, adherence treatment is likely to improve.

Mr Speaker, with improved treatment adherence, patients are more likely to be virally suppressed, which means they are healthier and productive economically and less likely to transmit the virus. This would mean fewer new infections, fewer people on treatment and less Government expenditure on ARVs in the long run.

It is our intention therefore Mr Speaker, to follow the trajectory as per the injectables and be in a position to jump on to them as soon as opportunity and cost effectiveness allows. I thank you.

**MR MOALOSI:** *Supplementary*. Ke a leboga Mothusa Tona. Ke ne ke re a ga le bone gongwe go ka nna mosola gore le batle *partnership* le dikompone tse dintsintsi tse di dirang molemo o o kentiwang wa ARV gore ba tle *to set up business* ya bone mo Botswana? Re lebile gore kana bontsi jwa nako, re nna re reka dilo kwa ntle *which does not create jobs for us.* Fa e le gore dilo di tlaabo di tlhaela, go tlaabo go reka ba bangwe rona re sa reke. A le na le lenaneo lengwe la gore le lebelele, *especially* melemo fela yotlhe e re e dirisang mo Botswana ka bokete? Re leke go bona gore a re ka ngoka babeeletsi ba ba dirang melemo eo *so that we can partner* le bone. *Is there such a programme or thought* fela mo go Goromente go lebelela gore *how can we do import substitution* mo dilong tse di tshwanang le tsone tse tse e leng gore re a di dirisa ka bokete, *we spend a lot of money on them? Thank you.*

**MR OOKEDITSE:** Thank you Mr Speaker. So, I think you have asked the question in two parts in general; as regards to the pharmaceutical industry as a whole and then in particular, the injectable ARVs. Let me start by saying that with drugs in general, it is our intention to stimulate local manufacturing of some of these products and the first point that we are doing is as you would have heard, over the past couple of months, we are going to be doing a lot of the procurement that we do, directly for manufacturers, which will also then encourage the establishment of these locally.

Then with regards to the specific question on the ARVs, as I have already said on the injectable ARVs, these are relatively new and these are highly specialised products, and they were largely at a stage where a lot of these companies were still doing trials. So, it is not quite a lot of companies that are producing them yet, so I cannot say to you now that we are going to be producing them in Botswana, but that is an avenue that we will have to explore. I thank you.

## TOLL GATES ALONG A1 HIGHWAY

**MR M. M. PULE (KGATLENG EAST):** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure whether the Government has any confirmed or proposed plans to introduce toll gates along the A1 Highway and if so:

(i) what is the anticipated timeline and geographic coverage of toll gates installations;

(ii) has Government explored the designation and upgrading of alternative national routes like Malolwane-Mmapashalala route to ease pressure on the A1, ensure affordable rural mobility and protect local economies that could be adversely affected by toll fees if they are installed considering that the A1 is the most heavily trafficked commercial corridor in the country and a critical north-south trade route;

(iii) to indicate any possibility of urgently upgrading the Malolwane-Mmaphashalala road, which traverses key rural settlements and connects Kgatleng and Central Districts, serving as a viable toll-free alternative for local transport operators, small holder farmers, cross-border traders using Zanzibar Border Post and inter-district travelers;

(iv) how many border-crossing trucks and logistics vehicles does the A1 currently accommodate monthly, and what proportion of them might reasonably be expected to shift to alternate routes if tolls were introduced;

(v) which constituencies including Kgatleng East, Mahalapye East and others would benefit from the development of this alternative corridor, and what is the estimated combined population of these areas;

(vi) given Botswana's current economic challenges, including the need for new revenue streams, rural infrastructure equity, agricultural logistics support and reduced dependency on the overstretched A1 has his Ministry used any models or projections to estimate potential revenue collection, particularly from cross-border transporters and logistics operators who rely heavily on the A1; and

(vii) will he consider prioritising the installation of toll gates and prior to that the construction of the Malolwane to Mmaphashalala road as a priority alternative national infrastructure project, either within the framework of NDP 12 or through a supplementary emergency infrastructure stimulus plan.

**MR SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister, how long is your answer? I wish to invoke Standing Order 38.4.

**MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (MR SALAKAE):** E telelenyana mme ke ne ke ya go e re tlaa!

**MR SPEAKER:** Can you summarise it or you will hand him the answer?

**MR SALAKAE:** Tla ke mo e neele fela, e telele tota. Ke ne ke re ke a e buisa mme e telele.

**MR SPEAKER:** Standing Order 38.4.

**CATTLE RESTOCKING IN TATI EAST**

**MR T. FURNITURE (TATI EAST):** asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture to update this Honourable House on the cattle restocking in Tati East; in particular:

(i) what Government intends to do to help or compensate farmers whose cattle died because of heart water disease; and

(ii) when the restocking exercise will be completed.

**ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, by way of background, the 2022 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in Zone 6B was eradicated through a depopulation exercise which ended in August 2023. The reinstatement of zone's FMD free status by World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) was in April 2024.

A total of 10,032 cattle were killed, of which 7,618 were slaughtered at Maun abattoir. The Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) paid a total of P26.8 million which was paid directly to the farmers. This being in addtion to the P8.6 million cash compensation paid by Government, the affected farmers who totalled 1,148. The farmers had an option of receive the first 10 animals in kind, and the balance replaced at a ratio of 70 per cent cash and 30 per cent live beast.

The completion of the depopulation exercise paved way for the restocking exercise which commenced in June 2024.

Mr Speaker, unfortunately, 77 cattle died, mostly due to suspected tickborne disease especially, heartwater. This mostly affected heartwater naive cattle from the western areas of the country.

In order to curb heartwater mortality, newly restocked animals were subjected to a preventative treatment programme. Farmers were encouraged to monitor cattle closely and report any animals that showed clinical signs so that they could be treated immediately. These interventions have proved very effective as mortality related heartwater has dropped drastically.

Mr Speaker, now addressing Honourable Furniture's questions;

(i) While, there is no intention to replace animals that die after restocking, Government encourages farmers to implement disease prevention measures such as vaccination and tick control, which is dipping.

A dedicated team of extension officers is in place to ensure early treatment of animals that show clinical signs of the diseases. Government will also support farmers with targeted programmes such as artificial insemination (AI).

(ii) The restocking exercise was completed on the 8th July 2025. A total of 976 farmers received a total of 7,349 cattle, that is 7,178 heifers and 171 bulls. I thank you.

**MR FURNITURE:** *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker.* Ke a go leboga Tona ka karabo. Ke ne ke re gongwe Tona mo kgannyeng e nngwe ya dikgomo tse re setseng re di amogetse, ke go lebogele seo gore le nna ke amogetse dikgomo. Mme bothata jwa rona jo bo santseng bo le teng ke gore terata ya molelwane e sule, jaanong dikgomo tse re di amogetseng di tla di tlolela ka kwa Zimbabwe, go bo go raya gore jaanong kana re ka nna ra boela gape kwa thulaganyong ya *Foot and Mouth*. O bokgakala bo le kae Tona ka thulaganyo ya terata e e ka kgonang gore e thibele leruo go tlolela ka kwa Zimbabwe?

Sa bobedi, barui ba kgaolo ele ba ikgobokantse, ba dira maiteko a a kwa godimo thata a go tsamaya ba *patrol* mo molelwaneng go leka gore ba fokotse borai jwa *Foot and Mouth*. A ba lephata la gago la *Veterinary* ba ka kgona go ntsha bodiredi jo e leng gore ba ka nna ba ba *join,* gongwe gangwefela mo bekeng kana mo kgweding go leka go ba thusa *in patrols* tse ba di dirang mo molelwaneng?

**DR DIKOLOTI:** Ke a go leboga Motlotlegi Furniture, ke go lebogele thata matshwenyego a gago. O itse botlhokwa jwa gore kgaolo ya gago e bo e *maintain the green status because you fetch better value from that which we have after that Declaration.*

Sengwe se ke se tshwaraganetseng le Tona Mohwasa, re tshwaragane le Tona Butale, ke sa go ela tlhoko gore melelwane e re tswelela re e sireletsa jang. Ke kgang e e leng gore ga re ka ke ra e kgona re le nosi, e tlhokana le *the community* ka gore kana terata e e kgaolwa ke batho go feta selekanyo, mme fa gongwe e kgaolwa ke ditlou. Sengwe se ke neng ke se bua le maloba, se ke tlaa eletsang gore re tswelele re se bua ke gore dilo tse tsotlhe

tse re tshwanetse gore re amogele gore di tla ka lebaka la phetogo ya loapi. *So,* re tshwanetse re tlhoafalele gore re ngoke re bo re sokolole madi a phetogo ya loapi kwa a leng teng gore a tle go re babalela, a tle go babalela le *farmers* tsa rona gore kwa bofelelong re kgone go nna le *that beneficiation.*

Ya gore ba *Veterinary* kana ba *Agriculture* ba ka le *join*, o tlaa dumalana le nna gore bodiredi bo a tlhaela, mme fa gongwe *if we have had an empowerment exercise...* Tona Mohwasa *is doing a very good job* le ba sepodise ka mephato go e nonotsha. *We are the beneficiary of education* ya teng nna le Tona Chimbombi. Ba ne ba ile go ruta kwa Borolong kwa Metlojane, mme fa ba tswa foo ba bo ba ya Tsabong. Re leka go dirisa Marara gape ka gore kana mala a gamelwa mo sesaneng. *When you build your systems around* Bogosi, *you know for sure* gore *there will be good continuity. So*, ke tlaa go rotloetsa gore o nne o ntse o itshwaraganye le Tona Mohwasa ka tsone dikgang tse gore a leke gore a go ngokele bone ba ba sepodise, a go ngokele mephato ba tle go ruta ka gore fa re ka se ke re tseye *ownership* ya thuo e ya rona e, ga re na go kgona gore re nne le pabalesego e re e eleletsang le bone barui ba ba rona. Ke a go leboga motlotlegi.

## MOSHUPA BYPASS BRIDGE

**MR K. S. GARE (MOSHUPA-MANYANA):** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure to state progress on the reconstruction of the Moshupa bypass bridge which collapsed after heavy rains in 2021; and to further state:

(i) why the construction was stopped; and

(ii) when his ministry intends to resume the construction of the bridge.

**MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (MR SALAKAE):** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker.*

(i) Borogo jo bo ralalang motse wa Moshupa, bo ne jwa senngwa ke pula ka ngwaga wa 2021, dipula tsele tsa matlakadibe tse o di gakologelwang. Goromente wa nako eo o ne a tsaya maikarabelo kana *a decision* go ka simolola go bo aga ka ngwaga wa *September* 2023. E ne ya re ba ntse ba tsweletse ba bo aga, *especially* ba aga *what we call retaining walls,* ga bo go supafala gore borogo bo fa godimo ga *high ground water table*, go raya gore metsi a a kwa tlase a ne a setse a le gautshwane. *Ministry* wa me wa bo o tsaya tshwetso ya gore o *terminate because of that in November* 2024.

*(ii) Mr Speaker,* Goromente o tsere tshwetso ya *to shortlist consultants* ba ba tlileng go re thusa go *investigate* gore go ya pele *solution* e ka nna eng. Maikaelelo a rona ke gore tiro e e simolole fela mo kgweding e e latelang e ya *August* 2025 *and be completed in September* 2025. Mo go raya gore kago ya borogo yone e ya go simolola *immediately on completion of the investigations* e bo e fela ka *March* 2026.

*Thank you very much Mr Speaker*.

**MR LEKUTLANE:** *Supplementary*. Tanki *Mr Speaker*. Ke fete ka kgang e, ke botse *Minister*. Ga ke a go utlwa sentle *Minister* mo *issue* ya gore a o ne o re ke *retaining walls* e e nang le *problem* kana ke *pillars* tse di tshwarang borogo ka bojone gore ke tsone tse di nang le mathata? Jaanong ga ke ka ke ka go botsa potso go feta fa ka gore e ne e le nako ya ga Mabuse Pule, mme ke name ke e tshwere jalo. Tanki.

**MR SALAKAE:** Ke a leboga Mopalamente. O e tshwere sentle, le yone potso e lebane. Tota se se supafalang se bakile gore e bo e le gore *we terminated* ka nako eo, e ne e le kago ya *retaining walls of the bridge embankment*. Gakere go na le *bridge embankment,* mmu o o tsenang mo *retaining walls* o. E re le fa go agiwa, go a bo go supafala gore mmu o *would not hold because* kwa tlase ga *one the water table is very close. This is why we had to terminate because* go ne go supafala gore fa re ka tswelela re aga fela, e ya gore dipula di goroga jaanong di le mashetla, metsi fa a ya kwa tlase go bo go raya gore a tshikinya borogo jo, go bo go nna motlhofo gore bo ka *collapse* gape. *Thank you very much Mr Speaker*.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Honourable Minister. The time for questions is up, let us now go to Second Reading.

## EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS BILL, 2025 (NO. 10 OF 2025)

### Second Reading

### (Resumed Debate)

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, the debate on this Bill is resuming. When the House adjourned last week Thursday, Honourable Phillimon Aaron had just concluded his debate, therefore, the floor is open.

**MR MOSANANA (KANYE EAST):** Ke a go leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke leboge le Tona ka Molao-kakanyetso o a o re beileng pele fano. Pele fela ke simolole ka gore go na le fa ke sa utlwisiseng

sentle teng mo molaong o se ke sa dumalaneng le sone, gore bana ba bo 15 *years* a bo ba ka ya go bereka. Ke dumela gore bana ba dingwaga tseo tota ba tshwanetse gore ba ka bo ba le kwa sekoleng. Kana *Mr Speaker,* ngwana o simolola sekole a le *at least six years*, mme jaanong fa a tla go tshwara 15 *years*, o a bo e le gone a tsenang kwa *junior*. Ka jalo, tota golo foo ga go wele sentle ka fa go nna *Mr Speaker* gore ngwana wa 15 *years* go bo gotwe o ka bereka.

Fa go ntse jalo *Mr Speaker*, ke batla gore ke fete fa ka kgang ya babereki, bogolo jang ba *chain stores*.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (MR NYATANGA):** *Clarification. Thank you very much Mr Speaker*. Ke ne ke re ke tlhole gore o e bala sentle *comrade*. Kana ya re ga e letlelele bana ba ba 15 go bereka, e seng gore bana ba ba 15 ba ye go bereka.

**MR MOSANANA:** Nnyaa, ke a go leboga rraetsho, mme ka fa ke e badileng ka teng, e nthaya e re bana bao ba letlelelwa go bereka ba sa dire ditiro tse di bokete, mme ba letlelelwa gore ba bereke, ba ka hirwa. Legale ga ke itse, gongwe se ntsieditse sejatlhapi.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Murmurs)...

**MR MOSANANA:** Ee, go ntse jalo. Ke raya gore tota nna foo ga ke dumalane le yone gotlhelele fela. Bakaulengwe le bone ke bao ba re nnyaa, ke e badile sentle jaaka fa e kwadilwe.

Ke fete foo *Mr Speaker*, ke ne ke santse ke re kana go na le bothata, bogolo jang mabapi le batho ba ba hirwang mo *chain stores*. O fitlhela e le gore *chain stores* tse di kwano mo Botswana, tse dingwe di le kwa South Africa e le *same shop*, dipharologanyo tsa dituelo di bo di se kana ka sepe. A golo fa go lebelelwe thata gore tota se se ka tswa se dirwa ke eng. E bile batho ba ba *chain stores*, ba ba nnang mo *tills*, go tlaabo go beilwe ditilo foo, e le matshwana tshoo fela tota e se gore ke ditilo. Batho ba ba Modimo ba felela ba bolawa ke mekwatla, go bo go felele e le gore *they are boarded*, ba *write-off because* ga ba sa tlhole botsogo bo ba letla, mme e le mathata fela a gore ga ba a fiwa didirisiwa tse di maleba, tse di tshwanetseng.

*Mr Speaker*, kgang e nngwe e e botlhokotlhoko ke ya batho ba ba hirwang mo *security companies*. Batho ba go utlwala fa e le gore dilelo tsa bone di utlwala kgakala. Di utlwala kgakala jaana ka gore ba kobiwa fela motsotso mongwe le mongwe. Go lebega ditiro di rekiwa golo kwa *security companies*. Go tlaabo gotwe fa o ka ntsha podi ya pholo wena o ya go theogela, yole re ya go mo ntsha, mme go bo go diragala. Ke dilo tse di diragalang *Mr Speaker*. Dilo tse dingwe tse bagaetsho, e se ka ya nna e re re di bua jaana, a bo e kare re bua metlae, re bua dilo tse di diragalelang Batswana, bana le batsadi ba rona. E bile go ntse jaana, le fa e le *uniform*, ba bangwe ga ba e fiwe, o feta a apolelwa *uniform* ke yo o neng a ntshiwa foo. Fa a tsamaya e a tsewa e fetisediwa kwa go yo mongwe, ba re bone ga ba *supply uniform*. Ka jalo, golo fa Tona ke ne ke kopa gore a *security companies* tse di lebelelwe thata go tsentswe leitlho, le tsenyelediwe kwa teng ka gore batho ba Modimo ba a sotlega. Go ntshiwantshiwa fela mo tirong ga bone mo o tlaabong motho a saenisiwa konteraka ya kgwedi, fa kgwedi e ise e fele e setse e le gore gatwe a tswe a tsamaye, ga a tseye ditaelo.

Se sengwe Tona, bodiredi jwa *Labour Office* a bo etele madirelo, a ba se ka ba nna fela mo diofising ba re dikgang di tlaa ba latela kwa diofising. A ba tsene, ba sukunye mo madirelong, ba ye go bona, ba ye go utlwa tse di diragalelang babereki kwa ditirong tsa bone. Ke bua se ka gore o ya go fitlhela e le gore motho o tlaabo a tla *to report,* go tswa foo go tlaabo gotwe ya go tla ka mogolwane wa gago, go kwalwa mokwalo. Fa mogolwane a ya go tla fa jaanong o feta a ipuelelela, mme tota fela e ka bo go le botoka gore badiredi ba *Labour Office* ba ye kwa madirelong ba ye go bona.

Maloba re ne re santse re tswa go bona fa dingwe tsa *chain stores* go supiwa masaitsagaleng mo Gaborone. O bo o ipotsa gore fa go diragala dilo tse di tshwanang le tse mo Gaborone, kwa magaeng gone go ntse jang. Batho ba, ga ba letlelelwe gore ba ka bua sepe, ka gore fela fa go lemogiwa gore ke wena o ntshitseng mosi ka sekhurumelo, o jele mmereko. A babereki ba rona ba sirelediwe *Mr Minister.*

Se sengwe e ka nna fela gore, tsweetswee bana ba se ka ba bereka, ba ye sekoleng. Dikole gompieno di teng, ba *education* ke ba ba a bua gore Technical Vocational and Education Training (TVET) di a bulwa, di tlaa oketsega. A bana ba ye tirong ya diatla fa e le gore kwa sekoleng ditlhaka di a pala. Kana batho ga ba ka ke ba fiwa ka go lekana *Mr Speaker,* yo mongwe o tlaa nna le botlhale jwa ditlhaka, yo mongwe a nne le jwa go dira ka mabogo. Golo moo ke sengwe se se botlhokwa thata gore ba ba palelwang ke ditlhaka…

**MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION (MR MAELE):** *On a point of elucidation.* Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker. Thank you so much* motlotlegi. Ke ne ke re ke mo okeletse ke mmolelele gore, malatsi a kwa TVET ga re sa tlhola re batla ba ba paletsweng, re batla le ba ba kgonang tota. Bogologolo re ne re ntse re re ba ba paletsweng, malatsi a ra re *no,* ba ba botlhale ke bone ba re ba batlang kwa TVET. Ke a leboga *sir.*

**MR MOSANANA:** *Thank you very much Minister* go nkokeletsa foo, le nna o ntsibosa, ke leboga thata. Ke tsaya gore le a utlwa ka koo, le bagarona ka kwa ba a utlwa gore re di gata jang. E tle e re ba tswa fa bo *Honourable* Lucas le ye go ba bolelela kwa gae gore UDC e a bereka, e tsholeditse dikakanyo.

Ke tsaya gore ke a buile betsho, mma ke e tlogele gone foo. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker* le *Minister* yo o maleba. *I thank you.*

**MR BOGATSU (LENTSWELETAU-LEPHEPHE):** Ke go leboge Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente go bo gompieno o ntemogile gore ke eme…

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Laughter!)…

**MR BOGATSU:** E re ke go leboga jalo rra, ke bo ke lebe Tona wa tsa Pereko, Rraetsho Mokgware ke re, rra ke emela ka dinao gore ke go eme nokeng mo kgannyeng e ya gago, e o e beileng Ntlo e pele. Ka gore nna le wena re a dumalana mo go yone, e tlaa nna kgang ya rona. Ke lebile gore mo kgannyeng e ya gago Tona, kana o ne o itebagantse le *Article* 23 ya *the* United Nations (UN) Charter on Declaration of Human Rights, ka fa e buang ka teng, gore go bereka ke tshwanelo, *it is a basic human right.* E bile gape e bua gore motho o na le tshwanelo ya go itlhophela tiro e ene a batlang go e dira, mme gape a berekela ka fa mabakeng a a tsamaelanang a gotweng *conducive working conditions*. Ke sone se gompieno o buang ka sone. Jaanong ke ema ka dinao ke go ema nokeng mo go sone.

Mme ke e tla ke amiwa ke kgang ya gore, kwa ke tswang teng kwa Kgaolong ya rona ya Lentsweletau-Lephephe, re tshwere bothata. Re na le *mine* ka koo rra o o re jesetsang mo kgobedung. *Even this morning* ba ne ba mpiditse, ke tswa kwa go bone, gore nna tota gatwe sa tshwene se ikgarile fa kae. Jaanong ke tlaa boa ke taboga le diofisi tsa lona, diofisi tse tharo; *Office* ya Tona wa Meepo, ya gago rra o le wa Pereko le ya ga Tautona, ka gore batho bao ga go na fa ba sa kokotang teng. Ke diemo tse di utlwisang botlhoko, tse di hutsafatsang. O itse gore go bereka *is a basic human right,* mme e bile fa motho a berekile, o tshwanetse go duelelwa se a se bereketseng. Ke feta ka yone.

E nngwe rra e ke go emang nokeng ka yone, ke ya *paternity leave.* Kgang e ya gore a borre le bone ba ye *on leave,* ga e tswe fa. Ke tsaya gore o ne o arabela *to the workforce.* O ka e tsaya ka nako ya Palamente ele re santse re na le *Honourable* Nasha gone fa, e ne e ntse e kgabola. E le gore bomme ba moono mongwefela gore, a e re fa ba tsaya *leave* ya *maternity,* borre le bone ba ba patle. Go lebega kgang e e sa swe. Jaanong ga o a dira phoso, o ne o araba sone seo, re tle re bone gore a bo Ookeditse ba tlaa ya *on leave* kana ba tlaa ya merakeng.

Ba di buile, ke taboga ka tsone fela go le gonnyennyane. Ke bo ke feta ka ya *child labour,* eo ke kgang e e tshwenyang, e e ntseng jaaka *Honourable* Mosanana a ne a e bua. Go go bedi, 18, 15, 15 a ka bereka, *that is wrong,* re re, nnyaa, a 15 a se ka a bereka. O kwadile fela sentle gore o leka gore go se ka ga kgoreletsa ngwana mo dithutong tsa gagwe, 15-*year olds* ba santse ba le kwa sekoleng. Ga go na jaaka go ka twe ba ka bereka le fa e le *light duties.* Kana fa re bua ka *labour,* go na le madi. Ga re reye ditiro tsa kwa malwapeng o raya ngwana o re ya go tshosa kwa tshimong kana phatsa dikgong, *that is not child labour,* ke se ngwana a tshwanetseng go se dira gore a tle a kgone le ene a je kana a reng. A rutwe le gone go bereka, mme e seng a berekela madi. Re na le mathata le mo ngwana a hirwang a ya go berekela madi. *Mr Speaker*, mma ke go fe sekai. Kwa dikgaolong tse ke di emetseng, Motswakhumo *for example,* ke na le bana ba ka feta botlhano ba ba neng ba re ba tlogela sekole ba a tsamaya, ba ya go disa le bo malomaabone kwa Kgatleng. Re na le mathata a bana ba ba tlogelang dikole ka gore ba a hirwa mo dipolaseng. Jaanong ke re, fa e le gore re tlhoafetse re batla go sireletsa bana kgatlhanong le go bereka, a go nne *an inspection team* e e tlileng go tsamaya e ya go lekola gore a mo dipolaseng tseo ga go bereke bana. Fa o tsaya dikgaolo tsa bo Leologane, bana ba tlogela sekole *and join* batsadi ba bone kwa dipolaseng. Jaanong go go bontsha gore bana ba le fa ba ka tswa ba sa duelwe, mme gone ba a bo ba theogetse ka gore batsadi ba hirilwe foo. Bana jaanong ba ya go fetoga e le bone ba disang kwa dipolaseng tse batsadi ba bone ba berekelang kwa go tsone.

Mo bogompienong, *education is not a right* mo Botswana, e santse e le *a privilege.* Go tlhokafala gore molao jaanong o baakanngwe gore thuto e nne tshwanelo. Fa e le gore thuto e e ya go nna tshwanelo, go ye go nna le *some Acts* tse di supang gore ka boammaaruri

ngwana wa dingwaga tseo o tshwanetse gore a bo a le kwa sekoleng. Go na le *some punitive measures* tse di ka tsewang *against* motsadi yo o tlaabong a bapile le ngwana ka dinako tseo. Fa e le gore *the Act* ya re ngwana yo o 18 o tshwanetse gore a bo a le mo sekoleng *Honourable* Mokgware, a ngwana wa 18 a bo a le mo sekoleng.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR MOTSAMAI):** *On a point of elucidation.* Ke a go leboga *Mr Speaker.* Ke leboge bakaulengwe ba ba fano. Ke leboge le mokaulengwe go mpha sebaka. Ke ne ke re ke oketse ke re a tsenelele thata mo kgannyeng e. Mo dikgaolong tsa rona tse di tshwanang le kwa bo Ghanzi, dipolase tsa teng o fitlhela di rekisiwa ka batho ba le mo teng. Fa motho a reka polase eo a le kwa South Africa, o reka leruo, sengwe le sengwe se se mo teng, le batho. O tlile go fitlhela babereki ba e leng gore fa a sa ba batle o a ba ntsha, fa ba ya kwa Gantsi ke *squatters.* Bothata jo bo tshwanetse *to be addressed* ka tsela e e tsepameng tota, e e tseneletseng. Ke a leboga.

**MR BOGATSU:** Ee rra, ke mathata a re buang ka one. Kgang e ga e tswe fa, ke ya bogologolo. O bo o utlwa motho a ikgatlha a re, "*I own everything, including you* se se mo teng ga polase e." Ka gore nako le yone e tsamaile… go ntse jalo rra, fa ngwana yo o *below* 18 a bereka, o itse gore *will be exposed to other social ills,* go goga motsoko, go reng, *all those things.* Ke feta ka yone.

Jaanong ka gore nako le yone ke e e a siana, o lebe le ya *Section* 7.1 le 11.1. Ke tsone tse di neng di buiwa ke *Honourable* Mosanana ka kwa. O di lebelele o di baakanye, tota keletso ya me ke gore a 15 a se ka a bo a bereka, e nne ngwana yo o tshwanetseng gore o ka bo a le kwa sekoleng. Ke tlaa ema ka di le kalo, ka gore e nkitshitse mo *tune.* Ke a go leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente.

**MR MOALOSI (NKANGE):** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker.* Ke lebogele Tona go bo a tlile ka Molao-kakanyetso wa go leka go baakanya melao ya phiro, *to protect* babereki ba Botswana.

Ke simolole ke bue gore, kana tota mo Botswana motho yo tota a sa tseyeng babereki sentle, ke Goromente. Re le Mapalamente rotlhe le ba ba busang, kwa diofising tsa rona go tla *cases* tse dintsi tse babereki ba sa tshwarweng sentle ke mohiri. Ke re Tona, e re le ntse le baakanya melao jaana, le bo le itse gore mme melao eo e robiwa thata ke lona. Ke sa itse gore a mme go a tle go tle *inspectors* tse di teng mo molaong tsa *Labour,* kwa *police* di ye *to inspect.* Di a tle di tsene kwa *factories* kana *firms* tsa ga Goromente *to inspect,* gore a mme melao ya khiro e dirwa sentle. Re na le babereki ba bantsi fa re tsaya *teachers for example, who are crying every day.* Motho a na le bo 20 *years* a le mo C1, gongwe e bile yo mongwe a le *promoted* e le *senior teacher* a na le *portfolio,* mme batho ba a ba eteletseng pele ba amogela go tshwana. Dilo tseo di kgobera maikutlo a babereki. Jaanong fa e le gore re *serious* re batla go baakanyetsa babereki ditshwanelo, a re itebeleleng le rona. A re lebeng mo seiponeng, re bone ene motho yo o kgokgontshang babereki le go feta.

Mo molaong o le tlileng ka one *Minister,* go na le *issue* e le reng mohiri a se ka a *deduct* madi mo mmereking *without their consent.* Ke re gongwe re ntshe kgang e ya *consent,* ka gore fa ke re mohiri, ke mohiri nna, fa ke le mohiri ke kgona go kgokgontsha mmereki gore a dumele gore ke mo gogele madi. Ke tlaabo ke mo raya ke re, go siame fa e le gore ga o letlelele gore ke goge madi, go raya gore ke go koba mo tirong, *and nobody wants to go home. So,* motho o tlaabo a feleletsa a *consent,* go raya gore *this Clause is not addressing the real issue,* e batho ba kgokgontshiwang mo ditirong gotwe go na le *loss,* mme e sa kgone go salwa morago sentle gore ke ya ga mang, go bo gotwe babereki ba e duele.

Ke ne ke bua le mongwe wa *a labour broker,* a re o bereka le *shops* tsa maChina o di batlela babereki. A re moChina o kgona go bua fela gore go na le *loss* mo *shop* ya maChina, *imagine* gore fa o tsena mo *shop* ya maChina *stock* se gongwe le gongwe, ga go na fa o fetang teng. *How are you going to determine* gore go na le *loss,* o sa kgone go dira *stock taking?* Ka gore molao o a mo letlelela, o tlaabo a re go na le *loss,* go raya gore re ntsha P300 mo *salary* ya gago. Fa motho a amogela P1,800 kana P1,000 go ntshiwa P300, go sala bokae? Go tshwana le babereki ba *filling stations,* fa gotwe ba a a tlhaelelwa, go tlaabo go gogiwa mo *salaries* tsa bone.

Ra re mohiri o na le tshwanelo ya go ya kgotleng, a ya *to prove case against the employee gore* o mo utsweditse. A go letlelelwe gore go salwe *procedure* eo morago, go se ka ga kgokgontshiwa babereki fela ka gore ba tshaba go latlhegelwa ke mmereko, ba feletse ba dumela go duelela *loss* e gongwe e seng ya bone. *Minister,* le e lebelele eo. Ke itse gore o kile wa tsamaisa *a bar,* ba ne ba go itaya *at the bar,* mme a re se ka ra itsheka ka molao.

Go na le kgang ya *security of tenure* mo babereking, ke kile ka utlwa Tona Mohwasa maloba a bua sengwe se se neng sa intumedisa mo go maswe re le kwa Francistown. A bua gore e rile a gola kwa Phikwe, go ne go na le mme e le *a cleaner* wa ga Goromente, rre e le *security,* ba aga ba iketlile, ka gore *they had a long tenure.* Jaanong *system* e e neng ya tlisiwa ke maDomkrag ya *tenders* tsa *three years* tsa *cleaning and security,* e bolaile babereki Tona. Ke kopa gore le le Goromente le lebelele gore le ka dira jang gore motho a kgone go bereka fela bo 10,15 *years* a le mo tirong. E seng mo ke tlaabong ke fenya *tender* gone jaana ke bo ke hira motho, *after three years* ke ntshiwa *from the tender* go tsenngwa yo mongwe, o tla ka batho ba gagwe. Selo sa ntlha fa o na le konteraka ya *three years,* ga o ka ke wa bona *loan* gope e e ka go thusang *to develop* botshelo jwa gago, o age, o gokele sediba kwa morakeng kana o dire jang. Re e lebelele fela *as a collective* gore, re bone gore kgang e Goromente a neng a tsere tshwetso gore ntsha dilo tse dingwe mo go ene, di amile babereki go le kae. *How much has that contributed to the poverty that we see,* motho a bereka mme go sena sepe se o ka bonang gore o a bereka. Ke dumela gore ke kgang e re tshwanetseng go e lebelela sentle fela, re se ka ra humisa batho ba le *few* ka *tenders,* mme bontsi jwa babereki tota ba berekela go ja le go tlhapa fela, go sena sepe se ba ka se dirang ka madi a ba a amogelang.

Molao o le tlileng ka one, ke a o itumelela ka gore o na le dilo tse dintsi tse di ntle di lebagane le babereki. E re fa re ntse re tla ka molao gape, re se ka ra *appear* o kare *we are anti-business.* Fa melao e gagametse thata, *as an investor* ke lebelela pele gore melao ya khiro kwa lefatsheng le ke yang kwa go lone e ntse jang. *Is it going to be conducive for me to run a business,* kana ke tlaabo jaanong ke simolola ke nna kwa *Labour Court,* e le dilonyana tse di seng *necessary.* Re nne re dire *a balancing act,* ka gore *a highly militarised workforce* e dira gore batho ba tshabe go tla *to invest* mo go yone.

Ke kile ka bereka kwa lefatsheng lengwe, kwa e leng gore fa mohiri a sa go batle o go raya a re, *leave my property.* E le melao, mme ke lefatshe fela le e leng gore *companies are doing well.* Le mmereki fa a sa batle tiro, o a *resign* fela gone foo. Re dire *a balancing act,* re bone gore *what can benefit the employees as well as the employers, because at the end of the day we need employers for the employment to be there.* Fa e le gore go tlaa nna thata gore batho ba tle go beeletsa mo Botswana, go ya go feletsa go dira gore batho ba re batlang go ba direla ditiro, re palelwe ke go ba direla ditiro. Legale ke sa re batho ba se ka ba sireletswa, ka gore *there is a lot of exploitation.* Ke dumela gore re a itse, *across all the industries there is a lot of exploitation of workers.*

Ke ne ke itheile ke re mo molaong wa gago, ke tlaa bona le tsentse fela le papamaditse kgang ya *living wage.* Ke kgang e nna le lona re e dumalanang gore a batho ba duelwe madi a a rileng. Jaanong ke ne ke ithaya ke re gongwe re tlaa bona le tsentse mo molaong, le fa gongwe le sa kwala P4,000, mme le kwadile golo gongwe gore *people should be paid a living wage.* Ke dumela gore *it is something that* rona re le ba Botswana Congress Party (BCP) re dumelang thata mo go gone. Lona le le ba UDC le ne le dumalana ka yone, mme o kare le a *dengadenga*, ga ke itse gore le tlaa e baakanya leng…

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Murmurs)...

**MR MOALOSI:** Ngaka, a ko o didimale. Batho ba batla melemo, wena o *dengadenga* fa. Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ke leboge sebaka se o se mphileng. A re se ka ra *dengadenga* ka kgang ya *living wage,* a re papamaleng fela, *even if we can implement it later, we can put it in the law* gore re batla gore batho ba amogele P4,000. *Unless* e le gore le a e tshaba, gongwe le ne le tshameka fela le se *serious,* jaaka dikgang tse dingwe tse re bonang o kare le ne le tshameka fela ka maikutlo a batho. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker.*

**MR KWAPA (JWANENG-MABUTSANE):** Ke go leboge Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke dumedise le batlotlegi, ke dumedise le bareetsi kwa gae. Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ke rata le nna ke eme Tona nokeng ka Molao-kakanyetso o. O dirile tiro fela e kgolo ya go kopanya melao e tshwana le ya Employment Act, Trade Unions and Employers Organisations Act, gammogo le *the* Trade Disputes Act. A dira gore e nne molao o le mongwefela, gore go tswe ketsaetsego le dipelaelo tse e ntseng e le gore gantsinyana bahiri ba tsaya *advantage* ya gore ba hira babereki ba ba sa itseng molao mo go kalo. Fa e se fela gore ba itse ba ya go dira tiro e ba e hiretsweng.

Se se ntseng se le botlhokotlhoko thatathata, kgaolo e tshwana le ya Jwaneng-Mabutsane Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, fa re e lebelela, e dikaganyeditswe ke dipolase. Mafelo a tshwana le Thankane, Samane le masimo a a tletseng mo kgaolong e, re itemogela gore bontsi jwa babereki ba ya koo. Se se diragalang ke gore, go nna le bana ba ba tsholwang

gone kwa dipolaseng kana kwa masimong. Masimo a tshwana le Kaduwe jalo, le one a tletse dipalo tse di ntsi. Molao o jaaka o ntse jaana, o supa gore *office* ya ga Tona e tlaabo e na le *labour inspectors*. Ke dumela gore *it will be resourced* sentle mo go lekaneng.

Jaaka Motlotlegi Mopalamente Lekutlane a ne a tlhalosa, dipolase tse dingwe tse, o fitlhela e le gore bontsi jwa nako, dikgoro tsa tsone di a lotlelwa mme go sena ope yo o a bo a le teng go bona gore a go na le bangwe ba ba tsenang ba tshwana le *inspectors*. O fitlhela e le gore dikgoro tse bontsi jwa nako, di kwa thoko. Mo e leng gore go bulwe, go dirwa thulaganyo. Fa *inspectors* tsa ga Tona tsa *Labour* di tla gone kwa polaseng eo, o ya go fitlhela ba letsa. Go fa rrapolase kana rramasimo yo o a bo a le teng, gore o ka ipaakanya. Fa go na le bana teng, o felela a ba fitlha. Ke dumela gore *inspection* fa e dirwa, ga go a tshwanela go nna le *appointment* gotwe "re e tla, re ya go dira *inspection* koo." Jaanong babereki le bana ba re buang ka bone ba ba tletseng mo dikgaolong tsotlhe le tsone tsa Botswana, o fitlhela boradipolase le boramasimo ba beile bana koo, ba sa tsene dikole. Kgang e ya dingwaga tse 15, o fitlhela bana ba ba kwa tlase ga dingwaga tse Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Tulo e tshwana le ya Kaduwe, o fitlhela bana dipalo tsa bone di le di ntsintsi koo, ba sa tsene dikole. Gone moo fela ka bogone, ke go tsuolola ditshwanelo tsa bana tsa go tsena sekole. Molao o, o tlhamaletse gore bana ga ba a tshwanela go hirwa. Ke dumela gore go ka bo go na le tsetlana mo molaong ya gore fa mohiri a hira motsadi, gongwe a itse gore o na le bana, a sa dira thulaganyo ya gore a ba ise kwa sekoleng, a tseelwe dikgato ka lebaka la gore o a bo a tsuolola ditshwanelo tsa bana. O a bo a itse gore bana bao ba teng mo polaseng kana mo masimong a gagwe. Mafelo a a tshwanang le Kaduwe, bana ba bantsintsi ba e leng gore ka tshwanelo, e ka bo ba setse ba agelwa le sekole teng. Bontsi jwa bone ba tswa kwa Kaduwe, mme ga go na le fa e le dithulaganyo tse di a bo di dirilwe ke bahiri go isa bana kwa sekoleng kwa Jwaneng. Go bo go boa go nna le masimo a tshwana le a Dinonyane kana le a mangwe fela a a dikologileng motse o tshwana le Sese. Go na le masimo a tshwana le a a kwa Naledi, a o tlaa dumalanang le nna Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente gore a gaufi le motse wa Sese o o fitlhelang bana teng. Bana ba disa dikgomo mo e leng gore dikgato di siame di papametse, go ya ka fa molao o o tlhalosang ka teng.

Ke boe ke lebogele Tona gape gore mo Molao-kakanyetsong o, o ne a tsenya tsetlana e e bidiwang *family responsibility leave*. E fa ba ba a bong ba theogetse kwa dipolaseng kana masimo, kana gope fela gore fa ba tlhokafaletswe, mohiri a tlamege gore yo a mo hirileng, a ye *to attend* dilo tsa kwa gae, e ka tswa e le leso kana sepe fela. Ke sone se ke reng molao o, ke o lebogela ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Jaaka batlotlegi ba bangwe ba ntse ba tlhalosa, o ne o fitlhela fa motho a rekile polase, a dumela gore batho ba ba leng foo, ba ba mo disetsang, le bone o ba rekile. O fitlhela go sa tsenwe mo dithulaganyong tsa go bona gore bana ba ba foo, ba a tlamelwa kana ba isiwa dikokelwaneng ka tsela e e ntseng jang. O fitlhela go na le letlhoko la go ya kwa bookelong, mme re itse gore go na le malwetse a a sa tshelanweng a a borai. Re lemoga gore bontsi jwa nako, batho ba ba mo diphatseng tsa gore fa ba ile kwa dikokelwaneng jalo, e nna e kete ba lofile, go sena dithulaganyo tse di tsepameng. Ke sone se ke reng, ke lebogela Tona gore a bo a tla ka molao o a tlhalosang sentle ka botlalo gore tota go tshwanetse go diragale eng.

Ke rata thata paakanyo e ya molao. E itsa mohiri gore a se ka a kgaola madi a yo a mo hirileng ntleng le tumalano epe. Golo mo go diragalela babereki ba e leng gore gangwe le gape, ba tlhoka ditlhaloso gore ga go a nna sentle. Ga go maleba gore go ka bo go kgaolwa madi fela ba sa dumalana. Ke bo ke rata le ntlha e nngwe e e tlhalosang jalo gore fa mohiri a tsaya tshwetso ya gore a ntshe yo a mo hirileng kana mmereki, o tshwanetse a mo duele letsatsi leo madi a gagwe otlhe.

**MR HIKUAMA:** *Clarification Mr Speaker.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Member*. O itse gore fa o bua jaana, ke tlelwa ke seemo se sengwe se se diragalang kwa komponeng nngwe kwa Maun, e e neng e hirile batho ba e bereka, konteraka ya bone a bo e wela ka *December.* Fa e sena go wela ka *December,* go bo gotwe berekang fela re tlaa bona gore re tlaa felela fa kae. Fa ba ntse ba iketlile fela ba ntse bone ba re ba a bereka, ba a bidiwa kwa *meeting* gatwe "nnyaa tšhaisang." *Six months without a contract working*, e sale e wela ka *December. From December up to June,* ba bereka fela ba sena konteraka. A mme ke tsone diemo tse o batlang gore di sirelediwe tse?

**MR KWAPA:** Ke a leboga motlotlegi. Jaaka ke ne ke tlhalosa, Molao-kakanyetso o Tona a tlang ka one, ke o e leng gore ditlhaloso sentle ka botlalo di teng. Mongwe le mongwe o ka di bala sentle gore a tlhaloganye gore se se tshwanetseng se diragale, ke eng. Ke raya se ka lebaka la gore pele bahiri ba ne ba kgona go itirelela jaaka o bua. Mo bogompienong sengwe le sengwe se tlhalosega sentle mo molaong gore fa o na le maikaelelo a gore o ntsha batho bape fela mo tirong, o itse gore

letsatsi le o ba ntshang ka lone, o tlamega go ba duela madi a bone otlhe. Fa o sa dire jalo, le gone e tlaabo e boa e nna molato gape. Gone moo ka bogone, go sireletsa ditshwanelo tsa babereki.

Fa ke boa ke tswelela gape ke re, ke ne ke santse ke tlhalosa gore ga go a nna sentle gore nako le nako, bogolo jang fa o tsaya sekai se tshwana le sa badisa, ba e leng gore gongwe leruo le a bo le nyeletse kana go diregile eng, phoso e bo e le gore gatwe modisa ga a duelwe. Kgang e, e tshwanetse e isiwe kwa go tshwanetseng go bonwe gore e ka rarabololwa ka tsela e e ntseng jang. E seng gore o bo o kgaupediwa gotwe, "tsamaya o timeditse." E bo go raya gore ga o neelwe dikatso tsa gago. Molao gone fa o a tlama gore fa motho a kgaogana le wena o le mmereki, o tshwanetse a go duele.

Se sengwe se se leng teng, se ke neng ke batla go feta ka sone, se se mo Molao-kakanyetsong o, ke kgang ya *maternity leave* le *paternity leave.* Ke dumalana le yone sentle ka botlalo. Fa o tsaya mafelo a mangwe a babereki ba berekelang kgakala, tsaya sekai sa mmereki a berekela kwa Bokspits a tswa kwa Chobe, o ya go lala a goroga leng? Ke dumela gore kgang e, e siame go ya go bona sentle gore mme yo o a bo a tsene mo botsetsing, o tlamelwa ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ke rata ke ka go lebogela sebaka se o mphileng sone.

**MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (MR RAMAOTWANA):** Ke a go leboga *Mr Speaker. Good afternoon* batlotlegi ba mo Ntlong eno. Ke ema ka go tlatsa le go ema nokeng Tshutiso ya molao o. *I support Minister* Mokgware le bana ba gagwe gore ke molao fela o o siameng thata. Re tswa kgakala re lela ka one. Ke ope diatla gore mo go one go dilo tse dingwe tse re ntseng re kgaratlha ka tsone, mme jaanong di bonetse mo go one, di teng. Fa o ka lebelela *Clause* 217 *Subsection* 2 (b) e bua ka *transportation* ya babereki ba ba theogelang ba tšhaisa bosigo. Gone mo o ka bona gore ke selo se se neng se tshwenya thata, gore babereki fa ba tšhaisa bosigo go sena *transport,* e bo e le gore mohiri ga a tsene gope, ke mo gotweng ke dibonwa ke mmereki. Sone seo re ne re kgaratlha re re ga go a siama gore ba bo ba le mo ditopong ba kopa *lifts* masigo, dirukhutlhi tsa tloga tsa ba phoronya. Kana gore e re kwa ba yang teng, koloi, *taxi* kana combi e bo e felela mo sekonotereng, motho a bo a tsamaya bo 2 kilometres (km) mo mafifing go le bosigo, gone moo go ne go saletse kwa morago, mme go teng mo Molao-kakanyetsong one wa gompieno. Makgotlatshekelo le melao ya kwa Afrika Borwa e e tsweletseng, e ne e na le selo seo gore ga go a siama gore mohiri a tlogele batho ba sena go mo direla *profit* ba ya go digwa fela fa go senang *transportation* teng, o tshwanetse gore a tseye boikarabelo *to transport them after* 6:00 p.m. Sone seo se mo molaong gore gompieno batho ba patikesega gore e se ka ya nna bopelotlhomogi jwa mohiri, e nne gone mo molaong gore o a patikesega gore ba babalesege ba ye go goroga go sena gore ba ka phoronngwa mo ditseleng mo mafifing. Ke nesetsa pula sone seo.

Kgang yone e ya *maternity and paternity,* kana go raya gone gore rangwana le ene a kgone *to bond* le ngwana wa gagwe, a kgone go itse gore go raya gore o na le boikarabelo mo go tlhokomeleng ngwana. A se ka a tseela gore fa a sena go dirisanya le mmaagwe ngwana fela a bo a tsena mo seemong, o tšhaisitse jaanong go raya gore o tlaa tla a kopana le ene gape jaanong a dira yo mongwe gape...

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

**MR RAMAOTWANA:** Go raya gore gone moo go tlisa gore a nne le boikarabelo jwa kgodiso ya ngwana, le go ruta ngwana ka gore Children's Act e bua ka gore ngwana o tshwanetse *to bond* le rraagwe, a itse dingwao tsa ga rraagwe, a itse tsotlhe, *spiritually, physically, academic,* rraagwe a nne le boikarabelo jwa go tsena mo kgodisong ya ngwana le thuto ya ngwana gore a itse ngwao ya ga rraagwe. Sone seo go raya gore ke selo se se siameng thata gore ngwana a kgone go nna le rraagwe.

E nngwe ke ya *termination of employment for pregnancy purposes,* mme yone ke a e lebogela ka gore e ne e ntse e *le a common law position* ya makgotlatshekelo, gore sone seo go raya gore babereki e ne e re motho a ima fela *in private sector,* a bo a kobelwa gore o mo seemong sa gore o itsholofetse. ILO ya re go dira jalo *is an anti-discrimination tendency*, go dira jalo go raya gore o a bo o kgetholola motho wa mme ka bong jwa gagwe gore ke mme, ka gore wa rre ene o imisitse, mme ene o sala a bereka *yet* wa mme o kobiwa mo tirong ka boimana. Sone seo ke se nesetsa pula gore go raya gore re simolotse *to comply with the international labour standards* tse e leng gore di a batlega ka ILO, e le gore *we are a member in good standing.* Sone seo ke se nesetsa pula sentle.

Ke utlwa batlotlegi e le gore ba tshwenyegile thata ka *issue ya living wage* gore ga re a kwala mo molaong. Fa re ka e kwala mo molaong re re *living wage* ke P4,000 go tlaabo go raya gore go tswa foo gape re ka

tla re fetola gape molao re re jaanong ke P6,000. Go bo go raya gore sone seo se ka nna borai ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Fa o bala *Clause* 188, ke tsaya gore e neetse *Minister flexible powers* tsa gore fa seemo sa itsholelo se tokafala, o ka nna a re a ba amogele P4,000 *or* P5,000 *or* P6,000. *Clause* 188 (1) ya re, *"the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, publish any matter relating to the fixing of a minimum wage or adjusting or abolishing a minimum wage*." Go raya gore fa e ntse jaana jaanong e *flexible* gore fa e le gore seemo sa itsholelo se a tokafala, go raya gore fa e le gore *minimum wage* gompieno ke P2,000 *he may abolish* a bo a re *I declare* gore e nne P4,000 kana P4,500.

**MR HIKUAMA:** Point of clarification. *Ke a leboga* Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly. *Ke a leboga* Honourable Member for yielding. *Le bua ka* minimum wage or living wage?

**MR RAMAOTWANA:** Fa o bala *living wage* ka fa e tlhalosiwang ka teng, e raya gore o tsaya *a basket of all things that are needed; accommodation, transport,* dijo, diaparo, *school fees,* le gore o kgone *to save. That basket if you remember Honourable* Matsheka *as Minister of Finance then, three years or so ago,* o buile gore ke P6,500, *but* rona re bua ka P4,000 *which is not the living wage. It is a minimum living wage if anything*, *but* e ne e le go leka go ntsha batho gore ba tle golo gongwe ba kokobele. Fa e le gore ke *living wage if you say so,* e raya gore o nne le gone mo e leng gore o tshela botshelo jwa setho mo e leng gore *the current statistics* gongwe e tlaabo e go supegetsa gore ke bo P8,000. Fa o ya kwa *manifesto* wa UDC, *that is why* e re e tlaa dira gore mo *five years* ene o e neetsweng marapo a Puso, e bo e leka gore *the average salary* e nne P10,000 ka gore *this* P4,000 ga se *proper living wage, it is a minimum living wage* fela go go ntsha mo manokonokong. Ke sone se ke reng, 188 ya re *Minister may abolish the current minimum wage* fa seemo sa itsholelo se tokafetse gore re ka duela P5,000, a bo a feta le ene P4,000 a bo a kgona *to fix* gore ke P5,000 *the living wage.* Kana a kgone gore a re ke P6,000 *depending* gore itsholelo e ka kgona go duela bokae. Ke sone se ke reng ee ga re a tswa thata mo moonong wa rona wa *living wage.* Ke gore re aga itsholelo e bo e le gore *we can push* gore *within five years* re bo re gorogile mo *average salary* ya P10, 000. *It is within the scope, promises and pledges* tsa ga Goromente wa UDC gore re mo tseleng re ya teng.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Clarification.

**MR RAMAOTWANA:** Nako e tšhaile motlotlegi, ke ne ke utlwa o re *clarification,* go setse *two minutes.* Ke seo ke re *it is subsumed within Clause* 188 *Subsection* 1, gore go nne *flexible* a kgone *to adjust.*

Fa re ya kwa go e nngwe *Mr Speaker,* ke lebogela kgang e e leng gore *I think* ka 2011 nako ya *strike* sa badirelapuso, *I wrote a* 39*-page document about essential services* ke bua ka kgang ya gore melao ya Botswana e kgopo ka gore e ne e le gore jaanong e letlelela *to fix* se se mo molaong, e bo e neela Tona gore ke ene a ka ntsha a tsaya. Le *Court of Appeal* a bo a re nnyaa, go raya gore *if* Palamente *has fixed,* ga go na fa *Minister* a ka tsenang teng. Maikaelelo e le gore mafatshe a a tsweletseng *internationally,* ba dira mo gotweng *Essential Service Council* e e leng gore *depending on the situation,* fa e le gore seemo se letla gore *this sector is no longer essential,* go bo go raya gore *one of the parties, being a Trade Union or the employer, may apply that I am applying to this council* gore *declare this service non-essential.* Fa e le gore o bona gore jaanong *this service is essential, then you can apply to that council* gore *declare this service essential*. Molao o, fa o bala *Clause* 269 *to* 270 e bua ka gone gore go tlaa nna le *council* ya go nna jalo, ya go dira jalo.

Ke lebogele gape le *Clause* 259 e e buang ka *agency shop agreements* tse di ntseng di tlhaela, gore go ntse go na le babereki ba e leng gore ba lala mo jokweng e le gore ba bangwe ke bone ba ya kwa ngalong ditiro, motho ene a bo a amogela fela ka maduo a ba bangwe ba ba neng ba ile ngalong ditiro, ene a sa *strike* a le mo ofising. Golo mo jaanong go ya go nna le *agency shop fee,* e e leng gore fa e le gore ga o batle *to join union* ka mabaka *either* a *religion, or* e le *conscience* ya gago e sa go letlelele, mme go tlaa nna le *fee* e o e duelang gore bale le bone fa ba le kwa ba ntse ba kgaratlhela gore *terms and conditions* tsa tiro di tokafale, le wena e re o ja *benefit,* e bo e le gore le wena o na le *levy* e e leng gore e a ntshiwa. Ke tsone dilo tse ke reng mo molaong o, ke bona go na le dilo tse di *progressive* thata tse e leng gore ke go ema nokeng *Honourable* Mokgware, mo maitekong a gore molao o o nne teng gore o fete. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker.*

**MR PULE (KGATLENG EAST):** Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Hei! Ditilo tse ke mathata fela …(*Laughter*!)… Di a sokodisa.

**MR SPEAKER:** Le tlaa di ithuta *Honourable Members*.

**MR PULE:** …(*Laughter*!)… Motlotlegi, ke go leboga thata gore o bo o mphile sebaka sa go akgela ka Tshutiso e e botlhokwatlhokwa e ya ga *Honourable* Mokgware, e ke tsayang gore *it has been a long-awaited exercise*.

Jaaka o itse Motsamaisa tiro, gore lefatshe la Botswana e le *a member of the* International Labour Organisation (ILO), dilo dingwe re a tlamega gore re di dire *as a member of that organisation* ka gore *these are international best practices. So it is important*.

Fa o ka lebelela *manifesto* wa rona wa Botswana Democratic party (BDP) mo go *Page* 53, re ne re bua ka *improving labour relations in the country and promoting decent work programme*.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** …(Inaudible)…

**MR PULE:** Gakere o bua o le motho wa kwa Sefophe, nna ke bua ke le moBDP.

Jaanong ke re re ne re semeletse ka dilo tse. E bile jaaka ke batla go tlhalosa *Mr Speaker*, ga go na Puso epe e e ka nnang mo setilong e sena maikaelelo a *to improve labour laws or relations.* Maikaelelo ke *to protect rights* tsa babereki, *to ensure fair treatment* le *safe working conditions* fa batho ba berekang teng jaaka e bile re bona dilo tse dintsi thata. *We should also promote fair labour practices like* ILO e bua gore *we should encourage social justice, especially to disadvantaged groups*.

*Speaking as a social worker, a person who is there to protect the rights of human beings*. Go botlhokwa thata gore go nne le molao wa go nna jaana motlotlegi ka gore batho ba ba tshwanang le bomme, *minority groups* le ba ba nang le *disability,* eo *as we speak* fa re ka tsaya *statistics,* re ya go fitlhela e le gore gongwe e bile bomme ba botoka. *If we look at the minority groups and people with disabilities in the labour situation*, *they are highly disadvantaged* mo e leng gore dipalo tsa bone di kwa godimo, ba ka fa mosing.

Re tshwanetse re leboge Rre Mokgware gore a tlise Tshutiso ya molao o e reng fa ke o lebelela, ke ne ke o lebeletse maloba ke le kwa France. Kana le fa ke le kwa mafatsheng ke a bala, o supa gore ke molao o o *very comprehensive. It has touched base* le *all the aspects of life*. Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ga go na sepe se ke ka se buang *by picking up article by article, section by section or Clause by Clause* ka gore ke di badile, ke di tlhalogantse. *I can make a holistic significance* ya gore re dira melao Rre Mokgware re le Matona, *Cabinet*, morafe le setšhaba. Mathata a rona a matona fa re sena go nna re dira molao, ga nke re tlhola *workability;* ga ke itse gore a ke bua Sekgoa se se siameng. Kana o ne o le morutabana wa me mo *performance*. Ga re nke re lebelela *the operation of the law* le gore a molao o o berekela Batswana. Ga re nke re tlhola le gore a mme molao o o na le *impact* mo *livelihood* ya Batswana.

Fa re sena go nna re fetisa molao mo Palamenteng *Mr Speaker*, go lebega re o baya, re bo re ema re tswa mo go one. Re ne re tshwanetse go nna le *arrangement* ya gore molao o o fetile kwa Palamenteng, Tautona *assented to get law. Is it working, if it is working, what are the opportunities that we can take advantages of* tsa gore o a bereka, *to even promote it or do more about the same Act?* Ga se gore fa selo se bereka ga o ka ke wa se tokafatsa. Selo fa se bereka o tsaya *the best practices,* o bo o se tokafatsa. Ke one mathata a re nang le one. Sengwe le sengwe se se re palelang Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ga se Botswana fela, mafatshe ka kakaretso; fa gongwe fa re sena go nna re tlisa molao, *we do not monitor implementation* ya teng go bona gore a mme o a dirisiwa *to the latter. We do not monitor*. Ke batla re nne le *setup Mr Speaker*, mo Palamenteng ya gore *every time when a law has been passed,* go tlholwe *workability* ya teng. *At least after every three months* ke e fa sekai; *you may do as often as you would want to* ka gore re a itse gore *the resources are limiting* mme fela *after a certain period of time, then you can check* gore a molao o o a bereka.

Se sengwe se ke batlang go se bua ka gore ga ke batle go ya lolololo *Mr Speaker*, ke batla go latlhela mafoko a makhutshwane fela ka gore ke a itse gore bontsi jwa rona re dumalana le molao, ga go na motho yo o ka ganang kana Rre Mokgware ga a dira sengwe. Fa e le sengwe re ka tswa re lebelela *sections* dingwe tsa molao tse re tsayang gore golo gongwe di batla go baakanngwa fale le fale. Le tsone ga ke bone, ka fa ke o boneng o ntse ka teng. Le tsone tse di tsentsweng, ke *amendments* tse di dirilweng, ga se gore ke a kganela kana ke kgala ba ba dirileng, gongwe *those are minor things that we need to adjust. My hope is* bogolo jang fa di tswa kwa *opposition* re di amogeleng fa e le gore di ka kgona go re berekela re le Batswana.

E ke batlang go akgela ka yone ke ya *paternity*. Ke utlwile le phakela go buiwa ka yone *on radio* mo Duma FM. Ga go na ka fa re ka reng *paternity* ga e a siama *Honourable* Lucas *because paternity leave* e na le *numerous advantages* tse re di itseng. Ba bangwe re tlaa bua gore fa rre a fiwa *paternity leave,* ga ke tseye gore go neelwa mongwe le mongwe. Ga e ka ke ya re fa motho a imisitse ngwanake a sa mo nyala, a bo a tla kwa lelwapeng a re o tsere *leave* ya ngwanake yo a sa mo nyalang. A tla go nna mo ntlong ya me a re o tlile go tlhokomela ngwana wa gagwe.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Laughter!)…

**MR PULE:** Nnyaa bagaetsho, ga se Sekgatla, ga se Setswana. Ke tsaya gore fa re bua ka *paternity, we are talking about this in the legal format where there are marriages*, e seng gore mongwe le mongwe gotwe o fiwa *paternity leave.* Ke mogopolo wa me, le na le ya lona megopolo. Ke bona *Minister* Chombo o a ntebelela thata gore e kare ga ke bue sentle mme ke mogopolo wa me, *opinions are opinions*. Ga ke bone gore o tlaa neelwa *paternity leave* le fa go sa tlhokafale gore o e neelwe. Kana go ganetsana le dingwao tse dingwe mme fela *paternity leave has got numerous advantages*.

**MINISTER OF YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS (MS CHOMBO):** Clarification. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *Ke ne ke kopa go botsa motlotlegi fela gore a ga o lemoge fa* this opinion *e le* contradictory to children's rights because children are entitled to the support and care taking *ya batsadi botlhe,* despite the fact that *go na le lenyalo kana* the relationship *e ntse jang? Ke a leboga* Mr Speaker.

**MR PULE:** Ke utlwa sentle motlotlegi. Ga ke itse gore a o nkutlwile motho yo; ka re *when it is necessary*. Ke tsaya gore ga re ka ke ra e tsaya e le *universal practice* ya gore mongwe le mongwe fela o neelwa *paternity because* mo *relationships* tse dingwe go na le *controversies.* Fa e le gore go *necessary*, re sekasekile re bone gore rre yo o tshwanetse gore *to bond* le… Tla ke go fe sekai; *Honourable* Chombo, a o raya gore e tlaa re ngwanake a tseetswe dikobo ka dikgoka, *God forbid*, ke bo ke e fa *rapist paternity leave*?

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Laughter!)…

**MR PULE:** Ke gore ke lebeletse diemo tse di ntseng jalo, tse gongwe *they are not necessary* gore re dire. *Like I am saying, paternity leave has got numerous advantages and benefits*; *to bond* le ngwana wa gago, ngwana wa gago a go itse le gore *family* ya kwa o tshotseng teng ba go itse. Gongwe e bile e ka thusa gore ba bangwe batho *can bond* le bana ba bone, gongwe o tlaa felela a nyetse ngwana wa gago, fa e le gore o letlelelwa gore a kopane le mmaagwe ngwana ba godise ngwana mmogo. *It also promotes partnership and support*. E tsenya le dikgang tsa gore molao wa rona wa Children's Act wa reng jaaka re bua gore o bua ka gore *children's rights should be upheld to the highest level possible so that these kids can grow up* ba itse rre le mme. *Opinion* ya me ke ya gore re ka e dira *paternity leave* mme we *need to look at it very closely,* ga ke itse gore jang, ga ke na karabo. *We may deny some people that paternity* ka mabaka a re nang le one. Ka mafoko a a kalo Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ke a leboga.

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE):** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Mme tota ke emelela fela gore *Mr Speaker,* go a utlwala gore re a dumalana. Fa re sale re nna fa, tota re a dumalana, re ka bo re ntse re fetela *to the Clauses* jaanong re ya go di leba ka bongwe ka bongwe ka gore ke a utlwa gore bakaulengwe ba e tla ba tsena kwa *Clauses* mme re *discuss the general principles.*

Pele gongwe ke kopa Ntlo e gore re dumalane jalo, ke ne ke batla go araba e le nngwefela kana di le pedi, tse di neng di buiwa ke *Honourable* Moalosi. Ke lebala leina la gagwe ka gore ga ke le tlwaele kwa Nkange, ke santse ke ganeletse kwa go Dr Tshabang fela, jaanong ke a ne ke sa tshware sentle gore ke Mopalamente wa Nkange. O ne a bua gore Goromente ke ene segolobogolo a robang melao ya khiro. Ee, ke boammaaruri, mme fela ga a a feleletsa ka gore Goromente wa pele ke ene yo e leng gore o ne a tlwaelesegile thata ka go roba melao ya khiro.

Jaanong ke batla gore ke go farologanyetse fa Mopalamente wa Nkange gore kana rona re le *party* e e busang gompieno, UDC, re *party* ya ka fa molemeng, e e lebang dilo ka fa molemeng. Jaanong jaaka lona jaana, re leba dilo ka fa molemeng. Fa o leba dilo ka fa molemeng…(*Interruptions*)… *the left-wing politics and the right-wing*. Puso e e fetileng e ne e le *the right-wing politics*. Fa o itse *the right-wing politics* le ka fa ba lebang dilo ka teng ka fa mojeng, o tlaa itse gore kwa mojeng, *the far right in the extreme right* ya *the right-wing,* batho ke makgoba. O tlaa itse gore ke makgoba, jaanong o tlaa lemoga gore fa o le ka fa mojeng, keletso ya gago ke gore batho ba nne makgoba, wena o *benefit* mo go bone. Ke sone se re neng re se bona le mo Pusong e e fetileng fa re ntse re atumela go tswa kwa *the far-right* o bo o fitlhela e le gore batho ba dirwa *temporary employment*, ba hirwa ka dikonteraka tsa *one month every month,* ba dirwa eng.

Dilo tseo fa di bonala mo *society* ya rona kana le mo Pusong ya rona, *those are right-wing type of principles, and that is what categorised the* BDP. *That is why* o re Puso e ne e le yone e gatakang, e ne e gataka ditshwanelo tsa batho ka boammaaruri. Tlhaloganya se gore re mo Pusong e ntša e e lebelelang dilo ka letsogo la molema. Ka fa letsogong la molema, go lebelelwa

batho, Puso e gogela kobo kwa bathong. O tlaa bona le gone fa gore ka fa Puso e tlang e gata ka teng fela, fa re setseng re tsamaya teng, tota re gogela kobo kwa bathong. Sengwe le sengwe ke motho, a motho o siame, *what is in it for the people? Everything that we do as a new Government, and that is why* o bona re tla ka melao e, e e leng gore e šhafatsa kana e bile e baya maemo a pereko mo seemong se e leng gore se a letlelesega e bile se monate, se fa batho seriti jaaka go tla ka Ditshutiso tse di ntsi mo go kanakana.

Mokaulengwe *has already mentioned* ya *minimum wage*, ke ne ke re ke tlaa akgela ka yone. Mma ke akgele ka ya *shift*, gore e bile ke bona ba e tsentse e bile e tlhatswega sentle thata. Ga ke itse gore a le tlhaloganya kgang e e buiwang ke Doctors' Union *Honourable Members?* Kana nna ke ne ke bereka mo sepateleng e bile ke duelelwa mo gotweng *paramedic allowance, about* 15 *per cent of your basic salary. In addition,* le bo *scarce skill allowance.* Nna *as an engineer* fa gotwe *I am on-call*, go tewa gore ke tle go baakanya *machine* o o senyegileng foo. Fa ke ka kgona go o baakanya *within* 10, 20 *or* 30 *minutes, I go home and sleep,* go raya gore *machine* o a bereka. *Now* fa ngaka gotwe o *on-call*, a tšhaisitse… kana fa gotwe o *on-call,* go tewa o bereka bosigo, mme ga go tewe gore ga o theogele phakela, o a bo o le mo tirong. *So,* fa o theogela o le *on-call* o le ngaka, go tewa e re fa go tšhaisiwa o bo o sala. Tiro ya bongaka fela e *different from mine as an engineer* ka gore fa e le gore go na le balwetse ba tletse fa, go raya gore ke a tswelela. Fa e le gore go na le *operation* e ke tshwanetseng go e dira, *no matter how long the length of the operation is,* go raya gore ke nna fa. *So,* go raya go reng, go raya gore o tlile go fitlhela e le gore ke mokang ke theogetseng motshegare le bosigo. *So,* fa e le gore jaaka ke utlwa *Minister* a re *they are introducing shifts* mo go tsone, *this model of operation, it will really-really help* mo dikgannyeng tse ka gore di tsosa ntwa. Di ka tsosa ntwa ka tsela e e ntseng jalo ka gore ga go na ope yo e leng gore o batla gore a bereke o bo o iphitlhela o berekile 24 *hours* o sa bone bana ba gago, o sa bone le fa e le sepe mme e bo e re fa o lebelela le dituelo tsa gago, o bo o fitlhela e le gore nnyaa, mme ke mokang ke berekileng malatsi a le mabedi mme ke duelwa o kare gatwe ke *commuted allowance*. Fa o setse o e bapisa o *calculate,* o ka bona gore gone mme o jewa ntsoma. Jaanong ke sone se o bonang o kare nna ke a ba utlwa e bile ke a ba tlhaloganya. E bile ke leboga gore Molao-kakanyetso o e tlaa re fa o tsena mo tirisong, o bo e le gore o lebelela dikgang tseo gore fa o bereka mo seemong sa mofuta one o, mo e leng gore ga o ka ke wa tsamaya, ga o tshwane le nna mo e leng gore fa gongwe fa o le *fast you just fix the problem in* 10 *minutes and then go back and sleep*, ngaka ene o nna fa. E bile mo dinakong tse di fetileng, o ne a direlwa *room* fa gore a robale fela gone fa *two minutes* gore e re fa re mmatla re mo tsose gone fa ka bonako fa. *So,* o bo o fitlhela e le gore tota *you spend pretty much the whole time* mo tirong mme e le gore dituelo ga di supafale jalo gore o bereka jalo.

Ke mokgwa wa *the characteristics* tsa *the previous regime* e e neng e le gore e ne e gatelela melao ya khiro le ditshwanelo tsa batho. *It is not our making, I think even* dingaka ba tshwanetse ba tlhaloganye gore *it is not the making of the* UDC, rona re tlhaloganya thata gore motho o tshwanetse a nne le ditshwanelo fa a le mo tirong. Gongwe kwa bofelelong, ke eletsa gore fa nne molao o Tona *General* Mokgware, o ne o tlile nako e nneng lefatshe le le santse le na le madi tota a le mantsi, e seng gompieno go sena madi jaana, babereki ba ka bo ba setse ba humile thata. Go ka bo go sena yo o sotlegang tota, babereki ba ka bo ba bonwa ba phatsima fa nne Puso e e sale e tsene, Puso ya molema.

Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo *Mr Speaker,* jaaka ke ne ke tlhalosa, tota ke tsaya gore re a dumalana, gongwe re ka wela mo go reng re tle re supe dikarolo tsa molao o ka bongwe ka bongwe. *I therefore move Mr Speaker, that we truncate the debate and let the Honourable Minister respond. Thank you.*

**MR SPEAKER:** Mma ke bone pele ke ise ke… *how many were interested to debate this?*

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Four.

**MR SPEAKER:** Go raya gore *that is* 40 *minutes.* Mma ba felele *Honourable Member*.

**BRIG. MOKGWATHI (LETLHAKENG):** Mma e re tshokologong eno ke dumedise ba kgaolo ya Letlhakeng le Batswana botlhe ka kakaretso, ke ba bolelele gore UDC e a le rata. Ke bo ke dumedise *Honourable* Hikuama, ke mo reye ke re 'phomphokgwe yo o maithukutho mabe o iphatlha ka diphuka e le tsa gagwe.' Mme e bile gape a itse gore 'molaya Kgosi o a bo a e itaela.' Fa nare e re 'kgoo!', e a bo e gorogile, mme fa e gorogile, ga go motlhofo go e kgona.

*Mr Speaker,* ke tseye sebaka se go supa gore ke ema…

**MR HIKUAMA:** *Point of order Mr Speaker.* Ke kopa gore Rre Mokgwathi a papamatse boithukutho mabe jo a bo buang, ka gore fa a ka e tlogela e ntse jalo, e ka nna borai.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Laughter!)…

**MR HIKUAMA:** Jaanong a tlhalose gore fa a nkamanya le dilo tse a di buang tseo, bo maithukutho mabe, o raya eng, gore ke tlhaloganye gore se a se buang se lebagane le nna kana jang? *Otherwise,* e se ka ya tlogelwa e feta jalo.

**MR SPEAKER:** A re o tlhalose gore o raya jang *Honourable* Mokgwathi.

**BRIG. MOKGWATHI:** *Honourable* Hikuama o nkutlwile. Ke a itse gore maloba o ne a bua gore ga ke *support* gore mathitšhara ba okelediwe madi kante ba okelediwe malatsi a madi mme ke sa bua jalo, ke go ithukutha ka diphuka di bo di go fatlha e le tsa gago. Ke ne ke sa bua jalo, se ke neng ke se buile ke gore ke batla gore mathitšhara ba tlhokomelwe ba nne le *welfare* e e kwa godimo.

Mme fela nte ke riana ke re *Mr Speaker*, ke tseye sebaka se ke supe fela ke tlhamaletse gore ke ema mogopolo o nokeng o o tlileng ka *General* Mokgware, *once a General always a General. Mr Speaker,* selo se se botlhoko go fetisa, se se ngomolang pelo ke gore molao o o tsere lebaka le le telele, *close to 60 years* pele ga o dirwa batho ba o sekaseka. Bona bosetlhogo jwa batho ba ba kileng ba tshela le lefatshe le ba le busa.

Laboraro, fa ke bua jaana ke bona ka fa babereki ba ntseng ba sotliwa ka teng dingwaga tse di kanakana. Ke gopola mongwe motlhophi wa Kgaolo ya Takatokwane, o ne a bua gore e rile a le monnyennyane, a thapiwa ke konteraka ya batswakwa, a e berekela ba nna le dikhumokhumo, e rile morago ga lebaka ba mo kgwa o kare tšhunkama e fedile monate. Ba mo kgwa, le gompieno jaana motho wa Modimo o kwa, mme molao o o tlile ka nako e e siameng gore dilo tse re di ele tlhoko. Gape se se botlhoko ke gore tota fa o dira molao, o ka se ke o o *back date*, ke sone se ke ka se buang.

Bagaetsho, Batswana ba jelwe ntsoma ka lebaka. Fa le ka ela tlhoko mo dikomponeng tse dingwe, go ne go dirwa *clerical works* ke batswakwa ba ba dirang dikgwebo. Ke bua ka dilo tse ke di boneng mo kgaolong ya me le dikgaolo tse dingwe; go bala fela maboleikomo a tswa mo shopong a tsena mo koloing, mong wa kgwebo ke ene yo o tsayang dipalo tseo, gona le Motswana yo ke tsayang gore fa a ka bala *one, two, three*, o ka itse gore mapako, disanke di kae. Ke dilo tse re di bonang betsho, molao o o tlile ka nako e e siameng gore dilo tse di elwe tlhoko, di tlhodumelwe, re bone gore ga di diragale mo Botswana. Batswana ba tsweletse ba jewa ntsoma ka dikonteraka tse di dirwang ka bana ba Batswana, e le gore fa a hirwa ke motswakwa, kante a hirwa ke mohiri, o mo saenisa konteraka e e leng gore gatwe fa o tlhaelelwa o tlaa kobiwa fela o sa duelwa sepe. Dilo tse di a diragala betsho mo Botswana. Molao o o tlile ka nako e e siameng gore dilo tse di dirwang ke batho ba ba hirang batho, ba dire gore e re fa ba dirile jalo, fa motho jaaka gotwe o tswa mo tirong, a bone dikatso tsa gagwe tse di tshwanetseng. Ba ba dirang mo bo Choppies, e re ngwana a le mo *till*, go bo gotwe o tlhaetse ka gore motho mongwe o tshamekile ka *computers* gore ngwana a tlhaelelwe, kamoso meputsonyana ya ngwana e tseelwe ruri, dilo tse ke tsone tse re buang ka tsone betsho. Molao o o a di *cover*.

Molao o bagaetsho jaaka ke itse gore o lebeletse le madirelo a a siameng, ke gopola maabane re utlwa gotwe mafele a ne a le gongwe le gongwe mo madirelong a dijo. Re itse gore go na le nonyane e gotweng mmamanthwane, e re nang le tumelo kana re na le pelaelo ya gore ke yone e e tlisang bo COVID le malwetse a mangwe, go raya gore le mafele ke dilo tse di ka tsenyang bana ba Batswana malwetse.

*Mr Speaker*, Molao-kakanyetso o o rurifatsa se se kwadilweng mo Molaomotheong wa Botswana gammogo le molao wa mafatshefatshe o o akaretsang, o Botswana a o saenetseng gore o tlaa o sala morago. O *address* dilo tse di latelang; madirelo a a babalesegileng, a mantle a a tlhokomelesegang; kgololesego ya go itela kgotsa go ikuela ka tshosologo mo bahiring ba gago o le mmereki. Go dira gore e re fa batho ba hirwa go se ka gatwe yo o hirwa ka gore ke Mokgalagadi kante ke mokae, go hirwe go bonwa gore mongwe le mongwe o tshwanetse gore a hirwe.

Gape ba ba tswang kwa ba tlile go hira mo Batswana, ba itse gore Batswana ba teng ba ba ka ba hirang. Dituelo tsa babereki tse di kwa tlase, batho ba itse gore di kwa tlase ba tshwanetse gore ba dire gore malatsi a bone ba a duelelwe ba le *on leaves* kante ba se mo go tsone. Go emisa bokgoba mo badiring, fa o ka ela tlhoko, batho ba bangwe gompieno madirelo kante dikompone tse dingwe tse di mo lefatsheng le, di kgona go gana ngwana fela gore a ye kwa teeng, motshegare otlhe a bereka, a ngakgaletse a sa kgone go ja sepe. Bana ba sireletsege thata.

Ke bo ke bua ya bofelo gore re bo re itumelela gape gore molao o o tlile go akanyetsa gore batho ba ba berekang fa ba fiwa malatsi a boikhutso, mme le rre ba a fiwe botlhe. Ba a fiwe botlhe ka gore motho wa mme, yo o

tshwarang thipa ka fa bogaleng, yo Morena Modimo a mo dirileng gore a bope motho mo setshwanong sa Modimo, e re nako ya a le mo manokonokong a botsetsi kgotsa a pelegi, go otla ngwana, go godisa ngwana, rre wa gagwe a bo a le fa. Ke bona malatsi a teng a monna gore a ye go thusa mme, a le kwa tlase, e tshwanetse gore a okediwe ka ke itse gore go tlhokomela ngwana yo monnyennyane; akanya o tswa mo ditlhabing tse di botlhoko o le mme wa morutabana yo o tshwanetseng gore o nne o ntse o tlhokomela bana ba, a bo e le gore monna wa gago a tshwanetse gore a fiwe malatsi, a bo a fiwa a le *five* gore a go thuse. Ke eletsa gore malatsi ao a okediwe gore bomme le borre ba, ba tle ba nne *responsible* gore ba *bond* le bana ba bone. Ke ema jalo ke re Molao-kakanyetso o betsho, ke o ema nokeng ke sa boele morago. Ke a leboga.

**MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (DR BUTALE):** *Elucidation. Thank you very much*. Ke ne ke re o e tshwere sentle. O wele ka go gatelela mafoko a gore *Bill* e, tota e tsamaisana le UDC *values* tsa gore a go nne le *dignity* mo tirong, e tsamaisana gape le megopolo e e neng e ntse e tla mo Palamenteng ya bolesome le bobedi, e e leng gore Mapalamente a pele bo Rre Ntlhaile le Rre Tshabang, ba ne ba tla ka dikgang tsa *paternity*, go supa gore ke megopolo e e tswang kgakala e tlhotlhwa, e tsamaelana le ka fa re lebang dilo ka teng. Mogopolo kana molao o, fa o wela fela, o ka tlhalosa gore ke tiragatso kana *fulfilment of* UDC *promises*.

**BRIG. MOKGWATHI:** O e tshwere sentle mokaulengwe. Ke sone se ke neng ke bua ke raya Batswana ke re UDC e a le rata. E rata dikeletso tsa Batswana, ke sone se o bonang gore mo *manifesto* wa rona dilo tse dintsi re di dirile. Le bone gore basadibagolo gompieno ba kgona gore ba le kwa lelwapeng ba iketlile ba tseye P1.4, selo se ba se ratileng bobe. Re a itse gore tse dingwe di ntse di e tla di iketlile, re tlaabo re re phaa! Kamoso re re phaa! Kamoso o mongwe re re phaa! Go fitlheleleng maitlamo a UDC a diragadiwa otlhe. Ke a leboga.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Murmurs)…

**MR DISHO (OKAVANGO EAST):** Re a go leboga General. Tla ke go leboge *Mr Speaker*. Ke leboge Mapalamente botlhe. Le nna ke ne ke re ke tshwaele mo *this Bill* ya ga Rraetsho Mokgware. Ke supe gore maiteko a teng a a bonala, mme le santse le saletswe ke mosepele o moleele. Mosepele wa lona o mo leele thata. Ke simolole ka go tshwaela mo go builweng ke *Honourable* Tshere, ga gore Puso ya pele ke yone e e leng gore *it is accountable for that*, mme kana gompieno re supa gore *you are* 260 *days in Parliament or in the office and these* 260 *days* mo ofising, fa o ka ya kwa kgaolong ya me, o tlaa fitlhela e le gore go na le barutabana ba ba nang le bo *three months* ba sa duelwe. Go na le baoki ba ba nang le bo *three months* ba sa duelwe. Go na le ma-*temporary, but you have more than eight or seven months* le le mo Pusong, gongwe re dumalane gore *you have inherited* mathata one a, le lona le a tsweledisa *and* e bile ga le na go tswa mo seporong sa teng.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Murmurs)…

**MR DISHO:** A re simolole jaanong re tsene mo *debate* bakaulengwe. Ke ne ke ise ke tsene mo *debate*. Ke tlaa tsena mo go ya *the paternity leave* e go buiwang ka yone thata fa. Re simolole gone mo Palamenteng, re lebelele molao o bakaulengwe, *honestly*, gore *if it happens* fela gone mo Ntlong e, kana dilo tse ke tsa Modimo gakere, ga re di itse, e bile ga re dumalane gore go diragala eng. *If it happens that half of this Parliament* e fiwa *that kind of leave, which means Mr Speaker* o ya go palelwa ke *to form quorum* ya Palamente e. *Which means in three months* e ya go phutlhama, re ya go palelwa ke go e tsamaisa. Ke fetile ka yone *Honourable* Mokgware. E siame *Honourable* Mokgware, ga ke a re ga e a siama, ke ne ke re o e lebelele *in that aspect,* gore molao o fa re o simolola gone fela jaana *and if it happens that half of this Parliament goes on a paternity leave, then this Parliament is going to collapse and* re ya go palelwa ke go tsamaisa…

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Point of order Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** *Hang on. Freeze the clock.* Ke tlaa boela kwa go lona ka *point of order. Honourable* Disho, Molao-kakanyetso o wa ga *Honourable* Mokgware, ga se maikaelelo a one gore o tsamaise Mapalamente. Mapalamente gakere o a itse gore ka fa molaong ga ba tsewe e le babereki, ke gore *the strict definition* ya *employee is not applicable to a Member of* Parliament (MP). *You are regulated by* Molaomotheo, House and Privileges Act, Standing Orders le MPs Salaries and Allowances Act. *So* ke ne ke re ke fete fela ka eo, gore o itse jalo *Honourable* Disho.

**MR LEKAU:** *On a point of order.* O mo arabile *Mr Speaker*. Ke ne ke re ke mo tsenya mo tseleng gore a se ka a fa sekai ka rona.

**MR DISHO:** Tanki *Mr Speaker.* Ga ke ganane le lona, *but* e ne e le sekai se ke neng ke se dirisa gore le se tlhaloganye *the closest in the vicinity*. Ka jalo mma re e tlogele ka ga le batle go dumalana le yone. Mme fela e ntse jalo bakaulengwe. A re e lebeleleng gore, *if it happens in any organisation* le fa e le kompone ya ga Rre Lekau go bo go diragala gore 50 *per cent* ya babereki ba gago o bo o ba fa *paternity leave,* kana ga o itse gore go diragala eng fa o le mo Palamenteng, *which means* kgwebo ya gago e ya go wa. *That is what I am talking about. So do not just argue because you want to argue, listen to what I am telling you and this will help you in future*.

Pele fa ke wela Rre Mokgware, mma ke tsene mo go e nngwe ya badirelapuso. Botswana e hirile batho ba le *close to* 140 000, mme ke yone e e tlhorontshang, e bile e kgokgontsha. *This is the biggest employer* mo Botswana, mme molao o ga o rekegele ditshwanelo tsa bone. *Penalties* tse dingwe tse re di bonang fa ga re itse gore a le lona le le Puso le tlaa di duela kana le direla dikompone fela gore *if it has defaulted* ke yone e e duelang. A le *the biggest employer* e le Goromente wa Botswana, *when they have defaulted* jaaka barutabana ba sa tlhokomelwe sentle jaana, ba botlhe ba sa tlhokomelwe mme molao o le teng, *are you going to pay that?* Ke potso e ke neng ke re gongwe le e lebelele le le Goromente, le se ka la e tlogela kwa morago.

Ke ya kwa lephateng le lengwe le ke tswang mo go lone la bojanala. Mo Botswana, *we are a high value, low volume tourism, that the concept or the model that we have adopted* mo Botswana. *Which means there is a lot of money* a e leng gore dikompone tse di mo makgobokgobong kana tse di mo Botswana di a amogela *from* makgoa kana bajanala. *They pay lots of money to come to this country, but* ba ba berekang mo *those companies* e le *housekeepers, chefs, guides*, o fitlhela ba duelwa maP3000. *I can give you an example; some of the lodges in the delta* kwa ba duelwa ma 3500 US Dollars *per night per person. Calculate that* gore ngwaga o ya go fela jang, mme fa e le gore *a* 24-*accommodation facility, guide* a bo a duelwa P6000 e le *one of the highest employees.* Ke buisiwa se ke kgang e le e tsentseng mo gore ga le batle go supa *this minimum wage,* gape ga le batle go dira molao o o siameng *that will support the tourism industry and this is the second largest industry in terms of contribution to the* Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Ka jalo, molao wa lona ga o *clear* gone foo Rre Mokgware.

*I support*…(*Inaudibl*e)…e o e dirileng ga se gore *I do not support it*, *but* le tsenye leitlho thata kwa bojanaleng. O kile wa bo o nketela gone kwa, ke go bona, *and I have guided you. I know you,* o a itse gore re ne re sokola jang kwa makgobokgobong Rre Mokgware. Re tlola metsi, re dira tse tsotlhe tse, *but all of those* le di bona fela *enjoying and then you come back here* mme bana bale le sa ba lebelele. *So* ke ne ke le kopa gore pele fa ke dira molao o o tshwanang le o, tsenang kwa makgobokgobong, tsenang kwa bo Kasane kwa le e tleng le ye teng. Le se ka la *enjoy* go tsena mo mekorong fela le bona diphogologolo, *look at how staff* ka sebele, bone ba ba le alololelang *are suffering,* gore ba amogela bokae, ma P1800. *Lodge* e tsenya 6000 US Dollars *per person every night*. Ke re le lebelele dikgang tse Rre Mokgware. Fa le dira melao e e tlhomame, e tlhatswege gore *the employers* ba ba nne *accountable,* ba duele batho ba rona, re boelwe ke sengwe. Ke ne ke re ke tlhatswe eo.

Ya bofelo *when terminating* batho mo dikomponeng, *especially* gone kwa gape, *guideline* ya lona ga e *clear* mo konterakeng kana mo molaong o. *So make it clear*, go nne *standard,* Rre Furniture kana Rre Mokgware, mongwe le mongwe a se ka a ipeela molao mo *company* ya gagwe. A go nne le *clear guidelines* tsa lefatshe la Botswana, go supa gore re lefatshe le le batlang go ya golo gongwe.

Ka jalo ke ne ke re, *I will support you* mo go se o se re beileng pele Rre Mokgware, *but* fa e le gore o batla ke go nankolela *a few things* fale le fale, *call me aside* ke tle ke go fe tsone. Ga ke na go tsena mo go tsone di le dintsintsi jaaka go buiwa ka tsone, mme fela *call me aside* ke tle ke go thuse mo go tsone. Mme lebelela thata ya *tourism,* o ye kwa Kasane o ye go lebelela kwa mekorong, o bone le gore batho ba rona ba sotlega jang *in the lodges.*

Fa o isa motho *I think* ke 177, go na le batho ba bangwe ba ba fofisiwang. Kana fa o bereka mo makgobokgobong *you get flown into the delta*. Gone kwa ga go na le fa e le boroko jo bo siameng. *You are exposed to wildlife, danger and diseases*. O nna fela *in a small canteen*. Le tsone tseo ke re le di lebelele, gore batho ba ba hirwang ba fiwe *accommodation* e e siameng kwa ba isiwang teng. Ka jalo ke re ke go leboge ka Tshutiso e o e re e beileng pele Rre Mokgware, *I will support you*, mme lebelela tse ke go di fileng. Ka jalo ke a leboga.

**MR BAGAISAMANG (SHOSHONG):** Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Mme le nna ke eme ke dumedise batlhophi ba Kgaolo ya Shoshong. Ke tle ke latlhele tlhware legonyana mo Molao-kakanyetsong o Tona a re o beileng pele.

Lantlha ke leboge Puso ya UDC gore e bo e tsibogile go tla ka molao o go supafalang gore o sale o boaboa mo Ntlong e ya Palamente fa morago ka dingwaga tsa bo 2017, mme o sa kgone go bona thabo ya letsatsi. Ke re mo dikgweding tse di kwa tlase ga botararo tse bakaulengwe ba supang gore re na le tsone re le mo Pusong, Goromente wa UDC le Tona Mokgware ba bone go le botlhokwa gore ba tle ka Molao-kakanyetso o. E bile ba tla ka one ba o gobokile gore Ntlo e tle e lebelele Melao-kakanyetso e gangwefela. E bo e e tseele tshwetso gore e ye go baakanya e itebaganye le dikgang tse di lebaganeng le babereki ba lefatshe le kana bone ba ba dirang itsholelo ya lefatshe le.

Tona Mokgware, ke dumalana thata le ntlha e e buang ka *elimination of child forced labour.* Ke gwetlhilwe thata go emelela ke gore ke ne ka utlwa *Honourable* Lekutlane a bua ka seemo se se tshwanang le le se se diragalang kwa kgaolong ya me. Batho ba a nna koo, kgaolo ya me e tletse ka dipolase tse dintsi fela go ya go tsena kwa Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR). Kgantele ke a bereka ke ntse jaana, le ngwanake o tlile go tla a bereka teng foo a ya sekoleng. Batho ba fela fa ba tlhokafala, jaanong ga go na thulaganyo epe, ba ntse ba tlhokometse matshebetshebe a mahumo a a mo dipolaseng tse, fa ba tlhokafala e nna batho ba ga mmaboipelego. O tlaa utlwa fela bosigo go leletswa mmaboipelego gotwe motho a ye go tsewa a tle go bokolwa, e le gore jaanong ga go na motlhala wa gore ba ntse ba le kae, go diragala eng ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Molao o fa o ka tla wa itebaganya segolo jang le *child labour,* ka gore bana ba nna kwa dipolaseng ga ba tsene sekole, tsa banna ba ba ka kwa bale.

Go bo go nna le ya *excessive hours of work,* gore molao o go tshwanetse gore dinako tsa go bereka di lebelelwe di bo di tsamaelane le dituelo. Ke gore e seng mo e leng gore motho o tlaa bereka kwa Shoprite 45 *hours,* mme a duelelwa 30 *hours.* Dilo tse di teng, re a di bona di a tshela le mo nakong ya gompieno. Babereki ba lefatshe le Tona, *are being exploited* ka tsela e e leng gore ga o ka ke wa eletsa. Babereki ba rona a ke ba *security companies,* ba hirwa ka *contracts* tsa *three months.* Fa o re o tshwara *phone* gompieno fela jaana, e nna gore ya go bua thata ka gore *we are being employed on short contract basis.* Go tswa foo fa konteraka eo go lebilwe gore e a reng, o boa gape o kobiwa. Molao o a o ye go tla go na le tsetlana fela e e tlhamaletseng Tona, dilo tse di tshwanetse go ema ka ponyo ya leitlho ka gore re Goromente yo mošha yo go diragalelang dilo mo boammaaruring, re tlhokometse thata ditshwanelo tsa batho. Batho ba a lela, dikompone tse di tona tse o di bonang tse gotweng di tshwere itsholelo ya lefatshe, a ke *security companies,* mo motho a kgonang go kobelwa fela gore motho o ne a le kwa Mokgenene. E rile gotwe a ye go tsaya karata ya madi kwa bankeng, fela fa a emelela a tsena mo baseng, e bile gatwe ke gone jaaka a laetse tiro. Go bo go fetolwa, batho ba re Puso ya gompieno le yone jaanong e dira fela jaaka e e neng e sotla batho, ya bakaulengwe ba me ba ba ka kwa ba ke ba ratang thata. Golo mo go se ka ga fitlhelwa mo go rona Tona, a seemo se tsamaye se ye go baakanngwa.

Ke tlaa bua thata ka bodiredi jwa kwa *Labour;* bontsi jwa batho Tona ba na le tumelo ya gore *office* ya *Labour* fela jaaka gompieno ke ka supa, ke tswa kwa kgaolong ya Mahalapye District Council, *constituency* ya me *falls under that district.* Re na le *District Labour Office* e e *based* kwa Mahalapye, *it is catering for* Sefhare, Mahalapye tse pedi le Shoshong. Gone moo fela ka bogone, go tlaa go supegetsa gore, go na le namane e tona ya tiro e e tshwanetseng go dirwa gone fale. *Office* e la ntlha, *it is under resourced.* Mo go tlaa rayang gore o tlhodumele go bona gore ditlamelo tse di tshwanang le tse, a o ka se ke o tlhome e nngwe kwa kgaolong ya Shoshong, o bo o tlhoma e nngwe gape gongwe kwa bophirima ka kwa Sefhare, jaaka e le tsone *two service centres* tse di teng fale. Gore ditlamelo tse tsotlhe tse di amanang le dikgang tsa *labour,* batho ba di fitlhelele teng koo. E seng gore motho a palame fela a tswa Moralane, Mokgenene kana Poloka e le gore o tsamaela go ya go porota motho, yo e reng go tswa foo a bo a sa kgone go tla koo, ka gore go setse go itshupile mo seemong sa gompieno gore bagwebi le ba dikompone, *Labour Office* e setse e le ya bone ba e tsentse mo pateng. Ba dira go rata le go bona ka ditshwanelo tsa babereki. Ke dikgang tse ke eletsang gore o ye go di leba ka tsela e e ntseng jalo Tona.

E ntse e le e ya bodiredi jwa *Labour,* ke tle ka mogopolo wa gore Tona mo Molao-kakanyetsong o o tlang ka one, go nne le *an independent labour inspection unit.* E seng ya badiri ba gago, ka gore badiri ba ba *Labour* fa dikgang di tswa kwa maphateng a Puso a a tshwanang le bone, foo jaanong ke gore o a lebala. Ditshwanelo tsa babereki di gatakiwa go gaisa kwa ga Goromente, jaaka o ka akanya kwa *private sector.* Ke dilo tse di diragalang, jaanong ga go re beye sentle re le Puso, ka gore e nna gore Puso ke yone jaanong e gatakang ditshwanelo tsa batho, mme ba dirwa ke batho ba itse gore ba na le thulaganyo e ba e dirang. *There is a lot of bribery*

*and corruption that is happening* mo dikgannyeng tsa badiri fa ba tshwanetse go seka. Ke lebogele gore le ya *bargaining,* le yone rra o e tlisitse gangwefela e tlaabo e le mo Molao-kakanyetsong o.

Ke tle ke wele ka kgang ya *paternity leave,* ke utlwa bakaulengwe ba supa gore ga e a tshwanela. Ke fano go tla go ema Molao-kakanyetso o nokeng le *to support* kgang ya *paternity leave* Tona Rre Mokgware. Mma ke supe gore kwa kgaolong e ke tswang kwa go yone, re na le batho ba gompieno ba leng foo ba tshola bana ba feletse gone foo, ba sena lesika. E le gore ene monna yo e tlaabo e le ene a tshwanetseng go baya botsetsi jo, fa e le gore ga re mo *grant the paternity leave,* gongwe mosadi yo a belege ka *operation,* ga go ka ke ga nna sentle Tona. Jaanong ke sone se e bile ke tlang ka Tshutiso ya gore, *paternity leave* e rraetsho jaaka mo mafatsheng a mangwe a a *across the world,* e tswe mo go *five days. Five days* re simololela mo seelong se se kwa tlase. Mafatshe a otlhe a a tletseng, re na le mafatshe a mantsi a e leng gore a mangwe e bile a fa *paternity leave* ya 180 *days.* Go supa gore ba tsaya ka tlhwaafalo kgodiso ya bana ke batsadi ba le mmogo. Ga ke batle re e akanya jaaka ke utlwa bakaulengwe ba akanya gore, gatwe batho go tlaa twe go reng. Mafatshe a mantsi, *we have just next door,* South Africa *is offering* 10 *days,* South Korea 10 *days,* Cyprus 14 *days, there is a lot.* Dikgang tsa gore fa go okeditswe seelo sa malatsi a a fiwang borre gore ba tsamaye ba ye go thusa bakaulengwe ba bone ka nako ya botsetsi se ka diga itsholelo, *is baseless. That would only enhance productivity,* e bile ke batla gore ke tle ka mogopolo Tona wa gore malatsi a a okediwe. Fa gotwe re simololetse kwa tlase, re simolole ka malatsi a le 10 kana e nne 14 *days*. Go supafale gore Goromente yo ka boammaaruri ke wa ditshwanelo tsa batho. O ka akanya fela fa e le gore motho gompieno jaana mmaabo go raya gore o belege ka *operation,* ga ke na batsadi, ke nna ke beileng botsetsi joo, go bo gotwe ga ke na *paternity leave* ka gore bangwe ba akanya gore gatwe go a reng, ga go ka ke ga nna ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Goromente wa ditshwanelo tsa batho o tshwanetse go dira dilo a butse megopolo le go lebela dilo kwa pele. Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente.

**MR LEKAU:** *Point of order.* Ke ema ka Standing Order 130.1, ke leka go botsa wena *Mr Speaker,* a ga go ka ke ga dirisiwa Standing Order 56.1 *given the circumstances* tsa *debate?* Ke a leboga.

**MR SPEAKER:** 130.1, Honourable Lekau, *o se ka wa robelela fela* Standing Orders. Do you wish to truncate the debate?

**MR LEKAU:** Yes.

**MR SPEAKER:** Ke a bona, ga go na yo o emeletseng. *So I am going to call upon the Minister to reply to the debate. Honourable* Mokgware, ba kgwe dikgaba.

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE):** *Thank you very much Mr Speaker.* Ke simolole ke go leboge gore o bo o mphile sebaka sa go kgwa bakaulengwe dikgaba.

La ntlha ke go lebogele gore *Bill* e jaaka o e bona, ke a itse gore *in your other life you have contributed quite a lot.* Ke batla go leboga Mapalamente a otlhe mo Ntlong e, ka fa ba neng ba tshwere kgang e ka teng ka botswerere. Ba e bua e bile ba e bua e seng ka lepe fela, ba leka go supa le go tlatsa mo go se se tlhokafalang. Ke ba reye ke re, *Bill* e, ga se ya ga Mokgware, ke ya lona Mapalamente a Ntlo e. Fa le ka lebelela gore *Bill* e e sale e padile *from* 2017, 10 *years ago*, go tla go tsena gompieno. E paletse Dipalamente tse pedi. E paletse bo Tautona ba babedi. Ke lona letsatsi leno le le leng fa, le tlang go itshupa fa. Le lona le fa le ka lebelela gore bontsi jwa lona fa nako ya teng, le ne le le *side* e le nngwefela ba lotlhe lona ka koo. Fa le ka lebelela, fa e ne e le gore go ne go sa nna jaaka go ntse gompieno, e ka bo e sa bona botshelo.

Ke kopa gore mongwe le mongwe wa lona, a itse gore o dirile ditso letsatsi leno ka *Bill* e ya go nna *progressive.*

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Applause!)…

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Ga go motlhofo gore ke re, re ka bo re tsene fa re leng teng ka gore e ne ya re ba bangwe fa ke bua ka yone pele fa ke simolola ke re re a e tlisa, ba bo ba mpotsa gore "a o *serious* ka yone? A o tlhwaafetse o ya go e tlisa? A dikgang tsa yone o a di tlhaloganya?" Ka re, "nnyaa, ke a di tlhaloganya thata, le gone e seng go le go nnyennyane." Ka ba raya ka re, "*I rely on my strategic leadership, a focused* Vice President (VP) *and hardworking President.*" *For the record,* mongwe o ne a botsa fa gore "a re kile ra e lebelela?" Ke batla gore Batswana ba itse gore *Bill* e e kana e, ke ne ke na le Rre Boko, Attorney General's (AG) Chambers le ba *ministry* wa me, re ntse fa fatshe *for the whole day going page by page. The leader who lead from the front.* Le fa o ka mmotsa ka yone, o tlaa go bolelela gore o a e itse, o a e tlhaloganya. Ga a e balelwa ke ope. *Corrections* tsa gagwe di teng mo teng mo. Ke leka go gakolola ba ba neng nako nngwe ba batla gore, nnyaa, re ne re e bua fela kana re e tsaya golo gongwe.

*No, the President has participated fully in this Bill* ka boene, e bile a kwala, a baakanya ka seatla sa gagwe. Ke moeteledipele *who leads from the front.* Ga e re jaaka re bua dilo fa, a bo a sa di itse. Ke batla gore ke le reye ke re…

**MR PULE:** *Point of order Mr Speaker.* O tlaa nkgakolola *Mr Speaker.* Rre Mokgware o mo reile wa re, a re kgwe dikgaba, jaanong e kare mongwe o kile a re, Tautona Boko ga a ise a ko a lebelele molao o. Ke raya gore ke eng a sa tsene fela mo go re kgweng dikgaba, a tlogele go rapela mo go kanakana?

**MR SPEAKER:** Nnyaa, mme o mo tseleng o a *respond to the Bill.*

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** *Thank you Mr Speaker*. Ke mo reye ke re, e rile ba bangwe ba le fa ba botsa ka *Bill* e, o ne a seyo, ke gone a tlang. E bile ga e ka ke ya re e le gone a tlang jaana, a sa itse gore go ntse go buiwa jang, a bo a nna a akgela. Ke batla *to assure* Batswana gore mafoko mangwe a a neng a buiwa ke bangwe fano, ga se a boammaaruri. Ke tshwanetse ke dire jalo, ke tshwanelo ya me. Ke ne ke batla go e tlhalosa jalo.

Ke batla gore *Bill* e bagaetsho, *the* Employment and Labour Relations Bill, 2025 (No. 10 of 2025), e na le go le gontsi mo go neng go ntse go sa diragale. Ga ke batle go tsamaya ka dikakgelo tsa lona *one by one.* Ke batla fela ke re, bontsi le a dumela mo go yone, le dumalana le yone. Ke batla go tlhatswa dintlha dingwe tse di ka nnang pedi, tsa nna tharo.

Kgang e e neng e buiwa ke Rre Disho le e e neng e buiwa ke Rre Kekgonegile, mabapi le batho ba *tourism industry.* Ke batla gore ke tlhalose gore batho ba ba *tourism industry have been covered* ka *Clause* 22, e e buang ka *discrimination* tsa gore ga ba a tshwanela *to be discriminated because of the sector*. Ke kopa gore le e bale. O bo o boa o tlola o ya kwa go *Clause* 43.1 (b) e e buang gore go ya go nna le *the Secretarial Council*. Ke gore *sector* ya bojanala e ya go nna le *council* ya yone, e e tlaabong e bua ka ditsamaiso le dikamogelo tsa batho ba *sector* e. Mongwe le mongwe *is covered.* Ke batla gore le e itse fela jalo le lona koo fa le bala, e re fa le tswa le bo le ya go e ba balela le e ba tlhalosetsa. E re fa go dirwa *this particular secretarial* le bo le le mo teng, *be part of that* lona le le Mapalamente. Le tle le *ensure* gore batho ba *this sector* ba *tourism are there, are not discriminated,* ga ba a tlogelwa ke ope. Ke ne ke batla gore ke tlhalose sone seo.

Sa bobedi, ke batla gore ke tlatse gape mo kgannyeng e e neng e buiwa fa ke Motlotlegi Ramaotwana ya *Clause* 188. Ke e bona e buiwa thata gantsi le kwa ntle gotwe ga re a kwala P4,000.00. Mo *Bill* ga o ka ke wa kwala madi, o kwala *process* jaaka e kwadilwe kwa 188 ya gore, "*the Minister will determine after consultation from time to time the minimum wage*." E ntse jalo. Go direlelwa gore e se ka ya re nako le nako kana ngwaga le ngwaga le batla go fetola madi, le bo le simolola le tla go fetola. *Bills* tsotlhe fa e setse e le molao, e le *Act,* e fetolwa mo Palamenteng. *If you put* madi fa, go tlaabo go raya gore nako le nako fa le batla go a fetola, le batla *to amend, you should come to Parliament*. Go tlaabo go sa siama. Go tlaabo go le motsopodika, go le go telele. Molao fa o kwalwa, ga go tsenngwe *figures,* go tsenngwa *process* fela ke yone e e tlaabong e tlhalosa gore go direlwa eng jalo.

**MR LUCAS:** *Clarification Mr Speaker.* Ke a leboga *Honourable* Mokgware. Le fa kwa tshimologong ke ne ke tshogela gore o tlaa tsamaisa lephata sesole, mme o kare o a leka tota. O bona le ele ya *Citizenship,* o berekile. Tota se ke neng ke batla o se papamatse ke se; golo fa rona le lona re ne re dumela mo *concept* ya *living wage*. Jaanong ke re, ba ba buang ka kgang e, gongwe ba bangwe ba ka *mention figures* mme kgang ke gore, ke eng o kare ga go na *commitment to the living wage* mo go yone pampitshana e? Molao o o tlisang fa pele ga rona, re batla *that commitment because* o dumela mo go yone. Jaanong ke eng o kare e a tlhaela jaana? Ke a leboga rraetsho.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Tanki *Mr Speaker.* Mma ke fe motlogolo fale, a tle a akgele le ene.

**MR DISHO:** *Clarification.* Ke a go leboga Tona. Ke re, motho yole e ne e le Aaron, yo o neng o mo file *that punishment, it was not me.* Legale ga go na molato. Ke re o mpaakanyetse foo, *maybe just to clarify,* ke utlwa o bua o re mo *Bill* ga o tsenye madi *but* go na le *figures* tse di ntsintsi fa ke bala *Bill* ya rona e, kana wa re ke ya rona rotlhe. *There are a lot of charges* mo teng. O mpharologanyetse *charges* le madi one a P4,000.00 gore bodiphatsa jwa one go a tsenya mo teng ke eng mme o tsenya a *charges* mo teng? Ke re, o mpharologanyetse gone foo. *Thank you.*

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** *Thank you very much* motlotlegi. Ke leke *to confirm to* mongwame fale OmLu gore *the commitment is there, more than* 100 *per cent.* Jaanong fa re dira dilo tse jaaka re tlaabo re dira ka *sectors*, re dira ka eng, *commitment* ya rona o tlaa e bona e tswa gone foo *on implementation. That one I can rest assure you*.

Motlotlegi fale o bua ka gore ke eng mme a bona *charges* e ya dikamogelo yone a sa e bone. *Charges* tsone re tshwanetse re di dumalane fa, di tshwanetse go tla go fetolwa gone fa. Jaanong *salaries* di tsamaya ka *economy* gore e tsamaya jang. E kgona go tokafala letsatsi, kamoso e bo e tšhentšha, kamoso e bo e tšhentšhile jaana. Jaanong *charges* tsone, re tshwanetse re dumalane. Tsone ka gore *we can live with them*, ga go pale sepe gore gompieno re ka di fetola ngwaga o o tlang Palamente e e tlang. *That is the difference.*

Ke batla gore ke tsene mo kgannyeng ya gore sengwe se re tshwanetseng re se amogele fa ke gore, fa o ka lebelela kwa re tswang teng nako e re neng re na le COVID, e ne e re fa go tshwanetse gore go tle go dirwa melao, go raya gore *conditions* di bo di fetoga, re bo re tla Palamenteng. Gompieno Tona o kgona go fetola koo a le nosi, a direlela diemo tse di ntseng jalo. *Retrenchments* tse re neng re ntse re bua ka tsone, tse ke utlwileng bangwe ba bua fa ka tsone fa, gompieno ga di na go ya go nna teng. Dikonteraka tse di nnyennyane (*short contracts*) ga di na go ya go nna teng. Ke bo ke utlwa Motlotlegi Moalosi ka fale a bua gore kana Goromente *is the biggest culprit,* mme fa o ka bala molao o o teng o, o ama *public service.* O o bale sentle, o papametse fela ga o re sepe, molao wa gago o o tlaabong o o fetisa fa kamoso; *which is a good thing*, ga go na ope yo o ka itatolang a re *public service is exempted.*

*So,* ke batla gore bagaetsho, re sa tseye nako fela, re dumalaneng jaaka re setse re dumalana jaana gore molao o wa rona o fete ka *amendments* tse di tlaabong di dirwa kamoso tse le tlaabong le di tlisitse, tse dingwe tse di tlaabong di dirwa ke nna, tse di tlaabong di le dinnyennyane, tse ke tlaa tsogang ke di tlhalosa gore ke tsa eng.

Ke ne ke kopa jalo *Mr Speaker that in the spirit of productivity, saving time, Bill* e e fetele kwa pele. *I move that...*

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** *Clarification,* o santse o na le nako General.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** I yield.

**MR KEKGONEGILE:** *Point of clarification.* Tanki *Mr Speaker.* Tanki *Honourable* Mokgware. *Honourable* Mokgware ke a go utlwa, jaanong ke na le *challenge* ke e, go na le konteraka e bidiwa Key Time mo dishopong, mmereki wa teng *is permanent and pensionable but* o kgona go felela a amogela P700 ka ntata ya gore molao wa rona gompieno o a letla gore *supervisor* o kgona go mo raya a re o tlaa bereka gangwefela mo bekeng a ntse a le *permanent and pensionable,* a bo a felela a ya go bona bo P700. Jaanong ke etla ke ipotsa fa ke lebile molao o gore ke gore konteraka e ya Key Time *that exploits* batho jaana, gone mo molaong one o, re sireletsa batho fa kae, gore fa gotwe *you are permanent and pensionable now* o bo o patelesega gore o se ka wa bereka *less than eight hours* o e leng gore *permanent and pensionable* o a mmereka? Tanki.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** *Thank you very much* Motlotlegi Kekgonegile. O tshotse *a very valuable information* e ke e tlhokang kwa ofising yame gore ke ye go tlhotlhomisa kgang e. *Why should you wait until I come here* ke batla go tswala o bo o batla *clarification* ka *company* e?

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

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Fela jaaka re tswala gone fa, ke na le PS wame fale, re bo re ema kwa ntle o bo *report case* eo.

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

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Re tsoga re e tlhotlhomisa kamoso...

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

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Ga e tlhoke *Bill*, e batla *action* e.

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

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Ee, mme fela ke batla gore...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Clarification.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Nnyaa, ke a gana, nako yame e tšhaile.

Ke batla gore labofelo fela jaana *Mr Speaker,* ke kopa go leboga ba *ministry* wame, ba ba neng ba eme ka dinao ba bereka mo *Bill* e. *You can see how bulky it is.* Ke kopa go leboga ba AG's Chambers ba ke neng ke ba eme mo molaleng, ke ba reye ke re *job well done.*

*On that note Mr Speaker,* ke kopa gore *Bill* e ya *Employment and Labour Relations Bill,* 2025 (*No.* 10 *of* 2025) *be read a second time.*

Question put and **agreed to.**

Committee - **Later Date.**

**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

**(CHAIRPERSON in the Chair)**

## MEDICAL AID FUNDS BILL, 2025 (NO. 5 OF 2025)

**MR CHAIRPERSON (MR KEORAPETSE):** Order! Order! Honourable Members, we are now at committee. Order! Order! Honourable Members. Honourable Members, please note that the Medical Aid Funds Bill, 2025 (No. 5 of 2025) has 87 Clauses. Some amendments have been noticed, I shall therefore call the Clauses consecutively...

**...Silence...**

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** I am sure you have seen the amendments, as I have said, I will call the Clauses *ad seriatim*.

Clauses 1 - 20 **agreed to.**

Clauses 21- 40 **agreed to.**

Clauses 41 - 58 **agreed to.**

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable Members, as I have indicated, there is an amendment at Clause 59. I shall therefore call upon the Honourable Minister of Finance, Your Honour the Vice President to move the amendment.

**Clause 59**

**MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE):** Thank you Mr Chairperson. In an effort to ensure alignment in the process for the approval of the managed care organisations under the Bill, I would like to move an amendment on Clause 59 (1) (a) of the Bill appearing on Page B.48 by substituting the word "accreditation" with the word "approval." This amendment is intended to avoid double regulation as the regulatory authority will only approve and not accredit managed care organisations since they are already regulated by the Ministry of Health. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you Honourable Minister, Your Honour, the Vice President (VP).

Amendment **agreed to.**

Clause 59 as amended **agreed to.**

Clauses 60 - 64 **agreed to.**

Clauses 65 - 80 **agreed to.**

Clauses 81 - 87 **agreed to.**

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** Order! Order! Honourable Members. There is a new proposed Clause noticed according to Standing Order 78.5, any proposed new Clause shall be considered after the Clauses of the Bill have been disposed of. There is one new Clause proposed by the Honourable Minister.

**New Clause**

**MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE):** Thank you Mr Chairperson. To ensure that the appointment of principal officers for brokers and administrators is adequately provided for. I also move that the Bill be amended on page B.51 by inserting the following Clause after Clause 64 under Part XIII of the Bill. The title of the Clause is "Appointment of principal officer for brokers and administrators." to be read as follow;

"Clause 64A. the provisions of Sections 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 40 and 53 shall, with necessary modifications apply to a medical aid fund broker and administrator, in so far as such modifications are not inconsistent with provisions of this Act." I thank you Mr Chairperson.

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** Let us check something there Your Honour. Does the amendment read as it appears in the Order Paper so that at the end after the coma, it says "in so far as the modifications are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act." Thank you Your Honour.

Amendment **agreed to.**

Clause **agreed to.**

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** So at Legislative drafting, they will take care of the numbering.

**…Silence…**

**MR SPEAKER (MR KEORAPETSE):** Order! Order! Honourable Frenzel. Order! Order! *Nanabela ke santse ke ntse fa fatshe*. Order! Honourable Members. We are back in the Assembly. I shall now call upon the Honourable Minister of Finance, His Honour the VP to report the Bill from Committee.

**MEDICAL AID FUNDS BILL, 2025 (NO. 5 OF 2025)**

Bill reported from Committee **with amendments.**

Third Reading **- Forthwith.**

**Third Reading**

## MEDICAL AID FUNDS BILL, 2025 (NO. 5 OF 2025)

(Minister of Finance)

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Members. We are now on third reading. My notes are jumbled up because of Honourable Mokgware's Bill, that is why the confusion. Order! Order! Honourable Members, the question is that the Medical Aid Funds Bill, 2025 (No. 5 of 2025) be read a third time. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, Your Honour the Vice President (VP), to move.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to once again, thank all Members for their comments and support of the Medical Aid Funds Bill, 2025, which will cover only medical aid funds operating on a not-for profit model. So Mr Speaker, this Bill may not provide all the answers. However, the reforms we undertake today must be designed not only to correct but to inspire, to create a home where excellence is expected and honour is ordinary.

Mr Speaker, I now move that the Medical Aid Funds Bill, 2025 (No. 5 of 2025) as amended, be read a third time and do pass. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you Minister, Your Honour the VP. Order! Order! Honourable Members, the question is that the Medical Aid Funds Bill, 2025 (No. 5 of 2025) be read a third time and do pass.

As you know, we have enacted so many laws and we are familiar with Standing Order 62, which I will now invoke and order a division and it shall be held in the manner prescribed in the Standing Order 63. So, Sergeant-at-Arms, at the elapse of two minutes after ringing the bell, you will lock the doors.

Question put and **Division Ordered.**

**…Silence…**

**MR SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I do not think I need to read the Standing Order 62.1(c).

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** It is clear.

**MR SPEAKER:** It is clear, and 63. So, I shall activate voting. So, you press "one" to indicate that you are present. For the "ayes" or "yes," you press "two," For the "noes" you press "three." For "abstaining," you press "four." *A le tlhophile lotlhe Mapalamente?*

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Murmurs)…

**MR SPEAKER:** Okay, I shall deactivate.

**…Silence…**

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Members, announcement of your results, currently present in the House, you are 31. The "Ayes," 28, "Noes," 1 and "abstain," 1. So, the "Ayes? have it.

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

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** …(Applause!)…

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Members, *le sa tswa go fetisa Molao-kakanyetso wa ga* Your Honour the VP, thank you Your Honour the VP, thank you Honourable Members.

We shall now proceed to Motions.

## ADOPTION OF THE BOTSWANA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH POLICY

### Motion

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Members. Honourable Members, the Policy or the Motion is by Honourable Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Major General Pius Mokgware. Honourable Minister, you can present your Policy.

Let me just remind Honourable Members that debating of the Policy is a Motion and will be dealt with in a manner prescribed in Part IV or Standing Order 44, *re fologelela fela le sone fela jalo.*

So, I had advised Party Leaders and Party Whips that because we will be dealing with this Motion for three hours, we may have to provide a list, merely to provide lists.

I am just reminded that I was supposed to go for a health break at 4:30 p.m. So, I decided that let us not disturb the rhythm of the Medical Aid Funds Bill. So, I shall invoke Standing Order 26.2 for the convenience of the House to go for a health break of not more than 20 minutes. At least ka 5:30 p.m. we should be back here. Let us adjourn for those 20 minutes.

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 5:10 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES**

**PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 5:36 P.M.**

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Members. Honourable Members, I had called on Honourable Mokgware to present his Motion.

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, please allow me to present the National Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy before this honourable House for consideration.

The key focus of the National Occupational Safety and Health Policy is to develop an internationally competitive workforce. This will be achieved by incorporating the concepts of Occupational Safety and Health as a fundamental principle and right at work.

The importance of this National Occupational Safety and Health Policy is to support that the right to a safe and healthy working environment is respected at all levels across all sectors of the economy, where the Government, employers and workers actively participate in securing a safe and healthy working environment through a system of defined rights, responsibility and duties, and where the principle of prevention is accorded the highest priority.

Mr Speaker, it is widely acknowledged that a safe and healthy work environment is not only essential for the well-being of our workforce but also a key driver of productivity and socio-economic growth.

To achieve meaningful progress in this regard, the Occupational Safety and Health Policy will ensure that all employees are afforded safe and healthy workplaces. It is imperative that we take decisive steps to minimise occupationally acquired diseases and injuries in our workplaces, which currently exact a heavy toll on productivity, particularly in developing and transitional economies.

These economies often see large numbers of workers engaged in hazardous occupations, including manufacturing, agriculture, construction and mining. Moreover, emerging industries are also witnessing incidents that necessitate responsive programmes and immediate action.

Mr Speaker, the Government cannot afford any delays or deficiencies in adopting, enforcing, and extending occupational safety and health measures and international standards. Addressing these issues head-on will reduce workers' vulnerability to workplace hazards and risks, creating a safer and more productive environment for all.

Unfortunately, due to fragmented pieces of legislation and lack of coordination among various Government authorities, not all work entities or workplaces in the formal economic sectors are adequately covered by Occupational Safety and Health Systems. This gap leaves many workplaces and sectors vulnerable, including public and Government agencies' administration, commercial premises, activities on public roads, private households and the informal sector.

Mr Speaker, the policy is essential that it will address these deficiencies and extend the scope of Occupational Safety and Health inspections and enforcement to include all spheres of work within the economy. By doing so, we can ensure that every worker, regardless of their place of employment, benefits from the protections and standards necessary for their safety and health.

The National Occupational Safety and Health Policy emphasises a health and wellness system that focuses on preventative mechanisms, moving away from the reactive approach of the Factories Act. This policy will require employers to implement systems that limit employees' exposure to workplace hazards. These systems include ergonomics, psychosocial support mechanisms, workplace assessments, hazard identification and risk assessment, all aimed at implementing preventative measures.

Mr Speaker, to achieve these objectives, the Government will enforce Convention 129 - Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129), and Convention 81-Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81). The system of labour inspection in industrial workplaces will apply to all workplaces where legal provisions relating to conditions of work and the protection of workers are enforceable by labour inspectors.

Mr Speaker, the specifics of the National Occupational Safety and Health Policy are outlined below. These objectives are crucial for ensuring the well-being of our workforce and the overall productivity of our nation.

Firstly, our aim is to promote and maintain workers' health and working capacity. A healthy workforce is essential for sustainable economic growth and development.

Secondly, we strive to improve the working environment to make it conducive to safety and health. By creating safer workplaces, we can prevent accidents and illnesses, thereby protecting our most valuable asset-our workers.

Thirdly, we are committed to developing work organisations and working cultures that support health and safety at work. In doing so, we promote a positive social climate, ensure smooth operations and enhance the productivity of our enterprises.

By focusing on these objectives Mr Speaker, the country will build a safer, healthier and more productive workforce, driving our nation towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

Mr Speaker, the development of this policy commenced in 2012, with technical and financial assistance from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) under the Botswana Decent Work Country Programme 2011-2015, which was extended until the end of 2017.

Since the inception of this project, the policy development process has included the active participation of key stakeholders such as the Botswana Federation of Trade Unions (BOFEPUSU), Business Botswana and civil societies through BOCONGO.

The drafting of the policy was guided by a tripartite task team comprising relevant ministries and social partners. During the period from 2012 to 2015, three tripartite consultation workshops were convened, facilitated by the ILO Occupational Safety and Health specialist.

This collaborative approach ensured that the policy reflects the needs and perspectives of all stakeholders, thereby laying a solid foundation for its successful implementation.

The draft Occupational Safety and Health Policy was submitted to Cabinet and it was approved to be presented to this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I also want to indicate that the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs consulted the Ministry of Health. This consultation was also successful, in order to share and exchange notes on what is supposed to be regarded as a danger in the workplace or what can be recognised. I should point here that when you look at most of the illnesses which we incur during our life time, some of them when you look at our Compensation Act, they are not covered.

**…Silence…**

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** *For instance*, malwetse a a tshwanang le a rona a mekwatla, jaaka re bereka re nna mo ditilong tse, ba ba ntseng fa nako e telele jaaka bo Rre Hikuama jaana, ba ba setseng ba digela 20 *years*, o ya go bolawa ke mokwatla. Nako ya teng fa a re o ya *to claim compensation*, ba mo raya ba re letsatsi le o neng o golafala, *who was the witness? They are not going to accept that it was because of the chair he was sitting on. Here we are trying to make all those things so that they can also be compensated, to say* o bolailwe ke eng.

Kana nako e nngwe o bona malwetse a a tshwanang le a *mental health*, letsatsi le letsatsi motho a ya kwa tirong, a bo a kgobotlediwa ka dipuo ke batho; o apere jang, o ntse jang. *So,* nako le nako fa a tshwanetse go ya tirong a bo e le gore o kgona go tlhoka gore a tsoge sentle. Jaanong dilo tse di ntseng jaana ke tse re lekang go di *cover* jalo. *After this approval by this Parliament,* re tshwanetse gore re bo re tlise Compensation Act ya rona *to this Parliament*, e tle e tsamaelane le yone ka gore fa o ka e lebelela, e sale e dirwa bogologolo ka 1966. *Figures* tse di mo teng *are very unreasonable*, tse e leng gore gompieno di tlaabo di duela batho ba golafetse mo tirong.

Ke dumela gore jaanong e tlaare mo nakong e e tlang, re bo re ka nna sentle Batswana botlhe ba dumela sentle, ba bona gore dikgolagalo tsa bone *are being protected*. Dilo tse di tlaa tsamayang fa o ntse o bala *policy* ya rona *is that you will find that there are basic requirements that in each and every workplace, there has to be a* SHE *officer responsible to oversee the health and safety of the workers. That is critical.* Ka mafoko a a kalo *Mr Speaker, I recommend that this Honourable House advises His Excellency to approve the* Botswana National Occupational Safety and Health Policy. *I so move. Thank you, Mr Speaker.*

**MR HIKUAMA (MAUN WEST):** Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*, *our lead person will be Honourable* Kekgonegile. Ke a leboga *Honourable* Mokgware. Mma ke eme fa ke supe gore ke go ema nokeng mo *policy* e o e beileng Ntlo e pele. Ga ke na go nna moleele, ke tlaa nna mokhutshwane fela thata. Go na le batho mo lefatsheng la Botswana ba ba gobetseng, ba bakelwa malwetse ke ditiro tse ba neng ba di dira, mme ba sa bona sepe gotlhelele. Molao o fa gongwe o ka tsena mo tirisong… motho o ne a ka rapela gore jaaka o bua ka mashetla jaana, e bile go lebega o le motho wa *action* jaana, o bo o diragatsa ditsholofetso tse, le tse di buiwang ke molao o, lefatshe le le ka ya kgakalanyana. Ke a belaela gore a se o se buang se le tlaa se dira, mme mma re rapele, re bo re rapedisa le Puso e e leng teng gore melao e e bone thabo ya letsatsi, e bo e diragadiwa ka nnete. Re ka ya golo gongwe.

Ke rile ke tlaa nna mokhutshwane; *point* ya me ya bobedi *Mr Speaker,* ga ke itse gore batho ba ba itshekang mo go kanakana ba ba ba sa bolong go gobalela mo ditirong ba baketswe malwetse ke dilo tse, go na le thulaganyo ya gore *they can launch cases* tsa bone sesha, wa di sekaseka wa tla wa ba thusa. Ka gore diofisi tsa rona di imetswe ke dikgang tsa batho ba mofuta o. *What are the procedures of addressing* dikgang tsa batho ba, ba ba jelweng ntsoma ba gobaletse mo ditirong tse ba neng ba di bereka mme ba sa bona sepe? Ba bangwe e bile ba ne ba fiwa dilo tse di sa kgoneng go ka ba isa gope fela.

*My last point,* jaaka re le Puso, re na le kompone e tona ya Ipelegeng, e e hirang Batswana ka bokete, ba dira ditiro tse di masisi. Ba bangwe ba kgona go diga mesu e e nang le mebitlwa le dilo tse di diphatsa, ba goga ka *their bare hands*, go sena le fa e le *glove*, go sena le fa e le sedirisiwa se se ba sireletsang mo diphatseng tse, dilo tse ra reng ka tsone?

Batho ba bangwe ba tlhatswa leswe (*toilets*) ba sena le fa e le *protective clothing; what are we saying as a Government?* Re batla *to commit ourselves to this policy* e e siameng, *we have to start there before we talk, we have to start with providing protective clothing to* babereki ba Ipelegeng, ka gore ba dira tiro tse mme ga ba a sireletsega. Lerole le le kanakana ga ba a sireletsega, le fa e le *mask* fela.

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE):** *On a point of clarification. Thank you, Honourable Member*. O tshwanetse go tlhaloganya gore fela jaaka o fetisa *this policy,* o tlama Goromente *to apply it.* Fa e ka re o tsamaya fela ka tsela o bo o bona motho a pagame *buildings* tse tsa ga Goromente a tlhatswa difensetere a se na *helmet* le lebante, o tshwanetse go tsaya kgato. *This now empowers every* Motswana *to say, I have the rights, so* ga o ka ke wa mpega kwa godimodimo kwa go sena *safety. So* ke ne ke batla o tlhaloganya gore, jaaka fela o o fetisa gone fa, *now you are empowered to make sure that this Government accounts.*

**MR HIKUAMA:** Ke a leboga. *I like the enthusiasm,* le ka fa o buang ka teng. *You know what,* selo se se botlhokwa go gaisa dilo tse tsotlhe Motlotlegi Mokgware ke *the willingness to do and the action you take*. Re ka nna le melao, le gompieno e teng e e tlamang Puso *to provide protective clothing* le fa e sa nonofa mo go kalokalo, *the position of the Government is not to provide*. Ga se gore le fa o ka tlisa molao gompieno, *it can provide. The Government* (*Minister and Executive*) *should provide, then* re tlaabo re bona gore mme le molao o le fa o tla, o ya go diragadiwa ka gore o na le batho ba ba ikemiseditseng go o diragatsa. *We can have good laws* tse di betlilweng sentle mme di sa dirwe. *Like* Dr Modise, o bua thata, fa a tšhoma Sekgoa fa o ka tshoga, mme o bo o lebelela se se diragalang *on the ground* kwa dipateleng, *there is no commitment. The* UDC Government *will be known to be a talkative Government with less action.* Go lebega e le Puso e e ratang go bua, mo dikgweding tse re di boneng, re bona batho ba ba buang bontle, ba ba tšhomang Sekgoa, ba ba itseng go loga melao, mme fela *on the ground* re bona mathata.

**MR DISHO:** *On a point of elucidation. Honourable* Hikuama, kgang ya gago ke e e thata, e e tshosang. Kana maloba, mo Pusong e re leng mo go yone e, ke fitlhetse bo *guard* ba se na le fa e le *torches* mo dipateleng mme ba kata fa go tletseng ditlou. Ke feletse ke ba rekela *torch the following morning.* Ke dikgang tse o buang ka tsone Mr Hikuama. Puso e ke e e buang fela ga e dire, mme madi a sale a rebotswe ka *April.* Ba tlaa dira leng, ba emetse molao kana ba emetse madi? Ke a leboga.

**MR HIKUAMA:** Kana ke a bo ke le kgothatsa, ga se gore ke a bo ke bua ke sa batle le dira.

Se o se buang Rre Disho, le *guards* fela tse di hirilweng ke Puso, o fitlhela di se na ditlhako le *uniform.* Le Palamente e batho ba e ba hirileng, ga ba na ditlhako.

**MR KWAPA:** *On a point of clarification*. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker.* Ke a leboga motlotlegi *for yielding.* Ke dumela gore o ne o reeditse Tona ka botlalo jaaka a ne a ntse a ala *policy* a re, *policy* e e tlile go tlhomamisa gore mo madirelong a otlhe go tlaabo go na le *a* SHE *officer.* Ke dumela gore se o se buang o re se ntse se diragala, ke dumela gore ke se *policy* e sa se akaretseng. Molao fa o bereka, o bereka go simolola gone fa o tlaabong o o fetisa teng go ya kwa pele. Tse o di buang tse motlotlegi ke dumela gore o tlhaloganya ka botlalo gore ke tsa Puso e e fetileng. Ke a leboga.

**MR HIKUAMA:** O bua se ke se buang mokaulengwe. Ke rile ga ke na mathata le molao, ke o amogela jaaka o ntse. O kwadilwe sentle, *but* ka fa Puso e itshwarang ka teng, ga go supafale gore le one molao e ka o diragatsa. Ke go neetse sekai sa gore, gompieno ga go na se se itsang, molao o teng gore o *provide protective clothing* mo bathong ba o ba hirileng. *The law is there, policy is there, but* gompieno *Honourable* Motshegwa le *Honourable* Caesar Mohwasa, batho ba Ipelegeng ba ba

bereka, ga ba na le fa e le didirisiwa tsa itshireletso. O ba lebile, o ba bona letsatsi le letsatsi. A le emetse *policy* gore e tle go netefatsa gore dilo tse di a diragadiwa? *That is what I am simply saying*...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Clarification.

**MR SPEAKER:** Nako ya gagwe e fedile, *the floor is open, Honourable* Pule!

**MR PULE (KGATLENG EAST):** Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke ratile *debate* e e neng e dirwa fa o bona ke ema jaana. Ke ne ke re ke tlile go itunna ke sa akgele, mme *I was provoked* ke ka fa ke utlwileng Rre Hikuama a bua ka teng. Ke bo ke utlwa mongwe ka fa thoko a ngunanguna a re, dilo tseo ke tsa bo Mabuse Pule. Nna Rre Hikuama, ga re ise re ko re nne re bua fela, ka fa ke bonang Puso e e ntšha e nna e bua fela, gore re tlaa dira se, re tlaa dira se. Fa gongwe re bo re felela re gakgamala gore, gone mme fa gotwe go tlaa dirwa se, go dirwa se, Rre Mokgware a tla ka *policy* e nna go ya ka nna ke dumelang gore e tlhokana le *resources for it to be fully implemented.* Jaanong o ya go tsaya madi kae rraetsho, ka gore le pota le lela le re sekgwama se makgwakgwa? O ya go tsaya madi kae a *to implement policy* e? *Earlier on,* ke ntse ke bua ke re fa re dira melao mo Palamenteng, *and* motho ga a tshwanela gore a bo a re lona le ne le ntse le dira jang, *because* nna ke bua ke le Mabuse Pule ke le Mopalamente wa Kgatleng East. Ga ke buelele Puso e e fetileng, ke bua ke le Mopalamente yo ke romilweng gape ke…

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** …(Inaudible)...

**MR PULE:** Ee, ga ke buelele Domkrag, ke buelela kgaolo ya me ya Kgatleng East. Ya Domkrag ke tla e buelela ka nako e ke tlaabong ke e buelela ka yone, *but* fa ke bua ke akgela mo kgannyeng e *Honourable* Mokgware a e bayang mo pele ga rona. Gore naare gone fa le ntse le tla ka *policies* tse dintsi, tse di kwadilweng bontle jaana, jaanong le ya go tsaya kae madi a *to implement?* Ga go na *policy* epe e o ka e dirang, *and policy is a broad-based document which covers a very large ground. For instance,* jaaka rre a ntse a bua, *how are you going to ensure,* ke utlwile *Honourable* Kwapa a bua ka SHE Officers, ga se bone fela ba ba batlegang mo *implementation* ya *policy* e, go batlega dilo tse dintsi. Jaaka e le gore go tlaabo go na le batho ba ba tlaabong ba tshwanetse *to enforce* gore *safety* kwa *organisations* e nna teng, le ya go ba tsaya kae? Le ya go tsaya kae madi a go ba duela? Ke raya gore fa o ne o kare o araba motlotlegi, o bo o re baakanyetsa kgang eo, re ne re ka tla gongwe ra utlwa o bua…

**MR SPEAKER:** E tšhaile *Honourable* Pule, *sorry about that.* O tlaa tsoga o tsweledisa kamoso.

*Honourable Members,* lona ba *the following committees, you know that* le ntse le gakololwa gore go na le ithutuntsho; Finance and Estimates Committee, Finance, Trade and Economic Development Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Statutory Bodies and State-Owned Enterprises Committee. Go na le thuto-seka-dipuisano ya lona e e tlaa simololang kamoso, gore le nne le tlhatlhelelwe ka *mandates* tsa *different agencies* tsa ga Goromente tse di dirang le tsa madi. Fa le ka lebelela thatathata mo *your* WhatsApp *group and* Emails, go nnile le *communication* e ya gore le baakanyetse malatsi a *for that workshop. So, I believe that the communication will come.*

As it is now 6 o'clock, I shall now call upon the Leader of the House to move a Motion of adjournment.

**MOTION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR MOHWASA):** Thank you Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until Tuesday 15th July, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

## WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 7

(i) Mr Speaker, since the lifting of the hunting ban, communities have made about P195 million (P194. 952 620,59) since 2022 to 2025 hunting seasons from the hunting quotas. This is coupled with about 7,000 jobs created per year from Community Based Organisation activities.

(ii) Currently, greatest number of the trophies are exported to United States of America and Europe, particularly Germany, Spain, Italy and France. In Africa, South Africa is the largest market surpassing even some European markets. Emerging markets include Mexico and the Middle East, particularly United Arab Emirates (UAE). The far East remains unexplored markets

(iii) Tourism concessions are administered by land authorities, these being Land Boards on Tribal Land and Department of Lands on State Land. According to the records from Land Authorities, 40 concession leases ended in the last 20 years to date. 29 have been renewed while 11 leases are pending renewal. Leases that have been renewed are (NG4, NG14, NGlS, NG16, NG17, NG18, NG19, NG26, N27A (Zone 1). NG 27A(Zone3), NG 28 (MGRl), NG 28 (MGR3), NG 28 (MGR6), NG 28 (Savuti Campground), NG28 (Linyanti Campground), NG 28 (Khwai Campground), NG 28 (Wilderness Campsites), NG29, NG30, NG31, NG 32 (Zone 1). NG32 (Zone 2), NG32 (Zone 3), NG 33, NG 34, NG41, NG 48 (Nxai Pan Camp), NG43.

(iv) Land boards are responsible for the administration and allocation of tourism concessions on tribal land as per the authority bestowed by Tribal Land Act No. 54 of 1968 (CAP 32:02). The State Land Act No. 29 of 1966 (CAP 32:01) gives Department of Lands the authority for administration and allocation of Tourism Concessions on State land. Ministry of Environment and Tourism through Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) plays a facilitative role of identification and recommendation of allocation of tourism land to suitable investors as well as overall technical support to land authorities on matters relating to tourism. BTO's role in concession area management is informed by its mandate to plan, formulate and implement strategies for promoting sustainable tourism development and promote investment into the tourism sector and as captured under PART 11: 4. (2) of the Botswana Tourism Organisation Act [CAP 42:10].

**Delay in the lease renewals**

In 2014, the management of tourism sites was transferred from the land authorities to the Ministry of Environment Natural Resource Management and Tourism (MENT). The reasons for transfer included among others:

(a) the delay in processing allocations,

(b) resolution of issues arising from land allocations, lease management, as well as insistent flaws in the management of lease agreements at the Land Boards.

During this period, some head leases for sites within tribal areas were signed between MENT and the operators. This arrangement was inconsistent with the provisions of the Tribal Land Act. In January 2019, a decision was taken to transfer back the administration of tourism concession areas to the land authorities. The hand over process was carried out in three phases, with each phase has its own unique issues such as non compliance to terms and conditions of the leases. The phased approach however resulted in a delay in lease renewals In appreciation of the adverse effect had on security of tenure for investors and investment into the tourism sector, The Minister, Ministry of Environment and The Minister of Lands and Agriculture met in December 2024 to draft a Cab Info Note which was presented to Cabinet in April 2025 with the following interventions proposed:

(1) To give direction to the land boards to consider renewing the leases which by now should have either been renewed or the operators informed of their interest in renewing their leases.

(2) Inspections of the sites done within six months of the renewal period.

(3) As a condition precedent, operators will be required to commit to successfully address compliance issues observed during inspection within a year of the lease renewal period. The instruction was provided by the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture to TLB on the 5th May 2025. TLB then resolved to conditionally approve the renewal of the

11 pending concession area leases. Lease compliance inspections are being carried out concurrently and expected to be completed in July 2025.

(v) BTO was established by an Act of Parliament of 2004 (Botswana Tourism Board Act). that was later repealed and replaced by Botswana Tourism Act No. 14 of 2009. BTO's mandate is to: Market Botswana as a tourism destination, Grade Tourism Facilities Develop and diversify the tourism product.

**BTO SUCCESSES AND FAILURES IN THE FIVE YEARS**

**Successes Citizen Empowerment through tourism**

Facilitation of allocation of tourism sites to citizens: BTO facilitated the allocation of 21 tourism sites and concession areas to citizens. These included dams tourism sites and lodge sites in protected areas. Those allocated land are at different levels of development.

Community Joint Venture Partnerships: Joint Venture Partnerships for two community trusts in Mababe and Khwai with a level of investment of P72 million, rentals amounting to P3,210,000.00 per annum and employment of 127 people. More JVPs are being sought for other communities e.g. Mandunyane, Mmadinare, Mothabaneng, Lentswe-le-Moriti, Mathathane, Kanye and Khuis etc.

**Tourism Product Development:**

**(i) Khawa Campground:** BTO has developed campsite facilities at Khawa. The facility will contribute to tourism product diversification efforts and enable the Khawa to be developed into a year-round destination providing accommodation for tourists visiting the adjacent KD15 Concession Area. The campground will also be utilized in the near future by transit tourists travelling to Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) through the entrance gate to be established 20 Km's from Khawa.

**(ii) Khuis Tourism Park:** BTO facilitated the allocation of a 406.2-hectare site along the Molopo Fossil River which will be utilized for the development of the Khuis Tourism Park. The project will entail the development of accommodation facilities and the introduction of activities such as quad biking, segway rides and zip lining. The construction of a gatehouse has commenced as the first stage of the project.

**(iii) Phuduhudu Cultural Village:** BTO is facilitating the development of a cultural village which also includes a campground and accommodation in Phuduhudu along the Trans-Kgalagadi Highway. The project will showcase the cultures of nine communities in the Hukuntsi District from Ukhwi, Ngwaatle, Zutshwa, Monong, Maake, lnalegole, Ncaang, Hunhukwe and Phuduhudu who have formed the Western Kalahari Cultural Trust. Designs have been completed and approved. The tender process for construction has commenced

**Identification of investors for the Kasane Kazungula Redevelopment Programme;** This is land identified along the Chobe River front.

**GaboroneDevelopment**

Process is underway for identification of investors for the site as is necessary for the development of urban tourism.

**Development and Implementation of Sector Recovery from COVID-19:** BTO embarked on several interventions to keep destination Botswana resilient against COVID-19, and these included promotional campaigns that were geared towards boosting domestic market demand and international source market relevance and recovery from COVID:

These campaigns comprised of the following:

(a) Rediscover Botswana Campaign for the domestic market

(b) Production of Domestic Travel Guide and Packages that offered affordable packages tailored for the local market needs.

(c) A Special Permit for COVID-19 lnterzonal Travel was also introduced to facilitate local travel.

Digital marketing to reach international markets and maintain the dream of visiting Botswana in the minds of travelers. These included, among others, virtual tours. (Botswana Live) : A virtual tour, capturing Botswana's key attractions to remain relevant within the travel market Botswana Travel & Tourism Virtual Expo (BTTVE) 2020 - A business to business engagements between the local private sector and global wholesalers

Participation on International Travel Trade Fairs virtually - BTO continued to attend virtual travel fairs for destination marketing and promotions as well as facilitation of the private sector to take part on these fairs i.e 1TB Berlin, WTM Africa etc.

(a) BTO implemented marketing strategies to fast-track recovery. The aggressive marketing campaigns were largely in the form of trade-based marketing through which BTO facilitated the industry to participate at various local and international travel fairs and exhibitions to sell packages to different profiles of hosted buyers. Trade fairs included the following as per markets: Europe: 1TB Berlin in Germany UK and Scandanavian Markets: World Travel Market - London Regional Trade Fairs: Africa's Travel lndaba in Durban, World Travel Market - Africa - Cape Town, We Are Africa (Cape Town) and Sanganai in Zimbabwe Emerging Markets - Dubai Expo 2020 Special marketing campaigns were adopted to keep the travel trade abreast about Botswana as a destination. These include:

(b) Destination Training and Workshops for Botswanas Trade Partners Globally.

(c) Familiarisation Tours: Geared towards positioning Botswana as a preferred destination.

(d) Partnership between Botswana and top end German tour operators dubbed ASA goes to KAZA - In order to continue forging relationships and encourage regional packaging, BTO took part on this notable project and facilitated private sector to meet with 40 Agents from Germany to conduct business and seal contracts.

**Gastronomy Tourism** - Gastronomy tourism has emerged as a significant travel motivation, offering authentic experiences that resonate with growing interests in food amongst travelers. This trend provides vast opportunities for sustainable development, cultural exchange, and community empowerment. In efforts to promote product diversity BTO took part in Gastronomy Shows in Zimbabwe and Spain. By 2023, the industry had recovered 76 per cent of the pre-pandemic levels (1.6 million visitors). Most of the Country's traditional long-haul source markets had recovered to pre-pandemic levels. United States of America and Germany had surpassed 2019 levels by 10 per cent and 9 per cent respectively. United Kingdom, one of the top three international source markets was still below pre-pandemic levels, having recovered 88 per cent of the 2019 levels. The sector's total contribution to Gross Domestic Product had increased from BWP13.6 billion during COVID in 2020 to BWP32.8 billion in 2023, representing 91 per cent recovery of the pre-pandemic total contribution (BWP35.9 billion).

**Events:** An estimated revenue of BWP133 million has been generated by local companies through sports, culture, lifestyle and tourism events facilitated by BTO through the years 2022, 2023 and 2024. Over the years, BTO supported various private sector and community events through assistance in applying for funding to the Tourism Development Fund (TDF) and logistical support. Supported community events include,

(a) Nama Stap Cultural Festival in Lokgwabe

(b) Dithubaruba Cultural Festival in Molepolole

(c) Resuscitation of Domboshaba Cultural Festival in North-East (Domboshaba Ruins)

(d) Inaugural Xere Cultural Festival in Xere Village

(e) Mmakgodumo Cultural Festival in Kanye

(f) MAJANA intervillage Cultural games in Jamataka

(g) Ghanzi Meat Festival in Ghanzi

(h) Nkashi Classic in Maun

(i) Ghanzi Show in Ghanzi

(j) Bush Walk in Jwaneng etc. An average of 16 events were supported per year across the country. BTO further introduced the Standard Operational Procedure (SOPs) to prevent the risk of contracting COVID-19 at tourism facilities to make the facilities safe and ready to host guests.

**Grading/Eco-Certification:** A total of 245 Grading applications and 28 Eco certification applications have been ratified by the Board Quality Services Committee.

**MICE-Strategy**

As part of efforts to diversify Botswana's economy and enhance the contribution of the travel, tourism, and

hospitality sectors to GDP. BTO has led the drafting of the National MICE Strategy. The strategy is aligned with national development priorities and positions Botswana to become a competitive regional hub for business tourism and events. The benefits of MICE will accrue from numerous business activities related to airport businesses, hotel and restaurant operations, air, land and rail transportation, airport transfers and ground-handling services, insurance, technology, security, agriculture, arts and culture, fashion, education and training, logistics, and many more. MICE activities will therefore be packaged with, not only tourism and related activities, but with trade activities, agriculture, financial services, technology, e.t.c. MICE as envisioned by Government, should serve as a platform for all Batswana to thrive, innovate and be create. The MICE Strategy has a clear Implementation plan; with timelines, budget and monitoring tools, which articulates the roles and responsibilities of various ministries, Departments and Agencies. As part of supporting the implementation of the MICE strategy, BTO has completed a draft MICE Events manual which focuses on Bidding, Event promotion and Hosting of events. Whilst awaiting final Cabinet Approval of the MICE strategy, BTO is being proactive currently working on setting up a MICE Unit to coordinate the implementation of the MICE strategy.

**Failures/Challenges**

**Delays in implementing Dams Tourism initiative.**

The Dams Tourism initiative has been delayed by several factors including the COVID Pandemic. The need to hold pre-tender workshops for potential bidders to improve the quality of submissions and the fact that BTO still does not have a head lease from WUC for Letsibogo, Shashe and Thune Dams. Lack of funds to implement tourism diversification projects and marketing initiatives, together with the lack of a budget for bulk infrastructure at dams.

**Compliance status of BTO with the Auditor General**

BTO is currently facing a delay in completing the Financial Statement audit review for the financial years 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. The delayed completion of the audit has therefore delayed the completion of the organisation's Annual Report and it's subsequent submission to the Office of the Auditor General. The delay was caused by the following; The Special Purpose Review sanctioned by the Organisation's parent Ministry, being the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The service provider appointed for this review was Ernest and Young and was appointed on 27th June 2019 and concluded the review on 5th October 2020. There was also a delay in the appointment of the external auditor, Deloitte Botswana, who was only appointed on 19th February 2020, for the review of the financial years 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Upon their appointment. Deloitte noted that they needed to await the conclusion of the Special Purpose Review prior to starting annual review exercise. They also noted that, once the Special Purpose Review had been concluded, they required the Special Purpose Review reports for their risk assessment purposes in order to determine whether to continue with the contracted audit engagements. Deloitte was later furnished with the report on 25th October 2021 and performed their audit procedures. On 17th January 2023, Deloitte communicated that they will only conclude the audit for the financial year 2018/2019 and that they were resigning as auditors for the Organisation for the financials years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. During the 2018/2019 review, Deloitte raised an issue on accounting treatment of the funds that BTO obtained from the Tourism Development Fund (TDF) and issued to the Organisation's subsidiaries, which were then treated as subsidiary loans instead of grants. The change in the accounting treatment required approval from the BTO board, however, BTO at that time did not have a quorate board. An attempt was, however, made for the Ministry (as the shareholder) to grant permission for the change in accounting treatment. The ministry, however, referred the request back to the BTO board. The board was constituted in the month of September 2024 and met in the month of October 2024, where they approved the change in accounting treatment from Subsidiary Loans to be treated as Grant. The board resolution was shared with Deloitte after the board approval, and they are processing further audit procedures resulting from this development and they are expected to conclude by end of August 2025. The Organisation had nevertheless expedited processes and appointed another audit firm, KPMG, to review the financial years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 from which Deloitte had resigned from, as well as for the financial years 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 in January 2023. Clearance was obtained from Deloitte on 5th July 2023 for KPMG to review the financial years for which

they are appointed while waiting for the conclusion of the audit of the 2018/2019 audit by Deloitte. After the clearance, KPMG then started their audit review for their appointed financial years until they reached a point where they could not proceed without the conclusion of the 2018/2019 audit. We anticipate this to be concluded within 4 months of receiving the 2018/2019 Audited Financial Statements from Deloitte. The Organisation is putting all efforts and prioritising bringing its accounts up to date so that external audit submissions are in line with the statutory requirements to be fully compliant with the Auditor General. (vi) Currently, 24 leases are held by Citizens, 15 by community-based organisations and 13 are Joint Venture Partnerships. Four concessions were awarded to citizens in the last 10 years.

## WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 11

The Government of Botswana, through the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, has plans to solicit interested private parties to partner with the Government to upgrade the A1 Road (640 km) to dual carriageway from Ramatlabama to Ramokgwebana Border.

The Government's intention is to allocate the functions of design, build, finance, operation and maintenance to a private party through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. As has been pronounced by His Excellency the President on many occasions, this is a high priority. This initiative is expected to introduce toll gates to generate revenue.

(i) Mr Speaker, a detailed Bankable Feasibility Study of the envisaged scheme will have to be undertaken before procurement of a private party can take place. The Feasibility Study is estimated to take a period of nine months commencing in August 2025 with completion date planned before the end of April 2026. The procurement of a private party is expected to be completed by September 2026 followed by negotiation of Concession Agreement, which will take an estimated period of six months. The construction works, which include erection of toll plazas will thereafter commence before the end of 2026/27 financial year for an estimated period of 36 months. This concession will span a period of 25 to 30 years depending on the rate of return on investment. As earlier stated, the project is expected to cover the A1 Road from Ramatlabama to Ramokgwebana Border.

(ii) Mr Speaker, once the A1 road has been upgraded to a dual carriageway through the anticipated scheme, capacity and safety will drastically improve. As regards alternative routes, some already exist, such as Molepolole – Shoshong – Serowe road and the recently constructed Dibete-Mookane-Machaneng road and Mabeleapodi-Serule road, whose objectives were to decongest A1 road and also serve as alternative routes in the advent of A1 road tolling. The Mmandunyane-Mathangwane road, which is currently under construction, will also serve as an alternative route for motorists who would want to bypass the A1 toll road. Malolwane-Mmapashalala road is currently not designated as the alternative route for easing pressure in A1. It is however, worth noting that the tolling scheme becomes more attractive and viable to investors when traffic volumes are high hence the intention is not to unnecessarily divert traffic away from a toll road. Any other alternative routes may be considered in the future if feasible and budget permitting.

(iii) Mr Speaker, due to budgetary constraints, there are currently no plans to urgently upgrade Malolwane-Mmapashalala road to serve as a toll-free alternative. As indicated under part (ii) of my response Mr Speaker, a road such as Dibete-Mookane-Machaneng will in the meantime serve as an alternative route for local transport operators, small holder farmers, cross-border traders using Zanzibar Border Post and inter-district travellers.

(iv) Mr Speaker, currently a total average of 1,220 border-crossing trucks and logistics vehicles use A1 road on monthly basis entering through Ramatlabama, Pioneer, Tlokweng, Martin's Drift, Ramokgwebana and Kazungula Border Posts.

(v) However, it is difficult at this stage to estimate what proportion of them will divert from A1 road after tolling without a feasibility study. What has been learnt from other tolling schemes is that transporters prefer efficient routes, which cut down on travel time.

(vi) Mr Speaker, the combined population of Kgatleng East, Mahalapye East and other constituencies in Tswapong exceeds 140,000 as per the Population and Housing Census of 2022. These are the constituencies which would directly benefit from the development of this corridor should it be developed.

(vii) Mr Speaker, the ministry has not made any projections to estimate potential revenue collections from cross-border transporters and logistics operators on the A1. Such projections will be determined by the aforementioned feasibility study. Nevertheless, the ministry is currently collecting revenue from cross-border transporters and logistics operators in the form of Road User Charges at gazetted points of entry. These charges are remitted to the Consolidated Fund and are available for use in all Government programmes.

(viii) Mr Speaker, as indicated under part (ii) and (iii) of my response, there are currently no plans to prioritise the upgrading of Malolwane-Mmapashalala road to serve as a toll-free alternative prior to the commencement of tolling. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

## HANSARD RECORDERS

Mr T. Gaodumelwe, Mr T. Monakwe, Ms T. Kebonang

## HANSARD REPORTERS

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Ms D. Thibedi, Ms G. Baotsi, Ms D. Moitoi

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Ms G. Lekopanye, Ms T. Mokhure, Ms B. Ratshipa

## LAYOUT DESIGNERS

Mr B. B. Khumanego, Mr D. T. Batshegi, Mr K. Rebaisakae