

13th
PARLIAMENT



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

PARLIAMENT OF BOTSWANA
— OUR PARLIAMENT OUR PRIDE —

DAILY HANSARD

YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT

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

THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2026

MIXED VERSION

HANSARD NO: 220



DISCLAIMER
Unofficial Hansard

This transcript of Parliamentary proceedings is an unofficial version of the Hansard and may contain inaccuracies. It is hereby published for general purposes only. The edited version of the Hansard will be published when available and can be obtained from the Assistant Clerk (Editorial)

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
RULING PARTY (Umbrella for Democratic Change)	
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.	Kgatlang 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.	Kgatlang East

(Independent Member of Parliament)

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

SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS
THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT
THURSDAY 2ND APRIL, 2026

CONTENTS	PAGE (S)
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER	1-17
QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE	18
GOVERNMENT BILL	
Cinematograph Bill, 2025 (No. 31 of 2025)	
<i>Committee Stage</i>	19
<i>Third Reading</i>	19
WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 3	20-22

Thursday 2nd April, 2026

THE ASSEMBLY met at 9:00 a.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

PRAYERS

* * * *

MR SPEAKER (MR KEORAPETSE): Pray be seated!

...Silence...

MR SPEAKER: *Honourable Members, good morning. Ke tsaya gore le tsogile batlotlegi. Letsatsi leno tiro ya rona e simolola mo mosong gore e re fa re tšhaisa, ba ba tsamayang ba kgone gore ba travel. Go raya gore re tlaa kopana fa ka Labobedi gakere?*

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Ee.

MR SPEAKER: Jaanong a re simololeng tiro ya rona ya letsatsi la gompiano ka dipotso.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Dumelang Saleshando, Member of Parliament for Maun North.

MR DISHO: Ke tlaa e mo tseela.

MR SPEAKER: O tlaa e mo tseela *Honourable* Disho.

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

MR D. SALESHANDO (MAUN NORTH): asked the Minister for State President, Defence and Security:

- (i) to state the total costs incurred by Government thus far for meetings convened nationwide to promote the possible introduction of the Constitutional Court; and
- (ii) to avail a breakdown of the costs indicating travel, lodging and other associated costs.

MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE AND SECURITY (MR MOHWASA): *Mr Speaker, ke kopa go tthalosa sengwe ka Question No. 2. Re buile le Honourable Leader of the Opposition, re kopile gore a e later date ka gore e ne e tlhoka nako gore re phuthe information. So, ke ne ke kopile gore re tlaa e araba le fa e le beke e e tlang.*

MR SPEAKER: So, it is later dated.

Later Date.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

MR G. KEKGONEGILE (MAUN EAST): asked the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs to brief this Honourable House on efforts being made by his Ministry to contribute to job creation and in ensuring that all Botswana registered commercial vehicles are driven by hired locals or citizens, with particular emphasis on:

- (i) whether such policy exists in Botswana; and if not, why not;
- (ii) any paradigm shift if such policy does not exist, steps being taken and targeted implementation period;
- (iii) how often inspection of the industry is done and to state the composition of the inspection team; and
- (iv) the lessons learnt in the inspections and intervention strategies being put in place.

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE): *Good morning Mr Speaker. I have got a very long answer but ke ne ke kopa gore ke se ka ka mo senyetsa Easters, ke mo tlišetse karabo ke e khutshwafaditse go le go nnyenyane.*

MR SPEAKER: E siame fa e le gore ke karabo e telele. Standing Order 38.4 se a letla gore o ka mo neela karabo e e kwadilweng.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Ke ne ke tseela gore go na le *some issues of national interest.*

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

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Nnyaa, ke tlaa tla ke dira beke e e tlang. Ke ne ke kopa mo go...

MR SPEAKER: Nnyaa, Standing Order 38.4, mo neele karabo.

DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION

MR T. B. LUCAS (BOBIRWA): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs if he is aware that the Department of Tribal Administration is one of the most neglected departments in Government; and in particular to state:

- (i) the number of;
- (a) functional vehicles available to a Kgotla against the number of Dikgotla in Botswana;
- (b) functional vehicles available to a Kgotla against the number of Dikgotla in Bobirwa;
- (c) habitable accommodation available to Tribal Administration staff against the number of employed Tribal Administration staff in Botswana;
- (d) the number of habitable accommodation available to Tribal Administration staff against the number of employed staff in Bobirwa Tribal Administration Offices;
- (ii) the amount of money that was allocated for the maintenance of Tribal Administration offices and houses in the last three financial years in Botswana;
- (iii) the amount of money that was allocated for the maintenance of Tribal Administration offices and houses in the last three financial years in Bobirwa; and
- (iv) plans his Ministry has to address the neglected Department of Tribal Administration.

...Silence...

MR SPEAKER: Ga go na yo a mo laetseng foo? *Let us skip it.*

MR LUCAS: *Procedure Mr Speaker.* Kana ga ke utlwe sepe gore gatweng ka potso e.

MR SPEAKER: Go lebege Tona a seyo.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR MOHWASA): O etla. Ke gore fela Rre Lucas wa šhwegašhwega.

MR LUCAS: Ee, ke batla e arabiwa. E ama Dikgosi.

MR SPEAKER: E tlaa arabiwa.

DEBSWANA TAX DEBT

MR P. K. MOTAOSANE (THAMAGAKUMAKWANE): asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy to update this Honourable House on the main reason behind the Government's decision not to pursue the Debswana tax debt that was alleged to be in the region of P14 billion.

Later Date.

TOURISM LEVY

MR G. DISHO (OKAVANGO EAST): asked the Minister of Environment and Tourism to state:

- (i) the amount of revenue that is collected annually from the tourism levy and how this amount compares with expenditure allocated to the maintenance and development of infrastructure in national parks and reserves;
- (ii) why, despite consistent collection of tourism levy revenues, infrastructure in parks and reserves remains severely dilapidated, to the extent that it undermines visitors' experiences, conservation objectives and the working conditions of staff in the tourism industry;
- (iii) whether his Ministry acknowledges the public concern that the conditions of parks and reserves do not reflect the level of revenue generated from the tourism levy; and
- (iv) concrete plans and timelines to ensure that these funds are visibly reinvested in improving parks and reserves infrastructure.

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

(MR MMOLOTSI): Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker.* Mo ngwageng wa madi wa 2024/2025, madi a a kgompe a a kana ka P19,334,200 a ne a phuthiwa mo *tourism or bed levy.* *Mr Speaker,* madi a ke a a tsennngwang mo *fund* e e bidiwang gotwe *Tourism Development Levy* mme go dirwa jalo go dirisiwa tsamaiso ya *Public Finance Management Act Fund Order* ya 2022 e e reng, *"there shall be paid into the Fund royalties from lease concessions, levies collected by the tourism industry for and on behalf of Government, income from the investment of monies of the Fund, and grants, donations and contributions from other sources of income as the Minister responsible for finance may approve. Expenditure from the Fund is guided by paragraph 8, which authorises disbursements for "costs for carrying out the purposes set out in paragraph 4" including tourism development, community beneficiation, research, publicity, service improvement, and heritage preservation."*

Mr Speaker, kgatlhanong le se Motlotlegi Mopalamente Disho a se buang, *tourism levy* ga e ka ke ya dirisiwa mo go baakanyeng dikago *at the parks and national reserves* ka gore go dira jalo, jaanong re tlaabo re e dirisa selo se e leng gore *Fund Order* ga e se bue. Mafelo a a

sireleditsweng a, paakanyo a one e dirwa ke Goromente *through both the Recurrent and the Development Funds* tse di neelwang *ministry* ngwaga le ngwaga.

Mr Speaker, madi tota a re ntseng re a neelwa ke Goromente go dira jalo, ke madi a a sa lekaneng gotlhelele ka lebaka la gore re a itse gore ke lebaka le le leele Goromente a ntse a ngongorega ka madi. Go dira jalo go dirile gore mo nakong ya gompiano, *infrastructure* e e kwa diphakeng *or protected areas*, e bo e le mo seemong se se sa itumediseng. Goromente o dirisa madi a a kana ka P20 *million* ngwaga le ngwaga go leka go baakanya le go tlhabolola *these facilities*. Jaaka re ka dumalana, madi a ga a lekana gotlhelele, a tlhaelela kgakala fa re lebile gore dikago tse di kwa *protected areas*, di mo seemong se se ntseng jang.

Go iteka, re mo tirisanyong le ba United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *through* lenaneo la bone la *Biodiversity Finance Initiative*. Lenaneo le, le re thusitse *to develop the* Protected Areas Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Partnerships. Thuso e re e bone ka 2025, *plan* e kwa tshimologong ya gore re leke *to implement strategy* se.

Plan e e re thusa gape gore re leke go kabakanya tse di ka re thusang go senka madi a re ka a dirisang go baakanya *and modernise systems and enhance institutional capacity*.

...Silence...

MR MMOLOTSI: Mr Speaker, it is evident that some of the infrastructure in protected areas, most of which were constructed some 20 years back requires urgent maintenance as they have aged. The ministry is currently undertaking some maintenance; such as the recently rethatched Linyanti and Ihaha entrance gates. Furthermore, in Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR), developments have commenced that include offices and staff accommodation through the refurbishment of wildlife camps project. These developments will be undertaken in a phased approach covering the rest of the protected areas. I acknowledge the pace of these interventions is slow partly due to delays in execution and weak institutional capacity. To that end, through the aforementioned Protected Areas Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Partnerships Plan, we will leverage on the capacity of the private sector to improve the infrastructure and facilities. The ministry interacts very closely with tourism industry and we are aware of the issues of concern on the current state of infrastructure

in parks and reserves that does not adequately reflect the strategic importance of the tourism to the sustenance of our economy and the potential revenue that could be realised from the industry. We acknowledge that the poor infrastructure undermines visitor experiences and compromises the working conditions of staff. We are committed to addressing these issues.

Mr Speaker, as part of implementation of Protected Areas Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Partnerships Plan, *e ke letseng ke bua ka yone maabane ke araba potso ya ga* Honourable wa Mogoditshane *yo o tlotlegang, mme e bile a rata kgaolo*, the ministry is forming a Resource Mobilisation Unit to coordinate fundraising and enhance access and utilisation of major funding mechanisms both from Government, as well as international grants. This will be supported by reforming the protected area budget management through decentralising it and utilising the agility of the tourism private sector to implement projects. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR DISHO: *Supplementary*. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke a leboga Tona. Ke leboge le ba ba go fileng karabo eo, tota gompiano ba e tshwere sentle.

Motho o ka botsa *some few supplementary questions*. Ke utlwile o re madi ga a dirisiwe *to develop there*, a dirisiwa golo gongwe, mme kana motho yo o *authorise* madi ao jaaka o supile, o bapa le ene letsatsi le letsatsi. Ka ke motho yo o bonolo, ga o ka ke wa mo kopa ka gore diphaka tsa rona di sule? Makgoa ba a tle ba re *perception is reality, what you see fa o tsena fela in the park, that is what they expect. Are you aware* gore makgoa ba kgona go itaya *u-turn* fela gone fa kgorong ba bona babereki fa ba ntse jaana gore ga ba a tlhokomelwa, go raya gore le mo teng *we are not going to experience what we are paying for? Are you aware* Tona gore go diragala jalo *particularly gates* tse e leng gore *they have been there* di sule *for five, six or seven years*, bo Tsau Gate le bo Mababe? *Are you aware* gore ke tsone *the main entrances into these parks?*

Ya bofelo re ntse re bua ka ditsela. *Are you aware that* Moremi Game Reserve *is flooded and inaccessible at the moment because of the road conditions? How much money are we losing for this period* e e leng gore Moremi Game Reserve *is going to be closed due to poor road conditions? Ke ntse ke kopa* gore fa le tshela gravel jaaka mo Gaborone Game Reserve, *because if you go in Gaborone Game Reserve even now you can drive yourself. I was there this morning and two days, go na le gravel* e tshesanyane e e leng gore *you can drive*

on top even if it is wet. Can we not do exactly the same in Moremi so that we do not lose the money that we are losing for this block e e closed? Ke a leboga.

MR MMOLOTSI: Motlotlegi wa Mogoditshane Rre Barongwang o letse a arabile e nngwe. Ke tsaya gore ka fa e arabileng ka teng o go arabile, mme ke tlaa wela mo go yone.

O ne o re a ka ke bapile le Mothusa Tautona ke ka se ke ke bue le ene ka gore o bonolo. Ga go bereke ka bonolo, gape ga go bereke ka go bapa, go bereka ka gore *Fund Order* ya re madi a ka dirisiwa ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Se o tshwanetseng go se tlhologanya *Honourable* Disho ke gore maphata a ga Goromente ka go farologana jaaka ba ntse ba dira madi, bontsi madi jwa a one bo ya kwa *Consolidated Fund*, tota maikaelelo e le gore e nne madi a a dirisiwang *for* sengwe le sengwe sa lefatshe la Botswana. *Of course, there will be specific funds tse e leng gore Fund Orders tsa tsone has ringfenced madi ao gore a ka dirisiwa for those specific purposes. Generally speaking, madi ka bontsi that is generated mo maphateng, a felela e le madi a a kwa letloleng le e leng gore go tswa foo ke one a a thusang ditiro tsa ga Goromente tsotlhe. Gongwe fa ke ka dira o tlaa nkaraba a re mme kana madi ao a tlhokiwa ke lefatshe lotlhe.*

Well, ke a go utlwa gore wa re bajanala ba kgona go boa fa kgorong ba tennwe ke ditebego tse ba di bonang fela fa ba tsena. Jaaka ke ne ne ke bua Motlotlegi Disho, re neelwa P20 million ke Goromente, mme fa o ka lebelela infrastructure e re tshwanetwang ke gore re e baakanye ka P20 million yoo, o ka dumalana le nna gore re a sokola.

Motlotlegi Barongwang o letse a botsa ka *Green Fund*, mme gompiano ke ntse ke go bolelela ka *biodiversity finance* gore *we are in partnership with UNDP* go leka gore *through this project*, ba kgone gore ba re thuse *to raise* madi a a botokanyana a re ka thusang.

We are also in touch le the industry; private sector ke batho ba e leng gore fa go buiwa ka bonolo, ba bonolo e bile ba na le kgatlhego e e seng kana ka sepe ya go thusana le rona go bona gore ba ka re thusa fa kae.

Chairman wa Botswana Guides Association (BOGA) Rre Kgari, bo Rre Joe Motse ba bo Hospitality and Tourism Association of Botswana (HATAB) *are always willing to assist. Ke fela gore we need to engage more. In fact, go na le bridges* dingwe tse re neng re di thusiwa ke bone kwa Moremi. *Therefore, ke dingwe tsa dilo tse re di lebogelang. Re tlaa leka ka bojotlhe go kopa dithuso ka go farologana tsa gore re baakanya this infrastructure.*

O ne o bua ka gore Moremi *is flooded due to poor road conditions*. Ke ne ke tsaya gore *flooding* e e kwa Moremi, ke ya gore metsi a mantsi fela gongwe le gongwe. Ga se kgang ya gore *it is flooded* ka gore ditsela ga di a siama, nnyaa, yone ka boyone *it is flooded*. Jaanong go raya gore mo nakong ya gompiano, re na le one mathata a gore *the entire Moremi is flooded, that is why* re tswetswe. Gore a re nameng re eme pele, ka lebaka la gore re tloga re tsenya bajanala mo mathateng. Re dira jalo re lebile *report ya assessment team*, e mo go yone e leng *Ministry* le *private sector* mo teng. Gore ba tle ba kgone go lebisana ba le mmogo ba dumalane, e se ka ya re kamoso *private sector* e bo e re lona Goromente le tswetse, rona re bona go ka tsamaega. Re a dumalana *all the time* gore dilo tse re di dire ka tsela e e ntseng jang.

Fela gone re tlaa leka gore fa go nna botoka, ditsela re leke go di tokafatsa re lebile le sepatšhe gore re tlaabo re tshwere eng. Re ntse re buisana le bone gore re ka thusana fa kae ka gore *they are always willing to help where they can. I thank you Mr Speaker.*

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Leepetswe Lesedi, Member for Serowe South.

MR KEDIKILWE: Ke tlaa mo e tseela *Mr Speaker*.

TRANSITION FROM IPELEGENG TO IKAGENG PROGRAMME

DR U. DOW (KGATLENG WEST): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs:

- (i) whether the transition from the Ipelegeng to Ikageng Programme will reduce, unless the transition is accompanied by significant budget increase, the number of beneficiaries;

and if so, by what percentage will the reduction be;

- (ii) what age group and/or educational level will be targeted by the Ikageng Programme; and
- (iii) whether the transition from Ipelegeng to Ikageng Programme is not in effect a cancellation of an unemployment programme and the introduction of a skills programme.

MR SPEAKER: What is the status?

MR MOHWASA: Rre Moswaane *who is standing in for the Minister* o mo tseleng, o tlhalosa fa a ne a ile ngakeng go tsaya mokento.

DEBORAH RETIEF MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

MR M. M. MOROLONG (KGATLENG CENTRAL): asked the Minister of Health to state the primary institutional challenges affecting the efficiency of Deborah Retief Memorial Hospital; and targeted interventions he intends to implement to help address these issues to enhance service delivery at this district hospital.

Later Date.

PATROLS ALONG MOLOPO-TWO RIVERS BORDER LINE

MR J. T. I. MODISE (KGALAGADI SOUTH): asked the Minister for State President, Defence and Security to state when the road along the border line from Molopo farm to Two Rivers will be made for effective patrols by security services, immigration and veterinary services personnel as well as other stakeholders.

MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE AND SECURITY (MR MOHWASA): *Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente.* Mr Speaker, the ministry is acutely aware of the condition of the access road along the border line from Molopo Farm to Two Rivers. We acknowledge its significance not only for the mobility for our security forces, but also for the critical work performed by immigration officials, veterinary services and other stakeholders who operate in that region to protect our national interests and biosecurity.

Mr Speaker, effective border control relies heavily on the ability of our personnel to patrol, monitor and respond to incidence efficiently. The current state of this road does present logistical challenges and the ministry shares the Honourable Member's concern regarding the need for its improvement.

To this end, the ministry confirms that the development and upgrading of this specific border access road will be formally considered as a priority project. It will be evaluated alongside other essential border security infrastructure requirements, as part of the National Development Planning (NDP) and budget allocation cycle.

Mr Speaker, while I cannot commit to specific start date at this stage, as it is subject to the broader budgetary processes and national prioritisation, the Honourable Member can be assured that the operational needs of our personnel in the field, including the necessity for this road are duly documented and be vigorously motivated for inclusion in the upcoming plans.

I thank you Mr Speaker.

TB MEDICATION

MR T. FURNITURE (TATI EAST): asked the Minister of Health if he is aware of Tuberculosis (TB) patients who were administered TB medication believed to be reduced efficiency from around midyear 2025, which was later withdrawn and substituted with alternative medication towards the end of November 2025; and if so, to state:

- (i) the number of patients who were administered the said medication during this period;
- (ii) whether there were any patients whose health deteriorated significantly while on the said medication and also provide details of the complications brought by the said medication;
- (iii) if any of the patients lost their lives during the period in which the said medication was administered;
- (iv) steps Government has taken to ensure that affected patients receive appropriate medical attention, including follow up care; and
- (v) if there are any special arrangements in place to support patients who have since developed serious infective TB.

MR SPEAKER: Ba kae ba *Health*? Ga go lebege ba le teng.

MR FURNITURE: *Procedure.* Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker.* Kana potso e e tswa kgakala e tshwanetse go arabiwa mme go lebege *Ministers* ba ntse ba tikitika ba leka *to dodge it.* Jaanong ga ke itse gore fa go ntse jaana, ke re dire ka tsela e e ntseng jang. Fa e le gore ba na le karabo, mme e pala go balwa, re na le *shadow Minister* wa *Health* kwano gongwe ba ka mo e neela a e araba.

MR SPEAKER: *Leader of the House,* ba kae ba *Health,* go lebege ba ne ba na le dipotso tse pedi golo fa?

MR MOHWASA: I will have to find out Mr Speaker, because I have not had a communication *le bone.* *Ke kopa gore ke ba tlhole ke boele kwa go wena.*

ALCOHOL LEVY

MR J. J. FRENZEL (SHASHE WEST): asked the Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship to apprise this Honourable House on:

- (i) how much funds were raised through the Alcohol Levy during the new operational times introduced during the 2025 festive season; and
- (ii) whether there were any mishaps or incidents reported to have been associated with the new operational times compared to the same period in the previous year.

MINISTER OF TRADE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MR NTSIMA): Thank you Mr Speaker.

- (i) Mr Speaker, the Alcohol Levy collected during the 2025 festive season covering the period 24th December 2025 to 4th January 2026 amounted to P3, 909, 871.15 compared to P5, 920, 233.20 collected in the same period in 2024.
- (ii) Mr Speaker, a consolidated report from the Botswana Police Service indicates that a total of 6,484 offences were recorded during the 2025 festive period, compared to 6, 820 in 2024 same period. This reflects a reduction of offences by 336 cases which is 5 per cent. The Police Report further reflects that the new operational times brought some positives in reduction of movements between entertainment areas especially at night. The reduction of movements had a positive impact on the number of road traffic accidents, which remains the same at 120 compared to 2024 same period. There was also a reduction in reported noise and nuisance cases compared to 2024. However, the report indicates an increase in drunken driving cases at 618 in 2025 festive period compared to 516 cases recorded in 2024. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR FRENZEL: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker.* Ke a leboga gore Tona a bo a supile gore go nnile le phokotsego ya *offences* ka dipalo tse di fetang 300, a bo a supa le tsa modumo gore gongwe fale le fale dipalo di ne tsa ya kwa tlase.

Tla ke botse fa *Honourable Minister* gore, ka re ne re butse *hours* tse di telele, mme o supile gore madi a *alcohol levy* ya nako ya *December* ya *festive* e e neng e feta a ne a ile kwa tlase. Kana seo se tlaabo se raya gore theko ya bojalwa e ne e se kalo, le ntswa re ne re butse *hours* tse di telele le go gaisa, seo se ka tswa se ne se bakiwa ke eng?

Potso e nngwe e ke batlang go e botsa ke gore, a mme mo *holidays* tsa gompieno ka tsele di fetile, jaaka re tsena mo *Easter holidays*, a re tlaa bona nako eo le fa ke kile ka bona go gasame golo gongwe? O tlhalosetse Batswana ba itse, ba ipaakanyetse seemo sa gore re tlaa bona maitiso kana dikgwebo tsa bojalwa di bulwa ka nako ya bosigo go tsena maphakela ka 6.

Potso e nngwe e ke fetang ka yone ke ya bojalwa jo gongwe batho ba lelang kwa dikgaolong tse ke tswang kwa go tsone. Go na le bojalwa kwa dikgaolong tsa rona ra re ke *dila*, “go tshela,” jo bo dirwang ka Chibuku *powder* kana jabula, mme *is branded* ka go farologana. Kitso ya me ke gore, bojalwa joo ke jwa Setswana ka gore bo dirilwe ka moroko wa mabele. Jaanong fa batho ba kwa dikgaolong ba re ba a bo dira, ba *Bye-Law* fa ba tla ba tsholola majalwa a bone, *and charge them* fa godimo ga moo. Jaanong ke batla go itse gore...gongwe o tlhalosetse Ntlo e, o bo o tlhalosetse le Motswana kwa gae gore, a mme bojalwa joo ga bo a tshwanela gore bo nowe, ka nna ke itse gore bo a letlelelwa kwa dishopong tse di farologaneng? Fa bone ba re ba a bo dira ba a bo tshololelwa. Jaanong ba a re botsa gore, re batla gore ba reng? Jaanong, gongwe o ka tlhalosetsa Motswana kwa gae gore ba itse gore, jaaka maabane re letse re bua, ka ke letse ke kile ka bua le wena maabane wa ntsholofetsa, mme ga ke ise ke bone sepe se se supang gore gone mme bojalwa joo, a ba ka simolola go bo dira...Ba e leng gore gongwe ke *officers* ba ba dirang ditiro tsa go tshwana le tse, ba itse gore gone mme bojalwa jo go diragala jang ka jone. Ke a leboga.

MR NTSIMA: Ke a leboga *Honourable Frenzel* ka potso. Ke tsaya gore ya gago ya ntlha o ne o botsa gore, *collection of levy has gone down, what does that denote;* e raya fela gore theko e kwa tlase. Ga go reye gore fa *hours* di bulegile, go raya gore batho ba nole bojalwa jo bontsi. Go raya fela gore, fa o bula, le go nwa go ka ya kwa tlase. Gone mo e leng gore ke gone mo gantsi batho ba ipatang ka gone gore, kana fa o bula go raya gore batho ba ya go bolawa ke bojalwa ka ba ya go nwa jo bontsi. Go raya gore *statistically it shows that* ga go nowe bojalwa jo bontsi fa dioura tse dintsi di buletswe. *The intention is not for people to drink* bojalwa, *the intention is to open up the economy and other related business activities* tse di tsamaelanang le tsa bojalwa. Ga se gore fa re buletse dioura tsa bojalwa, re a bo re raya gore go nowe bojalwa. Bommaseapei ba foo ba rekisa dijo, *botaximen* le bone ba foo *ferrying people from a to b. The intention is not for people to drink, but for opening of the other sectors that might rely on the same sector.*

Ya bobedi o ne o re a go tlaa okediwa gape mo *holidays* tse; *we have already gazetted Honourable Frenzel*. Ke tsaya gore ichেকে *gazette* o bone gore dinako tsa teng di tsamaya ka tsela e e ntseng jang. E nngwe ke *dila*, o ne o raya ya Chibuku *powder* jaaka o e bua. *There has been interpretation* e e farologaneng mo ke bone ba *Bye-Law* le mapodise. Kana bojalwa jwa Setswana bo teng mo *Traditional Beer Regulations*. Go raya gore fa bo le teng, go tswa fela gore o tsere momela kae, a o tsere o o tlang o le *packaged* go tswa kwa shopong go dira bojalwa jwa Setswana. *Interpretation* ke yone gore, ba bangwe ba ba iphitlhelang ba tshotse bojalwa joo, momela o ba o rekileng kwa shopong, ba iphitlhela ba le mo seemong seo sa gore ba *Bye-Law* gantsi ba a bo ba re bojalwa joo *is not prescribed in the regulations*. *We are working on refining the regulations* gore go nne *clear*, go nne le *interpretation* e e tsamaelanang, gore bape fela ba ba dirisang molao, ba kgone go thusana le ba ba dirisanang le one sentle. Jaanong re mo paakanyong rra. Ke tsaya gore e tlaa nna mo nakong e khutshwane gore re bo re baakantse kgang e ya go baakanya *regulations* gore, momela ke momela, a o tswa o le *packaged* o tswa kwa shopong kana o ne o ithugela ka kika, kana o isitse kwa tshilong, ka gore kwa bofelong ke bojalwa jo bo dirilweng ka mabele. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

MR MOTAOSANE: *Supplementary. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable Minister, go na le letshwenyego le e leng gore gone mme fa o le sekaseka, le wena o kgona go bona gore tota go boammaaruri. Batho ba nightclubs* le ba o fitlhelang e re fa go ntse jaana ba bo ba batla go itirela *events* go leka go dira letseno leo, ba ne ba lela thata *last time* ka gore kana jaanong le ba tseela *customers*, ka ba ntse ba itse gore dibara fa di tsalwa ka nako ya gore, batho ba ya kwa go bone. O dirile jang gompiano go leka *to balance this thing?* Ka gore batho ba *clubs* tota go bua boammaaruri ba ne ba itswetse fela *holidays* tse di fetileng tsa *December*. Ke re gongwe o akantse sengwe, fa o ka re tlhalosetsa gore bone o ba tsentse fa kae? *Thank you, sir.*

MR MOALOSI: *Procedure.* Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Fa Tona a bua gore *statistics* di supa gore o kare bojalwa go ne go sa nowe thata, *that is not the correct understanding of how the Alcohol Levy is collected. The Alcohol Levy is collected at a point of manufacture le point of import.* Go raya gore bojalwa *is not imported* gone ka *December* ka 25th fa bo nowa, *is not manufactured* gone foo. *They have manufactured earlier and sent to distribution centres.* Karabo e a e re neelang a re, go supa gore bojalwa bo ne bo sa nowe thata *cannot be correct*, ka gore *levy is collected* fa go dirwa *manufacturing*. Ke raya gore gongwe a leke go

tlhaloganya sentle. Ke tlaa tlhaloganya ka gore ga a bereke le Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) mo *ministry* wa gagwe gongwe ga a itse *how it is collected*. Ke a leboga.

MR NTSIMA: Ke a leboga. Fa *Honourable Motlhaleemang* a timetse, ga ke ka ke ka mo ntsha mo sekgweng, *because statistics* se ke neng ke se bua ga a itse gore *it was collected* nako mang, leng. Ga ke itse gore tse a di buang o di tsaya kae.

Go araba potso ya ga Rre Motaosane, ke gore *clubs* le *other sectors that can complain* Rre Motaosane... *business* ga e a tshwanela go ikaega ka gore Goromente *is the one who clamped others to allow for others, we are opening up for competition*, gore yo o eletsang *to compete* o ka tsena *in the space and compete*. *We are in a free market economy, so* Goromente ga a tshwanela go nna *stumbling block to the business*. *That is why* re ntsha Goromente mo teng *and allow players to compete free without Government gagging any business*. Ke a leboga.

CENTRAL TRANSPORT ORGANISATION

MR G. LEKAU (MOGODITSHANE WEST): asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure to state:

- (i) why the Central Transport Organisation (CTO) auctions vehicles once a year as opposed to three times per annum as they did during the past five years;
- (ii) why only 10 per cent of the boarded vehicles are auctioned;
- (iii) the economic benefit of using private auctioneers as opposed to internal personnel or those from other departments like councils; and
- (iv) what makes it difficult to carry out a countrywide auction in a single day.

Later Date.

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

MR D. SALESHANDO (MAUN NORTH): asked the Minister for State President, Defence and Security:

- (i) to state the total costs incurred by Government thus far for meetings convened nationwide to promote the possible introduction of the Constitutional Court; and
- (ii) to avail a breakdown of the costs indicating travel, lodging and other associated costs.

Later Date.



DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION

MR T. B. LUCAS (BOBIRWA): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs if he is aware that the Department of Tribal Administration is one of the most neglected departments in Government; and in particular to state:

- (i) the number of;
 - (a) functional vehicles available to a kgotla against the number of Dikgotla in Botswana;
 - (b) functional vehicles available to a Kgotla against the number of Dikgotla in Bobirwa;
 - (c) habitable accommodation available to Tribal Administration staff against the number of employed Tribal Administration staff in Botswana;
 - (d) the number of habitable accommodation available to Tribal Administration staff against the number of employed staff in Bobirwa Tribal Administration Offices;
- (ii) the amount of money that was allocated for the maintenance of Tribal Administration offices and houses in the last three financial years in Botswana;
- (iii) the amount of money that was allocated for the maintenance of Tribal Administration offices and houses in the last three financial years in Bobirwa; and
- (iv) plans his ministry has to address the neglected Department of Tribal Administration.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Tshere, what is happening *ka ba* Local Government?

MR TSHERE: *Mr Speaker, sorry, good morning. Ga ba ise ba goroge. Go raya gore Honourable Moswaane ga a ise a boe kwa sepateleng. Ke a leboga.*

MR SPEAKER: We have a difficulty *ka gore, go raya gore tsa* Local Government... *kana di* four in the Order Paper, so, you can imagine the inconvenience.

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

MR SPEAKER: *Kana bone ba ba ka bong ba omanngwa, ga ba yo gone fa.*

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

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

- (i) the ministry's policies and strategies designed to create a conducive environment for promoting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Botswana;
- (ii) the inter-ministerial and inter-departmental policies and strategies which are designed to create a conducive environment for promoting FDI in Botswana;
- (iii) how the wider socio-economic environment of Botswana has been understood, considered and integrated into the policies and strategies which have been designed to create a conducive environment for promoting FDI in Botswana; and
- (iv) the total cost of international travels associated with attracting foreign investors to Botswana from April 2018 to April 2024 and whether it is cost effective and sustainable.

MINISTER OF TRADE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MR NTSIMA): Thank you Mr Speaker.

- (i) Mr Speaker, the ministry has put in place some legal frameworks to promote FDI in Botswana. These include the Industrial Development Policy, Trade Policy and supportive strategies like the National Investment Strategy and the National Export Strategy. Additionally, there are Doing Business Reforms which are also being implemented to remove impediments in attracting FDI. Institutions like the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA), Botswana Investment Trade Centre (BITC) and Botswana Development Corporation are well positioned to attract investment in the country leveraging on the existing legal frameworks.

The existing legal frameworks are reviewed over time with a view to accommodating emerging issues to make them investor friendly basing on the recommendations of the Doing Business Reforms Roadmap.

- (ii) Mr Speaker, Botswana unlike other Sub-Saharan countries has no dedicated investment law, and most of the legal regulations relevant to investors are spread across different institutions. Some of these laws include among others:
 - VAT Amendment Act (2025) which modernized the national tax framework by addressing the complexities of the modern economy. A primary

focus of this legislation is the taxation of digital and remote services provided by foreign suppliers, ensuring a level playing field between local and international service providers;

- Data Protection Act (2024) which came into force in January 2025, is also a cornerstone for strengthening digital business regulation and fostering trust within the e-commerce sector;
- Employment and Labour Relations Act (2026) introduced significant updates to workplace regulations, focusing on the rights and protections of the workforce; and
- National Productivity and Competitiveness Policy and Strategy which serves as strategic roadmap to enhance Botswana's private sector. These documents specifically target the removal of structural barriers that hinder firm productivity and increase the regulatory burden on businesses.

(iii) Mr Speaker, policy development in Botswana is informed by consultations with the relevant stakeholders across the country. Therefore, the FDI Strategies take into consideration what prevails on the ground in terms of opportunities across the country, as well as the socio-economic environment, hence why even in promoting FDI, institutions like BITC emphasize on the trainable workforce, minimum wage, and employment initiatives in different local authorities.

(iv) Mr Speaker, the total costs for investment promotion initiatives for the period 2018-2024 stated above for BITC stood at P20,226,953. During the period (2018-2024), BITC attracted and facilitated investment, totaling P27.187 billion, with corresponding 26 904 jobs, and export earnings amounting to P23.331 billion. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

DR DOW: *Supplementary.* Mma ke botse *Minister* gore, re lebile gore gompiano go bona *licenses* mo Botswana *process* ya teng fela ga e motlhofo. Bontsi jwa bagwebi ba lela ka gone moo gore go kgona go tsaya bo *six months, even a year*. Gape re lebile gore batho ba e leng gore *they enforce regulations*, o kare ga ba tsamaelane le wena. *Mr Speaker*, mma ke tle ke mo fe sekai gore a tle a tlhologanye karabo. Gompiano jaana o le Puso ya Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) o batla go tshwara ditiro tse di leng teng, e bile o batla go

oketsa ditiro, gore go nne jalo, go raya gore mongwe le mongwe mo Botswana, kana ke wa *land board* kana ke wa *Bye-Law*, o tshwanetse gore a bo a le mo tseleng e ya gago. A mme fa o bona; ke e fa sekai, fa mogwebi a re re kwa Lobatse, a kgona go tsaya *12 months* a sena *license* ka gore yone khansela ga e bone *files*, kana fa e le gore e bone *files*, ga e bone dipampiri dingwe tse e leng gore di ama *license* eo. E se kwa Lobatse fela, le kwa Mochudi, le kwa kae, kae. Re lebile gore kwa *land board* gone jaana *something* se se *simple*, fa o batla *Consent to Transfer, that is an administrative issue*, ke eng e ya kwa *board*? Nna ke ne ke re, lebelelang ditsamaiso, le bo le ipotsa gore a mathata a mo molaong, mo *policy, structure*, madi, mo tsamaisong kana a mo boitsholong jwa batho.

Fa re leba kgang ya *parrots for example* tse di kileng tsa swaswaiwa kwa madirelong, fa e ne e le kwa lefatsheng le lengwe, motho yo e leng gore tiro ya gagwe ke go rata diphologolo a tswa kwa *Environment*, fa a ile kwa go tsone, o feta a ipotsa gore ga o na *license*, e bile gongwe ka fa molaong wa rona ga o ka ke wa nna le *license*, go raya gore mma ke go thuse gore o di rekise kwa o neng o di tsaya teng. Ke go fa *three months* re di sireleditse gore o kgone o di buse. Ga di rwaerwaediwe le mae a tsone.

Se ke se buang ke gore, fa ke go fa *another example* ya bofelo, kwa Mochudi maloba, *facility* ga e na metsi *because* Water Utilities e kgaotse metsi; e ne e na le tshwanelo ya go kgaola metsi ka gore go ne go sa duelwa. Modiri a re, ke na le dijojo, *Bye-law* e a mo tswala, mme fa Water Utilities yone e kgaotse metsi ka gore ga go na metsi, ga e mo tswale. *I am just saying* gore lebelela ditsamaiso o ipotse gore a mathata a mo molaong, mo ditsamaisong, mo mading, mo *attitudes* ka gore fa le sa baakanye dilo tse, maikaelelo a lona a *policy* e re e tlhologanyang, ga a ka ke a diragala. A o dumalana le nna *Mr Minister*?

MR NTSIMA: Ke a leboga *Mother of the House for guidance, also for the motivation that stakeholders* bogolo thata tse di tshwaraganetseng ba dikgwebo, go tshwanetse gore go berekiwe mmogo go diragatsa sone se e leng gore re se eteleditse pele re le Goromente sa go batla go bula dikgwebo kwa ntle ga gore Goromente e nne ene a kgoreletsang kgwebo ka boyone jaanong.

Licenses, o ne o supa gore di kgona go tsaya *six months to 12 months*. Ga go a tshwanela gore go nne jalo. *That is why* re na le tse e leng gore *we have also experienced* gore *you can just do a license over the counter*. Go botlhokwa gore *business* fa e batla *license*, e e tseye mo

nakong e khutshwane ka gore e a bo e batla go dira jalo, mme e bile gape Goromente ga a tshwanela gore e nne ene a kgoreletsang go simolodisa kgwebo mo nakong e e e ipeetsweng ke mogwebi.

Ke tsaya gore ke tsere tse dingwe e le mohago wa gore a go nne le tirisanyo-mmogo *between* maphata, bogolo jang a a tsamaisanang le yone kgang ya *licenses* gore lepe e se ka ya nna lone le le kganelang jaanong gore go nne le go fefosa gore *licenses* di diragadiwe. Mma ke go tshepise gore maikaelelo a ga Goromente *is to facilitate* gore *business* e nne teng, e seng go kgoreletsa gore *business* e nne teng. Jaanong *I will urge* botlhe ba ba berekang mo maphateng one a le bone jaaka o bua, ba nne *facilitators*, ba thuse, e se ka ya nna bone jaanong ba e leng gore ba kgopakgopetsa kgwebo. Molao ga o a direlwa go kgopakgopetsa kgwebo, o diretswa gore o baakanyetse gore go kgone gore go diragale dilo mo leduleng kana e dirwe ka nako e e tshwanetseng gore e dirwe ka yone. Ke lebogela potso ya gago mme gape e le *advice*. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

MR BARONGWANG: *Procedure. Good morning. Mr Speaker, go lebega o kare fa o lebile Order Paper ya gompiano, fa re tswa fa re tlaabo re ya kwa Committee Stage ya Cinematograph Bill. Gape fa o e lebile, o kare go setse metsotsonyana e le less than 20 gore gongwe re e feleletse. Jaanong ke ne ke kopa gore gongwe re oketse nako kana re suspend, I rise on Standing Order 30.1 so that we suspend Standing Order 40.7 so that we deal le dipotso tsa gompiano. Ke a leboga.*

...Silence...

MR SPEAKER: I was conferring with the Clerks. I think we only have three amendments though we have 60 Clauses, I think we will be calling them in groups. So, it is an exercise that can take us *nakonyana e e rileng*. So, I put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

MR DISHO: *Supplementary. Ke a leboga Mr Speaker. Ke a leboga Tona ka karabo e ntle eo, even though e ne e sa tlhamalala sentle. Ke bona o kare o tshwara ka fa le ka fa. Ga ke a go utlwa sentle golo gongwe fale fa o neng o bua teng ka molao. Wa re, ga re na molao in the whole of Africa or Sub-Saharan African countries. Ke botsa gore we are 67 in this House, do you not see it fit gore molao o, re o dire? Re bileditswe go dira molao mo Palamenteng.*

A re emele mafatshe a mangwe? Ke bona o kare o re tshwantshanya le mafatshe a mangwe a a mo Africa, gore ga ba na molao oo. Ga se gore re nne ba ntlha, re taboge re dire molao oo ka gore o botlhokwa jaaka *Mother of the House* a ntse a tlhalosa Tona? *That was my supplementary* gore *businesses* di kgone go tswela sentle ka gore re a sokola kwa dikgaolong tsa rona Tona. Akanya o le kwa Gudigwa, *then you follow* gore o ye go dira dilo tse kwa Maun 750 kilometres (km), o bo o tewa gore ga go na *licence, wait for another six months*. Ke letshwenyego Tona. Ke re, a ga re ka ke ra tsiboga? Ke a leboga.

MR NTSIMA: Ke a leboga Rre Disho le *contribution* ya gago. Ke tsaya gore o ne o batla go iponagatsa fela gore o teng. O ne o sa bue sepe se se nang le mosola. Mo potsong ya me, ke ne ke tshwantshanya le mafatshe a Sub-Sahara a a bapileng le rona, gore ga ba na molao o o ntseng jalo. Gape o mpotsa gore a o dire molao? Tiro ya gago ke go dira molao, o tletse sone seo mo Palamenteng rra, dira tiro ya gago. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

STATUS OF MARATŠWANE VILLAGE

BRIG. D. MOKGWATHI (LETLHAKENG): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to apprise this Honourable House on the current status of Maratšwane Village in Letlhakeng District with regard to the gazetting of the then settlement into a village status.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (MR MOSWAANE): Mma ke go leboge Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke amogela potso jaaka e boditswe.

MR SPEAKER: Nnyaa *Honourable* Moswaane.

MR MOSWAANE: Rra?

MR SPEAKER: Re sale re go emela ka *nine*, jaanong o kare go *normal* fela. Ikope maitshwarelo mo batlotleging ka gore ba tloga ba go shakgalela.

MR MOSWAANE: Nnyaa mme mma ke kope boitshwarelo. Ke ne ke santse ke le fa Block 6 *clinic*. Ke ne ke tsere gore ke tlaa dirisa maemo go fetsa ka bonako, mme lenaneo la ntshwara. Jaaka o itse gore sukiri e kgona go palamela thata mo Palamenteng, fa dikgang di ntse di fisa. O tlaa intshwarela *Mr Speaker*, le botlotlegi jo bo leng teng. Ke ne ke re potso ya Mopalamente, ke a amogela jaaka e boditswe.

Ke rata go papamatsa gore Maratšwane, ke motsana wa palo ya baagedi ba ka nna 441 go ya ka maduo a palo ya batho a 2022. Motsana o, o sekgele sa 6 km go tsweng mo go o mogolwane wa Malwelwe. Ka jalo, Maratšwane ke Kgotlana ya Malwelwe ka Taelo Ya Ga Tautona, e leng Presidential Directive CAB 18 (SP)/2013 ya 18th July, 2013.

Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, go ya ka molawana o o laolang go bewa ga metse, Revised National Settlement Policy wa 2004 tshetlana ya 4.2.6.5, gore motsana o monnye o tlhomamisiwe go nna o mogolwane, o tshwanetse go nna le batho ba se ka fa tlase ga 500 le sekgele sa 15 km go tsweng mo motseng o mogolwane. Maratšwane o wela ka fa tlase ga 15 km mme seo sa dira gore o patagangwe le Malwelwe ka 2013 e le Kgotlana. Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, se se raya gore Maratšwane ga a wele mo dielong tse di ka o kgontshang go tlhomamisiwa e le motse o o ikemetseng. Le mororo go ntse jalo, Maratšwane o tlaa tswelela a akola ditlamelo le ditlhabololo tsa Puso tse di lebaganeng seemo sa gagwe mo tsamaisong ya lefatshe la Botswana. Ke a leboga.

BRIG. MOKGWATHI: *Supplementary.* Tanki Tona. Ke go utlwile sentle, e bile ke go reeditse. Ke botsa gore Tona, dipalo tse re buang ka tsone tsa 441, ke tsa 2020/2021. Gompiano dipalo tseo di setse di tlodile di le kwa godimo. Le fa go ntse jalo Tona, rona re le ba UDC jaaka o ne o bua, re rile re tlaa isa ditlamelo kwa bathong. A ga o bone go le botoka *to revise that distance policy or separation policy* gore metse e e tshwanang le e, re e beye Dikgosi tse di tlhomameng? Ke a leboga.

MR MOSWAANE: *Thank you.* Rraetsho Domcaza, o bua mogopolo o montle fela thata. Tsamaiso ya molao mo nakong ya gompiano, re patelesega go e sala morago jaaka e ntse. Go fitlhelela go dirwa palo batho e nngwe, go re tlama gore ka tsamaiso ya molao, re gogele gone foo. Se re ka se tlhomamisang ke gore, ditlhabololo tsa lefatshe leno di ya go goroga kwa kgaolong ya bone jaaka di rulagantswe, e bile di tlhokafala. Seo ke ka se go tlhomamisetsa ka gore, ga re na go ba tima ditlhabololo ka ba palo e e kwa tlase. Tsamaiso ke gore, seemo sa tlhabololo se tlaa goroga jaaka Puso e se solofetse rraetsho. Re a go tlhomamisetsa gore fa nako e letla, re tlaa boa re etela le yone kgaolo ya gago go ya go bona selelo sa gago, go go ema nokeng ka o moemedi wa tlhwatlhwa. Ke a leboga.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Further supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: Nnyaa, a re ye kwa go ya ga *Honourable* Kwapa. Gakere ya ga *Honourable* Motaosane *is later dated.*

PLANS TO UPGRADE SESE HEADMAN OF RECORDS

MR O. KWAPA (JWANENG-MABUTSANE): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs whether there are plans to upgrade Sese Headman of Records given the growing population and size of the Village.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (MR MOSWAANE): Ke a go leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Melawana e e tlhohlilweng ya bonno jwa setšhaba, Revised Settlement Policy wa 2004 le palo batho ya setšhaba ya 2022, ke tsone tse di neelang bokaedi mo go tlhatloseng maemo a metse. Motse o wa Sese, o na le dipalo tsa batho di ka nna 7, 119. Ka jalo, lephata le lemoga motse o na le tshiamelo ya go ka tlhatlosiwa maemo. Tsholofelo ke gore, e tlaare seemo sa itsholelo se tokafala, go tlaa lejwa tsamaiso ya go baakanya seemo. Ke a leboga.

MR KWAPA: *Supplementary.* Jaaka o tlhalosa Tona gore motse go lebega o na le tshiamelo o lebeletse dipalo, ke botse jaana gore go ya ka dipalo tse o sa tswang go di fa gone fa, tshiamelo e e ka nnang sentle gone kwa Sese e nna jang? Ke lebile gore palo e o e buang fa, e kwa godimo thata. Ke raya gore a go tlaa tlhokana le gore fa le gore go tsholeliwa Kgosi maemo, o tlaa nna le bathusi ba ka nna bararo kana ba le bane? Ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, ke kopa o e tlhalose motlotlegi. Ke a leboga.

MR MOSWAANE: *Thank you.* Re na le tsamaiso ya semolao e e bayang dielo tsa gore fa motse o le kana, o tshwanetse go tshwarwa ke Kgosi ya maemo a a rileng.

Ba *Tribal Administration* ka fa go ntseng ka teng, go dirwa ditshekatsheko a bo di begwa, di bo di tlisiwa mo tsamaisong ya Puso *to approve* gore motse oo o tsewe ka seemo se.

Se ke se go solofetsang rraetsho ke gore fa diemo tsa itsholelo di tokafala, diemo tsotlhe tse le lelang ka tsone, di tlaa arabiwa e bile di tlaa baakanngwa. *Thank you very much.*

MR KWAPA: *Further supplementary. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Ke a utlwa Tona ka kgang ya gore e tlaa re fa seemo sa itsholelo se tokafala, a bo le ka sekaseka. Ke re ke tlhole gore a o raya gore ga le ise le sekaseke Tona ka o setse o re file dipalo gone fa? Ke a leboga.*

MR MOSWAANE: Jaaka o bona ke go fa dipalo, go supa gore re sekasekile. Ke rile seemo se re tlaabong se re laola go tsweng fa; ditsompelo tse di tsamaisang lefatshe leno e leng matlotlo a tsa madi. Ke a leboga.

MRSPEAKER: Honourable Kedikilwe for Honourable Lesedi.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNCRPD

MR L. LESEDI (SEROWE SOUTH): asked the Minister for State President, Defence and Security to update this Honourable House on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and to state:

- (i) steps that have been taken to ensure the effective implementation of the UNCRPD at district and national level;
- (ii) the definition of an individual with disability according to Government and why many (presumably) disabled persons like albinos, those with vitiligo and others are disqualified from receiving disability benefits and how they are classified to ensure that they are not left in the lurch;
- (iii) measures that have been taken at local level to implement these national and international disability rights instruments;
- (iv) actionable steps apart from policy, which have been taken to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full equality under the law and unleash their contribution to the economy; and
- (v) when Botswana will ratify the African Disability Protocol (ADP).

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Minister for State President, Defence and Security. Honourable Minister David Tshere for Honourable Minister Mohwasa.

ACTING MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT, DEFENCE AND SECURITY (MR TSHERE): Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Honourable Mohwasa has just stepped out. Let me thank Honourable Lesedi *le ene gore a botse dipotso tse di amang batho ba ba tshelang ka bogole gore a bo a di kgotletsa mo Palamenteng.*

- (i) Mr Speaker, following the accession of the UNCRPD in 2021, the Government of Botswana undertook a significant step in domesticating through the development of the Revised National Disability Policy of 2021. The main objective of the policy is to mainstream disability issues as an integral part of the national development priority and promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

Mr Speaker, in addition, in 2024, Parliament enacted the Persons with Disabilities Act which commenced on the 4th December, 2025. The Act seeks to give effect to the Convention by promoting, protecting and ensuring equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by people with disabilities. It further provides for the review and abolition of laws, regulations and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Mr Speaker, in relation to steps that have been taken to ensure effective implementation of UNCRPD at national level, Government through the Persons with Disabilities Act has established the following structures;

- (a) The National Disability Council which is responsible to oversee implementation of Government and sectorial ministries' interventions as they relate to, or impact on persons with disabilities. The Council is composed of Permanent Secretaries (PSs) from key ministries, including the ministry responsible for coordinating disability, human rights, social protection, health, law enforcement, Local Government, education and skills development and labour. Furthermore, membership of the Council includes persons with disabilities, as well as representatives from Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, ensuring inclusive and participatory governance. This council is currently operational.
- (b) Deployment of District Disability Officers at district level under the Office of the District Commissioner to mainstream disability issues in sectoral programmes.
- (c) Strengthening of the National Disability Coordination Office (NDCO) to execute its mandate and functions effectively, which amongst others, include being secretariat to the National Disability Council. NDCO is responsible for coordinating the implementation of national

disability policies, legislation, facilitating disability mainstreaming across sectors and is also responsible for reporting obligations under international frameworks such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Mr Speaker, prospects are underway to establish Village Disability Coordinating Committee in the villages across the country for the purposes of addressing issues of disability, including children.

- (ii) Mr Speaker, in accordance with the Act, a person with disability has been explicitly defined as a person who has a physical, mental or sensory impairment that has adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Mr Speaker, persons with Albinism benefit from various Government programmes like every other Motswana of this country. However, it is important to note that to access the disability benefits, particularly the Disability Cash Transfer, an assessment has to be conducted to determine eligibility to benefit from the programme.

- (iii) Mr Speaker, allow me to draw your attention to the response made to the first question, which outlined the steps that have been taken to ensure effective implementation of national and international instruments, which in this case are the Revised National Disability Policy, the UNCRPD and the Persons with Disabilities Act. There is a monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place to ensure implementation.
- (iv) Persons with disabilities continue to access various Government programmes to enable them to participate and contribute to the economy and enjoy full equality. Amongst these are Affirmative Action Programmes, there is a preferential treatment on tendering, allocation of plots through the Revised Botswana Land Policy of 2019, Affirmative Action Recruitment Policy of 2024 and Reduced Admission Points at tertiary level. These are from 36 to 30 tertiary level entrance.
- (v) Mr Speaker, the Government of Botswana is considering acceding to the ADP, which is premised on ensuring rights of people with disabilities in relation to the UNCRPD. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR LUCAS: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga Mr Speaker. La ntlha ke botse gore batho ba ba berekelang the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) mme e le

gore ba thusiwa ke Puso, le na le thulaganyo efe ya go tthomamisa gore le bone mabapi le dituelo di a okediwa ngwaga le ngwaga? Ke bua se ka gore batho ba teng go na le ba ba setseng ba na le bo 10 years ba sa itse go okelediwa dituelo. Fa o belaela o ka botsa *Honourable Morolong* ka gore *organisations* tsa teng di dintsinzana kwa Mochudi le ka fa Ramotswa. Ke potso ya ntlha rraetsho.

Ya bobedi ke potso e e amang *district level structures* gore kwa *the districts*, o fitlhela e kete ga go tthomamisege sentle gore batho ba ba tshelang le bogole ba thusiwa ka tsela e e ntseng jang. A go ka nna le thulaganyo e go nang le *desk officers for people with disabilities* gore ba tle ba kgone go bona thuso, *as and when* ba e tlhoka? O fitlhela fa gongwe e le gore *you are thrown from pillar to post* ba tlhoka thuso.

Ya boraro ke ya *disability allowance*. E tsamaya fa go P700 *thereabout*. Fa o lebile boturu jwa bonalebogole, a ga o lemoge gore gongwe go ka tlhokafala gore mo nakong e e sa fediseng pelo, *allowance* eo e okediwe? Go lebega o kare Puso e okeletsa *allowances* batho ba le bantsi thata mme ba bone, e ba beile ka fa mosing.

Ya bofelo; go na le batho ba ba tlhokomelang banalebogole, motho wa teng ga a kgone go dira sepe fela kwa ntle ga go tlhokomela monalebogole yo. E kile ya ne batho bao ba kgona go bona thusonyana mme mo bogompionong ga ba bone epe. A ga le bone gore batho ba ba tlhokomelang banalebogole mo malwapeng, ba tshwanetse ba thusiwa le bone ka tsela nngwe gore ba tle ba kgone go neela banalebogole tlhokomelo e e tseneletseng? Ke a leboga rraetsho.

MR TSHERE: *Thank you very much Honourable Lucas. It looks like this subject is very close to your heart* ka fa dipotso tsa gago o di botsang ka teng. Mma ke simolole ka NGOs. NGOs *aspect in terms of how they get their funding was not part of this question. But in relation to NGOs* mo potsong e ke gore *we are going to integrate them into the council* e e buang ka *people living with disability*. Ke yone ya ntlha eo. Ke utlwile gore go raya gore go na le bothata jwa *funding*, ba bangwe ba kgona go nna lebaka. Eo *is a different matter*. Gongwe e amana le ka fa go ntseng go thusiwa ka teng, *the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and stuff* e feletseng e tsalwa mme e ama makalana a. Ke tsaya gore Goromente o lebeletse kgang eo.

Se sengwe ke se tlhalositse mo karabong e. O kgona go bona gore Goromente o simolotse go simolodisa molao o re o fetisitseng mo Palamenteng o o amanang le batho ba ba tshelang ka bogole. O dirwa *at national, district and village levels*. Ke dumalana le wena gore gongwe ga re ise re simolole, *even gongwe go bonale even at district level, let alone* jaaka karabo e bua gore re batla go simolola kwa metseng le metsana mo Botswana gore go nne le motho yo o itebagantseng le dikgang tse *at a village level so that* di kgone go tsamaelana *from village to district to national level*, di goroga kwa Office of the President. Ke tsaya gore *we will roll it out*, e bo e le gore e a bonala.

Disability allowance as well, ngongorego e ke a e utlwa le nna fa ke buisa diphuthogo gore o kare madi a eme kwa tlase. Ke tsaya gore re e utlwile, *we will take it up and make sure these allowances* tse di buang ka *people living with disability are revised*.

Ya bofelo e o neng o e botsa ya bathusi ba batho ba ba tshelang ka bogole, ke gakologelwa re e bua le mo molaong o re o buang wa *Disability Act* gore ba tshwanetse gore ba tlamelwe. Molao ke gone o ntseng o simolodisiwa go dirisiwa. *The structures are being put across and I think it is one of the things that we need to look at thoroughly as we implement the law. I thank you.*

MR KEDIKILWE: *Further supplementary.* Tanki Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ya batlhokomedi o e tsere. Gongwe ka gore bogole bo mefutafuta, wena yo e reng fa o *assess* o mo tseye gore ke monalebogole gore Goromente a mo thuse, *allowance* e Lucas a neng a e bua, o ka tlhalosetsa Ntlo e gore o raya o o ntseng jang fela? *Describe* gore yo o ntseng jang gore le batho kwa gae ba itse gore jo ga se jo Goromente a ka bo thusang kana a ka kgona? Go na le ketsaetsego gongwe le gongwe. Fa o ka tlhalosa ka botlalo letsatsi leno gore yo o reng ke monalebogole tota, yo Goromente a ka mo thusang, ke yo o ntseng jang? *Thank you.*

MR TSHERE: *Thank you very much Honourable Kedikilwe.* Mma ke leke go e bua ka Setswana, mo karabong ya me ke ne ke tlhalosa gore ka fa molaong fa gotwe motho o tshela ka bogole jaaka e tlhalosa fa, gatwe o bo o na le mmele, tlhologanyo kgotsa ditshika tse e leng gore go na le bongwe bogole mo go tsone mo e leng gore di go itsa gore o kgone go dira ditiro tsa gago tsa letsatsi le letsatsi. *So*, gone foo, fa go tla mo go reng ke mang yo o bonang dithuso, go raya gore mongwe o tshwanetse a tle go leba gore bogole jo jaaka molao o o bua, bo tsamaela fa kae, seelo sa jone? O kgona

gore o palelwe mo mmeleng kana mo tlhologanyong, kana e le gore ditshika tsa gago ga di bereke gore o ka itirela ditiro tsa letsatsi le letsatsi. Re tshwanetse re tle go kanoka gore ke seelo se le kae. Sone seelo seo, ba ba itseng, baitseanape ba *Local Government*, ke bone ba ba tlaabong ba re mo seelong se o ka bona bokana. *So*, ke sone se nneng *Honourable Lucas* a re gongwe re se lebe thata. Ke yone tlhaloso ka fa molaong. Fa ke e bala gape ya re, *“in accordance with the Act, a person with disability has been explicitly defined as a person who has a physical, mental or sensory impairment that has the adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day to day activities.”* The *“adverse effect”* ke yone the key word and it ought to be assessed. *I thank you.*

TRANSITION FROM IPELEGENG TO IKAGENG PROGRAMME

DR U. DOW (KGATLENG WEST): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs:

- (i) whether the transition from the Ipelegeng to Ikageng Programme will reduce, unless the transition is accompanied by significant budget increase, the number of beneficiaries; and if so, by what percentage will the reduction be;
- (ii) what age group and/or educational level will be targeted by the Ikageng Programme; and
- (iii) whether the transition from Ipelegeng to Ikageng Programme is not in effect a cancellation of an unemployment programme and the introduction of a skills programme.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

(MR MOSWAANE): *Thank you very much Mr Speaker.* Mma ke leboge *Mother of the House* yo o boditseng potso e e molemo e mo letsatsing la gompiano.

Karabo ya rona e ntse jaana ya re:

Mo go fetoleng lenaneo la Ipelegeng go ya kwa go la Ikageng Public Works, Puso e tsere tshwetso ya go tswelera ka dipalo tsa batho tse di ntseng di dirisiwa mo nakong ya gompiano le dikatso tsa madi tse di ntseng di dirisiwa, fa re santse re tswelletse ka dipaakanyo tsa go fitlhelela seelo sa dikatso tse re di ipeetseng. Dipheto go tse di botlhokwa mo Lenaneong la Ditiro tsa Setšhaba la Ikageng di akaretse go tlhagisa karolo ya tlhabololo ya bokgoni mo mananeong a ditiro tsa setšhaba e e tokafatsang matshelo a baamogedi ka go

rotloetsa tswelolepele. Jaaka mofuta o o tokafaditsweng wa Ipelegeng, Lenaneo la Ditiro tsa Setšhaba la Ikageng le kopanya katiso kana go rutuntsha le bokgoni go ba neela maatla le ikaegile thata ka go tlhabolola dikitso.

Se se lemoga ntlha ya gore palo e ntsi ya Batswana e ikaegile ka dituelo tsa Lenaneo le la Ikageng. Go bothokwa go ela tlhoko gore go tsenngwa ga lenaneo mo tirisong le koketsego e e solofeditsweng e ntšha mo lenaneong la Ditiro tsa Setšhaba la Ikageng, go tlaa oketsega ka madimadi a a bokete a a ka tshwarang P1,408,779,256 (105 per cent).

Lenaneo la Ikageng le ka tsenelelwa ke Batswana ba ba dingwaga di lesome le boferabobedi (18 years) go ya kwa go masome a marataro (60 years). Ga go na selekanyo sa thuto se se batlegang fa motho a batla thulaganyo mo lenaneong le kana go le tsenelela.

Mr Speaker, tshimolodiso ya karolo ya tlhabololo dikitso mo mananeong a a tshwanang le la Ikageng Public Works Programme ke karolo nngwe ya tlhabololo ya matshelo a batsenelela lenaneo gore a itshetlele. Mofuta o o dirisiwang go rutuntsha baithuti ke wa thuto e e kopantsweng le go diragatsa o le mo tirong, o ba nonotsha o bo o ba fa sebaka sa gore ba ikemela mo dinakong tse di thata. Mafoko a me a makhutshwane go le kalo, ke ne ke araba jalo. Ke a leboga.

DR DOW: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke a leboga *Minister* ka karabo eo. Ke tsaya gore Batswana ba ba ntseng ba le mo Ipelegeng ba tlaa lala ba robetse ba itse gore ga go na go nna le diphetogo dipe mo go reng a ba ka tsenelela.

O ne o bua gore go tlaa batla madi a 100 per cent more, more than P1 billion to invest mo lenaneong le. Ke na le dipotso tse pedi, fa o re P1 billion, ga ke a utlwa tse di ka fa tse mme one more than P1 billion o o neng o bua ka one, a o raya mo ngwageng o wa madi kana mo lebakeng le le kae? Fa o re *it is going to need another billion plus in this financial year, how many financial years are we talking about?*

La bobedi, *have we budgeted for this money* maloba? Gakere re tlaabo re dira ka ditlhogo tse di tona mme wena o itse ka fa tlase gore tota mme gone madi a o a tsentseng mo Ikageng a ngwaga one o ke bokae. Ke ne ke re ke botse gone foo.

Gape o ne o bua gore dithutego ga di tlhokafale, go a utlwala. Dithuto tse o fitlhelang di rutiwa tse, a ga go na sepe se se tlhokafalang, o tshwanetse fela o bo o le *able-bodied*, a go ntse fela jalo? Ke ne ke re dipotso di tharo *Mr Speaker*. Ke a leboga.

MR MOSWAANE: *Thank you.* Se re se buang ke gore madi a a P1,408,000,000, re supa gore fa e le gore re tsamaya ka seelo se re neng re se ipeetse, se se tlhabolotsweng, sa go tsamaisa lenaneo go ya ka dikakanyo tsa madi, fa e ne e le gore go a kgonega, re ka bo re le mo dipalong tseo. Mo nakong ya gompiano, re patikesebile go dirisa seelo se se ntseng se le teng sa dituelo, re lekanya seemo sa madi se re nang le sone, le dipalo tse re ka kgonang go di tsaya mo nakong ya gompiano. *Budget* ya rona e ntse fela jalo mmaetsho.

Dithutego jaaka o buile ka tsone, Motswana ga a tlhokege thutego epe fela, o le tsenelela fela a le bogonoko a ntse jalo, mme dikitso o tlaa di fiwa mo lenaneong lone le, jaanong a rutuntshiwa. Re e kopanetse thata le ba Thuto e Kgolwane go bona gore Motswana o fiwa kitso e e leng gore le yone kwa bofelelong jwa letsatsi, o tlaa kgona go tsamaya gongwe le gongwe a ya go ipatlela tiro e a ka itshetsang a sa baya mo Ipelegeng kana mo Ikageng. *Thank you.*

DR DOW: *Further supplementary.* Ke a leboga. Gongwe ke ne ke sa utlwale sentle, mme ke botse potso gape. Ngogola o ne o na le *budget* ya Ipelegeng. *Budget* ya Ikageng e tlile go ya kwa godimo ka gore go na le *training aspect* ya teng. Se ke neng ke se botsa ke gore mo ngwageng wa gompiano, *budget* ya gago e tlile go oketsega ka bokae fa o *transit from Ipelegeng to Ikageng* ka gore ya Ikageng ka boyone, e tlile go isa madi kwa godimo ka gore go na le *a training aspect?* O bo o bua ka bo P1.4 billion.

Jaanong ke ne ke re mo ngwageng wa gompiano, mo mading a re neng re a fetisa maloba, o okeditse ka bokae gore Ipelegeng e nne Ikageng? Ke ne ke botsa jalo. *Thank you.*

MR MOSWAANE: Jaaka ke ne ke tlhalosa *Mother of the House*, kgang ke gore dipalopalo tsa go ka tshwantshanya tsa ngwaga o o fetileng le wa gompiano, ke ka se ke ke di tshware ka tlhogo, mme fa o di tlhoka ke ka di *provide at a later stage*. Tota thulaganyo go nnile le diphetogo tse dinnyennyane fela, mme ra re re santse re le mo palong yone ele e e fetileng. Ga go a nna le koketsego gope ka gore re batla go tshegetsisa dipalo tsa batho tse le di tlhokang le le Mapalamente gore batho ba kgone go hirwa ka dipalo. *Thank you.*

TB MEDICATION

MR T. FURNITURE (TATI EAST): asked the Minister of Health if he is aware of Tuberculosis (TB) patients who were administered TB medication

believed to be reduced efficiency from around mid-year 2025, which was later withdrawn and substituted with alternative medication towards the end of November 2025; and if so, to state:

- (i) the number of patients who were administered the said medication during this period;
- (ii) whether there were any patients whose health deteriorated significantly while on the said medication and also provide details of the complications brought by the said medication;
- (iii) if any of the patients lost their lives during the period in which the said medication was administered;
- (iv) steps Government has taken to ensure that affected patients receive appropriate medical attention, including follow up care; and
- (v) if there are any special arrangements in place to support patients who have since developed serious infective TB.

ACTING MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR NYATANGA): Thank you very much. Thank you, Honourable Furniture, in absentia. The Ministry of Health wishes to apprise this Honourable House of the circumstances and actions taken in relation to a batch of Tuberculosis (TB) medicines that was supplied and administered from mid-2025 and subsequently withdrawn.

- (i) Mr Speaker, a total of 1201 TB patients received the affected medication during the period in question. Following concerns regarding reduced efficacy, the medicines were withdrawn towards the end of November 2025 and replaced with WHO-prequalified alternative medicines.
- (ii) Mr Speaker, through routine surveillance and treatment outcome monitoring, the National TB Programme recorded a marked increase in treatment failure rates. Treatment failure refers to patients who continue to have detectable TB bacteria in their sputum after completing the standard six months of treatment. The treatment failure rate increased from 23 cases in 2024 to 62 cases in 2025, raising the concern about the effectiveness of the medicines administered during the affected period.

Mr Speaker, one potential consequence of inadequate TB treatment is the development of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB). To date, specimens have been collected from 352 patients for drug-resistance testing, with specimen collection continuing for affected patients who are able to produce sputum. At present, four confirmed cases of DR-TB have been identified among those tested and transitioned to 2nd line treatment, however their resistance pattern is not linked to the AYESHA drug combination.

- (iii) Mr Speaker, with regard to mortality, TB-related deaths have remained relatively high when you look at the two years under review, with a mortality rate of 7.5 per cent in 2025 compared to 8 per cent in 2024. At this stage, what is important to emphasise Mr Speaker is that there is no evidence of a direct causal link between the affected medication and TB-related mortality. Majority of TB deaths occurs amongst TB/HIV coinfecting.
- (iv) Mr Speaker, upon the identification of concerns regarding the efficacy of the medicines, Government instituted corrective measures which include amongst others:

- Withdrawal of the affected medicines from all health facilities;
 - Distribution of World Health Organisation (WHO)-prequalified and efficacious TB medicines nationwide;
 - Recall of affected patients for clinical reassessment;
 - Review of individual treatment histories to guide appropriate management based on the duration of exposure;
 - Initiation of patients on appropriate TB treatment regimens where indicated; and
 - Screening of contacts of affected patients. To date, 1,113 patients (approximately 93 per cent) have been reassessed, and contact screening has been undertaken. Patients requiring treatment have been re-initiated accordingly.
- (v) Mr Speaker, special arrangements currently in place include intensified clinical follow-up, enhanced laboratory monitoring, continued specimen collection for drug-resistance testing and prioritised management of any patients

diagnosed with Drug resistant TB (DR-TB) and upon detection, they will be promptly commenced on appropriate second-line treatment regimen in accordance with the national policy and WHO guidelines.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Health remains committed to rigorous surveillance, patient safety, and the provision of effective, quality-assured TB treatment and will continue to keep this Honourable House informed of any significant developments. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Supplementary.*

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ehe, o tšile.

MR FURNITURE: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga Mr Speaker. Ke a leboga Honourable Nyatanga. Honourable Nyatanga, ministry o simolotse go itse leng ka seemo sa melemo e? Sabobedi, go ne go dirilwe mo gotsweng *due diligence and quality assurance before distribution* ya melemo e? Se sengwe, was melemo e approved by Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA)? Fa e le gore it was approved by BoMRA, what basis were they latter deemed ineffective? Ke batla gore o bo o feta gape ka ya gore a go ne go na le dipego tse le neng le di amogetse go tswa kwa clinics kana ba pharmacies concerning melemo e?

A go setse go na le dikgato tse di tseetsweng either the supplier kana mmereki wa Puso ka seemo se se diragetseng, ka gore ke seemo se se ngomolang pelo thata? Di santse di tlaa tsewa kana ga di ise di tsewe gotlhelele?

Se sengwe ke gore, gongwe o tlhomamisetse Ntlo e gore Puso ya lona ya UDC a e tlaa tsaya boikarabelo jwa go duelela ba ba amegileng kwa dipateleng tse di ikemetseng? Ke nngwe ya dilo tse ke eletsang go di itse.

Sa bofelo, a ko o netefaletsa Ntlo e gore ga go na molemo ope mo nakong ya gompieno o o ka tswang gongwe le o tlhotlhomisa le na le dipelaela tsa gore o ka tswa o tshwana le melemo e e neng e filwe balwetse wa TB? Ke a leboga.

MR NYATANGA: Mokaulengwe Furniture, ke a go leboga. Jaanong ke go araba ke go lebile, ke ne ke tlhalosa ke re kwa Ministry of Health go na le mo go bidiwang gotwe Continuous National Surveillance, e ba lebelelang gore melemo e e teng e bereka jang. So the National TB Programme which benefits from that, we picked gore we have medicines which had issues with regard to their efficacy, e bo go dirwa these interventions.

O ne o botsa gore a ministry o tsaya boikarabelo go isa batho ba kwa private medical facilities. Fa e le gore o ne o ntheeditse ngwana wa ga mme fa ke tlhalosa ke rile, what happens on the ground ke gore the Government is in a position to offer alternative treatment which is in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines, in terms of the second line treatment. Ga re ise re nne mo seemong se re nang le bothata re se na melemo. Fa e le gore motho o iphitlhela a na le mathata one a dikgang tsa drug resistant challenges, we offer a second line of defence which is treatment, e e leng gore le yone jaaka ke ne ke tlhalosa, we continue to do the routine monitoring. That is why we can even attest at this stage to say, in terms of the data base that exist, we have recorded four cases of those who have been offered this treatment that I am talking about.

In terms of gore a re tlaa tsaya dikgato ke ne ke re, this is a journey, we are continuing to do monitoring of this sputums collected from this target groups tsa batho ba re ba lebeleletse, go bona gore a go na le any significant development. Ga re itse re tle mo seemong se ke ka go rayang ke re re tseetse ba bangwe dikgato kana jang. Fa e le gore that is going to come, it will follow obvious protocols tsa consequence management. I think what is very important at this stage ke the focus on making sure that in terms of health, we ensure gore a batho ba bona the right treatment e e ka ba thusang mo matshelong a bone. Thank you very much.

DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION

MR T. B. LUCAS (BOBIRWA): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs if he is aware that the Department of Tribal Administration is one of the most neglected departments in Government; and in particular to state:

- (i) the number of;
- (a) functional vehicles available to a Kgotla against the number of Dikgotla in Botswana;
- (b) functional vehicles available to a Kgotla against the number of Dikgotla in Bobirwa;
- (c) habitable accommodation available to Tribal Administration staff against the number of employed Tribal Administration staff in Botswana;
- (d) the number of habitable accommodation available to Tribal Administration staff against the number of employed staff in Bobirwa Tribal Administration Offices;

- (ii) the amount of money that was allocated for the maintenance of Tribal Administration offices and houses in the last three financial years in Botswana;
- (iii) the amount of money that was allocated for the maintenance of Tribal Administration offices and houses in the last three financial years in Bobirwa; and
- (iv) plans his ministry has to address the neglected Department of Tribal Administration.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs. Honourable Assistant Minister, *e boleele bo kae, o ka mo e sobokela?*

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

(MR MOSWAANE): Ee, ke tlaa e soboka *sir*. Mma ke tseye sebaka se go araba potso ya Mopalamente wa Bobirwa e a e boditseng ka matsetseleko le go batla dipatlisiso. Lantlha mma ke alele ka gore, Lephata le la Makgotla a Setswana, le ntse le sa itlhokomolosiwa. Ke ka dumela gore go nnile bonya go le tlhabolola ka fa ba *Tribal* kana baeteledipele ba Bogosi ba batlang ka teng. Ke ka go raya ke re, tlhabololo e e ntseng e le teng mo nakong ya gompiano, e ntse e rulagantswe sentle e dirwa ka thulaganyo ya Constituency Community Programme (CCP), e nngwe e ne ya dirwa ka Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP), e nngwe ka lenaneo la Ipelegeng go aga dikago dingwe tse ba ntseng ba di tlhoka.

Tsamaiso e ya go isa ditlamelo kwa Makgotleng a Setswana, e akaretsa go rekela lephata dikoloi tse ba di dirisang. Mo nakong ya gompiano Lephata la Ditirelo tsa Makgotla a Setswana, le na le dikoloi di le 402 go dirisiwa ke makgotla a a farologanyeng mo lefatsheng la Botswana. Dikoloi dingwe mo go tsone di mo tirisong, dingwe ga di mo tirisong. Ka jalo, ke re ke tlaa go fa bontlha bongwe jwa karabo. *Thank you.*

MR LUCAS: *Supplementary.* Ke ne ke tsaya gore dipalo tse ke di kopileng mabapi le dikgang tsa *accommodation* le matlo a a sa a dirisiweng, o ka bo o ne wa di nneela. Le fa go nna jalo, ke dumela gore lephata le ke lengwe la maphata a a latlheletsweng. Tona, a o itse gore madi a lephata le a go šhafatsa dikago a nna kwa khanseleng? Golo mo ga go supe gore lephata le ga le neelwe boikarabelo jo bo tletseng jwa go itlhabolola? E le potso ya ntlha.

Ke bo ke latedisa ka gore, a ga o bone go tshwanela gore lephata le le lone le nne le motho yo gongwe a bidiwang gotwe a *Buyer*, yo gotweng re ne re sena ene mo Palamenteng maloba, mme gatwe malatsi a re na le ene? Le bone ba tsweledisa dithulaganyo tsa go ithekela tse ba di tlhokang mo Lephata la *Tribal*.

Potso ya bofelo ke gore, maikaelelo a lona a go tlhabolola lephata le a a tsepameng fela a o ka a tlhalosang gongwe a le mabedi a le mararo, ke afe? Le batla go tlhabolola lephata le ka tsela e e ntseng jang go ya kwa pele, re lebile gore le saletse kwa morago mabapi le dikgang tsa dikoloi, *maintenance* fela jalo le *the powers* tse di neelwang le ene *Tribal Administration Secretary*? Ke a leboga.

MR MOSWAANE: Lephata la ditirelo tsa Makgotla a Setswana mo bogompianong le na le dikoloi di le 402, e le tse di dirisiwang mo Dikgotleng di ka tshwara 527. Mo go tsone dikoloi tse di 402, 79 ya tsone e a tsamaya, mme bontsi jwa tsone ga di mo tirisong ka mabaka a farologanyeng.

Ke rata go tlhalosa gape gore mo tsamaisong ya matlo, Puso mo lebakeng le le fetileng *budgeted for* madi a a kana ka P34 730 700 go leka go dirisiwa mo tlhabololong ya go tokafatsa seemo. Mo ngwageng o o fetileng, go ne ga fitlhelwa go na le madi a a kana ka P1 150 000 a lephata le neng le sa kgone go a dirisa mo dithulaganyong tse di farologanyeng.

Jaaka o boditse gore a ga se gore lekgotla le le ikemele ka bonosi jaaka madi a lone a tshwarwa e bile a ka iphitlhela a le ka fa tlase ya tiriso ya khansela, o tlaa lemoga gore Lephata la *Tribal* fa le tlhomiwang teng, le tlhomiwa le Kgosi le *Court Clerk* kana *Tribal Secretary*, ke bone ba ba tlhokometseng. Jaanong ka *Local Government and Traditional Affairs* e a ba akaretsa mo go tsa dikago, ba bo ba tsenelela mo go reng jaanong ba ba eteletsweng lephata ba dirisana le lephata go rulaganya ditiro tsa bone, e le bone ba Tribal Administration ba dirisana le boeteledipele jo bo mo kgaolong go ya ka fa go akareditsweng ka teng. Ke tlaa go neela bontsi jwa karabo motlotlegi o ya go e le baleba, o e sekaseke. Ke a leboga.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

FUEL PRICES

MR L. BARONGWANG (MOGODITSHANE EAST): asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy to state:

- (i) executive and management interventions in place to cushion citizens and local businesses, in light of the recently announced drastic increase in fuel prices which is likely to affect the general cost of goods and services; and,
- (ii) short-term relief measures, medium-term stabilisation strategies, and long-term plans being pursued to safeguard livelihoods, maintain market confidence, and ensure macroeconomic stability in the face of fuel commodity volatility.

Later Date.

MR SPEAKER: Batlotlegi, kana jaanong le dira molao, le tshwanetse gore le bo le le mmogo thata. Re ya kwa *Committee Stage*.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**(CHAIRPERSON in the Chair)****CINEMATOGRAPH BILL, 2025 (NO. 31 OF 2025)**

MR CHAIRPERSON (MR KEORAPETSE): Order! Honourable Members, we are now in Committee. Honourable Members, let us to go Cinematograph Bill, 2025 (No. 31 of 2025). Please note that the Cinematograph Bill, 2025 (No. 31 of 2025) has 61 Clauses, some amendments have been noticed, there are only three. I shall therefore, call all the Clauses consecutively.

Clauses 1-10 **agreed to.**

Clauses 11-20 **agreed to.**

Clauses 21-24 **agreed to.**

Clause 25

MINISTER OF SPORT AND ARTS (MR KELEBENG): Thank you Mr Chairperson. The Bill is amended at Clause 25 appearing at page B.719 by substituting for Clause 25 the following new Clause;

“Issuance of film permit, 25, the Commission may, on receipt of an application under Section 24 (1), issue a film permit with such conditions as it deems fit, if satisfied but the applicant has fulfilled all the requirements under this Act.” *E tlhamaletse*, I therefore, move Mr Chair.

Amendment **agreed to.**

Clause 25 as amended **agreed to.**

Clauses 26-27 **agreed to.**

Clause 28

MINISTER OF SPORT AND ARTS (MR KELEBENG): Thank you Chairperson. The Bill is amended in Clause 28 appearing at page B.720 by deleting the words, “the text, synopsis or scenes or” appearing at Subclause 1. *Tota e tlhamaletse fela, ke go baakanya mafoko* Mr Chair, I therefore move.

Amendment **agreed to.**

Clause 28 as amended **agreed to.**

Clause 29

MINISTER OF SPORT AND ARTS (MR KELEBENG): The Bill is amended at Clause 29 appearing at page B.720 by deleting the words “in his or her opinion” appearing in Subclause 1. I therefore move Mr Chair.

Amendment **agreed to.**

Clause 29 as amended **agreed to.**

Clause 30 **agreed to.**

Clauses 31-40 **agreed to.**

Clauses 41-50 **agreed to.**

Clauses 51-60 **agreed to.**

Clause 61 **agreed to.**

CINEMATOGRAPH BILL, 2025 (NO. 31 OF 2025)

Bill reported from Committee **with amendments.**

Third Reading - **Forthwith.**

Third Reading**CINEMATOGRAPH BILL, 2025 (NO. 31 OF 2025)**

(Minister of Sport and Arts)

MR SPEAKER (MR KEORAPETSE): Order! Honourable Members, the question is that the Cinematograph Bill, 2025 (No. 31 of 2025) be read a third time. I now call upon the Minister of Sport and Arts, Honourable Jacob Kelebens to move.

MINISTER OF SPORT AND ARTS (MR KELEBENG): Mr Speaker, I move that Cinematograph Bill, 2025 (No. 31 of 2025) be read a third time and do pass.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the question is that the Cinematograph Bill, 2025 (No. 31 of 2025) be read a third time and do pass. Honourable Members, in accordance with Order 62.1 (c), I shall now order a division, and that division shall be held in the manner prescribed under Order 63.

Question put and **Division Ordered.**



MR SPEAKER: Clerk, ring the bell for two minutes. At the expiry of two minutes, Sergeant-at-Arms, you lock the doors.

...Silence...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in terms of Order 63, I have to put the question again. Order! Honourable Members. The question is that the Cinematograph Bill, 2025 (No. 31 of 2025) be read a third time and do pass. I am going to activate the voting machine. I am pressing One. Press one to indicate that you are present, press two if you are voting “Ayes or Yes.” Three if you are voting “No.” Four if you are abstaining. *Tlhophang ka tidimalo.*

...Silence...

MR SPEAKER: Order! *Le tlhophile.* I am going to deactivate. The results of your voting; head count, *fa ke le bala jaana le 33; 33 have participated.* The “Ayes 32.” “No 0.” “Abstain 1.” So, the “Ayes have it.” The Bill is passed.

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

MR SPEAKER: Jaanong go araba kgang ele ya maloba, gakere le a bona gore *when you look at the total, it says 34 because e mpalela mo teng. As I press “one” here, it records me as part of you. That is why e kwadile 34.*

Order! Honourable Members. Batlotlegi, le weditse tiro ya letsatsi. Ke tseye sebaka se ke le leboge ka fa le dirileng ka boineelo ka teng, le dirile molao, le boditse dipotso, di arabilwe. Batlotlegi, malatsi a paseka ke ao, a Modimo o le babalele mo ditseleng. Le ye dikerekeng, le ye go bona bathlophi, le ye merakeng le ye masimo. Modimo o nne le lona. Le pula e le nele. Jaanong fa ke rialo, ke tlaabo ke biditse *Father of the House, Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism, Honourable Wynter Boipuso Mmolotsi, Member for Francistown South* gore a re phatlatatse.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

(MR MMOLOTSI): *Mr Speaker,* gongwe le nna ke tseye nako e ke leboge Batlotlegi Mapalamente *for* tiro e ntle e ba e dirileng mo mosong wa gompieno. Ke boe ke le eleletse mesepele e e monate, e na le kagiso go ya kwa dikgaolong tsa lona ka go farologana. Ba le yang kwa dipasekeng, le lona bagaetsho le tsamaye ka kagiso, le

rapele Modimo. Le ba e leng gore ga ba a tlwaela go ya kwa dikerekeng, *this time around* etela kereke nngwe fela e e bapileng le wena o ye go kereka le bone gore o utlwe mafokonyana a Modimo a le sekaenyana a a ka re thusang gore re tswe kwa re ntshafetse sesha.

Ka mafoko a a kalo, *Mr Speaker, I wish to move that this House do now adjourn.*

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 11:09 a.m. until Tuesday 7th April, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 3

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Member of Parliament for Maun East for this important question regarding employment creation and citizen participation in the commercial transport sector. In terms of job creation, the Ministry finalized the Implementation Plan for the National Employment Policy (NEP) with the main focus on removing constraints to economic development by pursuing the following strategic areas:

- (a) Strengthening the growth of employment in the private sector;
- (b) Reforming the education and training system;
- (c) Improving the flow of information between job seekers and job openings;
- (d) Strengthening of employment programmes;
- (e) Developing a framework for coherent and coordinated policies with systematic monitoring and evaluation.
- (f) Improving Coordination of employment related initiatives

In that regard, a Multi Sectoral Employment Committee (MSEC) comprising of the Public Sector, State Agencies, Private Sector, Civil Society, Labour Representatives and other key stakeholders, was established in 2025 as a platform to coordinate, monitor and evaluate employment creation initiatives. This is an inclusive Committee whose key responsibilities are to;

- (a) Assist in facilitating the implementation, review and assessment of employment related Laws, Policies, Strategies, Programmes and Projects for purposes of synchronisation and curbing of fragmentation and duplication of efforts.

- (b) Advise on Labour Market, challenges and possible interventions.
- (c) Monitor and support joint programmes and employment related initiatives for capacity building and job creation.
- (d) Monitor employment promotion and creation efforts across all Sectors of the economy.
- (e) Facilitate information sharing and reporting on employment and job creation.

Furthermore, the Ministry has revamped the National Internship Programme and reviewed the programme Guidelines to allow for placement of Interns in the Private sector and the international labour market. I am confident that this will not only contribute to globally competitive skills development but will significantly reduce unemployment rate, especially amongst the youth and other marginalized groups. Implementation has commenced with Six Hundred and Two (602) interns placed in the Private Sector as at 31st March, 2026.

- (i) Mr Speaker, with regards to Commercial vehicles, Botswana does not have a specific policy that mandates that all Botswana-registered commercial vehicles must be driven exclusively by citizens. However, this matter is guided through a combination of existing legislative and policy frameworks, including;
 - (a) The Immigration Act, which regulates the engagement of expatriates and prioritizes citizen employment across all sectors.
 - (b) Training and Localisation Policy in the Revised National Policy on Incomes, Employment, Prices and Profits of 2005 which strives to give preference to employment to Botswana over non-citizens with similar educational and training qualifications. This Policy, like other empowerment policies, is not limited to only one sector of the economy but to all.

These frameworks collectively aim to ensure that citizens are given priority in employment opportunities, including in the transport sector. However, operational gaps and enforcement challenges remain, particularly in informal and semi-formal segments of the industry.

- (ii) Mr Speaker, it is in the interest of the government to see the majority of citizens of this country playing an active part in the dynamic sector of the economy. Due to lack of trained manpower in certain sectors of the economy, it has been accepted that expatriates be allowed to play a part in those sectors but with the knowledge that they will train and give way to Botswana once they are ready to take over.
- (iii) Mr Speaker, it is important to note that since May 2021, the Ministry introduced a new labour inspection model known as Strategic Compliance Planning for Labour Inspections. This model enables the Inspectorate to develop and implement comprehensive strategies aimed at addressing compliance challenges within identified high-risk sectors of the economy.

Mr Speaker, the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs has not conducted comprehensive, targeted labour inspections covering the entire Botswana registered commercial vehicles sector. Instead, the Ministry has carried out spot checks to assess compliance with labour laws.

Mr Speaker, to date, the Ministry has undertaken targeted labour inspections in the private security sector, the diamond cutting and polishing industry, and private schools. Within the transportation sector, the Ministry has focused specifically on long-distance trucks engaged in cross-border transport.

Notwithstanding existing manpower and financial constraints, the Ministry remains committed to progressively extending targeted inspections to all sectors of the economy, including the Botswana registered commercial vehicles sub-sector.

- (iv) Mr Speaker, the lessons learnt from the spot checks highlight recurring compliance gaps, notably non-payment of overtime, denial of statutory rest days, unauthorized deductions, non-adherence to severance benefit provisions, and the imposition of excessive working hours leading to employee fatigue.

The ministry has advised employers to comply fully with the provisions of the Act. In addition to issuing advisories, the ministry continues to engage both employees, through their respective Trade Unions, and employers, with the objective of strengthening compliance within the sector.

Mr Speaker, Botswana Government has enacted significant legal reform through the Employment and Labour Relations Act of 2025 which protect fundamental rights and principles in the world of work. The developers and drafters of the regulations have taken into consideration issues raised by the Honourable Member of Parliament for Maun East.

I thank you, Mr Speaker.

HANSARD RECORDERS

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

HANSARD REPORTERS

Mr M. Buti, Ms Z. Molemi, Ms N. Selebogo, Ms A. Ramadi,
Ms D. Thibedi, Ms G. Baotsi, Ms D. Moitoi

HANSARD EDITORS

Ms C. Chonga, Mr K. Goeme, Ms G. Phatedi, Ms B. Malokwane, Mr A. Mokopakgosi, Ms O. Nkatswe,
Ms G. Lekopanye, Ms T. Mokhure, Ms B. Ratshipa

LAYOUT DESIGNERS

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