



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

PARLIAMENT OF BOTSWANA

— OUR PARLIAMENT OUR PRIDE —

DAILY HANSARD

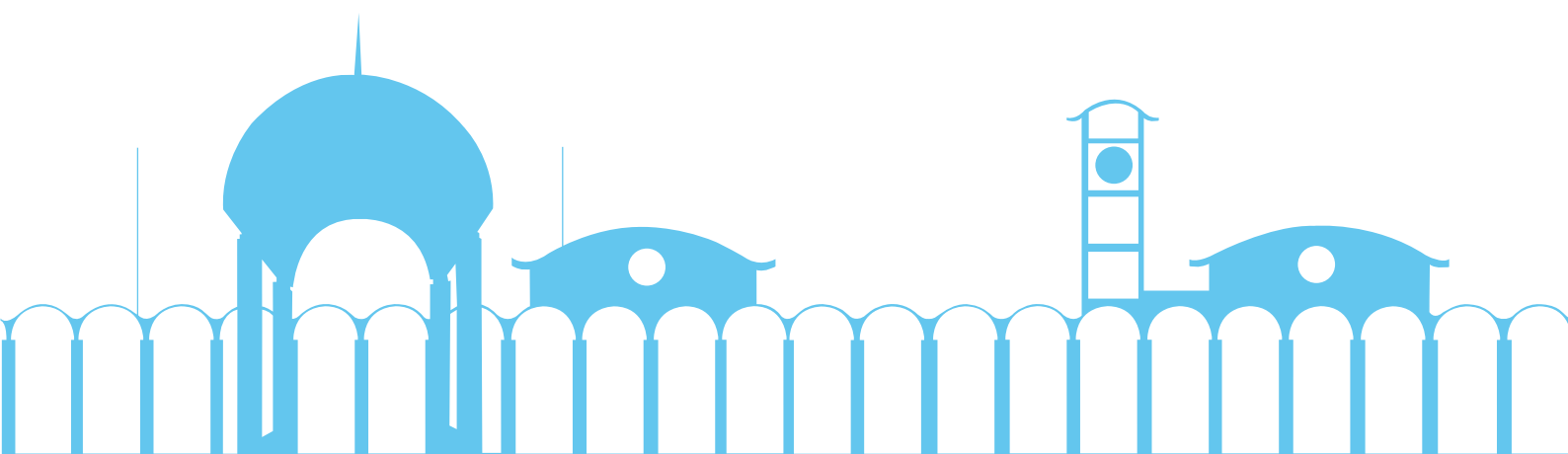
YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT

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

TUESDAY 28 JULY 2026

MIXED VERSION

HANSARD NO: 221



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
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly
Learned Parliamentary Counsel
Senior Assistant Clerk
Assistant Clerk (E)

- Dr G. G. G. Malebang
- Ms K. H. Dikgokgwane
- Dr A. R. Masuku
- Vacant
- 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

Hon. Dr E. G. Dikoloti, MP.

- Minister of Lands and Agriculture

Hon. D. Tshere, MP.

- Minister of Communications and Innovation

Hon. N. Kgafela-Mokoka, MP.

- Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education

Hon. P. Maele, MP.

- Minister of Higher Education

Hon. W. B. Mmolotsi, MP.

- Minister of Environment and Tourism

Hon. Dr S. Modise, MP.

- Minister of Health

Hon. Maj. Gen. P. Mokgware, MP.

- Minister of Labour and Home Affairs

Hon. O. Ramogapi, MP.

- Minister of Water and Human Settlement

Hon. B. J. Kenewendo, MP.

- Minister of Minerals and Energy

Hon. T. Ntsima, MP.

- Minister of Trade and 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-Dikoloti, 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. M. G. J. Motsamai, 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

Vacant

- 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	Letlhakeng
Hon. S. D. Monageng, MP.	Molepolole South
Hon. M. B. Mophuting, MP.	Gaborone Bonnington North
Hon. M. M. Morolong, MP.	Kgatleng Central
Hon. P. M. Mosanana, MP.	Kanye East
Hon. K. Motshegwa, MP.	Mmadinare
Hon. T. Ntsima, MP.	Francistown East
Hon. A. Nyatanga, MP.	Mahalapye East
Hon. N. Ramaotwana, MP.	Gaborone South
Hon. V. B. Phologolo, MP.	Kanye West
Hon. G. Sedombo, MP.	Tonota
Hon. P. M. Segokgo, MP.	Tlokweng
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.	Kgatlung West
Hon. Dr K. Gobotswang, MP	Tswapong South
Hon. K. K. Kapinga, MP	Okavango West
Hon. G. Kekgonegile, MP.	Maun East
Hon. T. B. Lucas, MP.	Bobirwa
Hon. K. Nkawana, MP.	Selebi Phikwe East
Hon. P. Aaron, MP.	Ngami
Hon. G. Disho, MP.	Okavango East
Hon. T. Furniture, MP.	Tati East
Hon. R. W. Kaizer, MP.	Selebi Phikwe West
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-Mmankodi
Hon. P. K. Motaosane, MP.	Thamaga-Kumakwane
Hon. M. M. Pule, MP.	Kgatlung East

(Independent Member of Parliament)

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

SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon. Maj. Gen. P. Mokgware, MP.	Specially Elected
Hon. B. J. Kenewendo, MP.	Specially Elected
Hon. M. C. Mohwaso, 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 THIRD MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY 28TH JULY, 2026

<i>CONTENTS</i>	<i>PAGE (S)</i>
SPEAKER'S REMARKS	1
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER	1-8
STATEMENT	
Update on the State of Medicines and Other Medical Supplies in the Country.....	9-20
GOVERNMENT BILL	
National Research and Innovation Council Bill, 2026 (No. 23 of 2026)	
<i>Second Reading</i>	21-37

Tuesday 28th July, 2026

THE ASSEMBLY met at 2:00 p.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

PRAYERS

* * * *

SPEAKER'S REMARKS

MR SPEAKER (MR KEORAPETSE): Honourable Members, good afternoon. *A re tsweleng, re ne re simolotse mo mosong ka* General Assembly. Let us start the business of today with questions. Let me also bring your attention to an addendum which includes a Bill by Honourable Tshere.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES FOR TEACHERS

MR O. KWAPA (JWANENG-MABUTSANE): asked the Minister of Child Welfare and Basic Education if she is aware that the mini bus which has been transporting Mogale Junior Secondary School teachers who are staying in Jwaneng has not been transporting the teachers as was promised; if so, to state:

- (i) challenges and measures in place to fully address the situation;
- (ii) when a permanent solution will be achieved;
- (iii) which classes have been affected and the number of children thereof;
- (iv) the number of teachers who are being transported; and
- (v) why the teachers were not transported during rainy days.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF CHILD WELFARE AND BASIC EDUCATION (MR HUNYEPA): Thank you Mr Speaker. *Ke lebogela potso eo* Honourable Kwapa. Mr Speaker, we are aware of the challenges affecting the transportation arrangement for teachers commuting between Jwaneng and Mogale Junior Secondary School. The transport service is provided by Mr Pheny Mabego under a contractual agreement with the Ministry of Child welfare and Basic Education, however he has not yet received payment for the months of April and May, amounting to P23,500 due

to the non-availability of funds under the hire charges budget vote for the current financial year. The Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education has submitted a request to the Ministry of Finance for the allocation of the required funds and the matter is receiving attention to facilitate the settlement of the outstanding payment. Mr Speaker, the main challenges include poor road access, inconsistent transport, reduced instructional time within the classrooms or within the school and risk associated with daily commuting. Measures in place to address the situation include accommodating teachers on campus through sourcing funds to repair a damaged staff house which will accommodate four teachers, considering transfers for commuting staff and deploying temporary teachers.

Mr Speaker, the long-term objective is to halt daily commuting by accommodating all teachers on campus. This will be pursued through rehabilitation of staff housing, local accommodation options and strategic staff deployment. Our company, the Education Infrastructure Management Company, is currently working around the clock to ensure that such accommodation is availed to schools like Mogale.

Mr Speaker, the transport disruptions affect several classes because the affected teachers teach different subjects and grade levels, resulting in reduced teaching and learning time.

Mr Speaker, initially, we had 12 teachers being transported but the number has now reduced to eight because some have been transferred out. This number is expected to reduce further once funds have been sourced to revamp one semidetached house on campus.

Mr Speaker, the gravel road is in a very poor condition, characterized by extensive potholes, severe surface erosion and numerous pools of standing water caused by inadequate drainage. The road is difficult to navigate, especially during and after rainy weather. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR KWAPA: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga Tona ka karabo eo. Tona, a o a lemoga gore Goromente o latlhegelwa ke madi? O ne o *state* dipalo gore barutabana ba ne ba ntse ba le 12, ke dumela gore bothata jo ga se la ntlha bo diragala, ga se selo se e leng gore go direga gompiano. Fa o lebelela dipalo tsa bana ba e leng gore ba alosiwa ke sekole se, a o a bona gore Goromente o latlhegelwa ke madi mo go dueleng barutabana mme ba ntse kwa Jwaneng ba sa rute bana jaaka e le tshwanelo?

A gape o a lemoga gape gore bana ba e leng gore ba hiretswe gore ba rutiwe, kgang e ya gore barutabana ba bone ba ba bo ba sa isiwe kwa sekoleng go ama bokamoso jwa bone re lebeletse segolobogolo ka e le baeteledipele ba kamoso?

Mo godimo ga moo, *solution* e ya go hirela barutabana *combi*, a le bona gore go ntse go tswelletse go sokodisa thuto e ya bana ka mabaka a o ntseng o a tlhalosa gore fa dipula di nele le *the bad condition of the road*, go felela e le gore bana ba ntse ga ba amogele thuto e e leng gore e maleba? A ga le bone gore golo fa re gataka ditshwanelo tsa bana?

E bile ke batla gore o mpolelele gape gore mo mading a a duelwang ra-*combi*, a go ne go se botoka gore ba ka hirisetwa kwa motseng wa Maokane go na le gore re boele kwa *challenges* tseo? Ke a leboga.

MR HUNYEP: Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke a leboga Motlotlegi Rre Kwapa *for those follow-up questions*, di botlhokwa fela thata. Ke dumalana le wena morwarre ke re kana *we have to come up with solutions*. Jaaka o tla ka *solution* e e ntseng jaana, *it is something that we should follow up* gore madi a e leng gore re a duela ra-*combi*, gongwe ke eng re sa batle matlo mo motseng. Ke tseela gore ke kgang e e leng gore e tshwanetse gore e lebelelwe fela thata. Fa e le gore go na le *appropriate houses*, barutabana ba tshwanetse *to be accommodated* mo matlong a a ntseng jalo.

You will recall gore kana Mogale tota *is within the mining town* ya Jwaneng. Ke ne ke kopa morwarre gore jaaka o tla ka ditharabololo jaana gore a re buisane gongwe ka fa thoko, e bile re kope le one *mine* gore o re thuse *as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)*. Re a tle re bone dikompone di thusa fela thata ka gore Goromente a le nosi a ka se ke a kgone. Tota ke mogopolo o o siameng gore boroko bogolo bo nne gone fa e leng gore barutabana ba berekela teng.

Kgang e nngwe ya gore a mme ga re bone e le gore golo mo ke kgatako ya ditshwanelo tsa bana, tota ke dumalana le wena, *students need the appropriate type of education and* ba tshwanetse gore ba rutwe. Ba tshwanetse gore e re ba tsena mo *classroom*, ba fitlhele morutabana a le teng. *Teacher* yoo a itumetse le ene a na la *morale* wa go ka ruta, ka gore *his or her working and living conditions are provided for in a perfect way*. So, ke dumalana le wena morwarre gore ke dilo tse re tshwanetseng go di baakanya.

O tlaa gakologelwa gore kana ke seemo se re fitlhelang se ntse jalo, mme ga re ka ke ra phutha matsogo re lebelela fela. *That is why* o utlwa ke re e bile re tle re kopane morwarre re tle re bona gore re ka dira jang gore gongwe re rarabolole mathata ao ka bofefo jo bo ka kgonagalang gore bana ba rona ba tle ba rutelwe mo *environment* e e leng yone le barutabana ba rona ba bereke sentle, ba itumetse, ba kgotsofetse.

Go ntse jalo gore Puso e e latlhelwa ke madi a mantsi, fa gongwe *teacher* a sa kgona go ya kwa sekoleng, mme a tla a duelwa fela a le mo lelwapeng, mme tota e le sengwe se e leng gore *teacher* yoo, *it is beyond his or her own control*. Ke dumalana le wena rra, re tlaa leka go baakanya ka ditsela tsotlhe gore go siame sentle mo dikoleng tsa rona, ka gore re batla gore bana ba bone thuto e e nang le boleng. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL EXPENSES

MR T. FURNITURE (TATI EAST): asked the Minister for State President, Defence and Security:

- (i) how many times the President of the Republic of Botswana Advocate Duma Boko has travelled outside the country since assuming office, and to provide a breakdown of the purpose for each trip;
- (ii) to provide a comprehensive breakdown of the total cost of these foreign trips, including but not limited to;
 - (a) air travel;
 - (b) accommodation;
 - (c) subsistence allowance;
 - (d) costs of accompanying delegations; and
 - (e) any other related expenditure borne by Government.

Later Date.

PROVISION OF TSABANA IN SELEBI PHIKWE EAST CLINICS

MR K. NKAWANA (SELEBI PHIKWE EAST): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to apprise this Honourable House of the status of provision of Tsabana food in Selebi Phikwe East clinics.

ACTING MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (MR HUNYEPA):

Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke leboge *Honourable* Nkawana ka potso eo. *Mr Speaker*, Kgaolo ya Selebi Phikwe East e na le dikokelwana di le nne, e leng; Botshabelo, Lesole, Tapologong le South East. Dijo tsa Tsabana tse di abiwang kgwedi le kgwedi ka nako ya fa bana ba tsile sekaleng, di na le tsamaiso e e beilweng go ya ka mephato ya bana go lebilwe bogolo jang dingwaga tsa bone le botsogo.

Jaaka fa re ka tswa re itse, Tsabana o simolola go fiwa bana go tswa mo dikgweding tse thataro go fitlha kwa dingwageng tse tlhano, le bana ba ba dikotla di tse di kwa tlase ga seelo go ya ka sekale sa bone. Tshedimoso e, e a supiwa *Mr Speaker* mo karolong e e kwa tlase (*annexure*).

Dipalo ka kakaretso tsa bana ba ba neng ba tshwanetse go fiwa Tsabana, ka kgwedi ya Phukwi, ke dikete tse pedi, makgolo a matlhano, masome a supa le boferabobedi. Mo kgweding ya Seetebosigo e tlhola masome a mabedi le borataro, ngwaga o, Kgaolo ya Selebi Phikwe Botlhaba, e amogetse dikgetsi tsa Tsabana di le dikete tse nne le masome a marataro. E re ntswa Tsabana yo o amogetsweng a ne a sa lekana dipalo tse ke sa tswang go di bua, kgaolo e, e ne ya kgaoganngwa dijo tse go fitlhelela ngwana mongwe le mongwe. Seelo se se tshwanetseng go fiwa bana mo bogompionong, ke go fa dikgetsi tse pedi to bana ba ba dikgwedi di le thataro go yeng kwa go tse di lesome le boferabobedi. Bana ba dikgwedi tse di lesome le boferabongwe go yeng kwa go tse di masome a mararo le borataro, ba fiwa dikgetsi tse tharo tsa Tsabana.

Mr Speaker, lephata le ikemiseditse go tswaledisa go fa bana dijo tse ka go ithulaganya le dikhansele go tlhomamisa gore dijo tse di isiwa kwa dikokelong le dikokelwana ka nako. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

MR NKAWANA: Supplementary.

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

MR SPEAKER: *Order!* Mapalamente, le tsositse modumo fela o o seng kana ka sepe.

MR NKAWANA: Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. *Honourable Minister*, ke dumela gore nna le wena le ba bangwe re a itse gore bana ba ba neelwa dijo tse ka lebaka le le rileng kana mabaka a a leng teng a *malnutrition*. Jaanong fa e le gore wa re ga di a lekana, mme e bile go na le tlhaelo e e kalokako ya itsholelo mo Kgaolong ya Phikwe East,

e e leng gore bangwe bana ba dingwaga le dikgwedi tseo ba tswa mo malwapeng a e leng gore tota ga ba ka ke ba kgona le fa e le go itirela sepe. A mme ga go botoka gore gongwe madi ale a maloba o bua ka one a botsetsi, re a ise kwa baneng ka gore ngwana wa botsetsi o anya mmaagwe? Jaanong yo o setseng a tsamaela go tswa mo lebeleng, ene o beile mo goreng go bo go na le mogoponyana wa motogonyana wa Tsabana. A ga o akanye go dira sengwe fa e le gore di tlhaetse gore bogolo bana ba ba nne le sengwe, go se ka ga nna le letsatsi le e leng gore ga go na sepe? Kana gore di tlhaetse, go raya gore bana ba botlhe ba o ntseng o ba balolola, le mogopo o kwa tlase mo e leng gore motho o a bo a babalela gore gongwe kgwedi e wele, fa e le gore ke dikgetsana tse pedi. A ga o akanye go dira sengwe se se botoka gore bana ba kgwedi e se ka ya wela ba sa bone dijo? Ke a leboga.

MR HUNYEPA: Ke a leboga Rre Nkawana ka dipotso tseo tse di tlaleletsang. Ke dumalana le wena, mme kana ke ne ke bua ka Tsabana fela. Ke tlaa tla ke go neela *information* e nngwe e e supang gore tota kgang ke Tsabana, mme ba fiwa le Malutu, *cooking oil* le dinawa. E bile ke tlaleletse ke re, kana dijo tse le fa re bua gore di a tlhabela jaana, tota e ne e le gore motho yo o filweng *tender* teng, e e leng gore tota *it is a stopgap*, ba tswelletse ba a *distribute*, gongwe re bua jaana dijo di ka tswa di setse di gorogile. *Distribution is still on going*. Ke kgang e re nang le tumelo gore e tlaare malatsi go ise go ye kgakala, dijo di bo di setse di gorogile mo dipateleng tsotlhe, Botswana ka kakaretso.

Ke a go utlwa, madi a P300 *have been budgeted for* le one. A re boneng gore dijo tse di tshwanetse di ye go goroga kwa baneng. *Ministry* o eme ka dinao gore dijo di goroge. E ntse jalo. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

REPLACEMENT OF OMANG CARDS

MR J. J. FRENZEL (SHASHE WEST): asked the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs to state:

- (i) the cause of delay in issuing replacement cards for National Identity Cards (Oman) since the beginning of this year;
- (ii) when this short-fall will be addressed; and
- (iii) if he will consider issuing a public statement indicating that upon producing a renewal receipt together with the old Oman then both private and public services may be rendered as some residents decry the lack of assistance despite producing receipts.

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE): *Thank you very much Mr Speaker.* Mma ke lebohe motlotlegi ka potso e ntle e a e boditseng e, e ke dumelang gore Batswana bontsi le bone ba a e botsa. Ga a e ipoletse, mme sa ntlha pele ga ke araba, ke simolole ke kope maitshwarelo mo Batswaneng ka kakaretso, ka bonya jwa go fa batho dikarata tsa bone tsa Omang.

Bonya jo bo kana bo dirwa ke mabaka a mabedi. Lebaka la ntlha ke go tlhalela ga bodiredi, jaaka motlotlegi le ene a itse, le lona lotlhe mo Ntlong e le itse gore kana go sale go emisitswe phiro, gore go ka hirwa bangwe ba basha, go oketsa babereki ba Puso. Jaanong selo seo se re amile fela thata mo go maswe.

Lebaka la bobedi le le dirang gore re nne bonya mo go thuseng Batswana ke gore, *machines* tsa rona tse dirang bo Omang, di setse di le dikgologolo. Re setse re tsene mo go batleng tse di sha tse di tsamaelanang le tse, gape re diwa le ke gore kana jaanong re batla go fetola Omang wa rona, e nne Omang wa maranyane wa selebego se se rileng. Mabaka a mabedi ao, a dira gore jaanong go nne bonya go neela Batswana Omang wa bone kana go emisetsa Omang yo o tlaabong a setse a fedile. Re eme ka maoto, re dira ka gotlhe mo go tshwanetseng gore re leke go baakanya seemo se. Re lekile *to pull* babereki go tswa kwa maphateng a mangwe gore ba tle ba leke go thusa, mme maduo a ntse a nna teng. Le gore re dire gore bangwe ba bereke diouranyana tse di telele, gore re leke go fokotsa mosuke o o kanakana o.

Re ne re batla go gakolola gore, re kile ra ntsha kitsiso le molaetsa ra re mo molaong go a letlelelwa gore fa o santse o emetse Omang wa gago go ntshafadiwa, o kgona go dirisa *passport* kana *Driver's Licence*, fa go na le bosupi jwa gore *you have applied for replacement*. Ke batla go le tlhomamisetsa Batswana betsho le wena motlotlegi gore, seemo se re tlaa tswelala re ntse re se baakanya, re se potlakela, re dira ka gotlhe gore re bone gore Batswana ba bona *placement cards* tsa bone ka nako e e rileng e re e ipeetseng ya 14 days. Gompieno re santse re tsaya nako e telele fela thata. Ke a leboga motlotlegi.

MR FRENZEL: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*. Potso ya me ya boraro Motlotlegi *Minister* e ne e le gore, a ga re ye go ntsha *public statement* se se lebaganeng le kgang ya Omang? Ke tsaya ke re e tlaa re o boa, o tle ka sone.

Dipotso tsa me tsa *supplementary* ke gore, o ne o supa gore o ka dirisa *passport* kgotsa *Driver's Licence* le *receipt* e o tlaabong o e tshotse. Kana le *Driver's Licence*

mo nakong ya gompieno go dirisiwa *receipt*, dikarata tseo ga di yo gotlhelele jaaka tsa Omang. *Passport* re a itse gore ga se rotlhe ba re nang le yone. Kgang e bo e nna gore, fa o sena tse tsothle tse o ya go dirisa eng? Le kgang ya gore gongwe go bo go dirisiwa *Driver's Licence* le *passport* e simologile leng, ka gore Batswana gotlhelele ga ba itse sepe ka yone. Ke sone se o utlwanng ke bua ka *public statement* e gongwe go leng maleba gore e tle e nne teng.

Kgang e nngwe e ke nang le yone ke gore, kana batho fa ba sale ba simolola go shafatsa bo Omang ba bone ngwaga o simologa go tswa ka bo *January*, go fitlhela gompieno ga ba ise ba ba bone dikarata tsa bone tsa Omang, mme ke utlwile o supa gore go na le tlhalelo ya bodiredi le mabaka a o neng o a ntsha. Kgang ke gore seemo se ya go siama leng? Kana gompieno re mo kgwedding ya go bo *seven*, e bile ya bo *eight* e a simolola mme Batswana ba sena bo Omang. Seemo se se tla wela leng, gore e re fela jaaka nako tse di fetileng o shafatsa Omang wa gago, o bo o setse o mo amogetse mo selekanyong sa kgwedi. Go ya go siama leng.

Ya bofelo, kana go tlile *policy* e nngwe ya gore fa o shafatsa Omang, go nnile le *increment* go tswa mo go P105 go ya kwa go P200. Jaanong ka gore go na le tlhalelo mo lephateng, mo e leng gore ga o ka ke wa nna le Omang mo nakong eo, a *policy* e santse e ka bereka? Ke tsone tse ke batlang *to supplement* ka tsone. Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker,* motlotlegi ga se ene wa ntlha a botsa potso e. E ne ya botswa ke Motlotlegi Moalosi, mme ka ba ka tlhalosa gore re sale re ntshitse *statement in all the platforms* ra ba ra se tsenya le mo Facebook tota ra ntsha le gore ba ba nang le *passports* ba simolole go di dirisa, ba ba nang le *Driver's Licence* ba di dirise. Ka ba ka tla mo Ntlong e nako e ke neng ke botswa potso, ka bala *section* ya teng e ke ka nnang ka e boelela gape ka gore bangwe le motlotlegi nako e a neng a botsa ka yone o ne a le *specific* gore go kwadilwe kwa kae, ka ba ka e ntsha. *We have actually made a public statement in many platforms; that we have done.*

Ga ke aware gore *Driver's Licences* ga di yo. Ga ke itse, ga ke ke ka ka kgona go e arabela. Fa e le gore motho o mo seemong se se pitlaganeng, go supa gore ga a na *passport* le *Driver's Licence*, o ka tsena kwa diofising tsa rona ra tla ra mo direla mokwalo o o maleba, re sena go nna re *confirm* re tshotse *receipt* ya gagwe, ka gore fa Omang a seyo, ga gona jaaka motho a ka *transact*,

a ikwadisetsa sepe fela kana a reka kana go kwadisa Sim card fa go se na bosupi. Rona re ka supa gore ke boammamruri, e le mokwalo o o tswang *from the* National Registration Office e supa ka tsela e e ntseng jalo.

Kgang e ke neng ke e araba ke ya gore, go tlaa siama leng go tla tsaya nako e e kae. Ka re fa re sale re simolola re goga bodiredi mo maphateng a mangwe re oketsa jo, ke dumela gore mo nakong e e sa fediseng pelo, ga ke ka ke ka go beela letsatsi kana dikgwedi, mme ke batla gore ke go tlhomamisetse gore re tsweletse ka maiteko a go dira gore re kgaole dipalo tse. Re a di kgaola ka bontsi, gongwe go ka tswa kwa kgaolong ya gago go sa bonale kana go sa supafale thata, mme mo dikgaolong tse dingwe gone go a supafala gore re a leka, ba ba saleng ba dirile dikopo ka bo *January* re ntse re a ba neela. Mathata a rona kana ke gore *machines* tse dingwe tse di dirisiwang *to print, to source parts* tsa tsone le gone ga go motlhofo, ga re di bone motlhofo. *We have placed the order*, mme ga re kgone go di bona gore re leke go di baakanya sentle. Ke sone se jaanong re potlakelang gore re dire *procurement* ya Omang yo mošha gore re leke go alafa seemo. Ga ke ka ke ka kgona go baya nako kana letsatsi, mme fela ke batla go go solofetsa gore re dira ka gotlhe go bona gore Batswana ba bona bo Omang ba bone. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

DEMAND FOR POULTRY MEAT AND TABLE EGGS IN BOTSWANA

MR M. BAGAISAMANG (SHOSHONG): asked the Minister of Lands and Agriculture to apprise this Honourable House of the following:

- (i) the current annual national demand for poultry meat and table eggs in Botswana;
- (ii) the current annual production levels of poultry meat and table eggs;
- (iii) whether the country is currently producing poultry products in excess of domestic demand; and
- (iv) the extent of any surplus production recorded over the last three (3) years.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (DR DIKOLOTI): *Ke a leboga Mr Speaker.*

Mr Speaker, the poultry industry has achieved self-sufficiency in chicken meat and table eggs. It is preparing to penetrate export markets. The advisory

board called Poultry Liaison Committee (PLC), which has been operational for over 15 years drives the success of this industry. The committee convenes monthly to address supply chain issues and is chaired by private sector, with my ministry being the secretariat. Poultry industry's value is expected to grow from P3.5 Billion to P10 Billion by 2030. Currently, it employs around 10 000 people.

Mr Speaker, the Botswana Livestock Commercialization Project (BoLCoP) in partnership with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which will be launched this year October 2026 will commercialize small livestock value chains including poultry. This project aims to improve production and sustainable resource utilization, as well as contribute meaningfully to the Botswana economy.

- (i) Mr Speaker, the current national demand for poultry meat is approximately 50,000 tonnes. The demand for table eggs is 13,000,000 dozens of eggs and the Poultry Sector continues to be one of the best performing sub sectors under my ministry. It plays a very significant role in the country's economy and in improving livelihoods of Batswana.
- (ii) Mr Speaker, the current annual production levels of poultry meat is forty-six thousand and fifty-nine tons (46,059) and the table egg production stands at fourteen million, seven hundred and forty-six thousand, seven hundred and twenty one (14,746,721) dozens of eggs.
- (iii) Mr Speaker, poultry Producers in Botswana are currently producing excess poultry products in the form of Further Processed Chicken (FPC) to supplement the domestic demand. These products are supplied to Quick Service Restaurants (QSR) with the well-known name of special cuts or value-added products.
- (iv) Mr Speaker, over the past three years, the Poultry Sector has recorded production of meat of fifty-one thousand, twelve hundred and seventy-seven tons (51,012.77) in the year 2022/23. During the financial year 2023/24 the sector recorded the total of fifty-one thousand, four hundred and twenty-eight and thirty-one tons (51 428. 31) was recorded. A total of fifty-two thousand, and sixty-two hundred and forty-four tons (52 062.44) was produced from previous year over the target of fifty thousand (50 000) tons.

During the financial year of 2022/23 the table eggs production recorded the total of fourteen million five hundred and ninety-one, thousand seven hundred dozens (14,591,700) of eggs. Thirteen million, two hundred and fifteen thousand and seventy-three dozens (13 215 073) of eggs was recorded in financial year 2023/24. Fourteen million, seven hundred and forty-six thousand seven hundred and twenty-one dozens (14 746,721) of eggs was produced in the previous year over the target of thirteen million dozens (13 000 000) produced. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR BAGAISAMANG: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga Mr Speaker, ke a go leboga Tona Rraetsho Dikoloti. Ke ne ke utlwa o supa ka ya *national demand*, gore mme yone fa re tshwere 50, 000 tons jaaka o ne o supa, a o bona seelo se se lekane go tsamaelana le maitlamo a Puso a gore re nne tšhaba e e ijesang, le lenaneo la Puso la go jesa bana kwa sekoleng? A o bona e le seelo se se ka re gorosang gone koo go sena tlhalelo go ya kwa pele? Ke a leboga.

DR DIKOLOTI: Ke a go leboga thata Mopalamente. Mr Speaker, mohama o wa dikoko o supile kgolo thata, e bile re na le tsholofelo e e seng kana ka sepe mo go one. Ke mohama o e leng gore fa o lebelela *all the different linkages within the value chain ya poultry* o tlaa bona gore tsotlhe di tsepame, e bile di itekanetse thata. Ke one mohama fela o e leng gore fa o ya kwa Business Botswana o ya go fitlhela go na le *a poultry desk officer* yo a neng a ntse a dira dipatlisiso tsa go bona gore re tlhotsa fa kae, ga re tlhotse fa kae. Ke ne ke bua ka *the Poultry Liaison Committee (PLC)* e e nang le dingwaga di le lesome le botlhano mme e ntse e tsweletse e bereka sentle thata. O tlaa gakologelwa Mr Speaker gore, e kile ya re go ntse go tsweletse ga simolodisiwa go jewa ga mae kwa dikoleng. Go ile ga godisa thata mohama o wa dikoko tsa mae. *For the very first time* re ne re simolola go itirela dikoko tsa mae mo lefatsheng la Botswana, re emisa go tsaya *the point-of-lay pullets*. *We currently have two farms*, e nngwe e kwa kgaolong ya Fatshe Lentle kwa Hildavale ya *pit pullets*, re bo re nna le ya Treasureland e e kwa Boteti, ba ba ntshang dikoko tsa mae.

Mr Speaker, re setse re itemogela gore mafatshe ka bontsi ba simolotse go okomela kwano ba bangwe ba bone gore ba ka tsaya eng ka kwa go rona. Mo go rayang gore re setse re ntshitse mo go lekaneng. Tsholofelo ke gore, e tlaare go ntse go tsweletse o tlaa utlwa go ntse gotwe Tona Dikoloti o ne a ile go emeletsa sefofane se tsamaya ka mae se ya lefatsheng. E le gone go supa gore Batswana rra, ba tshwere ka natla mo thulaganyong e.

Tsholofelo e tona *Honourable* Bagaisamang ke gore, go ya pele re batle *to add more value* mo maeng gore a a leng teng *we should convert into powder* gore a kgone go nna le *a better shelf life*. O a bona gore a a ntseng a jewa mo dikoleng *it has always been a challenge* fa dikole di tswetswe fa gongwe, go sena kwa ba rekisang teng. Keletso ke yone eo ya gore re e bope, re e bopele go ya pele. Lenaneo le le ka nna BoLCoP, re solofetse gore le nonotshe thata bogolo jang bagwebi ba ba botlana ba dikoko gore ba kgone gore le bone ba itsetsepele. Go na le bangwe ba ba neng ba ntshebetsa gore go tlaa nna le mananeo a a farologanyeng fela, a bone ba ba ikemetseng ka nosi a go leka go rotloetsa. Re ne re lebelela ba Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) maloba le bone ba ribolola lenaneo la go thusa mohama o wa dikoko ka madi, ba lebile ka fa o itsetsepetseng ka teng.

Ke dumela thata Mr Speaker gore, dilo tse tsotlhe fa re ka di bopa jaaka Motlotlegi Bagaisamang a botsa, wa kwa Shoshong, yo ke itseng gore re polase ka fale ya bommantšhe, kana go raya gore nonyane mo go ene ke go simolola ka mmantšhe go ya kwa tlase. Ke dilo tse a di lebeleletseng gore di tle go tliša pharologanyo e e seng kana ka sepe mo banning ba kgaolo ya gagwe. Ke a leboga Mr Speaker.

BOTSWANA POLICE SERVICE OFFICERS

MR L. BARONGWANG (MOGODITSHANE EAST): asked the Minister for State President, Defence and Security to state:

- (i) the current number of Botswana Police Service officers deployed to Mogoditshane village;
- (ii) the ratio of Police officers to the resident population; and
- (iii) if there are plans to increase Police presence in Mogoditshane, given the rising incidents of crime and public safety concerns in the area, particularly in light of the opening of the new Police Station, so as to strengthen law enforcement capacity and improve community safety.

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

- (i) Mr Speaker, this Honourable House will appreciate that Mogoditshane village is one of the largest and fastest-growing villages in the country, with a 2026 projected population of 98, 889. The Botswana Police Service has deployed a total of 265 police personnel to police the area.

- (ii) Mr Speaker, based on the projected population of 98, 889 and the current deployment of 265 police personnel, the police-to-population ratio in the Mogoditshane policing area stands at one police officer to 373 people. The current ratio places considerable operational pressure on the officers serving in the area, particularly given the rapid population growth, urban developments and increasing socio-economic activities within Mogoditshane. Mr Speaker, it is important to note that Mogoditshane Police station also covers Metsimotlhabe, Mmopane and Ledumadumane.
- (iii) Mr Speaker, it is the ministry's desire to increase police manpower in the Country, including at Mogoditshane, however, due to budgetary constraints, there are no plans to substantially increase police personnel in Mogoditshane. Nevertheless Mr Speaker, the Government is constructing Police Stations at Ledumadumane and Mmopane which will alleviate the current pressure from Mogoditshane Police Station. The stations are expected to be completed by end of August this year and it is expected that upon completion police officers will be deployed to these new facilities. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR BARONGWANG: *Supplementary.* Tla ke go leboge Tona. *It is very clear* gore mapodise a Mogoditshane ba *under pressure* ka go gola ga palo ya batho. Ba tsenngwa gape mo kgatelelong ke *to police other areas around* Mogoditshane. Jaanong se re se itemogelang Tona, ke bogodu jo bosesanyane, jo le jone bo kekelang. O tlaa itemogela gore go simolotse jaanong go utswiwa *batteries*, potso ya me ke gore, jaaka ke utlwa gore go na le *police stations* tse di sha tse di agiwang, a o tshephisa batho ba Mogoditshane gore *you are not going to transfer* mapodise a a 265 a a leng teng, *rather* go ya go tliwa mapodise a masha gore a leke go thusa bothata jo bo leng teng?

Ya bobedi ke *the petty crimes*, re ya go dira jang gore *these petty crimes* tse di diragalang *at awkward hours* re leke go itepatepanya le tsone, mme e bile gape re tsenya baagi mo teng, *community policing*? Ke a leboga.

MR MOHWASA: Ke a leboga motlotlegi. Tla ke tlhalose gore *police stations* tse di sha tse di tlaa bulwang di ya go felela di nna le bodiredi jwa tsone.

Sa bobedi mo potsong e e latelang, ke jone bogodu jo bosesanyane; ke re gongwe le wena motlotlegi, ke tsaya gore jaaka o bua gore go na le maiteko a a ka dirwang

a go leka gore go tshwaraganwe le setšhaba go leka go fokotsa bogodu, mapodise ba kgona go tlhatlagana ba nna bantsintsi, mme fa go sena se se itebagantsweng le batho, gongwe mananeo a bo twantsho borukutlhi le eng, bogodu bo tlaa tswelala bo ntse bo ya kwa godimo. O kgona go nna le kgaolo e na le mapodise ba le 200 ba bangwe ba na le 90, 000, mme ka gore *community* e tsenya seatla mo go lwantsheng borukutlhi bo bo bo ya kwa tlase. Go fokotsa borukutlhi ga se *function* fela ya go tliša mapodise, re tshwanetse go lebelela le dikgang tse dingwe tse di ka thusang go lwantsha seemo se.

Ke tsaya gore ke a dumela ka fa o buang ka teng gore go tshwanetse go nna le *involvement* ya setšhaba, mo ke tsayang gore o tlaa go rotloetsa. Go tlaa thusa go imolola mapodise tiro e e kanakana e. Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

MAKGOPHANE CLINIC

MR M. M. MOROLONG (KGATLENG CENTRAL): asked the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to brief this Honourable House on the status of Makgophane Clinic in Mochudi; and to further indicate:

- (i) project costs including design;
- (ii) the scope of works; and
- (iii) challenges faced and measures taken to address them.

ACTING MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (MR HUNYEP): Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke go leboge Mopalamente wa Kgatleng Central, *Honourable* Morolong.

- (i) Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente kago ya Makgopana *Clinic* e e senang matlwana a pelegi ke nngwe ya tiro ya dikago tse di dirilweng ka Lenaneo la Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP). Tiro e ga e ise e fele, mme e mo selekanyong sa go fela ka masome a a ferang bobedi mo lekgolong (80 *per cent*). Tiro ya kago e, e ne ya emisiwa e setse e dirisitse madi a selekanyo sa P19, 362, 832.22 go tswa mo tshimologong ya tiro e, le diphetogo tse di neng di tlhokafala. Madi a a dirisitsweng ke a kago fela, ka mealo ya kago le go okamela tiro yone e, e ne e dirwa ke badirelapuso ba Lephata la Botsogo ka e ne e le bone beng ba tiro e ka nako ya teng.

(ii) *Mr Speaker*, tiro e ya kago e akaretsa kokelo ya balwetse ba ba tswang (*outpatients*), e tsentsa boemelo jwa balwetse (*waiting area*), ofisi ya bogorogelo (*reception area*), ntwana ya tlhatlhobo, ntlwana ya phapiso, ofisi ya ngaka, ofisi ya mogolwane wa kokelwana, ofisi ya melemo le fa e tswang teng (*pharmacy*), ofisi ya kwadiso le ya tuelo, lefelo la bokopano jwa babereki ba kokelwana, lefelo la kapei, ntlwana ya phetolo ya didirisiwa tsa babereki (*change room*), ditirelo tsa banana, matlwana a boitiketso, lefelo la kgotlholo, ntlwana ya badisadikago, le tse dingwe di tshwana le lebotana la kagelelo, maemelo a dikoloi a a tlhabolotsweng, le tsela, go akaretsa le sefetlhamotlakase sa makatadimetšhe (*generator*), le ditanka tsa metsi tse di tshoeditsweng.

(iii) Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ke kopa go lekodisa Ntlo e e tlotlegang e gore tiro ya kago ya kokelwana ya Makgophana, e ne e lebanwe ke dikgwetlho tse di ntsi, tse di feletseng di dia kago eo ka nako ya tiro e phelelong e tlisitseng go kgaogana le konteraka e e neng e dira tiro eo. Dingwe tsa dikgwetlho di akaretsa go fetoga ga selebego sa tiro (*scope of work*), koketsego ya tiro, tiego ya go hira bomaitseanape ba motlakase le ditshipi tsa ntlo (*mechanical services*), le letlhoko la madi ga konteraka le le kgoreleditseng go tsewela ga tiro ka bofefo. Tiro e, e ne ya emisiwa, mme go tswalwa ga yone go weditse. Mo bogompionong, tshekatsheko ya tiro e e setse e feditswe, mme lephata le dirile kopo kwa *Procurement Oversight Unit* ya go dirisa motlhala o mosha wa go fetsa tiro e e setseng ka bofefo. Go solofetswe gore tiro e e wetswe bofelong jwa Lwetse monongwaga. Ke yone karabo eo *Mr Speaker*. Ke a leboga.

MR MOROLONG: *Supplementary.* Ke a leboga *Honourable Minister* ka karabo ya gago, le fa e sa itumedise. Ga ke a utlwa mo karabong ya gago o supa gore *project* e sale e emisiwa leng, mme ka ke itse gore ke bogologolo, ke utlwa o bua gape gore *Procurement Oversight Unit* has been engaged gore e fefogele go feleletsa tiro e e setseng, e dire jalo as a matter of urgency. Gongwe o ka tlhalosa Tona gore taolo yone eo e dule leng. Ke gore ke batla go tlhola the urgency part gore taolo ya gore ba fefogele go feleletsa kago eo, e dule leng. Ke lebeletse gore kana kago e re bua ka kago e jaaka o setse o supa percentages tsa yone gore ke kago fela e e setseng tota e fedile, mo e ka bong

go feditswe sengwe le sengwe, go batlilwe batho ba ba ka feleletsang sengwe le sengwe. Jaanong ke re ke tlhaloganye gone moo.

Se sengwe se ke neng ke kopa gore o se tlhalose Tona, ke kgang ya *package*, gore *clinic* e e re tlela ka eng in terms of resources, staff se kae se e leng gore se tlaabo se ka tla sa berekela fale, a e tla e na le ditsompelo di tshwana le an ambulance kgotsa jang? Le gore kwa bofelong jaana, o ntlhomamisetse gore kgwedi yone e o neng o e bua o re ba *Procurement Oversight Unit* ba e filwe gore ba tlhomamise gore kago e a fela, a ka boammaaruri go tlaa nna jalo? Ke kopa *assurance*. Ke mo Komiting ya *Assurances* gape. Ke a leboga.

MR HUNYEPA: Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke a go leboga Mopalamente wa Kgatleng Central. Ke a bona gore batho ba o ba emetse fela thata. Le nna ke tswa Makgophana, ke itumelela *clinic* e, ke batla gore e fele mokaulengwe.

Dipotso tse dingwe tsa tlaleletso tse o di botsang mokaulengwe, gongwe o ka bo o di boditse kwa ntlheng gore re tle re tle ka dikarabo tse di tletseng. Ke ne ke setse ke balolotse *services* tse dingwe tse di tlaabong di le teng gone foo. Ke tlaa tla ke go neela dikarabo tsa teng gape gore o tle o di bone le wena go ya kwa pele. Ke ne ke setse ke tlhalositse gore go tlaabo go na le eng mo teng; lefelo la kapei, ntlwana ya phetolo ya didirisiwa tsa babereki, ditirelo tsa banana, matlwana a boitiketso, lefelo la kgotlholo, jalojalo. Ke tsaya gore tse dingwe tse di tlaabo di le teng le tsone ka gore ke *clinic* e tona, ke tseela gore e ka se ke e tlhoke *ambulances*. Le dipalo tsa babereki re tlaa di tlhotlhomisa le tsone gore e ka nna bokae.

Kana le mo potsong ya gago motlotlegi, o ne o sa botsa gore *project* e e emisitswe leng, le fa o re o ne o batla karabo ya teng. Ke ka thusa fela mokaulengwe, ka tlhalosa gore kokelo eo kana tota e simolotswa ka 19th July, 2018. Ke raya gore ke nako e telele. *It is almost eight years now.* Ke dumalana le wena gore e diegile fela thata. Tota e ne e tshwanetse gore e ka bo e fedile ka 30th July, 2019. E ne e tshwanetse gore e tseye ngwaga, mme bona gore re tsamaya fa kae. Ke se o bonang go feletse e le gore *ministry* o emisa kompone e e neng e dira tiro yone eo. E bile *initial contract* ya madi a teng, e ne e le P17, 093, 450.36. Jaaka ke tlhalositse gore *September* tiro e tshwanetse gore e simolole, ba e file nako e e leng gore e tshwanetse gore mo dikgweding tse thataro go tsena mo go tse *eight*, tiro e tshwanetse gore e bo e feditswe jaaka e tlaabo e simolola ka *September*. Ke re ke tlaleletse gone foo *Mr Speaker*. Ke a leboga.

MR SPEAKER: *Batlotlegi, le a bona gore re setse ka seconds fela. Jaanong nako ya dipotso tota e ile, e fedile. Jaanong Honourable Members, dipotso tse dingwe di tlaa tsena tomorrow.*

I understand that Honourable Minister of Health has a statement to make in terms of Order 41. Minister of Health, please make the statement.

STATEMENT

UPDATE ON THE STATE OF MEDICINES AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN THE COUNTRY

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR OOKEDITSE): Thank you Right Honourable Speaker. *Ke supe jalo motlotlegi, gore* I am doing the statement on behalf of my colleague Dr Stephen Modise *yo e leng gore* he is out *a tshwerwe ke tse dingwe tsa tiro*. We had a request coming in from the Honourable House the other week for us to give an update to the House on the state of medicines in our country.

I rise to update this Honourable House and the nation on the current situation, regarding availability of medicines in our public health facilities, and to also outline quite importantly, the measures that we are taking as a Government to stabilise the situation.

Honourable Members will appreciate that access to essential medicines is one of the cornerstones of a functional healthcare system and that our Government fully recognises the anxiety, frustration and at times real hardship that a lot of our people have experienced, and also that our families have elsewhere to go through because of unavailability of medicines.

Current Status of The Supply Situation

Mr Speaker, despite the challenges that we are currently facing, I can report that Government has made encouraging progress in stabilising the medicine supply situation. In recent weeks, significant quantities of medicines have arrived in the country. This include essential antibiotics and medicines for the treatment of high blood pressure, diabetes, pain and allergies. As an example; in the current month, we received a supply of about six to seven months of the much-awaited antibiotics as well as first line antihypertensives, Hydrochlorothiazide (HCT) and amlodipine. We have received both individual units of these and also the combinations that we need.

We have also received in significant quantities first line anti-diabetics such as metformin among others. Accordingly, since June 2026, the availability of diabetes medicines has improved from about 31 per cent to 44 per cent. While heart health medicines have risen from 17 per cent to 38 per cent. Anti-infective products from about 22 per cent to 36 per cent. This is compared to three months ago when the situation was worse.

With the recent arrivals and other anticipated in the coming weeks, we do not expect any shortages of antihypertensives and antidiabetic and antibiotics for the next six or so months. As already indicated, this will also give us much needed time to actually place orders to ensure that we do not go through the same challenges again.

What is the state of recent deliveries and outlook on these? Last week Thursday, we received more of the anti-allergy medicines and pain management products. On the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) space, we continue to receive the call first line drug such as dolutegravir based formulations including dual therapy with most deliveries expected to be completed by the end of this month. We have had challenges for some second line drugs but we are working to resolve these in the coming months. Moreover, we have as we speak, 33 lined items that are in transit and these comprise of IV fluids, anesthesia medications as well as emergency drugs. We expect over 45 other line items to be ready for shipping starting next week.

Based on the current consumption patterns, these medicines are expected to sustain our requirements for approximately six months. This represents a major milestone in restoring confidence in the public medicine supply system and provides a much-needed buffer as broader reforms continue to take effect. Working with our international partners as well as local and regional suppliers, a long-term supply plan is taking shape and helping to significantly bring down the price of these commodities.

Additional consignments of other medicines will continue to improve and to arrive with further deliveries expected all the way until September 2026. We will continue to update the nation as these supplies arrive.

I wish to also update on orthopedic procedures for trauma patients because this have been quite a problem. I must bring it to the attention of Honourable Members that, we are aware that delays in conducting orthopedic

procedures on trauma patients in our health facilities and we are mindful of the pain, anxiety and disruption this may have caused on patients and their families. This delay was due to a shortage of funds for the procurement especially of implants. I am pleased however, to report that we have since been able to source funds to pay our local suppliers for orthopedic implants and we expect that orthopedic procedures for trauma patients will resume within the month. While this is encouraging news, we acknowledge the challenges that remain, particularly arthroplasty procedures and we are working to address these as well. There are areas that require improvements or areas where we still have significant shortages. In the spirit of transparency, I must be candid that some of these areas remain a problem even though we are awaiting deliveries of such.

These include IV fluids, medicines for asthma, sexual reproductive health conditions, eye health conditions as well as non-drug items such as bandages and surgical and disposable gloves. We recognise the difficulty and worry this causes for patients, and healthcare workers who depend on these items and we do not underestimate the pain it causes. I must note however, that orders have been made and our teams are actively following up with suppliers to secure immediate deliveries of these. For asthma medicines specifically, we expect delivery of these next week.

Immediate Interventions by Government in This Situation

We have implemented several intermediate interventions to restore medicines availability. In March 2026, the Ministry of Finance granted us exemption from selected provisions of the Public Procurement Act, so that we can expedite the delivery of some of these medicines and in particular, allowed us to be in a position where we have flexibility to do strategic procurement while maintaining transparency, accountability and preference for locally manufactured medicines where appropriate. Pursuant to that, emergency procurement has been made both locally and internationally to replenish depleted stocks. Throughout this process Government has ensured that all medicines procured are registered or appropriately authorised by the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA) to guarantee their safety, quality and efficacy.

Government is also moving to prioritise payments to suppliers which was quite a challenge and I can report back that working with the Ministry of Finance, we are

not expediting payment processes to meet the prescribed 30-day service standards. This intervention we trust will rebuild confidence to suppliers and also improve the reliability of deliveries. Honourable Members, the Ministry of Health has intensified engagement with local suppliers to strengthen partnerships, address supply challenges and explore opportunities to expand domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity. It must be said that these challenges have in large been driven by cashflow challenges within Government.

It is quite encouraging to report that this position is now improving within Government and we look forward to better days in the months ahead. We have in the meantime throughout this crisis, restructured our systems to ensure that when we finally get enough of what we need, it does not quite leak and we do not lose it due to inefficiencies in the system. We have also ensured that we engage with suppliers and manufacturers locally, so that there is an understanding that we are no longer going to be procuring at excessively high prices. To this end, I must note that we have recently had a meeting with local suppliers and manufacturers who have seen reason in ensuring that we all deal each other with fair prices.

Improving Distribution Chains

As we continue to outsource the primary distribution of medicines from Central Medical Stores (CMS) to 130 facilities across the country. We are improving this channel and we at work as I speak, to digitise the system so that we ensure that we are in a position where every item that comes into the country is tracked and there is full accountability for this.

We are also putting into place medium-term reforms and amongst this Mr Speaker, is that we are implementing reforms that are designed to build greater resilience within the medicines supply chain. As we speak, the CMS is engaging international pooled procurement mechanisms through organisations such as UNICEF, UNFPA, Global Drug Facility and Global Fund among others to secure medicines at competitive pricing for what we need.

I can say to you already that as I speak, we have and we are procuring a lot of what we need for HIV test kits through pooled procurement mechanism. We have placed orders for condoms which we expect in the next weeks to come in bulk through the UNFPA which is also a pooled procurement method.

So, these forms of reforms will guarantee us lower prices and greater predictability in what we are trying to achieve. We will be, I must confirm, participating in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) pooled procurement services.

Ministry of Health is in the process of evaluating and developing long-term framework contracts with both local and international suppliers to ensure that we have more predictable and sustainable medicine supplies going into the future.

The long-term transformation of the CMS is important because our job is to avail medicines today yes, but our job is also to ensure that whatever we do today, we guarantee proper and uninterrupted supply of medicines into the future for generations. We are therefore as I have noted, putting together a comprehensive reform of the CMS under the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme.

These reforms include modernising governance structures, strengthening procurement systems, introducing an Electronic Logistics Management Information System (e-LMIS) with track and trace capability to provide real-time visibility of medicine stocks, improving warehousing and logistics infrastructure, and building a sustainable supply chain capacity.

The roll out of the electronic system is aimed at covering approximately 20 per cent of the facilities that consume 80 per cent of the medical supplies. This will significantly improve forecasting accuracy, inventory management, traceability and accountability of stocks.

In addition, Government is working with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank to strengthen the governance and leadership model of the CMS.

I must note also that while we see all these improvements and while there is a lot more that must be done, we realised that we have also maintained very good levels when it comes to certain priority programmes. These are vaccines under the expanded program on immunisation, Antiretroviral medicines and cancer medicines. For these categories, we are with significant stock levels and we trust that as we are working to improve our levels even better, this will be a good state into the future.

A key issue that you and other stakeholders have raised is the security of medicines where we basically have noticed that sometimes medicines are just stolen or just taken or not handled properly.

To this end, the ministry is working on a project to ensure physical security through the installation surveillance by installing CCTVs in hospital facilities and pharmacies and other areas where medicines are stored. This will help us to ensure that medicines that must go to patients actually go to them and are not lost through pilfering and other forms.

I must repeat Mr Speaker, that when we speak about the medicines that are being stolen, the quantities are significant. I will give an example with a clinic in Gaborone where one person could report on court that they have taken pills and they would say to you, “we have taken so many bottles” and in terms of this particular case, the person reports they have taken about 10 bottles of pills. With 10 bottles, it had about a 1 000 pills each. If one person in one clinic can actually take 20 000 individual units of pills, then the question is, how far is the rot? This is why much as we are working with the security services, we are also installing physical methods or means of ensuring that at lunch hour when everybody else goes, no one remains in the pharmacy to pilfer some of the medicines that we actually need.

We are working on these interventions, sometimes the results will not be immediate but with a bit of time, we will realise the difference and we understand the anxiety and the frustration but if there is something that has happened during this traumatic period for our nation, it is that we have had an opportunity to relook and to fix the systems for posterity.

As I go to the end Mr Speaker, I wish to also mention a part of the speech that may not be too popular. I must hasten to say we need to focus also on promoting healthier lifestyles and prevention. When I say this, I am not being evasive or trying to dodge the need to avail medicines.

Honourable Members, as Government is working to secure and stabilise supply of medicines, we must also address the demand side of this equation. A significant and growing share of our medicines burden particularly for hypertension, diabetes and related complications is driven by Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). These are in a large part, preventable.

I therefore take this opportunity to urge Honourable Members and all our people to actually to ensure that we embrace healthier lifestyles, we eat better balanced diets, we reduce salt intake, sugar intake and fatty foods.

I also want to encourage that we do like Honourable Phenyio Butale, he posts quite a lot in Facebook as he is gyming in the morning. So, I want to encourage that we do regular physical activities and avoid tobacco and excessive use of alcohol and attend routine health screenings.

It is not popular but the truth is the prevention is quite simply speaking, far cheaper. To families and patients, far kinder than treatment is. So, every case of hypertension or diabetes, we can it prevent through healthy living, it is one less patience competing for scare medicines and one less burden for the family and the patients themselves who have to go through disease.

When we speak about ensuring that we prevent disease, we are not running away from duty to provide medicines. It is better to not incur the pain and debilitating effects of disease even if medicines may be there. So, I encourage that in your Kgotla meetings and engagements, please do promote healthier lifestyles for our people.

In conclusion Mr Speaker, I wish to assure this Honourable House and the nation at large that Government understands that this shortage has meant a lot of hardship for ordinary Batswana and that we are fully committed to restoring a stable, reliable and sustainable medicine supply chain. We do not underestimate the road still ahead of us but we are approaching it with a lot of resolve and courage. We are not done with the problems, we still have a challenge but there is light at the end of the tunnel. From the look of things and the outlook of everything, we are doing, we will go into the new year as significantly better of nation in terms of the supply of the medicines that we need.

We will have arrival of considerable quantities of antibiotics, blood pressure medicines and others. Together with additional consignments that we expect over the coming weeks and the comprehensive reforms that we put into place, we ensure the situation improves.

I want to thank you Honourable Members for having requested that we do an update and to close by asking for your support. When it comes to these shortages, we all have a role to play, we all are in a place where we can help and by help I do not mean by reminding us of that there is a shortage. If there is a way that you think we can resolve the problem, please feel free to approach us and to communicate with us so that we can work together. At the end of the day, there are things that ought to bring a nation together and matters of life and death, matters

of health are as ... (Inaudible)... threat to our nation. I do request that at any pointing time, approach them with the necessary caution and do give us a hand as we need it. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in accordance with Standing Order 41.3, I will now allow short questions for the purpose of elucidation. So, no debate shall arise from the statement but I will allow short questions. Let me just find out from Honourable Minister, do you wish to take them in batches?

MR OOKEDITSE: I think it is better if we take them in batches Mr Speaker. Maybe batches of three or so. Thank you.

MR KAIZER: Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Ke leboge le *Minister* ka puo e a re e beileng pele. Ke utlwa a bua gore melemo e a goroga, le *boxes* o fitlhele re di bona CMS. Jaanong mathata a tswa fa *Minister* gore kwa Selebi Phikwe melemo e, e kare ga e goroge, ke eng o kare melemo e felela fela kwa CMS? Go diragala eng e sa kgone go goroga ka dipalo tse di nametsang kwa dipateleng?

Potso ya bobedi, ga ke itse gore a o setse o lemogile gore seemo sa kwa dipateleng se a kekela? *It is going even beyond shortage of medicines*. A mme fa le ntse le lebile seemo sa melemo mo dipateleng, a le lebeletse le diemo tse dingwe ka gore kwa sepateleng sa Selebi Phikwe gompiono ga go na dikobo le mesamo? Ke ne ke le kwa sepateleng ka *weekend* jaana, ke bona molwetse a samile beke ya gagwe e a tsileng ka yone mo sepatela. A le lebeletse diemo tse go ya kwa pele gore re se ka ra iphitlhela e re fa re sena go nna re fetsa se, re bo re le mo seemong se sengwe gape se se bokete?

O bua kgang e e monate ya *prevention*. Jaanong motho o ka botsa gore kana *this Parliament has adopted a Motion* e e itebagantseng le gore go nne le *medical health checks*, ga ke itse gore a e ne e le *annual* kana *every two years*. E tsamaya fa kae *Minister* ka gore ke dumela gore eo gongwe o ka bo o ntse o re neela pego ya yone ka ke utlwa o gatelela thata kgang ya *prevention*?

Ya bofelo *Minister*, fa re lebeletse *these procurement challenges*, o ne o bua gore go tlele melemo ya selekanyo sa go ka re isa kwa go bo *six months*, fa o lebile *challenges* tse, a o bona go lekane *unto the next procurement* gore a ga se gore gongwe fa re ya go tsena kwa go *six months* jaanong go tlaabo go le *dry* mo go tlaabong go sena sepe mo dipateleng? Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*.

MR BARONGWANG: Mma ke go leboge Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke simolole pele ka go go leboga Tona ka e bile o bapile le nna, tse dingwe tse o ka di araba botoka. Mma ke go leboge pele gore ke lemogile gore go na le dikarata kwa Mogoditshane. Ke bone dikarata tsele tse di *yellow* le tse di *pink* tsele, di boile jaanong. Ke go leboge gore gape o re file *statement*, mme tota le fa se tswa se tlile se le thari, dinako tse dingwe le fa mathata a le teng, ga re o tle fela o ba bolelele le nako e nneng dipilisi di le kwa tlase, o ka bo o ne o tlile wa re bolelele gore dipilisi di kwa tlase, e se ka ya nna o kare re tsile go bua fela fa seemo se le botoka. *So, when the chips are still down we still have got to engage with the people.*

Mma ke tsene mo dikgannyeng tsa me. Potso ya ntlha, Tona re a utlwa ka *stock level* sa *six to seven months*. Fa re re *stock level* se *healthy for this nation*, ke sa lebaka le le kae?

Secondly, melemo e re utlwang gotwe *it is at about 40 per cent*, bo *36 per cent*, *exactly where are these medicines*, a di kwa CMS, *these numbers* a di supa *stock levels* kwa CMS kapa kwa *warehouses* tsa *regions* kana kwa *clinics*? Ke eng ke botsa potso e? Tota *complaints* di tswa kwa *clinics* le dipateleng. Fa o ka re bolelele *straight* gore tota mme gone fa re re *stock level* sa kwa *clinics* kwa batho ba ngongoregang (*complain*) teng gore ke bokae, go ka re thusa fela thata.

Ya boraro, go na le bothata jwa gatwe *reagents*, *I am not that much familiar* ka *these medical terms*, gatwe *reagents* ke tse di tlathlobang bokete jwa mogare. Kwa Mogoditshane go lebege go setse go tsamaela ngwaga kana ngwaga le *half* go sa itsiwe gore batho ba ba nwang dipilisi tse di ba tsaya jang. Jaanong ke ipotsa gore a mme golo mo go boammaaruri, mme fa e le gore bothata bo tshwana le gore *reagents* di tsere lebaka di seyo, re ya go baakanya jang fa re ka fitlhela e le gore bangwe ba dule mo tseleng mo go tseyeng dipilisi tsa bone?

Kwa bofelelong, mma ke tabogele mo go tse dingwe tse ke batlng o di rurifatsa, di pedi kana di tharo. Ke mabarebare a a leng teng;

- (a) Le fa ntswa o buile ka go utswiwa ga dipilisi, tota mme gone fa e le gore dipilisi di a utswiwa *comrade*, ke eng re sa bone batho ba sekisiwa? Go tshwerwe bomang kana ba simolola leng go tshwarwa, re ya go dira eng go netefatsa gore ka nnete *this nation can come to your confidence* gore go kile ga utswiwa dipilisi?

- (b) A go boammaaruri gore Goromente yo o fetileng, ke tlaa papamatsa, wa ga Rre Pule, o re tsentsa mo dikonterakeng tse di leng *unfair*, tsa *prices* tse di *exorbitant*, tse e leng gore di a re pitlaganya le gompiano? A ko o *confirm* golo mo fela re se ka ra go utlwa kwa le kwa.

- (c) A go boammaaruri Tona, gore golo gongwe fale, lefatshe la Botswana le kile la ntshiwa mo thulaganyong ya go reka melemo e e neng e le bobebe? Jaanong go thata gore re reke dipilisi gore di tle ka dinako tse di tshwanetseng ka gore re reka ka dipalonyana tse di kwa tlase?

Tota dipotso tsa me di dintsi fela, mma ke fe bakaulengwe, ke a bona gore ba a shwegashwega, *comrade* Frenzel.

MR KEKGONEGILE: Tanki *Mr Speaker*, mma re dumedise setšhaba ka kakaretso. Gongwe potso ya ntlha fela e ka nna gore melemo e, a e setse e tsamaile, a re e amogetse kwa Letsholathebe le *clinics* tse di kwa tennyanateng kwa Bokone Bophirima, bo Okavango le Chobe? Kana *in the past*, re nnile le go bolelelwa ka melemo gore e gorogile, *only to realise* gore melemo e e gorogileng ke ya *sub-standard*, ya bo *fake* fela e e leng gore e bile o kare ga e dire le fa e le sepe. Re e reka kae melemo e, ka ke madi a setšhaba ba tshwanelwa ke go itse gore a e e gorogang e goroga e le yone sentle?

Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA) e *involved* go le kae, *sorry*, Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA) e *involved* go le kae ... (*Laughter!*)... kana yo wa 6 to 6 wa bo a tlaa tshega.

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

MR KEKGONEGILE: BoMRA e *involved* go le kae mo thekong e, go netefatsa gore a mme ke yone tota melemo ya *standard* se re se batlang? Le gore *we sourced* madi go duela *the local suppliers*, dipatela le tse re ntseng re di kolota tse gore ba tswelele ka gore ba ka dira loaro le le faphegileng, potso ke gore re ne re ba kolota bokae, re setse re duetse bokae *for* loaro le? Go botlhokwa thata gore ba itse gore fa e le gore ba ne ba kolotiwa P100 *million* ba duetswe P5 *million* go raya gore go tshwana fela. Fa e le gore ba ne ba kolotiwa P100 *million* ba duetswe P70 *million*, gongwe *negotiations* di ka tswelela.

Ga re go utlwe Tona fa o bua ka botsogo, gore kana botsogo jo bo farologane, wena *obviously* o lebagane thata le jwa Puso, dipatela tsa gago tsa *ministry* tsa Puso.

Go na le dipatela tse di kwa ntle tse le tsone o yang go felela o amega, ka gore jaanong lekgetho le tsene mo go tsone tse di *private* tse. Le buisantse go le kae le *Finance*, ka gore re dumela gore *guidance* ya gore go nne le lekgetho *on healthcare* go raya gore e dule kwa *ministry* wa gago, le ba file *go ahead*. Ke eng le ne le ba fa *go ahead*? A ga le bone selo se se tlaa felela e le gore jaanong dipatela tsa tsa Goromente *are overwhelmed*, ka gore batho ga ba ka ke ba kgona go duela lekgetho kwa mo seemong se se ntseng jaana?

O ne o bua ka gore a batho ba itshware sentle, *in terms of* gore re itshidile mmele, re fokotse go nwa mo go feteletseng. Kana lephata ke le, *they introduced* 6 to 6, potso ke gore naare wena le le *ministry* le ba ba reng go nowe phetelela ba, wena ka fa o re go se ka ga nowa phetelela, le kopanya dikakanyo jang, o ba gakolola jang batho ba ba 6 to 6 *Honourable*?

Staff shortage e le ya bofelo, kwa Letsholathebe sa *nurses* le bongaka fela jalo. Kana melemo e ka nna teng, *but* go sena ope yo o e fang batho, go sena ope yo o netefatsang gore batho *are diagnosed to get the medicine, the pills*, ga gona mosola. O dira eng ka seemo se sa bodiredi jo bo seyong mo dikokelong le mo dipateleng? Tanki.

MR SPEAKER: O di bona di ntse jang *honourable*? Ke tlaa tla kwa go lona batlotlegi, mma a di leke.

MR OOKEDITSE: *Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me just attend to those that have come first.* Ke leboge *Honourable* Kaizer, gore o ne o supa jalo gore melemo e ntse e kete e a goroga, mme kwa Selebi Phikwe e kare ga e goroge. *The key thing which I hope* batlotlegi ba a se utlwa *from* pego ya me ke gore, ga re ise re nne le melemo yotlhe e re e tlhokang, *but* go na le tse ke ntseng ke di supa jalo gore fa le fa le fa re setse jaanong seemo se ntse sentle. Fa e le gore melemo e ke buang ka yone gore e setse e gorogile, kwa Selebi Phikwe ga e ise e goroge, go tlaabo go raya gore *there is a challenge, because we have engaged with all the facilities* le botlhe *who have ordered, we have dispatched* tse di gorogileng. Fa e le gore le ntse le lebeletse maranyane le gongwe le gongwe, o tlaa bona gore le dipatela *we have been encouraging them that when you receive, because* gakere go tsere nako di seyo, fa di nna teng itsiseng *your clients* gore re na le mo le mo. *I saw this morning for instance, ba kwa Kgatleng ba ntshitse their own list of what they have received. What I can say to you is, tse di gorogang we dispatch without delay.* Jaanong ke sone se ke reng, fa e le gore *there is a problem*, ka gore lona

le Mapalamente *you are now privileged to know what is available, if that which is available* e ise e goroge *for some inexplicable reason* kwa dipateleng tsa lona, *just get in touch and let us know* gore nnyaa mme *you said these things are available, but* ga re na tsone. *If for some reason we do not have them, then* re tlaa attend to seemo sa teng.

Ke utlwile ka dikobo, *pillows and other commodities which we need* gore gongwe e tlaa tloga re nna e kete jaanong ka gore go nna botoka ka melemo, re bo re nna le *crisis* ya *other things*. *That is the painful part of governance, everyone will say prioritise* go reka melemo, *but you then realise that there are multiple priorities at the same time.* Yes, re na le *a few challenges* tsa *supplies* tsa *other commodities, but we are having a 360-degree view* ya tse di tlhokafalang *and we will ensure that we cover as much as we can.*

Jaaka ke tlhalositse, and I think His Honour the Vice President has also reiterated it. Our country has gone through quite some financial challenge over the past year and a half or so, previously *bo Honourable* Pule were a bit lucky in that they could go back and request supplementary budgets *kwa Palamenteng le bo le ba neela*. Rona as you know we cannot even come for a supplementary budget, because it is the condition of our economy. *Go raya gore fa re leng teng, ke kopo* let us all know that as a country we are going through a bit of a challenging time, *mme re nne* realistic in terms of what we can afford and what we cannot afford. I am not saying we cannot afford the bare minimum in terms of some of those things, but let us be mindful of the financial situation as given, *ke yone e e leng gore e e tla e ntse e kete e a re kganela.*

O ne o supa jalo ka medical check-ups every two years, we do not want you to do medical check-ups every two years, we want them much more regularly. *Fa re tsaya* Primary Healthcare *re e isa kwa* Local Government *jalojalo*, we are looking at ensuring that we can get our people doing this more routinely. Looking at that and the provision of proper healthcare in the country, we will come before you as Parliament maybe in a few weeks, and put before you a National Health Insurance Policy (NHIP), which will then re-organise how we are going to finance healthcare in the country. From our perspective with what we have done, *e tlaa re thusa go lebelela* all of these things, ensuring that we can cover a lot of what we need without individual people in the country facing significant hardships.

Will these carry us to the next six months and to the next procurement? Well you see, we procured stock that ordinarily we would say it is for seven months, but you would note I have been presenting to you and saying to you about six months. I have sort of like limited expectations, knowing that as a result of having had lengthy periods, there maybe a lot of movement that is faster than usual. The key thing is within this period, our teams have not just been sitting, as we speak today we have evaluated everything that we need for supplies, that will then carry us into beyond the next six months. We will be engaging as usual with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that they can avail the money that we need, so that we can give you the cover that will go beyond the six months. Our plans are in place, procurement systems to buy at a cheaper price are in place, plucking leakages, as I have said to ensure we do not waste what we have, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, ... (Inaudible)... we are doing. I think we have risen to be optimistic and look forward with a lot of courage into the future.

Honourable Barongwang, *ke lebohe gore o itumeletse dikarata, le fa gongwe ke sa utlwe le itumelela* Tsabana ka gore le ne le ntse le lela thata ka ene, le fa ke sa mmua gore le ene o teng. O supa jalo gore re ka bo re ne ra tla ra buisana le lona gape fa go ne go santse go le maswemaswe, mme ke dumela gore Honourable Dr Modise o setse a kile a nna a ntse a latlhela, but re tlaa tokafatsa. We will ensure that re nna re ntse re tsisa constant and consistent messaging ka diemo tsa rona.

Fa re bua ka gore levels are healthy *re raya eng*, we want 80 to 90 per cent *e le* stock levels *gore re bo re re* we have healthy stocks. *E bo go na le melemo e re reng* they are vital, *yone tota re batla gore re bo re le kwa go bo 90 per cent*, that is when we are happy to say we are there. *Jaanong tiro ya rona, ke sone se ke nnang ke bua gore e santse e le ntsi thata, ka lebaka la gore*, once we avail these in the clinics now, the next stage is to build up buffers, so that *tse di seng kwa clinics, kwa CMS go bo go na le stock se se letletseng gore kwa se tlhokiwang teng se kgone go tsamaya*. So this process *batlotlegi le Batswana ka kakaretso* must know *gore*, where we come from *ga go tle go re tsaya dikgwedi tse pedi/tharo gore re bo re siame, go tlile go re tsaya nako e telele gore re boele* to normal levels. *Mme* at the stage where we are back to normal levels, *le tlaa itumelela gore tsamaiso ya theko le ya melemo e sena go rekwa, e tokafetse mo e leng gore le mo dingwageng gongwe tse di lesome, tse di masome a mabedi, ba ba tlaabong ba le foo ba tlaa tla ba fitlhela tsamaiso e e ba itumedisang botoka, e bo e thusa Botswana le Batswana ka tsela e e botoka*.

Jaanong, fa o botsa gore melemo e e kwa CMS kana e kwa dikokelong; fa e goroga, in all honesty I report *jalo gore kwa CMS* we have received stock *se se kana*. Level *ya rona ke yone eo*. *Jaanong go na le mafelo a e leng gore ke bana kana bo monnawe CMS, kwa mafelong ka go farologana*. *A e leng gore jaanong le one a nna le stock, e bo clinics tse dingwe di tsaya teng koo, jalojalo*, aggregation centres *tse rona*. So, I am talking about the levels at CMS, *mme o kgona gore fitlhela e le gore* at different facilities, levels will fluctuate. *Ke rotloetse botlhe gore le nne le ntse le tlhola gore seemo se ntse jang, fa di le teng* they should be ordered *fa e le gore* for some reason they have not been ordered.

O ne o bua ka reagents, especially *re lebile* test kits *jalo tsa HIV and AIDS*. *Ke tsone tse ke neng ke bua gore, ka se sebaka jaaka re bua* we have placed a significant quantity *ya viral load test kits tse re di dirang ka pool procurement through ba Global Fund*. So we are making significant movement *ka tsone tseo*. *Se se bothokwa* honourable *ke gore*, like I am saying, we are now buying these things at a significantly cheaper price than ever before, that is ... (inaudible)... for inflation and other things of course. So, we are now buying more efficiently and cheaper than before, *mo go rayang gore, gone jaana ke itse kutlobothoko e re nang le yone, e bile ke tlhaloganya* sometimes the anger *e e leng gore* our people have, but, we are going to move into the future with much better systems for that reason.

Jaanong, why has no one been prosecuted *fa e le gore melemo e a utswiwa*; that is important and of course we will refer whatever cases we have to the authorities, but what is my key duty right now, *kana* our key duty... we are learning as much as we can learn about the system. If it means sometimes being in a position where we find out from those that have stolen, *gore ba utswa jang*, then we will learn so that we can plug the holes *tse go senngwang ka tsone*. *Ke batla le tlhaloganya gore*, we are not saying *ga re na melemo* because *e a utswiwa*. We are saying, *bogodu jwa melemo bo dira gore problem e e leng teng ya letlhoko la melemo e nne* even worse than it should be. So, that is something that I think needs to come out clearly.

The past Government has put us into unfair contracts; I avoided speaking about the past in my updates, because I want us to just look forward and solve the problem, but I can say in the past for whatever reason, yes, we have long term framework contracts. Some of these long-term framework contracts, *go raya gore jaanong* they change monopolies in the sense that supplier A who is already

registered *yo le neng le ka tsaya kwa go ene, o setse a na le Barongwang, ke sa reye wena*. Barongwang *o setse a le mo seemong se e leng gore ke ene fela a lotletseng* gore is the one who can supply Product A. *Go bo go raya gore fa e le gore ke ene fela*, Barongwang *o go rekisetsa ka price e e batliwang ke ene*. *Fa o sa reke ka price e Barongwang a e batlang*, you have a problem. *Mo go rayang gore jaanong* we have had to sometimes resort to going behind some of these monopolies, *mme fa o ya behind these monopolies, go raya gore* you are now having to go to other suppliers, *ba e leng gore* those suppliers *gongwe* their registration *ga e* as given as the established ones. *Go bo go raya gore* the process *ya* to test *tse o di amogetseng* from the new Barongwang, *e tsaya nako e telele, go bo go raya gore go tsenya melemo* can take a bit of time. So, that is where the problem is. But we look forward, we are not going to look back and I am quite sure that with the measures we are putting in place and with the updates that we are getting that the financial situation is improving, this situation is going to get better for our country and things will be much better as we go forward.

Honourable Kekgonengile, well, I mean, you are always hitting hard, and yes, it is important that we hit hard. There is a question that I want to answer *ya ntlha ya gore, a mme melemo e e gorogile kwa Letsholathebe*. *Tota fela, melemo yotlhe e e gorogileng* because *e mengwe e setse e na le bo* two weeks or a week *e gorogile*, we have notified all our facilities. We have publicly notified list *ya dilo tse re nang le yone*. *Fa kwa facility o se na le yone*, please make an order and we are ensuring that they would go immediately. *So fa e le gore kwa Letsholathebe tse ke ntseng ke di balolola gore di teng ga di yo, go tlaabo go raya gore gongwe go na le* miscommunication between the facility and CMS, but I will check to ensure *gore* everything is in place. *Mme le wena ka botalano jwa rona*, you know, *ke tlaa kopa gore* if you are aware, specifically *gore* this has not been done, just let me know, *re bone gore re a baakanya*, because that is the key thing.

O ne o supa jalo gore, in the past *re ne re kgona go bona melemo e e fake kana e e leng gore* their therapeutic effect *ga se e re neng re e solofetse*. *Jaanong fa re leng teng, a mme BoMRA* is involved; *ke supa jalo rra gore BoMRA* is fully involved and sometimes they have frustrated us, because *akere fa re na le mathata re bona gore hei! go na le mathata, go nna e kete re batla go kgarametsa gore melemo e tsene ka bonako, mme le bone ba leka go dira tiro ya bone*, but through constant

engagement with them, because they are very thorough and are professionals, if they think something cannot go through, *ba a gana*. Through constant engagement, I think we have gotten very good traction *le bone* and we have even agreed *gore* part of the testing *e dirwe* right at the place of source. So that by the time *melemo e goroga mo Botswana re bo re itse gore* it has already been tested, *e tlaa tsena ka bonako jo bo ka thusang*. So, we are to the best of our ability and knowledge, ensuring that the medicines *tse di tsenang*, are both ... (inaudible)... and safe for our people honourable.

Have we sourced money to pay suppliers; yes, we have gotten part of the funding that we need, *mme* you know, I did not want to go into the past, but like I said, we have legacy debts and issues *tse fa gongwe di dirang gore botshelo bo nne thata*. Some of the suppliers *ba o buang ka bone*, I have stated before the House *gore*, we inherited a debt *ya* around P2 billion and *ka nako e e leng gore* as you know we do not receive enough money, not because *mongwe o a gana*, but because *ga re na madi*. If you have to start by paying some of these off, it would take a bit of a line. *So fa gongwe e tlaa nna e ntse e kete re a ngathoganya, mme re ngathoganya jaana ka gore*, at the end of the day the system must still function and work.

I am hopeful that with the outlook in terms of the economy *e nna botoka*, we will get to a point where almost everyone is paid. So, I beg for your indulgence and understanding when it comes to that aspect. I do not think I can give you an exact figure *gone jaana ka gore re fa*. Yes, I have a spreadsheet with what we have received, what we owe, and all those things, but please allow me not to go into that exact aspect *ya teng gone jaana*.

Taxation; I know it has got to do with us, and as private health care and everything else. I really wish His Honour the Vice President was to maybe explain to you taxation and how they have reached a decision that we need to now start being in a position where we tax private medical facilities. It is also a conversation that seems to be ongoing with other stakeholders speaking to it. So, allow me not to go into the details and say, through the process of engagement between stakeholders and office of His Honour the Vice President, he will, at the right time, come in and give an update on tax matters as their portfolio responsibility.

In the meantime, what I can say is, it is a conversation that will continue, we speak about the National Health Insurance (NHI) which basically means we are going

to change how we are funding health care. So, it will be within the conversation, and we will have an answer through him in terms of that.

Honourable, *o ne o re nna ke bua ka* prevention of diseases *mme o mongwe o bua ka* 6 to 6, I do not think his intention *ke gore* people must overindulge, *ga ke dumele gore se* Honourable Ntsima *a se buang ke gore o simolole ka 6 o tuntunyetsa go fitlhelela 6. Ke dumela gore* Honourable Ntsima *a re wena ya go nwa mo dinakong tse di beilweng, mme o nwe o itekanyetsa, o bo o ya lwapeng, economy yone e nne e tswelele. Legale se ke tshwanetseng ke se bue ke gore,* Honourable Ntsima *le rona go tlaa re re ba lebe, gakere re bua ka* NHI; *gore* how do we levy the positives and the negatives *tse di tswang kwa go 6 to 6* to actually help us take care of our health as a nation. *Fela se se leng teng ke gore* Honourable Ntsima *ke yo o a phatsima, o a bonala gore ga a itshiele phetelela. Ka jalo, fa a buletse gore e nne 6 to 6, a le rona re se ka jaanong ra a nwa e kete ga re na boikarabelo. Kana botsogo le botshelo ke jwa rona. Ke a leboga* Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: *Ke ya go tsaya ba le batlhano ba bofelo;* Honourable Pule followed by Honourable Mosanana.

MR PULE: Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, ke go dumedise mongwame. Ke bo ke leboge Tona ka fa a buileng ka teng.

Pele ga ke botsa Tona potso *Mr Speaker;* o se ka wa nkomanya ka gore go na le menwana e e neng e ntshupa ka kwano. Kana fa o bona *Honourable* Barongwang e le nnake mme ditedu tsa gagwe di tshwana le tsa me jaana, ke gore o tsamaya mesepele e meelele a batla *blame* gona le gore o ka bo a tsene fela mo Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) a lebelela *Ministers* ba ba ka kwa ba a ka bong a ba tshwaya phoso, ba ba neng ba le mo *Cabinet* ya Botswana Democratic party (BDP). Ke go reye ke re *blame explains the past.*

Ke lebogile ka fa *Minister* a arabileng ka teng; *new policies fix the future,* o buile ka fa ke ratileng ka teng. So, go nna mo *blame game...*

MR SPEAKER: Order 40.3.

MR PULE: Ee, ke tswa fa teng, ke ne ke ipaakanya fela ka gore ke ne ke sa batle go ema ka *point of order* Mr Speaker.

Minister; ke go utlwile ka fa o buileng ka teng ka bokgabane le fa o ne o tšhoma. Kana o *zero tooth,* o motho wa gompiano ba ba buang Sekgoa, mme fela gongwe Batswana ba ka bo ba go utlwile ka bogautshwane fa o ne o buile Setswana. Ke go botse *Minister* gore, a o a itse gore *shortage of medicines* tota e itaya batho ba metse e e kgakala thata go gaisa ba ditoropo? Batho ba metse e e kgakala fa ba lwala *Minister;* ba felela ditiro di sa dirwe, *farming* e ema *so much that* jaaka o bua, ba bangwe ba felela le dijo ba sa kgone go di itirela. Gompiano go *worse* ka gore masaka a tswetswe ka ntata ya Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). Jaanong fa go ntse jalo, go *worse* ka gore le fa motho a sena molemo a tswa kwa Phala Camp *for instance,* go mmata gore a tsamae *a distance* a tla mo Gaborone mo *pharmacies* go tla go reka melemo. A bo a simolola a dirisa *the little money that is remaining* go reka melemo ya go nna jalo. Go felela go tlisa ditlala mo malwapeng. Ke ne ke batla gore o mpolelele *Honourable Minister* gore tota le le *Ministry of Health* *what are you saying about people who are staying in rural areas in terms of supply of medicines? Do you not think time has come to consider prioritising them over people who are staying in urban areas?* Ke sa reye gore ba *urban centres* ga ba tlhoke melemo, mme bone ba botoka ka gore ba kgona go tsena *in local pharmacies* ba ya go reka melemo, bale ga ba na le fa e le tsone *pharmacies. What is your reaction to that Minister?*

MR MOSANANA: Ke a go leboga *Mr Speaker.* Re go utlwile *Minister.* Ke simolole pele ka ya bogodu jwa melemo kwa dipateleng. Kana batho ba ba utswang melemo e *Minister;* bontsi jwa bone e a bo e le gore ba ya go e rekisa kwa *pharmacies.* Le tsone *pharmacies* tse, di tshwanetse gore di tseelwe dikgato fela tse di gagametseng, fa e le gore ba a boelela, di tswalwe. Ke bua jaana gone ke ntse ke itse gore go na le batho ba ba hirilweng ke *pharmacies* tse, mme moo tota ga go letlelesege gore jaanong *they should connive* le batho gore ba utswa melemo ba ye go e rekisa kwa go bone.

Ke tsena mo go ya *expiry* ya melemo e le kwa dipateleng, kana e santse e le kwa CMS, ke re *we should be very vigilant* ka kgang e ya melemo gore e *expire* mo go rona...

MR SPEAKER: Standing Order 40.3; short questions for elucidation. *Ya re tswetswee o se ka wa debate.*

MR MOSANANA: Ke a utlwile *Mr Speaker,* ke tlaa nna mokhutshwanyane.

Gape ke bue ka gore, kana fa morago fale, go kile...

MR SPEAKER: *Honourable Mosanana*, ka re o botse potso, *short question*.

MR MOSANANA: A mme *pharmacists* di teng *Minister* ka gore baoki ba ne ba ntse ba ngongorega ka gore ga se tiro ya bone *to dispense* melemo?

Se sengwe ke gore, *what about* melemo e mengwe e e iseng e tle mme e le botlhokwa fela jaaka yone e o buang gore e setse e goroga, a re boela *back to where we have been?*

Ke ama kgang gape ya dikobo kwa dipateleng gore go maswe fela thata. Kwa sepateleng sa rona sa Kanye o fitlhela e le gore *always windows are open* ka ntata gore go nne le *circulation in the rooms, whether* go mariga kana go selemo. Fa go le mariga, balwetse ba bolalwa ke serame, fa go le selemo, ba lomiwa ke monang ka gore sepatela se sa rona se mo lentsweng, mme e bile gone foo go tswela metsi. Ke re golo foo o go lebe thata *Minister*, e le dikgakololo.

MR MOALOSI: Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*. Ke leboge *Honourable* Lawrence Ookeditse gore e re re mo kopa gore a bolelele Batswana gore go diragala eng, a bo a tsiboga. O kare Modimo o ka mmona, wa mo akanyetsa gore e nne ene tota yo re lebaganang le ene. *Mr Speaker*, ke batla go botsa *Minister* gore ka gore *there are leakages in the system, what technologies are you employing* go leka go thiba diphatlha tse? *To give you an example*; fa ke reka kepepe mo Amazon.com, fa e emelela e ya California, *I can track it all the way* go tla go goroga kwa ntleng ya me. *Are you not thinking of those technologies* gore fa melemo e emelela kwa CMS e ya kwa Marobela *clinic*, ke gore le fa e setse e ntshiwa e tsenngwa *in packets* e neelwa batho, *there should be scanning*. Re itse gore re neetse batho eng. Fa go na le *a need for recall*, le kgone go tsena mo *system* le itse gore semangmang o tsere eng, kae. *Are you not thinking along those lines?*

E nngwe ke gore, ke ne ke go reeditse *Honourable Minister* o kopa maitshwarelo mo Batswaneng *for the inconvenience and suffering that they have done. You have not come out clear* o kopa maitshwarelo le ka ba ba latlhegetsweng ke botshelo. *Me and you would agree* gore go na le batho ba ba latlhegetsweng ke matshelo ka ntata ya gore, ba ne ba se ka ba kgona go bona melemo e ba e tlhokang. Ba se ka ba kgona go e reka ka gore itsholelo ya rona, ga re lekane. *Can you not just come out clear and accept* gore *there were people who lost their lives*, o kope maitshwarelo mo *families* tsa bone?

O kope gore Modimo a ba babalele, a ba gomotse, ba se ka ba nna le letlhoo mo go lona. Ba tseye fela gore e ne e le taelo ya Modimo gore go diragale jalo.

Ke buisiwa se ke gore, re ne re na le Permanent Secretary (PS) maloba kwa Public Accounts Committee (PAC), o ganne go papamala fela a bua gore go tlhela ga melemo go bakile dintsho. A re, ga a ise a dire *postmortem, which we thought it was a very unfortunate statement*. Ga o ka ke wa re, re itse gore batho ba tlhokafala ka melemo, go bo gotwe ga ba a bolawa ke go tlhoka melemo. Dipotso tsa me, di ne di le pedi fela. Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*.

MR MONAGENG: Ke a leboga *Mr Speaker*. Mma re lebogele gore ba re neetse pego ba Botsogo. E le pego e Batswana ba sa bolong go e letela. Go itse gore tota go tsamaya jang ka fa melemong, mme re a leboga. Re boleletswe gore melemo e utswilwe. Tota fa melemo e utswiwa jaana, mme e le selo se se amang lefatshe ka bophara, Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) e a bo e le fa kae go bona gore dilo tse di ntseng jaana, ga di diragale?

Gape fa re bua ka melemo e e neng ya felela e senyega, e e *worth P95.5 million*, motho o ipotsa gore gone mme fela, a ga go na bape *who were held responsible to account?* Ba tlhalose gore *why* melemo *expired* mme e le mo diatleng tsa bone? Melemo e e *expired that worth P95.5 million*, a e ne e le nako ya Puso ya UDC kana e e fetileng?

Sa bofelo ke gore, go na le dikakanyo tsa gore melemo e a tlhela ka gore kwa go neng go rekiwa teng pele... Ke batla o re fatlholole, ke gore Goromente yo mosha o fetotse kwa go neng go ntse go rekiwa teng. O reka go sele kwa e ka reng ke gone go santseng go ithutiwa kana botsalano bo le bosha, jaanong o tle o e tlhatswe eo.

Ya bofelo *Mr Speaker*, ke ne ke leboga *Minister* wa Botsogo gore o buile le rona ka seemo sa botsogo le melemo. Ga se gore mongwe le mongwe o reeditse *television* gompiano kana *radio*. A ga a bone go le botlhokwa gore a ye kwa Radio Botswana *because* Batswana ka bontsi ba eletsa go itse gore tota gatwe go diragala eng? Goromente o dira eng. A ga a bone go le botlhokwa gore ba rulaganye ba ye kwa *radios*, ba ye go tlhalosetsa Batswana gore seemo ke eng? Ke a leboga.

MR FRENZEL: Ke a leboga *Honourable Speaker*. Mma ke se ka ka nna moleele. Ke lebogele tekodiso e *Honourable Assistant Minister* a tlleng ka yone. Ke tsaya ke re, e ne e le pego fela e e tlhapileng. Potso ya

me e nna gore, fa o tsena mo dikokelong tse di tona jaaka Marina le Nyangabgwe, *operations* tse di rileng, batho *dates* tsa bone *are postponed*. Ke ka mabaka a gore dilo dingwe tse di tshwanelwang ke gore di bo di le teng, ga di yo. Fa o re o a tsena, *just* dikarata fela tse; maloba ke ne ke tsene fa Bontleng *to check* BP, go bo gotwe ke reke pampiri kwa ntle, ke tle ke tsene mo teng. Seemo sa dilo tse tsotlhe jaaka ke supa dikarata, ditlhale tse di rokgang tse di tlhangelang, tsone tseo tsotlhe ka gore ke utlwile o bua ka BP le *diabetes*, re solofele leng gore seemo sa tsone se tlaa boela mo taolong?

Potso ya bobedi e tlaa tshwana le e ba bangwe ba setseng ba e boditse gongwe ba sa tlhamalala, melemo e e setseng e tsile, re e solofele leng sentle mo dikokelong tsa rona ka go farologana? Rona ba dikgaolo tse di kgakala, re solofele leng e e leng teng ya BP le *diabetes* ka gore batho ba le bantsi ba tlhokana le yone? Ke raya gore dikgaolo tsa rona, re solofele leng gore melemo eo e tlaabo e gorogile? Ba reeditse gompiano jaana go batla go itse gore mo dikokelong ka go farologana kwa Borolong le Mathangwane, ba ka di solofela leng go ka tla ba di bona gore ba tle ba di tseye?

Sa bofelo e bo e nna kgang ya *posts* tse di dirilweng tse 300 tsa *nurses*. *Distribution* ya bone a re solofele sengwe le rona mo dikgaolong tsa rona jaaka go na le *shortage*? Kwa dikgaolong tsa me, *on weekends*, ga go bulwe gotlhelele. 300 yo ke utlwileng Tautona a bua ka ene, yo ke nang le tumelo ya gore le wena o a itse ka ene gore *positions* tseo *involve midwives*, le tsone di teng, re solofele leng gore re tlaa tla re bona sengwe? Mo dikgaolong tsa rona tse di kgakala le Gaborone le Francistown fela jaaka tsa gago, a re solofele gore re tlaa re bona sengwe?

Lastly, melemo e e teng jaaka o supile gore e ya go nna *six or seven months*, re a itse gore melemo e nyelela e le mo dikokelong tsa rona. Fa e le gore go ya go diragala gore *supply* e bo e nna *three, four months*, go supa totatota gore melemo e tsamaile gone fale, re ya go dira ka tsela e e ntseng jang? Ke batla o mpolelele mo bogompionong gore re tle re goroge kwa go *six, seven* yo o neng o mo supa, re ya *to monitor* jang go bona gore *distribution* e lolame, e re tlaabong re bona gore melemo ga e tswe ka diphatlha tse e seng tsone e ya kwa *pharmacies*? Re ya go e reka koo, le e latela kwa mafatsheng a re bapileng le one. E ne e le dipotso tsa me tseo. *Thank you Honourable Speaker.*

MR SPEAKER: *Minister*, o di soboke mo 10 *minutes*, gore re tle re ye kwa *Bill*.

MR OOKEDITSE: *Thank you Mr Speaker.* Ke tlaa dira jalo. Ke tle ke kopanye tse pedi tse di ntseng di buiwa ke Rre Frenzel le ya ga Rre Kekgonegile ya *staff shortage*. *So, we are working on those and* fa re bua gore *we have created positions* tsa bo *nurse* di le 300, e le *additional positions*, ke gone jaaka e le gore *we are pushing very hard to try to increase staffing*. Gape le *ministry* wa ga Honourable Maele, *we engaged with them in terms of what we are doing ka training*. *We are going to ensure* gore *we train more midwives* le ba bangwe. *We will continue to ensure that* fa gongwe go na le ditiro tse di setseng di sena batho ba le kalo ba ba di batlang, go tlaa raya gore *we have to train more health care personnel*.

Honourable Pule o ne a botsa gore *these shortages* di tshwenya thata ba ba kwa dikgaolong tse di kgakala. *Ka le nna ke tswa kwa dikgaolong tseo, di tshwenya rona go gaisa*, which is why *ke e araba ke e arabela le ba bangwe gore kana gone jaana ke a itse gore re na le mathata a matona a gore ga go na melemo*. Because people need medicines now, we are running to ensure gore we get medicines now. *Kana Goromente yo, se re se batlang se se tona*, the biggest reform ya rona apart from what we are doing *ka bo CMS*, *ke to ensure gore re tliša NHI*. *Fa re tsisitse NHI, se re se batlang ka yone* is to bridge that gap to ensure that *mongwe le mongwe mo Botswana o tlaabo a na le access to bongaka jo bo lolameng*, regardless of where you are. *Go tlaabo go raya gore jaanong* the way we finance healthcare for everyone, *mongwe le mongwe o na le portion ya gagwe* that he or she can access *gore a kgone go bona botsogo jo bo rileng*. We will do that.

Se sengwe se re se dirileng ke gore we have devolved powers *re bo re di neela Local Government ka tumelo ya gore Local Government le dikhansele*, they are closer to the people *kwa ba leng teng*. *Ka jalo, system e jaaka e tlaabo e itshetlela, le tlaa simolola go bona gore* there will be much more outreach services. There will be much more contacts between the people and *tse di diragalang teng kwano*. So, we are trying to answer the question *e o e botsang*. *Ke dumela gore* we will see the results. To be honest with you, reforming healthcare system the way we want to do, *gongwe kwa tshimologong ga re a ka ra le e bolelela sentle*, it is a huge task *e e leng gore* it will take time. You will see a lot of disruption but eventually you will see *kwa re gorogang teng*. Then the healthcare outcomes *tse re di batlang* will certainly get better and *re tlaa bona maduo a teng* with time.

Ke utlwile ka ya dijo le tse dingwe jalojalo. We will do our very best to ensure gore fa melemo e tla e goroga ka bonako, especially teng kwano. Berekang le dikhansele le Makhanselara a lona le tlhole gore go na le eng. Fa e le gore ga di a goroga mme di gorogile kwa go rona, you let me know, I promise you, we will ensure it happens. We are not going to wait for you to report kwa go rona, we are encouraging and pushing in our systems. Fa e le gore we are missing it, let us know so that re kgone go baakanya.

Honourable Mosanana, I do not want us to demonise chemists *re bo re re ke bone ba di rekisang, di utswelwa bone*. In some instances, yes, *ba bangwe* they are a bit unscrupulous and they engage in that but *ba bangwe*, chemists *kana* pharmacies *tse di nang le tsone*, they are very helpful, especially during a time *e e leng gore* Government had a challenge *ya supply*. *Le bone* they are an important stakeholder to what we are doing. *Bogodu jo bo leng teng jo re a bo lemoga mme fela tota* it should be up to everyone to know *gore* they have a duty of citizenship *ya* to ensure *gore* at the time when we have nothing, you cannot be stealing. *Ga ke a re ka nako e re nang le tsone di utswiwe* but at the time when we are in a crisis, *botlhe ba e leng gore* they handle these things should take care.

The reason why I say *re se ka ra* demonise pharmacists *ke gore tse dingwe* they go to the station, *di rekisiwa le kwa station, e le gore go na le ka fa ba dirang teng. Le lona le le batlotlegi, fa le batla go dira gore* this theft *e fokotsege, go tlile go tla gore* at some point in time *le nne* ready *go ka jewa ke ditlhopho fa e le gore* some questions must be answered. One of those questions *ke ya gore melemo ya mengwe ya categories tse di utswiwang le go gaisa, ke tse e leng gore fa motho a sena go nna a leka go senya boimana o tlhoka gore a tlhatswiwe a bo a tshaba go ya sepatela ka gore* a report *ya gore o ne a tsile go tlhatswa* is lodged. *Ka jalo, go raya gore* that has created fertile ground for contraband in that regard. So, you will have to think as Members of Parliament (MPs) *gore a nako ga e a tla gore le lebelele gore dilo tse dingwe* you decriminalise them *ka gore* sometimes overregulation is actually the one that leads to criminal activities. So, I will leave this question to you and I do hope you will be brave enough as this Parliament to face that question and deal with it.

The other one *ke ya* pharmacists who dispense *melemo*. We are working on those honourables. *Go santse go le thata mme re tlaa nna re ntse re kgarametsa thata gore re hire ba bangwe ba ba ka thusang.*

Ya blankets, ke tsaya gore le yone ke setse ke buile towards it gore re tshwanetse re nne le provision. Fa ditsompelo di ka nna di ntse di tokafala, re tlaa leba thata ka kwa Kanye ka e bile ke ne ke na le wena teng koo.

Honourable Moalosi, *o bua ka* leakages *le gore* can we not deploy technology *e e leng gore e ka re thusa* to scan. We are actively working to ensure that right from the place of origin to the CMS, facility and the patient, *re itse gore molemo o tsamaya fa kae le* to ensure *gore e bile re itse le gore expiry ke leng* so that *re se ka ra nna le* a challenge *e e tsamaelanang ka dinako tsoitlhe*. Then you have asked me to apologise. You are saying *ke ikope maitshwarelo* for the inconvenience. I understand why the PS *kwa* PAC was maybe not in a position to go any further. I think there was a very direct question *e e leng gore* as a scientist, he probably was right *gore a bo a re gongwe ga a ise a nne le* a clear evidence *ya gore tota mme gone leso le a bo le bakilwe ke eng*. The truth is we need medicines for a reason. We need medicines to manage pain, heal disease and sometimes medicines actually stop premature death. *Fa re leng teng*, one can actively and without any fear or shame say that we have tried to provide the best care that we can. In the spirit of today, I do not want to be shifting blame for anything to anyone, which is why I have avoided shifting blame to the BDP and what they have done previously. I also do not want to shift or apportion blame to anyone today. If I apportion blame to say the current Government, then you are pulling me into a slippery slope where I will then start saying *mme kana fa nne* maDomkrag *ba sa dira jaana, go ka bo go sa nna jaana. Se se teng se ke ka se buang ke gore* my heart and my prayers go out to all Batswana *ba e leng gore* they have lost loved ones and relatives over the past year for various reasons. *Ba bangwe* it may be as the doctor was saying *kwa* PAC, that you may think *motho o tlhokafetse ka gore go ne go sena molemo* because *wena o a bo o lebile ka leitlho la gago fela la motho* while in actual fact even if *nkabo go ne go na le molemo*, that unfortunate occurrence *ya leso e ka bo e ne gongwe e ntse e diragetse*. Yes, we are remorseful and we regret that any Motswana loses their life in the midst of this crisis. Yes, it is not unthinkable *go ka akanya gore ba bangwe* had we had better supply *tsa melemo ba ka bo nne ba tshedile. Tota fela ke maswabi gore batho ba rona ba kgona go latlhegelwa ke matshelo*. It is very unfortunate and we are in prayers with families that lose loved ones. *Ke a leboga Motsamaisa tiro. Ke bo ke supa jalo bagaetsho gore...*

MR SPEAKER: Nako e ke neng ke go e beetse e a wela.

MR OOKEDITSE: *Ee. Mma ke riana Mr Speaker, DIS e kae? Honourable Monageng mme kana o ne o na le bone maabane, they should have told you what their role is. I know they play an important role and tota ga ke batle gore ke tsenelele mo cases tse e leng gore ba a di tshwara, but they do play an important role. It is a Government wide network. Expiries tse le buang ka tsone batlotlegi, once more, I do not want to say to you gore ke tsa nako ya Domkrag but I can say confidently gore tse dingwe are actually from the COVID era, tse le di buang tsa P95 million. Kana fa gongwe, we have to be fair fa re bua. Le bone maDomkrag ka nako ya COVID ka gore supply chains were in trouble, ka nako, eo ba ka tswa gongwe ba ne ba overstock ka ba ne ba sa itse gore ba tlaa tlhola ba bona chance leng gape ya to order. A lot of those are now expiring. So, sometimes it is not intentional even though I believe they could have bought at better prices from their distributors.*

Ke rialo ke re, motlotlegi ka nako e setse e tsamaile, re tlaa nna re ntse re baakanya ka shortages.

...Silence...

MR OOKEDITSE: *Honourable Modise should go to radio or television towards the end of this week gore le ene a ye go phatlalatsa molaetsa o ke buang ka one. Ya bofelo Honourable Frenzel ke yone e ke neng ke e supa motlotlegi gore re setse re kgonne jaanong go reka the orthopedic implants, re bone madi a tsone. Ke tsone tse di dirisiwang thata for gongwe motho a tlhokang lengole le tse dingwe jalojalo. We have since managed to do that. Then mo go tse ke neng ke di balolola gore di gorogile le tsone, ke supile gore melemo that manage pain le tse di dirisiwang mo dikarong jalojalo, bontsi jwa tsone di setse di gorogile. So, we are in a position e ke dumelang gore within the next few weeks, re tlaabo jaanong re resume operations ka lebelo le selekanyo se se nametsang fela thata.*

Melemo at the facilities; when can we expect them? Expect them now, e ke e badileng gore e teng should be at the facilities now. If they are not at the facilities, let us know so that we can run and go get these. Re tlaa nna re ntse re baakanya motlotlegi, mme we are ensuring gore melemo ga e timele kana ga e utswiwe le kwa dikokelong jaaka o ne o supa. Ke buile ka CCTV gore we are installing them immediately and we are installing a digital system fela jaaka Honourable Moalosi a ne a ntse a supa, but this will make things better. Ke a leboga Mr Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Applause!)

MR SPEAKER: *Order! Honourable Members. Batlotlegi le na le Bill fa, mme fa le ne le ka tswerefala e ne e ka re nako ya borataro e wela, le bo le e weditse. Go raya gore le tlaa sala le e buisanya le Madam Speaker.*

“EXCHANGE OF SPEAKERSHIP”

MADAM SPEAKER (MS MANYENENG): Good afternoon Honourable Members. Let us go straight to the Bill.

BILL

NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL BILL, 2026 (NO. 23 OF 2026)

Second Reading

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Members. Honourable Minister Tshere to come and present.

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE): *Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to present this Bill, mme gongwe ke e bue ka Setswana pele ke tlaa e soboka ka Sekgoa kwa bofelong.*

Madam Speaker, ke tla ka Molao-kakanyetso o, o o tlhotlhlilweng thata kwa phathing ya UDC gammogo le kwa Khuduthamageng le gone e bile re buile le komiti e e maleba ya Palamente le General Assembly.

Gongwe kwa tshimologong fela ke lebise batlotlegi mo Maitlamong a UDC pillar four. This is on page 22 up to 24 of the UDC Manifesto e e buang ka education, research, human resource, development ka gore kgang e re buang ka yone e tshwaraganya thuto le research and development go sekaseka go tlhodumela le go tlhabolola dikitso jalo. Kwa Lephatheng la Communications and Innovation le tlaa itse gore re tshwaragane le kgang ya the innovation part ya ministry e bua ka research and development and innovation. So, fa o lebelela mo page 24 ya Manifesto wa UDC e bua prescribing, fa e sena go nna e lemoga seemo se sotlhe se se teng in the ecosystem e e teng ya research and development. A bo e bua gore re tshwanetse gore, if I can quote Madam Speaker, with your permission?

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do.



MR TSHERE: *On item 4.8 on page 24 of the manifesto, it says, "UDC shall establish a national scientific industrial and research council. Establish this council made out of the competent academics, private sector, civil society organisations, labour to oversee the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the country's policy on science and technology development."* Ke Manifesto wa UDC fa o bua ka thulaganyo e re tllileng ka yone. Fa re lebelela *research and innovation*, gongwe re e lebelele jaana MPs gore fa re le lefatshe, *we have to do the research and development and normally research in general are done by academic institutions.* Di dirwa ke dikole tse dikgolwane jaaka bo University ya Botswana (UB), Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) le *private* bo Botho, Ba Isago and others who are engaged in research. Jaanong thulaganyo ke gore fa o sena go nna o dira *research*, go tshwanetse go nne le *research output*, se o se boneng ka go tlhlotlhomisa ga gago, go tshwanetse go nne fa mo mokwalong e bile gongwe go kwadisiwe, mo gotweng *patent* kana *intellectual property*.

Fa go sena go nna jalo, go tshwanetse gore jaanong re bo re sutisa go bona gore mo o go boneng moo, go diriwa ditekeletso tse di feteletseng, *the incubation site* kwa jaanong re lebelelang gore go bereka jang. A go ka bereka? Re boa re dira *prototype* jaaka go tlwaelesigile. Fa re sena go nna re dira jalo, fa re bona o kare go a bereka, jaanong lekalana la rona la Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH) le ke kileng ka bua ka lone mo Palamenteng e. Fa re sena go nna re bona gore go a bereka, jaanong re tshwanetse re dire *the commercial aspect* ya yone *that involves bankable feasibility study* kana *the commercial viability of that product or service* e e tlaabong e dirilwe *as a result of this research*. Fa e tswa foo, e tshwanetse *to be commercialised*, re bo re e bona fa e le gore ke *product* e le mo dishopong, fa e le gore ke *service* e tla ka maranyane re bo re e dirisa ka tsela e e ntseng jalo, ya bo e ungwela Batswana. Jaanong fa re dira jalo, ke gone ka fa re ka dirang letseno re le lefatshe. Re itemogetse gore lephata le, le le amanang le *research and development, this value chain* e ke ntseng ke e tlhalosa e, makalana a a dirang *research* jaaka ke bua gore ke *institutions* tsa dikole tse dikgolwane, o fitlhela e le gore di dintsi.

Jaaka ke ne ke bua, re na le lekalana le bidiwa Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) la *research* mo *ministry*. Go na le bo BUAN, National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI) le *universities* ka go farologana both

private and Government owned. Re bo re fitlhela e le gore makalana a fa a dira *research*, ke mokang o kare ga ba buisane. O ka nna wa fitlhela e le gore *research* e e dirwang kwa BITRI, e a dirwa gape le kwa UB mme ga ba dirisane. Ka jalo o fitlhela e le gore re dirisa madi a mantsi, ka gore *most of these researches* di fiwa *fund* ke Goromente jaaka dikole tse di fiwa madi ke Goromente. Go na le ba bangwe ee, jaaka ba bo Harvard, Baylor University le tse dingwe jalojalo tse di dirang *researches*. Re ne re lemoga gore ga re a tshwaragana, jaanong re sa tshwaraganang jaana o fitlhela e le gore yo mongwe o dira *research*, e bo e ya go felela mo tseleng kana e felela mo phefong fela e bo e sa tsamaye ka *stages* tse tsotlhe go fitlhela e goroga kwa *product or services* tse di ka ungwelang Botswana. Ga re goroge koo e bile go supagala ka dipalo gore *it is so fragmented that* ga e *coordinated at all*. Selo se se bo se re fetisa tshono ya go ungwelwa mo *research and development*, ka tsela e e ntseng jalo.

Fa o lebelela ka mafatshefatshe, *by international standards the innovation capacity is measured in terms of global innovation index and ours is very low, we are number 57 out of 139 countries in last year 2025 and we are the fourth in Sub-Saharan Africa. In research and development, intensity is also measured as per the gross expenditure e lefatshe le dirisang madi ka yone mo dikgannyeng tsa research and development. I must say, it is also very low at 0.5 per cent. Meaning the country as per the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) we spend less than 1 per cent, which is far below the African Union (AU) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) target of at least 1 per cent and our own national target of 2 per cent. We are still far behind.*

Lefatshe le le sa diriseng madi mo *research and development*, go raya gore ga le ka ke la ya kwa pele, ka gore gore o ye kwa pele ke gore o tsewelele o tsamaya o tlathloba se o se dirileng, o reetsa le batho ba ba se dirisang o se tlhabolola fela jalo, ke yone *research and development*. Jaanong fa e le gore re le lefatshe re tlaa dirisa madi a a kananyana, go a supagala gore isago ya rona *is very blurry*. Ke sone se re tshweneyang mo lephateng. Jaanong fa o lebelela this slow progress, this statistic I was giving *gore ke eng re le kwa tlase jaana*, some of it is attributed to the weak coordination of research and innovation at national level *jaaka ke ntse ke tlhalosa*. The weak linkage is and collaboration amongst stake holders, leading to duplication of efforts fragmented research and missed opportunities.

The financial model that we are using as well is heavily reliant on Government and public funding, which in its self is unsustainable. The absence of accreditation laboratories *le yone* is a major issue, limiting the industry trust internationally. Of which if you had the trust internationally, *go raya gore* international players or stakeholders will opt to work with you, unfortunately we are missing on that opportunity. This is the problem that we are seeing at the ministry.

...Silence...

MR TSHERE: What are we proposing as a solution Madam Speaker, in assessing the mandates of the already existing organizations such as BITRI, NARDI and BDIH, none of these can be expanded to include governance, policy coordination, and national funding. If we were to go that route and introduce this component of policy coordination, governance and national funding under this, we are likely to risk clouding the core mandates of these institutions as research institutions which might lead to conflict of interest and reputation of perceptions of bias, blurry lines of accountability, which might result in damaging the legitimacy and reputation, of these institutions. This is the assessment we did with the current landscape.

We are proposing as the Bill suggests, that we should have a National Research and Innovation Council, I will speak more to it. What will be the impact of this council if we were to establish it will be enhanced value chain from research to product/service due to bridging the gap between scientific discovery, industrial application and societal benefit that will come if this is coordinated. It will be increased funding for Research, Development and Innovation activities through local partnerships, including Government and other ministries. It will provide for a well-coordinated Research and Innovation landscape in Botswana without duplicating mandates of the already existing institutions.

Academia and industry research collaborations will be supported and yielding tangible results in terms of knowledge generation and others. There are so many of the advantages that comes with setting up this institution as we envision at the Ministry of Communications and Innovation Botswana's research and innovation will also be recognized globally which might attract international support and international partnership that can come with funding. This is the advantage of having this type of council.

How is it sustainable? How are we going to sustain this council, in view of the current financial problem *ya lefatshe*? Madam Speaker, we envisioned this council as an Apex body to implement a blended revolving financing model that mobilises resources from the private sector, financial institutions and donors. Coupled with that, it recycles financial returns from successful innovations and research outputs back into new projects. Thus, operating a conditional recoverable grants hybrid model rather than purely relying on Government.

For a start, the budgets of these entities whose functions will be formed by transferring to the Council some of the departments that are existing under the Ministry of Communications and Innovation. Those Departments are the Research and Knowledge Business, and Innovation and Technology, as well as the Botswana Innovation Fund Secretariat under Ministry of Communications and Innovation. This will be set up by actually transferring the functions of these departments and the manpower to this new entity, to go and form what the council is when we start it, if this Parliament agrees with us. When we have this Bill and council in place, we envisioned that it will also promote local and international partnership in research and innovation. Therefore, be able to raise funds even outside Government or public funding. This is what we envisioned Madam Speaker, as a council.

Now I will quickly go to the Bill itself Madam Speaker, this Bill has eight parts. Part I deals with preliminary provisions of the Bill. Part II deals with the establishment and functions of the Council. Part III provides for the provision relating to the Board the formation of the board and its functions.

Part Four Madam Speaker, speaks to the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as the secretary and the secretary of the board and other senior members of staff of the Council.

Part Five of the Bill talks about record keeping and data base of researchers and innovators by the Council and Part Seven of the Bill provides for the financial provision in relation to the Council Revenue financial year, accounts and audits and all matters related therein.

While the last part, Part Eight of the Bill provides for the miscellaneous provisions of this Bill. So, the last part of the Bill also provides for the transition of the functions of the Department of Research and Knowledge Business that I spoke to earlier on. So, there is going to be that transition of these two departments and that of the innovation and technology now moving them to the Council.

Similarly, the function of the National Research Fund and the Botswana Innovation Fund which were established under the Public Finance Management Act will now be transferred under the custody of this Council. So this Council is going to act as a coordinate and apex body that coordinates research and innovation and ensures efficiency on our research institutions and for those that does a similar work they will be clustered to maximize resources both in terms of human resource and the financials.

With the last two minutes Madam Speaker, let me speak to the question that I know Honourable Members will ask. If Government is at an exercise to rationalize State-Owned-Enterprises (SOEs) why would the Ministry of Communications and Innovation come up with a Bill that establishes one; it is very unfortunate the situation we are in, in terms of the financial constraint, but Madam Speaker, this is a necessary evil that we have to do *gore re kgone go bona* the maximum benefit to our research and development. Otherwise the status quo will remain and we will not get the benefit, Batswana will not benefit. So, we need the apex body to come and guide and give a policy direction in terms of where do we go and the benefits of having that research output and the incubation and eventually the commercialisation and eventually the jobs being created as a result of this research output, innovation and commercialisation. So, *ke gone fa re ikepsetseng teng, ka gore le ditiro di a go tswa teng*.

In my conclusion Madam Speaker, I therefore request the support for approval of the National Research and Innovation Council Bill, 2026, which shall establish the National Research and Innovation Council as an autonomous body, to oversee implementation of policy on Science and Technology Development. I so submit Madam Speaker. Thank you very much.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Applause!)

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

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE): *Thank you very much Madam Speaker, ke go dumedise, mme e bile ke tseye nako e ke dumedise Batswana le batlotlegi mo Ntlong e. Kgang e re e buang gompiano e e tlileng ka motlotlegi fa ya research, it is an important issue e e leng gore re fa re le Botswana letsatsi leno ka go tlhoka go e tsaya ka tlhwaafalo. Mosola wa research ke gore, e go thusa*

to plan, gore o tswa fa kae o ya kae. Mosola wa plan ke gore e kgona go go bolelela gore o ka dirisa resources dife, fa go rileng, kae, that is what research will actually do. If you do not have research you are just living, working or just running the country, you would not even know whether you are achieving your objectives or not.

Why do we need this research; re batla research mo mabakeng a mantsintsi. Ke tlaa leka go nankola a sekaenyana, a e leng gore research e jaaka re bua le yone e tlaabo e ama dintlha di le tharo e. Selo sa ntlha ke gore, we are faced with climate change; climate change e e tlang e, kana e tlaabo e raya go fetoga ga loapi. Go fetoga ga loapi jaanong go tlaabo go raya gore re tshwanetse gore mo nakong e e tlang e e kwa pele re leme dijawalo tse di ntseng jang, tsa mofuta o o ntseng jang. Gongwe le paka ya temo le yone e ya to change. Ke sone se re se batlang gore, gompiano jaana re bo re dira research mo go tsone dikgang tse, gore fa re le lefatshe when we plan, we plan ka tsela e e ntseng jang, planning for kgang e e ntseng jang, e e leng gore temo ya rona e ya go nna jang. Agriculture jaaka re batla gore e nne one of the major components tsa itsholelo ya rona re tswa mo diteemaneng, we need research, forward looking issues, gore climate change jaaka e fetoga jaana re ipaakantse go le kae. Fa e le gore dipula di a go fetoga, leuba le a go tla, re tshwanetse gore re kgone go bona leuba le santse le le kgakala. Re bo re fetola le the way we are doing things. Lengwe lebaka le le dirang gore re nne le research e, is the growing population of Botswana, today we anticipating to see the growth of this population e go lela kwa pele, re ipotse gore nako e re tshwarang bo 5 million, 10 million, re tlaabo re tshela jang, ditiro re a go ditlhama ka tsela e e ntseng jang. E bile re tlaabo re batla ditsela tse di ntse jang, dithutego tse di ntseng jang...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Clarification. Ke ne ke re fela motlotlegi ke botse...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa rra ga ke a go supa.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Sorry, sorry!

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Mabuse Pule.

MR PULE: *Clarification. O tlaa intshwarela. O e tshwere sentle mokaulengwe. Ke mongwe wa batho that support you tota gore population must grow. O ne o akanya gore re ka e godisa jang?*

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Laughter!)

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Thank you very much Honourable Pule. *Ke sone se ke reng*, we need a research *e e tseneletseng*. *Bo maitseanape ba ntse fa fatshe* researching *gore*, what sort of pattern of a country do we want to see in the next coming five years, *e e tlaabong e le faced ke population e e ntseng jaana*. *Gompieno fa o lebelela gore re fa re leng teng...jaaka fa o lebelela thuto ya rona e sa le e nna kwa morago ga e tsamaelane le dikgwetho tsa ditiro tsa gompieno*. We are looking at technology, *gore* technology in the coming five years or 10 years *e tlaabo e ntse jang re le lefatshe*. *Re tlaabo re batla gore batho ba ba berekang ba tlaabo ba bereka ba ntse jang*. *A go tlaabo go santse go tlhokafala gore motho o ka ya kwa ofising kana mongwe le mongwe o ka bereka a le kwa a leng teng ka gore maranyane a tlaabo a le teng*. These are the issues we should have to research on as a country. *Re bo re bona gore mme gone mo re tlaabo re ya kae*.

The growing gap between the poor and the rich, how are we going to resolve this issue; *gompieno re na le percentage e re nang le yone, a fa population e ntse e gola jaana, ditiro di ntse di tlhokafala jaana*, how are we going to narrow it down because it is a concern. It is something else which we cannot just live with *re bona* population, *bahumanegi ba gola, bahumi le bone ba golela kwa, e bile dipalo tsa bone di ntse di nnyennyanane le oketsega motlotlegi yo o ka koo*. *Selo se re tshwanetse* to research it *re re*, how do we narrow this gap, how do we bring it closer. The gap between the informal and formal sector. Today the formal sector is at 30 per cent and the informal sector is at 70 per cent. *Re dira eng go godisa batho go tswa from the informal sector to the formal sector*. Which sectors are we going to grow, *kana tse re dumelang gore mo nakong ya teng eo ke tsone tse di tlaabong di bereka*. That is why we need this particular National Research Council to spearhead, to oversee, to make sure that *dilo tse* we are researching them, *di kgona go nna teng gompieno jaana*. If we are not going to do that, *re a go nna le mathata re le lefatshe*.

Let us look at issues of geo-political matters here. What is happening? Today for the first time we are seeing that *ntwa e e lowang kgakala e re senang sepe le yone, e re sa amaneng gope le yone e a re ama mono* Botswana, what else is going to come? How prepared are we to that eventuality, so that is why we require the National Research Center and we should invest in research. *Re bone ka...*

MINISTER OF WATER AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT (MR RAMOGAPI): *Elucidation*. Honourable Mokgware o e tshwere ka botswerere jo bo kwa godimodimodimo. Jaaka e bile o o fa dikai ka dintwa tse di lowang tse, *gore fa o ka ela tlhoko gompieno go itaya drones fela*. Jaanong fa re na le batho ba *research* ba ba lebelelang dilo tse, ba bo ba ka dirisa *drones* tse, di ka re thusa, tsa dira le ditiro. O e tshwere ka botswerere jo bo kwa godimo motlotlegi. Ke a go leboga.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: *Thank you very much motlotlegi*. Jaaka gompieno jaana, *the question which we are supposed to be asking ourselves is, do we actually need an army of 10,000 gompieno*, ke raya gore a re batla *army* ya banna ba le 10,000 ba ba tlaa bong ba tsamaya re ba katisa, re reng? *No, there are other equipment e e tshwanang le yone drone fela jaaka fa o bua jaana*. *When you look at the war between Ukraine and Russia*, ga go na masole a a tsamayang, go tsamaya *drones* fela kwa godimo, masole ba ntse fa fatshe. Ke sone se e leng gore gompieno *people are researching, do you need a high expensive bomb*, re bona *bombs* tse ditonatona tsa di 10 billion di palelwa ke *drone* ya US\$300. *These are the things which we have to actually research*, le rona re ipotse gore gone jaanong re batla go dira jang, re ya kwa kae, re tsaya Botswana re mmaya fa kae mo mmepeng. A re santse re batla go bona sepatela sengwe le sengwe se na le ngaka, kana re batla go bona dingaka di le golo go le gongwefela re rometse maranyane koo ba tlhatlhoba motho a le kwa Shakawe, ba bo ba ntsha melemo, ba mmolelela gore nnyaa malwetse a gago ke a le a? A re santse re batla go bona batho ba buiwa ka dithipa gotwe *that is an operation? No, things are moving very fast*. *We need the National Research Centre (NRC), we have to invest mo go yone*.

Bagaetsho, fa re ka se ke ra ganana kana ra dumalana le kgang e, go tlaabo go ipolaya rona, re tlaabo Botswana yo wa rona a ntse a le kwa morago jaaka a le kwa morago gone gompieno jaana, re sa itse gore re ya kwa kae. *The gap between the poor is growing, the technological advances*, re santse gompieno re bona ngwana a tsamaya a rwele beke e mo imela ya sekoleng, e mo tsenya bolwetse mo magetleng. *A kid of nowadays needs a small thing like a cell phone*, e tsentsa dibuka tsotlhe mo teng mo tse a ithutang ka tsone, a sa tsamae a tshotse beke ya sekole e kima e mo imela. Ga go na ngwana yo o tsamayang a tshotse pene, go kwalwa ka maranyane. *Do we need school se se nang le buildings le classrooms* tse dintintsintsi, kana re ka

kgona go ruta bana ka maranyane ba le kwa malwapeng a bone, *in the next coming five years? That is why we need the NRC to look into these issues* tse e leng gore *in other words they make our planning and our budgeting much easier*. So, ke kopa gore kgang e e re fa re e tsaya, re e tseye ka matsetseleko, re se ka ra e tsaya jaaka batho ba bogologolo jaaka ba ne ba e tsaya, ba tseela gore nnyaa botshelo bo tla jaaka bo ntse jaana. Re na le dikgwetlho tse di ntsi tse re tshwanetseng *to research* ka tsone. Malwetse a re a bonang a nna gompiano jaana, *we have never known* gore nako nngwe go tlaa nna le bolwetse gotwe COVID-19 jo bo tlaa bong bo dira gore le kgone go nna fela mo malwapeng a lona. Monna fela a bo a tswa bosigo a le raya a re mongwe le mongwe a nne fela kwa a leng teng go fitlhelela re bua gore o tlaa tsamaya leng. Malwetse a mantsi a a tlang a, re a lebelele, re ithute ka one, re bone le kalafi ya one gore re ka alafa ka tsela e e ntseng jang, re ka bereka ka tsela e e ntseng jang.

Gongwe e bile gape le ene motho re tloga jaanong re *determine* ngwana yo re mmatlant, wena jaaka fela fa o ntse jaana Motlotlegi Morena Kedikilwe o re ke batla ngwana yo mosweu yo o ntseng jaana, o bo o mo dira, a bo a goroga.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Laughter!)

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Jaanong *this is what NRC means*, re batla Botswana yo o ntseng jaana *Madam Speaker*, ga re sa tlhole re batla Botswana ba re ba bonang ba ba sokameng ba, *no, we will be determining. The NRC is important. We should invest in research so that we are well informed, we can budget and plan our future properly.*

So, ke sone se ke neng ke kopa ke re *I support* motlotlegi ka *this council* gore e a batlega. Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Who is the lead debater from opposition?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ke nna mma.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ehe.

MR MOALOSI (NKANGE): *Thank you, Madam Speaker.* Ke leboge Tona go tla ka *Bill* yone e a tlleng ka yone, mme ke leboge le General, gongwe ke mo gakolole gore ...

MR PULE: *Procedure Madam Speaker.* Potso e o neng o e botsa kana mmaarona, ke utlwile o re *who is the lead debater in the opposition.*

MADAM SPEAKER: *Nnyaa*, I meant from each party.

MR PULE: Kana *opposition* di tharo, ee.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nnyaa, fa e le gore wena o wa kwa BDP, *you lead* kwa BDP, yo mongwe *leads*...

MR PULE: Ee, nnyaa gone ke ne ke re *in our case* ke Motlotlegi Gare.

MADAM SPEAKER: Rra?

MR PULE: *In our case* Motlotlegi Gare ke ene a tlaa bong a *debate*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ee rra, ke utlwile.

MR MOALOSI: Ke a leboga. Ke ne ke santse ke re Botswana fa ba go reeditse jaana o bua, ba a go utlwa tota General, e bile ba gakologelwa o bua gore motho *would be ordering* pizza ka seArabea Motswana a araba ka Setswana, ba santse ba e batla eo ya Artificial Intelligence (AI) ya *call centre* ka gore tota ditiro tseo re a di batla.

Madam Speaker, ke leboge Tona go tla ka *Bill* e, e bile re e ema nokeng.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Tlhaloso.

MR MOALOSI: Ee, ema pele ke phuthologenyana, ke tlaa tlhalosa, 20 minutes o montsi thata.

Re leboge *Bill* e *Madam Speaker*, ka gore le rona ke tumelo ya rona gore *there should be a vehicle like this*. Ga go na lefatshe *that can develop without research. Research is a pivotal part of development*. Fa o ka lebelele le Motswana kwa a duleng teng, le ene *was researching*, a bona gore ke ka dira setlhako, selei, ke ka dira eng, go leka go bona gore botshelo bo nne botoka. *So, this council is very important, we agree fully.*

Gongwe ke ganane fela le fa Tona a buang gore, legale ke sa ganane, ke gore ke leka go mo gakolola gore fa a bua a re batho ba tshwanetse gore fa ba dira *research* ba tshwanetse gore ba buisane. Nna tumelo ya me ke gore *every researcher should be independent, because* ga o ka ke wa itse selo se motho yo o kwa Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) a se akantseng, mo tlogele ka tlhologanyo ya gagwe *to build* mogopolo wa gagwe, ba tlaa re fa ba *publish whatever they have published*, ke tsone di bo di nna fa fatshe, *because* mongwe o kgona go palelwa

ke sengwe mme yo mongwe a bo a kgona go bona tlharabololo. *That is why* fa o ka lebelela research ya HIV/AIDS, *for example, there are so many people across all universities in the world that are researching go batla vaccine ya HIV, ba bangwe ba a palelwa, ba bangwe ba gaufi, we need all those independent minds to do independent work.* Gongwe legale o tlaa tlhalosa gore fa o re ba buisana, o raya jang. Ke itse gore o ne o tsena kwa sekoleng, gongwe go ne go dirisiwa drive, jaanong o batla ba dira jalo, jaanong research ga e batle drive nkgonne, drive ke dilo tsa bo tsala ya me wa suit ya magenta.

Honourable Speaker, gongwe fa ke lebeletse Bill e, ke bona gore *we should also look at the international best practices because we want to come with a council that will serve us for a long time.* Re leke go bona gore ba bangwe mme ba dira jang. *As much as the Bill is here, but how can we panel beat it,* re e dire gore fa e ya go tswa, e bo e le very, very strong.

When I was looking at it, ke lemogile dintlha di ka tshwara *four* tse e leng gore *we can improve on this Bill.* So, ke tlaa simolola gongwe ke supa gap e ke e boneng, ke bo ke supa gore *international best practice* ya reng, ke bo ke supa gore *I recommend* eng. *Unfortunately, I might not be here when we go to Committee Stage, so ke tlaabo ke beile mo go Tona gore fa e le gore o bona gore se ke se buang se na le mosola, he should notice amendments. I will not be in because of an engagement kwa kgaolong.*

Fa ke lebelela la ntlha fela kgang ya International Property (IP), ke yone gakere?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Ee.

MR MOALOSI: Gore ga re a kwala mo Bill gore ownership ya IP ya a funded research ke ya ga mang, but fa o lebelela international best practices tse, fa o ka lebelela gongwe the South African International Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act, e bua gore; *“baseline ownership rules giving research institution clear title while securing state marching rights or revenue sharing for investors to incentivise commercial output.”* Ke gore mo molaong, re bue clearly gore when we fund research, researching ka molemo wa molafo, jaaka go sena molemo wa molafo jaana, fa ke bona tharabololo, who owns that, is it the Government that funded me, is it the institution e ke berekang mo go yone, or is it me as a researcher. Gongwe go nne clear fela gore fa motho a

tsaya funding ya gago Minister, a bo a itse gore mme what is he going to benefit. Le rona re le Palamente fa re approve madi gore a ye kwa funding, re bo re itse gore motho fa a bone solution, kana institution, let us say you take UB, can have a researcher e le motho wa Nigeria for example, when we have funded that person e le mmereki wa UB, who is going to own the IP fa e le gore o ya go tswa ka madi? I recommend gore we should incite a guiding statutory principle or strengthening regulations requiring funded entities to establish transparent institutional IP policies, that balance public interest with researcher incentives. Kwa institutions tse re tlaabong re di thusa tseo, ba nne le policies tse di clear, that will intensify kana di rotloetsa motho to research. Le rona re le the public, re bo re na le interest ya rona secured gone foo.

Gap ya bobedi e re ka e lebelelang, Part IV focuses heavily on financial accounting, standard auditing and annual reports, which is Section 28 to 30. The international best practice, modern Research Council such as United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) are likely bound to evaluate the socio-economic impact and return on investment of research output, tracking matrix like job creation, patent generation and public health outcomes. So, le rona re lebelele gore ba bangwe ba dira jang. Fa ba re, nnyaa, re go neetse madi, o a dirisitse jang? Re batla go bona gore fa re go neetse madi, what is the output in terms of job creation because o buile ka job creation? We cannot fund research e e leng gore ga go na ditiro tse di tswang mo go yone.

Ga re ka ke ra fund gongwe motho a batla go ya kwa space. Re mo fund gore a bone gore o ka ya space jang because it is not going to benefit us currently ka dilo tse re di tlhokang. Re lebelele tsone tseo.

Recommendation e ka nna gore mo Section 4 (e) or Section 30, *“to mandate a periodic independent external review impact assessment every five years, evaluating the actual socio-economic contribution of the council’s funded projects, rather than relying solely on compliance and financial reporting.”* Re nne le ba ba tlaa tlang ba lebelela projects ba le independent, that were funded, ba bona gore are they really giving us any output? We do not want to fund research e e leng gore ga e na output e e bonalang.

Ya boraro Madam Speaker ke gore, fa o lebelela the board composition, it covers academic, scientific, legal and financial fields, but lacks an explicit seat or requirement for active industry private sector

leadership. Ke gore mo board eo, ga re a tshwanela gore re tseye batho ba e leng gore ke babereki ba ga Goramente fela. Re tshwanetse re nne le mongwe yo e leng gore o mo industry, gore research ya rona e nne guided to the current practices kana trends tsa industry. The international best practices, because a core stated objective of the Bill is to catalyse the country's industrialisation efforts. International council heavily feature ... (inaudible) ... of industry and private sector Research and Development (R&D) leaders to ensure market relevance and industry pool for innovations. Ke dumela gore e a tshaloganyesega Madam Speaker.

Maybe we should suggest expanding Section 6 or any designated stakeholder category to ensure that direct private sector representation on the governing body preventing academic insularity, gore re se ka ra dira gore o kare go tsene academics fela. Academics can be three steps maybe behind what the industry needs now. Ke a tle ke bue as a former lecturer, ke ne ke ruta Computer Science kwa UB, gore right now go bodiwa ka AI, kids do not need to be learning how to programme, how to code, because we code with AI.

So, are we fast enough to fix our curriculum gore bana ba bo ba ithuta ka the latest. Go tshwana fela fa o ya kwa junior schools, computer tse ba di rutiwang, ga go a fetoga sepe since the inception of go ruta computer kwa sekoleng. Ba santse ba rutiwa Excel, to type, ba rutwa eng, but we are far from that place. So, as a Government, le rona fa re ntse re dira research fa, we have to fund le research ya go leka to improve the way we adapt our academics to change technology because gompiano ga go na mosola wa go re o rute ngwana Word because you can dictate to your phone and it can type for you. So, you do not need go rutiwa gore space bar e fa kae.

Ya bofelo, ke ne ke rile di four; conflict of interest and peer review integrity; the gap e ke e boneng, Section 18 and 19, handle general board level conflict of interest and confidentiality with penalties. However, Research Council frequently disregard peer review panels composed of ... (inaudible) ... academic and industry experts. Fa re dira conflict of interest, re bo re tlhola gore a ga go na bangwe ba ba thusang batho ba ba mo board kwa ntle kwa ka research, ba e leng gore ba a go feletsa recommending project ba itse gore ke mo board, e bile ke tsala ya bone.

Let us take me for example; I was working at UB, I still have colleagues there. Fa ke le mo board, have you tried to establish gore I do not know anybody kwa UB yo o ka tlang a mpha gore no, research ya me ke e comrade,

e push kwa board koo. What is the international best practice? Robust conflict of interest, vetting must extend explicitly to external reviewers, technical committee members and grant evaluators, who score application to prevent favouritism in fund disbursement.

Recommendation ke gore, let us broaden the scope kwa Section 18 or by enabling robust subsidiary regulation that is explicitly subject to external grant reviewers and committee members, strict conflict of interest declaration. Fa re ka lebelela dikgang tse Mr Minister, ke ka itumela thata, because ke dumalana le yone. Ke batla gore ke se ka ka re ka 2030 ke ntse mo setilong seo, ke bo ke tla ka review gotwe a re baakanye Bill. Ke batla re bo re tswela ka tse dingwe tse di sha. Gompiano jaana if you look at majority of dilo tse le tlang ka tsone, tse dingwe ke tse di neng di ganngwe ke ba bangwe, jaanong le batla go di baakanya. Gone moo go dia nako. Fa ka nako ya teng ba ne ba dumetse gore go fetolwe fa ba kopang teng, re ka bo re le kgakala.

The most important thing gape Minister ke gore, re se ka ra bua fela, ra dira council, re bo re tla re sa provide research funding. I know in the Budget Speech e e fetileng, o ne wa bua ka madi a o neng o a neetswe a research, mme a bo a sa tle because obviously we are prioritising, go tlhela melemo, go tlhela eng. Ba tlaabo ba re ah! research jangjang, mme we are not going to get out of the problems tse re nang le tsone fa re sa research. Across all the fields, it can be Information Technology (IT), medicine, social sciences, we need a robust research, we need a culture of researching.

I remember when I was doing my Masters kwa BIUST, guys with very beautiful topics, ba feletse ba fetola topics tsa bone, university e palelwa ke go ba neela P4000 gore ba ye kwa field to gather data because there was absolutely no money. All the research that we did was just theoretical kana o develop sengwe fela. We cannot solve problems tsa lefatshe la Botswana fa e le gore researches tsa rona, ke tse re di dirang fela re ntse fa morago ga computer, re sa tsene mo field ra ya to gather data. Kopo ya me ke gore, Palamente e, e tle e go eme nokeng fa o ka tla next time o kopa madi a research.

Mo gongwe mo ke go kopang ke gore le lebelele rationalisation ya ministries tsa lona. Let us say we take Higher Education, I do not think the Ministry of Higher Education is necessary because it manages madi a bursary fela, that is what they are doing. Otherwise the universities are independent institutions. They can be under you because there is a lot of research and technology that goes on at the universities. Ga o ka ke wa palelwa ke to manage universities.

When we rationalise because jaanong go nna le bureaucracy, o tlaa tla ka research fund, but somebody else is managing UB. A bo a tla a re, ke le Minister wa Higher Education, this is my vision and that vision ga e tsamaelane le ya gago. E le wena o tshwereng research and the core business ya university ke research. So, that is the core business, it is not teaching. Teaching is a byproduct of research, that is why in major universities, lecturer bontsi jwa nako ya gagwe, 60 per cent of his work, is research. Jaanong rona mo Botswana, 90 per cent of your work is academics, that is why if o tlhola publications, bo Scopus Journals Repository, ga go na research tsa Batswana. Former lecturers ba ba gone fa, ba ba neng ba ruta, bo D.G.B., ga o ka tlhola fela dipampiri tse a di kwadileng, ga go na. They did not have time, it is not because they were incompetent. That is why ke re fa e ka bo universities di ne di le under you as somebody who is pushing research, they would fund the universities enough to have more academic staff so that ba ka nna le nako e ntsi ya go dira research across all the fields.

It is very sad gore there are very few things that you can point out o re this is a product of research ya kwa UB, BIUST or BUAN. Gongwe fa re tla re dira rationalisation ya ministries, re bone gore re ka dira jang ka dikgang tse. Fa e le gore we need Department of Tertiary Financing (DTEF), it can be a unit under the Ministry wa Technology. Otherwise nna ga ke bone sepe se e leng gore the ministry is doing apart from just managing strikes le go lela gore bana ba ne ba ba tswaleletse kwa Office of the President (OP). There is nothing else that I see, but gongwe other people see it differently. That is why ke re I believe that your ministry is key in the trajectory of this country mme one thing se ke se nyatsang thata ke gore the ministry that is responsible, some of the decisions di a dirwa tse e leng gore they impact on your mandate, that you have no say. Go riana ke ka go botsa gore ke eng Ministry wa Education o ya to spend P662 million on digitalisation, which is a core mandate wa gago le gore keng Rre Mokgware e le ene a tshwereng project ya digitising Omang, ke eng e se ya gago? He is going to come with a digitised Omang yo e leng gore the system e a tlang ka yone, ga e na to fit le systems tse dingwe because ke wena o tshwereng systems tsotlhe.

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE): On a point of clarification. Thank you very much and thank you very much Honourable Moalosi. I think o bua dilo

tse di botlhale thata. Jaanong in terms of what other ministries are doing, you are right. This ministry is core, ga kere ke rona re tshwereng system, so there is no way that they can procure any other product that is to sit on our system without our input. That is why we have a tripartite at the moment with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs and Ministry of Communications and Innovation kwa e leng gore we are trying to do exactly what you are describing. Ga se gore ba dira ba le nosi, not at all, otherwise they will be working in a vacuum fela koo but they have to sit on our systems. Thank you.

MR MOALOSI: Tumelo ya me ke gore ke wena o tshwanetseng to procure le go tla ka requirements o ba bolelele gore gore Omang wa lona o berekele the whole country, o tshwanetse gore o bo o na le one and two, that is my belief. You might see it differently but ke dumela gore batho ba Computer Science ba kwa go wena. Computer Scientist o tshwana le lawyer; fa o bolaile motho, o utswile podi kana o utswile ditlhopho, lawyer o a go emela fela. A go reetsa a bo a dirisa knowledge ya gagwe go go baakanyetsa case. So, motho wa IT le ene, o a go reetsa gore o batla Omang yo o ntseng jaana, a bo a go direla Omang. Wena yo o batlang Omang, ga o a tshwanela gore o bo o tla o kwadile gore o batla eng, mmolelele gore o batla system e e ntseng jaana, ke ene a tshwanetseng to develop those requirements.

Madam Speaker, what I am saying is I really appreciate this Bill and I wish that whatever I have said, ba di lebelele, e seng ka letlhoo le le neng le buiwa maloba gotwe go na le letlhoo. Ba di lebelele fela with an open mind to say this is another view point from a brilliant mind. I so move Madam Speaker.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF TRADE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MR MATHOOTHE):

Thank you Madam Speaker. Ke simolole fela ka go akgola Tona go bo a le focused mo tirong e a e dirang, a tlhologanya gore lefatshe le batla eng. The way you presented this Bill, ke gone mo o bonang Rre Moalosi a itumela thata because o tsamaela kwa a eletsang teng. Go raya gore you are in the right track.

Go mosola thata e bile go botlhokwa gore re nne le the National Research and Innovation Council. Ke tlaa e bua ke lebile thata fa o buang teng ka industrialisation because fa o bua ka yone, ke gone kwa rona ba Ministry of Trade re leng teng thata. Fa re bona o tla ka thulaganyo e

e ntseng jaana gore *research and innovation* e simololwe gore e lebelelwe, lefatshe le ka kgona gore le tsene mo *manufacturing*, re kgone gore re fokotse *the import bill* ka gore Botswana o na le *challenge* e ntsi thata ya gore re tsaya sengwe le sengwe sa rona kwa ntle ga lefatshe. Fa o tla ka Molao-kakanyetso o wa go nonotsha gore re itebelele mo dilong tse e leng gore re ka dira dipatlisiso, ra boa ra di *develop* gore re tsenye madi mo lefatsheng, re bo re dire ditiro, ke golo mo go mosola thata.

Fa ke ka fa sekai fa re lebile *industrialisation* jaaka mongwe a ne a bua gore kwa *the Middle East* jaaka gompiano go lowa jaana *fuel* e le kwa godimo, ke nako e e tshwanetseng gore jaanong fa Research Council e le teng e *coordinate* sengwe le sengwe, re ka lebelela ditiro tse dingwe tse re tshwanetseng gore re di atolose. Re tswa kgakala re bua thata ka kgang ya *coal to fuel*, ke dingwe tsa *researchers* tse di dirilweng mme ga di a ka tsa atolosiwa gore go nne *commercial*. Go dira thulaganyo e e ntseng jaana, go tlaa re bontsha gore re le lefatshe re ikemele.

Maloba jaana re ne re na le maChina ba e leng gore *they want to set up a biodiesel plant* ba lebile dilo tse re nang le tsone mo lefatsheng la Botswana. Go supafala gore mohama o, fa re ne re sale re o atolositse, re ka bo re tsamaya kgakala. Mme e re fa ba dira e bo e le gore ba tlaabo ba dirisa mafura a matlalo a dikgomo tsa rona tse di tlaabong di tshabilwe kwa Botswana Meat Commission (BMC), ba lebile gape le *the crops* tse di nang le *oil*.

Mo Botswana, re na le setlhare se se tumileng thata se re se tsayang e le mohero sa mokhure (*caster plant*). *Researches* tsa rona di tshwanetse go nna *more focused* mo *plants* tse re nang le tsone. Fa re ne re sale re dirile jalo e ka bo e rile mathata a kwa Middle East a nna teng, rona re bo re itse gore re itiretse *fuel* ya rona ka ditlhare tse re nang le tsone. Ke re go nna *focused* ga gago, o lebile gore lefatshe le tlhoka eng, ke golo mo go siameng thata.

Fa o ka lebelela mo dingwageng tse di fetileng, o tlaa fitlhela e le gore *most of our ministries* di ne di bereka *in silos*. Go supafala gore Goromente o mongwefela, *ministries* di bereka mmogo tsotlhe. Gompiano jaana *you are the co-host* ya *digitalisation*, go raya gore ba ba tlaabong ba dira bo Omang le *licences* ka kwa *ministries* tse dingwe, ba tlaabo ba *depend* mo go wena. Ba go bontsha gore ba batla eng, o bo o itse gore o dira thulaganyo ya go nna jalo. Ke sone se ke reng o tsamaya sentle. Ke sone se o bonang Rre Moalosi a itumetse thata mo letsatsing la gompiano a bona gore Goromente yo o gatela kwa Batswana ba tshwanetseng go tsamaela teng.

Mo gongwe gape mo re etleng re go bone mo mafatsheng a mangwe, bogolo jang re lebile tse re nang le tsone, go mosola thata gore bana ba ba leng kwa bo BIUST, re nne re ba tsaya re ye go ba *attach* kwa *universities* tse dingwe, bogolo jang ba itebagantse le tse e leng gore e kare ba tswa kwa ba tle ba nonotshe *research*, ba lebelele tse di leng teng mo kgaolong gore re ka dira ka tsela e e ntseng jang.

Re a itse gore lefatshe la Botswana le tswa kgakala go ntse go supafala gore re na le *uranium* mme gore re e *develop* re dire motlakase o o ntshiwa ka yone, o tshwanetse gore o bo o na le bana ba ba nang le *experience*, ba tserwe ba isiwa kwa *universities* tse di rileng. E bo e re fa ba tswa kwa ba tsena mo gae ba lebile tse di leng teng le *researches* tse di leng teng, re bo re ka kgona gore re nne le motlakase wa rona. Fa o bua ka *industrialisation*, *you need power*. Ke thulaganyo e e siameng thata.

E nngwe e ke batlang go wela mo go yone gape, o lebile *the indigenous knowledge* e e leng gore o e tsere gore le bo le e *coordinate* le e lebeletse. Fa re tsaya dikitso tsa rona tsa tlholego tse bagolo ba neng ba kgona gore ba dire bo thobega le melemo e e leng gore fa motho a lomilwe ke noga ba kgona gore ba mo thuse, *Research Council* e e tshwanetse gore e bo e tsentsa dikgang tsa go nna jalo. Go raya gore Batswana ka ditso le tlholego ya bone, ga ba a tlogelwa kwa morago.

Ke dingwe tse e leng gore fa ke lebile jaana, ke bona o gata sentle mo tseleng e e siameng, e e tlaareng fa re ya go goroga koo lefatshe la Botswana le bo le fetogile. Ke supe fela ka bokhutshwane gore re go eme nokeng, ga re molao o fete ka *speed* sa noga.

MR SEGOKGO: *Clarification.* Ke a leboga mokaulengwe, o e tshwere sentle thata *honourable*. Fa o bua jalo, a o bua ka batho ba ba tshwanang le *physiotherapists* tsa Setswana le ba ba kgonang go sidila baimana ka botsipa jo bo rileng? *That indigenous knowledge*, re se ka ra e kgaphela kwa thoko, re e tsenye mo *this institute to check* gore re ka ba tsenya jang *into the mainstream society* ba tle ba kgone go supa talente ya bone le kwa mafatsheng a mangwe. Ke a leboga.

MR MATHOOTHE: O e tshwere sentle thata motlotlegi, ke yone kgang e ke e buang. Fa re bua ka ditlhabololo tse di leng teng mo nakong ya gompiano, bagologolo go na le ka fa ba neng ba tshela ka teng, ba ikalafa ka teng, mme botshelo bo ntse bo tswela.

Dikitso tse ga re a tshwanela go di tlogela kwa morago, ke gone mo re itumelang thata *Honourable Minister* a supa gore *this Research Council* e tlaabo e beile gape le mo dikitsong tsa tlholego tse Batswana ba nang le tsone. *Madam Speaker, I submit.*

MR BOGATSU (LENTSWELETAU-LEPHEPHE): Tanki *Madam Speaker* go bo o mphile motsotso le nna. Go lebega re tlaa bua mafoko a a tshwanang, mma le nna ke re ke emela go ema Tona nokeng ka Molao-kakanyetso o a tlang ka one mo Palamenteng gompiano. Segolo jang ka e bile Molao-kakanyetso o o *address Pillar 5* ya UDC Manifesto e e neng e bua ka *Education and Human Resource Development*. E ne e raya gore fa go ntse jalo jaanong tota thuto ke yone e e tshwanetseng gore la ntlha e nne motheo wa se re eletsang go se dira. *We need to redirect the education system* gore e tle e kgone *to embrace* toro e Tona a tlang ka yone. Tota fela fa re bua ka *resources of the country*, e e tlang kwa godimo e nna motho ka boene *because once you have trained* motho, jaanong o tlaa bona tiro e ntsi ya go tlhabolola lefatsheng. Ke dumalana le wena ka botlalo rra gore *research* ke yone *which guides* ditlhabololo mo lefatsheng. Botswana ke lefatsheng le le *heavily dependent on other countries for anything that you can think of*. A o bua ka dijo, eng, gotlhe fela nako le nako re beile gore re tlaa ya go kopa dithuso kwa mafatsheng a mangwe. *For a very long time*, re nnile bonya mo kgannyeng ya mofuta o.

Botswana ke lefatsheng le le nang le ditswammung tse di seng kana ka sepe. Bontsi jwa tsone *are just lying around, they are not being used because* ga re na kitso. *We are always thinking* gore go tlaa tla batho ba tswa kwa ba tlaabong ba tswa teng, ba tla go tlhabolola mo ga rona. Jaanong nako le nako fa re bua ka ditlhabololo, re solofetse gore go tlaa tla motho a tswa koo a bo a tla go re direla ditlhabololo. *This is the time now* e e leng gore re le Batswana, *what is it that we can do for ourselves with the resources that we do have in the country. Rather than always to depend on other nationals or countries to come and do the job for us.* Ke tsaya gore jaaka re bua ka go tlhabolola thuto e bile go na le ya Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), e tlaa nna gore *it is answering all these things.*

Kana bagaetsho, fa re bua ka thuto, tota *it should be a process of enabling somebody to produce goods and services that he could not produce before.* Se se ka reng motho o a rutega, re bua ka *education and training.* Dilo

tseo are still lacking mo ga rona jaanong go botlhokwa gore re di dire dilo tsa mofuta o. Re bone gore mme gone thuto ya rona *is channeled* sentle *to push* ditlhabololo mo lefatsheng la rona ka fa go ntseng ka teng.

Ke a utlwa rra o bua gore *we need to establish a Research Council.* Ke ne ke kopa gore mo go yone eo, jaaka o buile gore go na le bo NARDI, BITRI le BUAN, a re di tseye re di dire *one thing to avoid fragmentation.* Gape go tle go nne le *prudent management* ya madi. Ka gore jaanong go raya gore o fa bale siki, o fa bale siki, mme kwa bofelong *still*, ga go na maduo ape a o a bonang go tsweng moo. Fa o tsena gatwe fa go na le NARDI, fa go na le sennanne, *but when you look at the output, is there anything coming out of that? There is nothing.* Jaanong ke ne ke re le yone e re e emele ka dinao. Kana bagaetsho *research* ka boyone fela, *it creates opportunities*, fa e le gore *you are going to research on something*, re tshwanetse go bona le tse di tswang *as a result of that.* Re bone *development of value chains out of the research that you are carrying out. If those things are not coming out, then we are not saying that we are innovative.* Fa o tsaya kwa Ministry wa Local Government ba bua ka *rural industrialisation.* *If re bua ka rural industrialisation it means then we have to look into our own rural environment. What is found in those environments that could be used to boost the economy of the people living in those areas.*

For example, fa o tsaya the Lentsweletau-Lephephe Constituency o ya kwa Loologane area, *that is where you will see lot of resources in abundance*, tse e leng gore *are just lying there, not being used.* Ba na le sengaparile, morama, diphologolo, *they have all that can be used to boost their economy.* Fa o lebelela batho ba Modimo mme ba ntse ba tshela fela mo lehumeng. Se sengwe gape *as we go into this rural development on industrialisation*, a re bone *research ya market.* Fa gongwe *we go into these things and then we forget to survey the area for market opportunities for those people.* Fa o tsaya *for example*, batho ba Humana People to People, ba ba file boxes tsa dinotshe di se kana ka sepe. Fa ba sena go nna jalo, ga ba itse gore ba dire eng ka tsone, *they are just there whether there is production, nobody knows. Those are some of the things that we have to look into go bona gore mme go ka dirwa eng ka dilo tsa go nna jalo.*

For a very long time in that area, go ntse go buiwa ka *production of melora, glycerin* go dirisiwa marula a e leng gore *are in abundance in that area. For many*

years, that idea has always been there, mme sepe ga se diragale, jaanong ke tsaya gore se o se *establish* Tona se ya go thusa batho ba ba ka kwa bale ka gore ba na le *resources*, go ka *speed production, using the resources that are available in their own area*. Jaaka re ntse re bua gore kana *research* e ya *to lead into commercialisation*, ke se re se buang gore *we researched* ka morula re a itse gore o ka dira eng. Jaanong *where is the commercial aspect? It is still lacking*, re tshwanetse re ye go lebelela gore mme ka gore go na le kgang ya mofuta o, a re boneng gore re ka dira jang gore batho ba Modimo re ba thusane. Ka re na le marula ke a, dirang melora, *glycerin, drinks* ka *the resources that we have in here*. Re nna re lela ka gore batho ba a senya, ba a tsaya ba a epa, ba tlhasetse melemo ya rona ya Setswana, ba tlhasetse le marukuru a re nang le one *in abundance* around the Kweneng area. *There is a settlement called Kweneng, gongwe fa go ka lebelelwa gore that resource* e re nang le yone e e kanakana ya marukuru, re ka a dirisa eng. Re bone gore *we are making a killing out of that*, re sa *destroy the natural environment*. Ba bangwe ba a rema fela, ba a epa, ba a reng, *if we cut* ka tsela e e babalesegileng, *then trees will grow again and be used again* fa dinako di ntse di tswelletse.

Rra, ke go *support* thata mo kgannyeng e segolo jang o bua gore Botswana ke *number 57 out of 139 countries*, go raya gore *we are not developing. We are just stagnant*, jaanong *let us look into our education system, the curriculum* e tshwanetse *to address the needs of the country*. E se ka ya nna thuto fela ya go tšhoma Sekgoa le go se kwala...

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (MR MOTSAMAI): *Elucidation.*

Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker* le Mopalamente wa Lentsweletau. Ke ne ke re ke mo tlaletse mo dikgannyeng tse a di buang, bogolo jang fa re lebeletse kgang ya *to develop* batho *at the rural level*. Kana dikgang tse di felela di fokotsa motsamano le mosuke wa batho ba goromelela kwa ditoropong, *whereby* o fitlhela e le gore dikgaolo tseo fa go nna le dinako tsa bo palo batho le ditlhopho, ba felela ba balelwa go sele. Go bo go raya gore fa go ya go tla *distribution* ya *resources* jaaka e le ditlhabololo, o ya go fitlhela gotwe nnyaa ga re ka ke ra oketsa kgaolo, kgaolo ya gago e nnyennyane Rre Mokgwathi, Rre Ramaotwana, Rre Motsamai kana wena Rre Bogatsu. Dikgang tse a di buang tota di ka dira mmereko kwa dikgaolong, batho ba nna kwa dikgaolong, ba tlhabolola magabone. Gona le gore go bo gotwe nnyaa, re ya go

batla tiro kwa Gaborone, *mentality* o o tshwanetse gore o eme ka gore re fitlhetse borraarona go ntse gotwe ba ile Makgoeng kwa bo Gauteng, Rhodesia le Namibia. Re tshwanetse gore re itse gore o ka bona tiro fela fa o leng teng, ka ditsompelo tse di leng foo. Ke a leboga.

MR BOGATSU: *Madam Speaker*, fa ke ya kwa bokhutlong, tota *topic* e *it is very important*. Se ke se lemogileng ka yone ke gore *it is too scholarly*, ka fa e tlhomaganeng ka teng. Ke kopa gore *let us bring it a little home, so that it addresses our problems more especially that we are still a developing country*, re santse re le kwa tlase thata. Ke kopa gore re e tshware jalo. Ke a go leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente.

MR GARE (MOSHUPA-MANYANA): Ke a leboga Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, go bo o mphile sebaka sa gore le nna ke akgele mo Molao-kakanyetsong o re o beilweng pele ke Tona. Ke batla fela ke simolole ke papamala ke supa gore, ke o eme nokeng. Fa re santse re le ka fa a ntseng ka teng ka fale, re ne re bua thata ka kgang ya *knowledge-based economy*. E re neng re dumela gore ke yone e ka dirang gore lefatshe la Botswana le kgone gore le tswe mo go ikaegeng ka diteemane, le kgone gore le rarabolole mathata a a neng a re apere. Kana *knowledge-based economy* ke selo se se tlhokanang le *research*, gore re kgone go fitlhelela maikaelelo a yone.

Ke batla go bua ke re Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, lefatshe la Botswana go tswa goo-Lowe kana go lebaka e le gore *we are just consumers of ideas, we import technology and the solutions* tsotlhe ke tse re di tsayang ka kwa ntle. Jaanong *Bill* e ke dumela gore e tlile go nna tharabololo. Ke dumela gore e tlaa re fa tshono ya gore tse ke ntseng ke bua ka tsone gore re di tsaya kwa ntle re kgone gore re di itirele. *In other words, it will create a new future for our country*. Ka jalo ke dumalana le yone ke sa oshaoshe. Jaaka Motlotlegi Tona a ne a bua, re na le *institutions* tse di dirang dipatlisiso jaaka a ne a di balolola tse di ikemetseng ka nosi le tsa Puso. Se se leng teng ke gore go ntse go sena *institution* e e ka dirang gore patlisiso e nne *coordinated, but most importantly* e bo e direlwe *budget* gore e kgone gore e re neele maduo a re a batlang.

Se se leng teng ke gore batho ba na le megopolo, dikakanyo le *solutions* tse di farologaneng. Re ne re bona le ka nako ya COVID-19 Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, fa go sa rekisiwe bojalwa batho ba kgona go tswa ka maano a go itirela bojalwa ba bo ba boa ba bo neela leina. Ba dira bojalwa fela jo bo neng bo na le

maduo fela a a tshwanang le bojalwa jo bo dirilweng kwa nnetu..., ba bo ba bitsa ba re Modae foko. Go ne go supa gore *people are creative, and* ba kgona gore fa ba na le lenyora la dilo tse dingwe ba tswe ka *plan* gone foo go bo go direga. *Innovation* ya Modae foko, re ne ra tshega fela mme gongwe re ka bo re na le Whisky e e leng ya Botswana e tswa kwa Modae fokong. Ka mabaka a gore re ntse re sena molao kana *institution* ya go nna jaana, re ne re dirisa Modae foko e le *joke when we can actually have created millions and jobs from that* Modae foko.

Boammaaruri jo bo leng teng Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente ke gore, *we need an institution and* molao o o dirang gore *all those ideas* di tlhotlhiwe re bo re tseye *which are bankable and turn them into enterprises*. Mo bogomprienong le fa o na le mogopolo o dumela gore o ka rarabolola eng, jang, o tlaabo o tsamaya o kokotla diofisi tse tsotlhe go fitlhelela o bo o lapa, o bo o itlhoboga o nna fa fatshe ka mogopolo kana *research* ya gago, e bo e sa tswela lefatshe mosola.

Go molemo gore *Bill* e e bo e supa gore go ya go dirwa *an institution*, National Research Council. Tona mo Molao-kakanyetsong o o supile a papametse gore *it is going to be autonomous*. Ke batla go dumela gore se se raya gore *everything will be done on merit*, go sena mo gongwe sepolotiki se tsenelelang; *research and funding* di lebelelwa *on merit* gore tle re kgone gore re nne le maduo a a botoka.

Ke batla go bua gape Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente ke re, go dira jaana go ya go fokotsa manokonoko e bile go ya go kgothatsa le batho, bana ba rona bogolo jang gore letlhoko la ditiro le re lelang ka lone re ka kgona go bona le fokotsega. Re ka kgona go bona *economy* e gompieno e sa thenyathenyeng e tokafala, ka gore *we will increase exports*. Re tlaa boa e bile re kgona go fokotsa *imports* ka gore kana *exports* ke di kgonang gore di godise itsholelo ka bonako. Re tlaa kgona gape gore fa o lebelela tse re di ntshang mo garona tse di farologaneng, mongwe kgantele o ne a a fa sekai ka matlalo. Gompieno re ntsha mabele, mmidi, dinawa *and a lot of things* kwa masimong a rona, tse e leng gore fa re ka kgona *to add value to them* re ka kgona go bona dipoelo tse di botoka ka gore *we actually consume value added products* tsa dilo tse re di ntshang ka kwano mo garona. Jaanong fa re ka dira jalo, go ka re thusa gore re kgone go iphitlhela re kgonne go dira *value addition and therefore create* ditiro tse re di tlhokang.

Kana tota dipatlisiso *provide solutions to a lot of problems*, gongwe *budget* e e kanakana ya kwa *Ministry of Health* go ya go leka go tlamela Batswana mo botsogong, ka dipatlisiso re ka kgona go tla ka *preventative measures for certain conditions, the NCDs for example*. Fa o lebelela makoa a mangwe o tlaa fitlhelela a remeletse mo kgaolong, tikologong kana mo motseng o o rileng. *A living example* ke *the condition* ya *renal failure*. *It is very common* kwa Moshupa le Kanye. O kgona go bona gore go tlhokana le gore go dirwe dipatlisiso golo foo, go bona gore kante ke eng e kare bokoa jo bo bontsi fa. A e seng gore go na le sengwe se se teng fa, se se dirang gore batho...

MR MOSANANA: *Clarification*. Ke a go leboga *Honourable* Gare. Fa o bua ka kgang eo ke utlwa ke tlhabega, ka gore Puso ya gago ke yone e e neng ya tswala Rural Industries Innovation Centre (RIIC). *People migrated from* Kanye, le ba Moshupa ba ba neng ba berekela kwa Kanye *migrated* ba tla Gaborone. Le jaana e ntse e tswetswe. Ke a go leboga.

MR GARE: E ntse e tswetswe, mme gakere..., ga ke itse gore ke go arabe ke reng.

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

MR GARE: Ka gore RIIC e tswetswe go tokafadiwa go diriwa BITRI, gongwe ga o itse mogolole. Kana ke gore wena ga o nke o tlhoka go dira jalo, ke eng o ne o sa *disappoint* gompieno wa bua sengwe se ke ka dumalanang le wena. Legale rra ke go utlwile, ga e a tswalwa fela, go ne go dirwa mo gongwe mo go botoka.

Jaaka ke ne ke bua Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente, go botlhokwa gore jaaka fa re dira *an autonomous body* jaana, dilo tse re tshwanetseng ra di lebelela thata Motlotlegi Tona ke kgang ya *transparency, accountability and good governance*.

Bontsi jwa sebaka *even* o lebelela *the leakages* tse di leng teng mo *institutions or State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)* tsa rona, ke dikgang fela tsa gore gongwe gatwe, *an organisation is autonomous*, ba bo ba tsaya ditshwetso tse fa gongwe di felelang di dira gore e nne o kare go nna le go tlhoka go dira dilo sentle. O tshwanetse gore fa o tla o re tlišetsa *regulations* tse ke dumelang gore o tlaa di tliša mo nakong e e seng kgakala, dikgang tse di tshwanang le *key performance indicators* di tshwanetse di bo di papametse, ka mabaka a gore, re tshwanetse gore *given* seemo sa rona sa itsholelo *account for every* thebe e re e dirisang.

Re tshwanetse re lebelele dikgang tsa gore, fa re neela National Research Council madi, re bo re itse gore re ka solofela *start ups* tse kae. Re ka solofela gore go ka tlhamiwa ditiro tse di kana ka eng, *it can generate revenue* e e kana ka eng. Ke sone se ke reng, go botlhokwa gore *good governance and accountability we should emphasise them* fa re setse re tlisa *regulations* tsa rona. Jaanong se sengwe se se botlhokwa se re tshwanetseng go se lebelela Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente ke gore, *we must remember* gore *research is not only* mo ditoropong. Bontsi jwa rona fa, re tswa kwa dikgaolong tse re dumelang gore batho ba koo le bone ba na le bokgoni. Kwa Seherelela, Dintsana le Sesung, mongwe o akantse sengwe *somewhere*. Ke eletsa gore fa o tla re dira *this institution*, re e dire ka seemo sa gore e fe mongwe le mongwe tshono ya *to access services* motlhofo. A kgone gore fa a batla *to submit researches* tsa gagwe go bo go sa mo sokodise. E se ka gongwe ya felela e le gore e nna dikgang tse di felelang mo ditoropong fela kana mo metseng e metona.

Fa o lebelela ka fa molao o ntseng ka teng re dumela gore go o ema nokeng ga rona re lebile *beyond just a Bill*, rotlhe re le fa re ne ra nna le tebelopele ya setšhaba ya 2036. Ke dumela gore fa re ka dira jaaka ke ntse ke bua go ka nna bofefo gore re fitlhelele koo. Jaanong tiro ya rona fa re tswa fa ke gore...*and* ke eletsa gore banana kwa ba leng teng *being the most affected when it comes to unemployment*, ba reetse thata. Ke dumela gore *this Bill* e ka dira gore e re rarabolole mathata a mantsi jaaka ke ne ke bua a *unemployment*. Keletso ke gore ba reetse thata, ba utlwe gore e bua ka ga eng, ba nne malala-a-laotswe gore, fa e setse e tla e nna molao, e bile e diragadiwa, ya bo e le gore ke bone ba ntlha *to benefit* mo go yone. So ka jalo re na le tiro ya gore fa re tswa fa re ye kwa Dikgotleng, re ye go netefatsa gore re a ba bolelela. Jaaka ke ne ke bua, *we support it, but it must be adequately funded*. Fa gongwe re nna *shy to fund* dilo *because* ga re *sure* ka *accountability*. Ke sone se ke neng ke gatelela kgang ya gore, *when you bring in the regulations* o bo o tlisa go le *clear* gore re solofela eng mo P1 mongwe le mongwe o re mo tsenyang kwa khanseleng eo. Ke tsaya gore o ne o sa reye gore ke fetse 20 *minutes*, ke eletsa gore ke eme fa, mme ke gatelele gore ke ema Tshutiso e nokeng ka pelo yotlhe Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Ke a leboga.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members, le santse le batla go tswela, *are we not truncating?*

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

MR SEGOKGO (TLOKWENG): Ke a leboga *Madam Speaker*. Mma ke se ka ka tsaya nako e telele ka ke a bona o eletsa gore gongwe re *truncate*. Ditshekatsheko di supa gore mathata a re nang le one lefatshe lotlhe ka bophara, ke mo go bidiwang gotwe ke *execution or implementation deficit*. Go a itshupa gore mafatshe a otlhe fela *especially in the* Sub-Saharan Africa *understand their problems*. Ba itse mathata a bone, mme the *challenge* e gompiano e bonalang ke gone mo gotweng *execution deficit*.

Ke re *Madam Speaker*, golo mo go nthaya gore e re fa re tla ka *Bill* e ke dumalanang le yone thata, re se ka ra ipaya fela mo goreng re tlaa itebaganya thata mo dikgannyeng tsa *technology, science*, re tlogela *fundamental issues in the society* tse di tsamaisanyang le *finance, economics, political science* le *public administration*, tse e leng gore fa re tla re dira *the nexus* ya *this Bill* le *these disciplines* tse ke ntseng ke di tlhalosa, ke teng fa re tshwanetseng gore re bo re tsamaya re ya *to sort* mathata a ke buang ka one a *the implementation deficit* e re nang le yone mo the Sub-Saharan Africa. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) *is very clear* gore, lefatshe lengwe le lengwe fa gotwe go padile *should at least budget one per cent of their budget or at least one per cent of their GDP to research and innovation*. Ditshekatsheko di supa gore lefatshe la Botswana *is at 0.54 per cent ratio to the GDP in terms of the ratio to the Gross Domestic Product*. Go raya gore re santse re tlhabela ka 0.46 *per cent* go ya go goroga gone kwa re tshwanetseng gore fa gotwe re tsamaisa sentle tota mo *research and innovation* re bo re le gone koo. Gape go a itshupa gore *in the* Sub-Saharan Africa *we are at 0.38 per cent, comparatively* mafatshe a a tswelatseng thata ba gongwe re ka bong re ipaya le bone, lefatshe la Israel, fa o lebelela *their* Gross Domestic Product le ka fa ba tsayang madi a bone ba a isa kwa *research, is just 6.8 per cent*. Lefatshe la South Korea le e leng gore ke mafatshe mangwe a a kwa godimodimo le one mo go tseyeng madi a bone ba a isa kwa *research and innovation* e tsamaya kwa bo 3.5 *per cent*. *When you translate those budgets into real jobs, the jobs in* Israel di tsamaya kwa go 400, 000, *in* South Korea di tsamaya kwa go 700, 000, mo *this sector* ya *research and innovation*. Mo go rayang gore fa re ka tlhwaafala re le lefatshe go tsaya *a significant portion of our fiscus* injecting it into *this sector*, re tlaa felela creating ditiro tse di seng kana ka sepe. *This is the assignment that I am giving to the Minister, gore whatever Bill that is brought on the floor of Parliament we should tie that Bill to real*

jobs. Re tsamaele gone kwa full employment e re neng re bua ka yone maloba in terms of the expansionary fiscal policies mo itsholelong, ka e tlile go felela e le gore it is refinancing itself, this sector.

Madam Speaker, ke batla go tsena gape on the issue e go itshupang mo lefatsheng la Botswana... dipatlisiso di supa gore lefatshe la Botswana le mo pitseng ya minerals, lebanta la minerals. Ditshekatsheko di supa gore mo Botswana fa re leng teng ke fa e leng gore ke mo pitseng ya teng. Mo e leng gore as much as re tlaabo re dumanala le Bill e re tshwanetse gore tota re simolole go tlhwaafalela dikgang tsa researches tse di tsamaisanyang le ditswammung tse re nang le tsone. Rare earth elements; uranium, nuclear; mme e bile go bo go le matshwanedi ka gore ke Tona yo o lebagangeng le dikgang tse re buang ka tsone nowadays.

Data centers; we are at the heart, at the nucleus of Southern Africa, mo e leng gore dikgang tse go buiwang ka tsone nowadays, go buiwa ka digital governance, digital transformation, go buiwa thatathata ka data centers. We are in a pool position re le at the heart of Southern Africa gore re ka bo re le pitsa ya these data centers that can translate into 200 000 jobs fa re tlhwaafaletse go di dira, e le gore ke rona ba e leng gore we manage software developments tsa mafatshe a mangwe re le gone mo lefatsheng la Botswana. Ke gone kwa e leng gore fa re dira research yone e, tying it to real jobs, ke tsone dikgang tse e leng gore re tshwanetse gore re ye go tsenelela investigation ya rona teng.

This issue e e diragalang Madam Speaker, ya gore go bo go dirilwe synthetic diamonds, ke mo e ka bong e le gore ka gore ke rona bommantswitswidi ba diteemane, gatwe ke rona ba re dirang diteemane tse di kwa godimo, ke rona ba re ka bong re gatetse kwa pele, three or four steps ahead of mafatshe a mangwe gore re itse gore go ka nna ga nna le thulaganyo ya mofuta o. Re bo re itse gore how do we counter this thing, re bo re itse gore go tlaa itebaganngwa thata mo diteemaneng tse e leng gore ke tsa mmantota.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE (MR MOTSAMAI): *Clarification.* Ke ne ke re fa a wela, a tlhalose go le gonnyennyane fela gore a dikgang tse a tswang ka tsone tse, a ga a bone di tlhoka gore Palamente kana Puso e re fa e dira budgets, e kgone gore lekalana le la Research le fiwe selekanyo se se kwa godimo thata gore Rre Tshere a kgone go fitlhelela mo dilong tse di ka tlhamang mebereko le tse dingwe jalojalo? Ke a leboga.

MR SEGOKGO: Ke dumalana le ene, mme tota kana mo nakong ya itsholelo ya gompieno, ga re a tshwanela go baya thata mo Pusong. Fa o lebelela these multilateral organisations, there are so many funds tse e leng gore le ene Tona, my encouragement ke gore a se ka a baya thata mo go reng these funds di tshwanetse gore di bo di tswa mo Pusong. There are so many opportunities in multilateral organisations tse e leng gore they fund research, development, and innovation. Nna ke teng kwa e leng gore nowadays fa ke bua ka dikgang tse, ke teng kwa e leng gore re tshwanetse gore re ye go leba teng. We have to capitalise and utilise these multilateral organisations that fund dikgang tsa mofuta one o.

Incubations Madam Speaker, ke ne ke tswa kwa lefatsheng la Israel mo dingwageng tse di fetileng, ke ne ke bua thata ka yone kgang e, ya gore e re fa re bona monana kwa Tlokweneng ka kwa Ditshwegeng a na le talente ya gore gongwe o ka develop sengwe, ga re a tshwanela go tsaya monana yoo e le threat, re tshwanetse re mo tseye e le teemane. Golo moo, re tshwanetse gore even mo universities re bo re na le these incubation centers tse re ka felelang re ka develop talents tse re tlaa bong re di bona mo bananeng ba ba tlaa bong ba thuthuga kwa tlase ka tsone ditalente tsone tseo.

Go builwe ka issue ya indigenous knowledge kgantele gore gongwe re ka e dira ka tsela e e ntseng jang gore e kgone gore e tsene into the mainstream research and development. Re se ka ra e beela thata kwa thoko ka gore talente yone e ntsi mo lefatsheng la Botswana.

Ka go rialo, with relevant Standing Order, ke ne ke kopa gore o kare re a dumalana ka Bill yone e, gongwe re dumalane fela ka bongwefela jwa pelo ka gore across the aisle re a dumalana, gongwe re eme gone fa, re tle re fe Tona re fetise Bill e, e ye go tlhama ditiro kwa ntle. Ke a leboga.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Segokgo. Fa re lebile metsotso e e setseng, e mennyennyane. O ka respond fela Honourable Tshere, but ga re ka ke ra ya go e fetsa today.

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE): Procedural one Madam Speaker. Gongwe re tseye the question so that they vote on that Motion first.

MADAM SPEAKER Order! Honourable Members, Honourable Segokgo invoked Standing Order 55.1 for the debate to be truncated, so I shall put the question. The question is that the debate be truncated.

Question put and agreed to.



MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION (MR TSHERE): Thank you very much Madam Speaker. *Gongwe ke simolole fela ka gore* it is my birthday today, and it is evident from how the Members supported me. Thank you very much. I think I will take less than seven minutes to respond because *ba dumalana le nna. Fela mma ke leboge Mapalamente* across the aisle *gore re dumalana mo kgannyeng e*. I am always surprised how I always think these matters are very complicated, and I try to simplify them but *ke bona gore Mapalamente ba a e tlhaloganya*, so, I am very happy that you understood and debated on this matter. *Mo dikgannyeng fela ke tlaa ama di le pedi di le tharo.*

The Research Council, *kana mo Botswana go na le mo gotweng* National Research and Innovation Agenda. So, the agenda right now has been proposed by the ministry and adopted by Cabinet. *Tota* it will be the role of the council to come up with the national agenda and the setting priorities, *ke yone* the role of the council. *Fa e sena go dira jalo, go raya gore e tlaabo e bona gore ke bomang jaanong ba e leng gore ba ka dira tiro eo.* The council will not do research on its own. The research will be done by institutions and individuals *ba e leng gore ba koo. Bone* they will give the directions and set the priority *gore* this is the trajectory that the country is moving in terms of research and innovation. So, anybody who wants to go in this line, then would align and seek funding as such from this council. *So ke yone tiro ya yone e tona thata.*

I must also add that council is an apex body. So, *go ya go nna le dikhansele, go tlile go tla melao e mengwe kwano e e buang jaanong ka* sectoral research and innovation councils. *Go na le* a sector like a very huge sector *ya* health for example. *Ke ntse ke e bua fa, bo* Baylor, Harvard and others who are doing research in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. So, they have a sector on their own. So, what the Bill is saying *ke gore*, the council will give these sectors the powers to accredit and issue permits. *Yone e tlaabo e emela gore go nne le conflict, wena o ipelaetsa yo o filweng permit gore ga go tsamae sentle, then o ka ikuela* at the Appeal's Committee. So, this is how it is going to work. We have sectors such as Agriculture, Environmental Science *ba e leng gore* they are doing a lot of research but this one will be the apex body. So, *ke ne ke re gongwe re e tlhaloganye jalo.*

This Pillar 4 of the UDC Manifesto is anchored on education, like Honourable Bogatsu was saying. *Go raya gore jaaka* Honourable Moalosi *a re*, universities

di tle kwa go nna, ga di a tshwanela go tla kwa go nna go na le ba ba di tshwereng, ba ba buang ka the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education. We are migrating from the system *jaaka re e itse, ya* education *e e leng gore ga e a re sologela molemo. Re tsena mo* the STEAM education that you always hear Honourable Nono Kgafela-Mokoka *a e bua nako le nako gore* this is where we are going. In addition, she is getting the relevant tools as well in terms of the systems that she is going to use.

Like I clarified earlier on, all Government systems sit on a core Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure that is owned and operated by the Ministry of Communications and Innovation (MCI). Think about this thing *e le* a computer when you buy it from Game Store. *O reka* computer *e sena* systems *mo teng* and depending on the job that you want to do, you will acquire the relevant system and put it there. So, *rona kwa* MCI, we are responsible for coming up with the whole computing space for the entire Government. Think of that computer *ya gago eo*, about what now we have to do for the country. So, we need about 36 racks to cater for the computing space for the entire country. *Lona jaanong*, the ministries are now responsible for coming up with their own application software that can solve, *fa e le gore o fa* licences, how do you issue them? A system that issues licences, you will acquire it, and then it will sit on our systems. That is why we always collaborate with all ministries, especially if they have to get any system.

As a matter of fact, all IT officials in our ministry, 80 per cent of our staff is actually deployed in various ministries to offer ICT support and advice. So, *bone ba link le rona* at the Department of Information and Technology (DIT) as we know it. This is what is happening, let us not confuse it *le tse dingwe.*

E go neng go buiwa ka knowledge-based economy, this is what we are pursuing, as the UDC Government. We are pursuing natural resources and how we can benefit. That is why *re bua ka* the council that will set the priorities and path that the country needs to take.

Ke itse gore Honourable Moalosi *o ne a supa* Honourable Mokgware *ka monwana mabapi le se a kileng a bua ka sone a re*, business outsourcing, *gore re a go nna le batho ba e leng gore ba tlaabo ba letsa*, clients from Multichoice and Netflix, who have complaints about the

services that are being offered, they just call a certain number. I can assure you today, that number is sitting at BDIH today, it is almost three or four months that we have been running that organisation. We have employed over 300 *banana ba ba teng kwa, ba e leng gore* they are shifting on a 24-hour basis.

Fa o le a Dubai hotel for example; a certain hotel can enlist us here *gore fa go na le* queries *tse di kwa ntle, di buiwa ke motho a le koo*, you address them here. You know what is the advantage with us; it is the fact that we are an English-speaking country so, everybody can speak English. Unfortunately, speaking English is not just very common globally, so, *o fitlhela e le gore re na le* that competitive advantage. We are looking on boarding more and more companies *ba e leng gore* we will offer them such services *gore batho ba rona ba bone ditiro kwano*. It is already happening. Over 300 have already benefited. A 24-hour call center is operational at the moment.

Honourable Moalosi *tota o ne a bua dikgang tse di ntle. O nthomeletse le* softcopy of the presentation he made. I appreciate his contribution more so that *a re o batla go tsaya setilo sa me*. I understand he is the Shadow Minister of Communications and Innovation. He said something very interesting on IP ownership. *Bagaetsho*, generally IP is owned by the institution *e e dirang golo mo, ga e ka ke ya own ke* an individual *yo o ka reng* he discovered, it is an institution. Where an individual now comes and say I will do research, before the contract signing, *ke gone fa re kgonang* to negotiate *gore* what is the terms now of ownership of the IP, that is negotiable.

The other thing *ke gore*, benefit *ya dikole jaaka di dira...*

MADAM SPEAKER: *Move, e tshaile honourable.* O lebeletse metsotso ya gago, ga o a leba nako kwa godimo kwa.

MR TSHERE: I am almost done Madam Speaker. I wanted to emphasise the point *ya gore jaaka UB kana BUAN kana mang a dirile* research output, which is now registered under IP. What it essentially means is that *bone ga ba tswelele ba ya go dira* innovation, prototyping *eng, ba ema gone foo*, whoever takes up because is taking up their own IP, that institution will benefit from the royalties, that is how they make money.

So, with that Madam Speaker, I therefore move that this House adopt the National Research and Innovation Council Bill, 2026 (No. 23 of 2026). I so move. Thank you.

Question put and **agreed to.**

Committee - **Later Date.**

MADAM SPEAKER: *Batlotlegi, ka fa e tsamayang ka teng, nako jaanong e tshaile.* It is 5: 59 p.m. I shall now call upon the Leader of the House to move a Motion of adjournment.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

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

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until Wednesday 29th July, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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, Ms B. Pinaemang

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