REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

SPEECH FOR THE MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE

DURING THE

PUBLIC INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (PIP) FOR THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE UNDER NDP 12

31 OCTOBER, 2025

1. **Mister Speaker**, it is my privilege to present to this Honourable House, the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture's Public Investment Programme (PIP) regarding the Twelfth National Development Plan. The purpose of this presentation is to justify and then to request a sum of **Twenty Billion, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Two Million Pula (P20.952 billion)** for projects aimed at achieving the objectives outlined in the Agricultural Sector's Chapter of NDP12. Through these funds, it is intended to transform Botswana's agricultural landscape and to advance the sector towards its True North.

2. **Mister Speaker**, let me remind this Honorable House about the True North of the agricultural sector. It is *to transform Botswana's agriculture into a diversified, resilient, and export-oriented sector that ensures food security, reduces imports, and drives inclusive economic growth.* The Public Investment Programme before this Honourable House details projects that are aimed to increase contribution of agriculture to GDP to at least 6%, reduce food import bill by 8% and to increase the share of agricultural exports to total exports to 3.8%.

3. **Mister Speaker**, the Agriculture Support Programmes making part of this presentation, are centered on promoting enterprise-driven empowerment across the arable, livestock, and horticulture sub-sectors. This strategic shift is designed to move Botswana away from subsidy-based dependency toward a more sustainable and productive agricultural model to reinforce national food security and sovereignty. Over a five-year period, the total estimated cost of the programme is **P3.704 billion**.

4. **Mister Speaker**, the Livestock Production and Processing Programme is a key driver in transforming Botswana's livestock sector by promoting productivity, value addition, and market competitiveness.

5. Key initiatives include the **A-Di-tsale** breeding programme, dairy development, beef and small-stock clusters, fodder production, and upgrading of abattoirs and marketing facilities. These interventions will enhance animal health, genetics, and processing

standards to meet market demands, supporting the national goal of growing the herd to five million cattle and strengthening food security, diversification, and exports. Over the next five years, the programme's total estimated cost is **P379.5 million**.

6. **Mister Speaker**, the Crop Production and Processing Programme prioritises mechanization, irrigation, productivity, and post-harvest infrastructure with flagship initiatives including the Development of the Cannabis Industry, and the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) which, presently, promotes production of potatoes. The total estimated cost for the programme is **P1.118 billion**.

7. **Mister Speaker**, the Pests and Disease Control Programme seeks to safeguard Botswana's agricultural exports and domestic production through strengthened laboratory diagnostic capacity, national surveillance and rapid response systems, vaccination campaigns, and integrated pest management.

8. The programme prioritises the control and eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease, reinforcement of the national cordon fence infrastructure, management of pests of economic importance, and safe disposal of obsolete pesticide waste. These interventions contribute to improved biosecurity, sustaining market access, and protecting both animal and crop health. Collectively, they ensure that Botswana maintains a resilient and disease-free agricultural system. The total programme estimated cost is **P334 million**.

9. **Mister Speaker**, the Research and Development Programme strengthens innovation and commercialization across the agricultural value chain. It focuses on data-driven productivity, vaccine diversification, adaptive trials, and research on indigenous crops, livestock, and fodder. Key flagship initiatives include upgrading NARDI laboratories at Sebele and advancing genetic improvement of indigenous fish species through collaborative research and farmer knowledge transfer. These investments promote technology-led transformation, reduce production risks, open export opportunities, and build a resilient, competitive sector at an estimated cost of **P127.4 million**.

10. **Mister Speaker**, the Infrastructure Development Programme provides the critical physical backbone for Botswana's agricultural transformation such as:

    a. ***Access Routes, Irrigation, Cold Chain and Laboratories:*** prioritises the construction of access routes to production zones, irrigation networks, cold-chain and processing facilities, and agricultural laboratories to enhance productivity and resilience. These investments are aimed at unlocking rural economies, improve logistics and market connectivity, and reduce post-harvest losses.

    b. ***Centres of Excellence:*** these are intended to build capacity in service delivery, technology adoption, and business innovation. The centres are aimed at serving as hubs for training, mentorship, and hands-on demonstrations, empowering farmers and agri-entrepreneurs throughout the value chain.

    c. ***Enabling Utilities and Priority Projects***: The objective, here, is to further expand communications, electricity, and water infrastructure in key production areas to support integrated farming and value-chain development. Priority projects include: rehabilitation of research and training centres; refurbishment of the Ramatlabama Artificial Insemination Centre; the ongoing Blending and Filling Laboratory project at Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI); the Sebele Water Infrastructure upgrade; and development of aquaculture in special economic zones.

    d. ***Land Administration Facilities:*** Mister Speaker, complementing these efforts, the aim is to construct and refurbish Land Board offices, record centres, and staff houses, thereby strengthening land administration efficiency and sustainable land management.

11. Collectively, these initiatives will enhance the enabling environment for production and catalyse agro-industrial growth through improved infrastructure and an expanded institutional

presence across regions. The total estimated cost of the Programme is **P4.278 billion**.

12. **Mister Speaker**, the Technology and Innovation Programme seeks to accelerate Botswana's transition towards smart, data-driven, and digitally enabled agriculture:

    a. ***Agri. Tech Platforms**:* It focuses on the deployment of precision agriculture systems, establishment of centres of excellence, and operationalisation of digital advisory and extension services to enhance productivity and resilience across the agricultural value chain. The initiative encompasses the development and upgrading of key national digital infrastructure such as the Botswana Animal Information and Traceability System (BAITS), and the Botswana Agricultural Information Management System (BAIMS), to provide an end-to-end electronic platform for agricultural services, traceability, and decision support.

    b. ***Land and property systems**:* further supports the upgrading of the Land Information System (LIS), Integrated Geographic Information System (IGIS), Deeds Registry automation, land records digitisation, and deployment of emerging technologies including an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tool for predictive analytics. Complementary ICT enhancements, such as LAN upgrades, ePhyto GeNs, and the establishment of a Real Estate System, will strengthen connectivity and service delivery within the ministry.

13. Collectively, these interventions aim to foster innovation-driven agricultural growth, ensure full digital integration of production systems, and improve service efficiency in line with the sector's transformation goals. The total Programme estimated cost is **P746.1 million**.

14. **Mister Speaker**, the Rangeland Management Programme focuses on the restoration of degraded rangelands and enhancement of ecosystem and livelihood resilience to sustain livestock productivity. The Programme promotes regenerative grazing systems, fodder banks, provision of water and paddocking

infrastructure to improve carrying capacity and reduce pressure on grazing lands.

15. It further supports climate change adaptation and mitigation by strengthening institutional systems for land degradation neutrality, surveillance and management of reproductive animal diseases, and green livestock value chains that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The total Programme estimated cost is **P104.0 million.**

16. **Mister Speaker**, the Land Management Programme focuses on strengthening spatial planning, land acquisition, surveying, registration, and servicing processes to promote the organised and strategic use of Botswana's land resources.

17. The Programme aims to ensure sustainable land utilisation, enhance tenure security through regularisation and audits, and modernise land information systems to improve decision-making and efficiency in agricultural land delivery. Key interventions include the preparation of regional spatial plans, development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), production of cadastral plans, boundary reaffirmation and border fencing, as well as the surveying of boreholes and ploughing fields to facilitate both livestock and crop production. The total Programme estimated cost is **P596.7 million**.

18. **Mister Speaker**, the Land Facilitation and Management Programme seeks to accelerate the provision and development of land infrastructure to unlock investment-ready agricultural land for commercialisation and inclusive economic growth. The Programme covers the full spectrum of land-servicing activities, including layout design, infrastructure development, and establishment of servitudes and wayleaves for water, electricity, and access corridors to enable productive farm operations and agribusiness estates. It will also facilitate farm consolidation, improve land accessibility, and enhance spatial planning linkages between rural and urban agricultural zones.

19. Through these interventions, land servicing will be undertaken in key growth areas covering mixed land uses to support agriculture,

industry, and community services. Collectively, this Programme underpins sustainable land management and will catalyse private-sector participation in agri-industrial development. The total Programme estimated cost is **P9.520 billion**.

20. **Mister Speaker**, taken together, these programmes represent a comprehensive roadmap for agricultural transformation under NDP 12. The total funding requirement for the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture is **P20.952 billion**. Approval of this allocation will enable my ministry to deliver measurable improvements in food production, employment creation, and export competitiveness, while strengthening land governance, infrastructure, and institutional capacity.

21. **Mister Speaker**, I therefore move that the sum of **Twenty Billion, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Two Million Pula (P20.952 billion)** be approved under Ministry of Lands and Agriculture Public Investment Programme and form part of the Twelfth National Development Plan (NDP12).

22. I thank you.