

BOTSWANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

(THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2024)

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

HRS/MINS

PRESENTATION OF A GOVERNMENT BILL

1100 – 1300

- National Arts Council of Botswana (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 27 of 2024) An Act to amend the National Arts Council of Botswana.

(Published on 2nd September, 2024)

(Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture)

MOTIONS

**DECLARATION OF GABORONE MAIN MALL
A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE**

1. "That this Honourable House requests Government to declare Gaborone Main Mall as part of Special Economic Zone geared towards the creative sector and entertainment hub."

(Mr. T. Mangwegape-Healy, MP. – Gaborone Central)

(Resumed Debate)

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2. "That this Honourable House requests Government to introduce an incentives programme for long serving civil servants to incentivise them to take early retirement and make way for younger, more able-bodied graduates with the right skill sets and qualifications so that they get an opportunity for employment in Government."

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3. "That this Honourable House requests Government to come up with a policy that compels supermarkets to sub-contract their in-house butcheries and bakeries to 100% citizen owned businesses in which the supermarket owners are not shareholders as a way of making up for mainstay businesses such as bakeries and general dealers which have generally closed down due to being outmuscled by supermarkets."

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INTRODUCTION OF A RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

4. "That this Honourable House requests Government to introduce a Rural Water Supply Scheme in order to promote economic and social upliftment of the rural communities."

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AMENDMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

5. "That this Honourable House requests Government to amend the Public Health Act in order to give the Director of Health Services powers to be able to contain and control the outbreak and spread of any disease without the need for His Excellency the President to rule by decree in a protracted State of Emergency."

(Mr. L. Lesedi, MP. – Serowe South)

DESIGNATING MAUN A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

6. "That this Honourable House resolves that Maun be designated a Special Economic Zone for tourism."

(Mr. D. Saleshando, MP. – Maun West)

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GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE ALLOCATION OF PLOTS

8. "That this Honourable House requests Government to expedite the allocation of plots earmarked for Self Help Housing Agency (SHAA) Project and business in Sowa Town."

(Mr. P. Majaga, MP. – Nata-Gweta)

REVIEW OF SPEDU INCENTIVES

9. "That this Honourable House requests Government to consider reviewing SPEDU incentives to boost domestic and foreign investment."

(Mr. D. L. Keorapetse, MP. – Selebi Phikwe West)

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11. "That this Honourable House requests Government to install backup generators in all Government clinics in the Takatokwane Constituency as a matter of urgency."

(Mr. F. T. Leuwe, MP. – Takatokwane)

QUOTA FOR LAND ALLOCATION TO CHURCHES

12. "That this Honourable House requests Government to set a quota of at least 30 percent for land allocation to churches on advertised plots and further demarcate plots to be specifically allocated to churches only."

(Mr. O. Ramogapi, MP. – Palapye)

BANNING OF NON-ESSENTIAL PLASTICS

13. "That this Honourable House requests Government to consider banning the use of non-essential plastics."

(Mr. K. Nkawana, MP. – Selebi Phikwe East)

CREATION OF A CITY/TOWN IN THE NORTH WEST REGION

14. "That this Honourable House requests Government to create a city/town in the North West Region given that the North West Region is underdeveloped, but it could be the hub of tourism with a city/town that fits a tourism hub status in terms of infrastructural development and services. This is the Region which is home to Okavango River, Thamalakane River, Lake Ngami and a wide range of flora and fauna. Creation of a tourism city in this Region would not only put the country in a better position to exploit the rich natural resources found in the Region and to create jobs, but also because the country is ready for an additional city to alleviate crowding in the existing towns and cities."

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AMENDMENT OF THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ACT

15. "That this Honourable House requests Government to consider amending the Public Holidays Act so that it reads "if a public holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the Monday becomes a public holiday" as opposed to reading "if the public holidays listed fall on a Sunday then the Monday shall be a public holiday" as it has now become common that if a holiday falls on a Saturday then the next Monday is declared a public holiday at short notice and this disrupts planning and is bad for business."

(Mr. L. Lesedi, MP. – Serowe South)

LEADER OF THE HOUSE'S QUESTION TIME

HRS/MINS

1400 – 1445

THEME: **ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT ALL NEWLY ESTABLISHED DISTRICTS FUNCTION OPTIMALLY**

- To ask the Leader of the House to apprise this Honourable House on all administrative, personnel and financial arrangements that have been put in place to ensure that all the newly established districts function optimally. The Leader of the House should specifically state:
 - (i) the new districts where substantive Council Secretaries and District Commissioners have been appointed and where there are delays, state the causes of such delays;
 - (ii) Central Government offices that are expected to place senior officers in the new districts and whether this has been done; if not, when;
 - (iii) if there is adequate legal infrastructure to allow for districts to mobilise own resources and self-finance; and

- (iv) if the current decentralisation process covers land administration and Bogosi (traditional leadership) operations.

(Mr. T. B. Lucas, MP. – Bobonong)

QUESTIONS

1. MR. M. REATILE, MP. (JWANENG-MABUTSANE): To ask the Minister of Justice: **(391)**

- Justice:
- (i) if in the so called Butterfly Case, Gerrie Nel was hired or is still hired by the State as its legal counsel and since Gerrie Nel is linked to AfriForum, what was the rationale of the State in engaging Gerrie Nel who is at odds, undermines and minimises the struggles of African National Congress (ANC) in fighting for justice in South Africa;
 - (ii) whether this does not reflect negatively towards the geopolitics of our neighbouring countries who share the same pain; especially South Africa, a friendly neighbouring country;
 - (iii) how much has been paid to date for his services;
 - (iv) if he is still being paid by the State or owed and if so how much;
 - (v) to state the number of times His Excellency the President, Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi met Gerrie Nel;
 - (vi) why it was necessary for Gerrie Nel to have a sit-down with His Excellency the President Masisi since the Butterfly case was wholly initiated by law enforcement agencies without external influence from the Executive as per the State's claim;
 - (vii) Bank of Botswana Management provided the State with an affidavit that clearly denied the theory that money was stolen under their watch and supervision. Why did the State distance itself from that affidavit; never acknowledged its existence, never disclosed it to Batswana or even used it to avoid prosecuting an innocent person;
 - (viii) the High Court ordered that, Jako Hubona be charged with perjury for manufacturing evidence on behalf of the State. How many years are left before this matter can be brought before the court as per the Prescriptions Act. If the matter is not filed yet, can the Minister update this Honourable House when the State is intending to do so and why at that particular time;

- (ix) how many times did Jako Hubona meet His Excellency the President Masisi; to brief him about the Butterfly Case;
- (x) with Hubona's skillset of fabrication and manufacturing evidence, harm and injury was caused on the accused. Has the State apologised or compensated the accused person for the fabrication he did, if not why not;
- (xi) what action has been taken against other individuals who participated at various capacities in helping Hubona in the name of the State in the fabrication of evidence;
- (xii) did the State establish whether the accused person was working alone or not when money went missing at Bank of Botswana. If the accused person had partners, how many Bank of Botswana employees were charged for and if not, why were they not charged;
- (xiii) since Bank of Botswana holds annual Cabinet briefings and the incident of stolen money occurred in 2008, does His Excellency the President or anyone in Cabinet remember being briefed about the missing money; if there is someone, who is it and what they remember;
- (xiv) if His Excellency the President and Cabinet do not remember being told about the missing money, did the State seek explanation from Bank of Botswana for such misleading reports that led to an innocent person being falsely accused. If no investigation was done, why not.

2. MR. M. I. MOSWAANE, MP. (FRANCISTOWN WEST): To ask the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development: **(438)**

- (i) if he is aware that there is a dire need of storm water drainage sewer in Tati Town; and
- (ii) the amount needed for this sewage and storm water drainage system.

3. MR. W. B. MMOLOTSI, MP. (FRANCISTOWN SOUTH): To ask the Minister of Lands and Water Affairs to give progress regarding the servicing of the Phase 4 industrial area. **(441)**

4. DR. T. MATSHEKA, MP. (LOBATSE): To ask the Minister of Finance: **(450)**

- (i) to update this Honourable House on measures taken by the Government of Botswana following the report by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) on the demographic dividend;

- (ii) whether the window of opportunity still exists given the underlying challenges that are confronting the economy of Botswana; and
 - (iii) if she considers that the hurdle of economic diversification will ever be overcome; if so, why and if not, why not.
- 5. MR. T. LETSHOLO, MP. (KANYE NORTH):** To ask the Minister of Justice **(452)** to apprise this Honourable House on access to justice and the provision of legal aid services in the southern region of Botswana, with a specific focus on Kanye and the surrounding areas, further:
- (i) provide the total number of cases in the southern region, specifically in Kanye and its surrounding areas, that have required legal aid assistance;
 - (ii) how many legal aid officers are currently deployed to the southern region to provide these services; and
 - (iii) the number of individuals who have received legal aid assistance in the specified area through the existing legal aid system.
- 6. MR. T. MANGWEGAPE-HEALY, MP. (GABORONE CENTRAL):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to state: **(454)**
- (i) if he is aware of the state of the council owned Ginger market;
 - (ii) plans to ensure that maintenance of the premises is implemented and when tenants of the market can expect maintenance of the facilities; and
 - (iii) if his Ministry intends on renovating or updating the dilapidated market in the near future.
- 7. MR. D. L. KEORAPETSE, MP. (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST):** To ask the Minister of Health if he is aware that the Selebi Phikwe Government hospital has since 2022 been operating without a physiotherapist and if so: **(455)**
- (i) what could be the cause of such prolonged absenteeism; and
 - (ii) when will his Ministry deploy a physiotherapist to the hospital.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

8. MR. D. SALESHANDO, MP. (MAUN WEST): To ask the Minister for State President to state the following: **(458)**

- (i) if Botswana Television and Radio Botswana, which provided live coverage for the BDP campaign events held on Saturday 31st August 2024 and 1st September 2024, will extend the same opportunity to other political parties for live coverage of their key campaign events and steps that the parties should take to be accorded such a dispensation; and
- (ii) if the Minister concedes that live coverage, unlike routine delayed political coverage of rallies offers a political party greater advantage to communicate their message.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

HRS/MINS

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