

13th
PARLIAMENT



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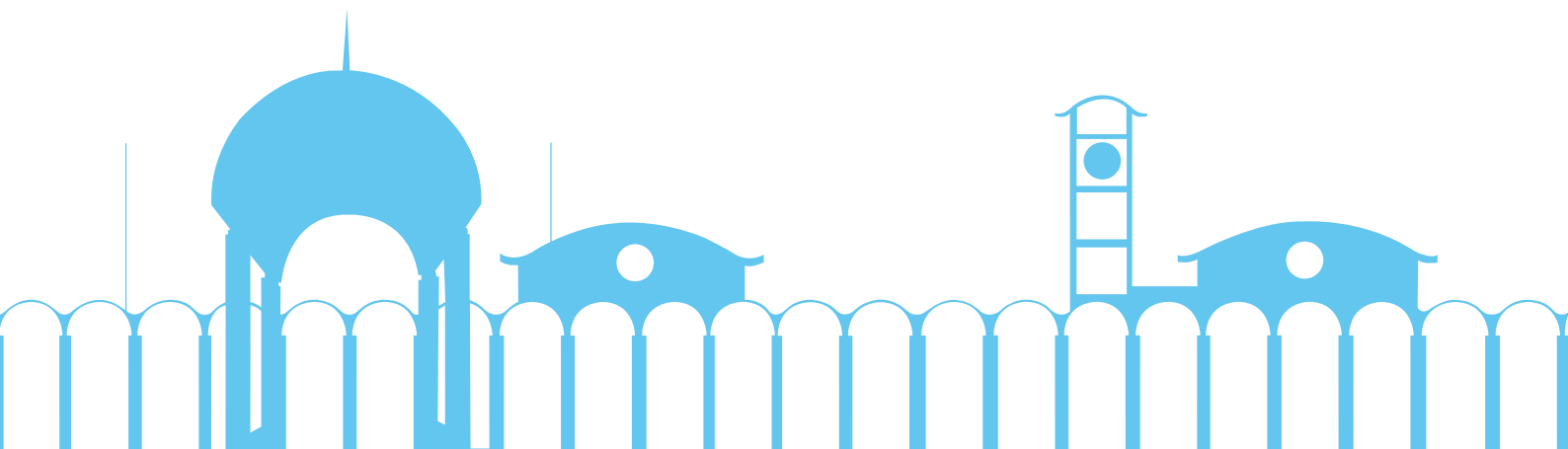
YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT

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

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026

MIXED VERSION

HANSARD NO: 220



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

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Hon. S. Ntlhaile, MP.	Gaborone North
Hon. N. S. L. M. Salakae, MP.	Ghanzi
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Hon. C. K. Jacobs, MP.	Lobatse
Hon. J. Hunyepa, MP.	Tati West
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Hon. G. Lekau, MP.	Mogoditshane West
Hon. R. M. Lekutlane, MP.	Kgalagadi North
Hon. H. P. Manyeneng, MP.	Mmopane-Metsimotlhabe
Hon. Brig. D. Mokgwathi	Lethakeng
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Hon. P. M. Segokgo, MP.	Tlokweng
Hon. J. T. I. Modise, MP.	Kgalagadi South

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(Botswana Congress Party)

Hon. D. Saleshando, MP. (Leader of the Opposition)	Maun North
Hon. C. K. Hikuama, MP. (Opposition Whip)	Maun West
Hon. Dr U. Dow, MP.	Kgatlang West
Hon. Dr K. Gobotswang, MP	Tswapong South
Hon. K. K. Kapinga, MP	Okavango West
Hon. G. Kekgonegile, MP.	Maun East
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(Botswana Patriotic Front)

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Hon. L. Ookeditse, MP.	Nata-Gweta

(Botswana Democratic Party)

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Hon. K. T. Mmusi, MP.	Gabane-Mmankgodi
Hon. P. K. Motaosane, MP.	Thamaga-Kumakwane
Hon. M. M. Pule, MP.	Kgatlang East

(Independent Member of Parliament)

Hon. Dr E. G. Dikoloti, MP.	Goodhope- Mmathethe
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SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

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

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Tuesday 17th March, 2026

THE ASSEMBLY met at 2:00 p.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

PRAYERS

* * * *

SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

MADAM SPEAKER (MS MANYENENG): Pray be seated. Good afternoon Honourable Members. There is an announcement. Honourable Members, following several concerns raised by you *tsa* later date questions *tse di neng di sa tsene*, the concerns have been noted, *jaanong go tserwe decision ya gore* from Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, *di tlaa leka* to be pushed starting from tomorrow. Let us now begin the business of today with questions.

MR MOALOSI: *Procedure Madam Speaker.* Ke botsa gore tse di neng di le *noticed* a bo di di nyelela fela *without later date*, e bo e re mo letsatsing le di tshwanetseng gore di tsene di bo di sa tsene, a le tsone di tlaa tsena?

MADAM SPEAKER: Ke tsaya gore go ya go lebiwa dilo tse di neng di latllegile. Re tlaa nna re ntse re tswelitse re bona gore tse di tsenang a di *amongst* tsone tseo.

MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE AND SECURITY (MR MOHWASA): *Clarification Madam Speaker.* Ke re ke botse fela gore Laboraro o raya kamoso kana beke e e tlang?

MADAM SPEAKER: Kamoso *sir*.

MR MOHWASA: Ke tsaya gore fa e le gore ke kamoso, go tshwanetse gore go nne le Notice Paper.

MADAM SPEAKER: There would be an arrangement *ya gore* all those Ministers *ba itse gore a ba tlaabo ba le teng* tomorrow or Thursday.

MR MOHWASA: Ke a leboga.

MR MOROLONG: *Procedure Madam Speaker.* Ke a leboga mmaarona. Ga ke itse motlotlegi, ke amogela se o se buang, mme ke na le letshwenyego. Gompiano fa ke lebelela Order Paper, potso ya me ya *number 10*

gotlhelele ga se potso e e neng e le *noticed* ya ba ya goroga fa *previously*, ya bo e kopelwa gore ke e dire *later date*. E tla jaanong e le e sele e ya kwa *ministry* o sele, ga se yone. Jaanong ga ke itse gore a ke tlike go patelesega gore ke tle ke e arabele kgotsa jang. Maabane ke letse ke...

MADAM SPEAKER: Ee, mma ke *consult* bo *Clerk*.

MR MOROLONG: Ke a ngongorega tota ka kgang e.

...Silence...

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Morolong, kgang ke gore potso ya gago e ne e batla *ministries* di le dintsinzana *so*, e kgaogantswe fela jalo. E tlaa nna e ntse e tla ka *ministry* o mongwe *to avoid* gore yo mongwe a nne a re e ga se ya me, e ga se ya me. E o e bonang e le teng go raya gore ke *part 1*, di tlaa nna di ntse di tla ka bo *part 2* fela jalo.

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

MR MOROLONG: Further procedure Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa Morolong, ga re ka ke ra tsena mo golong moo ga re jela nako. Ke nako ya dipotso, o tlaa ya kwa ofising jaanong *to clarify*. Ke tsaya gore e ke neng ke e araba ke e *Clerk* a neng a araba ka yone. Ke a go leboga. *Honourable* Gobotswang, tsena o nne fa fatshe. A re simololeng dipotso.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND THEIR WORKSTATIONS

DR U. DOW (KGATLENG WEST): asked the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services to state the number of:

- (i) Magistrate Courts in Botswana;
- (ii) Magistrates in Botswana;
- (iii) divisions of the High Court and where the High Court sits in Botswana;
- (iv) judges of the High Court in Botswana; and
- (v) judges of the Court of Appeal in Botswana.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (MR NYATANGA):

Good afternoon Madam Speaker. Ke tseye sebaka se ke leboge *Mother of the House* mo potsong e a neng a e boditse.

- (i) Mo lefatsheng la rona la Botswana, Dikgotla tsa bo Makaseterata di masome a mabedi le botlhano.
- (ii) Bo Makaseterata ba ba berekelang teng ba masome a matlhano le botlhano.
- (iii) *High Courts* tsa rona di tlhano. Di mo Gaborone, Lobatse, Francistown, Maun le e e sa tswang go tlhomiwa fela jaana ka di 4 *November* kwa Mahalapye.
- (iv) Bo *Judge* ba ba berekelang mo *High Courts* tse ba masome a mararo.
- (v) Ba ba berekelang kwa *Court of Appeal, Justices of Appeal* bone ba lesome le bobedi.

Gongwe *Madam Speaker* ka potso e ne e batla go itse fela gore batho ba ba kae, ke ka tlhalosa ke re, e e tsamaelanang le kgang e, re na le maikemisetso a a tsepameng go leka go bona gore Dikgotla tse di anama jang le lefatsheng, re lebeletse gore gompieno re a itse gore go na le letshwenyego le letona le bangwe ba ipelaetsang gore ga ba kgone go bona bodiredi jwa ditirelo tse ka nako e ba di tlhokang, *access to justice. There are some people* ba ba nang le tumelo ya gore *it is costly* ka ntateng ya gore Dikgotla tse ga di mo mafelong a di mo go tsone. Maabane fela jaana, fa re buisa diphutho ke le kwa Maitengwe, le bone ba ne ba ntse ba supa gore ba na le bothata, mme re ne re ba solofetsa gore go leka go isa ditirelo kwa bathong, re bula e nngwe kwa Tutume. Gone go ka tswa go tlaa se ka ga lekana ka ntateng ya gore lefatsheng le le aname. Gongwe ke supe gore re a leka. Kana ke sone se o bonang le maloba re ne re bua thata ka botlhokwa jwa go leka go tlisa ditirelo tse di botoka gongwe le kgotlakgolo e e tlaabong e lebeletse mo dikgannyeng tsa *Constitutional Court* e ka thusa bothata jone jo. *Thank you very much Madam Speaker.*

DR DOW: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker.* Re lebile gore Makgotla a Setswana ka gore a aname le lefatsheng, mme go na le dikgang tse e leng gore ga a kgone go ka di reetsa ka gore ga a na tetla, ga a na maatla a tsone ka fa molaong, dikgang tse di tshwanang

le tsa *labour issues* tseo gantsi go raya gore gatwe o ye kwa *Labour*, go tswa foo gongwe o ye kwa *Industrial Court*, e seng jalo o ye kwa ga Makaseterata. Tota fela fa o lebile motho a le kwa Kgomodiatshaba, a na le kgang ya bohiri, o lebile sekgala se a se tsamayang gore a kgone gore a ye kwa ga Makaseterata, *Labour* kante *Industrial Court*, mme o na le makgotla fela a le 25 a Makaseterata, a ga o bone gone fa gore madi a o nang le one, a tshwanetse gore a atolose *these courts systems* gona le gore o a tseye o ye go dira Con Court? Tota go bua boammaaruri, motho yo o kwa Kgomodiatshaba, mathata a gagwe ke *maintenance*, ga a a duelwa ke kompone e e neng e mo hirile, kgang ya gagwe tota e amana le dikoloto gore motho yole o a nkolota, a ga a batle gore *court* e mo atumele pele fa o re o ka mo agela *court* kwa Lobatse gore a tle a e latele a paletswe ke e e mo Mochudi? Ke ne ke re a madi a a ga o bone go le botoka gore o a dirise go atolosa *justice so that there is actually access?* Ke ne ke re ke botse.

MR NYATANGA: Tanki *Mother of the House.* Kgang e o e buang, re mo go yone re tlhamaletse. Kana Makgotla a Setswana ga a yo mo Molaomotheong. Le fa re ntse re tsamaya re buisanya le Batswana, re ne re ba raya re re, rona fa re lebeletse ngwao ya Setswana le tiro e Dikgosi di e dirang, re ka tswa re na le keletso ya gore ba dire dikgang tsa go nna jalo. Jaanong o tlaa fitlhela e le gore ga ba kgone fela sentle ka ntateng ya gore Dikgotla tsa Setswana ga di yo mo Molaomotheong.

Re na le tumelo ya gore nako e tsile gore re itshekatsheke ka gore kana *Constitution* ya rona e kwadilwe ya bo ya dirwa bogologolo re ise re tseye boipuso. Re batla gore Batswana ba nne le seabe mo kgannyeng ya gore bone ka fa ba lebelelang ka teng, a Dikgosi di ka se ke tsa nna le seabe go seka dikgang dingwe tseo. Tumelo ya me e tona ke gore fa e le gore Batswana fela jaaka ke utlwa o bua, ba ka nna le tumelo ya gore Dikgosi di ka nna le seabe se e leng gore se ka thusa Motswana yo o kwa gae gore mo bofelelong jwa letsatsi a bo a kgona gore o ka seka kwa nnetlung, re tlaa baakanya Molaomotheo o, re bo re nna le *Customary Courts under this*, go bo go tlhalosiwa gore di tlaabo di bereka jang. Ke dumalana le wena gore fa gongwe re ka tswa re lebelela kgakala go batla ditharabololo. Se e leng gore ke a itse gore re tlhomame ka sone ke gore re batla go simolola gone fa gore re simolole mo Dikgosing. Mathata a o a buang a fa re dumalana gore Dikgosi di ka dira, re tlaa isa madi

teng. Kana fa o lebelela dintlenyane tsa *Constitutional Court*, le tsone di tlhamaletse e bile fa ke ne ke ntse ke tsamaya mo, re ne re tsamaya re di tlhalosa gore ke eng. Gone ke a itse gore ga re ka ke ra dumalana rotlhe mo kgannyeng e. Fa gongwe fa ke e bua jaana, ke a bo ke kgotlha diletseng. Ke ne ke re e ntse fela jalo *Mother of the House*.

DR DOW: *Further supplementary. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.* Ke tsaya gore *Minister* ga a a nkaraba, mma ke botse potso e nngwe. Ke ne ke botsa gore a o a itse gore gompiano jaana *the Law Society* e re romeletse molaetsa wa gore le a tlhaelwa kwa *courts* tsa lona, ga le na *ink*, dipampiri jalojalo? Gompiano gatwe re koleke (*contribute*) re le diagente gore re tle re kgone go gatisa (*print*) jalojalo. Golo mo go supa letlhoko le tlhaelo.

Ke botsa gape gore fa o na le P275 *million*, fa o batla go atolosa *access to justice*, a o ka a dirisa go aga *court* kwa Lobatse kana gore go se ka ga tlhokafala gore re kolekele *ink at the courts*? Ke botsa gape jaaka ke ne ke botsa kgantele, a ga o bone gore go botlhokwa gore o oketse makgotla a bo Makaseterata *from 25* gore motho yo o kwa Bobonong a kgone gore a nne le *access to justice* fela jaaka motho yo o kwa Kgomodiatshaba, Mochudi kana Lobatse?

Basic access to justice, kana fa motho a go kolota P1.5 o le kwa Kgomodiatshaba, ke madi a mantsi thata. Fa e le gore o tlile go tlhokana le P2.5 gore o latele P1.5 ka gore *courts* di kwa kgakala, a ga o bone gore go botlhokwa gore makgotla a atumele batho, o ba fokoletse mosepele, o tseye madi a o e dire pele ga o mo direla *court* e e leng gore ga a na *case* ya yone? Ke ne ke botsa jalo.

MR NYATANGA: *Madam Speaker*, ke tsaya gore le fa motlotlegi a na le tumelo ya gore ga ke a e araba, gongwe ke ka tswa ke sa e arabe ka fa e leng gore o ka kgotsofala ka gone. Mo karabong ya me ke tlhalositse gore makgotla a, re a itse re le Puso gore ga a a lekana mme e bile ke sone se ke neng ke tlhalosa ke re se re se dirang, re tswetse gore fa go kgonagalang teng, re bo re ka oketsa gore Motswana mongwe le mongwe a nne le *an opportunity to have access to justice*. Ke file sekai ke re maabanenyana fela jaana fa ke le kwa Maitengwe, re ne re ba tlhalosetsa gore pelepele e ne e le gore mo kgaolong ele re itse fela gore *Magistrate Court* ke kwa Masunga. Fa re bua le wena jaana, *we are*

going to establish another court kwa Tutume. E bile re ya go tsamaya fela jalo gore kwa go kgonagalang, re bo re ka simolodisa (*establish*) *courts* tse.

Kgang e ya *resources Madam Speaker*, ke tsaya gore eo ga re ise re iphitlhe ka monwana, rotlhe re tlhaloganya ka fa seemo se ntseng ka teng. Se re tshwanetseng ke gore re se tlhaloganye e bile ke dumela thata mo go sone ke gore ga re a rwala mabogo mo tlhogong. Re a itse *but with the meagre resources that we have, we continue to make sure that there is access to justice*. Kgang e ya gore go na le P275 *million* wa *Constitutional Court*, ke akanya gore e ne e tshwanetswe ke gore e tle fela go botswe sentle ka *Constitutional Court*, re bo re tla re e araba. *Thank you very much Madam Speaker*.

ESCORTS OF CASH-IN-TRANSIT VEHICLES BY POLICE

MR L. LESEDI (SEROWE SOUTH): asked the Minister for State President, Defence and Security to update this Honourable House on:

- (i) the nationwide Botswana Police Service escorts of security companies' cash-in-transit vehicles; and further, if the escorts are free or if there is cost sharing with the relevant banks;
- (ii) when the escorts started, their efficacy and how much it costs Government per month for the Police escort services; and
- (iii) whether it is not time to facilitate private security companies to enable them to handle such operations through capacitation and arming.

MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE AND SECURITY (MR MOHWASA): Thank you Madam Speaker.

- (i) The decision to escort cash-in-transit vehicles was taken following a series of armed robberies involving vehicles transporting cash. This measure was introduced as a proactive intervention to enhance security during the transportation of cash. I have to mention Madam Speaker, that the Banking Association of Botswana (BAB) has during this period within which we granted this service to their members donated 12 vehicles to Botswana Police Service.

Madam Speaker, currently, there is no formal agreement between Government and private security companies regarding these escorts. As such, there is no cost sharing with the relevant banks. However, the ministry is actively engaging relevant stakeholders with a view to mitigating the financial implications of this operation and identifying a sustainable long-term solution that will relieve Government from this responsibility

- (ii) Madam Speaker, the ministry resolved to enhance security during the transportation of cash in 2019. Since the implementation of this measure, we have observed a decline in armed robberies related to cash-in-transit. Madam Speaker, on the question of the costs for Government, we still have to calculate how much has been spent on this operation. We hope we will appreciate that there is no dedicated unit for this operation as it forms part of our normal daily duties. Therefore, we have no readily available figures for this police escort operation.
- (iii) Madam Speaker, currently there are no plans to facilitate private security companies to independently undertake such operations. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR LESEDI: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga Madam Speaker. Ke a leboga Tona. Ke ne ke re gongwe ke latedise mo potsong e o sa tswang go e araba, ke botse gore a mme go yeng ka wena Tona, o dumela gore fa go abilwe dikoloi di le 12 lefatshe la Botswana ka bophara, gone moo go reka gore jaanong mapodise ba kate (*escort*) without any agreement ya cost sharing? Ke potso ya ntlha.

Potso ya bobedi ke gore, *shortage* ya mapodise, *manpower* le dikoloi tsa bone e raya eng mo Pusong ya gago? A le bona go siame fela gore, fa go na le madi a a tshwanetseng *to be escorted* go bo go nna le *emergency case* mo *station* se se tlhokang *to escort*, go botoka *to escort* madi gona le go ya *to save* botshelo jwa motho? Ke a leboga Madam Speaker.

MR MOHWASA: Ke a leboga Motlotlegi Lesedi, o ne o re a go botoka gore go tlhole go alotswe madi, gona le gore e re fa go na le *emergency* a bo go ka ya go itebagangwa le *emergency* eo. Ke tsaya gore mo

karabong fa ke simolola ke tlhalositse gore, dipalo tsa batho ba ba felelang ba tseela madi a banka di ile kwa tlase, mo go rayang gore go fokoletsa mapodise tiro ya go tlhola ba dira ditlhotlhomiso ka dikgang tsa bogodu. Ga re ka ke ra re tla re tlhokomologe fela, mme re itse gore fa re dira jalo re *escort* re tlaabo re sireleditse e bile re kgona go fema gore a bo go ka nna le go ka phamolwa madi a batho. Go tshwana le fa rraetsho, go na le batho fa ba kgobokaneng teng, mapodise a bo ba ka ya go ema foo, ba ya go sireletsa go leka gore ba feme gore go ka nna le *incidents* tse di ka dirang gore kamoso a bo ditiragalo tse di ka dirang gore kamoso ba bo ba ntse ba siana ka ditlhotlhomiso.

O ne o re jaanong re dira jang ka go tlhabela ga dipalamo le dipalo tsa mapodise. Re tshwanetse re tlhaloganye gore tota go bua nnete, dipalo tsa mapodise mo lefatsheng la Botswana di kwa tlase. Pele fa ke simolola go dira le ba sepodise, ba ne ba tlhalosa gore, kana Botswana o na le dipalo tse di lekanang le Namibia, mme fa o ka lebelela gompiano, Namibia dipalo tse ba nang le tsone tsa mapodise, di feta tsa mapodise a Botswana gabedi. Golo moo go na le *implications* mo bokgoning jwa mapodise gore ba dire tiro ya bone, ke gore ka bokhutshwanyane, re ntse re tima mapodise ditsompelo gore ba dire tiro ya bone. Ke sone se gompiano re ne re tlhalosa gore, go na le maikaelelo a gore jaanong *police station* ya Maun le Broadhurst, re batle ba ba ikemetseng ba ba tlaa diragatsang gore nako tsotlhe mapodise ba se ka ba tlhaelelwa ke dipalamo gore ba kgone gore ba dire tiro ya bone. Ke sone se gompiano ke tsayang gore thulaganyo e re neng re e fitlhela ya 28 *police stations*, e raya gore re tlaa tshwanelwa ke gore re ipaakanye gore *police stations* tseo re ye go tsenya batho mo teng, re kgone gore re direle batho jaaka ba solofetse go tswa mo sepodiseng.

Kgang ya koleke ya dikoloi, e ne e sa dirwe ka gore re tlhola re bereka le bone mo dikganganyeng tsa madi, ke kutlwelobotlhoko. Le wena mokaulengwe Lesedi, fa e le gore mo kgaolong ya gago o setse o na le dingwaga tse di kana ga o ise o ko o thuse mapodise, ya go isetsha. Go sa reye gore kamoso fa motho a ka go utswela kgomo, o tlaabo o reka gore ba go direle tiro. Re tshwanetse re le setshaba re bone gore re tshwaragana le mapodise, re ba thusa jang gore ba dire tiro. Jaaka le dikompone ka go farologana di setse di ikemisitse gore jaanong di tlaa thusa mapodise gore ba dire tiro ya bone. E e fitlhela re

ntse re tsere tshwetso ya gore re thuse go fema seemo se go felelang go phamolwa madi a batho, e bile fa gongwe go nna le tatlhegelo ya matshelo a batho. Ke a leboga.

MR LESEDI: *Further supplementary.* Ke a go utlwa *Honourable Minister*; gongwe o fa dikai tse di sa tsamaelaneng, mme legale ga go molato. Mma ke botse ya bofelo ke re, a mme ka gore o bona gongwe le ise le tle mo nakong ya *to engage private securities*, a o bona se le tlaa tswelela ka sone go se dira, go kgopakgopetsa jaaka ke ne ke supa? Kana e ya bofelo o paletswe ke go e araba, ka gore ke ne ke botsa gore fa go na le *emergency* gotwe batho ke ba ba fa ba lole, yo mongwe o tlhabile yo mongwe ka thipa ka fa le ya *to escort*, go raya gore *station* seo se tlamega go ya *escort*, gona le go ya go boloka botshelo jwa motho. Ke ne ke botsa gore, a o a re ga le ise le bone botlhokwa jwa *private security* go disa madi a? O bona e tlaabo e le sengwe se le tlaa tswelelang fela ka sone mo isagong? Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*.

MR MOHWASA: Motlotlegi Lesedi, ke tlhalositse, ke ka e boeela gape ke re, *“however, the ministry is actively engaging relevant stakeholders with a view to mitigating the financial implications of this operation and identifying a sustainable long-term solution that will relieve Government from this responsibility.”* Ke tsaya gore ke eo e arabile potso ya gago. E ke neng ke e bua, ke ne ke re kana golo fa go dirwa dithulaganyo Rre Lesedi, tsa gore fa go tsewa madi a dibanka gore, re ya go tsaya koloi fa ka nako ya gore, e tsaya e thusa. Jaanong ga e ka ke ya re go tshwana le gompieno fela fa go na le *reports, report* ya motho a iteilwe e tshwana fela le go fema gore kamoso o bo go ka nna le gore yo mongwe a bo a ka bolawa, motho a bo a tla go amoga ba bangwe madi. Tse tsothle di botlhokwa. Ke a leboga.

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Afternoon Madam Speaker*, ke tlaa mo tseela potso ya teng.

UPGRADE OF BORDERS IN BOBIRWA CONSTITUENCY

MR T. B. LUCAS (BOBIRWA): asked the Minister of Finance if there are any plans to upgrade borders in the Bobirwa Constituency to a commercial status; and if so, to state the progress recorded so far in actualising such a plan.

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, o kgalemele lekolwane le gotweng Gobotswang. O na le go bua fela jaaka a rata, ga ke itse gore o tsenwe ke eng. Rre Mokgware le wena o iketle. Ke tsaya gore *the Minister of Finance is aware* o tlaa tla a araba, o tlaabo a tshwaregile fela. Go ne go na le Pitso ya *Procurement*, ke tsaya gore o mo tseleng *Madam Speaker*.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Nnyaa*, Honourable Members. Honourable Speaker *le Honourable Vice President (VP) ba ile* memorial service *kwa ga Mme Mma Kokorwe*. I thought *le laetswe gore le later date, jaaka re utlwile*.

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

MADAM SPEAKER: *Nnyaa*, ke ne ke ithaya ke re gore gongwe o laetswe.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke a mo itshwarela *Madam Speaker*.

MADAM SPEAKER: All the questions *tsa ga Finance Minister*, will be later dated *ka gore ga a ka ke a goroga* before *re fetsa*.

Later Date.

STATUS OF GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS TO SUPPLIERS

MR A. K. KHAN (MOLEPOLOLE NORTH): asked the Minister of Finance to update this Honourable House on the status of Government payments to its suppliers and provide the following particulars;

- (i) the total amount outstanding owing to suppliers, with an age analysis e.g., 0-30 days; 31-90 days; 91-180 days; 181-365 days; >365 days, categorised by each ministry and/or department;
- (ii) the total Value Added Tax (VAT) charged on the outstanding supplier invoices referenced in (i) above, by ministry and/or department;
- (iii) the total VAT amount actually received to date from the suppliers i.e., VAT payments collected or paid categorised by ministry and/or department; and

(iv) a spreadsheet/department, creditor name, invoice date, invoice amount, outstanding amount, VAT charged and VAT received, together with the Government's plan and timetable to clear outstanding liabilities.

Later Date.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Mapulanga, Member of Parliament for Chobe.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke a mo e tseela *Madam Speaker*.

DEPUTY SCHOOL HEADS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

MR S. O. DIGWA (BOTETI WEST): asked the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education whether, given the work that Deputy School Heads do in primary schools, it is not time to relieve them of teaching duties so that they can focus on supervising academic work.

MADAM SPEAKER: Eo *phone* ke ya ga mang, e tshwanetse e bo e le ya ga Khan.

MINISTER OF CHILD WELFARE AND BASIC EDUCATION (MS KGAFELA-MOKOKA): *Ke a leboga Madam Speaker. Ke bo ke leboqe Mopalamente ka potso ya gagwe. Ke dumedise barutabana botlhe le ba Kgatleng East.*

Madam Speaker, the ministry is experiencing school expansion and is currently undertaking a holistic approach to address associated impact on Human Resource and Infrastructure. Therefore, the issue of teaching Deputy School Heads in primary schools will also be considered. Madam Speaker, the Deputy School Heads assigned teaching duties are in group 3, category 3 and 4, with students' enrolment of 51 to 150 students and 10 to 50 students respectively. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR DIGWA: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga. Ga ke tlhaloganye karabo ya ga *Minister*, ga ke itse gore dinomere tse a di balang tse ke tsa *enrolment* ya sekole kana jang? Gongwe a tlhalose gore ke eng, a reng? Dikole tse ke tswang kwa go tsone ke tse e leng gore *enrolment* ya teng e tsamaya kwa go bo 400 and barutabana ba teng, di *deputy*, ba a ruta. So ke utlwa a re, *we will consider* seemo sa go ruta sa bone, ke ipotsa

gore *consideration* ya teng e e leng gore ga e na *timeline* e raya eng, a bolele gore leng? Ka gore bana ka bontsi *fail because they do not get the services* ya di *deputy*, *they are busy* ka *administration jobs*. So when is she going to relieve them of the teaching assignment, ke kopa *timeline*?

MS KGAFELA-MOKOKA: Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Ke a leboga Mopalamente. Go le gantsi ke tshwenngwa ke *allegations*. Fa ke botswa potso ke tla ka *facts*. Fa go na le kwa go rutwang bana ba le 400, ke tsaya gore ke ka bo ke ntse ke bolelelwa sentle gore kwa dikoleng dife, gore go tle go nne mosola ke sale dikgang tse morago. *If it is just an allegation* gore golo gongwe, ke a e boelela *sir*, mme go sa tlhalosiwe sentle gore kae, ga go re thuse ka sepe. So ke ka kopa gore *can I be provided with that information*.

Sa bobedi, re fitlhela *Deputy School Heads* di ntse di dira *administration* mme di filwe *load* ya go ruta jaaka fela ke tlhalositse. Mme fa re re *we will consider*, go raya gone gore re tshwentswe ke seemo seo, re tlaa se sekaseka. A re feleleng fela fa go sekasekeng, e tlaa re fa re sekasekile, re tlaa boela kwano. Ke a leboga.

MR DIGWA: *Further supplementary.* E ntse ga ke tlhaloganye *Minister*. Ke na le dikole tse di tshwanang le tsa bo Mmadikola, Kumaga, ke dingwe tsa dikole tse di *deputy* tsa teng di rutang. Mme tota golo mo go na le *impact* mo dithutong tsa bana, *because almost half of the time that the deputy teacher has, he or she spends it mo administrative jobs*. Gape fa o sa tlhalose fela o ntse o re, "ke tlaa", bana ba rona ba sa bone *attention* e e lekanyeng, *I do not think that answer is convincing*. So go botoka gore, ngwaga o ke tlaa dira kana ngwaga o o rileng. Ga go na tsholofelo mo karabong ya teng. Ke a leboga.

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

MS KGAFELA-MOKOKA: Ee, nnyaa le ka nna la dirisa *allegation*, le itse Sekgoa lona, mma ke fetele kwa pele.

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

MS KGAFELA-MOKOKA: Ke ne ke re...

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

MS KGAFELA-MOKOKA: Ee, le nna le mpuise sentle.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa, *Honourable* Mokoka, a ko o arabe fela, *address me* o tswa mo *side remarks*.

MS KGAFELA-MOKOKA: Ee, *Madam Speaker* ke ne ke re mo *job description* ya *deputy school heads*, re fitlhela e ntse e le gore ba tshwanetse ba bo ba ruta, *that is the status quo*. Mme fa re re...ka fa potso e ntseng ka teng kana e botsa gore, gatwe ke akanye gore, “*is it not time to relieve them of teaching duties*,” ke tsaya gore ke *advice* fa o re, *is it not time* gore we can relieve them. So fa re re ke sengwe *that we will consider sir*, re araba potso ya gore a re bona e se nako ya gore re ka sekaseka gore a re ba *relieve of teaching*. Ke tsaya gore ke e arabile Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Frenzel, Member of Parliament (MP), Shashe West.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke a go dumedisa *Madam Speaker*. Ke tlaa mo e tseela.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Kante fa motho a botsa potso a bo a sa arabiwe, go fetwa fela? Fa potso e bodiwa nna ke tswa ka eng gone fa ke sa tshwara karabo?

MADAM SPEAKER: O neetswe ke mang *floor*?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nnyaa, jaanong ke eng ke sa arabiwe? Kana ga go na karabo, le wena o ntse o reeditse.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Digwa, ke kopa gore o dire sentle fela jaaka o itse gore o tshwanetse go kopa go bua, se eme fela o ipha go ema.

MR DIGWA: Procedure.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa.

STORM WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

MR L. BARONGWANG (MOGODITSHANE EAST): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs what measures are being taken to fast-track the development of a storm water drainage system in Mogoditshane and other affected areas, following the recent heavy rainfall in the southern part of Botswana, which destroyed many residential homes and displaced people especially the less-privileged communities.

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

Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Mma ke leboqe Mopalamente ka ke lemogile gore ke mongwe wa ba ba botsang dipotso tse di botlhale fela thata mo Palamenteng. Lephata la Tsamaiso ya Dikgaolo le Merero ya Ngwao le rulagantse ditsela tse di farologaneng tsa go rarabolola dikgwetlho tsa mesele ya kgopho ya metsi a pula mo Mogoditshane. Se se akaretsa ditsela di le pedi mo Ditogamaanong tsa setšhaba tsa Ditlhabololo tsa bo 12, National Development Plan (NDP) 12. Se se akaretsa thulaganyo ya ditsela tsa mo teng tsa boleele jwa 25 kilometres (km) tse di nang le mosele wa kgopho ya metsi a pula.

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

MR MOTSHEGWA: Mme le fa go ntse jalo Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente...le fa o re *we should ignore side remarks* mme o modumo ke o motona thata.

Mme Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, tsela e nngwe e e rulagantsweng go agiwa ke kabo go tswa kwa lefatsheng la China, e e akaretsang go agiwa ga tsela ya Mmopane-Gaborone Block 8. Tsela e e tlaa feta ka Mogoditshane Botlhaba, mme go rulagantswe gore e fokotse bokete jwa metsi a pula ka le yone e akaretsa mosele wa metsi a pula. E mo legatong le le kwa pele la go thapiwa ga konteraka, le go feleletsa go tsewa ga lefatshe le go fudusiwa ga ditirelo. Gape Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente e mo legatong la go saenelwa ga tumalano ya mafatshe a mabedi.

Mma ke tswelele ke supe gore, mo godimo ga moo, Lephata la Dipalamo le Dikago le lone le rulagantse kago ya boraro, e e leng tsela ya Mogoditshane-Mmankgodit Junction e e simololang kwa Pula Spar, e na le tsamaiso e e kopaneng le mosele wa metsi a pula. Mme kago e e rulagantswe ka fa tlase ga Development Manager Model (DM) mo ngwageng wa madi wa 2024/2025. E emisitswe morago ga gore Puso e sekaseke gape mokgwa o wa dikago, mme ditshekatsheko tsa go batlisisa ditsela tse dingwe tse di dumalanang le tsotlhe tse Puso e di eteletsang pele, di santse di tswelutse, jaaka Tona yo o maleba a tlhalositse gore ba tlaabo ba weditse kgwedi eno e wela.

Mme fa ke tsamaya kwa bofelelong ke wetsa Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, go tlaa nna gape

le tharabololo ya nakwana go laola mathata a mesele ya metsi a pula. Mme mesele o o tswang kwa sekoleng sa Solomon Dihutso Primary go ya kwa Mopitse Junction, e ne ya rebolwa ka fa tlase ga thulaganyo ya Constituency Community Project (CCP) ya 2024/2025.

E re go ntse jalo mo nakong eno e mo legatong la go sekwasekwa sesha, morago ga dingongorego tse di neng tsa tlhagelela ka nako ya thulaganyo ya go ntshiwa ga *tenders* kana ditirelo ka Ngwanatsele 2025. Ke a leboga.

MR BARONGWANG: *Supplementary.* Ke ne ke sa go dumedisa kana golo fale, dumela *Madam Speaker*. Ke a go utlwa, e bile ke a leboga ka fa o adileng karabo ya gago ka teng. Mme se ke se itemogelang ke gore, go raya gore *projects* tsa kgopho ya metsi kana *storm water drainage systems*, di ikaegile thata ka *projects* tsa ditsela. Jaanong tota potso ya me e ne e eletsa go itse gore, re a go di ithlaganedita go le kae *projects* tseo ka gore ga di tle fela ka ditsela, di tla le ka mathata a a leng teng a, *actually to solve* mathata a kgopho ya metsi a pula?

Sa bobedi ke gore, se re se itemogetseng kwa Mogoditshane, go na le *developments* tse di runyang fa gare ga dikago, mme e bile *developments* tse di dirwa ke batho gongwe ba maemo a a kwa godimo ba kgantele ba kganelang le kgopho ya metsi kana *the natural flow of water*. Jaanong gone moo kana go raya gore ga go ame kana ga go amiwe ke *projects* tse o sa tswang go di nankola fa *Minister*. Eo le ya go dira eng ka yone fa e leng gore gongwe ditsela ga di fete teng? Ke a leboga.

MR MOTSHEGWA: Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke a leboga Motlotlegi Mopalamente. Karabo ke gore, re a amogela jaaka o setse o tlhalosa gore, go na le tiego ya gore ditirelo tse di bo di gorogile kwa bathong, mme batho ba di tlhoka gore di tokafatse matshelo a bone kana ditirelo tse di tokafatse fa ba direlang teng, jaaka gompiano re bua ka ya kgopho ya metsi a leswe, le gore di inakanye le ditsela. Se re ka se dirang ra se solofetsa ke gore, go fefosiwe gone go dirwa ga ditsela. Ke itse gore, ke e fa e le sekai, go na le tsela e e ntseng e lwelwa kwa makgotleng a ditsheko, mme re dirile thulaganyo ya gore ka Mosupulogo, re bo re kopana le Modulasetilo wa khansele le Mapalamente a kgaolo, re tle go bua gore go nnile le tiego e tona ya tsela e. Jaanong ka gore Kgotlakgolo ya Ditsheko e ntshitse katlholo, mokgwa o

o ka nnang bofefo gore tsela e dirwe ke eng. Gone moo, go tlaa alafa dikgwetlho tsone tse o ntseng o di tlhalosa, ka re ikemiseditse gone go tlisa ditirelo ka nako.

Ya bobedi o ne o botsa ka puo ya seeng e o neng o e dirisa, *mushrooming*, ya gore go na le dikago tse di runyang, tse e leng gore di felela di kgoreletsa go elela ga tlhologo ga metsi gone mo motseng wa Mogoditshane. Nngwe ya ditshekatsheko tse re di buisanang gompiano le ba kgaolo ya Mogoditshane, le fa ke utlwa gongwe ba bangwe ba sa tshware kgang ya teng sentle, fa re bua ka *township status*, kana go atolosa boleng jwa motse go tswa mo toropong, kana go raya gore go ya go oketsa fa godimo le gore one Mogoditshane jaanong e bo e ka kgona go dira letseno le le botoka ka mabaka a tse ba tlaabong ba kgona gore ba di dire.

Se sengwe ke gone go tokafatsa le go goletsa *standards*, kana dielo tsa kago, le yone *supervision of compliance*, kana gore batho ba aga ba itebagantse le ka fa bokaedi jwa dikago gore di tshwanetse di nne ka teng. Ke gore re nonotshe tsone dikgang tsa *monitoring le compliance* ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Re tlaa tswelela re ntse re go lekodisa Mopalamente jaaka ke bona o nonofetse dikgang tsa kgaolo jaana.

MADAM SPEAKER: Last supplementary.

MR BARONGWANG: *Further supplementary.* Mo go e ya tsela ya 25 km *internal roads*, e o reng e kwa makgotlatshekelo, o ka papamala kana *would you consider direct appointment*, because o setse o supile gore di diegile, kana go diegetse batho ba Mogoditshane? Fa re boa gape re ya go simolola re re *open bidding system*, e ya go boa gape e diega. *Would you consider a direct appointment for this project?* Ke a leboga.

MR MOTSHEGWA: Thank you very much. Definitely so to quicken the process, because the people deserve and want the service and development. *Ke a leboga.*

RETREATS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

MR M. M. MOROLONG (KGATLENG CENTRAL): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to state Government plans to introduce structured retreats and psychological support programmes including emotional therapies or mindfulness - based stress reduction for social workers to address occupational stress and trauma.

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

Pele ke araba, boikarabelo jo ke tlaa bo tsayang ke go tlisa boitumelo kwa monneng yole jaaka a sa itumela. Ke raya gore ke simolole ka yone.

Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, mma ke leboge Mopalamente ka potso ya gagwe. Ke supe gore potso e e botlhokwa ka e amana le boitekanelo, segolobogolo boitekanelo jwa tlhologanyo jwa bodiredi jwa matshelo a batho (*social workers*), ka gore nngwe ya dilo tse re neng ra di dumalana kwa *ministry* ke gore, gore re direle batho ditirelo sentle, re tshwanetse ra lemoga gore babereki ba tsewe tsia, ba bo ba itumeletse go neela Batswana ditirelo sentle, re se ka ra batla ditirelo fela, botsogo jwa babereki le mabaka a bone re a ikgatholosa.

Ka ngwaga wa 2023, Lephata la Dikgaolo le Merero ya Ngwao, le ne la dumalana go simolola go thusa badiri bone ba matshelo a batho mo Lephateg la Boipelego, ka lenaneo le le bidiwang *helping the helpers*. Ke gore bone ba e leng gore ba tlhokomela setšhaba mo tshidilong maikutlo le tlhokomelo matshelo a bone, le bone ba thusiwe gore ba se ka ba nna le dikgwetlho tse di ka ba itsang gore ba thuse setšhaba ka tsela e e ntseng jalo.

Maikaelelo e ne e le go neela badiri ba matshelo a batho le batsamaisi ba dikgetsi tse sebaka sa go sekaseka le go buisana ka dikgwetlho tsa tiro, go tlhabolola mekgwa ya go lepalepana le go ba sidila maikutlo. Le fa go ntse jalo, ka ntlha ya tlhalelo ya didirisiwa, thulaganyo eno e ne e ise e diragadiwe ka botlalo. Go ya pele, lephata le tlaa tswelela le sekaseka ditlhokego kana matlhokego a badiri ba matshelo a batho, le go dira gore yone thulaganyo yone e jaanong e nne mosola. Dithulaganyo tsotlhe tsa tshegetso ya thulaganyo e gore di tle di wele sentle, se se tlaa akaretsa go tsosolosa bokopano (*retreat*) ya go rulaganya le go akanya, go tsenya mo tirisong mananeo a boitekanelo le go tlhabolola mekgwa e e tseneletseng ya tshegetso ya go sidila maikutlo a badiri ba matshelo a batho.

Kwa bofelelong, dithulaganyo tse tsotlhe di tlaa netefatsa gore badiredi ba ba tshegediwa sentle mo maikutlong, ba nna ba le mafolofolo mo tirong, mme ba ka kgona go tswelela ba ntsha ditirelo tse di fang boleng kwa setšhabeng. Jaaka ke bua, go tlhoka gore bone ka bo bone ba bo ba tsogile sentle. Ke gore ke ba *social*

workers, fire services le ba bangwe ba ba tlhokang gore mabaka a bone a pereko le botsogo jwa bone le jwa mo tlhologanyong di elwe tlhoko sentle, ba direle setšhaba. Ke a leboga.

REPOSSESSED PLOTS

MR O. KWAPA (JWANENG-MABUTSANE): asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture:

- (i) to indicate categorically the number of plots which have been repossessed by the following:
 - (a) Ngwaketse Land Board;
 - (b) Maokane Sub Land Board; and
 - (c) Mabutsane Sub Land Board; and
- (ii) whether there have been advertisements for these plots to be allocated to applicants.

ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI): Thank you, Madam Speaker.

- (i) Ngwaketse Land Board has repossessed three ploughing fields at Sese under Maokane Sub-Land Board for village expansion. The total area for the repossessed fields is approximately 208 hectares, which is estimated to yield 2000 residential plots, and a few business plots, that is commercial, civic and community plots within the same layout.

In addition, there is one ploughing field which is still not yet repossessed due to incomplete process of compensation. The process of repossession of this particular ploughing field is anticipated to commence as soon as the guarantee submits the name or names of persons authorised for compensation.

Madam Speaker, the base map is still under preparation. However, the site reconnaissance has been completed, and detailed designs expected to be concluded by the end of September 2026, which will then be presented to various committees for consideration and approval.

Madam Speaker, in responding to Question No. 256, on the 25th of February 2026, I have

indicated that there has been no acquisition and/or repossession of plots under Mabutsane sub-land board.

- (ii) Madam Speaker, there are no plots available for advertisement. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

MR KWAPA: *Supplementary.* Ke utlwa ditlhaloso tsa ga Tona sentle, jaanong potso fela e ne e ka nna fela gore, bone ba a reng ba emetse *to be compensated* Madam Speaker, go tlaa diragala jang, *are they compensated* ba neelwa lefatshe *elsewhere* kana *in monetary terms*? Ke a leboga.

DR DIKOLOTI: Nnyaa, mme Madam Speaker, gone ke e arabile gore re santse re le mo dipuisanyong le bone, re emetse gore ba tle *to submit* maina a batho ba e leng gore *they are authorised for compensation*. Ke lebogele Motlotlegi Kwapa gore o buelela batho ba kgaolo ya gagwe ka lefatshe. Dipotso tsa gagwe o a bona gore ke tsa motho a ntse a buisa Dikgotla *meeting*, ke tsa motho a batla gore a rarabolole mathata a lefatshe Madam Speaker.

PASSAGE BETWEEN MOLOPO RANCHES AND THE BORDER LINE

MR J. T. I. MODISE (KGALAGADI SOUTH): asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture to state when it will be possible to provide a passage between Molopo ranches and the border line for other farmers and Government officials to have access along the boundary line at Molopo farms to reduce cross border exit/entrance in the ungazetted area.

ACTING MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI): Thank you Madam Speaker. In response to a related question in November 2025, I informed this Honourable House that the exercise to create a buffer along the international boundary was put on hold on account of financial resources. The exercise which commenced in May 2024, was meant to cover the entire boundary of Botswana with its neighbours including the Molopo area, in order to address territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Madam Speaker, my ministry has indicated that it recognises that land located along the international boundary holds strategic significance to the economy of Botswana and the social lives of Batswana. The absence

of a buffer along the international boundary constrains border management and undermines security patrols, animal disease control, cross-border crime surveillance and community access to rivers and related resources.

Madam Speaker, the threat of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) has reinforced the need to address this colonial legacy, where farms were allocated abutting the international boundary. This threat has now placed this exercise on the priority list of the ministry's projects in the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) 12 and the ongoing response to the 'Thibelo FMD exercise.' This Madam Speaker, will go a long way in supporting and encouraging the communities who have volunteered their time and resources to prevent possible incursion of the FMD by maintaining the cordon fences.

Madam Speaker, notwithstanding, the challenges faced with regard to freehold and leasehold farms, there has been notable achievement in the Borolong area, where 14,649.4 hectares have been acquired, and all affected land rights holders compensated. Additionally, Farm 1-JN (Banyana Farm) which is Government-owned has been set back by 100 metres from the boundary. The remaining farms have been profiled and negotiations with farm owners will commence in the first quarter of the financial year 2026/2027. The acquisition involves several steps of land acquisition, being consultations, valuation for compensation purposes and surveying the remaining extent of the land. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR DIGWA: *On a point of procedure.* Kana golo fa re mo Palamenteng, re tla ka matshwenyego a batho. Potso e ke neng ke e botsa, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) *and the community are concerned*. O fitlhela *deputy* a le foo a tshwareletse, a ruta. Gompieno jaana ke bua ka bana ba ba 400, kwa Kedia bana ba 600, *the deputy is teaching*. Fa o botsa potso ga o arabiwe. Fa ke tswa ke ya kwa kgaolong, ke ya go raya batho ba Boteti ke re ke arabilwe gotweng ka potso e? *Role* ya ga Speaker ke eng e le motsamaisi a bona re sa arabiwe gone fa? A go tshwanetse gore go didimalwe fela go tlogelwe? Kana re a busa, re tshwanetse gore re nne le dikarabo mo Batswaneng.

MADAM SPEAKER: *Honourable* Digwa, fa o sa wela sentle le *Minister*, o ne o tshwanetse gore o kope sentle fela, e seng ke setse ke supile motho wena o bo o ema

ka koo. Ke gone fela fa re sa dumalaneng teng. Fa o ne o eme sentle fela jaaka o itse gore o tshwanetse gore o re *procedure, elucidation* kana *clarification*, ke ka bo ke go supile. *You waited*, ka bo ka supa *another* Member of Parliament (MP), wena o bo o ikemisa ke sa go supa. Ga go ka ke ga nna jalo. Ga se gore ke ne ke sa go supe ka gore ga ke tseye gore o ne o sa arabiwa, ga o a dira jaaka o tshwanetse go dira mo Palamenteng. Le a itse gore fa le na le ngongora, le tshwanetse go e tsenya sentle. Jaanong fa o ikemisa fela, kamoso ke raya Palamente ke reng, wena o ne o ikemisitse ke go letleletse, go raya gore le bone ba ikemise fela.

Kgang e o neng o sa e itumelela, ke ne ke tsaya gore fa *Minister* a tswela kwa ntle, o ka tswela le ene teng ka gore fa a bua gore ba a sekaseka, tota ke mo reye ke reng batho ba Modimo? O ka tsweledisa ngongora ya gago le ene gore ke dire jang gore o nkarabe ka gore mo Ntlong o mo utlwile gore *repeatedly* o ne a bua gore ba sekaseka kang eo. O ne o ba gakolola gore bo *deputy* ba dira *administrative work instead of* go ruta, a re ba ya go sekaseka gore ba ka dira jang. Ke ne ke tlaa reng *Honourable* Digwa? Gakere ke fetise gore e fetile, wena yo o sa itumelelang karabo o ka ya go bua le ene fa ntle gore ga o a nkaraba mma, go ntse jaana le jaana.

MR DIGWA: *On a point of clarification.* Kana dipalo tse a neng a di fa tsa bo 50 to 80 ga di yo mo dikoleng.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ke gore ga a yo fa jaanong, *you cannot be engaging* ka selo se se fetileng le *Minister* a seyo. Ke kopa gore o *engage Honourable* Kgafela-Mokoka *aside*. Fa e le gore go na le selo se o sa itumelelang sentle, go raya gore o tle ka fa ofising.

MR KAPINGA: *On a point of procedure.* Ke lebile *screen* fale *Madam Speaker*, se supa *Monday* mme gompiano o kare go Labobedi. Ke ipotsa gore *who is responsible for that*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ke ba ba ka kwa, ba tlaa bua le bone.

MR NKAWANA: *On a point of procedure.* O tlaa mpaakanyetsa legale. Tota kang ya ga *Honourable* Digwa e gotweng a ye go batla karabo kwa nageng mme potso e tshwanetse gore arabiwa mo Palamenteng, a e boditse mo Palamenteng, ga ke dumele gore e tlaabo e le tsamaiso e e siameng. O tshwanetse gore a e latesise

mo Palamenteng, e arabiwa mo Palamenteng, ba ba mo romileng ba utlwe karabo. Ke a leboga.

MADAM SPEAKER: O bua ya kwa nageng fela ga o wele ka ya bofelo. Wela ka ya bofelo.

MR NKAWANA: Ya bofelo ke yone ya gore, ke akanya gore *he is right to demand answers* mo Palamenteng, e seng gore a bo a mo latela kwa ntle.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ke batla kgakololo ya bobedi ya gore a tle kwa ofising, yone ga o e bue. E bue, e akgele *Honourable* Nkawana. *Order! Honourable Members.* Re tsena kwa *Committee of Supply*.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

(CHAIRPERSON in the Chair)

APPROPRIATION (2026/2027) BILL, 2026 (NO. 1 OF 2026)

ORGANISATION 1500 - MINISTRY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(Resumed Debate)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON (MS MANYENENG): Honourable Members, the debate on the Committee of Supply for Organisation 1500 is resuming. Please note that I shall call upon the Honourable Minister for International Relations to reply to the debate at 15:10 hours today and the question will be put at 15:40 hours. *Go raya gore re tlaa e baakanya ka gore e tlodilwe ke dipeba.*

The debate on this Bill is resuming. When the House adjourned yesterday, Honourable Morolong has just concluded his debate. Therefore, the floor is open.

MR SALESHANDO (MAUN NORTH): Thank you very much Madam Chairperson. I want to lend my support to the submission by the Minister. You are operating in a difficult environment of heightened geopolitical tensions, an environment where international trade is taking a severe beating mainly from leading economies that should otherwise be opening doors, but they are busy coming up with new barriers to international trade.

I take particular note Minister of your comment, on making sure that Botswana's values inform our foreign policy, as we have no doubt, there has been a lot of talk

on Botswana adopting a human rights approach to all key issues of governance. I want you to explain why on the 3rd of December 2025, at the United Nations (UN) when the General Assembly was voting on a resolution that demanded for Russia to immediately and unconditionally return abducted children from Ukraine, why did Botswana not support that resolution? Any human rights-oriented Government would vote on the side of helpless children who are used by two elephants engaged in a fight. Why did Botswana choose to abstain? Are we only insisting on human rights within our borders or are we bound by this stance of promoting human rights even when it comes to our foreign policy? I hope you can really explain why Botswana took this particular stance.

I also want you to explain if indeed Botswana plans to open an office in Russia, at this particular point given what is going on, the sanctions against Russia, the aggression of Russia against its neighbours. I have looked at the list of countries where you plan to open offices, you have not listed Russia, but there are reports from media outlets in Russia that Botswana is looking to open an office. I hope you can explain this to us.

Last year when you addressed the House, you mentioned that you will be going out to bring back to the ministry, experienced staff who had been sent to various ministries within Government, who previously were some of the most experienced on issues of diplomacy and foreign service. Has that been achieved? I did not get that assurance that you have made progress and indeed the staff are now back at the ministry.

The respect that Botswana has earned globally on account of peaceful transition of power, that you mentioned in your speech, why is it that we cannot make this a cornerstone of our dealings with foreign countries? Why is it that when other democratic institutions collapse, when there is total disregard for the will of the people, when elections are clearly far from anything but they are certainly far from free and fair, lack credibility, why are we unable to make our voice heard? Why do we choose to bury our heads in the sand? You and I know what happened in Tanzania, Botswana's voice was not there. You and I know what happened recently in Uganda, where the main opponent to the President is on the run, his only offence is

having contested an election. Why are we not able to say anything when these things happen? Are we only driven by human rights selectively and where we think we may unravel feathers, we compromise our values? If we compromise our values, are they really values that we are serious about? I know that within your coalition, before the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) assumed power, the Botswana National Front (BNF) was very strong about the situation in Eswatini. What is the position of the Government now? Are we content that Eswatini deserves a repressive monarchy and that those in Eswatini who yearn for the country to return to true democracy should be subjected to killings by the current regime, should be haunted out of their own country, should be tracked and poisoned as we know it has been happening in Eswatini? Why are you unable to remain consistent to the values we said we stand for?

I would support because some of these positions are shared with the UDC, such as democratisation of Eswatini, the holding of free, fair and credible elections, both in our country, region and the rest of the continent. Why are we allowing these blemishes to go without any mention by Botswana? There was a time when Botswana was not intimidated by a militarily superior, aggressive, racist neighbour. Today modern-day Botswana is timid, would rather keep quiet when it sees other regimes repressing human rights, at a time when we say we pride ourselves in being a Government driven by human rights.

The last one, the issue of appointments of diplomatic service, partisan aligned appointments now extending to becoming a tool that is used to silence critics. *Fa e kete o tsoa modumo thata re go neela* appointment, *o tsamaye o re didimalele*. Clearly, it is not merit based, you know that, it does not address issues of merit. To recruit from opponents or to demobilise opponents, *gore ka gore o active ka fale, mme* as we know *re ba tshwere ba* opposition, we have refused to respect the law on public funding of political parties, let us target the most vulnerable and offer them diplomatic positions, so that going to 2029, we will have less people on the opposition side who can step forward to mount a credible challenge. Let us not go down that route colleagues. Even the former regime for all its sins, never went that route. I heard one Member of Parliament (MP) saying we should applaud the current President because he is

inclusive, he also takes on the opposition. Go and read Tony Leon's book, the former Leader of the Opposition (LOO) in South Africa, how when a President wants to engage the opposition on diplomatic positions, goes about doing it. *Mo ga lona mo* it is not inclusivity, it is a ticket to silencing critics. It may work for you in the short term but it is a serious disservice to our country and our democracy. It is a bad precedent to set, do not go further, let us allow professional career diplomats to flourish where we do not have candidates as the UDC or where you do not have fitting candidates as the UDC. I submit Madam Chairperson.

MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR S. MODISE): Thank you very much Madam Chairperson. I am happy this afternoon to stand in support of the budget by the Honourable Minister for International Relations, a ministry whose work sounds in the corridors of capitals all around the world, bringing Botswana closer to the international community and the international community closer to Botswana.

I want to start by first acknowledging the sentiments that were echoed by Honourable Kapinga, that indeed we do not have a US military base in Botswana. It can be damaging to echo such sentiments, going around saying that there is a US base in Botswana. We all know Honourable Members, that about two weeks ago, we went to bed on Friday, and when we woke up on Saturday morning, the ruler of Iran was no more. Then tensions were stoked in the region and a war erupted. If it was not for the good relations that we have, we would not be in a position to get a corridor for our people. I am just saying this to emphasise the importance of having this ministry, and also the importance of watching the things that we say that can potentially put us on harm's way.

Honourable Kapinga, you were worried about the establishment of more missions outside. I want to invite you to consider the idea of economic diplomacy. Looking at the situation we are in, and sure, I share your concerns, but let us entertain the idea for a minute that setting up these missions has potential to lure direct investment into our country, investment that we can use to create jobs. We all know what is the situation with the jobs in our country. We can leverage on these diplomatic missions that we are opening to further gain

on the current situation that we are having. I want to invite you to give this proposition a chance. Let us see if we cannot solve some of the issues that we are having now by economic diplomacy.

Yesterday when you were talking Honourable Minister, I thought the Minister of Sport and Arts will also leverage and also tap on some of the opportunities that they may benefit from by working with the Ministry for International Relations, by taking Botswana out there. We spoke about hosting the international athletics coming in just about two months from now, that is an opportunity to sell the country out there and to lure investment, sell the tourism product that we have. That is an opportunity to get Botswana out there. I thought we could just make a link that, that is an opportunity to sell the talent that we have here to the world. We have certainly in the health sector benefitted from the good relations that you have Honourable Minister with the international community. We have gotten donations from nations like Cyprus, India, the United States, Zimbabwe and Zambia; just to mention a few. This is all because of the good relations that we share with our neighbouring countries and in the world.

We all recently heard about Botswana that were stuck in the war region between Russia and Ukraine, and because of the foreign relations that we have, we were able to create that corridor to get them safely back home Honourable Members.

I am very happy Honourable Minister, about the Kazungula Bridge Authority, and what that will do to commerce and trade in the area. This brings us closer not only in that area of trade but also in relations with our neighbours in the region. I am expecting and excited to see something like that expand more through the region. Having said that Madam Chair, I support this budget. Thank you.

MR MONAGENG (MOLEPOLOLE SOUTH): Ke a leboga go bona sebaka se. Le nna ke a dumalana le se Honourable Dr Butale a se beileng fa pele.

Re lebogele gore re dirisanya le mafatshe a mantsintsi mo lefatsheng *especially like-minded countries*. Re lebogela gape gore tota fela re lefatshe le le *non-aligned*. Ke sone se o bonang gompieno re kgona gore jaanong re dirisanye le bo United Arab Emirates, le bo Dubai jalo,

jalo. Le dithuso tse re di bonang, jaanong re kgona gore re ye go di kopa kwa mafatsheng a re sa a tlwaelang thata jaaka re tlwaetse mafatshe a bo Mmamosadinyana le bo America. Tota re tshwanetse gore re le akgolele seo.

Re boe gape re akgole gore Botswana a bo a ntse a kgona gore a nne badulasetilo ba nnetlane tse dintsi mo mafatsheng.

Ka gore nako e khutshwane, ke batla gore ke riana ka Sekgoa gore ke tle ke fetse ka bonako.

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

MR MONAGENG: *Ke akanya gore* going forward, this ministry must improve in fostering an agile service-oriented foreign service that aligns diplomatic efforts with economic diversification, digitalisation and strengthening regional dialogue.

Key improvements focus on enhancing diplomatic capacity, fostering cultural ties and upgrading infrastructure to efficiently support foreign missions. These are; strategic transformation and economic diplomacy, aligned states strategy plan with the national development goals like NDP 12 to focus on high income export driven economy, strengthen economic diplomacy to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and promote trade.

Capacity building and training

Enhanced diplomatic training through partnerships with economic institutions such as our universities in Botswana and to upgrade skills in modern diplomacy. Let us ensure that diplomats are well-versed in negotiations, problem solving and critical thinking. That one I agree with the previous speaker *le* Ambassador Kapinga *ka fa ba neng ba bua ka teng.*

Infrastructure and efficiency

Address infrastructural issues such as providing adequate technology; for example, Wi-Fi connectivity and suitable office space for staff. Streamline administrative procedures to ensure prompt and effective service delivery for diplomatic missions.

Let us also push on digitalisation and communication. We should leverage technology for modern diplomacy and strengthen communication channels with international partners.

Cultural diplomacy

Let us actively use art. As you all know, when you talk of art and culture, those are very close to my heart. Therefore, let us actively use art, culture and social media to showcase the nation's heritage and strengthen ties with other nations.

The other issue could be on strengthening foreign policy. Let us promote a diplomatic dialogue as the primary method for conflict resolution, just like the previous speakers were mentioning. Let us establish think tanks on strategic and foreign policy studies for evidence-based policy formation.

Jaaka nako e tshaya jaana ke re, tota fela le nna ke dumalana gore batho ba ba isiwang for foreign service be checked, *a bo e le batho ba e leng gore le rona le setshaba re ka bona gore nnyaa mme yo tota ga a ye go re swabisa kwa a yang teng. Go santse go na le diphatlha tse di setseng. A tse di setseng tseo tota go sekasekiwe batho ba ba isiwang. E se ka ya re nako e nngwe a bo re bona batho ba ba isitsweng kamoso ba re swabisa, go tlhakatlhakane ka gore lefatshe le le itsiwe e le lefatshe le le tlhamaletseng, le le dirang dilo sentle, le mafatshe a le tlotlang. A re se ka ra dira dilo tse e leng gore kamoso di tsoga di re swabisa. Ke a leboga.*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Go setse* two minutes Honourable Gobotswang.

DR GOBOTSWANG (TSWAPONG SOUTH): *Ke a leboga* Modulasetilo. Modulasetilo, ke batla go bua ka kgang ya Mapharangwane, ya Thebepatshwa. Ke itumelela gore *Secretary General* wa BNF a bo le ene a buile gore golo foo ga go na boammaaruri. Ka gore ba a itse gore ke bone ba ntseng ba e tsamaisa. Le a itse gore ke lona le ntseng le e tsamaisa...

MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR S. MODISE): Point of order Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Madam Chair. I thought you had ruled yesterday that we keep the BNF out of the proceedings of the House. I do not know why the Honourable Member is bringing the BNF into the picture. If he could restrict himself to the debate, I would appreciate that. Thank you very much.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable* Gobotswang, a ko o tlogele dikgang tsa bo BNF mo Ntlong e, ga re na BNF mo Ntlong e.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Thank you Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Tswelera, ga o na nako.

DR GOBOTSWANG: *I am talking about a registered Botswana party, registered in Botswana e e leng gore e teng. Ga ke itse gore ene o bua ka lefe ka gore gongwe ga a mo go yone.*

Ke ne ke re ba ne ba nna le moeng kwa Palapye a tswa kwa South Africa, a feta a bolelela setšhaba sotlhe le lefatshe lotlhe fa pele ga bone ba opa diatla ba BNF. Jaanong ke bone ba ba tshwanetseng gore ba baakanye kgang e, ba bue le ditsala tsa bone...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Order! Madam Chairperson.

DR GOBOTSWANG: *Honourable Minister, I think ... (Interruptions) ... gore o tle Palamenteng o tle go itatola jaaka o ne o e itatola.*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Point of order. Honourable Phologolo.

MR PHOLOGOLO: Point of order. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Honourable Member is out of order. We never clapped hands to anyone accusing BNF. I was very much *kwa* conference *e o buang ka yone*, we never clapped. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Gobotswang, *e tšhaile*. I now call upon the Honourable Minister to reply to the debate.

MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (DR BUTALE): *Thank you Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, ke batla go simolola ka go leboga Mapalamente ba ba buileng kana ba ba buisitseng mafoko a ke neng ke ba a beile pele. Ba ntsha dikgakololo tsa gore re ka dira jang go ya pele re le lefatshe, e bile ba lemoga botlhokwa jwa tirisanyo ya rona le mafatshe, le gore re tshwanetse re e tokafatse, lentswe la Botswana la utlwala kwa mafatshe a buisanang teng, ka go rarabolola dikgang tse di amang mafatshe.*

Ke ne ke solofetse gore *Honourable* Aaron o ka bo a le teng, ke utlwile maabane a re o a mpaakanyetsa. Ke re kana golo fale ke ne ke bua ka puo ya Sekgoa, jaanong go ne go sena jaaka o kare ke bua Sekgoa ke bo ke re "*personnel*." Go tshwana le fa ke re ke bua Sekgoa ke

bo ke re "*determined*," ke mafoko a a buiwang sentle fa o bua ka Sekgoa.

Ke supe gore *Honourable* Kapinga, ke lebogela thata mafoko a gago a o simolotseng ka one, o supa mathata a re leng mo go one. *The geopolitics, the turmoil and the retreat from multilateralism*, e e teng mo nakong ya gompieno. *The retreat from a rule based international order*. E le kgang e ke batlang go e gatelela gore fa go ntse jalo, go raya gore dilo ga di sa tlhole di tsamaya jaaka re ne re di tlwaetse. Moo go raya gore *it requires very skillful navigation around these issues. It is not easy for countries like ours, to make determination on how to proceed on issues that would have been very straightforward in the past. This skillful navigation e o neng o bua ka yone Honourable* Kapinga, ke eletsa gore gongwe re le batlotlegi mo Ntlong e re e lebelele, re e ele tlhoko thata fa re ntse re tlhalosa gore nnyaa, mme lefatshe la Botswana le ka dira jaana kana la se ka la dira jaana. Gone moo le tlhaloganye gore re a bo re ne re lebeletse tse tsotlhe, mme kwa bofelong jwa letsatsi, lefatshe lengwe le lengwe mo tirisanyong ya lone le mafatshe a sele, le supegediwa tselo ke selo se le sengwe fela, *that which is in the interest of this Republic*. Kwa bofelong jwa letsatsi, re tsaya ditshwetso re lebeletse gone moo.

O ne wa tlhalosa gape gore ke eng jaanong fa seemo sa itsholelo se ntse jaana, re bo re re re batla go oketsa *missions*. Ke batla go ikamanya le mafoko a a neng a buiwa ke *Honourable* Modise a gore, kana gore re bo re le mo seemong se se ntseng jaana sa itsholelo, re supile *under* NDP 12 le *our* Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) gore jaanong re batla go tswa mo kgorong ya itsholelo e e ikaegileng ka *Government expenditure*. Re batla go ya jaanong kwa go e e ikaegileng ka *private sector led growth*. Gone moo go raya gore re tshwanetse re netefatse gore bokete jwa madi a peeletso a a tswang kwa ntle, bo nna kwa godimo. Ke sone se re dumelang gore ka gore re lebeletse ka kelotlhoko mafatshe a re yang go bula kwa go one, ke gone kwa e leng gore mo nakong ya gompieno fa o lebeletse *capital flows*, o e fitlhela kwa mafatsheng a a tshwanang le ao. Ga go na sepe se sengwe gape se re neng re se lebeletse. Fa o lebeletse *the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and their positioning now in the global market, you will agree with us that the selection was indeed right and in line as I say with the NDP*.

Kgang ya gore re tshwanetse re lekanye e bile re lebelele batho ba gotweng *the career diplomats*, re e lebeletse thata. Se re ikaeleng go se dira kana se re simolotseng go se dira ke gore, *we have started what we call rationalisation of our embassies*. Re batla gore re lebelele *embassies* tsa rona, fa re lebeletse itsholelo ya lefatshe le le rileng, kwa lefatsheng leo *what is it that is unique to that country, to that economy that we can derive and leverage from our relations with that country? Therefore, even deployments will begin to follow that pattern to deploy people where we can derive optimum gain from their expertise*. Ke sone se re se lebileng mo nakong ya gompiano. Re lebeletse thata gore re tlhopho batho ba ba ka re emelang ka botswapelo. Ke dumela gore fa re lebeletse *appointments* tsa maloba tsa *ambassadors who were appointed, a lot of sentiments expressed even on social media were very positive, because those were professionals, Professors; people who know the subject matter; people who are distinguished in their career paths* ba re neng re ba tlhopho maloba.

Ke itumelela thata gore o ne o bua ka kgang ya *airbase*. Ke dumela gore e re tshwanetse rotlhe fa o le Motswana yo o ratang Botswana, fa o le moeteledipele yo o dumelang gore o tshwanetse ke go etelela lefatshe le pele, o tshwanetse o bue ka lentswe le le kwa godimo thata...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

DR BUTALE: Tsala ya me, ke kopa gore ke gane letsatsi leno fela.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nnyaa, mme ke go ema nokeng.

DR BUTALE: Ke gana letsatsi leno fela. Ke tshedile le wena thata, ke itse gore o batla go reng.

Airbase e Honourable Kapinga, re e lwetse e bile go na le bosupi jwa gore re tsile jang gore e nne teng, re bo re tla go letlelela gore batho ba re mare dipuo. Ke ne ke gakologetse kgantele lefoko le lengwe gatwe go ngaparisiwa lekape la motsotsojane, go bo go tswelala fela jalo. We have plans even from my ministry to also push back on this. We will be having Bi-National Commission (BNC) in the near future with South Africa where we intend to also utilise their presence in the

country. Southern African Development Community (SADC) also, we are doing that.

O ne o bua gape ka kgang e *Honourable Saleshando* a neng a bua ka yone, gore fa gongwe o kare re a didimala. Fa go lebelega o kare mafatshe mangwe a Africa ba fapaana le ditumelo tsa rona le tse re rileng re di emetse, e bile re dumela mo go tsona. Ke supe gore ga re fapoge mo goreng, re dumela thatathata mo tsamaisong ya puso ya batho ka batho. Re dumela gore go botlhokwa gore re tswelala re bue jalo re le lefatshe la Botswana, re supe gore fa batho ba tlhophile, go tshwanetse go obamelwe ka fa ba tlhophileng ka teng.

Re ne ra ikamanya le statement sa African Union (AU) le SADC on the elections in Tanzania, kwa re neng ra tlhalosa gone gore, mme fa go tlhaetseng teng, go tshwanetse ga baakanngwa. Gape re le lefatshe la Botswana ka gore we sit mo Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), we were seized with this matter at CMAG, at the Commonwealth level and we continue to voice. The difference is that perhaps it will be more comforting to you and other colleagues for us to utter these condemnations in the public, but we have indeed not missed an opportunity to engage with our colleagues on these issues aimed at entrenching democracy and democratic ideals.

Rre Segokgo, ke go lebogetse mafoko a gago a kemonokeng, le gore re tshwanetse ra netefatsa gore our foreign policy thrust e amana, e bile e tsamaelana le NDP 12 le Transformation Programme. Ke supe gore our leaning more towards economic diplomacy and placing emphasis on it, is precisely informed by this alignment.

Ke itumelele gape gore o ne o tlhalosa gore, re netefatse gore le batho that we are deploying jalo jaaka ke ntse ke tlhalosa, kwa bofelong jwa letsatsi this rationalisation ya missions and targeted deployments e a go re thusa gore re tsamaisane le kgakololo ya gago.

O ne o bua gore re dirise embassies kana missions tsa rona go leka go batlela bana ba rona ditiro. As I said in the past and I want to say it now, in the ministry, one of the reforms we are bringing and we are almost there with them, these two ke gore, we are introducing an Economic Diplomacy Unit, which will be playing a coordinating role, go leka go netefatsa gore fa re ntse re

tabogile kwa missions re netefatse gore go na le follow-ups and implementation of whatever leads that we may have. We are also working on a Candidature Unit, e e tlaabong e lebeletse gone mo o neng o go bua. Se re se itemogetseng ke gore, ga go thuse gore re thulane le opportunities, mafatshe they plan. Ke gore they plan gore, in three, four years time go ya go nna le phatlha ya go nna jaana kwa organisation ya gore, and they plan ahead and prepare candidates ahead. So, we intend to also be very meticulous, focused and systematic in our approach in that regard. We also intend to maximise and leverage on our relations. Ke dumalana le wena gore re tle re nne le quantifiable and verifiable outputs tse re ka di bayang fa pele.

O ne o bua ka kgang ya gore, predictability of our foreign policy position and posture and stance, and as I said, we will have a Foreign Policy Pitso mo nakong e khutshwane. E re tlaabong re ile go lebelela a codified foreign policy, e ke dumelang gore rotlhe re tla e lebelela, re bo re dumalana gore does it represent our way forward as a country.

Honourable Ntsima, o ne o tlhalosa le wena ka kemonokeng. Ke leboge gone fa, ke leboge Matona a ke berekang le bone. Ke ba lebogetse gone gore re bo re bereka mmogo re tshwaragane, because I think one of distinguishing factors that will distinguish us from any other Cabinet that would have existed ke gore re bo re kgona go ka bereka mmogo and collaborate. I want to thank Honourable Ntsima le ba bangwe ba ba akgetseng, le the rest of the Cabinet. Ke tlhalose gore ke itumelela mafoko a o neng o a tlhalosa o bua gore, the GCC is very strategic and it is a trade and financial hub, ke mafoko a nnete a supang gore re ne re lebeletse eng fa re re batla go bula embassies gone koo. Ke leboge mafoko ao. O ne o tlhalosa gape gone gore, re gatelele mo go reng re ka tokafatsa jang tirisanyo ya rona le mafatshe, ke go lebogetse gore re e tshwere ka tsela eo.

Rre Kelebeng, o ne o bua gore re nne le a codified foreign policy e ke buileng gore we would be holding a Foreign Policy Pitso. O ne o bua gape ka Foreign Service Act, which is something that we are looking at and is at an advanced stage. Gape le wena o ne o bua ka Economic Diplomacy and its significance, o gatelela gore go bothokwa go oketsa kana expand our footprints, o bua gore le makgotla a mangwe a a tshwanang le bo

BRICS re se ka ra a tshabela kgakala go ka tsena kwa go one kana go bona gore re ka dirisana le one ka tsela e ntseng jang.

Rre Honourable Mokgwathi Domcaza; le wena o ne o tsentse lesson e e siameng ya gore re tlhaloganye ka fa tirisanyo ya mafatshe e tsamayang ka teng. Le ka fa re tshwanetseng go netefatsa gore at the end of the day, ga go na sepe se sengwe se se re kaelang fa e se fela the interest of the nation. O bua gore no permanent enemies, no permanent friends.

Ya airbase le yone o e gateletse thata, ke itumelela gore batlotlegi ba ne ba tshwere kgang e sentle, go supa gore re dumalana re le moonoo o le mongwefela.

Honourable Kekgonegile; o ne o re o ne o solofetse gore there is clarity on our Foreign Policy Posture, there is clarity, clear. I said it here that, our Foreign Policy Posture and our overarching guiding light will be human rights. We have adopted a human rights centric approach to foreign policy, there is no confusion at all and I really wished that Honourable Kekgonegile would have listened attentively to the lecture given by Honourable Ambassador Kapinga, because you gave a lecture that highlighted the geo-political tensions and needs, and I repeat, the need for skills for navigation around these complexities.

O ne o bua gape ka kgang ya Western Sahara, Botswana's position on Western Sahara is known, we have always insisted on the territorial integrity for Western Sahara. We have voted very consistently on this matter, there is no confusion at all.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Clarification. On Western Sahara ke ne ke re gongwe o tlhalosetse setšhaba...*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Ee, o a e inela jaanong Gobotswang.*

DR GOBOTSWANG: *Sorry Madam Speaker.*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Continue.*

DR GOBOTSWANG: *Tanki. Go tla jang gore Morocco le Western Sahara e bo e le gore they share forums tsa AU le organisations tsa rona? A ko o tlhalose golo foo honourable.*

DR BUTALE: Thank you Honourable Gobotswang. *Kgang e ya Western Sahara and the conflicts between Western Sahara le Morocco, gongwe le yone e batla nako ya gore re tle re e tlhalose. Kana you would know that there have been efforts tsa gore e rarabololwe, ba bangwe ba rile, nnyaa, let us have a Referendum in Western Sahara to determine whether batho ba Western Sahara ba batla go nna part of Morocco or want self determination as they have been in existence as a country. Se re se itseng ke gore, Western Sahara ke member wa African Union and Morocco le yone ke member wa African Union and we are seized with the matter to try and find a lasting solution on this matter. Ke dumela gore gongwe kwa bofelong jwa letsatsi... ka gore maloba when I met both teams at the AU, it sounded like at least now more than ever, there could be a solution in sight but we are hopeful, we remain hopeful.*

Go na le kgang ya gore ke eng re ne re tlhopha to abstain on the matter ya Russia-Ukraine war le an issue ya abduction of children, again, skilful navigation. We considered this matter and I wish I could be as open and as free to speak about all the discussions that we had. We looked at this issue and the text itself and, in the end, we decided that in line with non-alignment and our position of not taking any side but taking the side of peace, we abstained from this matter. I understand those who say we should have chosen children, I say that where we were sitting, looking at all the variables and particular text that was presented, we found ourselves with no option but to abstain.

Kgang ya appointments le yone ke tlhalose gore ke uthwa dikgakololo tsa batlotlegi. Motlotlegi o ne a bua gore go nne le Affirmative Action, go lebelelwe batho ba bangwe ba merafe e mengwe le ba e leng gore they could be from disadvantaged groups.

Go builwe gape le gore re prioritise some projects that could be high impact. We got that counsel, we will consider issue e.

E ke batlang go fapaana thata le Motlotlegi Rre Kekgonegile ka yone ke gore o ne a bua so dismissively about our choice of the GCC and he was even saying fa re re we want to be present where capital flows, does it mean that indeed kwa bo Oman go na le capital nngwe that flows koo? Ke re gongwe motlotlegi a ye go

balanyana go se kae, o tlaa itse gore indeed Oman and the GCC in totality ke the financial and trade hubs now. If you look at Oman in particular, the Oman Free Trade Agreement e ba nang le yone le America has made it a very attractive place for investors. Fa o lebeletse dipalo, o a bona gore United Kingdom (UK) invested over 35 billion in 2024 in Oman alone. This means that indeed le fa motlotlegi a ne a batla to dismiss, we are right on this one.

Minister Tshere, re go lebogela gore o bo o ne o re eme nokeng, o eme Tshutiso e nokeng. Re lebogela collaboration between our two ministries and the way you are holding fort kwa lephateng la gago and how you are able to leverage on our efforts kwa Ministry for International Relations. We thank you very much le fa bakaulengwe ba ne ba sa dumalane fa o bua ka fa ke lebegang ka teng fa ke le kwa ntle.

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

DR BUTALE: *Ba ne o kare ga ba dumalane mme ke belaela gore o ne o se kgakala le boammaaruri.*

Honourable General Mokgware also gave a lecture on the complexities of international politics and how we can optimally utilise our position and uniqueness as a country to our advantage. He also spoke about diaspora contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the need for us to also get into teaching international languages.

Motlotlegi Morolong le wena ke go leboege comrade. O ne o bua ka the situation mo SADC. Re dumela gore SADC e bo e na le ledula yotlhe, ke selo se se bothokwa thata e bile re dumela gore re tshwanetse re le Botswana ra tsenya letsogo mo go netefatseng gore seo se a diragala. O ne gape o bua ka peaceful resolution or silencing of the guns as you put it, re dumalana thatathata le wena. O ne o bua ka gore repatriation ya Batswana fa ba le kwa ntle fa gongwe e a diega, e nna dingalonyana. Dilo tse fa gongwe kana di amana le dilo tsa bo budget jalojalo mme we try our level best to make sure that we facilitate that. O ne o bua gore a go ka nna le insurance e e ka thusang, ke tsaya gore ke mogopolo o re o amogetseng o re o tsereng.

O ne o bua ka kgang ya ngwana wa rona yo o kwa Bangladesh, ke tlhalose gore mo nakong e e fetileng ke ne ka tlhalosa gore ke ne ka kopana le the Foreign

Relations Advisor of the interim Government *mme ra dumalana gore ke mo kwalele, ka mo kwalela*. Maloba *fa re le kwa* Commonwealth, I met with the new Minister of Foreign Affairs and we are discussing how we can go about on this issue and we remain very hopeful on finding a solution.

Honourable Saleshando, thanks for the support and understanding of the heightened geopolitics and the geopolitical tensions.

Issue *ya* human rights approach, we are very clear on that and I have explained that indeed this issue *ya* resolution, it was skilful navigation. It was not an easy one and we made all considerations. We understand the concerns though and we will continue to find more innovative ways.

Kgang e ya Russian Mission, the Government of Botswana has had plans...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable Minister*, mma re go gakolole nako.

DR BUTALE: *Ee, ke e lebile* Madam Chair. The Government of Botswana has had plans to establish a Mission in Russia, these plans *di ntse di le teng* in our plans for sometime now but we are indeed working on expanding. Whether Russia will be amongst the first ones or not, it is an issue that we are looking at but there have been plans *tsa gore re bule* a Mission in Russia and all facts point to a need for us to open an embassy.

Kgang ya go busa experienced members of diplomatic staff, we are still working on it and I will update as time goes on. I hope *tse dingwe ga ke na go kgona go tsena mo go tsone* because of time, but I will come and clarify the position of Government.

Kgang e ke neng ke bua ka yone ya ngwana wa rona yo o kwa Bangladesh, we know that there have been *dikgang tsa* speculations, let me confirm that she is alive and we are working on trying to find a solution. *Ke le leboge thata batlotlegi* for *kemonokeng ya lona*.

Madam Chair, I now move that the sum of Eight Hundred and Twenty-Three Million, Four Hundred and Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty Pula (P823,403,760), for Recurrent Expenditure and Twenty-Nine Million, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pula

(P29,250,000) for Development Expenditure be approved and stand part of the 2026/2027 Appropriation Bill (No. 1 of 2026) for Organisation 1500. I do submit Madam Chair.

MR MOALOSI: *Procedure*. I am sorry Madam Chairperson. Ka gore go a tlhophiwa, ke kopa gore Rre Ntsima a ye kwa setilong sa gagwe.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable* Ntsima, a ko o tswa ka koo.

Question put and **agreed to**.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: We are moving to the next chapter.

ORGANISATION 2400 - MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Members, please note that 2 hours 10 minutes have been given to this organisation and I shall call upon the Honourable Minister to reply to the debate at 17:30 today and the question will be put at 6 o'clock.

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE): Madam Chairperson, it is my pleasure and honour to present the ministry's budget estimates for the 2026/2027 financial year for consideration and approval by this Honourable House under the Organisation 2400 - Ministry of Communications and Innovation. Madam Chairperson, the ministry's 2026/2027 budget proposals are firmly focused on improving implementation, strengthening cost efficiency and ensuring value for money. In line with Government's belt-tightening measures and the current fiscal environment, the emphasis is not on expanding expenditure but emphasise on prioritisation, discipline and delivering measurable results with limited resources.

I therefore, Madam Chairperson, seek the committee's support to continue enhancing our digital infrastructure and in turn accelerate the Government digitalisation agenda, particularly the scaling up of digital public services to improve efficiency, curb corruption, reduce bureaucracy and enhance service delivery across Government. These efforts are complemented by

targeted investments in research, development and innovation, pursued through strategic partnerships with academic and research institutions, the private sector and our development partners. Madam Chairperson, the proposed estimates also support key flagship initiatives across Government, including the continued rollout of the Village Connectivity Programme, connecting Government offices, the Digital Identity (ID) and the National Retail Payment Switch System to mention but a few. These interventions are critical to enabling inclusive access to Government services, strengthening secure digital transactions and laying the foundation for a reliable and competitive digital economy.

Madam Chairperson, in line with the priorities and implementation focus of the 12th National Development Plan (NDP 12), I wish to present an update on key sectors mandated to my ministry, namely: Information and Communications Technology, Research and Development, Technology and Innovation, as well as Radiation Protection. These sectors are central to driving digital transformation, innovation-led growth and the safe application of advanced technologies.

PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Digital Transformation and Services Online

Madam Chairperson, the National Digital Transformation Agenda is advancing through the implementation of the Digital Services Act and the establishment of the Digital Services Authority (DSA) to modernise the public service delivery. The Act which commenced on 21st November 2025, provided a legal and policy framework for a digital-by-default Government, setting standards for digital services, system interoperability, secure services and governance across all ministries and agencies.

Madam Chairperson, the DSA will serve as a central body for coordinating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) investments and accelerate the rollout of priority e-services and shared national digital platforms, including secure information exchange and payment systems. This will support the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) by leveraging digital infrastructure to drive economic diversification, productivity and private sector growth.

The process of establishing the DSA is underway and is expected to be completed during the next financial year 2026/2027.

Madam Chairperson, my ministry continues to advance the Digital Transformation Agenda by strengthening the 1Gov-1Citizen platform as a secure, seamless gateway for public services. During the year under review, the platform was enhanced to improve reliability and interoperability and increase the number of accessible e-services from 33 to 52 and enabling services such as teacher registration, appointment scheduling and business facilitation to improve efficiency and convenience for citizens and businesses. Moreover, my ministry is advancing the nationwide deployment of a secure and reliable Software Defined-Wide Area Network (SD-WAN); a modern, software-managed approach that intelligently connects sites using the best available connections for faster, more reliable and cost-effective networking infrastructure. This initiative is significantly enhancing accessibility, reliability and performance of essential Government services, enabling their effective delivery to 600 prioritised sites targeted for rollout in the coming financial year. This strategic project builds unto and complements the strong foundation already established by the SmartBots Programme, further accelerating our inclusive digital transformation agenda for the benefit of all Batswana.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members will recall that 194 public-facing e-services developed last year were withheld due to technical challenges with the Government Accounting and Budgeting System (GABS). The redesigned payment platform is under procurement and will enable direct revenue collection to the Bank of Botswana, supported by investments in our data centre and leveraging from its capability, cybersecurity and digital identity systems to strengthen the reliability and security on online.

Operational Excellence

In pursuit of operational efficiency and effectiveness across Government, the ministry continues to expand and strengthen the Government Data Network (GDN) to ensure reliable connectivity to all Government institutions across the country. This ongoing expansion programme is aimed at extending secure and high-speed

network infrastructure to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), including those located in remote and previously underserved area.

Madam Chairperson, the expansion of the Government Data Network is critical to enabling seamless communication, efficient data exchange and the delivery of digital public services. By improving network coverage and capacity, Government is creating a reliable digital backbone that supports e-Government initiatives, enhances collaboration among public institutions and ensures that citizens across the country can benefit from the improved access to Government services. The continued investment in network infrastructure also strengthens cybersecurity posture, improves system performance and reduces operational inefficiencies associated with fragmented connectivity solutions.

Furthermore, Madam Chairperson, the ministry remains committed to enhancing the effectiveness, resilience and reliability of Government Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure and services, particularly the main Government hosting environment that supports a wide range of mission-critical applications and digital platforms. A key initiative in this regard is the migration of Government systems and services to the Delta Digital Data Centre (DDDC), an internationally accredited facility owned and operated by Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet), which commenced in November 2025. This initiative is also made possible by the Universal Service Access Fund (USAF).

Madam Chairperson, looking ahead, once the migration process to the DDDC has been fully concluded, Government intends to establish another internationally accredited data centre facility outside Gaborone as part of a long-term strategy to further strengthen national digital infrastructure resilience. This future facility will provide additional redundancy, enhance business continuity and the risks associated with concentration of critical infrastructure within a single geographic location.

Madam Chairperson, while notable progress has been achieved, challenges remain, including legacy system integration constraints, limited digital skills within some institutions, cybersecurity risks and connectivity gaps in underserved areas. To address these, the ministry is

accelerating migration to the new Data Centre, system modernisation, strengthening digital skills development, enhancing cybersecurity monitoring and expanding broadband connectivity.

Local Access Network Project

Madam Chairperson, in order to facilitate the Government's digitalisation efforts, the ministry has a supply-side initiative to provide high speed broadband internet. The Local Area Network Programme uses optical fibre to connect essential facilities, businesses and Government buildings to high-speed internet.

During the 2025/2026 financial year, the Local Area Network Project rolled out broadband internet connectivity in Ramotswa, Taung, Thamaga and Moshupa. The Ramotswa, Taung and Moshupa projects were completed at the end of January 2026 whilst Thamaga is envisioned to be completed in April 2026. These four projects have created employment opportunities for 136 people. Once these projects are complete, a total of 207 Government and Business premises will be added to the Local Access Network, resulting in expansion of the high-speed connectivity network. To date, a total of 13 456 essential facilities, Government and business premises have been connected to highspeed internet countrywide, under the Local Access Network Programme.

National Backbone Network Project

Madam Chairperson, the Takatokwane-Morwamosu Link was completed in March 2025. Meanwhile, the Oodi-Machaneng link is complete and has been active since 30th November 2024. However, there has been some delay in the procurement of a backup generators. I am happy to report that the generators have since been delivered and installation is ongoing. Completion is planned for end of March 2026.

A number of link projects are awaiting implementation and will provide protection on the national ring as well as services to villages along the routes. These are Sherwood -Zanzibar-Platjaan Route; Two Rivers-Khawa-Hukuntsi-Charles Hill Route; Metlojane-Jwaneng Link, Maitengwe-Mapoka-Ramokgwebana Link, Maitengwe-Manxotai-Nata Link, Tutume-Maitengwe Link, Gudigwa-Khwai and Nata-Gweta-

Motopi Link. However, these have been deferred due to budgetary constraints, with only Metlojane-Jwaneng and Sherwood-Zanzibar-Platjaan approved for implementation in the 2026/2027 financial year. Given the limited budget, the ministry will use the 2026/2027 budget provisions to finish the two national broadband projects that had started in 2025/2026 financial year.

Madam Chairperson, in addition to construction of links/routes, the ministry through BoFiNet, has upgraded some segments of the existing national broadband infrastructure network to enhance capacity and reliability of our network. The scope covers upgrading and replacement of obsolete network equipment (that is, the Internet Protocol (IP) Core and Internet Protocol (IP) Metro) or international internet gateways in Gaborone, Johannesburg and London commonly known as IP Core project, as well as upgrading of national nodes known as IP Metro in Gaborone and Francistown to enable them to speak and connect with our international systems that we have deployed. Internet traffic has since been migrated into these networks and final works are due to be completed by the end of this March.

International Connectivity

Madam Chairperson, with regards to the International Connectivity projects, the link connecting Johannesburg to Tlokweng was undertaken to deploy a high-capacity fibre connection from Johannesburg to Tlokweng Border Gate, enabling seamless interconnection with BoFiNet infrastructure in Botswana. The link was completed in July 2025, and commercial negotiations have commenced and are progressing well. This will pave the way for migration of traffic by March 2026. While interest remains to diversify the route *ya* Botswana-Zambia to access Mozambique via Zimbabwe and Botswana-Angola via Zambia, our current financial situation compels us to only prioritise those projects for which we can gain maximum value in the shortest time possible. This is why the focus is in completing the Tlokweng-Johannesburg Link.

Cybersecurity

Madam Chairperson, the Cybersecurity law was passed by this Parliament and it was enacted into law by the President in November 2025. However, we have not commenced it and we will be commencing it in this financial year.

Policy Posture

In order to establish a policy direction for the effective and efficient utilisation of radio frequencies and to revise the current National ICT Policy of 2007 to better support a digital economy, my ministry will engage with stakeholders to gather insights for the new policy. Additionally, we will conduct the necessary capacity-building activities.

I could go on in terms of Botswana Poso and the research and knowledge business. I am sure Honourable Members will see my report as I submitted the soft copy as you requested.

Research Collaborations and Partnerships

In light of the current fiscal position, my ministry continues to leverage partnerships to augment national resources. Continuous and active participation in the regional and international research partnership initiatives is of paramount importance. That is why I was supporting Honourable Phenyio Butale yesterday on these issues because of these collaborations.

By virtue of our participation in the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) and the Africa-Japan Collaborative Research (AJ CORE) Programmes, Botswana researchers are currently collaborating with researchers from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Japan, South Africa, Zambia, and Kenya undertaking 14 research projects in the areas of mineral beneficiation, clean energy, climate change, environmental sustainability and indigenous knowledge.

I want to go to BOTSAT-1, data commercialisation. As we are aware, March 15 was declared a National Space Day because of our launching. We are in the process of commercialising the data.

Let me go to the last one Madam Chair in view of time and move.

CONCLUSION

Madam Chairperson, this concludes my ministry's presentation for the 2026/2027 financial year's Recurrent and Development Budget proposals. I now move that the sum of Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Nine Hundred Pula (P949,920,900.00) for the Recurrent

Budget for Organisation 2400 be approved and stand part of the Schedule of the Appropriation (2026/2027) Bill No. 1 of 2026; and that the sum of Four Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pula (P473,200,000.00) for Development Budget for Organisation 2400 together with the Sub-Heads, be approved and stand part of those Estimates.

I submit Madam Chair, thank you very much.

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Members, the floor is open.

MR MOALOSI (NKANGE): *Ke a leboga Madam Chair. Ke go leboge Minister ka presentation ya gago e e feletseng mo tseleng. Kana fa o dira speech sa 60 paragraphs o bo o tla o bua tse 24 fela, ga go supe gore o kile wa practice tota gore o ya go bua ka eng. Your speech will fit the time that you are given.*

Ke tsene mo go yone Madam Speaker ke re re ne re le fa ka December re approve NDP 12 fa Minister wa Finance a bua gore total budget ya NDP 12 ke P388 billion. Ba bangwe re bo re bua gore this is a lofty and ambitious estimate gore re ka dirisa madi a a kanakana a e leng gore we never generated such kind of money in our fiscus. Fa re lebelela budget ya NDP 12 re bo re e compare le e e tlang ka Honourable Minister, re lemoga gore se re neng re se bua e ne e le nnete gore ba ne ba bua values fela tse ba di tsayang mo phefong, go sena nnete mo go tsona.

If we look at NDP 12 proposals, Minister o ne a bua gore they have P3.69 billion, a new funding for Research and Development. *Fa o lebelela budget ya 2025/26, ba re ba dirisitse only P9 million out of the P50 million. Budget ya gompiano, there is P213 million that is reserved for Research and Development out of the P3.69 billion. This is just less than 1 per cent of madi a ba a fileng Research and Development, ba dirisitse 0.07 per cent.*

Fa o lebelela P3.57 billion in NDP 12, that is for a new project for ICT, including widespread rollout of optical fiber and national backbone of local access networks, mo go 2026, ba re they have deferred those. Why did you come ka December o re o na le P3.57 billion that is obviously going to be divided among the financial years, mo financial year ya ntlha fela o sena go neelwa

NDP 12 o bo o palelwa ke go dira dilo tse o neng o re o a di dira? Potso e ka nna gore fa re ne re dira NDP 12, were we just joking if we cannot even do any project tse re neng re rile re ya go di dira?

Madam Chairperson, *mma ke tsene mo kgannyeng ya ditiro tsa ICT. Re ne re na le baeng maloba ba tlile go ngongorega tota ka gore ga ba hiriwe, they are just hired as interns. Fa ke ne ke respond last year, ke ne ka bolelela Minister gore there are so many opportunities that we can take advantage of to create jobs tsa ICT. Selo sa ntlha fela ke import substitution, why are we buying systems from outside? Why is the Ministry of Education spending P600 million go reka software kwa South Africa when we have graduates since 2010 from our top universities ba ntse kwa malwapeng ba sa bereke? Those are systems tse di teng mo Botswana, di ka dirwa ke Batswana mme we are continuously spending a lot of money outside.*

Why are we keeping our kids ba bereka e le interns re sa ba hire go bereka ditiro tse ba di ithutetseng? There are so many vacant positions in all our institutions tsa batho ba Information Technology (IT). Tutume District with its population ya over 55, 000 people e na le batho ba IT ba le bararo fela. Kana ke raya supervisor le batho ba babedi mme ba lebeletse the whole district ya Tutume e e nang le primary schools tse 40 le clinics tse 33. There are so many vacancies mo junior schools mo e leng gore motho fa a hirilwe e le teacher a tshwanetse go ruta ICT, le mmerekisa gape e le ene yo o baakanyang computers fa di sule. That is a job that you can give to somebody to do.

Kgang e nngwe e e utlwisang botlhoko, kana kwa ga Goromente mongwe le mongwe o hirwa fela gotwe ke system analyst as if you guys do know what a system analyst is. A system analyst is an IT professional who bridges business needs and technology by analyzing, designing and implementing information systems. Jaanong motho yo o hiretsweng network o hirwa mo structure gatwe ke system analyst 1 or 2, that is not true and not correct. There are so many jobs tse di ka dirwang mo IT.

If you look at software development and application development, you can have software engineers. Do you have positions for software engineers *kwa ga Goromente?* No. Programmers, work developers,

mobile App developers and system analysts. If you look at infrastructure and network management, we have network engineers, system administrators, network technicians, cloud architects and telecommunication officers. These are people *ba ba tshwanetseng go hirwa ka dithutego tsa bone, go se ka gatwe mongwe le mongwe fela yo o dirileng ICT ke system analyst.*

We have database administrators, data analysts, business intelligence developers and information management officers. These are people *ba ba tshwanetseng go hirwa ka fa ba ithutetseng ka teng, go se ka gatwe mongwe le mongwe fela ke system analyst.*

Madam Chair, we are talking about cybersecurity, do we have cybersecurity analyst, IT auditors, security architects and compliance officers *mo ga Goromente?* No, *mongwe le mongwe ke system analyst 1, 2 or 3,* which should be fixed so that we can unlock the jobs that are there in the IT industry.

We have to insist strategy, management and support. We need to have chief information officers, IT projects managers, IT officers, quality analysts and IT procurement officers. Procurement *ya IT e tshwanetse go dirwa ke IT procurement officers. Go se ka ga tsewa motho fela ka gore o dirile* course *ya procurement go bo gotwe o procure dilo tsa ICT a sa itse gore o bua ka ga eng.* I will give you an example *gore fa go na le* that knowledge gap *go diragala eng,* there was a tender at your ministry, NCF, *e tswetswe ka di 12 tsa ga* February 2026, Webex licence was being renewed. If you go in the internet and find out *gore Webex e cost bokae,* a 50 user licence *ya Webex e cost P97, 000 ka ngwaga.* Tendering companies *tse 80* that submitted, di range *bo P5 million or P6 million, e nngwe ya re P249 million for Webex licence. Corruption e simolola kwa Department of Information Technology (DIT). Ke gone kwa corruption e leng ntsi teng e bile e a tsamaya o kare sonja, ke gore o a e bona fela e tsamaya. Ke kopa gore o baakanye DIT, go emisiwe gore go tlaa outsource sengwe le sengwe. Ke gore le printer e senyegile ke tender, e motho o tsayang print a ya to replace a roller a bo a tla a charge Goromente P10, 000.00. Let us try to fix and insource, fa e le gore security officers will be insourced, let us insource ICT officers. Printers tse ba ka di baakanya, they can fix those.*

Mo gongwe fa ke fetsa *Madam Chairperson,* kana madi a a Tona a a kopang a, o a kopela le *parastatals* tse di ka fa tlase ga gagwe. Dingwe tsa tsone di ya go dira ditiro. *The major budget ke ya backbone and fibre networks,* di ya go dirwa ke *parastatals* tse di kwa tlase ga gagwe. Jaanong gongwe re lebelele gore a mme mo *parastatals* fa go hiriwa babereki le baeteledipele, *what do you look at.* Go na le golo mo gotweng *“fit and proper.” When you are hiring especially the level of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), somebody should be fit and proper. Fit and proper go tewa gotwe the CEO must demonstrate a moral compass that aligns with the organizational values. Probe it, a history of fair dealing and transparency, any evidence of deceit even in private business dealings...(Interruptions)...*

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

(MR MOSWAANE): *Point of order. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.* Ke sale morago pego e e sa tswang go tswa ka rraetsho Mopalamente yo o mo polelong mo nakong ya gompiano. O bua ka kgang ya gore go na le *tenders* tse madi a tsone di ka *cost P97, 000.00,* mme a re mo nakong ya gompiano dikompone tseo di batla *tenders* di dirisa *P5 million le P240 million.* Ke sa mo nyatse, ke eng a sa ntshe bosupi mo Palamenteng e, *because allegations* ka botsone fela fa di ka se ka tsa *prove* gore di na le boammaaruri di ka tsenya Batswana mo tsebetsebeng. *In the best interest of this nation,* fa go begwa mo Palamenteng lefoko la Mopalamente le na le *weight.* A o ka ntsha bosupi ka *corruption* ya teng. Ke ka fa ke kopang ka teng, ga ke mo nyatse, ka re gore Ntlo e e tle e nne le botshelo le mafoko a a tlhomamisegang. *Thank you so much.*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable Moswaane,* ke *debating line* ya gagwe. Ga o dumalane le ene, ga se gore o tshwanetse gore a ntshe masupi ka *debate.*

MR MOALOSI: O batla gore a nketshe mo *point* e ke e buang gore, fa le hira bo CEOs le hire batho ba ba nang le boleng, ba ba iseng ba ko ba dire sepe. Go na le *organisation* nngwe e e kwa tlase ga ga Tona, e CEO wa teng o ne a tlhotlhomisiwa ka go reka a *Degree from a Diploma,* a bo a ipitsa *doctor.* Ke gore a sa dira *thesis,* a sa kwala *exam,* a sa tsena sekole, a sa *defend,* a bo a ipitsa *doctor.* Jaanong fa le hira motho yo o ntseng jalo, la re setšhaba se reng?

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE): Point of order. Madam Chairperson, he is imputing improper motive on a member of the public who is not here to answer for himself. I think he should withdraw those remarks. There is only one CEO at Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet). Who are you fooling, please let us be very very... *Maloba gakere ke ne ke kgalemelelwa kgang ya ga Dr Saleshando, jaanong o batla gore o tsamaye ka line eo gape. O batla re bua gakere?*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Nnyaa, *Honourable* Tshere, ga a a bua a re BoFiNet.

MR MOALOSI: Ke a leboga *Madam Chairperson*. Bob Marley o na le pina e nngwe a re, "*who the cap fits let them wear it.*" go raya gore kepele e a mo wela. Ka re fa le hira batho, *you should look at people who have integrity.* Fa *business people* ba tla ba *present* fa pele ga batho, ba dira *research* ba bona gore motho yo ga a na nnete, ga a na boleng *it is bad for the organisation and for the country.* I submit *Madam Chairperson*.

MR BAGAISAMANG: Ke a go leboga...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke ne ke kopile *procedure Madam*.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable* Moswaane, *procedure* e o e batlang motho wa teng o fetile.

MR MOSWAANE: Nnyaa, *procedure* go tewa gotwe Ntlo ga e mo tseleng.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Ee, e bue Ntlo e e seng mo tseleng.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (MR MOSWAANE): *Procedure. Madam Chairperson,* ke utlwa o dira *ruling* gore rre fa ke *line of debate,* but fa a dira *serious allegations of corruption* fa ke rialo re tshwanetse gore re ipotse gore *is he alleging or is he confirming.* Ka fa a dirang ka teng ga se *allegation, he is confirming,* o bua *as if he has got evidence to that.* Kana fa o bua ka *corruption,* Batswana mo *television* ba tsenwa ke tsebetsebe, ba batla ditlhaloso tsa gore a mme go buiwa boammaaruri. *I respect your ruling.* Maloba ke ne ke na le *line of debate,* go tulwe ke tlise bosupi.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Nnyaa, *Honourable* Moswaane, se tshwantshanye dilo tse di sa tshwaneng. O fetile ka kgang e o neng o e bua. *Honourable* Bagaisamang, *debate.*

MR BAGAISAMANG (SHOSHONG): Ke a go leboga *Madam Chairperson.* Mma la ntlha ke supe gore ke go ema nokeng Tona Rraetsho Tshere, ka kopo ya madi e o e beileng Ntlo e pele. Go na le *tendency* e nngwe e e teng mo Ntlong e *Madam Chairperson,* I think you need to *safeguard the integrity of this House.* Go na le tsamaiso ya gore Batlotlegi Mapalamente ba tlaabo ba tla go bua ba tswa mo tseleng, e bile *imputing some improper motives* mo bathong ba ba seyong fa, ba bo ba re go tlaa tla gotwe *is their line of debate. This thing must be called to order; otherwise,* go ya go nna jaaka o kare ke gone ka fa Palamente e tsamayang ka teng. Ga go a tshwanela gore go nne jalo.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (MR SALESHANDO): Point of order. Madam Chairperson, *kana* you made a ruling on this issue. *Le fa o* debate, you cannot then challenge what the Speaker's ruling is, *o re ga go a siama gore go bo gotwe motho ke* line of debate. The Standing Orders are clear, the ruling is final *le fa o sa dumalane le yone.*

MR BAGAISAMANG: *Madam Chairperson,* ke tsaya gore go na le tsamaiso e nngwe e go tlaa reng... ke emela fa go baakanya dilo. Ke motho yo ke nnang ke didimetse, mme ke lemoga o kare bakaulengwe ba lebala gore Palamente e lebelelwa ke bana le setšhaba, e bile ba tla fa go bona gore re tsaya tiro ya rona ka tlhwaafalo go le kae. Fa gongwe ga re ke tseye nako ya batho ba Shoshong, ke tle go baakanya dilo tse, ke bo ke kgaleme jaaka motho yo o nang le boikarabelo jo bo fa godimo, yo o tsayang le tiro ka tlhwaafalo. *It is my line of debate Honourable* Saleshando, go batla o ntheetsa ka tlhwaafalo a bo o tseye mofago.

Ke tsene mo dikgannyeng tsa gago Rre Tshere, o ne o bua ka *strengthening the 1Gov-1Citizen platform,* e e mo *paragraph 8 and connecting Government offices.* Ke supe gore rraetsho, go botlhokwa gore mohama o wa gago o wa ICT, re tlhomamise gore jaaka o bua jaana, o a atologa o bo o ela kwa dikgaolong tse di kgakala le ditlamelo kana tse maDomkrag ba neng ba re ke tsa kwa tennyanateng. Fa ke buelela dikgaolo tse di tshwanang le tsa Mokgenene, Poloka, Moralane le Otse tse gompiano

jaaka o itse jaana, maphata otlhe a Puso a isa ditlamelo ka *e-services*, mme teng koo jaaka re bua jaana, ga go na ditlamelo le fa e le tsa SmartBots. Ke fano ke kopela batho ba dikgaolo tseo *extension of SmartBots Services*, gore le bone ba tle ba akofe ba bone ditlamelo ka bonako, di goroge kwa go bone.

Go na le lenaneo le le tswelletseng la 'Bula Buka', la *ministry* wa ga Mma Mokoka, ga ba kgone gore ba bone tshiamelo. Go bile ga tswalwa ka di 11, e le gore ba santse ba kopa batho ba dikgaolo tse dingwe ka gore ga go na *platform* ya maranyane a *network provider* a a teng. Jaanong golo mo jaaka gompiano re le mo *the Fourth Industrial Revolution*, re batla gore sengwe le sengwe se dirwe ka bofefo, a ditlamelo tsa ICT di goroge gongwe le gongwe le kwa dikgaolong tse di tshwanang le tse ke ntseng ke bua ka tsone.

Postal development; mma ke go leboge rraetsho gore ke ne ke le fa mo puong ya me ya ntlha ke bua ka lephata la gago mo ngwageng o o fetileng. O ne wa akofa wa supa gore le tlaa re tsisetsa poso, mme ke leboege gore *it is under construction as we speak* kwa motseng wa Mokgenene. Ke na le motse o mongwe o o kwa ntle, ke dumela gore poso ya Mokgenene fa e nna teng e tlaa tla e thusa *backline* e e ka kwano, e tlaa thusa Dibete, Poloka, Mokgenene le Otse. Mo gongwe re kope e nngwe e e ka yang go nna kwa *the western part* kwa motseng wa Moralane, batho ba ba thusiwang ke poso ya Shoshong, gongwe ya Moralane e tle e thuse Shoshong, Kodibeleng, le metse e e mabapi. Re bo re fokoletsa poso ya Shoshong mokgweleo o e nang le one. Ka kwa go rona ditlamelo tsa poso di bothokwa thata, ke sone se re santseng re tlaa tla re ntse re tla re khubama kwa go wena rra gore, re haugele, le bone gore le re thusa ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Poso gompiano ke yone e go dirwang sengwe le sengwe mo go yone. Le mananeo otlhe a mangwe a Puso go dirisiwa poso, go duela bagodi, go amogedisa batho ba Ipelegeng ka tsela e e ntseng jalo.

Kwa bofelong rra ke re, mohama wa gago o o isang ditlamelo kwa, go na le *network providers who fall under here*. Go na le batho ba bo Orange, Mascom le BeMobile. Ga ba yo kwa dikgaolong tsa me ka bontsi, kwa Moralane gompiano go tshwara *network* ya Mascom fela, mme re lekile go kokota kwa go bone. A go bonwe gore go nna le Orange le BeMobile. Kwa Mokgenene

go tshwara Orange le BeMobile, Mascom ga e yo, mme e na le ditlamelo tse dintsi. Kwa Tobela; o ka bona gore Tobela *is 15 kilometres* go tswa mo Shoshong, go tshwara Mascom e le nosi, ga go na BeMobile le Orange ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Re ye le kwa go bone gore ditlamelo tsothle tse di tlang ka thulaganyo e, di kgone gore batho ba metse e le bone ba di akole, ba bone phitlhelelo ya tsone. Ke a go leboga Modulasetilo.

MR J. T. I. MODISE (KGALAGADI SOUTH): Ke a leboga *Madam Chair*. Ke re le nna ke tseye sebaka se go latlhela tlhware legonyana mo go ya *Communications and Innovation*. Ke simolole fela pele ka go bua gore *ministry* o o tshwere tiro e tona, e ke dumelang gore lefatshe gompiano le ikaegile mo boranyaneng (*technology*). Ke nngwe ya *ministries* tse e ka bong e re fa go kgonagala, re bo re re ke yone *mother of all ministries*, ka gore fa o lebelela kwa re yang teng *nowadays*, go raya gore *each and every ministry* e tlhoka boitseanape jwa maranyane gore bo bo bo le teng. Ke sengwe se ke neng ke re ke simolole pele ka sone Modulasetilo.

Ke bo ke tswelela ke re, ke lebogela thata go bona *rollout* ya *village connectivity programme* e re bonang e ntse e tsamaya le metse ya rona. Go bona metse ya rona maranyane a ntse a re latela ka bonya, ka bonya, le fa gantsi o fitlhela go tletse kwa dikoleng le kwa Dikgotleng. Kwa dikoleng re bona diterata di digwa ke gore batho ba ikaega ka tsone, mme gongwe se ke neng ke ka se kopa Tona ke gore, gongwe go nne le *expansion* ya *radius*, gore batho ba kgone go tshwara maranyane ao ba le kgakala. Gona le gore ba tle go ikaega mo diterateng tsa Dikgotla, dipatela le dikole. Gongwe ke sone se motho a ka se kopang mo go Tona seo.

Fa ke tswelitse ke fete ka SmartBots *programme* e ke tsayang gore ka fa re bonang ka teng e tlhoka gore Tona a boe a oketse *the technicians*, tse e leng gore gantsi fa maranyane a re a wa kwa Dikgotleng le koo, ba bo ba ntse ba le gaufi go leka go thusa go tsosa maranyane ao gore a kgone go bereka. Malatsi a sengwe le sengwe re beile mo maranyaneng, le dituelo malatsi a o bona motho a ntse a tsere *phone* a tobetsa e le dilo tsa maranyane. Jaanong fa maranyane a seyo, go raya gore batho bontsinyana re a bo re sa bone thuso gongwe e re e tlhokang, mme re tlhoka gore re ka dira jalo ka maranyane.

E nngwe e e tshwenyang gongwe re batla gore e emelwe ka dinao ke ya *cybercrime*, e e leng gore rona ba re seng sego e bile *phones* kana maranyane a rona *has been hacked* ke basimane ba e leng gore *they advanced in technology*. Ke re gongwe fa go ka tlhoafalelwa gore e re fa ke nna le *mobile phone, registration* ya gore ke kwadise mogala wa me e nne sengwe sa dilo tse di siameng. Ka gore ba bangwe fa ba letsa o kgona go bona mo mogaleng wa gago gore mme ke semangmang. Ba bangwe ba na le botsipa jwa gore go se ka ga supagala gore ke bomang. Ke tsone dirukutlhi tse re bonang o kare di a re senyeletsa. Ke tsaya gore gongwe fa e le gore molao ga o a baakannngwa foo, o baakannngwe, gore mongwe le mongwe yo o tsenang mo lefatsheng la rona fela fa a letsa, go bo go supagala gore ke mang, o kae, *information* e e ntseng jalo. Fa go sa nne jalo batho ba tlaa nna ba ntse ba itaya bagolo ba rona, ba tseelwa madi ke basimane ba ba nang le boitseanape jwa *technology*.

Fa ke ntse ke tswelotse ke tsamaela go ya kwa motsubong, ke re ya *international connectivity* e Tona a neng a supa ka yone gore re le Botswana re tshwanetse go golagana le bo Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia le bo Angola. Ke re selo se a se emele ka dinao, ka gore bontsi jwa rona Botswana re nna re tsamaya mo *those neighbouring countries*, gore magokaganyane a maranyane a tlaabo a le teng kwa mafatsheng ao, gore re kgone go tswelodisa ditiro tsa rona re ntse re le kwa mafatsheng a a bapileng le lefatsheng la rona.

Kwa bofelong ke wele ka gore, re na le diemo tsa gore bagolo ke batho ba ba ikanyang go reetsa seromamowa sa Botswana, mme fa o tsamaela kwa dikgaolong tsa Kgalagadi Borwa, o ya go fitlhela e le gore go na le mafelo a e leng gore gotlhelele ga re kgone go tshwara Radio Botswana le bo monnawe bo RB2. Ke re gongwe ke sone se ke neng ke ka se kopa mo go Motlotlegi Tona gore a kgone gore a re thuse jalo. Ke re ka moo *Madam Chairperson*, ke ema *Minister* nokeng mo kopong ya gagwe. *Thank you.*

MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

(DR BUTALE): Ke a go leboga Modulasetilo. Ke go lebogela sebaka se, e bile gape ke leboge Tona gore a bo a re beile Tshutiso e pele le *Budget* ya gagwe. Bagaetsho, fa re lebeletse maikaelelo a Puso e a go fetola kana *transformation*, re tshwanetse re tlhaloganye gore maranyane *is the bedrock, is foundational to*

our efforts to transform our economy, how we take services to our people, to transform the efficiency of Government services tse re di fang Botswana. Ke re ke go leboge Rre Tshere gore o bo o tshwere tiro e sentle. Ke leboge gape gore o ne wa lemoga botlhokwa jwa gore re ikamanye le Makgotla a a ikemetseng, kana mo gotweng *international development partners*, gore re tle re kgone go fitlhelela maikaelelo a rona, le go dirisanya le mafatshe a re bapileng le one.

Ke ne ke batla gore ke tlhalose ke gatelele gore, kana *this Budget we must understand it to be a signal to the world. This is Botswana's economic signal to the world.* Re raya babeleletsi, re raya *the rating agencies, international partners* gore, e-e re batla gore jaanong re tsamaele kwa go reng re dirise maranyane le go tlhabologa ga one, gore re tlhabolole itsholelo ya rona. Re tlhabolole ka fa re gokaganyang ditirelo tsa rona le Botswana ka teng. O dirile fela jalo mo puong ya gago, o tlhalositse maikaelelo a rona, e bile ke itumelela the *clarity of thought* e e leng gore e teng.

Fa re bua le ba *development partners* ba re akgolela thatathata *the Economic Transformation Programme* gore fa ba tsamaya mo mafatsheng a mangwe ga ba bone mo go tshwanang le mo e leng gore Goromente o *clear* gore *projects* ke tse, *priorities* ke tse. Ke go lebogela gore o bo o buile kgang e. O buile ka *being digital by default*. Go ntlhalosetsa go nthaya gore o lemoga botlhokwa, gore *this is the future and we need to move in that direction*. E bile kana nna le wena re ntse re le mo dipuisanyong le ba mafatshe a mangwe le *development partners* gore re lebelele gore kgang e ya Artificial Intelligence (AI) re ka e dirisa ka tsela e e ntseng jang *in a progressive manner, in aid of this transformation programme*. E bile re gatetse pele, re setse re bua ka bo *sovereign AI*, gore *how do we deploy AI* ya rona mono e e tlaabong e tsamaisanya le ka fa re dirang dilo ka teng. Nna rra ke batla gore ke go rotloetse thatathata gore o tsamaele gone koo. Le dikgang tsa bo *digital Identity Document (ID), village connectivity* jalo gore di botlhokwa.

Ke re mo Kgaolong ya Gaborone Central, selelo se se tona Rre Tshere ke gone gore lenaneo le la SmartBots le botlhokwa. Mme go a bonala gore *in Government institutions*, mo dikoleng...ke ne ke etetse *clinics* tsa Gaborone Central maloba, kwa *clinic* ya Maruapula

ba re ba na le dingwaga e sa bereke. E bile ba ne ba thusiwa ke a *private contractor* yo o neng a ba duelela *private connectivity*, mme jaanong o setse a emisitse. Go raya gore jaanong seemo seo o se itlhaganelele, le mo dikoleng seemo se se teng. Kana *connectivity* yone e e ka thusa, e ka tokafala. Fa o ka ya kwa dikoleng tsa rona, bo Gaborone Senior Secondary School (GSS), bo Boikhutso le tse dingwe, o tlaa fitlhela e le gore *there is no computer laboratory*, jaanong bana ba ya go di dirisa kana ba ya go ithuta kwa kae?

Gape se sengwe se se bothokwa gore re se gatelele ke gone gore, kana fa re na le *fast, reliable network*, re bo re fokotsa mo gotweng *downtime*, go raya gore jaanong *investor* fa a tsena o a itse gore sengwe le sengwe se tlaabo se tsamaya ka thelelo.

Ke lemoge e bile ke *resist* mo ke bonang e le gore jaanong e setse e le tsela, e le selo se se diragalang letsatsi le letsatsi. Fa o tshwanetse go reetsa gore motho a re fa e le gore selo ga se a siama, go siame eng, o a bua a bo a ya go nna fa fatshe e le gore ga a bua le fa e le gore ene mme mogopolo ke ofe. Jaanong go bo go sa thuse sepe gore o ne a emeletse eng, o ne a buela eng. Se se bothokwa ke gore fa o emelela, e bile o tshwana le Moalosi o re *you are the expert of software*, o tshwanetse o re bolelele gore *how do we then move forward*.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure! Madam Chair.

DR BUTALE: Ke sone se re tshwanetseng re tswelele ka sone. *I support this budget.*

MR MOALOSI: *Procedure. Honourable* fale go raya gore o ne a sa ntheetsa, ke itse gore ke ne ke bua Setswana, ene ke Motebele, ga a itse Setswana sentle. Ke ne ke bua sentle gore go ka hirwa sentle...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Ga a na* access to him, there is no procedure there.

MR MOALOSI: ...ke gore ga a ka ke a emelela a bo a re ga ke a bua sepe, go raya gore o ne a sa reetsa. O mo kope gore a se ka a nna a robala mo Palamenteng ka gore batho ba Gaborone Central ga ba a mo tlhophela gore a tle go robala, ba mo tlhophetse gore a tle go reetsa a bo a *debate* a tsentse mowa mo naming, a sa bue ditsiabadimo. Ke a leboga.

MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (DR BUTALE): *Procedure.* Ke ne ke sa robala, fa o ka bona motho a re *ke expert* ya ICT, fa a tshwanetse gore a bue le rona gore re tlhabolole itsholelo, bana ba ICT ba dire ditiro ba se ka ba lebelela gore ba ye go hirwa, a bo a santse a le kwa go reng bana ba hirwe, go supa fela gore o santse a le kwa morago, ga re tlhoke dikakanyo tse di kwa morago jalo, re a tswelela.

MR KEKGONEGILE: *Procedure. Madam Chairperson,* ke gore *until and unless* o tsaya kgato, *every time you preside*, Palamente e tle go diragala fela jalo. *Honourable* wa Shoshong ga a ka ke a tshuba *microphone* a bo a bua fela o sa mo supa, a bo o bona go siame fela o sa tseye kgato.

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nnyaa, *Madam Chair,* ke kopa tshireletso ya gago. Ke nna fela motho yo o tswang kwa Shoshong, *so* ga ke ise a bo ke tshube *microphone*, Rre Kekgonegile a a bue le batho ba sele...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable* Bagaisamang, nna fa fatshe.

MR BAGAISAMANG: Ga ke batle go tla go senngwa leina fa, ga ke ise ke tshube *microphone* *Madam Chairperson.*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Nna fa fatshe, ga ke a go supa.

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable Members,* a ko le itseye jaaka batsadi fela. Ke gore ga ke itse gore a ke tshwanetse gore nako le nako ke bo ke gogagogana le lona. A ko le direng fela tse le tshwanetseng gore le di dire. Ke tlaa e tsaya e e tla ba gakgamatsang nako nngwe.

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: O feditse *Honourable* Butale?

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR MOTSAMAI): Ke a go leboga *Madam Speaker.* Mma ke tsene fela ka bonako mo pegong e, ke supe fa ke e eme nokeng ka gore batho

ba kgaolo ya Charles Hill ba a sotlega Rre Tshere mo kgannyeng ya *network*, ditlhaeletsanyo, *radio*, sengwe le sengwe se o ka se akanyang.

Fa o tsena mo dipolaseng, o fitlhela go le beng ba dipolase, badisa, le bape ba ba leng mo teng, ba a ne e sale ba ya go utlwela lesa thateng go setse e bile go bolokilwe, ga ba ga sementelwa. Jaanong ke kgang ya gore go isa dikitsiso kana ditlhaeletsanyo kwa bathong, ga se *favor*; ke thulaganyo e e tshwanetseng gore Goromente mongwe le mongwe a nne le yone.

Go na le ba e reng ke bua jaana ba bo ba re kana ke wena Goromente, jaanong wa reng? Ke tsaya gore ke na le tshwanelo e e papametseng gore fa ke tla ke gata *step* ke bona ke sa gate sentle, ke gate sentle *Madam Chairperson*, ke se ka ka gata fela ka gore *step* seo le sone ke *step*. Ke tshwanetse gore ke bue ka kgang ya *network* ya Trans Kalahari, go tswa mo Gaborone o tshotse tsela e ya A2 o ya kwa kgaolong ya Charles Hill, go mathata, ga go na *network*. Dikotsi fa di diragala, ga go na le fa e le *coverage*. Batho ba Modimo ba a sotlega thata fela, le fa o batla gore o itsise batho gore ke bonye kotsi, go thata. Matshelo a batho a felela foo.

Le tshwanetse la itse gore dikgaolo tsa rona di ne tsa tingwa ditlhabololo ka bomo ke Puso e e fetileng, ba dira jaana ba swelela go sena le fa e le... (*Interruptions*)... kgang e e leng gore ba ikepetse ka yone. Ba swelela tota lebaka le lelele re arametse mogote o o ntseng jaana *Madam Chairperson*.

MR PULE: *Point of order.* Nnyaa, tsala yame a ko a *debate* fela jaaka ke itse e le motho yo o itseng go bua, *because* go bua ka fa a buang ka teng, go gogomosa batho maikutlo. Ga e ka ke ya re in *such a respectable House* o bo o re Goromente yo o fetileng o ne a swelela batho, *no! that is not correct.* Fa a re a swelela batho, o raya Goromente a swelela batho ka eng se a sa se supang fa? Ke raya gore *it is not really correct*, ke go gogomosa maikutlo *Madam Chairperson*.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable* Motsamai, *debate* o tlhamaletse, o se ka wa kgotlhakgotlha ba bangwe.

MR MOTSAMAI: Mma ke tlhamalale *Madam Chairperson*.

Ke boe gape ke supe thata fela gore dikgaolo tse ke buang ka ga tsone tse, ke dikgaolo tse e leng *from* 1966

go tla go tsena gompiano, *barometer* ya go sekaseka lehuma go bona gore le remeletse kae, le gompiano le remeletse teng fela, ga le fetoge gotwe jaanong ga le yo kwa Charles Hill jaanong le mo Gaborone, jaanong le kwa Ramotswa, kana kwa boketeketete. Golo mo ke go swelela, go ka bo go sa bolo go baakanngwa me lebakeng le le kalokalo *Madam Chairperson* ka e bile diteemane di ne di rekwa sentle ka sebaka seo. Ke bua ke itheeditse.

Ke batla gore ke tsene mo kgannyeng ya diposo. Kwa kgaolong ya Charles Hill batho ba a sokola, a metsana e e leng gore ga go na diposo teng, go dirwe gore bogolo go nne le lenaneo la gore bagodi ba metse eo, banalebogole le ba bangwe ba ba ka tseelang madi mo diposong, go nne le *caravans* tse e leng gore gongwe ke tsa *temporary* Goromente a santse a batla madi gore batho ba amogelele foo. Go emeletsa batho kwa Karakubis o ba isa kwa Kalkfontein o re ba ya go amogela, fa gongwe fa ba amogela koo, re tshwanetse ra itse gore *it denies* le yone kgaolo ya Karakubis *opportunity* ya bareki. Batho ba dimausu tsa Karakubis ga ba akole. Batho ba Kole fa ba emeletswa ba ya Ncojane ba ya go tlhola koo, ba dira se ba se dirang, fa ba tsena kwa Kole, ba ya go kopana le bommadimausu ba ba kwa Kole ba kopa maitshwarelo jaanong gore madi a bone a tswa go senyegela kwa Ncojane. Kgang e ga e a siama. Ka dinako tsa dipula le diphefo batho ba a sotlega mo meleng ya poso.

Madam Chairperson, dikgaolo tsa rona, re na le mathata a *coverage of network*, fela jaaka o tswa mo motseng 500 metres ga go na *network* Rre Tshere.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure! *Madam Chair*.

MR MOTSAMAI: Ga go na *network*, re a kgetha, re dira sengwe le sengwe se Goromente a se batlang mo go rona, ga re itse gore mathata a dikgaolo tsa rona a tshwanetse gore a tle a rarabololwe leng. Ke batla Puso ya UDC e rarabolole bothata jo...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: There is a point of order.

MR MOTSAMAI: ...letsatsi le la lefifi le phirime teng *Madam Chairperson*.

MR PULE: *Procedure.* Ke ne ke kopa kgakololo ya gago Modulasetilo, gore naare fa *Minister* a busa, gompiano e bo e kete jaanong o kgala Puso ya gagwe,

is it really in order? Rona re tsaya gore gompieno o ka bo a tla ka *solutions*, jaanong go lebega a kgala ...*(Interruptions)*...ka gore o na le ngwaga otlhe a ntse a le mo setilong, ke eng a sa baakanye, gona le gore e bo e le gore gompieno re tlogetse *Minister* fela a kgala Puso e a leng mo go yone. Ke a leboga *Madam Chairperson*.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Nnyaa, mo tlogele fela a *debate* jaaka a batla *sir*.

MR MOTSAMAI: *Madam Chairperson*, ga ke kgale Puso, ke gakolola e ke leng mo go yone. Ke na le tshwanelo, Puso ga e ka ke ya gakologelwa sengwe le sengwe. E bile fa o bona gotwe re akgele mo pegong ya ga *Minister*, go tewa gore re mo neele dikgakololo. O na le 58 *years*, gompieno a re re setse re na le ngwaga re sa rarabolole mathata. O paletswe ke dikgang tse *for 58 years*, o tsile go mpoletela gore ke ka bo ke di rarabolotse ka nakwana yone e.

Madam Chairperson, tlaa ke wele ka kgang e ya gore mo dikgaolong tsa rona batho ba ba a sokola ...*(Interruptions)*... ya *network Madam Chairperson*.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: E go tshwere *honourable*.

MR MOTSAMAI: Tlaa ke nne fa fatshe.

DR GOBOTSWANG (TSWAPONG SOUTH): Ke a go leboga *Honourable Chairperson*. Modulasetilo, ke batla gore ke inakanye le *presentation* e e matsetseleko ya ga *Honourable* Moalosi ka gore e bile ke moitsaanape. Ke batla go tsena mo go reng e re re ntse re bua, re sekaseke popego ya Puso e e re busang gore re tlhaloganye mathata a mangwe a a neng a tlhalosiwa ke *Honourable* Moalosi. Ke batla go supa gore mathata a rona a matona ke gore le setse le na le ngwaga, e bile le mo ngwageng wa bobedi mme Puso ya UDC e lebega e thulathulega. Rre Pakanyane o ne a ka nna a re re buswa ke bommampudulele. Lebaka le letona ke gore ba kgonne go ntsha Domkrag, jaanong ba setse...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order Madam Chairperson.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Ke gore ba ntshitse Domkrag, ba bo ba tlogela seDomkrag se ntse fela jaaka se ntse, e le bothata jo bo tonatona jo re bo bonang. *Thank you*.

MR MOSWAANE: *Point of order. Thank you.* Ke ema kgalthanong le yo ke mo ratang thata malome wa me.

Ke ne ke re o kare lefoko le a reng jaanong o kare re buswa ke 'bommampudulele' *is unparliamentary*. Re a itse gore 'mmampudulele' re raya eng ka Setswana; motho yo o senang tlhaloganyo, yo o senang kwa a yang teng, yo o sa tlhaloganyeng mosepele. Lefoko le ga le a re lebana ka gore re itse fa Botswana Congress Party (BCP) gongwe e ne e ka nna yone mmampudulele yo o fetang bo mmampudulele.

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

MR MOSWAANE: Ke raya gore fa e ne e le gore go buiwa jalo, mme ga ke batle go e baya jalo. Ke ne ke re lefoko la teng ga le a siama. *Thank you so much*.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Ke a leboga Modulasetilo. Modulasetilo, mme ke go fe dikai fela di le tharo go supa gore batho ba ba tsamaya fa Domkrag e neng e tsamayang teng. Maloba go dule lekoko fa la batsholaitshireletso ba ya kwa Kgotleng ba tshela dipeterolo, ba tlogela ditiro tsa bone ba ya go tshwara dipapalagae le mae a tsone. Fa re ntse re gaggametse foo, re bona rre yo o bidiwang Tshepo Sethibe a tsena mo kgotleng ya ditsheko a bofilwe ka *chains*. Bangwe ba mmita 'Uncle of the Nation,' bangwe ba mmita 'Moeladilothoko.' Le nkutlwe sentle, ga ke re Moeladilothoko fa e le gore o dirile molato a se ka a sekisiwa. Ga ke rialo. Ga ke dumele gore rre yo ke leepantlo, ke serukutlhi se e leng gore se ka ba sa bofiwa ka *chains*. Maloba fa re ne re bona...

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Members, *a ko le reetseng*, 58.4.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Maloba re ne re bona Rre Lefoko Moagi a tsena kwa *court* a tla fela a siame sentle, ra nna le tsholofelo gore golo fa dilo di tlaa fetoga. Fa re bona motho a tla a bofilwe ka *chains*, ga re gakolola sengwe golo fa, go na le mathata. Ka Labobedi matsholatshireletso ba emeletse gone fa ba ya Takatokwane ba le bantsintsi ba ya kwa morakeng. Ba feta ba thopa motho kwa morakeng, ba tla ba mo rwelerwele ba ya go mo tlhatlhela kwa *maximum prison* ba bo ba *charge* ka *common nuisance*. Golo fa bagaetsho re na le mathata, madi a rona ga a dirisiwe sentle. Batswana ba ntshitse Domkrag ba tlogela seDomkrag se ntse jaaka se ntse. Ke batla gore ke le bolelele sengwe;

le emise kgang ya gore le nne le re 're feng sebaka.' Re feng sebaka le na le ngwaga. Di *five years*, bakaulengwe ga le na nako. Le dia nako e bile go le diela go akanya.

Mathata a bobedi ke eng? Ke gore BNF *has abdicated its vanguard responsibility, historical responsibility*. Ke one mathata a matonatona a re lebagang le one. O reetse *context*; Peoples Party, reetsa, ga re bue ka magatammogo golo fa. Se re neng re se solofetse e bile re tlhaloganya sepolotiki sa Botswana ke gore gompiano Goromente wa motlhakanelwa yo dikakanyo di ka bong di tlhotlheletsa Goromente yo, di tshwanetse e bo e le tsa BNF, jaanong bothata ke gore dikakanyo. Modulasetilo, dikakanyo tse re di bonang...

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR MOTSAMAI):

Point of order. Madam Chairperson, go bothale gore mo Ntlong e fa re *debate* thatathata, re itebaganye le se *topic* e buang ka ga sone. Ke ntse ke reeditse ka boleleele gore Ngaka Gobotswang o tlaa ya go wela leng, jaanong o bua dikgang tsa batho ba ba tshwerweng ka *chains*. Fa re bua ka *ministry* wa ga Motlotlegi Tshere, ga se wa ditoronko. O bua dikgang tsa batho ba ba neng ba latetswe go ya go thuba dikgang tsa mae a dipapalagae, ke boammaaruri le rona kgang e e re utlwisitse bothoko, mme Tshere ga se wa *wildlife*, ga se wa dinonyane, ke *Minister* wa *Communications*. Ke kope tsweetswee, ke ikobile gore a *debate communications*. O bua ka dikgang tsa ditumelo tsa sepolotiki, a re BNF e latlhile moonoo wa yone. Ga re mo dikgannyeng tsa ditumelo tsa sepolotiki, re mo go tsa ditlhaeletsanyo. Ke ne ke kopa gore a boele mo seporong *Madam Chairperson*.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable* Gobotswang, tsena mo seporong.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Ke a leboga Modulasetilo. Modulasetilo, fa o lebile Goromente wa motlhakanelwa, o kgona go bona gore dikakanyo tse di tshwereng UDC, ke tsa ga *Honourable* Onneetse Ramogapi le *Honourable* Ignatius Moswaane. Ke bone tota ba e leng gore fa o lebile le o reeditse, o a bona gore ba tshwere dikakanyo le go akanyetsa mokgatlo o wa bone. Fa o ka lebelela, *for instance*; lenaneo le le tona la UDC ke *Constitutional Court (Con Court)*. Lebelela gore *Con Court* e rwelwe ke bomang ka mashetla le go e tlhalosa mo go tseneletseng; ke *Honourable* Ignatius Moswaane, motlogolo wa me, o thusiwa ke *Honourable*

Onneetse Ramogapi. Ba bangwe ba itumelela dikoloi fela tse dintsho, dinamane tse ditona di iketlile di kwa ga mothakga.

Bagaetsho, ke batla go tla ka mogopolo ka gore la re ... (*Interruptions*)... Ke batla gore ke tle ka mogopolo ka gore le a ne le re re bua fela ga re tswe ka megopolo Modulasetilo, mme ke tlaa tla ka mogopolo. Tharabololo ke na le yone.

MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR S. MODISE):

Procedure. Madam Chairperson, I just want to appeal, how long are we going to be subjected to this abuse by Honourable Dr Gobotswang? He is completely off target. I do not know what his saying has in relation to what Honourable Tshere was presenting. Please, could you protect us from this.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Dr Gobotswang, *a re reetsane*, Standing Order 57.1, "a Member shall restrict his or her observations to the subject under discussion and shall not introduce matter irrelevant to that subject." *Tswelela* honourable ka debate *e e mo tafoleng*.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Ke feditse *Madam Chairperson*, ka *point* e le nngwefela fela e le tharabololo, e le kgakololo. Fa ke lebile UDC e batla tlhabego. Rona kwa gae fa re dirile setopoti, fa se phanyega re tsenya legapu le lengwe. E batla tlhabego. Jaanong ke tla ka...

DR S. MODISE: Point of order. Can you protect us. I will ask again with the greatest humility Madam Chairperson, please protect us from this mess. This man has been totally off topic, he has derailed the House entirely and now he said he has completed his debate. Please Madam Chairperson, protect us from Honourable Gobotswang.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Nnyaa, *Honourable* Gobotswang, re dumalane gore a ko o *debate*. Fela fa o dira jalo, ke tlaabo ke tsaya *floor*. Fela fa o ka ba wa bua ka...

DR GOBOTSWANG: Ke ne ke re *point* e ga ke ka ke ka tlhoka...

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: A ko le reetseng! Eish! *Honourable* Gobotswang, jaanong ke tlaa bua jang le

motho bagaetsho? Ke kopa gore o *debate*, fela fa o ka ba wa bua matlhabego ke tsaya *floor*.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Jaanong o a nkgokgontsha, legale ke tlaa fetsa. Modulasetilo, ke ne ke re tota dikgang tsa ga *Honourable* Tshere, kgang e nngwe ke e e builweng ke *Honourable* Moalosi, ya gore tota gatwe ke eng le dirisa madi a a kanakana le reka *softwares* kwa mafatsheng a sele, le dira fela se se ntseng se dirwa, le senya madi a Botswana. Bathong, re rutile Botswana. Botswana ba rutegile *Honourable* Tshere, mme fa ke le lebile, o kare ga le lebege le dumela mo dikakanyong le matlhale a Botswana. Ke sone fela se e leng gore ke mathata a ke a lemogang. Gape *Honourable* Tshere, fa o bua nako e nngwe, o leke go ya kwa bathong le ba Mahalapye ba go utlwe gore e *relate* jang le matshelo a bone.

Gompiano jaana go na le lenaneo le gotweng 'Re a Tshela.' Rakgadi yo e leng gore gompiano o tlodile 100 *years*, maloba ke ne ke ile go mo tlhola, ga a sa tlhola a tsamaya, *she is bedridden* mme ga a lwale, ke bogodi fela. *After six months* o a kukiwa, o isiwa kwa posong, o ya go bua gore o a tshela. *Honourable* Tshere, gompiano o bua magodimo, le bua ka *digitalisation*, rakgadi *is suffering, more than 100 years*. Kgwedi le kgwedi...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Ke go *link* fela gore *deaths and births*, di bo di le *linked* le tsa *pension*. *If you fail to do elementary things like this*, la re le bo le bua jalo re bo re le dumela le bua dilo tse di kanakana?

MR MOTSAMAI: *Procedure. Madam Chairperson*, Rre Gobotswang ke motho yo o atleng a buelele kgaolo ya gagwe, mme fa a tsaya puo ya gagwe fela a bo a biha jaaka ke bona a bihile jaana, a bua ka rakgadiagwe fela, ga se tsamaiso ya Ntlo e *Madam Speaker*.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Laughter!)

MR MOTSAMAI: Ga se tsamaiso ya Ntlo e, batho ba Tswapong ba e seng masika a gagwe bone ba mo mathateng. Mathata ke rakgadiagwe fela, bao ga a na sepe ka bone.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Nnyaa, nna fa fatshe *Honourable* Motsamai.

MR MOTSAMAI: Nnyaa.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Laughter!)

MR PULE: *Clarification*. Ke ne ke re o e tshwere sentle mokaulengwe. Gakere mme o a gakologelwa gore Tautona Boko e rile fa a le mo *rallies*, o ne a raya Botswana a re, le fotse labofelo, fa re tsaya Puso ga go na ope wa lona yo o tlaa tlholang a fola *line*? Ke a leboga.

DR GOBOTSWANG: Ke a leboga Modulasetilo. *No, Honourable* Tshere. Maloba ke re ke kgethela koloi, ka tsena mo posong ya Sefhare, *system* ga e bereke. Ka ya kwa Machaneng, *system* ga e bereke. Ka ba ka ya go thusiwa kwa Ramokgonami, mme ke setse ke bona gore golo fa ke tlaa felela ke le kwa Palapye. *Basic things Honourable* Tshere, mo gongwe mo o go buang mo, rona e bile ga re sa tlhola re utlwa ka gore batho ba tshwenngwa ke mathata a bone a letsatsi le letsatsi. *Tower* e e kwa Mhalapitsa, ke buile ka yone, ba go bolelela dilo tse e seng tsone, ga go bereke, batho ba Mhalapitsa ba mo mathateng. Fa go na le mathata ga ba itse gore ba tshwaragana jang, jaanong kgang e a ko o e tshware.

We must have a conversation ka *Digital ID*. Mafatshe bontsinyana a e gana *because it is an invasion of privacy*. Ke kgang e re tshwanetseng go e buisana, re dumalane gore ra reng ka yone. Dilo di dintsi *Honourable* Tshere, *transport*, Omang, batho ba batla gore dilo tse di baakanngwe *Honourable* Tshere! Tharabololo e e leng gore ke tla ka yone, e ke batlang gore ke digele ka yone, tlhabego ke gore le tlhokana le *the likes of* Kago Mokotedi, Otswelotse Moupou. Ga ke re ba tle go le tseela maemo, ka re ba tle go busetsa terena mo seporong. Le timetse!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable* Gobotswang, o feditse gakere? Fa o bona jaanong o bua tse go raya gore o feditse.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ga a ise a fetse.

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Nnyaa, o feditse. Ga a ka ke a bua dilo tse e seng tsone. Ke mo reile ke re fela fa a bua jaana, ke a e tsaya. *Honourable* Mokgwathi.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke ne ke lebetse Kanjabanga...

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order Madam Chairperson.

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Nnyaa, ke tsere *floor* mo go ene.

BRIG. MOKGWATHI (LETLHAKENG): Good afternoon *betsho*. In the carving of human existence, there exist conscious mind, subconscious mind and creative subconscious mind. *Ke lebeletse gore re bua ka* communications and innovation, and for you to be able to innovate, you have to be creative in everything you do. A great gentleman said, great communication begins with connection; connection between people, connection between people and gadgets and connection between gadgets.

Se ke batlang gore ke gatelele mo go sone ke gore, in the absence of national security strategy, we shall be singing communication, innovation without a strategic state in mind. We therefore had to say, how do we integrate our communication system within the community? If you look at... (Inaudible)... centre of gravity, he talks of five variables. *A re*, "at the epicentre lies the leadership, that leadership should be protected through proper communication and infrastructure. Infrastructure that talks to communication and innovation."

The next three talks of the organic compounds, where there must be communication between the industries, mines such that *ka gore re batla go aga* economy, *go nne le* a better communication system with innovation, so that *re age* economy *ya* Botswana *ka tsela e e leng gore* the international community will understand and read us in timeframe.

O bua gape ka mo gotweng infrastructural development in that case, *ke dilo tse di tshwanang le dikago*. *Maabane fela jaana re ne re bona* a leader *wa kwa* Iran *gotwe* because of smart unisons, *o ne a kgona gore a nopolwe golo gongwe*, *a kgone gore a bo a tseelwe botshelo*. *Ke sone selo se ke batlang gore* without national security strategy that which we require as a nation, *gongwe fa re ka se ka ra tsenya dilo tse go ka nna le bothata*.

We talk of population. The population as we see it, when there is no proper communication and innovation *fa go*

na le some crisis we get into anarchy, chaos, catastrophe and calamities. *Ke batla le itse gore* communication and innovation *ga se selo se le se bonang fela*, it is something to do with national security.

Re bue ka the fielded forces. Remember before you can enter into any nation, internationally or even locally, there must be somebody who is going to be the vanguard of the communication system before we get into the epicentre of governance. *Ke batla go le raya ke re ke dumela* Honourable Tshere *gore*, when I look at you, I see a gentleman of high professionalism, that when something comes like this, *e tlaare kamoso o mongwe ke go botsa gore* what strategic plan do you have for my constituency; *ga o na go nthaya o re ga go na sepe se ke ka se go bolelelang*, there is nothing in my constituency. I believe *gore* there must be some communication between areas. Roads should be networked; Fourth Revolution should be part of it. We should be able to know that health systems should be networked all the time. If you look at the constituency *e ke tswang kwa go yone*, there are certain gaps, grey areas where there is no communications. Those are the areas that I want you to be able to look into.

Ke ne ke utlwa Rre Motsamai *a bua gore* whether we like it or not, we have been neglected for the past 58 years, *re latlheletswe*. I believe the current Government should make it a point that we are priority in the development of this particular nation. Otherwise, equitable distribution is going to be something that is unheard of. *Re bua ka* education system *le* food security. *A re bueng ka* drones *gore* we have to be able to communicate with them.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: On a point of elucidation.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: E tšhaile.

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

MR BOGATSU (LENTSWELETAU-LEPHEPHE): Modulasetilo, *mma ke latlhele* a le mabedi, a le mararo, e le fela *gore ke eme* Tona *nokeng*, ke bo ke dumalana le ene *gore a a neelwe madi a a kopang based on the statement* jaaka a ne a se bua. Le nna ke tilhaloganya *gore* maranyane a botlhokwa go dira ditiro.

Fa o lebelela mo garona, re tsaya nako e ntsi re tsamaya ka dinao magareng ga diofisi, o tswa *from one office to the other*. Tumelo yame ke *gore fa go ka tsennngwa*

maranyane jaaka a bua a re “*to connect Government institutions,*” go raya gore *movement* o o nnang o le montsi wa go tswa *from one office to the other*, o tlaa fokotsega ka go tlaabo go sena *paper work*. *Paper work* e ntsi e dira gore *people must travel more to access services*. Tumelo ya me ke gore go tlaa nna jaaka a bua.

Lefatshe la Botswana *has been a closed country for a very long time*. Go bokete go dira *business* le lefatshe la Botswana. *To research for information* mo lefatsheng la rona go dingalo. Tumelo yame ke gore *these Government departments, Government offices will beef up their platforms so that whenever you need information* kwa go bone, o e bone motlhofo. Fa o le ngwana wa sekole o bo o fiwa *assignment* gotwe *research* ka Botswana, o tllile go bona *flag* fela, *other information will not come out*. Tumelo yame ke gore *with this new Government, this new Minister in that ministry, something positive is going to come out*. E tlaa re fa o batla *information* o e bone o sa sokola thata.

Ke go utlwile rra. Tumelo yame ke gore e tlaa re fa o leba, o lebe kgaolo ya rona ya Lentsweletau-Lephephe, segolo jang kwa Dikgotleng tse e leng gore ga di na *network*. Fa o tsaya Kgotle ya Sojwe *for example*, ba SmartBots, ba sale ka ba tla ba baya golo ga bone fela foo ba bo ba go tlogela go ntse jalo, ga go bereke. Gape fa o tsena kwa Kgope, ga go bereke. Fa o tsena kwa Ditshukudu, ke mathata fela mo kgaolong ele. Ba ba nang le tsone jaaka bo Kopong le bo Lentsweletau, gongwe re ka oketsa *hotspots* ka gore jaaka go buiwa, batho ba itsheega ka diterata. Nna ke tsaya gore *that should also be a motivation* gore ka gore batho ba le bantsi ke ba ba ema ka dinao, *what can we do better* gona le gore ba itsheega ka diterata, gongwe re ba dirile fa ba ka tlang ba berekela teng.

Fa go buiwa ka diposo, tsa rona di dinnyennyane. Kopo yame ke gore oketsa *services to those post offices, more especially* kwa dikgaolong tse di tshwanang le bo Sojwe le Lentsweletau tse di kgakalanyana, ba katogile Gaborone go se kaenyana, *so that they can...*

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (MR NYATANGA):

On a point of elucidation. Mokaulengwe *point* e o e buang, ga o bone gore gongwe e bile re ka gakolola ofisi ya ga Rre Tshere gore go nne le *resource centres* kwa diofising tsa Mapalamente gore go tle go thuse bone

ba ba emang ka diterata gore ba tsene mo diofising tsa Mapalamente jaaka re na le diofisi kwa Mahalapye?

MR BOGATSU: Ke a go leboga mokaulengwe, ke ntlha ya botlhokwa. Batho ba tshwanetse go goroga kwa diofising tsa rona go kopa thuso ya dilo tse ba senang tsone. Mme e bile le *printing machines* di nne mo teng gore di oketse *communication* e re buang ka yone.

MR MOSANANA: *On a point of elucidation*. Ke a go leboga mokaulengwe. Go botlhokwa thata *because* batho ba le buang ka bone ba ba lalang ba ikaegile ka diterata ba, ba kgona go tlaselwa ba ntse gone foo bosigo. Ke leboge *Minister* gore a bo a tllile ka lenaneo la gore le Palamente ya rona fela e nne *paperless* jaaka fa gompiono re bona gore ga go na dipampiri tse di tllholang di tletse, le fa re bona *comrade* Pule a tladitse dipampiri fa.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: E go tshwere rra. *Honourable* Kwapa.

MR KWAPA (JWANENG-MABUTSANE): Mma ke go leboge Modulasetilo, ke dumedise ba kgaolo ya Jwaneng-Mabutsane.

Modulasetilo, fa re tla go bua ka *sector* e ya ga *Honourable* Tshere, segolobogolo fa re bua ka kgang ya *communication*, ke rata ke dumalane thata le se se neng se buiwa ke *Honourable* Motsamai gore mo kgaolong e, *just along the* Trans-Kalahari Highway, re tlhokana le gore go nne le *constant communication* ka lebaka la gore tsela e ga e dirisiwe fela ke rona benggae, e na le baeng ba ba tsamayang mo go yone thata. Bothata jo bo leng teng ke gore fa go na le mathata, *be it* dikotsi kana *whatever*, go nna le bothata jwa gore motho o ka kopa thuso mo metseng kana mo bathong ba ba gaufi.

Fa re bua ka *communication* jaaka Motlotlegi Mokgwathi a ne a e tlhalosa, re raya go kgona go nna le tomagano gareng ga batho le metse e batho ba nnang mo go yone. Fa o lebelela boatlhamo jwa kgaolo ya rona, re fitlhela e le gore go na le badisa le batho ba ba nang le dipolase mo kgaolong ya rona. Re itse bosetlhogo jo bo dirilweng mo Pusong e e fetileng. Dikgaolo tsa rona di na le bothata jwa tsela Modulasetilo, dikoloi di a robega mo ditseleng tseo tse di makgwakgwa, motho a bo a patelesega go robala foo bosigo, bothata fela e le gore ga go na *communication*.

Ke lebogela Tona Tshere gore e bo e rile nako ya ke bua ka *communication*, segolo jang o tswa mo Jwaneng o ya bo Sekoma, go beilwe *aerial* fa gare ga tshipi e telele e fa gare ga Sekoma le Jwaneng, o beile sengwenyana se e leng gore se leka go tokafatsa *communication*. A a boe a beye e nngwe fa gare ga Mabutsane, a boe a ye go tsenelela le kwa dikgaolong di tshwana le bo Thankane ka gore fa o lebile kwa Thankane, fa o bua ka go reetsa *radio*, o fitlhela bontsi jwa nako ba reetsa *radios* tsa metse e e mabapi. Ke dumela gore se se aname fela go tsena le kgaolo ya Kgalagadi ka bophara le go ya gone kwa bo Charles Hill, go ya go tsena kwa bo Gantsi. Ke re seemo se, se re beile ka fa mosing ka lebaka la gore ga re kgone go tlhaeletsana sentle jaaka go tshwanetse.

Ke dumela gore diemo e ne e le tsa maloba tse e leng gore fa motho a tlhokafaletswe a bo a ya go senkiwa ka pitse. Malatsi a go botoka, batho ba setse ba na le *cell phones* tse e leng gore motho o ka tlhaelediwa botoka fela gore go itsege gore go na le bothata kwa morago. Go a tle go nne le melelo, go kile ga diragala mo kgaolong ya Kgalagadi, bangwe ba kile ba a šha ba tlhoka thuso go bua sentle gore ba fa kae.

Ke re fa re bua ka kgang e, re tlhokana le *effective communication* gammogo le *technology*. Ke dumela gore fa re bua ka *technology*, ke yone e ka senkang sentle ka botlalo gore batho ba ba kopang thuso ba fa kae. *Technology* fa e aname le lefatshe le lotlhe, go ka re thusa gore fa motho a na le mathata kana go sa itsiwe gore o ka bonwa fa kae, re kgona go itse gore motho o feletse kae, go go nna motlhofo *to trace them*.

Ke kope Tona Tshere gore, re eletsa gore toropo ya Jwaneng *looking at its compactness*, re e dire *a smart town*. Le re thusa thata Tona Tshere, le tlise *technologies* tse di tshwanang le *face recognition*. Fa o lebeletse palo ya rona mo Botswana, ga re bantsi, mo e leng gore fa re na le *technologies* tsa *face recognition*, e kare fa go nnile le bothata jwa gore motho a bo a thuba, *they can be traced* go le motlhofo ka *drones* jalo. Kgaolo e jaaka ke e bua, e makgwakgwa, ga e na le fa e le ditsela, mme *drones* di ne di ka thusa ba sepodise le khansele, ba ba ka thusang go senka *either* ke borukutlhi kana ke motho fa e le gore o tlhaeletse teng, kana a gobaletse fa a gobaletseng teng. E ka thusa le *to patrol along the Trans Kalahari Highway*, gona le gore gompiano go bo go dirisiwa dikoloi tse gangwe le gape re nnang re di bona di tabogile *checking* gore a go na le mathata.

Kgang e ya tiriso ya *drones* e ne e ka re sologela molemo, ka gore ga e dirise leokwane, re itse gore mafatshe ka bontsi a setse a tswa mo tirisong ya lone. Go setse go dirisiwa dikoloi tsa motlakase *Madam Chairperson*, ke dumela gore fa sengwe le sengwe le tsela e, ga mmogo le maranyane, motlakase fa o le teng mo dikgaolong tse tsotlhe go ka nna bonolo. Le rona e ka re letsatsi lengwe ra bona lefatshe la rona le gatetse pele, jaanong dikoloi tsa motlakase di tsamaisana le *green technology* e e buiwang ke mafatshefatshe. *Madam Chairperson*, mma ke go bolokele nako e, ke eme gone fa. Ke a leboga.

MR PHOLOGOLO (KANYE WEST): *Thank you Madam Chairperson.* Batswana kwa kgaolong ba re Tona, ke ba kopele gore o *delink* BTV from DSTv, e re fa e kgaolwa bogolo ba kgone go lebelela *television* ya bone. Segolo o nne jalo *under* Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), ba kgone go bona *television*. Batswana ba tswela ba re, *data bundles* di se ka tsa *expire* mongwame ka gore ba sokola go di reka. Bogolo le fokotse *speed*, ba kgone go sokolanyana go fitlhelela ba reka *bundles* tseo. Batswana rraetsho kwa kgaolong ba re, *to complement* dikgang tse di balwang ka diteme tsa bone, re ba tsenyetse *radio stations* tsa *community* gore ba kgone go itse segolobogolo se se diragalang mo ga bone. Ba kgone go itse dikgang le mananeo a mantsi a Puso e e tlang ka one ya UDC.

Badirisi ba Lephata la *Transport* kwa kgaolong ba re o oketse *speed* gape se nne *reliable*, gore e re fa ba tswa kwa dikgaolong ba tla go dira *licences*, ba kgone go boela kwa ba tswang teng kwa bokgakaleng joo, ba kgonne go bona ditlamelo tse ba a bong ba di latela kwa madirelong a go tshwana le ao. Batswana ba re Smega jaaka o ba diretse jalo, a e nne nngwe ya dilo tse e leng gore fa a tsoga nako nngwe le nngwe, a kgone gore a se ka ya re a goroga, a bo a utlwa gotwe ATM ga e bereke ka ntata ya maranyane. Ke dikopo tse Batswana ba reng ke di tlise kwa go wena mongwame.

Se sengwe ke re, *in keeping abreast with your disruptive innovation*, re kopa gore *the nanomaterial equipment* e re e boneng kwa Kanye, mongwame e dirisiwe ka bofefo. E dirisiwe teng kwa Kanye, re se ka ra bona e setse e dule gone koo, gore Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) e rona re e bitsang Rural Industries Innovation Centre (RIIC), e tswela ka go nna teng. Kopo gape e ntse e le bone ba

re, a BITRI e nne nngwe ya *centres* tse di tlhophegileng tse re yang go bona Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) e dirisiwa kwa dikgaolong tseo. Ke kopo e ba kopang gore o e tshwaraganele le Rre Maele, go simololwe go sa lebiwe kwa morago. Dikopo tse mongwame ke dumela gore fa o dirile jalo, o tlaabo o ikamantse segolobogolo le tumelo e ba tswang kgakala le yone ya gore tiro ya diatla jaanong e gorogile gore e tlotlomadiwe jaaka Puso e e bua. Re tshwaragantse le gore re taboge le tsa maranyane, a ke dumelang gore o tshwere ka thata go netefatsa gore a a diragala. Mma ke boloke nako ke fe ba bangwe. Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo.

MR SALESHANDO (MAUN NORTH): Mma ke go leboge go mpha sebaka se. Ke batla go gatelela kgang e e builweng ke Motlhaleemang Moalosi, Member of Parliament (MP) for Nkange, *this applies to all ministries. Colleagues*, re ne re le fa ngwaga o o fetileng o tsamaela go fela, re fetisa NDP. Dipalo tse le di fang gompiano mo *budgets*, ga di tsamaelane le dipalo tse le di solofeditseng Batswana ka NDP. Jaanong fa go pala ka ngwaga wa ntlha, gongwe go tlaa re re tle re itshekatsheke gore a mme kwa re neng re raya Batswana re re re ya teng, re tlaa goroga.

Botswana e na le *a youthful population*, tota e bile gompiano banana ba re nang le bone mo Botswana, *they are possibly the highest educated generation we ever had*. Fa go na le selo se ba se kgonang thata ke maranyane, ke gore le gompiano re a itse ba ba thusang Palamente kwa diofising tsa rona, *most of the time* fa o kopa thuso kwa go ope fela, go tlile go tla *intern* kwa go wena le bo le go thusa. Banana ba ne ba bopeletse ba tlile Palamenteng ba ba nang le *qualifications* tsa maranyane, a re tseyeng ditshwetso tse di tlhokafalang gore banana ba re akole dithuto tsa bone ba santse ba kgona go re berekela. *That is the only way in which you can enjoy the demographic dividend. Otherwise*, fa re ba lesa gore ba tsene kwa go bo 50 ba ise ba bone tiro, *technology e a change, they become irrelevant and we would not get a return on our investment*.

You know it is true Honourable Tshere, re ka tswa re bua Sekgoa sotlhe sa *high speed what*, rona kwa dikgaolong tsa rona *basic things like to renew disc* ya koloi, *can be a challenge*. Re santse re dikologa re bolelelwa gore *system e down*. Ke gore ga ke itse gore go tlaa tsaya dingwaga tse kae, ga se wena Tona wa ntlha go okamela

lephata le, ba ne ba le teng ba ba neng ba tshela ba re bolelela gore go tlaa siama, *but nothing happened. I think we really need to move from projects to outcomes*, re se ka ra nna re *announce* gore jaanong gompiano re isa *satellite* kwa ngwedding, kana kae mo lefaufaung. Re bo re bua gore, gone se se teng se Batswana ba ka se akolang ke eng.

I am sure you know about this thing ya the Silicon Valley, a place that thrives through technology. Ga ke akanye gore re ka palelwa ke go tla ka *our own version* ya gore re ya go dira jang gore lefatshe la rona le *thrive on technology. As it is at the moment*, go santse gompiano *Development Budgets* tse re ka bong re go di neela di fokodiwa, mme re sa fokotse *expenditure, your ministry* e ka bo e le one o supang tsela gore *you can actually do much more with less*. Re sa bone le oketsa *recurrent expenditure* ya lona, re bona *Development Budget* e le yone e golang, ka gore le *invest* mo maranyaneng.

I want to also caution *gore* the rural-urban divide *e teng*. Let us always be very clear about it, *gore re ya go dira jang gore ba ba kwa magaeng mo go tsa technology ba se ka ba salela kwa morago*. Botswana Post, globally *go na le* a debate around the future of post offices *ka gore ga re kwale makwalo*, but most countries are turning them into Artificial Intelligence (AI) led logistics companies. *Ke gore le fa e le gore* you forget your diary in my house, *ke kgone go e deliver* at the nearest point *ya* Botswana Post. Using technology, they should be able to deliver it to you, *a ke ka drones, a ke ka eng*. You know *mo* Botswana *malatsing a*, I was talking to someone recently *a nthaya a re* Botswana Post *kana jaanong* wants to apply for a banking licence. *Ke re really, ka fa* National Development Bank (NDB) le Botswana Savings Bank (BSB) *di batla* to apply for a banking licence. These are all Government parastatals, *ke gore o ipotsa gore a golo ga* one Government *le atle le go buisane* gore, you cannot all be going out chasing one item *le le* parastatals. I want to urge you to reflect more seriously about the future *ya* Botswana Post, *gore tota re batla e nna eng, e ya go re direla eng*.

I might as well conclude by saying, *ke gore fa o bua ka cybersecurity*, we should link it *le cyberbullying*. Today I was under immense pressure *e le melaetsa ya batho ba nteletsa gore re bone Happy Omang o a go latola mo maranyaneng*, are you still alive? I have to lose time just confirming *gore ke a tshela*, on abuse of *maranyane*.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *E tšhaile* Honourable Member. Order! Order, Honourable Members. I now call upon Minister Tshere to respond to the debate.

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE): *Thank you very much Madam Chair.* Ke leboge Mapalamente ka fa ba akgetseng ka teng. Kwa ntleng ga ga nkgonne Gobotswang fela, ba bangwe botlhe ba lebega ba tlhaloganya gore kgang e ya maranyane e ya kae. Bagaetsho, ke ne ke bua ka Sekgoa kgantele, gongwe molaetsa mongwe o ne wa latlhega. Jaanong ke tlaa bua ka Setswana gompiano mo dikarabong tse. Jaanong ke le kope gore ke tlaa tsaya 20 minutes, gongwe nine minutes yo o setseng a bo le tla le botsa dipotso, ke le arabe go le fa le bokao jwa se re se dirang gompiano.

Jaanong ya ntlha *Honourable* Moalosi o ne a re, kana *my speech is way too long, I could not finish it. Yes, and I acknowledge that. Kana the requirement is that, we have to give a review and some of these figures...I am sure that is why we have to deliver a soft copy* mo Palamenteng. Jaanong re le file copy gore le bale le tle le bone dikgang tse re buang ka tsona. Maloba gape fa ke araba kgang ya *digitalisation* ke araba *Honourable* Gobotswang, ke ne ka dirisa puo ya Setswana e ke neng ke re, “moepa sediba ga a bonwe.” Jaanong kana fa gongwe ke lemogile gore *Honourable* Hikuama ga a itse Setswana, gongwe ga a itse gore ke raya jang. Jaanong moepa sediba ga a bonwe *in this circumstance*, ke gone mo ke lekang go tilhalosa...

MR HIKUAMA: *Procedure Madam Chairperson.* Setswana ga ke ka ke ka ipoka gore ke a se itse, le gore ba raya eng, gongwe ga ke itse. Mme fela gongwe kana batho ba ka tsaya gore go raya gore ke mo kgoreleditse ka nngwe tsela kana ke dirile sengwe fela. Kana motho fa a go bua fela o sa dira sepe, batho ba tsaya gore o dirile sengwe se se gakgamatsang, se se bosula *that you deserve* gore o nopolwe fa gare ga ba bangwe. Jaanong supa gore o batla go ntlhalosetsa fela, ga ke a dira sepe.

MR TSHERE: Ke a leboga. *Sorry*, ke tsala ya me, ke bua fela ka gore ke tsala ya me. Maloba Motaosane o ntlhasetse gone fa ke ntse fela ke sa re sepe. Go raya gore o ne a supa gore ke tsala ya gagwe le ene. Ke ne ke bua ka moepa sediba ga a bonwe. O bona kgang ya *digitalisation* fa re fitlhetseng re le teng, seemo sa teng se ntse jaana, kana lantlha le fetisitse melao gone fa ya

digitalisation gore re ya go e tsamaisa jang. Sa bobedi *digitalisation* jaaka maranyane e *based* mo go one maranyane ka sebele. Jaanong *assessment* ya maranyane ka boyone e supafala gore *we have aging infrastructure, an obsolete infrastructure*, e e leng gore e teng. Ke golo mo re go fitlhetseng fa re leng teng. *Last year* re ne re simolodisa *data centre* e ntsha, e e leng gore *it is high class*, Tier 3 *data centre*. Ke le bolelela gore maikaelelo a ga Goromente ke gore, jaanong re tseye *infrastructure* ya ga Goromente e e ntseng e le kwa Block 6 and Block 8 *server rooms*, tse re neng re di bitsa *data centre*, kwa go tsofetseng. Makgasa one ao, ke ne ke le raya ke re, ke eletsa gore ke a fuduse ke a ise kwa *environment* e e botoka ya *data centre*, e re e agileng. E e tlaa nnang le *downtime* e e tlhabolotsweng *as per its rating*. Jaanong re tsamaya gone foo. Gone foo tiro ya teng *is a delicate job* e re iseng re ko re e dire re le lefatshe le. Ga re ise re ko re *migrate systems at the magnitude under which we are going to do it* gompiano jaana. Jaanong re tshwaragane le BoFiNet ba e leng gore ke bone ba fang *that hosting environment*, ke bone ba ba setseng ba feditse thulaganyo ya teng. Gompiano jaana *we are negotiating the contract for migration. Migration* ya teng ga se *migration* fela, *it involves the upgrading of the systems. Here* ke bua ka motheo wa ICT mo lefatsheng la Botswana, o e leng gore fa o bereka sentle, *your own applications* tsa bo Omang, *licences*, jaaka le ntse le ngongorega ka *licences* jaana *will be sitting on*. Jaanong tlhaloganyang gore ga re ise re goroge koo. Ke sone se ke reng, ga o ka ke wa mmona moepa sediba gompiano, kwa re leng teng go santse go le kgakala. Ga go ise go tle metsi, re tlaa bona metsi a tswa. Ke le bolelela jaana gore, *mid this year* ka June, re tlaabo re feditse *creating this platform, the foundation which is necessary* kwa *data centre* e ntsha, kwa e leng gore *all our systems are going to be hosted from there*. Fa e le gore go na le *driver's licence application software that they are using, it will be sitting* mo Gaborone *in our data centre and accessible to the person in Maun, Bobirwa and anywhere in the country. This is what we want to do...*

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR TSHERE: Ke gone fa re tsamayang teng...Ema pele ke tla le fa nine minutes.

Gompiano jaana *we have resuscitated what is called the inter-ministerial committee* e e eteletsweng pele ke

Permanent Secretary to the President (PSP) reporting to the Minister of Communications and Innovation. Re ya kwa maphateng jaanong, ka gore re setse re feditse re wetse, at least at the level of the contract le batho ba e leng gore are going to set up the core ICT infrastructure kwa data centre. Re feditse. What is the next step? The next step jaanong is to load all these softwares, including health, education, everybody all those applications tse e leng gore they constitute Government services ought to be at the data centre, so that they are accessed by everybody. In the future nobody is supposed to make their own data centre somewhere and create their own systems ba le nosi koo. No, Government has invested a lot of money go dira data centre for that exact purpose gore re tle re kgaogane infrastructure and applications all of us. In itself ke a revolution in a way. This is what we are trying to do kwa Lephatheng la Communications and Innovation. Mo nakong ya gompiano le tlaa tsaya gore ke polelo, mme that is what we want to do.

Fa re bua ka to create ditiro, and listen to this; Mahalapye Road Map ya ICT 2030, re dumalane le industry ya ICT gore, ICT sector alone is going to create 100 000 jobs in the next five years, tota e bile it is almost four years...

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

MR TSHERE: This is in Mahalapye, yes. The previous roadmap was actually done by Tshenolo Mabeo, I think that time kwa Mahalapye. So we went back to Mahalapye to remind ourselves of the ICT roadmap. Re e dirile e supa gore re ya go dira ditiro di le 100 000 until 2029-2030. In terms of our contribution to the GDP, we have put it ambitiously at a two digits number, e re batlang to contribute to the GDP. Now ke le bolelela fa re leng teng, le gore re ne re dira eng to make sure gore we create the foundation for se le se buang gore se nne possible.

The next thing ke kgang ya employment creation. I remember last discussion mo Palamenteng I was challenging Honourable Moalosi ke mo raya ke re, you are a professional in this area, you see I am a Bio-Medical Engineer, I am not practicing at the moment, but I have to be registered for me to be practicing mo sepateleng. I cannot come into the hospital and claim to be a Bio-Medical Engineer ke sa kwadisa, but here we have guys ba e leng gore I cannot classify. I cannot say batho ba ba neng ba eme kwa ntle fale are ICT professionals because

they are not registered. There is no provision to register ICT professionals. They could be anybody. Wena o ne o bua sentle o bua ka the IT professionals jaaka di ntse, le gore how are they categorised. I want to register them and be able to categorise them like that, so that I can have developers, system analysts, network developers, all those things. Ke batla gore ba nne classified. Re setse re dirile tsela mo go yone, ka gore ke solution ya ntlha. At the end of the day you are telling me gore I should give somebody a software, for them to design a software, say for a transport to service the Government. How confident am I on that person? How do I know it will work? What happens then if he falls sick or sadly he passes away, what happens to that system? Those are the issues. I am running a Government, I am not running my little company here. You see what I mean. So, it has severe implications...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR TSHERE: No, I will give you clarification in nine minutes. That is why as a ministry to take a decision ya gore ke ntshe software e ke tsenya e is a major decision. That is why we are still buying softwares tse e leng gore are off the shelves. That does not take away gore Batswana ba kgona go dira jalo. I need them to be doing it at a professional level. I explained the other day fa o bua ka Motion wa gore re ise software developers at the University of Botswana, I said, we have a system, an ecosystem that I have formed today is functional, now it is going out, ya the combination between Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH) and Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI). BDIH gompiano jaana ke yone e e leng gore e ya go netefatsa gore there is incubation of all software developers. Bana ba Batswana ba e leng gore ba kgona to develop. As a country, we have adopted the open-source policy. So, go raya gore our systems will be open sourced, even tse di di dirang gompiano jaaka ke dira the core ICT infrastructure, it would be based on open source. So, we will be accommodating anybody who can come, a tsamaile through the incubation process and certified, their systems and applications can work and proven by time. Jaanong kana tse tsa bo Microsoft, Oracle and everybody, a lot of money have gone into it in terms of research. That is why fa gongwe fa re bua ka dilo tse, we need to be very careful. O kgona gore o re nna ke batla go dira a ventilator, but you know gore if

you were to make a ventilator that works on people, hee! It is not a joke. *Fa re bua fela re re nnyaa, a re itireleng ventilator, you could as well be talking about go bolaya batho.* So, Batswana *ba ba neng...*

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR TSHERE: *Nnyaa, ke rile ke tlaa le fa* nine minutes. Batswana *ba o neng o bua ka bone ba e leng gore ka re re tlile go ba hira, ke buile gore* we are going to create 100, 000 jobs. At the moment we are drawing up a plan now to visit; first we are going to talk to our IT officials. *Le bone ka bo bone,* they need to be classified *gore re itse gore re bua ka bomang. Jaanong re ya go bua ka bone,* first of all to induct them in this operation *ka gore* now we are moving to the level where we are going to different ministries. These people are deployed at those ministries, and they are supposed to help those ministries, now digitalise. So, I am going to them, I will be going around the country, we will be going to the councils as well to brief them about this operation. In the process, we will be absorbing the graduates *ba mofuta one oo.* I can assure you, we are going to do it, not *gore* we are feeling any pressure, but because I need them today at the ministry. I need all of them *gore ba tle go nthusa* on the issues of digitalization, cybersecurity as I will be opening the National Operations Centre 24-hour operation for the cybersecurity. We need guys *ba e leng gore* they can sit and look at the screen the whole time *ba dira jalo.* So...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Order! Order! Honourable Member. Honourable Members, *ke kopa go dirisa* Standing Order 26.2 to suspend proceedings for 10 minutes, and resume after 10 minutes.

PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 5:41 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES

PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 5:51 P.M.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: We are back, Honourable Tshere continue.

MR TSHERE: Tanki Modulasetilo. Gongwe ke fete ka ya lenaneo la ditlhabololo. Ke a utlwa gore *Leader of the Opposition* le *Honourable Moalosi* ba ne ba bua ka gore *budget* ya rona, ga e supe o kare re ne re bua madi a mantsintsi mo NDP 12. Mma ke tlhalose gore kana NDP 12 bagaetsho, ke lenaneo le le yang go fela ka

2029/2030 *financial year.* So, fa ke tshimologo fa, o raya gore e kare golo go simologa fela o bo o go tlhobosa, jang tota?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR TSHERE: *Ee, ke tlaa le neela.*

Ke tlhalositse in my speech *lantlha ke simolola ke ba raya ke re,* due to these limited resources, we have targeted, we are prioritising, we are very specific on issues that will move this country. That is why *re sa tshware kwa le kwa* at this stage. So, *go bothokwa thata gore re tlhaloganye gore ke lenaneo le le yang kwa pele,* we are still ambitious, *ka* NDP 12 and its implementation.

Ya go ntshafatsa Webex licence and other licences, *ke e buile, ke e tlhalosa. E e neng* honourable *a re kwa lephateng lame* software *e e jang* P97, 000 *e rekiwa* P200 and something million, *ke go utlwile, ga ke na bosupi jwa se o buang ka sone.* So, I will go down because *gakere e mo* tendering process. *Ga se gore* I am in the tendering process, so, I will find out what is happening and understand.

Madam Chair, *maikaelelo a Goromente yo ke gore, jaaka ke tlhola ke tlhalosa fa ke tsamaya lefatshe le gore maikaelelo* is to connect Motswana *mongwe le mongwe,* irrespective *gore o kwa kae.* Underserved areas, we do that because *re na le mo gotweng* universal access and service fund. We are taking 1 per cent from the profits of all these mobile operators, radios, newspapers and everybody that we license. *Madi ao, ke one a dirang gore re kgone* to connect. *Ke sone se o bonang re ntse re tsamaya* connecting radios. *Maloba re ne re le kwa Bobirwa le Tswapong re gokela* radios. *Re tsentse* radio station and private radio stations that side. The previous year we were in the North East, we have connected all the way, even in your constituency...

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

MR TSHERE: No, you never go home...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Order! Honourable Tshere, be mindful, we are using the top watch, not *ya* 16, *ke ntse ke utlwa o re o ba neela bo* nine minutes. *Ka* 6:00 p.m. I will be putting the question.

MR TSHERE: *Ke go utlwile* Madam Chairperson. Let me run through them. *Jaanong* we are sharing, as such *go na le* sharing...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure.

MR TSHERE: Jaanong kana re ikaelela go gokela Batswana botlhe.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Procedure Honourable Modise.

DR S. MODISE: Point of procedure. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Maybe you can assist, what is the countdown about?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: That is the time of responding, but at the same time when responding, *re na le nako e re bayang potso ka yone, re baya mo go ya go baya potso* because the debates are timed, *re tshwanetse gore re tsene mo go e nngwe*.

MR TSHERE: *Thank you very much Madam Chairperson.* Ke a bona gore nako e tšhaile. Jaanong ke re ke wele ka tse di latelang gongwe mo metsotsong e mebedi e e setseng.

Re na le lenaneo jaaka ke bua la go gokela lefatshe lotlhe. Re le kgona *on sharing basis, sharing infrastructure, sharing the services*, ke yone thulaganyo e e leng gore Goromente o bua ka yone gone jaana. Ke gore fa o bona *tower* e tshwana le e bakaulengwe ba ntseng ba bua ka yone, *that tower* ga e a tshwanela gore e ka bo e ne e tshwere *operator* a le mongwefela. Fa re e file *under Universal Access and Service Fund*, fa e le gore re e file Mascom, kwa bofelong Mascom e tshwanetse e letlelele bo Orange, *BTC and radio stations* tse dingwe di tsene *in that tower*. Ke yone e ke buang ka yone fa ke bua ka *universal*.

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

MR TSHERE: *Nnyaa, ba na le* some sharing agreement, that they can do. *Gakere rona* we provided the infrastructure, so we want them to share that infrastructure.

So, in terms of roaming charges *tse* Honourable Modise *a neng a bua ka tsone, bagaetsho*, we have gone very far in terms of reduction of prices, especially the roaming charges. I am sure we have seen the latest press release

from Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA), *mo go supang gore* some of the charges move from P10 to about P2 per minute, *e le a call o lelets a kwa mafatsheng a re bapileng le rona*. So, you can see we are doing a lot. *Jaanong fa ke bua gore* at one point you will be calling for free, people think I am joking.

Jaanong kwa Charles Hill Honourable Motsamai, *o ba bolelele gore kwa* Charles Hill kana *re ne re rile re ya go dira ka link ele e e tlang e tswa kwa* Two Rivers. *Eo e tlaa tura thata, ke yone e re santseng re e beetse kwa thoko*. So, *re ya go dira link jaanong e e tswang mo* Charles Hill *e e leng gore ga e yo gone jaana*; that is 110 kilometres (km) stretch *wa tsela e ntšha e e fetang mo* Kole le Makunda, so we are going to connect them with the high-speed internet. In the process, *re ya go ba tsenyetsa gape le* radio stations. *Tota* we are targeting *metse e, bogolo jang e e mo meletswaneng*. That is why *o bona re ne re le kwa* Tswapong, *le kwa* North East because *batho ba rona ba reetsa* radios *tsa mafatshe a sele*. So, we do not want that. We are targeting all border villages to connect them to our radio stations. *Rre Kwapa ke go utlwile gore kana re tswetse ka go baakanya* the Trans-Kalahari including A1, all these roads *di dumalanwe kwa* SADC *gore re tshwanetse re di baakanye*. I have committed at SADC Ministers' meeting *gore ke ya go netefatsa gore go a reng*.

Honourable Phologolo, *batho ba Kanye ba bolaile, ba bolelele gore molaetsa o gorogile fela jaaka o gorositse, gore data ga di a tshwanela go fela* (expire). We will look into that as a regulator as well. We will also look *at kgang ya gago ya* to delink Btv from DStv.

So, *bakaulengwe, ke le utlwile, a re tshwaraganeleng kgang e ya maranyane*. As we roll this digitilisation, *jaanong e goroga kwa go lona kwa le tlaa bonang gore e a diragala jaanong, tswetswee* let us cooperate and help members and the contractors that we would have deployed to assist us in the rollout of this programme.

In conclusion Madam Chairperson, this concludes my ministry's presentation for the 2026/2027 financial year's Recurrent and Development Budget. I now move that the sum of Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Nine Hundred Pula (P949,920,900.00) be approved for the Recurrent Budget for Organisation 2400 and stand

part of the Schedule of the Appropriation (2026/2027) Bill No. 1 of 2026 and that the sum of Four Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pula (P473,200,000.00) for Development Budget for Organisation 2400, together with its sub-organisations be approved and stand part of those Estimates. I thank you Madam Chairperson.

Question put and **agreed to.**

ORGANISATION 2800 - ETHICS AND INTEGRITY DIRECTORATE

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Members, note that one hour 50 minutes have been allocated to this organisation. I shall call upon the Honourable Minister to reply to the debate tomorrow at 3:35 p.m. and then the question will be put at 4:05 p.m tomorrow. I now call upon the Honourable Minister for State President, Defence and Security to present.

MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE AND SECURITY (MR MOHWASA): Mr Saleshando, listen *fa re bua*.

Madam Chairperson, it is an honour for me to present the Ethics and Integrity Directorate (EID) Recurrent and Development Budget proposals for the financial year 2026/2027 under Organisation 2800 to this honourable committee for consideration and approval.

Madam Chairperson, the EID was established by Section 4 of the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act No. 12 of 2019 as amended by Act No. 1 of 2020 to promote and reinforce integrity and accountability in public office, by ensuring compliance with the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act. It does this by monitoring the interests, income, assets and liabilities of certain categories of persons for the purpose of preventing and detecting corruption, money laundering and acquisition of property from proceeds of crime. Madam Chairperson, the Directorate is further mandated to collaborate with other entities in the development and promotion of standards and best practice to promote good ethical conduct.

Madam Chairperson, as promised in my last Committee of Supply speech...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Order! Honourable ga o utlwale sentle, o kare o ka e gogela kwa go wena.*

MR MOHWASA: Madam Chairperson, as promised in my last Committee of Supply speech and in-line with Section 3, Sub-Section (1)(n) of the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act, the Directorate has included among the list of those who are required to declare the following:

- (a) procurement officers;
- (b) project managers;
- (c) project engineers;
- (d) program officers;
- (e) planning officers;
- (f) licensing officers;
- (g) inspection officers;
- (h) facilities management officers; and
- (i) land board officers listed below;
- (j) land adjudication officers,
- (k) conveyancers and those dealing with land transactions, and
- (l) technical officers.

The Directorate wrote to ministries requesting submission of potential declarants in fields of work where there is a higher likelihood of risk which was positively responded to. Amongst the list submitted, we selected the above. The Directorate will continue to add more cadres as and when the need arises and resources permit.

Madam Chairperson, before presenting the budget estimates, allow me to brief this committee on the achievements and challenges encountered by the Directorate during the 2025/2026 financial year.

Madam Chairperson, the EID remains committed to fostering a culture of integrity and accountability within public office. In this regard, initiatives are underway to establish a robust asset declaration system aimed at systematically monitoring the interests, income, assets and liabilities of public officials. This initiative underscores the Directorate's unwavering commitment to promoting accountability and ethical governance

in public office. Madam Chairperson, the Directorate is presently undertaking the digitalisation of its asset declaration register. The initial phase aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, involved the automation of the asset declaration form. This form has been successfully completed and is ready for pilot implementation. The digitised form is expected to streamline the declaration process by providing declarants with improved accessibility and greater ease of submitting their declarations electronically.

Madam Chairperson, the second phase which entails development of the back-end system was supposed to have commenced in the 2025/2026 financial year but could not be due to lack of resources. It is currently stated to commence in the 2026/2027 financial year. This phase will facilitate the processing of declarations, encompassing receipt and verification of submitted information to detect potential corruption, money laundering or acquisition of assets derived from criminal proceeds. Additionally, it will establish a digital register accessible to the public upon payment of a prescribed fee. The system will be designed to interface with external systems to enable verification of submitted data.

Madam Chairperson, the Directorate is presently at an advanced phase of establishing a register which will be made accessible to the public subject to the payment of the prescribed fee as I indicated. The register will include a list of individuals who have submitted their declarations, as well as those who have not complied after being served with a notice. The register will also contain a list of people who have been subjected to penalties for failure to declare.

Madam Chairperson, to raise awareness about the EID and its role in promoting ethical behavior and accountability in the public office and society, strides continue to be made to educate the public, generate interest and encourage public participation in promoting integrity. The Directorate followed a whole of society approach ensuring mainstreaming of ethics in all parts of society.

Madam Chairperson, regarding declarant education, workshops were held throughout the country to facilitate declaration of assets and liabilities. The office also produced a short booklet to facilitate dissemination of

knowledge on the asset declaration process. Efforts were made to reach the public through expositions (expos), Government commemorations and public events to support awareness of the EID mandate. Furthermore, the Directorate continued training parastatals, local authorities and other stakeholders.

Madam Chairperson, partnerships were facilitated with media practitioners to facilitate dissemination of information on the mandate of the EID and coverage of events. The office also hopes to finalise a framework contract for the development of jingles and televised content on ethical issues during the financial year.

Madam Chairperson, to strengthen capacity, the Directorate participated in experiential exchanges with the Gauteng Ethics Council of South Africa, as well as ethics institutions in the region. The office is also exploring funding support with development partners to facilitate further learnings.

2025/2026 BUDGET EXECUTION

Madam Chairperson, the Directorate was allocated a sum of Twenty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty Pula (P25,375,960), which consists of Twenty-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty Pula (P23,965,960) for the Recurrent Budget and One Million, Four Hundred Thousand Pula (P1,400,000) for the Development Budget.

As at 31st January 2026, the expenditure stood at Eleven Million, Twenty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Four Pula (P11,023,304) or 46 per cent of the Recurrent Budget and there is no expenditure under the Development Budget.

2026/2027 BUDGET PROPOSALS

Madam Chairperson, the Budget Estimates for the 2026/2027 financial year amounts to Twenty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty Pula (P29,114,640), which consists of Twenty-Five Million, Six Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty Pula (P25,614,640) for the Recurrent Budget and Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P3,500,000) for the Development Budget.

RECURRENT BUDGET

Madam Chairperson, the Directorate request the sum of Twenty-Five Million, Six Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty Pula (P25,614,640) under the Recurrent Budget for the 2026/2027 financial year.

Madam Chairperson, allow me to outline the major items of expenditure that comprise this budget proposal.

PARENT ACCOUNT - SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

Madam Chairperson, I request for the sum of Thirteen Million, Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Pula (P13,260,850) for salaries and allowances of staff. This constitutes 51.8 per cent of the total budget.

PARENT ACCOUNT 0200 - TRAVELLING AND TRANSPORT (INTERNAL)

Madam Chairperson, under this item, I request for an allocation of Eight Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand, and Seventy Pula (P897,070) to cater for travelling and subsistence allowance for internal trips by staff. This represents 3.5 per cent of total budget.

PARENT ACCOUNT 0300 - TRAVELLING AND TRANSPORT (EXTERNAL)

Madam Chairperson, I request for an allocation of Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pula (P920,000) being 3.6 per cent of the budget to cater for transport and per diem for external travel by staff.

PARENT ACCOUNT 0400 - GENERAL EXPENSES AND SUPPLIES

Madam Chairperson, I request for an amount of Three Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty Pula (P3,426,740) or 13.4 per cent of the budget. The funds are needed for advertising and publicity, service charges, postal charges and office supplies.

PARENT ACCOUNT 0500 - DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES

Madam Chairperson, I request for Two Million, Six Hundred and Sixty Thousand Pula (P2,660,000) for this

account. The funds, which represent 10.4 per cent of the budget, will be used for consultancies and office rentals.

PARENT ACCOUNT 0700 - MAINTENANCE AND RUNNING (EQUIPMENT)

Madam Chairperson, I request for Three Hundred and Eighty-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty Pula (P383,660) or 1.5 per cent of the budget under this account. The funds will be used for fire-fighting equipment, office equipment, vehicle and plant maintenance, computer system consumables and maintenance.

PARENT ACCOUNT 0800 - MAINTENANCE AND RUNNING EXPENSES (OTHER)

Madam Chairperson, for this account I request for One Million and Seventy-Seven Thousand Pula (P1,077,000). The funds will be used for maintenance of offices and minor works. This represents 4.2 per cent of the budget.

PARENT ACCOUNT 00900 - INSTITUTIONAL RUNNING EXPENSES

Madam Chairperson, for this account I request for One Hundred and Ten Thousand Pula (P110,000). The funds will be used for purchase of library books and texts. This represents 0.4 per cent of the budget.

PARENT ACCOUNT 01100 - GOVERNMENT HOSPITALITY

Madam Chairperson, for this account I request for One Hundred and Fifty-Thousand Pula (P150,000), representing only 0.6 per cent of the budget.

PARENT ACCOUNT 01200 - TRAINING

Madam Chairperson, I request for Five Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Pula (P598,120). This is 2.3 per cent of the budget. The funds will cater for short-term courses and performance management activities.

PARENT ACCOUNT 01300 - COUNCILS, CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS.

Madam Chairperson, I request for the sum of Five Hundred and Seventy Thousand Pula (P570,000) representing 2.2 per cent of the budget to cater for health and safety activities as well as seminars, workshops and conferences.

PARENT ACCOUNT 04300 - SPECIAL EXPENDITURE

Madam Chair, for this account I request for One Million and Eighty-One Thousand, Six Hundred Pula (P1,081,600). These funds will be utilised for furniture, office equipment and computer replacement. This is 4.2 per cent of the budget.

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

Madam Chairperson, under the Development Budget, I request for the sum of Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P3,500,000) for the procurement of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Infrastructure upgrade and Digitalisation project, Digitalisation of Asset Declaration System and Development of National Code of Ethics and Guidelines to conflict of interest.

CONCLUSION

Madam Chairperson, this concludes my budget proposal for Organisation 2800 - Ethics and Integrity Directorate. I now request that a total of Twenty-Eight Million, One Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty Pula (P28,114,640), which consists of Twenty-Five Million, Six Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty Pula...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Order! Honourable Minister, *boela fa o bale madi gape.*

MR MOHWASA: Ga le a utlwa?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: O rile 28 instead of 29.

MR MOHWASA: I now request that a total of Twenty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty Pula (P29,114,640), which consists of Twenty-Five Million, Six Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty Pula (P25,614,640) for the Recurrent Budget and Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P3,500,000) for the Development Budget be approved and stand part of the 2026/2027 Appropriation Bill (No. 1 of 2026) for Organisation 2800. I move accordingly. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Order! Honourable Members. The floor is open.

MR SALESHANDO (MAUN NORTH): Ke a go leboga Modulasetilo wa komiti. Ke tsaya gore babusi le utlwile gore tse pedi tse ke di akgetseng tse di neng di feta, ke ne ke bua gore ke di ema nokeng. Kana fela fa motho a re e ga ke eme nokeng, le nna le re o ganetsa sengwe le sengwe. Ga ke a tlela fa go tla go nna *cheer boy* wa lona, ga ke ise ke ko ke *support* ka fa lekgotla le le tsamaisiwang ka teng *under* Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), *and because* le le tsamaisa ka tsela e e tshwanang fela le yone, *I cannot support this budget request.*

Re gakologelwe gore nako ya go simololwa kgang e ka nako ya Mme Mma Phumaphi a tlisa *Motion* mo Palamenteng wa *disclosure*, kgang e ne e le gore a re nne le sengwe se se ka tsholetsang tshepo ya batlhophi mo boeteledipeleng, bogolo jang jwa sepolotiki, gore ba se ka ba nna le dipelaelo tsa gore mapolotiki ba a ba senyetsa. Gone moo re ka go kgona fa go ka nna le gore batho ba patelesege go bua gore mme ke tsene fa ke tshotse eng, nako e ke tswang, ke tswa ke tshotse eng, ba itse gore ke amogela bokae kgwedi le kgwedi. Fa e le gore ke tsene mo Pusong ke na le dikgomo di le 10 ka *salary* ya P40,000, e bo e re ngwaga wa ntlha o fela ke bo ke na le dipolase di le tharo, go raya gore go tshwanetse go itsiwe gore kgonagalo e e kwa godimo ke ya gore ke a senya ka gore tse ke di phuthileng ga di tsamaelane le ka fa ke neng ke amogela ka teng.

Jaanong fa molao o o santse o direlwa mo sephiring jaaka ba le tsereng mo go bone ba ne ba dira, kana moo ga sephiri ga go dire pharologanyo epe, *it does not enhance confidence*, ga go tsholetse serodumo sa mapolotiki fa pele ga setšhaba. Le tlaa taboga le re le ya go seka batho ba bua gore bangwe ba lona le reka matlo, mme re ntse re itse gore *salary* ya Mopalamente e thata gore o reke le *low-cost* mo dingwageng tse *five*. *The only way you could save yourself* ga se go seka, ke go dira se nneng Barack Obama a se dira, fa ka 2008 a batla go emela boTautona, *there was a movement* e bidiwa the Birther Movement. Ba ba neng ba ntsha kgang ya gore *no*, monna yo ga a a tsholelwa mo America, o tsholetswe kwa Kenya. *His best defence was* go baya *birth certificate* mo tafoleng, *it killed that movement*. Ba kile ba re ba a tabogataboga ba re ga se *authentic*, *he went to* Hawaii kwa a tsholetsweng teng ga ya go ntshiwa *the original certificate*. Ga a ka a seka. *Up until* re amogela gore le rona, a *disclosure* e nnele mo pontsheng, *we are wasting the nation's money.*

MR LEKAU: *Clarification.* Ke ne ke re ka re o bua sentle mme gape ke ne ke re ke tlhologanye gore *what is your take* ka ba e leng gore le fa go ntse go direlwa mo sephiring, le go tla go tsena gone jaana ga ba ise ba bo ba *fill* le fa e le *form*?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Nnyaa, tlhe rra o se ka wa bua ka rona.

MR LEKAU: Go kwala mme ba le mo Palamenteng.

MR SALESHANDO: *Well, look,* se ke se rayang ke gore *this disclosure is ineffective.* Ke a utlwa gore *Minister* a re o tlaa ntsha *list* ya gore ke bomang *who complied* le ba ba sa dirang jalo *but there is a good chance* ya gore bangwe *who complied,* ga re ka ke ra itse fa ba senya. Ga ke itse gore a le raya gore le lona jaaka maDomkrag le tshaba *full disclosure* e le gone le tsenang mo Pusong gore fela le tsenye le tshotse eng? *This for me means that le batla to keep standard* sa BDP, *which for all intents and purposes was just ticking the box exercise.*

Ga re ye go boelwa ke sepe mo go P25 million yo Rre Mohwasa a mo kopang fa e le gore go santse go direlwa *disclosure* mo sephiring. *Transparency* ke yone e e tlhokafalang go tsholetsa tshepho ya bathlophi mo mapolotiking. Ke batla o gatelele mo mapolotiking *and by the way,* ga se gore ke bone fela ba ba ka senyang, *even public servants,* bone ba e leng gore ba amiwa ke molao o, *the same applies to them.* *But* gompiano ka gore ke bua le *fellow politicians* jaaka nna, ke batla go gatelela kgang e ya gore fa *this disclosure* e sa nne *public,* re latlhela *this P25 million* mo *pit latrine* kana *we are flushing it down the toilet.*

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE): *Clarification.* *Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you motlotlegi. I agree with you,* go na le kwa go diragalang teng kwa mafatsheng a mangwe. *For you to disclose all your assets or what you have,* o tshwanetse gore gape o bo o leka go e *protect* le ka melao e mengwe ya gore e se ka ya re o ntse jaana wa iphitlhela o le *more vulnerable to* dirukutlhi kana mo go eng fela jalo.

Ke ka dumalana le wena fa o ka nthaya wa re kana mme go raya gore molao o re o baakanye, re o nonotshe go feta foo gore *even if I disclose my assets to everybody else to see, I am also protected* ka tsela e e siameng, e

e tshwanetseng. *So,* ke raya gore *can you balance the two,* o se ka wa bua gore nnyaa, *let us just disclose.* Fa re ka *disclose* fela jalo, *it is going to be chaos.* *Your rights are not going to be protected.* Ke ne ke kopa jalo mongwame.

MR SALESHANDO: Ke go utlwile *but the starting point* ke gore a re dumalaneng gore *until* go nna le *disclosure,* e na le melao yotlhe e e tlhokafalang gore e tsamaye le yone, *we are losing money.* *This is P25 million* yo e leng gore re ka bo re mo dirisitse sengwe se sele se se botoka.

You see, the world over, business people target politicians. *Not* gore ba rata dipolotiki, *it is because they want to corrupt them* ka gore ba na le *influence.* Ga se gore ke ditsala. Fa o utlwa gotwe Dumelang *is going on a private visit with a private jet, he is flying to 15 countries in two weeks,* o tshwanetse o ipotse gore ka gore ga a amogele madi a a tsamaelanang le mesepele e, ba ba mo rweleng ba tsamaya ka ene, ba gabile eng? *That should worry you* ka gore mapolotiki ba na le go tshabelelwa ke gore fa ba tsena *into power,* ba e neng e se bagwebi, ba bo ba fetoga go nna bagwebi ba batona. Ke gore o ipotsa gore tiro ya ga Goromente e le kanakana, a ne a paletswe ke go nna mogwebi a ise a nne mo Pusong, o tsaya kae nako jaanong ya go *run businesses* le ba lelwapa la gagwe?

Ke ne ke raya Tautona mongwe wa Botswana ke re, go tlaa go tlela gore nako nngwe o iphitlbele o tabogile lepaapaa jaaka Tautona yo mongwe wa kwa South Africa. Le lona ke batla go le bolelela, ga go kgakala go le tlela ka fa le gateng ka teng. Tautona wa kwa South Africa o ne a na le ngwana yo ke gakologelwang nako nngwe a le mo *television* a botsolotswa dipotso gotwe, “ke gore ga o nke o tshwenyega nako nngwe gore dikgang tse di tsile go felela di boitse kwa go wena, *have this idea ever crossed your mind?*” a bo a bua e kete ke metlae, a sutisa tlhogo a e lebisa ka fa a bo a re, “*it just crossed my mind,*” a bo a smile.

Fa o bona le gompiano bagwebi ba batona ba ba bulang dikgwebo tse ditona e le ba ba amanang le *President,* gotwe ngwana wa ga *President* all of a sudden e nna mogwebi yo motona, le ba gotweng ba tlile go nna le dipuisanyo le Puso, ba amogelwa ke ene kwa *airport,* *watch out! The day will come.*

MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR RAMOGAPI): *Point of order. Madam Chair, ke ne ke re Motlotlegi Saleshando o ntse a e tshwere fela sentle a bua ka kakaretso, a sa ntsho maina a ga ope. Gore a bo a ntsha leina la ngwana wa ga President mme a seyo fa go ka ipuelela...*

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

MR RAMOGAPI: Gore a o mmuile ka leina...

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Members!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: A ko le reetseng.

MR RAMOGAPI: Kana ga a mmue ka leina, *the fact that he is saying* ngwana wa ga *President*, ga a yo fa go ikarabela. A a bue fela jaaka a ne a ntse a bua, a se ka a bua ka ba ba seyong fa go ikarabela ka gore fa re dira jalo, re tlaabo re tsenya Ntlo e ya gago mo mathateng *Madam Chair*. Ke a leboga.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Leader of the Opposition (LOO), o raya ngwana wa ga Tautona ofe, yo o bidiwang mang?

DR S. MODISE: Point of order.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Iketle pele *Honourable* Modise.

MR SALESHANDO: I am a President of a political party and I have sons...

DR S. MODISE: Point of order.

MR SALESHANDO: Letsatsi le ba tlaa bonwang...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable* Modise, ke santse ke reeditse *Honourable* LOO. Ke ne ke mo raya ke re o raya ngwana wa ga *President* mang, yo o bidiwang mang? O tshwanetse gore a ntlhalosetse.

MR SALESHANDO: I am giving names now.

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

MR SALESHANDO: Fa e le gore le tshaba...

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

MR SALESHANDO: *I really do not know* gore Dr

Modise a re ene fa a bua a reediwe ke mang fa a sa kgone go reetsa ope? *I am the President of a party and I have sons*. Fa le batla maina, *I have a son called Loago and a son called Seabo*. Letsatsi le e tlaa reng re tsene mo Pusong e bo e le gore ke motseletsele wa dikompone tsa bone, tse ba neng ba sa kgone go nna le tsone ke ise ke kgone go fenya ditlhopho tsa go nna Tautona wa lefatshe, le bo le itse gore e tsene ka sekgwa.

There is one man I respected a sena go tswa mo Pusong yo o kileng a nna *Minister* and *I will mention his names* ka gore ke batla go bua *in a positive way*. O ne a bidiwa Boometswe Mokgothu. O kile a mpolelela gore nako ya a le *Minister* yo o neng a lebagane le *land boards*, o ne a bolelela lelwapa la gagwe, *including siblings* gore, “*for the years* tse ke tlaabong ke le *Minister* wa *Lands*, fa o ise o *apply for* lefatshe, go ile fela jalo. Le tlaa tla le *apply* ke sena go tswa fa ka gore ke tshaba gore batho ba bo ba tla go leba gore a le le bone ka nna.” Jaanong lona fa le bona le santse le sena ditlhong, le Matona a re neng re na le bone ka kwano *a few years ago*, re raya Domkrag re re go bo e le gore kgaitadia Tautona ke ene a fiwang *tenders* go maswe, e bo e le bone gompieno le potileng ka koo le sireletsa, le bitsa bo *point of order* gore go raya gore o bua ka ngwana wa ga semangmang, *watch out! It is a warning, watch out!*

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Order! Order!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Ke rile* point of order Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Nnyaa, ga go na *point of order*.

MR RAMOGAPI: Nnyaa, ke sale ke rile *point of order*, ga o a *rule*, o bo o botsa Rre Saleshando potso, a bo a polotika, o bo o sa bue sepe, o bo o mo tlogela fela. Ke ne ke tsaya gore e tlaare kwa bofelong o bo o tsenya Ntlo e mo tsamaisong gore nnyaa mme Rre Saleshando o mo tseleng kana ga a mo tseleng. Ke a leboga.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Please respect the Speaker!

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: *Honourable* Ramogapi, fa ke eme o bo o ema o bua, ke dire jang, ke sie? Ke raya fela o mpona ke ema ke re “*Order*” o bo o ema o ineela *floor* o bua, o sa itse le gore ke batla go reng.

Honourable Members, ke kopa gore e nne e re fa motho a bua, le bo le supa gore “*Point of Order*” le letlelele motho *to rule*. Fa le tsosa modumo ke tlaa le tlogela, *because* go raya gore jaanong lona ke lona le batlang *to rule*. Ga e ka ke ya re le ntshitse kgang, ke santse ke batla *to attend it*, le bo le tsosa medumo le bua fela jalo. Le batla ke dira jang? *Until and unless* le mpha nako ke bua, go raya gore ke nne ke tlogela fela ka gore ga ke na mosola. *Order!*

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order! Point of order Madam Chair.

MADAM SPEAKER (MS MANYENENG): Honourable Members, it is now 6:30 p.m. I now call upon the Leader of the House to move a Motion of adjournment.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR MOHWASA): *Ke a leboga* Madam Speaker. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 6:30 p.m. until Wednesday 18th March, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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