

**13<sup>th</sup>**  
PARLIAMENT



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**PARLIAMENT OF BOTSWANA**  
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# **DAILY HANSARD**

*YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT*

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

**FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2026**

**MIXED VERSION**

**HANSARD NO: 220**



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

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

**CABINET**

The President Adv. D. G. Boko, MP.	- President
His Honour N. N. Gaolathe, MP.	- Vice President & Minister of Finance
Hon. M. C. Mohwasa, MP.	- Minister for State President, Defence and Security
Hon. Dr P. Butale, MP.	- Minister for International Relations
Hon. N. Ramaotwana, MP.	- Minister of Justice and Correctional Services
Hon. K. Motshegwa, MP.	- Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs
Vacant	- Minister of Lands and Agriculture
Hon. D. Tshere, MP.	- Minister of Communications and Innovation
Hon. N. Kgafela-Mokoka, MP.	- Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education
Hon. P. Maele, MP.	- Minister of Higher Education
Hon. W. B. Mmolotsi, MP.	- Minister of Environment and Tourism
Hon. Dr S. Modise, MP.	- Minister of Health
Hon. Maj. Gen. P. Mokgware, MP.	- Minister of Labour and Home Affairs
Hon. O. Ramogapi, MP.	- Minister of Water and Human Settlement
Hon. B. J. Kenewendo, MP.	- Minister of Minerals and Energy
Hon. T. Ntsima, MP.	- Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship
Hon. L. Chombo, MP.	- Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs
Hon. J. Kelebeng, MP.	- Minister of Sport and Arts
Hon. N. S. L. M. Salakae, MP.	- Minister of Transport and Infrastructure
Hon. M. B. Mophuting, MP.	- Assistant Minister for 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

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES

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

## **OPPOSITION**

### **(Botswana Congress Party)**

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

### **(Botswana Patriotic Front)**

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

### **(Botswana Democratic Party)**

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

### **(Independent Member of Parliament)**

Hon. Dr E. G. Dikoloti, MP.	Goodhope- Mmathethe
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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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Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

THE ASSEMBLY met at 9:00 a.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

### PRAYERS

\* \* \* \*

**MR SPEAKER (MR KEORAPETSE):** Pray be seated!

...Silence...

### SPEAKER'S REMARKS

**MR SPEAKER:** *Batlotlegi le short ka Mapalamente a le eight. Order! Honourable Members. Good morning Honourable Members. Go Labothlano, ke tsaya gore le bonye Order Paper gore e ntse jang. There will be an addendum, mme e se ka ya le tshwenya, it will just be for purpose of tabling, because the financial paper has to go before the Finance and Estimates Committee, before it comes here. It will just be for tabling. That addendum I hope it has been circulated.*

So, Honourable Members, let me take this opportunity to thank each one of you who were present at yesterday's official launch of the Volume 57 of the Botswana Notes and Records Journal, especially the issue which was dedicated to the historic 2024 General Elections. It gave me great joy to see such resounding support for this milestone event which marked Botswana's democratic journey to where we are today. Thank you once again Honourable Members.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, let us start our business of today with theme. Honourable Members, let me also indicate that the question is to the Minister of Minerals and Energy, but it has to be the Minister for State President. That is the Minister who will answer the question.

### MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME

#### MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY

#### THEME: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON BCL CLOSURE

Asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy to state:

(i) the criteria used to select the Commissioners;

- (ii) how the Commission will ensure transparency and independence in its investigations;
- (iii) the terms of reference, and whether those terms were subjected to any stakeholder input or expert review;
- (iv) how Government will guarantee operational independence of the Commission from political influence, particularly given that it will investigate actions of former leaders;
- (v) the total budget allocated for the Commission's operation; and
- (vi) arrangements that have been made to ensure witness protection and prevent intimidation or interference during testimony.

**MR R. W. KAIZER (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST):** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Motho yo Mohwasa o raya gore o tsaya dikgwedi di le tharo gore a arabe potsonyana e? *Mr Speaker*, potso e ke e tshwereng mo letsatsing la gompieno e itebagantse le go tlhodumela kana go latedisa ditiragalo tsa go tswalwa ga moepo wa BCL ka 2016. Potso e *came after Tautona announced* mo makgethong a le mabedi le gone kwa Selebi Phikwe, a bua gore, *he is going to establish a Commission of Inquiry into the closure of the BCL Mine.*

*Mr Speaker*, karolo ya ntlha ya potso e ke batlang Tona a e tlhalosa ke gore, mme gone maloko a a tlhophilweng go tsena mo komiting e, ba tlhophilwe ka tsela e e ntseng jang? A mme ba ne ba itshupelwa ke Tautona kana go na le tsamaiso nngwe e e leng teng e e ka fa molaong e e supang gore maloko a dikomiti tse ba tlhophiwa ka tsela e e ntseng jang?

Karolo ya bobedi *Mr Speaker*, ke batla go tlhaloganya gore, a mme komiti e e direla dilo mo pontsheng le gone go diragatsa e ikemetse ka bonosi e sa kgopakgopediwe ke ope, e sa kgopakgopediwe ke sepe go dira tiro ya yone? E bile gape e leba gore, le fa e batlisisa jaana e ikaegile ka eng? A go na le mo gotweng *terms of reference* tse gongwe e ikaegileng ka tsone e le mo motlhaleng wa dikgang dipe tse di neng tsa dira gore moepo o felele o tswalwa?

Se sengwe gape ke gore, Goromente o solofetsa jang gore komiti e e ikemetseng ka bonosi e dira e sa kgopakgopediwe ke sepe, ka e bile e akaretsa le *administration* tse di kwa morago tse fetileng? E bile e itebagantse le... *I think* go na le bo Tautona ba le babedi

ba e itebagantseng le bone. Le ba bangwe ba maloko a teng ba santseng ba ntse ba le teng mo Pusong ya Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC).

Se sengwe *Mr Speaker* ke gore, gone mme tiro e e ya go lopa bokae? *Appointed Commissioners* tse di duelwa jang, e bile di duelwa bokae? Le gone gore mo nakong ya gompiano madi a re setseng re a dirisitse, go ka ba duela ke bokae?

Sa bofelo *Mr Speaker*, potso e e leka go tlhaloganya gore, mme gone mo go ba ba thusang go tlisa bosupi fela jo bo farologanyeng, ba babalesegile go le kae? A molao o o leng teng wa *Whistleblowers* o nonofile go lekanye go ka babalela botlhe ba ba tshotseng dikgang dingwe tse ba ka di tlisang *to the Commission*? Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

**MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE AND SECURITY (MR MOHWASA):** Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Thank you Honourable Kaizer for this question, which is of national importance.

Mr Speaker, the selection of Commissioners was conducted with the outmost care and diligence, guided by the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act (Cap.05:02) and the imperative to assemble a body possessed of unassailable integrity, relevant expertise, and Judicial or administrative experienced commensurate with the complexity of this inquiry.

All appointees have no known direct or indirect interest in the BCL liquidation nor any political or commercial ties that would compromise their objectivity. Their appointments were thoroughly vetted for conflict of interest.

The Commission reflects regional and professional diversity, reinforcing public trust in the inquiry's composition.

Mr Speaker, the transparency and independence are not merely aspirational. They are structurally embedded in the Commission's framework and are matters of sacred public trust.

The Commission will conduct its hearings in public unless compelling reasons such as witness, protection or national security necessitate otherwise. All proceedings will be publicly noticed, and the people of Botswana will have the opportunity to observe the pursuit of truth firsthand. Evidence on record; the Commission will maintain a complete public record

of evidence, submissions and exhibits, subject only to lawful redactions. Witnesses and affected parties will be entitled to legal presentation at their own cost, and the Commission may, where necessary, facilitate representation to ensure fairness.

The Commission is not subject to direct or control by the executive authority in the conduct of its investigations than calling of witnesses or the formulation or findings. Mr Speaker, the terms of reference were drafted following a rigorous internal process involving legal, financial and environmental experts, they were also informed by expert review. The terms of reference were reviewed by Senior Counsel with expertise in liquidation law and public inquiries to ensure that they are legally sound, comprehensive and capable of yielding actionable findings.

### Parliamentary Oversight

The terms of reference have been made publicly available through the Government Gazette, allowing for Parliamentary and civil society scrutiny. The terms of reference are notably expansive, covering the lawfulness of liquidation actions, the conduct of directors and Cabinet members, corruption, fronting and tender irregularities, environmental disaster risks, asset accounting and pilfering. These terms of reference ensure that no aspect of these shall collapse from boardroom decisions to political influence remains unexamined.

Mr Speaker, the Government has taken deliberate, legally binding and politically courageous steps to insulate the Commission from any form of interference. The Commission established under the Commissions of Inquiry Act which confess the powers of a Court of Record including the power to summon witnesses, compel production of documents and punish contempt. The Chairperson, Mr Wallis is a retired Judge of high standing, whose judicial independence is beyond reproach. His leadership guarantees that the Commission will operate without fear, favour or prejudice. All Government departments, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and public officers have been formally directed to cooperate fully with the Commission without seeking direction from political principals. The terms of reference explicitly authorise investigation into the conduct of Former Presidents, former Cabinet Members and senior public officials. This demonstrates that no individual regardless of status or station, is shielded from scrutiny. It is a testament to the President's commitment that accountability applies equally to all. The Commission's funding will be administered by the secretariat independently, free from political influence.

Mr Speaker, the Government wishes to assure the Honourable Member and the House that the commission will be provided with all necessary resources to execute its mandate effectively and without compromise. However, the final budget allocation is currently being finalised due to ongoing administrative processes relating to the detailed operational requirements of the Commission. These processes are standard for any inquiry of this magnitude and complexity.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the Commission is neither under-resourced nor constrained in its work. Once the budget has been finalised, it will be shared with Honourable Members and the public in the spirit of transparency and accountability that defines this administration. The people of Botswana have a right to know how public resources are being utilised, and this Government will not shy away from that obligation.

The Government is acutely aware that witnesses in matters involving former high-level officials and complex commercial interest may face intimidation or reprisal. This Government will not tolerate any attempts to undermine the pursuit of justice. The following safeguards have been instituted;

- **Protective measures under the Act**

The Commission may, under Section 6 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, receive evidence in camera and make orders to protect the identity of witnesses where necessary.

- **Legal Support**

Witnesses who face intimidation may apply for legal representation at the Commission's discretion, and the Commission has the power to refer acts of intimidation to law enforcement for criminal prosecution.

- **Confidential Testimony**

Where a witness demonstrates reasonable fear of reprisal, the Commission may permit testimony to be given anonymously, with identity known only to their Commissioners and legal team.

- **Public Deterrence**

The publication of the Commission's terms of reference and the stature of its commissioners serve as a powerful deterrent against any attempts to interfere with witnesses or evidence. Let it be known that this Government will protect those who come forward in the interest of the truth.

## Conclusion

Mr Speaker, the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry represents watershed moment in our nation's commitment to accountability, transparency and justice. The people of Selebi Phikwe and indeed all Batswana, deserve answers regarding the circumstances that led to the collapse of a strategic national asset. They deserve to know what happened, who was responsible, and what lessons must be learned so that such a tragedy never recurs. This Commission is properly constituted, operationally independent, and will be adequately resourced. I call upon all stakeholders to cooperate fully and allow the Commission to discharge its mandate without hindrance. Let us also set aside partisanship and unite in the pursuit of truth for the benefit of our nation. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**MR KAIZER:** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Nnyaa, mme o lekile go araba mokaulengwe. Ke ne ke utlwa o bua gore *terms of reference were gazetted*, ga ke itse gore a o ka kgona go mpha *date* ya Government Gazette re tle re kgone go di tlhodumela ka gore ga ke ise ke di bone?

Mongwe o ka botsa gore *Commission* e e simolola leng, *what are the timelines?* Ke utlwa o santse o bua ka *budget*, ka gore fa o bona o santse o bua ka *budget*, go raya gore ga o ise o simolole. Le gone gore fa e setse e simolotse, e ya go fela leng, ka gore go setse go na le tlhobaelo fela e ntsi kwa Selebi Phikwe, gore dikgang tsa gompiano tsa go duela babereki ba pele, le dikgang tsa matlo a BCL, ka fa ba bonang di le bonya ka teng, ba setse ba belaela gore fa gongwe go diega ga *Commission* e, ke gone mo go tshwereng gore dilo tseo ba tle ba felele ba di bone, ba neetswe matlo e bile ba duetswe madi a bone.

E nngwe ke gore, gone mme *what are the binding mechanisms* tse e leng gore *they are currently existing in terms of the recommendations* tse e leng gore *this Commission* e ya go di ntsha, gore a mme gone re tlaa bona batho ba seka, *will there be any criminal investigations and prosecutions* mo go botlhe ba ba iphitlhelang ba nnile le seabe mo dikgannyeng tsa BCL?

Ya bofelo, ke a utlwa gore *these terms of reference were subjected to expert opinion* le tse dingwe fela jalo. Ga ke a utlwa o bua ka *the public consultations* kwa Selebi Phikwe gore ba e leng batswasetlhabelo, le ba rerisitse (*consult*) go le kae fa le tla go dira *these terms of reference?* Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

**MR SPEAKER:** *Minister*; o batla go di tsaya di le mokawananyana?

**MR MOHWASA:** Nnyaa, mme ke ne ke re ke gacolole Rre Kaizer, ka boikokobetso, o ne a botsa gore *date* ya Government Gazette ke leng. *I do not have the date in front of me*, mme ke tsaya gore gongwe re ka dira ditlhotlhomiso mmogo *to check* Gazette eo. Go go batlela *copy* ya teng, o tle o bone gore ke ya leng, o bone tse di neng di le mo teng. O bo o bua gore, go batlega *the timelines*, e bile se se teng ke gore, re bone dituelo tsa babereki ba BCL. Ke tsaya gore o bua ya *soft landing* ka gore *where we are right now*, Goromente, BCL kana le...*(Inaudible)*... ga a kolote babereki ba BCL sepe.

Se se leng teng, se motho a ka se tlhalosang motlotlegi ke gore, Goromente ka *the Vice President (VP) at the time*, o ne a solofetsa batho ba *mine* gore ba tlaa duelwa madi a 18 *months* fa *mine* o tswalwa. Babereki ba ne ba lela ka seo, e le *former employees* ba mokoti wa BCL. Ba re, re ne re solofeditse. *What Government then did*, ba ne ba nna le *meeting* o o neng wa tshwarwa kwa Selebi Phikwe. E ne e le nna, ke na le Tona wa ofisi ya *Labour and Home Affairs* le *Minister* o e leng gore *sector* e, e tsena ka ene, Mme Kenewendo. Babereki e ne ya re fa re kopana le bone, ba bua kgang e. Mopalamente le ene o ne a le teng fa ke sa fose mo phuthegong ya go nna jalo.

Mo phuthegong e e neng e le koo, re ne ra ba bolelela gore re tlaa lebelela dikgang tse tsotlhe ka gore di ne di le mmalwa, di le di ntsi. Tse dingwe e ne e le tse di amanang le tsa matlo a ba nngang mo go one le kgang e ke e buang ya *soft landing*. Re ne ra felela re kopana le ba *union* le *former employees*. Re dumalane gore tota tsa pereko fa go na le fa Goromente a kolotang teng, o tlaa bona gore o dira jang gore ba phimolwe dikeledi. E ne ya re fa re sena go nna re dumalana ka thulaganyo e e ntseng jalo, ra dira gore go nne le *taskforce that was chaired by* Molaodi. *Last week Monday* re ne re le kwa Selebi Phikwe, re latedisa kgang eo. Batho ba garona ga ba ise ba dumalane. Re bo re re, ba tshwanetse ba dumalane gore ba ka kgaogangwa madi ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Re ne re ba bolelela gore ga re bone fa re ka kgona go fitlhelela ya 18 *months*. Re dumela gore sengwe ba tshwanetse ba se fiwe, ka Goromente o ne a tshephisitse.

Kgang e o e buang ya gore e amana le tse, ga di amane gotlhelele le ya matlo. Matlo a ne a neetswe Rre Ramogapi. Ramogapi fa a bua, o ne a re, “go na le matlo a mangwe a go santseng go na le dikgang tsa gore, ga go na *title deeds* mo go one.” Go nna dingalo

gore o ka neela motho ntlo go sena *title deed*. Bangwe ba babereki ba ba neng ba bereka BCL, ba setse ba dira dipaakanyo tsa gore ba reke matlo a go nna jalo. Ga go amane mokaulengwe.

O ne o re go tlaa simolola leng, o bua ka *timelines* gape; ke ne ke bua gore tiro e setse e simologile. Go ne go dirwa *terms of reference* le tse dingwe tse di amanang le dikgang tsa go dira ditlhotlhomiso tse. Re ne re rile, ga go ka ke ga ema fela. *Preliminary work has already started*. E simolola jaana gore fa go bitswa batho gore ba fe bosupi, tse dingwe tse di tshwanelwang ke gore di dirwe, a bo di setse di dirilwe.

Kgang e nngwe o ne o re, a bangwe ba tlaa seka; golo fa re se ka ra bua e kete tiro e diretswe gore e ya go batla batho, jaanong *it is a criminal investigation*. Tiro e, ke ya go tlhola gore gatwe gare go tsene eng. Mokoti o o tshwanang le wa BCL, o o neng o hira batho ba le kanakana, o thusa go fa batho ditiro ba le kanakana mo kgaolong ya Selebi Phikwe, o bo o tswalwa. E tlaare fa go sena go dirwa ditlhotlhomiso, ke bone ba tlaa gacololang gore a go na le bangwe ba ba ka sekang. Fa go na le sengwe se se bonweng, *that suggests* gore *a criminal activity was done, for now* ga re ka ke ra re, go ya go nna le mongwe yo o tlaa sekang. Ditlhotlhomiso ka bo tsone, di tlaa supa. Ga re ka ke ra tsamaela kwa pele, e kete re ya go sekisa ope. Maikaelelo ke gore boammaaruri bo tswe, mme fa go tshwanelwa, go tsewe dikgato go baakanya. Ke ne ke tlhalosa gore ga re nne le *a repeat of this*, ba tlaa gacolola gore go ka dirwa ka tsela e e ntseng jang.

O ne o botsa gape gore a mme re dirile *public consultations on this matter*; rraetsho, ke tsaya gore re tlhola re ya kwa BCL. Re a tlhaloganya *circumstances* tse batho ba BCL ba leng mo go tsone le ka fa *mine* o rekisitsweng ka teng. Ka fa *terms of reference* di ntseng ka teng, bone e le *Commission, they will decide* gore ba ka tsaya tsela e e ntseng jang. Jaaka ke tlhalositse, ga re batle gore e re fa re romile batho, re bo re tsenelela mo go reng phuthang batho ba *line* ele ya ma1400. Fa re neng re kopana teng maloba fale, gore kgobokanang le tle le bue. Ke bone ba tlaa ipatlelang tsela. Fa o batla gore tiro e bereke, go na le *a level of independence* mo bathong. Ba fe sebaka gore ba itshegele tema, gore ba batla go dira ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Ke maikaelelo a rona rraetsho, gore re dire ka tsela e e ntseng jalo. Ke a leboga.

**DR GOBOTSWANG:** *Supplementary*. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. *Mr Speaker*, ke ngongoregisiwa ke kgang e o ka reng, ga go a tlhamalala gore maikaelelo totatota ke

eng? Fa o reeditse *Minister*, o kare ga go papamale. Fa re bua ka *forensic audit*, go ne go le *clear* gore maikaelelo a yone ke gore kwa bofelong, go ye go bonwa ba ba sentseng. *We lost a lot* kwa BCL ka fa e tswetsweng ka teng. *People lost, economy* ya wa, ditshenyegelo tse di seng kana ka sepe. Mme la re, le batla go tlhotlhomisa fela gore le tlhologanye gore go diragetse eng. Fa o ka tshogana ka go nnile le mathata, ke gone gongwe go tlaa dirwang. O kare ga go tsepame sentle gore maikaelelo ke gore, *are they going to be held accountable?* O kare ga go papamale sentle golo foo Tona. Ke batla o go papamatse.

Kgang e nngwe ke gore, ke batla go itse ka *transparency*. Re dira dilo mo pontsheng. A tlhotlhomiso e ya gago ya kwa BCL, e ya go direlwa mo pontsheng *Honourable Minister? Mr Speaker*, a e ya go direlwa mo pontsheng? Ke batla go papamale gone foo. Fa e le gore ga e ye go direlwa mo pontsheng, ke eng o kare le natefelelwa ke go dira dilo mo sephiring? *Why do you want to run an opaque Government? Forensic audit* e dirwa mo sephiring. BCL fa e le gore le yone e direlwa mo sephiring, e tlaabo e nna *trend*. Fa e le gore ga e direlwe mo pontsheng, ke eng o kare le natefelelwa ke selo se se ntseng jalo?

Ya bofelo ke gore, a mme le a lemoga gore go dira dilo mo sephiring, batho ba ka latlhegelwa ke tshepho?

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

**DR GOBOTSWANG:** *Mr Speaker*, go *meeting* ka fa. A mme o a lemoga *Mr Speaker*, gore fa go ka tswelwa go direlwa dilo mo sephiring, setšhaba se ka nna sa latlhegelwa ke tshepho mo ditlhotlhomisong tse di ntseng jalo le mo maduong a tsone? A le a lemoga boleng jwa maduo a teng? A le a lemoga gore go ka felela e le gore batho ga ba nne le tshepho mo go one? Ke eng le sa direle dilo mo pontsheng fela mongwe le mongwe a bonwa a bua *and so forth?* A reng Motsamai? Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

**MR SPEAKER:** *Honourable Minister*, o batla go di tsaya *one, one*, jaana?

**MR MOHWASA:** *Mr Speaker*, ke kopa ke gakolole mogolole. Maloba ke ne ka bua gore fa re ntse re itumela *when we turn* jaana, fa gongwe le tlhologanyo re e tla re lebala fale, kana le go reetsa ga re reetse.

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

**MR MOHWASA:** Ka re, ke tsaya le nna ke le mo teng *Mr Speaker*.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Members, Standing Order 58.4, “no unseemly interruptions.”

**MR MOHWASA:** Ke bua le nna ke le mo teng mogolole. Ga se gore ke a go ntsha ka re, re. Ke bue ka *the part* e ke neng ke e bala. Ke kopa gore fa o ntetlelela *Mr Speaker*, ke ipoeletse.

**MR SPEAKER:** Please do.

**MR MOHWASA:** Mogolole ke mo itse mo Sekgoeng, ga ke ka ke ka mo nyatsa, o se itse thata le go nkgaisa. “*How the Commission will ensure transparency and independence of its investigations; Mr Speaker, the transparency and independence are not merely aspirational, they are structurally embedded in the Commission’s framework and are matters of sacred public trust.*

*Public sittings; the Commission will conduct its sittings in public, unless compelling reasons such as witness protection or national security necessitate otherwise. All proceedings will be publicly noticed, and the people of Botswana will have the opportunity to observe the pursuit of truth firsthand. The Commission will maintain a complete public record of evidence, submissions, and exhibits, subject only to lawful reductions.*” Ke tsaya gore ke go arabile mogolole. Se re se buang ra re, sengwe le sengwe re tsile go se direla mo pontsheng. Letshwenyego la gago le la setšhaba sotlhe, ke lone le le dirileng gore re bo re dirile *Commission of Inquiry*. Fa ke tlhalosa, ke sone se o bonang le gompieno fa kang e e buiwa, o kgona go bona Rre Nkawana, Rre Gobotswang le Rre Lucas ba emelela ka gore batho ba kgaolo ele ba ne ba felela ba nna le lehuma le le tona ka ntata ya... E dirile gore batho ba kgaolo ele ba nne le tshotlego e tona, e e kwa godimo. Re ne ra tshwanelwa ke go bona gore tsamaiso e yotlhe ya gore go tsewe *mine* o bo o tswalwa, a e ne e le yone e e siameng, le go phatlalatsa tsotlhe tse di tswang mo *mine* a e ne e tsamaile sentle. Tse re batla gore re di dire Motlotlegi Gobotswang; go nna le *transparency* e e kwa godimo. Ke tsaya gore ke go arabile ka eo.

Fa o dira ditlhotlhomiso, ke tsaya gore ga o dire ka maikaelelo a gore o batla go tshwara semangmang, o dira ka gore o dumela gore nnete e tshwanetse go tla mo mpaananeng. Ke sone se re leng fa. Ditlhotlhomiso ka botsone, fa le wena o dumela gore sengwe ga se a dirwa sentle, ke tsaya gore boammaaruri jo bo tlaa tlang bo bewa fa pele, bo tlaa nna teng, go bo go ka nna le

dikgato tse di tsewang tse di maleba. Re se ka ra tla fela ka maikaelelo a gore re tsomile semangmang, re tsomile semangmang, fa re dira jalo, re tlaa felela re tlola ditsamaiso tse di maleba. Le bone ba e neng e le gore kamoso o ka ba sekisa, o tlaa palelwa ka gore wena o ne o tla o tsomile motho o sa leba *facts on the ground*. Ke gone ka fa re tlaa tsamaisang ka teng motlotlegi.

**MR MONAGENG:** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke tsaya gore *in most cases* fa re botsa dipotso mo Palamenteng jaana, re a bo re di boletsa setšhaba kwa ntle, ga re di ipoletse. *My question is; rotlhe re tsaya this Commission very seriously. It is going to be very expensive and costly, and we are expecting very good results from it in regard to the situation.* Re utlwalela go na le *one of the Commissioners* yo o tlogetseng tiro. Potso ke gore o tlogetse tiro mabaka e le eng, *if it is not very confidential? Commissioner* yo, a ga go ye go ama *the smooth running of the Commission? Thank you, Mr Speaker.*

**MR MOHWASA:** *I have just been given information le terms of reference Mr Speaker, ya Gazette e nneng Motlotlegi Kaizer a e batla. If you allow Mr Speaker, go na le group ya Mapalamente, you will share mo teng, date ya teng ke di 25 tsa ga September 2025.*

Ya bobedi ke ne ke re nnyaa, ga go na *Commissioner* ope yo o duleng. Jaaka gongwe mongwe a ne a gakolola, mokaulengwe o tshwanetse a bua ka kwa *forensic*, mme mo go e ga go na ope yo o neng a boela kwa morago. Re a leboga.

**MR SALESHANDO:** Thank you Mr Speaker. The Minister calls the establishment of the Commission a 'watershed moment.' The current President is on record when he was Leader of the Opposition (LOO) saying that Commissions of Inquiry are useless and can be choreographed by a sitting President. You need to look at his response to a Motion presented then by the current VP when he was still in opposition, 'A Motion to set up a Commission of Inquiry on the National Petroleum Fund (NPF) in 2018.'

The President went further when he was now a sitting President, in Selebi Phikwe, December 2024, on the International Anti-corruption Day, to once more repeat his statement that Commissions of Inquiry are useless and can be choreographed by a sitting President. Why are you now calling it 'a watershed moment' when you are establishing what the President has on numerous occasions dismissed as a useless exercise that can be choreographed by a sitting President? That is the first question.

The second one; the terms of reference were gazetted six months ago, you are telling us that work has started. Has it started in secrecy? Have the Commissioners met? If they have not met, what are the reasons for the delay? You established an inquiry because you suspect there may be foul play. If you then sit back for more than six months and not have the Commission sitting publicly, why should we trust that this is not a choreographed exercise, as the President himself has said it is likely to be? Thank you.

**MR MOHWASA:** Thank you Mr Speaker. I still maintain that this is a watershed moment in the history of this republic. I have taken note of the comments that you refer to made by the current President. Honourable LOO, different circumstances will call for different responses. *Ke gore* you cannot have a one-size-fits-all, there are instances where you will feel that the Commission of Inquiry will be appropriate like in this instance, but there will also be moments where you feel *gore* a forensic audit will be the best approach to deal with the issues that we want to address. *Sengwe le sengwe se laolwa ke mabaka a sone.*

You are talking about the terms of reference that were gazetted six months ago, in short *wa re a dikgang tse ga di a tlolewa ke dipeba? Ke tsaya gore o raya jalo* honourable. I do not think there is anything that has materially changed in the past year or two regarding the liquidation of BCL, if you look at the terms of reference *tse e leng gore* they have been gazetted. One; the reasons *tsa* the closure of the mine, we can still deal with those issues even if say, the Commission was to start dealing with its work two or three months from now. As a Government, we believe *gore* we will still be able to deal with these issues, even if nothing was done up to now and the President was to constitute a Commission of Inquiry six months from today. The evidence is there to deal with this matter.

I think these are the two issues *Rre* Saleshando, that you raised *ya* the watershed. Like I was saying, preliminary work has already started in terms of putting in place the structures that are going to enable the Commission of Inquiry to execute that mandate. The preliminary work has already started. Thank you.

**MR SPEAKER:** Freeze the clock.

## SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, let me interrupt this question by making a quick announcement. I wish to recognise in the public gallery, the presence of delegates attending the Southern African Development Community-Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) Standing Committee on Human and Social Development and Special Programmes (HSDSP) currently meeting in Gaborone. The delegation comprises over 30 Members of Parliament (MPs) from 15 SADC member states led by Honourable Hope Khati of Lesotho, accompanied by Her Excellency Secretary General of the SADC-PF, Boemo Sekgoma. May the visitors rise for recognition and appreciation, and Honourable Members, help me in welcoming them.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Thank you. You may take your seats. On behalf of Parliament of Botswana, I extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests, and wish you fruitful deliberations during your stay in Botswana. Let us go back to the question.

**MR NKAWANA:** Ke a go leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke ne ke re ke tlhaloganye gore a ke utlwile *Honourable Minister* a re Goromente wa Botswana ga a kolote babereki ba pele ba BCL? Ke gore a tlhalose gore a ke mo utlwile sentle le gore a o tlhaloganya tsamaiso ya Puso? Goromente go sa kgathalesege gore go tsene Puso efe, a na le tse a di saenetseng kwa morago, ga e re a tsena a bo a re ga di mo ame. Re bua ka Botswana Government, *not UDC*. So, Botswana Government *at the time, there was a pronouncement made by the Vice President* kwa Phikwe a supa gore go tlaa nna le *soft landing* e bile go tlile go duelwa batho 18 months. *That was Botswana Government at the time and it is the same Botswana Government, not a new party that is in Government*. So, ke batla gore *Minister* a tlhalose gore a ka tsamaiso ya bone, ditumalano tse di dirilweng ke Goromente wa Botswana, fa bone ba ne ba se mo Pusong, ga di tlhole di ba ama, *that is number 1*?

*Number 2* ke gore kana dilo di tharo kwa Phikwe. Go na le *Commission of Inquiry*, tuelo ya babereki jaaka le ba solofeditse le gore ba neelwe matlo a BCL. Jaanong potso ke gore ka gore ke fa ga go na se se sutang, bothata e ka tswa e le eng? Le gone o tlhalose gore *are these things interrelated* kgotsa nngwe le nngwe e ikemetse ka nosi gore batho ba ba kwa Phikwe ba tlhaloganye? Le rona re kgone go ba tlhalosetsa gore fa mo go ise go wele, mo ga go ka ke ga diragala. Ke a leboga.

**MR MOHWASA:** Ke a leboga mogolole Motlotlegi Rre Nkawana. Mma ke tlhalose ka gore ya 18 months, *the reason why we went to Phikwe* re ya go kopana le babereki, *it is precisely for that reason* ya gore Goromente o ne a dirile tsholofetso e bile ga a ka ke a intsha mo go yone. *The second part of it ke ability to perform* gore re reile babereki ra ba raya ra re, le a itse gore Goromente ga a na madi gompiano *and we are also depending* mo mading a e tlaabong e le gore ke *proceeds from the liquidation process* ka gore kgang ya lona e ne e le *company* ya BCL. Re gone fa re leng teng e bile ba itumeletse Goromente gore ga a ba latlha ka kgang ya 18 months, ba tlaa bona sengwe. Batho ba ba neng ba bereka ba itumetse thata, ba itumelela Goromente yo e leng gore o a kgathala yo o rileng o tlaa ba fa madi.

Sa bobedi ba bua gore Goromente o tsere matlo. Matlo ga a sa tlhole a le kwa go Mme Kenewendo. Ke tsaya gore o ne o le teng, Goromente o a tsere jaanong, o a ntshitse kwa *Minerals* o a neetse ba Bonno gore ba simolole ba neele batho matlo. Yo o nang le madi a batla go e reka mo nakong e o kgona go reka. Re bile ra ba fa sebaka ra re matlo ke a, yang go nna fa fatshe e le lona, e seng rona, le bue gore le ka reka matlo a ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Ba ne ba nna fa fatshe, bangwe ba re ba ka tsaya bo 25 years. Ba Bonno ba ne ba tsaya *guidelines* tseo, ba siana ka tsone. E seng tse di dirilweng ke Goromente, tse bone ba di itiretseng. So, tota ke swaba nko go feta molomo go bo gompiano motlotlegi a re ga go na sepe se se diragalang mme a itse gore gompiano yo e leng gore o mo ntlong ya BCL, e ne e le mmereki, yo o batlang go e reka, fa a na le mašheleng o ka kgona gore a ka reka. So, ga go na gore e eme. Jaanong e ke neng ke e tlhalositse kgantele ke gore go ne go na le *delay* ya *title deeds* mme ba e leng gore *title deeds* tsa teng di siame, ba kgona gore ba ka reka. So, ga di tsamaelane.

E nngwe ke e o e buang. O ne o bua ka *Commission of Inquiry*, ke fetile ka yone. E nngwe o ne o bua ka *soft landing* ya matlo. *Commission of Inquiry* ga e amane gope gotlhelele le gore go diragala eng. Tsotlhe di *run* go le *parallel*.

Gompiano mo go ya Bonno, *Ministry for State President, Defence and Security* ga go na fa o tsenang teng. *Minerals* le ba *Labour* ga go na fa ba tsenang teng mo dikgannyeng tsa Bonno. E kwa go *Honourable Ramogapi 100 per cent*, o *deal* le yone le babereki.

Ya bobedi ya *soft landing* ke yone e re santseng re e tshwaraganetse rotlhe mme e ya *Commission of Inquiry* e ne e dirwa e le gore Tautona ke ene a e dirang mme

e tlaabo e tswa e ya kwa go bone *and* ba *Minerals* ba tlaa ba fa *support* e e tlhokafalang gore ba kgone gore ba dire tiro yone e. So, ga di amane gotlhelele. Maikaelelo a teng ke gore re tshwenyegile jaaka le wena o ne o tshwenyegile Rre Nkawana. O tshwanetse gore o amogele gore *out of all these towns and villages* mo lefatsheng la Botswana, ga go na toropo e Tautona a bothabothileng teng go feta gompiano, a ile go lebagana le dikgang tsa babereki ba BCL go leka go di *resolve*.

**MR LUCAS:** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke ne ke re gongwe re simolole fela ka e rraetsho, kana *processes* tsa Puso ya gompiano di tswelsetse di le mmalwanyana jaaka re tlaabo re bua ka *Commission of Inquiry* kwa BCL mme go na le *another process* e e tswelletseng ya *Forensic Audit*. Potso ya me e le gore a mme go na le sepe se se dirwang mabapi le *Forensic Audit* mme se itebagantse le BCL? A go na le sepe sa mofuta oo?

Ke bua jalo ka gore fa e le gore go nnile le go senyega mo gontsi ga madi, mangwe a mafelo a madi a senyegileng teng le matshelo a neng a amega teng ke kwa Phikwe le BCL. Babereki ba le 5000 ba ne ba latlhegelwa ke ditiro, *families* di le 25 000 di ne tsa amega. Ke re a mme go na le kamano? Fa e le gore ga e yo gompiano kamano eo, a mme e ka nna *consideration* gore fa *report* e sena go tswa, gongwe go dirwe *Forensic Audit* gore ba e leng gore ke badiramelato kgotsa ba leofetse Batswana ba bantsintsi, ba salwe morago ba tle ba arabele melato ya bone? Ke ya ntlha.

Ya bobedi ke gore kana *Commission of Inquiries Act* e supa gore e ka nna ya re fa *report* e tswa, gongwe Tautona a *exercise discretion* ya gore ga e ka ke ya nna *public*. Kakanyo ke eng gompiano mabapi le report ya *Commission* e? A mme re a papamaletswa kwa tshimologong fela gore mme e tlaare fa e tswa, lona le le setšhaba le tlaa nna le sebaka sa gore le e neelwe le lona le e lebelele? Ke raya fela gore ga o ka ke wa *second-guess President* mme fela *what is currently the thinking around the report*?

Ya boraro ke ya *liquidation*. Rraetsho, go lebega *liquidation* e e ne e na le dikgang tsa yone, fa gongwe ba bangwe ba tlogela mme e bile fa gongwe go sa nne le *meeting* le *liquidator* le lona le le Puso jaaka *Minister* a ne a bua. A mme *Commission of Inquiry* ka ga re ise re bone *terms of reference*, re tlaa tla re di latela, a mme e tselelela mo kgannyeng eo gape ya go tlhotlhomisa *liquidation process*? A mme e tsamaile ka tsela e e siameng e motho a ka reng e siame e bile *it was above board*? Ke re yone eo le yone re e sale morago.

Ya bofelo ke e e tsamaelanang le potso ya ga Rre Nkawana. Ke e e reng, kana golo fa go dirwa *Commission of Inquiry* mme jaanong fa e dirwa, fa re e farologanya le ele ya matlo le ya *soft landing*, a mme ga se gore gongwe *Commission of Inquiry* e ka nna ya dira *findings* tse e leng gore *they relate to* kgang ya matlo le *soft landing*? A ga o lemoge gore golo moo fa go diragala, go tlaabo go raya gore jaanong go *defeat findings* tsa *Commission of Inquiry*? Ke a leboga rraetsho.

**MR MOHWASA:** *Thank you Mr Speaker*. Tla ke simolole ka yone e e kwa bofelong ya ga Rre Lucas ya gore gongwe *Commission of Inquiry* fa e simolola *and then* ka fa go bo go nna le tse dingwe tse di tlaabong di dirwa, a ga e ka ke ya tla ya *defeat the other*? Ga ke dumele jalo *because* fa e leng gore go na le phosego e e diragetseng, le yone ke tsaya gore *it should also call for remedial action*. Ke dumela jalo. Ga re ka ke ra ema fela re emetse gore *Commission of Inquiry* e tle e dire tse tsotlhe. Fa o ka lebelela *terms of reference, liquidation* e lebelela sengwe le sengwe, a ke *liquidator* kana mang. Fa go sa dirwang sentle ba tlaa tlhotlhomisa e bile go tlaa tsewa tshwetso e e maleba. *Will the President make it public*? Jaaka ke tlhalositse, maikaelelo ke gore tsotlhetso tle di nne mo mpaananeng. *Any possibility of Forensic Audit at BCL or coverage of BCL by Forensic Audit*; re file *Forensic Audit* gore e ye go tlhotlhomisa mme ga se rona re e bolelelang gore tlhotlhomisa kae kana dira kae. Ke yone e tlaa tlang e dira, gore e dirile eng, e ne e dira jang, e tlaa tla e re fa pego e re tlaa tlang re e bona kwa bofelong. Jaanong ga re itse gore a e akareditse BCL, *but* fa e e akareditse, e tlaa supa mo pegong ya yone e ba tlaa re e begelang ka gore tiro ya bone e a fela mo bokhutlong jwa kgwedi ya *April*. Re solofela gore e tlaa re fa re tswa mo go *May Day, report* eo e tlaabo e neelwa Tautona gore a bone gore jaanong o dira jang ka yone.

E ya BCL, kana re batla gore go se ka ga nna le bofitlha. Fa gongwe re tshwanetse go nna le tshepho bagarona, re se ka ra dumela gore go na le maikaelelo a go fitlha sepe. Ga o ka ke wa tlhotlhomisa selo se o batlang go se fitlha. Kana go raya gore go ne go sa tlhokafale gore o ka bo o ne o tlhotlhomisitse lantlha. O tlhotlhomisa *because* o batla boammaaruri, mme ke tsaya gore boammaaruri bo tlaa tswa, le setšhaba se tlaa neelwa boammaaruri jo gore se kgone go itseela tshwetso. Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente.

**MR SPEAKER:** *Nako ya lona ya dipotso e fedile batlotlegi*. Honourable Members, as you know in the Order Paper, there is a tabling of a paper and a statement.

## TABLING OF PAPER

The following paper was tabled:

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES OF  
EXPENDITURE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED  
FUND, FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1 OF 2024/2025**

(Minister of Finance)

## STATEMENT

## FUEL SUPPLY STATUS UPDATE

**MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY (MS KENEWENDO):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Good morning colleagues. *Dumelang* Batswana *kwa gae*.

Mr Speaker, we have requested to make a statement in this House given the current conflicts that are happening in the Middle East to reflect on the impact of that impasse on the Botswana economy and in particular relation to fuel supply and national energy security.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware, towards the end of February 2026, a conflict arose in the Middle East that has led to disturbances on the supply chain around the world. We have since seen, particularly in the first 10 days, an up swaying of prices associated with Brent crude oil,

Mr Speaker, average Brent crude prices surged by 38.1 per cent, from US\$69.37 per barrel in February 2026 to US\$97.23 per barrel by 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Since the beginning of this month, daily Brent crude oil prices have moved from US\$77.74 per barrel to US\$107.81 per barrel by 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

During the same period, Brent crude reached highs of US\$119.50 per barrel on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, hitting levels that have not been reached in four years. The attacks on shipping and energy facilities, along with threats to tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, raised fears of severe supply disruptions. Several interventions by international energy players, which included strategic reserve releases, offered some limited relief, while high freight rates and speculative trading, further amplified the price spikes at global scale.

Mr Speaker, reported attacks on commercial vessels and potential closures have disrupted maritime operations and has forced some tankers to delay or re-route their shipments away from Strait of Hormuz. At the same time, war risk insurance premiums have increased significantly, adding to shipping costs.

Mr Speaker, we have also been informed that there are additional premiums that are being added to shipments that are coming to Africa by some specific companies. This critical situation therefore warrants that I give a statement to the public through this Honourable House on the impact of the escalation to our country's petroleum supply situation and also to outline the measures that we have put in place to address the situation in the short to medium term.

As we are aware Mr Speaker, the situation remains quite volatile, it is ever-changing and we are unable to ascertain what the future looks like. As I said Mr Speaker, in one day we have seen prices go from US\$67 per barrel to 99, then to 109. This in its self, shows the volatility of pricing and supply in the market.

The situation here in Botswana; we have been keeping the nation abreast because we have weekly meetings. Currently the Government's strategic stock stands at 10.56 days against 10 days reported last week while the commercial stocks stand at 24.1 days against the reported 20.8 days of the prevailing consumption equivalent. So since last week, we have seen an increase in the stocks that we are holding and we continue to monitor the situation weekly as I shared.

The current volume of fuel stocks held by importers and wholesalers is 43.5 million litres, a slight decrease of 3.3 million litres from previously reported 46.8 million litres. The 43.5 million litres comprises of 31.5 million litres of diesel and 12 million litres of petrol. Additionally, 32.2 million litres (diesel 12.8 million litres and 19.4 million litres of petrol). These are currently in transit to Botswana. These volumes do not include product that are currently held at retail sites. Product held by Botswana Oil Limited alone stands at 33.1 million litres, comprising of 8.9 million litres of ULP 95 and 24.2 million litres of Diesel.

Mr Speaker, Botswana has a total of 62.5 million litres of strategic storage capacity for petroleum strategic stocks. The current stock as I said, sits at the figures that I said. However, the President has tasked us with increasing strategic stock facilities and to expedite all the projects that can help us in the future to ensure that we have a buffer here at home. To that end, we are expediting the delivery of the Francistown depot which the expansion will lead to an addition of 60 million litres and another new strategic storage depot being constructed at Ghanzi with an addition of 30 million litres of storage capacity. Completion of these two additional storage capacities

will bring the national strategic storage cover to 152.5 million litres which will be equivalent to 46.2 days. There are plans to develop the Tshele Hills Strategic Storage, that has a capacity of 187 million litres. Once completed, the three strategic storage facilities will deliver a national strategic stock cover of 102 days.

Mr Speaker, together with our colleagues around the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region, we are working on a coordinated approach and addresses. Today the Minister of Mines in Namibia will as well deliver a statement of fuel in Namibia. We understand that our colleague in Zambia has already delivered that statement and has shared the impact to their economy. We are running a coordinated approach, because we recognise that it is only when we group our storage facilities and our supplies that we will be able to maintain some level of stability in the region.

Mr Speaker, I can assure you that Government has implemented several measures to mitigate potential supply disruptions, including:

- (a) Proactive supplier engagement and strengthened supply planning processes;
- (b) Expedited leasing of coastal storage facilities in Mozambique and Namibia;
- (c) Increasing monthly procurement volumes to build buffer stocks; and
- (d) Continuous monitoring of global supply dynamics to enable early intervention.

These measures are designed to enhance resilience against external shocks, including logistical and geopolitical disruptions.

Mr Speaker, it is important to highlight that one of the factors contributing to the drop in commercial volumes from 46.8 million to 43.5 million litres is the rise in fuel prices from international traders. Prices work on spot pricing, so they are ever evolving. The current geopolitical tensions have led to an increase in international fuel prices, as traders have now resorted to spot selling as opposed to contract arrangement. Spot purchases tend to be more expensive, because they attract additional premiums on the price. Therefore, this imposes financial burden on our local importers. This situation may be exacerbated by the inability of the National Petroleum Fund (NPF) to continue paying for huge under recoveries. Therefore, the cost of importing on its own can turn into a security of supply issue.

Mr Speaker, allow me to share with this House the relationship between global supply crises and local fuel prices. The ministry through Botswana Energy Regulatory Authority (BERA) monitors movement of international prices on a daily basis and from the analysis done by BERA the situation looks untenable. Average international crude oil prices increased by 40.16 per cent between February and 26 March 2026, while daily prices increased by 38.7 per cent between 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 26 March 2026.

Mr Speaker, it is important to note like the rest of the region, we import all of our refined products. Refined products prices have increased sharply between February 2026 and March 2026. This is where I would wish to strengthen, Unleaded Petrol 95 (ULP 95) increased by almost 60 per cent from US\$79.70 per barrel to US\$127.29 per barrel. Diesel increased by 91 per cent from US\$91.18 per barrel to US\$173.93 per barrel, while illuminating Paraffin climbed from US\$90.97 per barrel to US\$191.87 per barrel, representing an increase of 111 per cent.

Mr Speaker, since the escalations started, the ministry has done its best to maintain the pricing locally. We have used the NPF to cushion the country. We could not in the first 10 days, in particular, increase pricing given the volatility of the prices globally. We had to monitor the situation to see its impacts and if there will be a resolution within the first two weeks as some Governments have been implying. We are now past the two weeks and we are now realizing that the NPF can no longer be able to cushion the nation against the escalation of these prices. Therefore, I need to state that the price cushioning instrument, of the NPF is not in a position to cushion pump prices any longer. However, we continue to work with our traders and the importers, to ensure as minimum disruption in the supply as possible here in Botswana. We ask the country to remain calm during this period. It is only when we rush to try to secure our stocks that we will create a panic in the supply. We have seen that towards March, there has not been any shortage and that is because we all remained calm. We allowed business to go about as usual and we ask you to maintain those levels of sensibilities that will allow us to manage this situation better.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, I wish to thank all of my colleagues, both here locally but more especially in the region that are also rising to this challenge to help us deliver a better coordinated approach to ensure that there

is as minimal disruption to supply in Botswana and in the region as possible. That we continue to support our economies as needed. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I will allow short questions for elucidation. Please, no debate.

**MR SALESHANDO:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to ask the Minister to furnish us with expected completion dates *tša* the Francistown depot, the Ghanzi depot, as well as the Tshele Strategic Storage? The reason why I think it is important to share the expected completion dates is that, way back in 2021 when Botswana experienced disruptions in fuel supply, at the time mainly due to regional disruptions, we were once more told that this will be completed. We are now five years down the line...I know you have only been in office less than two years, but I trust you should be able to at least assist us with expected completion dates.

The second one relates to the current arrangement of importing fuel. I asked a question last week when Honourable Tshere held the fort for you, if you will now reconsider the earlier decision to bar multinationals from importing fuel. Given the situation we are under, is it something you would or are planning to consider suspending and if you do suspend, how will you protect the local citizen importers? You would note that I am leaving out one particular importer being Botswana Oil. Should Botswana Oil now not really be fully focused on just building capacity to increase our national strategic reserves?

My last question is, will Government come with an inter-ministerial response, because fuel is going to have an impact for example on prices for local transport, *borra-di taxi, borradibase*, it is going to have an impact on prices of foodstuffs in Botswana. Do we not need a nationwide coordinated response on how we protect those who are on the margins of the economy against the huge price impact that will come out of this? I thank you.

**MR LEKUTLANE:** Ke go leboge *Mr Speaker*. Le nna ke tsibogele Tshutiso e *Minister* wa rona wa Kgotešo a sa tswang go e re baya pele. Ke tlaa simolola jaana, ke re *Honourable Minister*, *is there any planning on returning Botswana Oil Import mandate?* E tlaabo e tsamaelana le e e neng e sa tswa go buiwa ke *Honourable Saleshando* e e neng e supa gore *will you liberate* dikgang tsa *multinational import needs*, gore o tlaa di atolosa?

Ke tswelele gape ke re, kana golo fa *Honourable Minister*, go supafala fa re na le leokwane le le kgotlhelesegileng, ka Sekgoa gatwe *contaminated*...

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

**MR LEKUTLANE:** Ba a ntshega *Honourable Speaker* ke leka go goboka...kana go na le leokwane le le fa le le supafalang gore *it is contaminated*. Maikaelelo a rona re le Puso ke eng ka lone, a re tlaa le dirisa go setse go le maswe kana jang?

E bile gape motho o ka botsa potso ya gore, fa *prices* di ntse di oketsega jaana tse tsa leokwane jaaka seemo se sa nna sentle, *ministry* wa gago fela maikaelelo a one ke eng? A re tlaa tswelela ka *prices* tse ka gore kana bontsi jwa *farmers* re beile gone mo *diesel*, ga re ise re goroge mo marang a letsatsi. Ke fetsa ka gore, *is there any possibility of contradictions between the President's statement* le sa *ministry* wa gago? A ko o tle o tlhatswe kgang eo sentle re tle re e utlwe.

Ke nna fa fatshe Tona ke gatelela kgang e e neng e buiwa ke *Honourable Saleshando*, ke gore... ke kile ka bereka mo ditseleng, se ke se itseng ke gore re sale re dirile bogologolo seporo se se neng se ya kwa Tshele, tota e bile ga ba ga dirwa le *platforms* gone koo, tota jaanong se se diang ke eng? Tanki *Mr Speaker*.

**BRIG. MOKGWATHI:** Tanki *Mr Speaker*. *Lantlha fela ke re ke lebogele Tona ka pego e*. Ke kgonne go lemoga gore report ya gago it is mainly based on the short term other than the fact that *re ne re bua ka gore* we could enhance the strategic reserves. *Potso ke gore*, looking at the series of mounting tensions world over, do we have any strategic plan to say... in the likely event that there is going to be some international interruptions, do we have any strategic plan to say, should we...(Inaudible)... event, that end, can we use our own resources considering that *go na le* some coal reserves *mo* Botswana. In the long term do we have any plans for this, because I can see Takatokwane being one of the examples? Thank you very much.

**DR DOW:** *Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you Minister for that statement. I think we all appreciate it and I think the country appreciate this update, because re ntse re utlwa mo maranyaneng kwa le kwa. Re go leboga gore o bo o tlile kwano go tla go re lekodisa.*

Ke re ke botse thata ka ya Tshele, ka gore Tshele e le mo Kgatleng West, ke tlola seporo sa teng letsatsi le letsatsi. Kwa Kgatleng ba e bitsa "*the railway tracks to*

nowhere.” O a e fitlhela e ntse e le gone foo, gompiano go na le *emergency*. Ke gatelele potso ya ga *Honourable* Saleshando gore, mme gone fa re bona, re ka potlaka ka bonako jo bokae *to deliver on that? The other* potso e ke neng ke batla go go e botsa Tona ke gore, kana *fuel* tlhwatlhwa fa e ya kwa godimo, *it fuels price of other commodities*, gore re tlaa utlwa ka wena kana Tona wa *Trade* o tlaa tla a re bolelela ka kgang ya teng, o ka re tlatlanyetsa gore mme *implications* ga se *fuel* fela, ke dijo, eng le eng gape? Re solofele *shortage and prices increases* gape kae? Ke a leboga mothowetsho.

**MS KENEWENDO:** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke bo ke leboge Mapalamente ka dipotso tse di tlaa thusang gore re tlhatswe kgang e, batho ba e tlhaloganye kwa lelwapeng. Jaaka ke tlhalositse, ditlhwatlhwa di oketsegile tsa *refined products*, di oketsegile thata go simolola ka 60 *per cent* ya Unleaded Petrol (ULP), 90 *per cent* ya *diesel*, re bo re bona 111 *per cent* mo *paraffin*.

Selo se se a tshwenya tota, e bile re a itse gore se se yang go diragala, ke mo re go bitsang re re *ripple effects*. Re ya go bona *inflation* e ya kwa godimo, le ditlhwatlhwa tsa dijo di ya kwa godimo. Go setse go na le dikgang tsa gore ga se leokwane fela le e leng gore le tshwaregile mo Strait of Hormuz. Tse dingwe tse di tshwaregileng ke tse di tlhokafalang go dira *fertilizers*, e bile di simolotse go utlwisa botlhoko mo temong mo lefatsheng. Baitseanape ba setse ba supa jalo gore re tshwanetse re tlhokomele ditlhwatlhwa tsa *grains in particular*. Ka gore tseo ke tsone tse e leng gore *immediately* re tlaabo re simolola re bona gore di a tlhela ka gore le tsone dikepe tsa tsone di a kgoreletsega go emelela. E bile fa godimo ga moo, ka gore leokwane mo lefatsheng le a fokotsega, re fitlhela e le gore le tsone dikepe tse di tshwanetseng gore di tlise *grains from* Australia, Brazil, *prices* tsa tsone le tsone di ile kwa godimo, ka jalo, go na le tsholofelo ya gore ditlhwatlhwa tsa dijo di tlaa ya kwa godimo. Ke dilo tse ke itseng gore ba Statistics Botswana ba di lebile, ba a sekaseka, mme ba tlaa tla ba re itsise gore ba bona seemo se se ntseng jang. Ke ne ke simolotse ka ya ga Mma Dow ya bofelo ke tsaya gore e re thusa go ala kgang sentle.

Ka gore ga re na leokwane mo Botswana, e bile ga re na moepo wa leokwane, re na le magala, jaaka Brigadier a ne a ntse a botsa gore re ikaelela go dira jang, a ga re ka ke ra dira *coal to electricity*. Re e lebile, go na le *terms of reference* (TOR) *that are already set out*. Re setse re buisana le dikompone di le mmalwa. O ka re

di tharo fela mo lefatsheng tse di itseng go dira *coal to electricity*, mme e bile *we are engaging them* re batla go bona gore *who will give us the best offer*.

E re go ntse jalo, ga re a tshwanela gore re akanye *long term* fela, *long term* re a mo akanya, mme mo bogompionong re ya go dira eng gore itsholelo e itshetlele. *Last week* re ne re emeletse fa re na le Tautona Boko, a re isa kwa Angola le Namibia. O ne a tshwere dikgang le boTautona ba mafatshe ao, mme ke ne ke sa batle go se buela kwa pele, ke fela gore go a botswa. Ke ne ke sa batle go se buela kwa pele ka gore fa batho ba santse ba le mo dipuisanyong, *anything can happen*. Ke ka tlhomamisa jalo gore, kwa Angola re setse re simolotse jaaka ke kile ka tla go tlhalosa fa, *negotiations of joining to build their refinery*. Angola ba na le leokwane, ba na le *crude oil*, ba bo ba aga *refinery*. Ba re file tshono ya gore gongwe re ka tsaya 30 *per cent* ya *the refinery*. So, re tswelela ka dipuisanyo gone foo go tlhomamisa gore gone mme re a tlhaloganya gore gone mme *project* e, e raya eng, e batla bokae. Ka gore jaaka le itse, mo Botswana re bua Sekgoa le Setswana. Kwa Angola go buiwa Portuguese, ka fa go dirwang dilo ka teng, ga go tshwane. Re a e neneketsa kgang ya teng, re tswelela re batla go tlhomamisa gore Botswana’s *future in the petroleum sector is actually covered*.

Re lebile *beyond just refinery*, maloba fa re le gone kwa Angola, Tautona o ne a kopa Tautona wa Angola gore Sonangol e re e rekela Angola, e tsenye Botswana mo teng. Ke batla go tlhalosa fa, fa Angola e na le *oil fields*, *oil wealth*, ba tsentse *private sector* mo teng, *private sector* e na le dikonteraka tsa yone kwa e rekisetsang teng. Tumulano ke gore go simolola go rekisetswa *the domestic market* wa Angola. So, Sonangol e kgona gore e reke *from the oil fields* e rekela Angola. Jaanong se re se kopileng ke gore, fa ba rekela Angola, ba bo ba tsentse Botswana mo teng. Ke tsaya gore e tlaa tlhaloganyesega yone eo. So, *negotiations between* Sonangol *and* Botswana Oil di setse di simolotse.

Fa re tsena mo go reng re dira jang ka Botswana Oil *import mandate*, re setse re simolotse tsotlhe tse di tlhokafalang gore re tle re fetole *import mandate*. Re na le *plan* e e e yang go fokotsa seelo se se filweng Botswana Oil go rotloetsa tse dingwe dikompone gore le tsone di ka *import*. Se re se lebileng ke mo gotweng *efficiency in the market*. E tlaa re ka *July* re bo re tla re boela fa ke *the BERA Act* re tla re kopa gore le re thuse gore re e fetole jaaka baitseanape ba tlaabo ba re boleletse gore *this is the most efficient way of revising the import mandate*.

Re na le leokwane ka nnete le le kgotlelesegileng (*contaminated*). Re le lebile leokwane leo, re na le lone. Ka fa re ntseng re dira ditshekatsheko ka teng, re bona e le gore leokwane le, le tshwanetse gore le tswe mo Botswana ka gore tota ga re ka ke ra le dirisa. Go na le *a filling station*, ga ke na go e bua ka leina, e ne ya dirisa leokwane le, re ile ra utlwalela le gore dikoloi dingwe tse di kileng tsa kgabola foo, di ile tsa senyega, tsa utlwa bothoko. Jaanong ga re batle seemo seo se tswelela. E bile ke batla go tshomamisa gore le le duleng e ne e se la Botswana Oil ka gore la Botswana Oil re ne re le tshwere ra le baya ka fa tlhakoreng.

Ke batla go tsibosa setšhaba gore, go na le ULP 93 e re kileng ra e emisa ra re nnyaa, re batla 95 fela, mme fa re ntseng teng, go na le seemo, bangwe ba na le 93, ba e tliša kwa go rona, re ya go e kanoka, fa re bona o kare e ka dirisiwa, re tlaa e letlelela gore e tsene. Ke sa buelele ba e leng gore ba ya go sekaseka, ba ba sekasekang ba tlaa tshomamisa gore *the quality is correct*, e bo e le gone ba ka rebolang gore re letlelele *such importation*.

A mme re tla letlelela *multinationals to import* gone jaana; *Honourable Leader of the Opposition*, gone jaana *we have assessed our import capacity*. E bile ga go bonale re na le *any restrictions or any problems as it pertains to us accessing products*. *Therefore, at this moment, we are not prepared to issue a waiver to any multinational company. Instead, we are rallying the citizen owned companies, importers, wholesalers, to be able to deliver on the stock. In this weekly meeting, nnyaa, ba a supa gore ba a kgona. Se ba lelang ka sone gone jaana ke tsone ditlhwatlhwa ka fa di pagameng ka teng.*

Tshele ka nnete e diegile. Rotlhe ga re a bolo go e emela, e bile re akantse gore e ne e ka bo e re thusa mo seemong se. Go ne go ntse go na le dikgogakogogano tse e leng gore tota ke batla go di tlogela kwa morago gore rona re *focus* kwa pele. Fa re leng teng, re tswa go *assess situation*, re bo re kgona gore re dumalane *on a G to G* le lefatshe la Oman gore ba tle ba re thuse go aga *and to deliver stock*.

Kwa Francistown re solofetse gore e tlaa fela ka *December 2026*. Re ntshitse le mokwalo. Tota gantsi ga ke batle go ntsha gore *what is happening administratively, but because* re fa, go na le seemo, ke tlaa batla gore ke tlhalose, mme re itse gore dilo tse ke tse di *internal* tse di thusang gore maotwana a gatele pele. Re setse re ntshitse mokwalo *from the ministry authorising* Botswana Oil gore ba dire sengwe le

sengwe *to expedite completion of* Francistown. Ba ne ba na le ditshwarego tsa madi fale le fale ka gore mokgwa wa teng madi a go aga a tswa mo go Goromente, re bo re re nnyaa, tsayang a e neng e le *dividends* tse re neng re di solofetse *and re-invest to expedite the project*. So, re solofetse ya Francistown ka *December*, re bo re solofela ya Ghanzi ka *April 2027*.

Mo go reng, a go na le se re farologanang le Tautona ka sone; tota ga re ka ke ra farologana le Tautona mo dikgannyeng tse e leng gore *we brief him almost every other day*. Fa Tautona a re, “re na le *nine days*,” *he was referring to strategic stock at that time*, gore re na le *stock* se se kae. Re ne re na le *nine days* e le *Government only*. *What we have since done is to talk to our wholesalers, so we are able to give you a national strategic stock figure* e e lebileng Goromente le ba ba ikemetseng ka nosi, ba re dirisanyang le bone. Ke sone se e rileng fa ke tla ke boela kwa morago, ka tlhalosa gore re na le *10 days*. Ka letsatsi leo, re ne re setse re okeditse ka letsatsi. Re na le *10 days, private sector* e na le *5.5 days*. Re itse gore *they always fluctuate* jaana. Ga go na le fa e le pharologanyo gotlhelele mo go se Tautona a neng a se bua, e bile e le rona re neng re mo tlhaloseditse ka letsatsi leo. Ke batla go gatelela gore *there is a difference between strategic reserves stock and commercial stock*. *All of March*, ga re ise re nne le mathata a *commercial stock* gotlhelele. Ke sone se re nnang re ntse re re, nnyaa, re na le *24 days, 20 days*, ka gore *commercial stock* e le e rekang *everyday*, re a itse gore e ikemetse. E re e bayang e le makatadimetšhe, ke yone e e leng gore ka motsotso o Tautona a neng a bua, e ne e le *nine days*, e le ya ga Goromente fela. Ke batla go gatelela eo gore betsho, a re se ka ra tshwenyega ra re, Tautona o ne a buile se e seng sone, nnyaa, o ne a bua se e neng e le sone ka letsatsi leo. Ke wele jalo *Mr Speaker*, ke tsaya gore ke di tshwere tsotlhe tse di setseng di boditswe. Ke a leboga.

**MR SPEAKER:** Ee, le a itse gore gakere le na le tiro ya *the Bills*?

**MR MOALOSI:** *Ke a leboga* Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister, in the event that all commercial stock is depleted, what are you planning for strategic investments like mines, so that they can continue operating? Are there any strategic stocks that are being planned for those operations to protect their operations and preserve the jobs *tsa batho ba ba ba hirileng*? Are you planning any rationing to protect investments *tse di tona*? Do you have any continuity plan *fa leokwane le ntse le fokotsega*? *Fa e le gore le tlaa fokotsega*, what is the continuity plan *e le nang le yone le le Goromente*?

*Motho o ka botsa gore your pricing model adopts a minus one approach, is it not time gore fa go na le crisis e e tshwanang le e, re nne le a pragmatic approach, that is real-time? O ne o bua gore kwa le rekang teng gompiano, ba fetogile, jaanong they give you spot prices. Is it not time now to change your pricing model ya a month minus one? Ke a leboga Mr Speaker.*

**MR SEGOKGO:** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Nnyaa, mme re a leboga Tona ka tsiboso eo. Tota tiro e o e dirileng, e tona thata gore e re *before people panic in the public sphere*, wena o le Tona, o bo o nna *proactive before* go ka nna le ketsaetsego. O re tlhalosetsa gore go ka nna ga felela go diragala se, le se. Ke go go leboga fela Tona, mo go yone.

Selo se se tona gape Tona, ke go go kgothatsa gore *we should exploit the challenge ya gompiano into opportunities*. Re akanye *outside the box*, gore dilo tse di tshwanang le *coal to liquid, the fuel synthesis*, re simolole go di akanya ka mashetla mo itsholelong e. Re ye go bona gore *how can we exploit coal* e re nang le yone *underground*. *Fuel security* ya rona e tle e tsholetsege kwa godimo.

Ke letse ke lebile maabane mo maranyaneng gone mo Bloomberg go buiwa ka *fertilisers*. Mafatshe a a tshwanang le a a kwa East Africa le India, go ya go nna le *problem*. Tona, fa o akanya, golo kwa Sowa, a ga re ka ke ra nna le *potash*? Ke letse ke akanya maabane ke lebile mo Bloomberg. A o ka se ke o tlhole *geologists* tsa gago gore a re ka nna le *potash*? Jaaka re le *landlocked* jaana, re ka felela re e dirisa, *so that* re nna *hub ya fertilisers*. Fa e le gore gone kwa the Strait of Hormuz ba tswetse, re bo re itse gore rona mo Botswana, re ka felela e le gore *we export fertilizers* tse kwa East Africa le India. Ke botse yone eo gore a ga ba ise ba ntshe monahune wa gore re ka se ke ra nna le *potash* kwa Sowa, e e leng gore ke yone *component* e tona *in fertilizers, so that we can export*? Ke a leboga.

**DR GOBOTSWANG:** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Di pedi fela; gone mme golo fa bokete jwa leokwane la rona bokae jo bo tswang kwa Middle East? Ke bokete jo bo kae jo bo tswang kwa mafelong a mangwe a sele? Ke ne ke utlwa gore le setse le nkgankga Angola, ke ipotsa gore a mme le nkgankga le *sources* tse dingwe ka gore Nigeria ba teng le tse dingwe? A mme le a sekaseka tsone tseo?

Ya bofelo ke gore, ke ne ke utlwa o bua gore NPF go lebega fa re leng teng, e sa kgone go re fokoletsa manokonoko a ditlhwatlhwa tsa leokwane fa di ntse di ya kwa godimo. E tsamaya fa kae sentlentle NPF, kana e na le go nna le dikgannyana tse di ntsinyana? Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

**MR SPEAKER:** E ne e le tsone tsa bofelo batlotlegi. *Honourable Barongwang, Honourable Nkawana, you will be the last.*

**MR BARONGWANG:** Ke a go leboga gore o bo o ntemogile. Tona, fela jaaka mmoatlana ka kwa a bua, ke tsaya ke re, sebaka se re leng mo go sone, *is to exploit what is possible besides* se re se dirang. *Two probable opportunities; are you not thinking of probably starting a pipeline* e e tlaa gogang *right from the refineries* kwa re tsayang teng, *either* ke kwa Mozambique kana South Africa, *so that we could somehow remove the trucks on the road*?

Ya bobedi; *are you not exploiting chance* kana *possibility* ya go aga a *mini refinery and import crude oil*? *Crude oil* jaaka mmoatlana a ne a bua ka kwa, go na le dilo tse di ntsi tse di ka tswang mo go yone, ga se *fuel* fela, le *fertilizer* e ka tswa mo go yone. Dilo tse pedi tse gongwe fa re ka di lebelela, di ka re thusa. Ke a leboga.

**MR NKAWANA:** Ke a go leboga *Mr Speaker*, le fa ba setse ba tsere tse dingwe. *Honourable Minister*, ba go rwesitse mokgweleo motlogolo. Diteemane le *oil* ke mathata. Ke ne ke re mo Africa, re na le mafatshe a le mantsinyana a a nang le *oil* e e *ready for use*, jaaka South Sudan, Egypt, jalojalo go ya kwa, tse di sa tlhokaneng le gore re ka aga *refinery*. A ga o akanye gore *if the choke point goes longer than a year, obviously our stocks will dry up*? A ga le akanye gore mo sebakeng sa gompiano, re bo re sa age *refinery*, re itlhaganelele *to negotiate* go tlisa *oil* go tswa koo, e re tlaabong re e dirisa *immediately*? Ke a leboga.

**MS KENEWENDO:** *Thank you Mr Speaker*. Ke leboge gape Mapalamente ka dipotso tse di tlaa re thusang gore batho ba re tlhaloganye botoka.

Mma ke simolole ka *mines*; bontsi jwa *mines* ba na le *their own strategic stock* mme e bile ba ntse ba bua le rona, le ba bangwe ba *tourism* ba ntse ba bua le rona ba batla go itse gore seemo ke eng. Re a ba itsise jaaka re kopana. Fa ke fiwa *an update*, ke itsise le ba *industries* jalo. Betsho, *there is a reason why we do not talk about rationing*, ga re batle *to start any panic in the country*.

*I know that some have tried throughout March to make us panic. Please, there is no panic. If there is anything that we need to advise you on, only BERA e tlaa ntsha mokwalo, e tlhomamisa gore re na le seemo fa, we have accessed, re bone gore go ntse jaana. Re tlaa simolola e le gore ra re emang pele, tsayang bokana, se tleng ka diJojo jalojalo. Mo motsotsong o re leng mo go one o...*

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

**MS KENEWENDO:** E seng Jojo, gatwe go bitswa eng?

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

**MS KENEWENDO:** *That is right, thank you. You reminded me; jerrycan. ... (Interruptions)...* Bona, ke tswa kwa morakeng, ke tlaa reng. Ke ntse ke tshela metsi kwa merakeng ga go na gore ke tlaa reng.

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

**MS KENEWENDO:** Emang pele, emang pele. Mma ke le arabeng.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members. Standing Order 58.4, no unseemly interruptions. Please be silent.

**MS KENEWENDO:** ... (Laughter!)... *Thank you, Mr Speaker, ba re ke Jojo, le yone e nnyennyane. Sekoo se senny; jerrycan. Re tlaa kopa gore le se ka la tla ka jerrycans, we will advise adequately when the time comes. Please, do not rush to the filling stations. Ke a le kopa, se sianeleng kwa filling stations le re gatwe go na le mathata. Ga re na mathata mo motsotsong o. Re le tlhalosetsa fa re leng teng le se re se dirang go tlhomamisa gore itsholele e e tsamaya sentle. Fa re ka simolola re panic, le tlaa bona gore le tse re le kang go di dira, di ya go palelwa ke go bereka. Ke kopa gore re weleng pelo le maikutlo.*

*At this moment, go ne go botswa ka madi a NPF. NPF ga e na le fa e le mathata Rre Gobotswang. You will recall that ka 2020 I believe; Ministry of Finance took over the running and administration of the NPF. Fa re tlhoka balances tsa rona, re kwalela kwa Ministry of Finance, a bo ba re thusa gore re kgone go duela the industry. Ga ke batle go le bolelela gore e na le bokae ka gore e tloga e dira expectation mme go na le sengwe, bills tsa rona ga di fete se re nang le sone mo motsotsong o, mme go ka nna thata fa bills tsa rona di ka simolola go feta. Ke*

sone se re tsileng ra tla ra buisana le lona letsatsi leno gore re emise seemo sa go goga mo NPF.

Leokwane la rona le tla le tswa kwa Middle East ka bontsi. Le lone le re le rekang kwa South Africa, le tla le tswa kwa Middle East. Re reka bontsi from SASOL, a bo re reka from Middle East traders through the Mozambique Port. E bo re reka gape through some Middle East traders through the Namibian Port. Fa go na le seemo se re leng mo go sone, *those even in the continent, they are inundated with issues of demand.* Ke bone le botsa gore a kwa ntle ga Angola, a ga go na bape ba re buang le bone? Maloba ke ne ke le kwa Ivory Coast, ba na le a refinery, *their oil fields are still new but re simolotse dipuisanyo le bone. Re tsentse sa rona kwa Dangote Refineries but you can imagine jaaka a ne a bua Dangote gore mongwe le mongwe ke yo o batlang mo go rona, jaanong re batla le kwa go ba bangwe mo Africa ba ba ka re thusang. Mathata a contracts tsa leokwane mo Africa, o fitlhela gore even though an African country can have an oil field, the contracts that are held for those oil fields are by multinationals. Those multinationals actually determine where the fill go. That is why kgantele fa ke bua ka ya Angola, ka tlhalosa le gore re e negotiate jang go tsenelela fa gare ga contracts tse dingwe tse di setseng di le teng.*

Ke itumelela maano a a ntseng a buiwa. *Before ke bua ka one, pricing model. Honourable, that is not our pricing model, we do not do month minus one. We do monthly analysis and we decide if we want to maintain it or not. We also have delegated authority from Cabinet to make slight changes as and when we need to. A substantive quantum would need to go back to Cabinet. We believe that the way we assess especially now that we have weekly meetings led by BERA, would actually help us deal with this situation better.*

*As it pertains to maano, ke a a lebogela, a siame thata. Ke sone se e leng gore fa re lebile coal, malatsi a ga re bitse project ya teng re re Coal to Liquid, re a re Coal to Ash because products tse di ka tswang mo magaleng di dintsi, including fertilizers. Fa re lebile project ya teng ra re Coal to Ash, re batla ba e leng gore fa ba tla go fetlha magala go dira leokwane, ba ka re thusa go dira tse dingwe tse di tswang foo. Ke utlwile le ya potash, re ntse re senkana le tse dingwe tse di thusang go dira fertilizers. Ba exploration company fa ba fetsa go wetsa ditogamaano tsa bone, ba tlaa tla ba re tlhalosetsa gore ba fitlhetse eng kwa kae. We are working on doing an entire national assessment.*

Fa ke le foo *Mr Speaker*, ke lebile dipotso tsa me tsotlhe, ke tsaya gore ke di arabile. *There was that question ya do we intend to build a refinery le pipeline? Pipeline needs a lot of inter-governmental engagement*, re simolotse go buisana le ba Zimbabwe ba e leng gore *they are working on upgrading their pipeline*. Re a itse gore ba *Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure are also engaged in that conversation for a pipeline*. Kgang e *relies largely on Mozambique and Zimbabwe, you can understand the intricacies that go into inter-governmental negotiations*. Re ka le tlhomamisetsa gore re simolotse go buisana le bone ka kgang eo, *negotiations tsa teng ke tsone tse di re diang*.

*Building a refinery; a refinery is a challenge ka gore gone jaana, even the crude oil comes from the Middle East. Bangwe ba kile ba dira a study to assess whether or not we can have a refinery and also Namibia. Imagine that Namibia has some oil fields, they are anticipated to produce, the feasibility study came back saying it is not tenable. We are reviewing that and also ours but ke dilo tse e leng gore in moments like these, even with having a refinery, we would be challenged with the supply of crude oil itself. So, go batla gore re simolole go lebelela mo gae go le gontsinjana.*

Ke batla go leboga thata betsho gore le bo le ntse le tswelela le bereka le rona le re thusa go tlhagisa batho ka seemo se sa leokwane le go ba wetsa maikutlo gore go se ka ga nna le ope *who panic ka gore fa re ka bo ra panic*, seemo se tlaa re tswa diatleng. Re ntse re dirisana sentle le Batswana. Ke tlaa kopa gore re tswelole ka mowa o o ntseng jalo. Fa go na le sengwe, re tlaa boela kwa go lona, le BERA e tlaa ntsha a *statement to give you updates*. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Let us go to Second Reading.

**BRIDGE FINANCING LOAN (STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL, 2026 (NO. 10 OF 2026)**

**Second Reading**

**(Resumed Debate)**

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members. Honourable Members, the debate on the Bill is resuming. When the House adjourned yesterday, His Honour the Vice President (VP), the Minister of Finance, had just concluded his presentation. The floor is therefore open.

**MR PHOLOGOLO (KANYE WEST):** *Thank you Honourable Speaker. Ke ne ke bona go sena ope yo o emang but in any case, mma ke tsene mo ditabeng and share with Parliament dingwe tsa dipotso tse re di ipotsang. When Bills were presented before the Committee, nngwe ya potso e re e ipotsang re e botsa ba ba tlang ka tsone ke gore tiriso ya loan e ke eng? Why are we taking this loan? The next question we ask ke gore ga go na eng? Fa re tswa foo, re botsa gore what impact is this loan going to have in the livelihoods ya Batswana? Se sengwe se re se ipotsang ke gore fa re go neela loan e, what are the monitoring and evaluation steps that you have put in place to ensure gore maikaelelo a loan e will ultimately be achieved? Ke dingwe tsa dilo tse e leng gore re a di botsa. Kopo e go supafala fa e le gore it adds value, it is bringing something different in the sense that e tokafatsa se re ntseng re na le sone mme gongwe re sa se dire ka scale se se fa godingwana. Se se netefatsa gore re a go nna batsayakarolo go feta go rua fela gore mongwe le mongwe o ka ipatlela phatlha e a ka netefatsang gore madi a le ene a tlaa mo tswela mosola. Se sengwe se e leng gore re se itumeletse fa re botsa dipotso tse ke go fitlhela gore in the monitoring of this loan, go tlaabo go na le batho ba e leng gore they are dedicated to ensure gore ba sala morago lenaneo le. Ke sengwe sa dilo tse e leng gore di a itumedisa fela thata.*

Se sengwe se re se lebogelang ke gore loan e ke nngwe ya tse di itebagantseng le a programme or project. Go raya gore madi a are going into a specific assignment or engagement e e leng gore in this particular instance, e tokafatsa temothuo. Se sengwe se re se lebogelang as means to monitoring le evaluation ke se se builweng ke the Ministry wa Madi gore ba mo maikaelelong a gore ba nne le a fully-fledged debt management office. Fa re dumela gore dilo tse di arabesegile, re nna le tshepho e ntsi gore loan e e a go dirisiwa for se e leng gore se maleba. Se sengwe gape ke gore fa o ya go lebelela the draft Bill ya kadimo yone e, e a supa gore go tlaa nna le terms and conditions tse e leng gore Tona o tlaa di rulaganya mme a di tlise fa pele ga Palamente gore madi a a ya go dirisiwa ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Fa o leba dilo tse, ga o nne le pelaelo le ketsaetsego ya gore madi a a ya go tokafatsa e bile a bo a tlhabolole Motswana mo go se a ntseng a se dira dingwagangwaga tse dintantsi mme re sa kgone go tswelela go feta go rua le go tlhaba kana go rua le go rekisetsa moagisanyi ka wena. Jaanong e e re raya e re re tsholetse dikakanyo, re itse gore re ka nna batsayakarolo gore le rona re kgone go bona dipodi tse fa di ntsifetse re bo re ka itse gore re a go kgona go meet market o o kwa ntle o e leng gore go supafala fa o le teng.

**MR MOALOSI:** *Clarification.* Ke a leboga Honourable Phologolo. Ke ne ke re *loan* e re e tsayang e ka gore gatwe re e tseela dihutshane, *do we already have a policy kana plan in place* gore madi a tota a ya go kgaogangwa jang? A lenaneo le setse le le teng gale gore madi ao a ya go tsewa ke bomang, ba a tsaya jang, ba a dirisa jang? Fa e le gore ke *loan*, ba tlaabo ba a busa jang? Fa e le gore ke *grant*, e tlaabo e neelwa batho jang? Ke a leboga.

**MR PHOLOGOLO:** Now there is a bit of confusion from Members. But in answering your question sir, besides the confusion by Honourable Kedikilwe...

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

**MR PHOLOGOLO:** No, *e ka tswa e fetile* but I do have a contribution to it. *Se se botswang ke* honourable pertaining to the one *ya* International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), that is the one you are referring to. Section 6 of the draft Bill *ke yone e e buang gore fa re sena go rebola madi gore a adimiwe*, terms and conditions will be laid before this National Assembly by the Minister of Finance for us to now engage into that. So, go *raya gore* we have to first *re rebola madi* and then the terms will come *kwa morago tsa gore loans tse, di ya go dirisiwa jang.*

In any case, because there is a bit of confusion here or there, bottom line is I was laying out the function *ya rona re le* the sub-committee *e le e romileng* to look into these loans. These are questions that we put to those who come before us and then we fully engage and when we are satisfied, *re tlaabo re dumalana le bone gore mme* this document is fit to go before Parliament and we shall do the needful in giving it the support *e re dumelang gore e a e* deserve. I must tell you, this is very informative and very meaningful engagement. In fact, as non-expert into the area, I must say there is a lot that we learn in ensuring *gore re dira tiro e le e re romileng ka botswapelo.*

On that note Honourable Speaker, *mma ke boele morago* after highlighting *gore* we have engaged on these Bills and we have okayed them after rigorous engagements and we are happy *gore di fete.* Thank you very much.

**MR SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, Bills tse di ka tswa di le nne, mme di bua selo se le sengwefela. Jaanong le ele tlhoko thata kang eo.

**MR SEGOKGO (TLOKWENG):** Ke a leboga Mr Speaker. Tota jaaka o bua, di tshwana fela Bills tse. So, let me just gongwe out of the 10 minutes ke tseye

*five minutes* fela, tota go amogela Bill e jaaka Tona a re e beile pele. Tlhaloso ke jaaka nne Tona a tlhalosa maabane, gore kana re setse re fetisitse madi, *the P103 billion* yo re neng re mo fetisa ka Labobedi. Jaanong se re se dirang gompiano ke go fetisa gore *how do we fund the P103 billion, more especially the fiscal deficit* e re nang le yone. *We only have P77 billion* yo re yang go kgona *to collect it, but thatathata* gore mme mo gongwe *in terms of the deficit, how are we going to fund that.* So, tota fela, *it is a confluence, it is the nexus between the Appropriation Bill and these loans.* Go tswela fela fa re neng re le teng, gore re tle re kgone go bona gore re ka dira ka tselo e e ntseng jang.

Tona, gone go go kgothatsa Mr Speaker, se re leng mo go sone re tshwanetse go tlhalosetsa Batswana gore itsholelo ka bo yone e tsamaya mo re go bitsang re re ke *economic groups.* Fa o lebelela mo ditsong tsa itsholelo, go ne ga nna le golo mo go bitswang gotwe *economic panic* kwa lefatsheng la America ka 1837, e le gore dibanka di feletswe ke madi gotlhelele. *Then we have the famous Great Depression of 1929,* e le yone ya bobedi. Ga ke batle go bua ka bo *the Oil Recession of 1970.* Ke batla go bua ka tse ditonatona tse di neng di *affect* lefatsho lotlhe. *Then we had the Lehman Brothers Scandal, 2007, 2008, ya the financial ... (Inaudible) ... money.*

E re leng mo go yone gompiano ke ya COVID, re mo *recession ya pandemic ya COVID.* So, *economy* e a bo e itlhatlha ka boyone. Ga se gore ke sepe fela se se molato. *Economy* e tsamaya *up and down* gore e ye kwa tlase, fa e sena go ya kwa tlase, e tlaabo e *sprinkle* jaanong, e tsholetsega e ya kwa godimodimo, jaaka re bona ba International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) le Statistics Botswana ba bua gore *from July* jaanong go ya kwa pelenyana, *economy* ya rona e ka nna ya tsamaya *through recoveries* tsa bo 3.1 *per cent,* go ya kwa godimo. Jaanong e simolola go tsholetsega Mr Speaker. Go e tsholetsa, *we have to activate and stimulate the economy* ka go dira *projects* tse e leng gore Tona o tla ka tsone gone fa, *so that* re kgone *to stimulate* itsholelo. Ke sone selo se re se dirang gompiano.

Mo godimo ga moo, ke go leboga. Kana go na le golo mo gotweng ke *Expansionary Fiscal and Monetary Policy,* mo ke tlholang ke ntse ke bua ka gone, gore re lemoge gore le mo godimo ga moo, *from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April,* ma-Special Constable ba tlaabo ba tsewa ba feta 500, barutabana le bone ba tlaa tsewa jaaka Tona

a ne a bua gone fa, go ya go dirwa *insourcing* mo go Goromente. So, batho ba fa o ba bala ba le bantsintsi, re ya go fitlha kwa go bo 10 000 ya batho ba e leng gore *the next financial year would be absorbed* jaanong mo ditirong. Gone golo mo, go ya go thusa dikgang tsa bo *liquidity squeeze* ya dibanka gore madi a tle a kgone gore a tsamaye *in the public sphere*, go simolole go nna le *the consumer spending at the public sphere*. Madi a simolole go tsamaya, *so that* itsholelo e kgone go thanya. Go raya gore go nne le ledi mo itsholelong. Ke sone selo se re se dirang.

Fa *projects* di dirwa jaaka di dirwa, *billions* tstone tseo tse re di fetisang, di tsena jaanong mo itsholelong, ke gone jaaka itsholelo jaanong e thanya, batho ba bona diphatlha tsa meberekho, dibanka di nna le madi, ba kgona gore ba nne le dikadimo jalojalo. Ke sone selo se e leng gore tota re se kopanetse gore re thantshe itsholelo e *Mr Speaker* gore Batswana ba tle ba kgone gore ba nne le diphatlha tsa meberekho.

Sabofelo *Mr Speaker*, jaaka ke ne ke rile ke tlaa tsaya *five minutes, we really have to invest in our Debt Management Strategy*. Kana jaanong fa dikadimo tse di tla, *both loans tse, the concessional loans* jalojalo, re tshwanetse go ema ka dinao *to invest mo the Debt Management Strategy* kwa *Ministry wa Finance*. Re tle ka bo matwetwe ba ba itseng go lebelela, *to model all these things and systems* tse. Kana go raya gore fa re simolola *to budget from the next financial year*, re ka nna ra kgaogana gongwe le bo *11 to 15 per cent every financial* yo jaanong a boelang gone kwa *loans* tse re tlaabong re di tsaya. So, *we really have to invest* mo go ya *Debt Management Department* kwa *Ministry wa Finance*, gore re tle re kgone go bona gore dipoloko tse re ka di *manage* ka tsela e e ntseng jang.

Ka go rialo, ke ne ke tshephesitse gore ke *five minutes*. A re *truncate Mr Speaker*, re amogele *loans* tse, Batswana ba re emetse kwa ntle. Kwa Tlokweng ba eme gore madi a fete re ye go tsenya *storm water drainage, primary schools, sewage* kwa Ranfurwa. Ba emetse gore re di fetise *so that* ka 12 o'clock madi a bo a le kwa Bank of Botswana, a tsene jaanong mo itsholelong, Batswana ba kgone gore ba bereke. Ke a leboga.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, I now call upon His Honour the Vice President, the Minister of Finance to reply to the debate.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE):** Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Tota dikgang di setse di builwe ka boleele. Boammaaruri ke gore batlotlegi ba setse ba dumalane mo tekodisanyong ya kgaoganyo ya madi a setšhaba. Re setse re dumalane gore lenaneo la gore re eletsa go dirisa madi a rona mo go eng, go duela babereki ka tsela e e ntseng jang, go baakanya dikole le dipatela, go tlisa madi a kadimo mo go bommadimausu le borradimausu, ke dilo tse re setseng re di dumalane. E bile re setse re dumalane seelo sa gore re rebola bokae, lefatshe le ya go dirisa madi a le kae mo ngwageng o, mme e bile re setse re dumalane gore re solofetse bokae. Re solofetse letseno le le bokete bo kae go tswa mo makgethong le mo diteemaneng. E bile re setse re dumalane gore tlhaelo e, e ya go nna ya selekanyo se le kae. Tlhaelo e, e raya gore ka madi a re dumalaneng gore re ya go a dirisa le letseno, e raya kadimo, mme madi a re a adimang, ga re ye go a dirisetsa sepe se sesha. Re ya go a dirisetsa dilo tse ke reng re setse re di dumalane.

Mma ke le sebetse; kana lewa le fetogile, bogologolo Botswana o ne a na le madi a mantsi mo e leng gore le boitseanape mo maphateng a rona, e ne e le jo bo neng bo kgobokantswe go lebilwe gore re na le madi a mantsi. E ne e le boitseanape jwa gore madi ao a mantsi mo e leng gore re a dirise ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Jaanong ka gore lewa le fetogile, re mo pakeng e go nang le tlhaelo e ntsi, go raya gore boitseanape jo bo leng teng mo maphateng a rona, re bo fetole, re bo nontshe ka tsela e bo lebileng dipaka tse re leng mo go tsone.

Ke sone se rona bogolo jang kwa *Ministry of Finance*, re ntseng re henyekolola thata, re tlisa boitseanape, re bereka le makgotla a a nang le botsipa jo bo tseneletseng ka tsa madi a tshwana le African Development Bank (AfDB), mme bogolo jang Lephata la *Debt Management*, re le kenta, re le nontsha, re le atolosa ka tsela e e faphegileng, re lebile diemo tse re leng mo go tsone.

Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, re tlaabo re ntse re boa fa seboaboane. Fa dipaka di fetoga, go na le kwa re bonang a mangwe a a botoka, re busa ale, re tlisa a a botoka. Re tshwanetse re lemoge gore dipaka di fetogile, le rona re fetoge le dipaka. Ka fa re dirang dilo ka teng, re se ka ra dira o kare re tsositswe fa gare ga bosigo ke dilo tse re sa solofelang. Re tshwanetse gore tsotlhe, le fa go diragala dintwa jaaka di diragala, e bo re di solofetse. Go se ka ga nna le sepe se se re gaggamatsang, se o ka reng se a re tshoganyetsa, nnyaa.

Dipaka ke tsone tse di ntseng jalo; tsa merwalela, dintwa le tlhalelo. Re tshwanetse re tsamaele kwa pele, re epe mosele, re baakanye ditsela kwa pele. Ke sone re se dumelang gore re le boeteledipele re romilwe ke tšhaba ya Botswana, re lwa ka sengwe le sengwe se re nang le sone.

Ka one mafoko a Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ke boele kwa lolemeng la Sekgoa ke re, *I therefore move that the Bridge Financing Loan (Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026 (No. 10 of 2026) be read for the second time. I thank you sir.*

Question put and **agreed to.**

Committee - **Later Today.**

#### ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

(**CHAIRPERSON in the Chair**)

**MR CHAIRPERSON (MR KEORAPETSE):** Honourable Members, we are now at committee. Tsweetswee ke utlweng mantswa a lona, gape ke kope le tirisanyo-mmogo gakere.

#### STANDARD CHARTERED BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED (LOAN AUTHORISATION) (NO. 1) BILL, 2026 (NO. 7 OF 2026)

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable Members, please note that Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited (Loan Authorisation) (No. 1) Bill, 2026 (No. 7 of 2026) has six Clauses. No amendments have been noticed. I shall therefore, call Clauses *omnis*.

Clauses 1 - 6 **agreed to.**

#### STANDARD CHARTERED BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED (LOAN AUTHORISATION) (NO. 2) BILL, 2026 (NO. 8 OF 2026)

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable Members, please note that Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited (Loan Authorisation) (No. 2) Bill, 2026 (No. 8 of 2026) also has six Clauses. No amendments have been noticed. I shall therefore call all the Clauses at once.

Clauses 1 - 6 **agreed to.**

#### BOTSWANA LIVESTOCK COMMERCIAL PROJECT (INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT) (IFAD) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL, 2026 (NO. 9 OF 2026)

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable Members, please note that Botswana Livestock Commercial Project (International Fund for Agricultural Development) (IFAD) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026 (No. 9 of 2026) has six Clauses. No amendments have been noticed. I shall therefore call Clauses *omnis*.

Clauses 1 - 6 **agreed to.**

#### BRIDGE FINANCING LOAN (STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL, 2026 (NO. 10 OF 2026)

**MR CHAIRPERSON:** Honourable Members, please note that Bridge Financing Loan (Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026 (No. 10 of 2026) has six Clauses. No amendments have been noticed. I shall therefore call all the Clauses at once.

Clauses 1 - 6 **agreed to.**

#### STANDARD CHARTERED BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED (LOAN AUTHORISATION) (NO. 1) BILL, 2026 (NO. 7 OF 2026)

Bill reported from Committee **without amendments.**

Third Reading - **Later Today.**

#### STANDARD CHARTERED BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED (LOAN AUTHORISATION) (NO. 2) BILL, 2026 (NO. 8 OF 2026)

Bill reported from Committee **without amendments.**

Third Reading - **Later Today.**

#### BOTSWANA LIVESTOCK COMMERCIALISATION PROJECT (INTERNATIONAL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT) (IFAD) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL, 2026 (NO. 9 OF 2026)

Bill reported from Committee **without amendments.**

Third Reading - **Later Today.**

#### BRIDGE FINANCING LOAN (STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL, 2026 (NO. 10 OF 2026)

Bill reported from Committee **without amendments.**

Third Reading - **Later Today.**



## Third Readings

**STANDARD CHARTERED BANK  
BOTSWANA LIMITED (LOAN  
AUTHORISATION) (NO. 1) BILL, 2026  
(NO. 7 OF 2026)**

(Minister of Finance)

**MR SPEAKER (MR KEORAPETSE):** Batlotlegi, re tsena mo *Third Reading*, go raya gore le bo le le mo ditilong tsa lona. Le se ka la tswa mo go tsone la etelana. Gape go raya gore *bell* e tlaabo e ntse e letswa go lotlelwa le mabati, gakere le a utlwa, *Chief Whip*.

*Order! Order! Honourable Members, the question is that, the Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited (Loan Authorisation) (No. 1) Bill, 2026 (No. 7 of 2026) be read a third time.*

**MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE):** Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that the Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited (Loan Authorisation) (No. 1) Bill, 2026 (No. 7 of 2026) be read a third time and do pass.

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, in accordance with Order 62.1 (c), I shall now order a division and that division will be held in a manner prescribed in Order 63. Clerk, ring the bell for two minutes, Sergeant-at-Arms, *o nne malala-a-laotswe, fa bell e didimala o bo o lotlela mabati*.

Question put and **Division Ordered.**

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Members, I shall now activate the machine, *tlhophang*. *Ba ba tlhophang 'Ee' le tobetse two, ba le tlhophang 'No' le tobetse three, those 'Abstaining' four, but first you have to press one to activate your own machine. Tlhophang. I am now deactivating.*

...Silence...

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members. Honourable Members, here are the results of your voting: you are 34 in the House, the "Ayes" 29, "Noes" 0, "Abstain" four and one of you did not participate. So, the Ayes have it.

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

**STANDARD CHARTERED BANK  
BOTSWANA LIMITED (LOAN  
AUTHORISATION) (NO. 2) BILL, 2026  
(NO. 8 OF 2026)**

(Minister of Finance)

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Members, the question is that, the Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited (Loan Authorisation) (No. 2) Bill, 2026 (No. 8 of 2026) be read a third time.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE):** Mr Speaker, I move that the Standard Chartered Bank Botswana Limited (Loan Authorisation) (No. 2) Bill, 2026 (No. 8 of 2026) be read a third time and to pass.

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, in accordance with Order 62.1 (c), I shall now order a division and that division will be held in a manner prescribed in Order 63. Clerk ring the bell... Sergeant-at-Arms.

Question put and **Division Ordered.**

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members. I shall now activate the voting machine. *Tlhophang batlotlegi. Tobetsa one to activate your machine, two for "Aye" three for "No" and four for "Abstain."* *Tlhophang ka tidimalo e e kwa godimo.* I have deactivated.

...Silence...

**MR SPEAKER:** Order, Honourable Members! Here are the results of your voting. In the house, head count, you are 36, only 35 participated. 'Ayes' 29, 'Nos' 0, 'Abstain' five and no participation one. So, the Ayes have it. The Bill is passed.

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

**BOTSWANA LIVESTOCK  
COMMERCIALISATION  
PROJECT (INTERNATIONAL FOR  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT)  
(IFAD) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL,  
2026 (NO. 9 OF 2026)**

(Minister of Finance)

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members. The question is that the Botswana Livestock Commercialisation Project (International Fund for Agricultural Development) (IFAD) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026 (No. 9 of 2026) be read a third time. I now call upon the Honourable Minister of Finance, His Honour the Vice President to move.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE):** Mr Speaker, I move that the Botswana Livestock Commercialisation Project (International Fund for Agricultural Development) (IFAD) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026 (No. 9 of 2026) be read a third time and do pass.

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, the question is that the Botswana Livestock Commercialisation Project (International Fund for Agricultural Development) (IFAD) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026 (No. 9 of 2026) be read a third time and do pass. In accordance with Order 62.1 (c) I shall now order a division, and that division will be held in the manner prescribed in Order 63. Ring the bell for two minutes.

Question put and **Division Ordered.**

**MR SPEAKER:** I shall activate the machine. *Tlhophang.* Press one to activate your machine. Press two for Aye; Press three for No; Press four for abstain. *Tlhophang ka tidimalo. Le tlhophile gakere?* I am now deactivating.

Order! Honourable Members, here are the results of your voting, you are 36 in the House, the 'ayes' 31, 'no' one, 'abstain' three and one did not participate. So, the Ayes have it. The Bill is passed.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, *le tlhophe fela ka tidimalo, ga ke batle modumo o o kareng wa phuthego e le ya dinonyane di leka go tlhophla* Kgosi, Rabiibii a etla a re le ene ke Kgosi. Let us go to Number 4.

### BRIDGE FINANCING LOAN (STANBIC BANK BOTSWANA LIMITED) (LOAN AUTHORISATION) BILL, 2026 (NO. 10 OF 2026)

(Minister of Finance)

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, the question is that the Bridge Financing Loan (Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026 (No. 10 of 2026) be read a third time. I now call upon the Minister of Finance, His Honour the Vice President to move.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR GAOLATHE):** Mr Speaker, I move that the Bridge Financing Loan (Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026 (No. 10 of 2026) be read a third time and do pass.

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, the question is that the Bridge Financing Loan (Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2026 (No. 10 of 2026) be read a third time and do pass. In accordance with Order 62.1 (c) I shall now order a division, and that division shall be held in the manner prescribed in Order 63. Ring the bell for two minutes. Close the doors.

Question put and **Division Ordered.**

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, I am now activating the machine. *Tlhophang. O tobetse* one to activate your machine, two for 'Aye', three for 'No.' *Tlhophang. Le tlhophile.* I am now deactivating.

Order! Honourable Members, here are the results of your voting; you are 38, 'ayes' 33, 'noes' one, 'abstain' three, and one did not participate. So, the 'ayes' have it. The Bill is passed.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Ke le leboge batlotlegi gore le bo le dirile melao eo.

### AMENDMENT OF SECTION 201 (A) OF THE PENAL CODE NO. 18 OF 2018

Motion

(Resumed Debate)

**MR SPEAKER:** The debate on this Motion is resuming. When the House adjourned Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2026, Honourable Tshere was on the floor debating and he is left with 4 minutes and 59 seconds.

### MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE):

Tanki *Mr Speaker.* Ke ne ke setse ke wetse tota *Mr Speaker*, ka gore ke ne ke santse ke bua ka molao wa boloi. Ke sa reye gore ke romilwe boloi. Thomo e ke e romilweng ke gore, ke batle dikitso tse Batswana ba nang le tsone, tse re ka di dirisang gore re tle re itshetse ka tsone, jaaka re bua ka *knowledge-based economy.* Ke tlhalosa gore, melao e a patika *and* seo ga ke se ntshe mo tlhogong *Mr Speaker*, ka gore *we deal with researchers as their funders at the Ministry of Communications and Innovation. These are reports that are coming to us* gore go dingalonyana gore o tseye dikitso tse mo Batswaneng, ba a gana, ba a tshaba. Ka jalo, ga go re fe seemo se ke neng ke se tlhalosa gore re na le dikitso tse dingwe tse di diragalang mo lefifing jaaka re bua ka boloi. Ke ne ke tlhalosa gore fa e le gore re batla *to solve* kgang e ya go bolaiwa ga batho, gongwe re batlisisa gore ke eng batho ba batla nama ya batho?

Ke dumela gore fa re ka bona mabaka ao, *researchers* tsa kwa *university that deal* le tsone le ba kwa Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) tota, gongwe re ka tla ka mogopolo o mongwe *that can substitute* nama ya motho mo tirong eo.

Re bo re dira se re se eletsang ka go dirisa nama ya motho. *Research can help* gore re batle *an alternative*. *Therefore*, re tlaabo re bolaile kgang ya gore batho ba a nyelela, dirwe di nna teng. Re ka tla ka se sengwe, *only* fa re setse re itse, re kgona go tlhotlhomisa, gore re tle ka ditharabololo tse dingwe, e seng fela tsa gore batho ba ntse jaana.

Ke sone se ke neng ke re, molao o, o o amanang le boloi, o botlhokwa. O tlaa dira gore batho ba phuthologe, ba itse gore ba sireleditswe, le dikitso tsa bone di sireleditswe. E tlaare fa ba re di neela, ga re na go di tsaya jaaka ba e tle ba bue mo Palamenteng, re di neela ba bangwe. Re itse gore ke dikitso tsa bone. Ke yone tiro ya rona e tona kwa *Ministry of Communications and Innovation*. *This part* ya *innovation deals* ka kgang ya gore re batle *indigenous knowledge and package it such that we can sell it as a country*. *Indeed, we cannot trade* ka *indigenous knowledge* ya Makgoa le ya kae. *We can only enhance our own indigenous knowledge*. Ke sone se ke emang nokeng mogopolo o o mo tafoleng. Ke ne ke setse ke o eme nokeng jaaka re okeditse dikatllholo tse di buang ka batho ba ba fitlhelwang ka dirwe tsa batho. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR MOTSAMAI):** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*: Mma ke supe fela gore mogopolo o, o ka isa Batswana golo gongwe. Ke mogopolo wa motho a emetse batho, a kgathala ka go nyelela ga batho. A lela le batho, a bona gore sika loomotho le a nyelela. *Mr Speaker*, fa re ka se ka ra diragatsa mogopolo o, batho ba ba nyeletsang ba bangwe, ba ba dira dipheko, fa re sa gagamatse, ke bone gape ba rotloetsang le *passion killings*. Polao ya motho ga se sepe fela, o kgona go bolaya motho o ya go itšhalaka ka ene o huma kana o reng. Go gagamatsa, go tlaabo go raya gore batho ba tshabele kgakala.

*Mr Speaker*, mo dinakong tse di fetileng, ke kile ka bua ka mogopolo o, gore o ama thata batho ba e leng gore ga ba na itsholelo. Ka bo ka supa gore ga o ka ke wa fitlhela mo mafatsheng a Africa bontsi, gotwe Mopalamente kana Tona semangmang o nyeletse, o sale jaaka a re o ya go batla dikgomo, a bo a tsamaela ruri kana a re o ya lenyalong, a bo a tsamaela ruri. Mapalamente le Matona ga ba nyelele, go nyelela bana ba bo esemang le bone bo esemang ka sebelebele. Potso e ke kileng ka e botsa ke gore, batho ba ke eng o kare ba atlegile ka go sa nyelela mme bahumanegi ba tshabelelwa ke go nyelela? Ke rona ba re tlhophilweng ke batho gore re tle go

baakanya melao. Go tlhophiwa, e a bo e le gore batho ba a go roma gore mongwame semangmang, tsamaya o ye kwa, o ye go ntshireletsa ka melao e e ka ntshireletsang. Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, ke kgang e e tlhamaletseng gore go bo go ka diragatswa molao o ka tlhamalalo, e bile ka bonako fa ke ne ke kgona.

Go na le mafatshe mangwe a go nang le batho ba ba rileng mo *society*. Mo e leng gore kwa mafatsheng ao, o utlwa gotwe fa o na le bogole jwa gore, o se ka wa tsamaela kwa boketeketete. Melao e *Mr Speaker* fa re e baya, re tlaabo re itshupa re le Batswana gore re sireleditse motho mongwe le mongwe, a ke yo o nang le bothata jo bo ntseng jang. Ke seemo se e leng gore Puso fa e le *progressive* jaaka ya UDC *Mr Speaker*, e tshwanetse e se tsiboge, e bo e se emele ka dinao.

*Mr Speaker*, re na le dikgang tsa *human trafficking* tse le tsone di amang le bopo. Maloba ke ne ke bua gore mo meelwaneng e e dirisiwang kgapetsakgapetsa, go tsenngwe dintša tse di kgonang go dupelela gore motho o moo, mme o mo seemong se se sa siamang, o thupilwe o isiwa kwa boketeketete. Go tsenngwe le *machines that screen* mo go tseneletseng, go bona gore ga go tsewe batho. Le a itse gore gompiano re ntse re lela gore bangwe ba feletse ba le kwa Russia, ba kae, ga re itse gore ba dule jang ka kwano. Ke dikgang tse re le Palamente, re tshwanetseng re di tseele kgang *Mr Speaker*.

Re a itse gore molao o Rre Kamal jaaka o tlile ka one jaana, ga wa sireletsega. Puso e tshwanetse e go sireletse le yone, gore o tlile ka mogopolo mo Palamenteng, mme o ntshitse batho dijo mo ganong ka puo ya Setswana. Re tshwanetse re go sireletse. Re bone gore o a sireletsega. Ga ke reye gore o tshoge. Gone fela, go tla ka melao e e ntseng jaana, le rona ba re e emang nokeng, re tshwanetse ra ipaya mo seemong sa gore re kopa tshireletso mo go bo raboko. Ga re ka ke ra nna le batho ba e leng gore fa ba lebile motho yo mongwe, ga ba mmone e le setshidi se se dirilweng ke Modimo. Dikgang tse *Mr Speaker*, di fokotsa bosetlhogo mo bathong le dipolaano tse di dirwang ke batho mo malwapeng. Batho ba bolaya ba bangwe fela, ba ba phunyaphunya jaaka magapu a le mo tshimong.

Dikgang tse, ga se tse di siameng, go bo di ka dirwa mo sikeng loomotho *Mr Speaker*. Go tlhoka gore Puso le yone fa e ntse e dumela melao jaana, e tle ka ditsompelo tse go ka tweng ke tsa maemo a ntilha di dirisiwa ke mapodise a bo Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) jalojalo a mafatshe a a tsididi, di dirisiwa *to track* go

bona gore fa gotwe sennanne se rile, go tewa ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Batho ba bangwe *Mr Speaker*, go bua nnete ga ba tsewe ke boraboko. Batswana go na le gore ngwana a nyelele mo motseng o tshwana le bo Ranyane, kaekae, motho a nyelela malatsi a le mararo, a le mane gotwe ga a bonwe ga go na dikoloi, *chopper, helicopters*, sennanne, ke sone se se dirang gore ke re Puso fa e dira melao, le ditsompelo e kgone go nna le tse di rileng. Le tsone tse di latedisang (*tracking*) go bona gore go nyelela ga motho go tsamaile ka tsela e e ntseng jang *Mr Speaker*.

Go na le mongwe o nna fela mo nageng kwa dikgaolong tsa bo Tsabong, o tsaya mongwe le mongwe yo a mmonang a mo phamola a ya go mmolaela mo nageng, a bo a boa gape a boela kwa *prison Mr Speaker*. A bo a boa gape a boela kwa dikgaolong tsa rona tsa Kgalagadi, a ya go boa gape a tsweledisa mekgwa e e ntseng jalo. Ga re itse gore fa gongwe motho yo o bakwa ke eng *Mr Speaker*, kana ke gone go lwala ga lefatshe kana jang.

Ke tshwanetse go wela jaana *Mr Speaker*, ka gore ke ne ke tlhokile sebaka sa gore ke tle ke lathele kgang nngwe, mme fa o ntetla ke ka e latlhela. Ga se e e ntshang mo tseleng, ke e e bileng e nontshang dikgang. Maloba e rile fa ke nganga *Mr Speaker*, ka supa gore bagarona ba Botswana Congress Party (BCP), ba ne ba dira tiro e e setlhogo ya gore ba bo ba tla ka batlhokatiro, go bo go raya gore ba ema foo ba ntse ba ba tsaya dinepe ba ntse ba lela jaana. E rile fa ke dirisa mafoko a gore ba ne ba senyolola maikaelelo a batho bao a go kaela Goromente gore a ba hire, ya bo e nna e kete ke tshega ba e leng gore ga ba mo ditirong. Ke supe gore ke ne ke sa rialo, ke ne ke supa gore golo mo ka bogone fela ke bosetlhogo. Fa e le gore ope ga a nkutlwa sentle, ke kope maitshwarelo *Mr Speaker*; gore kgang e ne e se koo, e ne e le ka ditiragalo tsele. Tota di ne tsa nkama mo e leng gore e rile fa ke bua, ke bo ke sa ele mangwe mafoko tlhoko *Mr Speaker*.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Procedure Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** *Procedure* ya eng motho a re o kopa maitshwarelo? Tswelela *Honourable* Motsamai.

**MR MOTSAMAI:** *Mr Speaker*, ke kopa maitshwarelo a mo baneng bao ba Information and Technology (IT) le lefatshe ka bophara. Ga ke a kope mo BCP, ke raya ka gore gongwe mokaulengwe o tlaa tsaya gore ke ba kopela maitshwarelo. Lona ke supa gore kgang ele ga le a e tsamaisa sentle, le ne le tla fa le tsaya batho dinepe. Le setlhogo mo e leng gore le batla go fenywa ditlhopho ka selelo sa batho. Ga le lebelele *situation* e motho a leng mo go yone, le gweba ka yone gore le boelwe...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Procedure Mr Speaker. No, it is not acceptable.

**MR MOTSAMAI:** ...le ratwa ke... Ke feditse *Mr Speaker*. Tanki.

**MR SPEAKER:** *Honourable Members*, nnang fa fatshe. *Motion* o o na le dibekenyana o le mo tafoleng le o nganga, jaanong *I will invoke* Standing Order 56.1...

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Ntheetsang. *Honourable Members*, *I am satisfied that there is sufficient and substantial consensus*. Ke kopa ba e leng gore ba ganana le mogopolo o, ke bone motho a eme ka dinao.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Ke raya yo o gananang le mogopolo.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Nnyaa, ka re ba ba gananang, *who holds a contrary view*. Ke ne ke botsa gore ke mang yo o nang le *a contrary view* ya *Motion*?

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Procedure Mr Speaker.

**MR SPEAKER:** Father of the House.

#### MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

**(MR MMOLOTSI):** *Point of procedure*. *Mr Speaker*, ke a utlwa gore o batla ba ba gananang, mme ke ne ke re kana maloba go ne ga nna le *misunderstanding or some people* ba ne ba se ka ba tlhaloganya nako e ke neng ke thusa Rre Mabeo. Rre Mabeo o ne a re go raya gore fa motho a fitlhelwa ka nama ya motho, mong wa serwe seo o a bo a tlhokafetse. Ka nako ya teng ke ne ka leka go thusa Rre Mabeo e le go mmaakanyetsa gore ga go a nna jalo. Go na le *cases* tse e leng gore fa gongwe motho o a tshela mme nama ya gagwe e kgona gore ya bo e le teng jaaka gongwe motho a kgaotswe letsogo mme motho a tshela.

Ka ba ka tlatsa le gore go na le tsa bo *circumcision*, motho o kgona go arwa, ga fitlhelwa ngaka e tshwere matlalo ao mme beng ba one ba tshela. *I was misunderstood by people* gore ke bua dikgang di sele. *I just wanted to make it very clear* gore a *I am still saying* motho fa a fitlhelwa ka nama ya motho, motho yoo o ka tswa a tlhokafetse kana a sa tlhokafala. Go na le thulaganyo ya gore batho ba ka kgaolwa *part* nngwe e le ka kgang ya bolwetse bongwe kana ka go farologana ga mabaka. *Mr Speaker*,

ke ne ke re ke dumalana le *Honourable* Jacobs gore go tshwanelwa ke gore dingwaga di okediwe mo go seng kana ka sepe gore ope yo o fitlhelwang ka seemo seo, a se ka a ba a bona...

**MR SPEAKER:** Nnyaa, *Honourable* Mmolotsi, kana go raya gore o ne o dira *personal explanation*. Yone kana e ne e batla gore o nkwa le, o bo o tla o e dira.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, *you have indicated* gore *you want to debate* but ke ne ke kopile ba ba gananang le mogopolo o.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Ke a go kopa *Mr Speaker*.

**MR SPEAKER:** *I want to confirm* gore a le a ganana because...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** There is one important element *e e tlogetsweng*.

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

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members, *ga ke batle elements*, I am very clear. When you stand up, you must be holding a contrary view. *Fa go sena* a contrary view, I shall now call upon the mover to reply to the debate. Honourable Jacobs, reply to the debate. *O na le* 20 minutes but I suggest that you take less time so that Motion is voted for.

**MR JACOBS (LOBATSE):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I propose that this Honourable House requests Government to consider amending Section 201 (A) of the Penal Code 18 of 2018 and revised sentence when a person is found guilty of offences under this statute. Mr Speaker, Section 201 (A) reads, “a person found in unlawful possession of any human flesh, body parts or human remains, committed an offence and shall be sentenced to a minimum term of 10 years imprisonment or a maximum term of 30 years imprisonment.” Mr Speaker, Section 201 (A) proposed amendment must read 201 (A), “a person found in unlawful possession of any human flesh, body parts or human remains commits an offence and shall be sentenced to a minimum term of 20 years imprisonment or to a maximum term of life imprisonment.” Mr Speaker, the circumstances and balance of probability within the jurisdiction of the court of laws will determine the most relevant sentence on proposition from a minimum term of 20 years

imprisonment to a maximum term of life imprisonment. Mr Speaker, the current sentence is correctionally naked and non-deterrent, legally vague and indefinite. That is why suspects and offence makers commit similar offences repeatedly.

Mr Speaker, statistics from the Botswana Police Service (BPS) proved this by showing an increasing number and trending ritual killings which goes hand in hand with possession of human flesh, body parts or human remains. Mr Speaker, in December 2023, ritual killings there were 23 people. Mr Speaker, in December 2024, ritual killings there were 51 people. In December 2025, ritual killings went up to 160 people. However, there is a compulsory need to initiate an increased sentence as means of a deterrent as we obey, respect in line with the judgement policies and sentencing framework Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, we need to make this amendment to protect the innocent lives of the vulnerable and potential victims, especially the voices of the youngest amongst all. Mr Speaker, this amendment can deter the possibility of this likely crime because of the legal gap or loophole. Mr Speaker, the legal technicality of this current sentence is weak in terms of legal sentence and applicability to protect vulnerable innocent lives of Batswana. Mr Speaker, I am talking about the lives of our children, sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers and our parents.

Mr Speaker, any person found in possession of human flesh, body parts or human remains outside of legally authorized purposes such as medical, educational or forensic context shall be charged with the offence and definitely the proposed sentence of a minimum of 20 years imprisonment to a maximum term of life imprisonment. The reason for increasing minimum sentence from 10 years to 20 years is due to the escalation of ritual killings statistics from the past five years as per the Botswana Police Service statistics. The crime of mutilation and extraction has become a business for evildoers.

Mr Speaker, where the minimum sentence must apply is when the evi doer possesses remains of a person already dead. This should also apply to those also found using human flesh, body parts or human remains for *muti* purposes, ritual purposes such as businesses, politics and riches.

Mr Speaker, the maximum sentence applies to a suspect that kills, extracts and found in possession of human flesh, body parts or human remains. The mutilation and extraction of human body parts in God’s eyes is a

simple act and God forgives nobody for such a simple crime, this act is an act of evil. The Bible says, “Thou shall not kill for all the people belong to God and they are the people of God.” The Torah says, “You shall not murder as one of the 10 Commandments of God.” The Quran prohibits the killing of innocent people, equating the unjust killing of one person to the murder of all humanity, Surah 5:32.

Henceforth Mr Speaker, I finally propose that this amendment be made to Section 201 (A), current reading, “A person found in an unlawful possession of any human flesh, body parts or human remains commits an offence and shall be sentenced to a minimum of 10 years imprisonment or to a maximum term of 30 years imprisonment.” Mr Speaker, I so move that this Honourable House approves the amendment of Section 201 of the Penal Code (No.18 of 2018) of the Republic of Botswana as it reads, “a person found in unlawful position of any human flesh body parts or human remains commits an offence and shall be sentenced to a minimum term of 20 years imprisonment or to a maximum term of life imprisonment.”

The families of those who have not been found until today will start sleeping peacefully from today Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, we are talking about your children, my children, children of the Members of Parliament (MPs), children of all Batswana and our relatives to be protected against this heinous crime that affected all constituencies in Botswana. We must take into account that the Government of today is a human rights-based Government and must protect humanity in all means. *Ke a le leboga lotlhe ba e leng gore* you were part of this debate and I so move and thank you Mr Speaker. *Ke a leboga.*

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

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Elucidation!

**MR SPEAKER:** A re o feditse.

Question put and **agreed to.**

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

## COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS OR TRUSTS

### Motion

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members. This Motion is by Honourable Simasiku Oscar Mapulanga, Member of Parliament for Chobe.

**MR MAPULANGA (CHOBE):** Ke go leboge Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke le dumedise batlotlegi. Ke dumele gore go Labotlhano, re setse ka *nine minutes, I will try by all means to be brief* Mr Speaker ka gore ke kgang e re neng re setse re e dumalane le Tona.

Tshutiso e ke ya go kopa Ntlo e *as per the Commission of Inquiry Act of 1962, Section 2* e e supang gore re ka kopa gore go nne le lekgotla le le ka tlhotlhomisang dikgang dingwe tse re dumelang gore gongwe ga di tsamaye sentle mo lefatsheng le e bile e latedisiwa ke Standing Order 44, ke dumelang gore ke tlaabo ke le mo tsamaisong fa ke eme fa. *It reads as such, “That this Honourable House requests Government to institute a Commission of Inquiry on allegations of maladministration, financial embezzlement, insider trading, corruption, abuse of political power and abuse of office on Community Based Organisations or Trusts by Technical Advisory Committees and Trustees from ngwaga wa 2014 go ema 2024.”*

Mr Speaker, kgang e ya go kopa gore lekgotla le le nne teng, e tsalwa ke mabaka a gore re amogetse re le Botswana gore dikgaolo kana merafe e dirise ditsatlhologo tsa bone go itshetsa go tswa mo lehumeng, go tswa mo manokonokong a botshelo ka ditsatlhologo tse ba nang le tsone mo mafelong a ba nnang mo go one. Dikgang tse, ke tsone tse di tsetseng gore gompieno a bo re le fa ke bua le Ntlo e gore ke e kope gore e dumalane le nna gore re tsenye lekgotla le le ka tlhotlhomisang ka gore go simolotse go supega gore dilo dingwe ga di tsamaye sentle mo dikarolong tse tsa go itshetsa ka ditsatlhologo tsa rona. Re bua dikgang tsa letsomo, metlhaba le tsa *Trusts* fela kana makgotla a a mo mafelong a rona.

Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, *Trusts* tse dingwe di na le dingwagangwaga di sa tshware Annual General Meeting (AGM). Tse dingwe di na le dingwagangwaga di sa kgone go boela kwa botsading. Tse dingwe *quotas* tsa tsone *when disposed*, re bona go nna le diemo tse di sa nnang sentle. Dikai, o tlaa kgona go bona gore re na le *contracts* tse di neng di supa gore di saeniwa pele ga nako mo e leng gore go *breach the agreements* tsa batsumi kana tsa ditirelo tse di tshwanetseng tsa tsamaisa *Trusts* tseo; a ke tsa metlhaba kana tsa eng.

Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, *if you were to read the Auditor’s Report* ya 2010, e go bontsha gore ba ne ba nna le nako ya gore ba ye go tlhodumela ditsamaiso tsa ditirelo tse. E balega jaana, *“the report of*

*the Auditor General on the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) programme.*” E ne e dirwa *through Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism* ka nako eo. *It was Audit Report Number 1 of 2010.* E supile dilo tse ke tlaa di buang gone fa; sa ntlha se re neng ra se itemogela, go nnile le *quotas* tse di neng di le *free signed*, yo mongwe a santse a le mo *site*, ka fa maloko a saena *agreements* le ba bangwe, *breach* ya *agreements* tseo.

Fa o lebelela *towards 2019*, re nnile le dikgang tse dintsi tse re neng re fitlhela *trusts*, e seng tse ke buang ka tsone fela di le nosi, *you go to Kuru Development, Khawa, bo Bobirwa, Okavango le Chobe, same challenges*, tse re fitlhelang *quotas Mr Speaker*, ditlou di le 30 di kgona go rekisiwa ka P1.2 million. *Honourable Lucas*, ditlou tse di nang le *price*, ditlou le *quotas* kwa bo Shakawe, Okavango, di lwelwa ka tsela e e leng gore ditlou di le 25 di rekisiwa bo P1.5 million. Dikgang tse di supa gore *there has been a lot of maladministration* mo tsamaisong ya ditsatholego tsa rona. Go a sekiwa, batsadi ba mo dikolotong fa ke bua le wena jaana *Mr Speaker*. Ke sone se ke dumelang gore re dumalane gore Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) golo gongwe re ne re bona mo dikgaolong tse dingwe e le yone e e dirisiwang *to renegotiate prices downwards, quota* e tshwanetse go rekisiwa ka P4 million, di ya go rekisiwa bo P1.5 million. Re ne re bona mo dikgannyeng tse fa go tshwanetse gore *trustees* di tshware Annual General Meetings (AGMs) di a sirelediwa. Jaanong *this political power* e re humanegisitse *Mr Speaker*.

**MR HIKUAMA:** *Clarification.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*. A ko o wele ka ntlha e, ga ke a utlwa o wela, ya gore fa *trustees* di leka gore di tshware tsamaiso e e siameng, di tlhophe mo go siameng, ba a kgorelediwa, o raya ba kgorelediwa ke mang? Fa o ka wela gone foo.

**MR MAPULANGA:** Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Kgoreletso e re e bona ka dikgang tse go tlaabong go simolola gore batho bangwe mo *community* ba dirisana *either*, ke ka neela sekai bo Permanent Secretary (PS), *Director, including Ministers* tse dingwe le Balaodi, gore jaanong ba *block* go tswelela pele ga AGMs ka gore go supile gore *in terms of audits* tse di neng di dirwa, go na le *transactions* tse di supegang gore bangwe ba bodiredi kana ba TAC ba ne ba amega. *So*, go kganelwa gore go se ka ga tswelwa ka gore *the audit report will point a finger at some of the employees, public servants or even community leaders*, mapolotiki, Makhanselara,

Mapalamente le Dikgosi. Go tsewa batho mo motseng ba bo ba *influence* gore re se ka ra ya go dumalana, a re ngakalale go se ka ga tswelwa. *This is why* re eme dingwaga tse di kanakana batho ba sokola, lehuma ga le a fokotsega, ditirelo tse di tshwanetseng go ya kwa morafeng ga di goroge.

Madi re bona a sa dirisiwe sentle. *Projects* tse di tshwanetseng gore morafe o di *propose, trustees* ba tsaya ditshwetso tse di sa tsamaelaneng. Go dirwa *projects* tse di sa direng ditiro, tse di senang dipoelo mo e leng gore morafe o sala o ntse gape o le mo lehumeng. Madi ga a dirisiwe sentle.

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

**MR MAPULANGA:** *...(Laughter!)...* O a di itse *Honourable Mmolotsi*. *So* dikgang tse, *Mr Speaker*, ke tsone tse ke kopang gore fa o utlwa ke ne ke re ke tlaa leka go e *summarise* thata ke go sireletse mo nakong. Ke ema fa go kopa gore ditirelo tse di neng di tshwanetse go goroga kwa morafeng, ga di a goroga ka gore go nnile le dithata dingwe tse di neng di dirisiwa. Gompiano jaana batsadi mo motseng ba mo dikolotong ntateng ya go seka ga *trustees* le merafe. Batho ba ba nang le matlhale mo motseng ba saenisa batsadi, fa *case* e sa wele, e boela fa morago go felela e le gore jaanong fa e wetse morafe, batsadi ba ba itshetsang ka go lema le go roka ditlatlana, ga ba na madi a go duela...

**MR SPEAKER:** Order!

**MR MAPULANGA:** *In conclusion*, tlaa ke e tswale fela jalo. Kana ke tlaa tla ke e tsweledisa *Mr Speaker*?

**MR SPEAKER:** O tlaa tla o *conclude*.

**MR MAPULANGA:** Ee, ke tlaa tla ke e tsweledisa.

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Members, as it is now 12:30 p.m. I shall now call upon the Leader of the House to move a Motion of adjournment.

## MOTION

## ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and **agreed to**.

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 12:32 p.m. until Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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