

DAILY HANSARD

YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT



THE SECOND MEETING OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FRIDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2019

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Friday 8th February, 2019

THE ASSEMBLY met at 9:00 a.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

P R A Y E R S

* * * *

MR KESUPILE: Order Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER (MR MOLATLHEGI): Honourable Kesupile, what is wrong?

MR KESUPILE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Good morning Mr Speaker. I was just saying this House will be out of order if you can smile so passionately onto one side and not bring the same smile this side Mr Speaker.

MR SALAKAE: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: No, wait Honourable Salakae. Order! Greetings Honourable. Did I smile facing that side?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: You did not smile.

MR SPEAKER: No, I looked this side when I arrived, then I looked the other side, it is just that it was not visible when I was looking that side. Honourable Salakae, what is bothering you?

MR SALAKAE: I wanted to ask Honourable Speaker, as I suspect this House will be out of order if we keep saying certain things and encouraging them as parliament and then we disregard them without advising each other. Last year, we were advised that wearing a Blue blazer on Fridays is a sign of unifying the country. I am not sure whether members that side have changed since Khama left or do we continue putting on that blazer.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Let us start the business of today. I realised that you might ask that because it seems like it is only you and Honourable Mangole who are wearing that colour. I suspected you might ask that so that we notice that you are the only one wearing that colour. Honourable Members let us start the business.

Honourable Members, we have one Minister's question from Honourable Majaga.

MINISTERS' QUESTION TIME

**THEME: MATHANGWANE-NATA ROAD
MAINTENANCE PROJECT**

- (i) to state the date of commencement and duration of the road maintenance project; and

- (ii) if there are any contingency plans in place to aid movement in anticipation of the rainy season.

MR MAJAGA (NATA-GWETA): Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to briefly highlight the problems regarding the maintenance that is carried out on A3 which is the Francistown-Nata road. There is some maintenance being done near Mathangwane and around the Nata region. Can the Minister clearly explain what could have caused the delay of the project because it has long been awarded. Can the Minister also explain why the Ministry is failing to time and again go and inspect the maintenance project especially Directors and other relevant officers? Because the road is in a bad state and we are all aware of that.

Is the Minister aware that heavy rains have started to pour in the area as I speak, is the maintenance which was scheduled for eight months but ended up taking two years completed? What is the problem? Does the Minister know that that road could be closed anytime because of the heavy rainfall? So in short let me stop here because I do not want to talk much about this road. I have spoken about it for three years, I could just faint or cry just from talking about this road. Minister you should stand up and do something about that road.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (MS MAKGATO):

Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I am going to answer you, but I am not very confident nor comfortable with the answer I have. The truth sets one free. I had attempted to talk to the Honourable Member but he is anxious about this road because I had wanted to do right by him so that I answer him when I am sure about the story. So I am going to attempt to the best of my ability to answer, and then we will see what to do thereafter.

Mr Speaker, the commencement of the road maintenance project started in January 2018, but in a piecemeal...

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

MS MAKGATO: I plead with you to listen because it is important, but in a piecemeal fashion, which as I will explain shortly have been overtaken by events, which now require a different approach that has to cover the A3 road from Francistown to Maun. The portion which is presently under maintenance runs from Sua junction to Nata village. Work on this portion was to have run for 12 months (January 2018 to 2019), but was delayed by



lack of accessibility to borrow pit materials. Currently, works are ongoing, while the contractor has requested for an extension of time, which the Department of Roads is currently considering.

Mr Speaker, in answering this question, I would like the Honourable House to note that the road maintenance project under question actually dates back to the year 2006, which is where lies my discomfort, but has experienced a number of adversities. These have put my ministry in a position where a totally different approach has to be implored, and I will outline these. That is why I agree with the Honourable Member when he says it should be taken seriously.

Firstly, and after the maintenance which was planned for in 2006 which I have just alluded to, a tender was awarded to a bidder who then declined the contract. The related works per the design then in hand were to address the section of the road covering Sebina to Nata, this being a portion of the Mathangwane to Nata stretch under question, this happened in 2007. Due to the contract offer being declined, it became necessary for the work to be put to retender with the works being planned for the financial year 2008/2009. Due to the effect of the economic meltdown of 2008, the planned maintenance was then deferred with other and similar national development projects.

Mr Speaker, it would be appreciated that with the effect of the delays which I have just mentioned, when combined with the adverse effect of Dineo in 2017, the duration of maintaining the whole A3 road including the Mathangwane and Nata section has become very fluid. Instead of thinking about the one section of the road under question, we have now to think about rehabilitating the whole A3 road which by the way has gone beyond its 20-year design life. This is where a different approach is therefore called for and is unavoidable. In order to aid movement in the meantime, we have to intervene with works which are presently ongoing between the Sua junction and Nata as well as the Mathangwane-Nata section, while planning for the reconstruction of the A3 road. Mr Speaker, my ministry is in the process of finding funds to do this work, which by definition will include new designs.

Mr Speaker, short of the type of interventions which I have just shared with this Honourable House, rewarding the Sowa junction to Nata and the Mathangwane portion, there is nothing that we can do in respect of contingency plans. My ministry has to rely on our maintenance

budget to remedy any dilapidating sections, but a sustainable solution is to reconstruct the whole road. We are working to raise funds and to find funds, I do not know how I am going to raise funds, and to do the need ... (interruptions)... that is why I was saying I am uncomfortable, to raise the funds to do the needful in respect of this key road and others which are key aspects of our national road communications network. In addition to what I have alluded to, my ministry will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that traffic movement along this road is not disrupted.

Mr Speaker, I want to conclude by saying that there is no Motswana who does not know that this road is important. It is important and has to be attended to. The main issue was shortage of funds and the painful thing is that it took a longer period of time because we have been experiencing this situation since 2006.

So, I can promise and assure the Honourable Member that I will stand up for this road.

MR MAJAGA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you Honourable Minister. The Minister just stated that there are no funds to carry out the maintenance. I want her to explain where the National Road Levy Fund which was supposed to be for the roads is.

Also, when the contractors take time to do the job, more damage... the damages which are caused by the work delay from the contractors increases the road construction expenses. The other thing is that the contractor was not good at his job. He did not even know there has to be a borrow pit when constructing a road. That is the first thing that the contractor should know.

This road is an international road. We could understand if it was a road which leads to Mosu or Tshokatshaa. Minister, can you tell this House something better that what has been said? I am not talking about the project. We know that the issue regarding projects, funds are being sourced from China therefore we might still be waiting for something hopefully. If maintenances are not being done, the road construction which could have been complete might stop any minute due to the rains because it seems like the Department of Roads is not doing its job yet there are ten Directors who once came here with Honourable Mokaila. I do not want them, I want Honourable Mokaila.

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



MS MAKGATO: ...(Laughter!)... No Honourable Member, I can assure you that the road you are talking about worries me more than it worries you because I can be held accountable for it. As you already know, it is one of the roads which have been given priority. It is even included in the budget of the funds that we are going to seek not necessarily from China and from the levy. You would probably know that at some point in time, there was P150 million which was supposed to maintain this road.

The National Levy funds are there but the fund does not focus on this road only. That is why we sometimes take some of it to repair where necessary but the bottom line is that there is no road. You and I agree that there is no road, and the only last sustainable solution is to construct a new road. The main issue is that as I am standing here, I am still looking for resources and funds so as to carry out the construction of that road.

MR MMOLOTSI: Minister, it was in this very House last year when Honourable Mokaila promised this House that he has secured funds to go and reconstruct the A3, as well as the Sehitwa-Shakawe road. So, I do not know whether that has changed and if it has changed, tell us why? Where are the funds which were secured by your predecessor? You cannot come here and tell us a fresh story, when your predecessor told us that they have already secured funds to reconstruct that road.

MS MAKGATO: No, you are attacking me for nothing. I did not say that anything has changed. In my answer, I stated that we are still in the process of ... What was the exact word I used? Looking for funds.

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

MS MAKGATO: No, I want to tell the truth. The funds which the Honourable Minister before me talked about are the funds from China but there is a process to see how that can be achieved. An assessment team which is going to assess the road which we are talking about has already come.

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

MS MAKGATO: No, it was included in the P10.2 billion which was conversed between my ministry, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Chinese. We are in the process of actualizing that, following all the necessary processes of Botswana which you are aware of in order to use those funds.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure.

MR SPEAKER: I am expecting supplementary instead of procedure. What is it Honourable Mokgware?

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Procedure. No, Mr Speaker, I do not want to take anything from the Honourable Minister. For consistency, since Minister Mokaila is here and the Minister has hardly a month in that ministry; can you not just allow Honourable Mokaila to answer? It will be better that way. I do not want us to be bothering Minister Makgato with something which the man who has the answer to is sitting next to her. Can you not do that Mr Speaker?

MR SPEAKER: No, Honourable Mokgware, I cannot do that. Honourable Makgato is representing the Government so she will answer.

MR LELATISITSWE: Thank you Honourable Minister. Why does it seem like the Ministry of Transport and Communications and other ministries are paying no attention to ... when a road is being constructed there has to be a stipulated time for its lifespan. I have realised that all ministries; including yours Honourable Minister are paying no attention to the lifespan of roads up until we face challenges.

Do you not realise that these short-term maintenances which are being carried out pieces by pieces are going to waste government funds?

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

MR LELATISITSWE: Yes, when a job is being done like that because it is evident in Honourable Matambo's speech that the design of the whole road is being done. I wonder if the complete design is going to be shattered. That would be wasting government resources. On the point that was raised by Polson Majaga, have you included the Gweta-Nata road? There is danger there when it rains. Thank you.

MS MAKGATO: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. If the Honourable Members could cooperate with me like I wish, we could not be where we are now. It is a statement of fact that I am a Minister of Transport and Communications and that I am new in the portfolio. It is also a statement of fact that sometimes when you are briefed to come and answer as a Minister, you are uncomfortable; which means that you end up asking for later date. I had suggested to the Honourable Member



with the sincerity that I can immerse so that he can come and see me at my office so that we brief each other, to hear his questions and answer him the best way I can, being sure of my story. Did I not say that? The Honourable Member then refused and insisted that we proceed. You must not ridicule me when I tell you that I want to go and gather my facts because that would be the truth. It is a statement of fact and I cannot change it.

So, going back to Honourable Lelatisitswe's question, it is very true that the way our country has been doing road maintenance in the past is not the same as how it is being done now. We used to do in-depth maintenance in the past and our roads lifespan was long. It is a statement of fact. One of the questions that you asked is why we are not doing what we were doing in the past to extend our roads lifespans. There are new technologies which are going to be introduced, why can we not look at them as well? Most of our roads across the country are very poor, not just this one. We all know that there was the issue of funds and I suspect that it is the reason why we are in the situation we are in now.

Going forward...

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

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

MS MAKGATO: Hey you! We are not in a freedom square and we have not been smoking so hold it. I have not been smoking.

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

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Makgato, no, address the other Honourable Member properly.

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

MS MAKGATO: No, I withdraw that statement. He should also behave.

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

MS MAKGATO: Moving on to Honourable Lelatisitswe's question of whether Gweta-Nata is included.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is included.

MS MAKGATO: Yes, I am told that is it included; Nata to Maun. You were asking if a piecemeal approach will not waste funds, there is no how we can just leave ... (laughter!) ...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Murmurs.

MS MAKGATO: I need your protection Mr Speaker; they are talking about something else.

MR SPEAKER: Order! You have my protection madam, proceed.

MS MAKGATO: He was asking that as we are talking about the redesign, have we included Gweta-Nata, yes we have included it, I think English is better. Is using this piecemeal approach not going to waste Government funds? Under an ideal circumstance you would not want to do that because these are funds you could be using for the long term, but we cannot just leave it like that because we have to ensure that people still manage to pass. It is just a makeshift situation.

MR MOREMI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I have three clear points, hopefully I will get the answers. Mr Speaker through you, Minister, I have been in this House since 2009, I am not sure how many Ministers passed through the portfolio that you are at the helm of today. I remember Swartz, Molefhi, Mokaila, and so on. Are you saying the change of Ministerial Heads delays implementation and accountability to institutions such as Parliament because you are stressing the point that you are still new in that ministry? Mr Speaker, it is indeed true that there is no one who is not aware that, that road is dilapidated. Honourable Molefhi as Minister, I think three, four Ministers back, explained that, that road will not be attended to because it was not included in National Development Plan (NDP) 11. How can it disappear from NDP 11 since you say you started it in 2006? Mr Speaker, I am saying this because it now seems the decision that you do not spend during the time of recession in 2008 to date is legitimate. There are those who have very low credit ratings which can go as low as E minus like Japan but they carry out maintenance for their roads which have reached their lifespan. Our credit rating is at B plus yet we are not carrying out our projects. We have reserves for rainy days, cyclone Dineo came and passed and we still did not do anything about the road. Minister, do you think this is proper planning?

MR SPEAKER: Give her a chance to respond Kgosi.

MS MAKGATO: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. The Honourable Member has asked me questions which some I cannot answer; like why can we not use our reserves to construct this road? Why do people do credit ratings, since we did not construct a road which



was due, why give us B plus and not downgrade us? I cannot answer these since they do not fall under my portfolio. What I can confirm Kgosi Honourable Tawana is that this road is in the plans. What happened is that its development got delayed due to the recession that I have alluded to and it passed its lifespan, and we find ourselves in trouble as I am speaking to you now. What we can do at the moment is try to speed up things to have this road attended to, we need to source funds. This is what is happening currently as I have already mentioned. It is true that changing Ministers quite often may affect delivery, but remember that Ministers are not the ministry. You have a fully-fledged ministry with Accounting Officers, everything continues to operate the same way. For me today to say I was uncomfortable with answering, it was purely to do with that I did not like how they answered and I felt that they did not give me the details that I wanted. If I have had more time, I would have asked for that more time to respond with the full knowledge of what I am saying so that even the one I am responding to, may relay the message to his constituents with a proper answer. That request does not mean that I am failing at my job or I do not know what I am going to do with A3. I know exactly what I am going to do, where I am going to get the money from and the processes that need to be followed. I cannot run away from the fact that it has been too long and that we do not have a road and it is affecting our tourists and our normal transportation. We all know that. That is affecting the economy.

MR MOSWAANE: I understand that the Minister is not the ministry. I want to know where you got this answer that you are not satisfied with? I also want to know the amount of funds that will be used in this road project? If we are expecting funds, I want you to explain to this House, how much we are expecting. You should also tell me why among all these many things, you refuse to have tollgates because it shows that they can give us more than P15 billion per annum? Why are you refusing because it seems funds are no longer available? I want to know ...

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

MR MOSWAANE: No, I have done the figures. I am saying tollgates in Botswana can give us P15 billion.

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

MR MOSWAANE: No, I am telling you that those funds can be available, someone is just refusing. I wanted to understand ...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR MOSWAANE: ... all these trucks which are using this road for free ...

MR MOREMI: Point of order. Mr Speaker, Honourable Moswaane is mentioning that he has done a research. Maybe we will be in order if he can explain his source since we know that he is a Member of this Parliament and is not working anywhere else.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane, did you carry out any research or you are just saying?

MR MOSWAANE: Have you forgotten that I moved the tollgates Motion? I am the source.

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

MR MOSWAANE: ... (Laughter!) ... I was saying ...

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

MR MOSWAANE: No, it is not hard. Statistics can be compiled, maybe you are forgetting that we are from the same place. Reliable sources for that matter, no one asked me anything when I presented my Motion citing those figures and today you want to ask. I was indicating how much it can cost to build tollgates in Botswana and the profit we can make. I was not asked about the source. Minister, these international trucks which use this road for free, what do we benefit from that since you refuse to charge them? No truck should be allowed to use the road, costing Botswana P1 million and paying P60 at the border. It is wrong. Minister, in your view, what is the problem?

In conclusion, I want to know why Government returned P12 billion without spending it? We want to know how many others you are planning since there are plenty of ministries, you can tell those that will do something and those that will not, who needs funds and who does not. I just wanted clarification on that Minister, why is that not possible? Thank you.

MR MOREMI: Point of order. Mr Speaker, we have not yet reached a conclusion we are still out of order, because Minister Ramsden who was the Minister of Transport once commented in this House implying that the Global Consult made a feasibility study. This Study explains that the toll gates are not feasible, they are not viable. Now Honourable Moswaane wants to oppose it saying he has a source, referring to himself, even though it was once stated in this House that the Global Consult



had done some consultancy, feasibility and viability, they are saying the toll gates are not viable in Botswana, that was said by Ramsden.

MR SPEAKER: I hear you Honourable Moremi. Do not go there because you might end up going out of order, let us go back to the subject matter before talking about the toll gates, allow the Minister to respond.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR SPEAKER: No, allow the minister to respond first. You asked a question, let her respond. Proceed Minister.

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

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (MS MAKGATO): Who is Dorcus? Thank you very much Mr Speaker, Honourable Moswaane, maybe I should explain the process as to what happens for the Minister to end up answering a question. A question is tabled in Parliament and as you know eventually it arrives at the ministry, then from the ministry it goes to the relevant department and there is a back and forth depending on their response. It is not like after answering, I just take the answer and come running here to respond. As a Minister, you have to ask questions, you make reference to your past answers and explain why you are giving that answer at that time. I had not done that process to my satisfaction, but nonetheless we have crossed that bridge. So I cannot say it is from the people that I am not in good terms with, no, it is from my staff. I have not interrogated it to my satisfaction. That is what I was talking about. You talked about the toll gates, I can confirm that they are under active consideration. The toll gates...

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

MS MAKGATO: Yes, because even though he was not holding the floor, it does not mean that if you can carry out a feasibility study today, this year and it is reported that your results are not feasible, in five years you cannot do it, because circumstances change. Therefore, I am saying it is under active consideration and obviously consideration means we will look at whether it would be feasible, sustainable, how much money we can generate out of it versus how much money we will spend on it. We would look at that. Thirdly, I do not think it is fair that our trucks should be charged for travelling to nearby countries and we do not reciprocate with the same. That is why now one has to apply themselves to say as Botswana what are we saying going forward. We

are also considering at the ministry even though it is still internal, but one of the areas that we are looking at is the establishment of a road authority, because we believe this is a big economic activity of provision of road infrastructure, to an extent that it needs to be managed efficiently and well. Other countries that have done well in this regard have got roads authorities that have done all the things that we wish for. When the time is right, I will come and present it to you and then we agree.

DR MMATLI: Thank you Mr Speaker, today the Minister is coming up with so many excuses, I do not know what could be the matter. For her to respond by saying "I know" is inadequate and I could not find time to...no, answer the questions Honourable Minister and stop...

MS MAKGATO: Point of order. What he is trying to say and paraphrase is not correct. He is taking a chance. I did not come here with some excuses, I came here asking the Honourable Member to defer the question so that I could go and prepare the answer to my satisfaction. So for him to be mimicking what he is trying to do here, he is starting a war that he cannot finish.

MR SPEAKER: Calm down. Honourable mmatli stop provoking, you only have to ask questions.

DR MMATLI: This person is a bully...

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

MR SPEAKER: No, Honourable Mmatli you are the one who is being provocative now. Avoid that and just ask her questions without any fight.

DR MMATLI: Thank you Mr Speaker. There is a challenge of implementation Honourable Minister and the problem runs across all the ministries. How do you plan to go about this challenge in your ministry, because these problems have been there from long back? As we speak, our roads still have potholes, people die in these roads because they are bad. How are you going to solve these problems because they obviously have to be solved? Secondly, Honourable Mmolotsi mentioned that Honourable Mokaila was here in this House last year stating that the funds have been obtained, but today you are saying you are still waiting for the funds. Between you and Honourable Mokaila who is lying? One of you is lying, so you will have to come clean and tell us who is lying. Secondly...

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



DR MMATLI: How will we know because the construction of this road was supposed to have started in 2006 and we are in 2019 and nothing has been done. Maybe the same thing that happened with Molepolole road which was supposed to be constructed in the Development Plan 9 is going to repeat itself because even today it has not been constructed. This applies to other roads that were supposed to be constructed even though the funds were available. Maybe you are never going to construct it just like the Molepolole-Gaborone road which is not even mentioned in the development plan.

MS MAKGATO: Firstly, you should never ever say anyone in this House is lying. Those words are prohibited in this House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Inaudible)...

MS MAKGATO: There! There!

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

MS MAKGATO: You should go and play there!

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Do you understand?

MS MAKGATO: ... (Laughter!)... On a serious note you talked about implementation, I agree with you Honourable Member that we are poor when it comes to implementation. There are reasons at varying levels, some could be capacity and other various reasons. The other reasons could be the cases that are reported because it is common that if you award a tender, somebody would go and protest. Sometimes when we plan, case in point; the Molepolole road, we never budget for contingency purposes such as the expenses that we are going to incur when moving people and when the time of implementation comes, we fail. Honourable Mokaila talked about P10.2 billion and the roads that were going to be constructed. There are processes that you have to go through for you to be issued money, even if you have requested for P1.5 billion from World Bank, you go through a process. So we are in a process of issuing this money and we are following all the necessary due processes, granted, 2006 is a long time ago. That is however not the only road in the country, there are other roads countrywide. I am not here to talk about the Molepolole road, rather about the question that is in the Order Paper.

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

MS MAKGATO: I believe I have answered, you will ask about the Molepolole one at your own time, today I am not going to talk about Molepolole. I am responding to the question that was asked today.

MR NKAIGWA: Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable Minister. I want to appreciate from you Honourable Minister; we have been advised by engineers from your ministry, including local authority engineers that you cannot have paved roads connecting to the highways and you cannot also have highways being paved. I want to appreciate from you; why are you paving the Mathangwane-Nata road yet that is against your own Government policy?

MS MAKGATO: I am wondering why they are busy advising you and not advising me, we should converse about it and decide. In our culture, we know that there are temporary things or makeshift and you cannot run a Government which is looking for the ideal because if you look for the ideal while you do not have enough funds and you would be saying I cannot keep that small portion, that is short-term. They have not briefed me at least to make me aware that it is a short-term thing and we do not agree with short-term measures. What I can assure you is that if there is a road that should be maintained and a report or technical advice indicates that this is not feasible in the long-term but it is feasible in the short-term, I will do it in the short-term to facilitate economic activities.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Majaga, I do not expect a point of order, I want you to ask so that the Minister responds. Stand up and ask.

MR MAJAGA: I was saying Honourable Mokaila should go back to his seat, he has helped where possible.

MR SPEAKER: Leave Honourable Mokaila alone. Ask questions.

MR MMOLOTSI: Minister, you should understand that when we are in this House, we listen and we listen very attentively and therefore whatever you say, we will always remember. Like I said earlier, Honourable Mokaila made a commitment to say they have secured funds to do this road. Right now you are saying you are on the processes of acquiring that particular funding. So



what I want you to tell us is how are you involved in those processes? How far have you gone and when do we expect to find those funds delivered so that we now start rolling-out this particular project?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of procedure.

MR SPEAKER: I want questions not procedures. Stand up ask questions. What is the point of procedure Honourable Salakae?

MR SALAKAE: On a point of procedure. Mr Speaker, this House will be out of procedure if you would not heed the complaint by the Honourable Member that Honourable Mokaila is not in his seat while you always advise us not to sit where we are not supposed to. Since when is it fine to sit on seats that are not ours?

MR SPEAKER: Sitting on someone's seat and not disturbing the proceedings of the House is fine. I only rebuke you when you make noise. Proceed Honourable Minister.

MS MAKGATO: Honourable Mmolotsi, you indicated that you are an attentive listener, I also listened to you when you were asking, so I take it that you are aware that we borrowed about 1.5 billion from the World Bank if I am correct, but it took us time to bring that money home with their processes now. I have said that the 10.2 billion that is under question or under scrutiny right now was the funds that we were to secure from China which we are now following the necessary steps now to actualise or to get that money. Some of these steps have been done and obviously the first one was the visit with the Head of State with that commitment. The second one was a team coming from China to engage with our team on the ground, sharing what is it that has to be done; discussing the designs, execution and timelines. Standing here, since I did not answer this one; I do not have timelines as to when these funds will be released and we will start by doing this or that, suffice to say the process of releasing funds is ongoing as we speak. I take that I have answered you.

MR MAJAGA: Thank you Minister. You are doing well. It would be unprocedural if the Honourable Member was disturbing the Minister, but she is responding well.

My question is, is the Minister aware that this road was constructed in 1974 and it has many trucks using it more than any other road in Botswana? Since the Minister indicated that this is not the only road that should be constructed, why did other roads such as

the Sua Junction and Nata-Kasane roads which were constructed after this one maintained before this one? Why was this road not constructed because the lifespan of a road is 20 years? That is what I want to understand.

Let me also say, it is a good thing that our President goes out to request for these funds, but I wonder if we should not share with Batswana when they should expect projects because Directors of Roads and Ministers do not consult them. They only come once when there is a situation to attend. Maybe you could help. Going there just for two days will give Batswana some hope. Thank you.

MS MAKGATO: Thank you Mr Speaker. Honourable Member, we know that this road is important for a number of reasons. If we are to define it, we are going to define it as one of our main economic routes and that is how we see it. It is not deliberate that the road was constructed in 1974 and it has exceeded its lifespan until where we are right now. I have tried to explain why we are in this situation, some of which are reasons beyond the control of Government such as economic recession. We had our short comings but some of them came from contractors who turned down offers and as such, we had to look for another contractor. But let us agree and leave this Parliament with an agreement that this road is long overdue and it is one of the roads that are treated as urgent. That is why it was included in the funds that we are talking about, P10.2 billion. Let us also agree that if a promise was made in 2006 and we are now in 2019, those people have a reason to be impatient and angry. So we will go and explain to Batswana reasons why we have not constructed the road and what we intend to do, when we intend to start and finish and what could be causing delays. So I take it that we have agreed to go and address the people together.

Honourable Members, the budget proposal has been tabled before us and I believe that as we are debating in Parliament, you are aware of my Ministry's proposed budget. I hope you will help me on how many roads can be constructed. So this is your time. Switch off the microphone Moswaane. This is your time to discuss if the funds will enable me to construct all the roads that you want to be constructed so that you can all be happy and avoid situations where some of you keep shouting when I speak.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we are left with three minutes, let us take a short one.



DR MMATLI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I have two short questions. The first one is, Minister, why do you like provoking me as the Member of Parliament for Molepolole South. That is the first one. His Excellency President Masisi indicated that there is consultation in his roadmap, so Minister, I would like to ask when you are going to consult MPs regarding roads in their constituencies because I would also like you to consult us in Molepolole about the Molepolole road. Honourable Mokaila cancelled that road. You should try to correct that Honourable Minister and come to Molepolole and consult us as the leadership of Molepolole when the road will be constructed. Maybe you will be better than all the other Ministers that came before you.

MS MAKGATO: It is surprising how nice someone who wants a road can be, but after provoking you...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane, please switch off your microphone.

MS MAKGATO: The first question which says I like provoking you; that is not the case comrade, rather, it is you who likes provoking me. I kind of revenge or retaliate and I stop at that. If you say something to me, I also retaliate. If you do not provoke me, then we remain at peace. You said that our President believes much in consultation; we also believe in consultation in our ministry. If you are requesting us to consult further on this road and give each other some advices, I can never say no to that, we can sit down and see how we can consult further so that we can give each other some advices concerning the road, especially the road to Molepolole. Do not be like members such as Honourable Khan who is not here, he went out even before we talked about the Molepolole road and he will be surprised when we talk about Molepolole. That is not right. Now, because you are here and we are talking about it, we shall go and address Bakwena together.

MR SPEAKER: You are left with a minute.

MR MOSWAANE: Honourable Minister, when will the construction of this road start? Please focus on that because they say that it has already been funded and the money is now somewhere in China.

MS MAKGATO: No, I do not have the actual date of when it will start.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Order!

MR SPEAKER: You have asked questions and I believe that you have discussed the A3 road at length. Let us proceed with our programme.

MR MOSWAANE: Point of order.

GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT LAND AUDIT

Motion

(Resumed Debate)

MR SPEAKER: What is wrong Honourable Moswaane?

MR MOSWAANE: I have a point of order Sir.

MR SPEAKER: What is wrong? Yes, stand up so that I can hear you.

MR MOSWAANE: Should I explain?

MR SPEAKER: Speak, let me hear you.

MR MOSWAANE: Ok! No, Honourable Speaker, even though the House business is going on well, I have a complaint in Francistown concerning the Nyangabgwe Hospital. May you please inform the Chairman of the Parliament Committee on Health and the Minister of Health that, there is no life in Francistown, and we cannot continue sitting in this House every day while people are dying in hospitals. That is not the only one Sir, Princess Marina is also a problem Sir. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Moswaane, you are out of order. Completely out of order Honourable Moswaane, you know the procedure of this House, you know what to do if you have an urgent matter to discuss, you do not do that. Please follow that procedure.

Honourable Members, order! The question is "that this Honourable House requests Government to carry out land audit as the current Land Administration Procedures Capacity and System (LAPCAS), is not addressing the issue of long waiting lists for plot allocations." This Motion is by Honourable Samuel Rantwana. We are resuming debate on this Motion. When the House adjourned on 7th December 2018, Honourable Salakae was on the floor, and he is still left with four minutes 21 seconds.

MR MOSWAANE: Point of order Mr Speaker.



MR SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane, what is the problem?

MR MOSWAANE: No, the Honourable Minister of Health is out of order. Please call him to order. He should not dare; I am representing the people of Francistown.

MR SPEAKER: No, Honourable Moswaane ...

MR MOSWAANE: I said he is out of order. Listen to what he is saying.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Moswaane, order! Sit down. Switch off the microphone and sit down.

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

MR SPEAKER: Switch off that microphone. Switch off your microphone!

MR MOSWAANE: ...(Murmurs)....

MR SPEAKER: Switch it off Honourable Moswaane. No Honourable Moswaane, you and Honourable Minister of Health sort out your issues out there. Whatever happened concerns the two of you, so do not switch on the microphone.

MR MOSWAANE: You are talking rubbish!

MR SPEAKER: No, Honourable Moswaane...

MR MOSWAANE: I am telling you, you are talking shit.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Moswaane, throwing insults in Parliament is prohibited. Withdraw those words and get out. Withdraw them.

MR MOSWAANE: No, if you are chasing me out then there is no need to withdraw them.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane.

MR MOSWAANE: Do you want the people of Francistown to die while you are still waiting for the Minister?

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane.

MR MOSWAANE: Hey, do not oppress us. We are here for the people.

MR SPEAKER: Leave the House.

MR MOSWAANE: No, I am not.

MR SPEAKER: Should I assist you?

MR MOSWAANE: This is rubbish by the Minister. I am not going to allow him to say that again.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane, switch off that microphone and leave.

MR MOSWAANE: I am not going to switch off the microphone, because you are abusing your powers as the Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Sergeant-at-Arms, please help the Honourable Member to leave the House.

MR MOSWAANE: We are sick and tired of your abuse Mr Speaker. Ah! ah! No, hold on, so that I can tell Mr Speaker.

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

MR MOSWAANE: We are not your children. We are here as people's representatives.

MR SPEAKER: Switch off that microphone. Please help the Honourable Member to leave the House.

MR MOSWAANE: You cannot keep ill-treating us all the time Mr Speaker. We are sick and tired.

MR SPEAKER: I asked you to help him to get out.

MR MOSWAANE: No, Mr Speaker. You can do as you please. You can do it. Yes, you can do as you please. I am so happy that muscular men are lifting a person...(Inaudible)... muscular men.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Never say that again.

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

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members, order! Honourable Segokgo, please switch off Honourable Moswaane's microphone. Honourable members, let me ask you once again. I know that when you are in this House, there are some issues that annoy you, as such, I request you to bear in mind that you are Members of Parliament, you are in a very big and respectable House of the nation, so do away with insults. Make sure to use words which show that you are not happy without throwing insults, it will not end well for anyone who does that. Let us work properly with each other Honourable members, that is my request to you.

MR MOREMI: ...(Inaudible)...



MR SPEAKER: I will talk to him Honourable Moremi, we cannot leave it as it is, we will handle it at the office, let us help each other to follow the procedure of this House. I asked Honourable Salakae to proceed with his debate.

MR SALAKAE: I get a bit afraid Mr Speaker. Why do you seem terrified because Honourable Moswaane was chased out? People are usually thrown out ...

MR NKAIGWA: Procedure. Thank you Mr Speaker. I am concerned Mr Speaker. We cannot let Honourable Moswaane insult you the way he did and do nothing about it. I have been expelled in this Parliament and for the whole week I was not allowed to debate. He used words like “shit,” and many others, you are simply letting him go and are doing nothing about it. I think that is not fair Mr Speaker. I thought challenges that are experienced at Princess Marina and Nyangabgwe Hospitals have been there and we have been talking about them in Parliament. Now because it is the year for elections, Honourable Moswaane is trying to be populist so that people can say that he knows Nyangabgwe challenges more than others. We have been talking about these things all along in Parliament. It is very wrong Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Nkaigwa, order!

MR KEORAPETSE: ... (Murmurs)...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Keorapetse, calm down. Honourable members, I told you that Honourable Moswaane’s issue will not end here because he used some words which I did not hear properly, I am yet to find out what he was saying. I will take action thereafter. Right now I simply wanted the House to be in order, calm down so that we can proceed with our work. Calm down, we will be in this House again on Monday. Proceed Honourable Salakae.

MR SALAKAE: Thank you Mr Speaker. The motion which was brought by the Honourable member for Ramotswa last year, it was evident that some believed that it was addressed by LAPCAS, I think this is the context or the universe of discourse, if someone is to address this motion. I feel that this year, we are entangled by corruption from every side, I do not think that there is anyone who can think twice as to why we should conduct a land audit so that we would be able to establish how much corruption there is in the land sector. Not only that, also so that we would be able to answer

questions that we are asked by people or the questions that we ask when in Parliament during sessions like the Budget Speech and State of the Nation Address (SONA) whether...

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

MR SALAKAE: I do not know what is wrong with members of the Botswana Democratic Party...

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

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Mabeo! Honourable Madigele! Honourable Goya! Honourable Goya, if I recall very well, that is not your seat. Please go back to your seat, because you are making noise there.

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

MR SPEAKER: No, go to your seat. You are making noise. You are disturbing Honourable Salakae. Proceed Honourable Member.

MR SALAKAE: Let me point out that Honourable Rantwana’s Motion, against the background of the magnitude of the corruption that nobody can say someone is being falsely accused, in the various sectors, be it land, or whatever sector you can think of, there should be audits, to establish how much corruption is in that sector. Not only that, also whether the improvement of Land Administration Procedures, Capacity and Systems (LAPCAS) is not trying to address the issues that we wish to address via the land audit. The scope of LAPCAS is more like a census; it applies to the whole country. A land audit can even be a sample. We have knowledge of exactly where the land we wish to audit is. Our argument is, let us agree as Parliament that on that side, we should go and check whether land was allocated properly. We should check the value of this land, and ask ourselves whether it should be allocated to one person.

We are currently concerned about poverty, unemployment and the gap between the rich and the poor. So says this Parliament we even captured in documents like the National Development Plan (NDP) 11 but when a Member tables a Motion like this one, we act like members of the Botswana Democratic Party (Domkrag) are doing, saying things and then turning against them. We agreed to wear blue on Fridays, now



after Khama steps down, they turn around saying they did not agree with that, they only feared Khama. So as Members of Parliament, we have to seriously consider these issues because the one whom we feared the most has gone. Therefore, we should begin to freely speak about issues...

MR KGOROBA: Clarification. You are debating very well Honourable Colleague. They used to write around 12 midnight.

MR SALAKAE: Just like I told them last time that the truth is that the Botswana Democratic Party (Domkrag) is fake, it is a pseudo party, you will not know when you agreed with them; they turn their backs on issues during a time when you are vulnerable and would not know what to do.

On this issue Honourable Kgathi; Dr Khama is gone, let us debate freely that we need to conduct a land audit. We should look into the land that was stolen in Bobirwa; and also check whether the land that you have was stolen or not. Maybe you were cheated there because they thought you acquired your by stealing it. We have to establish whether the land you have acquired was stolen or not.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY (MR KGATHI): Point of order. Mr Speaker, please ask the young Member of Parliament to withdraw those statements. I personally only ever hear the word stealing on that side. Over there!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Over there!

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

MR KGATHI: Can he please withdraw. I cannot be associated with theft anywhere; he can audit me all he wants. So associating me with theft...he should look for it there. There! There!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: No, please wait a moment! Please wait!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: Wait a moment.

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

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: Please wait Honourable Seretse. Honourable Salakae, please do not involve Honourable Kgathi in the statements you just uttered, you can see that...

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

MR SALAKAE: Ask him to also withdraw what he said that he only hears about stealing from this side. I am actually helping him because there were rumours that at Bobirwa that he stole land and he gave his child a farm...

MR SPEAKER: No, Honourable Salakae.

MR SALAKAE: ...we should go and audit.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Salakae, please do as I have requested you to do. Do it.

MR SALAKAE: Okay, I withdraw. I also request that he should withdraw what he said that stealing is common this side. I am actually helping him; he lost elections because he was accused of stealing land.

MR KGATHI: No, Mr Speaker, let us run this Parliament appropriately.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: You were not given the floor.

MR KGATHI: I did not point there. I said there! There!

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

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

MR KGATHI: So I ask that he should withdraw. I said there! There! There!

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

MR SPEAKER: Order! Order!

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

MR SPEAKER: Order! Order!

MR KGATHI: I am begging, ask him to withdraw, and disassociate me with issues of theft. I am not a thief.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members, no, but Honourable Salakae has withdrawn the words that were associating you with the issues he was talking about.



MR KGATHI: Has he withdrawn?

MR SPEAKER: Yes sir. Now Honourable Seretse, Honourable Salakae has finished his debate, I wonder if your point of order still stands.

MR SERETSE: Yes sir. I was simply requesting that there is finger pointing, it should point there, not near us.

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

MR SPEAKER: No, but why is it that...

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

MR SPEAKER: Order!

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

MR SPEAKER: No, Honourable Seretse, you cannot say it is not right for fingers to be pointed all over while you point this side.

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

MR SPEAKER: It would not be appropriate. Maybe you should at least point up there or below. Everyone is going to complain now. Honourable Members, let us proceed.

MR MOLEBATSI (MOCHUDI EAST): I thank you Mr Speaker. Let me thank Honourable Rantuana for presenting the challenge that Batswana are facing, regarding land. The country Mr Speaker is in trouble because of issues surrounding land allocation, that as Batswana, we are interested to know in whose hands our land is in, how they acquired it, and when they got that land.

What is disheartening about Batswana is that they apply for residential plots and wait for over 30 years without being given land. Those residential plots are their first priority so that they would have a place to live, yet there are those who would be having hundreds of residential plots; a regular Motswana out there, a pure Motswana even by colour, would not have any piece of land. This really breaks our hearts.

We wish all the land boards should be audited because they are an authority as they are, and they can be brutal. If you take Mmamashia for instance, people have been staying there for over 40 years; we saw their properties being demolished and we were wondering who wanted the land in Mmamashia, wondering exactly what it is they wanted to use the land for. So when you consider

a situation where a Motswana could have their property demolished, yet no one built it for them, having taken many years to build it; and then have it demolished just because there are those who want that land; it is so sad such that we think the land audit is necessary throughout the country, so that we would know who has the land and how they managed to acquire it. It is disheartening because even if you consider the land that used to be taken by cigars. Batswana wish to use that land. We hear that in the past, back in the days, land could be exchanged for cigars and cigarettes and Batswana lost that land. Parliament should take into consideration the motion presented by Honourable Rantuana and deal with the situation whereby if Motswana does not have money, we have land rights and the fact that he/she is Motswana therefore if he/she lacks in all aspects at least every one should own land...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: There is no quorum sir.

MR SPEAKER: Order! You are only 20 may I request you call one member from outside. Sit down Honorable Molebatsi and please switch off your microphone. Order! Please do not go outside Honourable Tshireletso, quorum! They are back, there is a quorum. Order! Proceed Honorable Molebatsi.

MR MOLEBATSI: Thank you. I expect all Members of Parliament to be present when there is a discussion about land. Batswana are complaining about land shortage. A person would apply for land and after 30 years they retire but still does not have land. By the time a person is called for an interview regarding land allocation he has passed on. When his children claim that land they are informed that they are not supposed to whereas their father waited for 30 years. They say it is not inheritance. So Parliament should be concerned about land. If one has applied for land and passes on before his application can be heeded, his children should have a right to claim because they are not the ones who delayed the process. If there was proper land allocation, within a year an applicant should be allocated land. Sometimes one applies for land so that he can leave behind an inheritance for his children. It is disheartening to see what is happening to the poor people of this country. They are unable to acquire land on time so that they can be able to build while they are still working. If as Parliament do not take a stand and support Honourable Rantuana's motion to audit land, we would have failed Batswana. We would have demeaned Batswana who are



given a time frame of five years to have developed a plot yet was allocated that plot after forty years, where does one get money in five years when they waited forty years for a plot?

Mr Speaker, the whole Parliament should support Honourable Rantuana's motion to show that we are compassionate people. Batswana are disheartened because they do not have land and are not even given assistance to develop it.

We are grateful that Land Administration Procedures, Capacity and Systems (LAPCAS) had Batswana's interests at heart because through LAPCAS Batswana can now use land as collaterals at the banks to secure loans to develop their land. So we are very grateful to LAPCAS in that regard. LAPCAS does not necessarily audit land. We are going to audit and establish the reason why land boards are fooling Batswana. Dikgosi and Dikgosana used to waste no time when allocating land and used to be properly aligned. When you look at the land allocation by land board it is disorganized, they would overlap plots and reduce plot size of some people, they did whatever they liked. So we wish that there should be a land audit which will focus more on land board members and their interests in this land because Dikgosi were sidelined. They no longer have powers when it comes to land and are unable to advocate for their people.

I support this motion. If this motion is not supported, Batswana should come forth and ask us as Parliament if we are representing them or ourselves. It is within Batswana's interests to allocate land to a child when he/she applies at the age of 18 years so that they can be independent and move from the parent's home. Government should in fact act when people talk about land, she should do everything to assist in the audit. Government should assist Batswana to solve land issues. When we look at these issues, Batswana are going to find other means possible to acquire land because they have lost hope in us. As leaders, we are not concerned about land issues. We do not realise that everyone should own a residential plot. God did not make a mistake by creating each and every person to be Motswana, acquire land and stop allocating it to foreigners who make fun of Batswana saying they are lazy. Thank you.

MR MAJAGA (NATA-GWETA): Thank you Mr Speaker. I would also like to stand and debate on the motion presented by my colleague. This motion of land audit is beautiful, it does not require much. One might

wonder that Government has just implemented LAPCAS exercise but is ongoing so as a country through our main land boards and our sub land boards we are still waiting for this registration, is the land administration exercise complete? Have all Batswana registered their land? After it is registered will access the information of how much land we have, either communal land, state land or freehold as they will be assessing as their registration through LAPCAS. That is why I am saying although I agree with motion by Honourable Rantuana, there are going to be complications in the sense that this one should have been completed first then move on to land audit after the registration. If they run simultaneously, there are going to be problems Mr Speaker. I am saying this in light of the challenge I am experiencing at my constituency; I think I am one of the first Members of Parliament when we came to Parliament who approached the Minister about the crisis which we are facing. There is no land at Nata, Gweta, Maposa and Sepako villages. The villages have expanded and people have long made requests for land but unfortunately the land there is state land. There is no communal land. I always complain in Parliament that there is a large piece of state land at Sowa which is not being allocated to the people due to the fact that we have the freehold and communal land tenure system. I do not know what is causing the delay with this Motion but if we could have completed it, we could be getting into this Motion which is also not supposed to be taken back and forth, we should just formally look at it and say; since the Land Administration Procedures, Capacity and Systems (LAPCAS) is complete and according to land registration...

MR MOLEBATSI: Point of clarification. You are debating very well Honourable Majaga. LAPCAS is going to assist you yes, but do you not realise that as you are complaining about land shortage at your constituency, if land audit was carried out you would have information about which land can help address this shortage?

MR MAJAGA: I agree with you Honourable Member however LAPCAS does land administration. That is why I am saying that Honourable Rantuana's Motion is similar to Honourable Ntlhaile's motion of living wage which I openly supported before.

My point is, if we can choose to exercise land audit, some of us who might have passed this Motion are going to face challenges in the future that we could have started here. This is one of the important Motions in this House



which needs to be debated and passed since we know what we are talking about. As Honourable Members in this House we all know what the Honourable Member seek. We know that there are farms in our country. Some people have 20 farms, some have farms the size of Swaziland and Lesotho. We know that there is Tati Company, there are farms which are not being used because some were lucky to have worked at the Land Boards as Land Board Chairman at a younger age of 25 years. So were are looking for land. That is why I am saying we should have waited for LAPCAS to continue with its exercise and later introduce land audit. As a country we could be mindful that land administration and auditing has been carried out. They were going to correspond. I did not have a chance last time but I wanted to request the Honourable Member to...

MR RANTUANA: Point of clarification. Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable Majaga. I was listening to you saying that we should have waited for LAPCAS to complete its exercise. Are you aware that this programme was conceived in 2009, that was ... (Inaudible)... 2013 and was supposed to have finished 2016, now we are in 2019, how long are we going to wait for land audit?

MR MAJAGA: Thank You Honourable Member. This land administration is an ongoing process but I agree with you. It should have had a time frame however it was once explained that it is almost 90 per cent or so. The Honourable Minister could have updated us on the progress. The duration issue which you just mentioned is one of the challenges we face in our country. It was still the main concern when talking about the Francistown-Nata road. Things come in good faith but the duration then becomes a challenge, we could have completed that exercise before this Motion was even tabled. That is why I am saying we should look into this programme and ask responsible Ministers to give us a timeframe as to when it will be completed so that we carry on with this Motion under certificate urgency looking at its significance. For now we cannot address these issues well, we have to address them at our constituencies. We are going to carry out part of land audit but for now we want to know the land tenure system of Botswana through LAPCAS so that we know where Batswana can find land. Mr Speaker I almost fainted earlier on due to addressing this issue in this House. As we speak now, we are not against the Motion which is tabled by Honourable Member the problem is that it came at a time when we could have passed that one first.

I become extremely skeptical because although I am a Member of Parliament for remote areas I have Sowa town which I have been complaining about its stagnant growth. During funds allocation is always allocated funds to cater for 3 500 people yet people are not being given land so that the town can develop. Do you see how these issues causes distress? People are not being allocated state land yet we are failing to seek supplementary so that land can be allocated.

When you go to Maposa, imagine villages like Maposa and Tsokatshaa, people at villages like Manxotai where Honourable Nkaigwa served for his Tirelo Sechaba when he was young are not being given land although they are unique. Those people need to be pampered or else they get angry. They are Remote Area Dwellers (RADS) villages because I have seven villages of that sort. So, if they stay for five to ten years without being allocated land it becomes a problem. We are concerned about the land audit as much as the Honourable Member is. As we speak people are not being allocated land and they might sue us in the future as the Members of the tenth and eleventh Parliament...

MR SPEAKER: Your time is up Honourable Majaga.

DR VENSON-MOITOI (SEROWE SOUTH): Thank you Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Order! While you are still thanking me for pointing at you, may we please pause here for a short break we will return at 11 o'clock...

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED AT 10:30 A.M.
FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES**

PROCEEDING RESUMED AT 11:00 A.M.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Majaga call other Honourable Members outside. It is already 11 o'clock. Order! Honourable Members let us proceed with our business. Honourable Venson-Moitoi, there are speculations that you commented on this Motion last year. Did you have a chance to debate or not Honourable?

DR VENSON-MOITOI: I debated Mr Speaker.

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

DR VENSON-MOITOI: I was not a Member of Parliament.

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



MR SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Member. The floor is open.

DR VENSON-MOITOI: I was not sitting here.

MR SPEAKER: It is fine Honourable Member. Thank you.

MR NKAIGWA (GABORONE NORTH): Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me also stand to support the Honourable Member. Let me point out that it is apt to table these kind of Motions in Parliament so that we may discuss them. Mr Speaker, I do not think there is any Member of Parliament who can disagree with this Motion because we all want to see who has what or who does not have what.

Mr Speaker, I do not have land not because I did not apply for land, I have applied for it, but it takes time to be allocated land in our country. I believe that this can help us a lot in future, we are going to allocate it with information of who has already acquired it.

Mr Speaker, we are both Members of Parliament in Gaborone. We know very well that Gaborone Council, some of us ...

DR VENSON-MOITOI: On a point of procedure Mr Speaker. Just for future reference because the speakers who spoke last year cannot speak this time; is the time used by this Motion last year, carried over to this year? If this Motion had two hours last year, is the Motion using the same two hours that were allocated? Then, the Motion cannot have two hours this year because it consumed some time last year. I was just saying sir.

MR SPEAKER: Yes Honourable Member, you are right. Last year we used one hour only, now we are using up the last two hours remaining.

MR NKAIGWA: Mr Speaker, I was still saying, we are both Members of Parliament for Gaborone and we know that our people in Gaborone wish to be allocated plots but we are still have waiting lists dating as far back as 1989. Every day we see plots in Gaborone being developed by foreign owned companies or those owned naturalised Batswana. As Motswana, you then wonder if you will at some point in time be allocated land like some people from other countries who continue to be allocated land in our country.

The Bible that I am reading Mr Speaker, tells me that the greatest asset that you can leave for your children is land, but we are wondering what we will leave for our children if we die because we do not have land. It will

help us a great deal if we can audit land Mr Speaker just as you have heard that some members said they are some people who have 20 farms and they continue to be allocated more farms. This is very unfair because we need to allocate land fairly Honourable Members and ensure that everyone benefit something; that one plot or two plots you would have been allocated is your land. That is why I believe that it is very, very important Mr Speaker. I am not afraid that I will be prosecuted because the land that I have was allocated to me legally. So I am not afraid of anything that it can be audited to find out how I acquired that land.

Mr Speaker, at my constituency area of Gaborone North, the land I always talk about, recently I saw over 16 hectares of land in Gaborone, prime land being allocated to one company. Then you wonder why do we allocate such huge piece of land to one company, prime land; in the centre of the city while so many Batswana need land. These are issues that I believe land audit can reveal why they continue to be allocated land while some are not allocated. It will also assist those who are dealing with issues of corruption to find out how come certain people have that much land while other Batswana have nothing.

Mr Speaker, we have horticultural farms at Glen Valley and it will help us to know who owns those farms and how were they allocated. Some do not have any activity and you will be told that this farm belongs to so and so. That could come in very handy and as Batswana we will know how our land is allocated.

The other thing Mr Speaker, my church does not have a place of worship. Most churches decry the same situation. We are renting, we meet in tents, homes whereas land is available but as a church, no, we are unable to be allocated land at all. There are some churches which have immense land. You will then wonder what sin did we commit such that we cannot be given land like other churches.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (MS MAKGATO):

On a point of clarification. Is my colleague aware that in the recent years we have seen churches mushrooming at an alarming rate, to an extent that land occupied by churches at the expense of Botswana is more than what the Government can handle? Do you think it is right to allocate land to individuals who form churches every day and deprive Batswana who need land?



MR NKAIGWA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Honourable Minister, there is nothing wrong with Government allocating churches land. The church is the only one that can enable us to deal with the various social ills that we are facing as a nation; it is the church that can mould individuals and our young people to be better people in our society. I am a better person today because of the church. I am of the belief that for the church to manage since you are saying we are cheating people out of their money; to not rent and take Batswana's last money is to have a place of worship because most churches do not have plots at all, they are renting and it is expensive. Honourable Minister, for a church to rent a warehouse it costs around P15 000, P20 000; that is very expensive. Land audit can really assist us to see how do we cater for everyone in our society, to have a plot allocated by Government.

Mr Speaker, open spaces in Gaborone; it pains me nowadays that everywhere I go I find an open space having been developed. I ask myself who got allocated that open space to develop it because while I was still in Council, we were told that open spaces are reserved for recreation. All of a sudden we see day-care centres, nursery schools and different businesses being built in open spaces. Therefore, if you audit land so that we may appreciate where corruption is, it will even help Government to see who got the land and we will take action against them while there is still time. I once said as a Mayor that if we are not careful, in the next five years, when you go to campaign in the various households, you will find 50 per cent of Gaborone being owned by foreigners; mostly the Indians or the Chinese. Nowadays when you go to our airport Honourable Makgato, there are thousands of Indians and Chinese arriving in Botswana every day. I am wondering where they are going to stay in such large numbers. I am not telling a joke, hundreds of them are arriving almost each and every day in our country. What I know is that they come empty-handed and tomorrow we will be asking them for donations of campaigns. Even though they came with nothing, very soon they will be owning plots and you tend to wonder how they acquired that plot. This is why I was implying that it could assist even in terms of when we make laws to try and accommodate that Batswana could be the only ones who own the land not the foreigners. Lastly, even to grow the economy; it could help us so that if we come up with policies that the Leader of Opposition was talking about; indigenous policies, it would help Batswana to go forward instead of backward.

MR KEBONANG (LOBATSE): Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I will be very brief. I will not use all the ten minutes allocated. Let me just say that in relation to the Motion, I think it could have been worded differently. I do not support it Mr Speaker, not the principle but when you look at it, it complains about Land Administration Procedures Capacity and Systems (LAPCAS) that we should do a land audit because it is not addressing issues of long waiting lists for plot allocations. Perhaps what we should be saying is how we can make LAPCAS more efficient and improve it in order to address the concerns that are being raised today.

When we speak of land audit, we should take into account the history behind ownership of land. Way back before this country became independent, we had freehold land; that is land owned by individuals. The Constitution of this country protects the right of ownership. Therefore, when we speak, we seem to be very xenophobic about people owning land as if these people deprived Batswana of what was due to Batswana. I do understand when you say that we have got absentee landlords and therefore we are not able to deal with land issues as we would want to deal with them...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR KEBONANG: ... I think it is important to locate this. I do not have time...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR KEBONANG: ...when we speak about Gaborone North, that is freehold land.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR KEBONANG: Denied. Gaborone North does not fall under the ambit of ...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of procedure.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Molebatsi, you are out of order. If he refused to yield you cannot change. Please switch off the microphone (mic).

MR KEBONANG: Mr Speaker, when we speak of Gaborone North, this is freehold land. It is not under the administration of the land board. Therefore, when an individual owns a land in Gaborone North, he is not depriving anybody of any land. It is a freehold land that is entitled to be owned by individuals. When you speak of foreigners...



HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Point of order.

MR KEBONANG: When you speak of Phakalane...

MR NKAIGWA: Point of order. Mr Speaker, it will be misleading for the Honourable Member to say Gaborone is all freehold. It is only a portion of Gaborone North Farms, which is freehold not the whole of Gaborone North.

MR SPEAKER: Then correct him.

MR KEBONANG: Thank you for the correction. Gaborone North Farms; where a lot of people are currently building, it is the same case as Phakalane, it is freehold. Also my town such as Lobatse, you have the political administrative office of farms that are around Lobatse and Ramotswa, I think the Member of Parliament would vouch for that. When you speak of land audit, most of the land around Lobatse is owned by people who are not in Botswana, who legitimately acquired this property.

Now, the issue of foreigners coming and owning land, it is surprising because if you look at newspapers, Batswana are the ones who are selling their own land, the same land that they are allocated, they sell it to foreigners. I challenge anybody who say to me that a foreigner went to the land board anywhere in Botswana, applied for land and was given land over a Motswana. It has not happened. What we have is the situation where we dispossess ourselves of land in favour of being paid some money to do something else. I think that is the correct premise that we must acknowledge. Essentially, we should be encouraging Batswana that we should not be selling land.

MR NTLHAILE: Clarification. Perhaps the Honourable Member should correct that statement? Can the Honourable Member submit evidence indicating that Batswana made an agreement with someone that they are giving out the land which we refer to as freehold?

MR KEBONANG: In my previous life, I was a conveyancer and I dealt with land issues. I dealt with situations where Batswana were selling land to foreigners on a daily basis. I think it is not something that we can argue about. I know it happens, we all know that it is happening. Now, when you talk of freehold, it is a land that has been acquired, most of it a long time ago.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Inaudible)...

MR KEBONANG: There are people that hold...

MR KEORAPETSE: Procedure. Honourable Kebonang, you are misleading us on many things, you also claim to be delivering intelligent debate. I request that when he finishes his debate, he should not go out because Rantwana is going to answer all these things that he is saying. He is trying to mislead us but I know when he finishes his debate, he will run away.

MR SPEAKER: No, just calm down, we are following the procedure. Allow him to debate, you will respond at 12 p.m. Honourable Rantwana will be responding.

MR KEBONANG: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I think it is also important when we debate these issues to also be very fair and be honest with ourselves in terms of this so-called land audit. Which places are we really targeting? The reality is that not every place in Botswana has issues of land allocation or have a long waiting list. I can tell you in Rakhuna, if you go to Good Hope, you apply, within the six months or so you will be allocated land. The reality is this; in Gaborone, you talk of Gaborone, it is surrounded by Phakalane which is freehold, by Gaborone North Farms, Mogoditshane falls in the Kweneng Administrative District and after Riverwalk is the land belonging to Batlokwa. The land in Tlokweng, has it expanded or remained the same? If you are saying that the people are waiting in Tlokweng, the reality is that the population size of Tlokweng itself has not shrunk. It keeps growing against a commodity that is not growing. Land does not grow, it is fixed. If it is four hectares, it is four hectares. Therefore, you have to be dealing with it and saying, Batlokwa, we were giving you 40 by 40, reduce you land to 20 by 20 so that we can address the issues of waiting lists. Maybe that is why we should be sharing the land.

The point that I am making Mr Speaker is this, when you speak of land audit, it is not just an emotional debate that we should engage into, we must look at the reality of land ownership. Is this customary land? Is the land board not facilitating enough allocations? Is the system not being improved because whatever is being looked at, is not available? This country... I think the point Honourable Makgato was making was not literally that everyday there are applications from churches, she is saying that in addition to just applying for allocation, there are also competing rights. We need to create jobs and I am waiting to respond to Honourable Duma Boko's Budget speech. I will also take him on a schooling lesson, but that is a debate for another day. The thing



is this, there are competing rights in land allocations, it is not just residential. We are saying as a matter of fact that Batswana, I am yet to be convinced that I am wrong in saying that Batswana speculate in land, when they get allocated land they sell it. Most of them sell it, it is a fact and then reapply for land and then say, "I have not been allocated land." These are issues we should be addressing. We should be saying that Batswana should not be allocated land as long as they are keeping it for speculative purposes.

I am saying no! I am not supporting this Motion, I am not disagreeing with the principle, but I am saying that in terms of this Motion as it is framed, I do not support it. So go back and come with a Motion which we will support. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION (DR DOW): Thank you Mr Speaker.

I think we can all agree in this House that the reasoning or the justification for this Motion is a concern, like it is indicated that there are long waiting lists for allocations of land. I think we all agree in this House that it is a concern for everybody, and believe that something must be done about it. I do not think anybody can fight or can challenge the mover of the Motion on that score. I think the question is whether or not land audit as framed or as called for in the Motion, will answer the question of what we will do about the long waiting list.

I think it is my position that the Minister responsible for land allocations must come to Parliament and brief Parliament on the various processes, policies and the legislative framework that is governing his ministry, for us to understand what aspects need to be tackled if we are going to deal with the long waiting list. I say this because at the end of the day even if we did a land audit and found that person X has got three plots, person Y with five plots, it does not really answer the issue of the waiting list, because you have to go beyond that and ask yourself whether or not those plots were allocated illegally, improperly, etcetera. First of all we need to know this, of the 540,000 square kilometres of land that we have in this country, how much is being used for conservation and is that how we want to continue? How much is for agriculture? The broad scope; how much is for residence, business, and then ask ourselves what should be a fair and reasonable assignment in terms of all these various uses. Then ask ourselves at a policy level how many plots per person do you think should

be allowed. I think we said one per person is a direct allocation and then ask ourselves whether or not those rules that we have are actually being breached or that they are not being applied.

It seems to me Mr Speaker, that at the end of the day, Land Administration Procedures Capacity and Systems (LAPCAS), though inform us of something but not everything, and there is no doubt about that. We need to know, even to understand those waiting lists; who is waiting, are they waiting for their second plot, a business plot or agricultural land. We really need the Ministry of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services to come and brief Parliament on this, so that we can know whether or not what we need is a land audit, a re-understanding of LAPCAS, to see where is it, is it telling us the answers to the questions that the mover of the Motion is asking. It seems to me like we need to go back and ask that there be a full report on land uses and ask ourselves why are there waiting lists. Have they been really disaggregated in terms of uses, person, towns and rural areas. I think that is important for us to understand first. Only then can we say are the laws that we passed in the last few years on land, are the policies that we adopted, structural systems and implementation systems on the ground, not working. I think we know that one of the reasons why there is a waiting list is because we are waiting for services. There are no allocations without service. I think the honest question we must actually face as a nation is whether or not we should be brave enough to actually allocate even when there are no services, so that at least people are not waiting for both water and land. Maybe they have land and no water, maybe land and no water and power, or land and some power and no water, because we know that our villages grew without services. I know that the Minister responsible for the land allocation will say, for example, "we cannot do that because we need to plan, people will be demanding services." It seems to me right now people are demanding three things; they are land, water and power in the land. They are demanding roads as well. Is it not better to give them one of them, just the land and we can deal with the rest, so it is a big question. I think it is something that should be subject to debate, thorough debate before we agree on that.

At the end of the day Mr Speaker, I am unable to support this Motion not because I do not understand or I did not agree with the underlined justification for everything involved. I think we can all agree, if you are a Christian like Honourable Nkaigwa, that God apparently made



the earth in six days, is that correct Sir? On the seventh day He went to rest, but He never came back, that is the problem. Therefore, because he never came back there would never be extension on this land that we have, so we have to work with what we have today. Had he come back to work I am sure we would have more land, but we only have what we have. Therefore it is very important because every piece, square inch, square kilometre, square metre is valuable and therefore it is important that we parcel out this land we have in as fair a manner as possible and as rational manner as possible. I think that is what the mover of the Motion is saying, how can we subdivide this land that we have in Botswana in a way that is fair, rational and also that is really equal for everybody. I am saying that an audit at this point is not, it is most probably that we are asking for the same thing. We are saying let us look at the systems that we have, inform us Mr Minister responsible for land, who is holding the land in terms of your title deeds systems. We know that there are only two places where land rights are registered, land boards and Deeds Registry. Deeds registry is a public records where you can go and find out who owns anything in any day, but the land board system as it is right now is not so open, because of the way the records are kept. With LAPCAS we are hoping it is public system as well where you can go and find out, but at the end of the day we need to have a report from the Minister to say, who owns land where, what are the systems, as I said before, what are the land uses and allocations per land use and also where the gaps are. At the end of the day it will not answer the question how do we deal with long waiting lists. The waiting list is who is waiting, first of all and what are they waiting for? and where are the areas most affected by this? So Mr Speaker, I am unable to accept the Motion but I certainly agree with the justification. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HIS HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT (MR TSOGWANE): Thank you. Mr Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes on this issue, I believe Members have done justice to it. This should not be a worrisome case, it is only that the Honourable Member who brought this Motion was not patient to look at the results of what is being done. Had he went on to find out where this land that is being registered is and who own it, maybe it could help us because we have to differentiate between waiting list and audit as Honourable Members have been saying that perhaps it will show us those who own more land. We have to know that there is a procedure because when we give land, we give it according to the existing law, if we do not have a policy that we will

have redistribution of land, that means we do not have it. It will be an audit which will show us those who own that land, those who bought it. If they acquired it in the past through the procedure that we had before, where it is clear that they have acquired it through that, I do not know how that will help us to fight the waiting list.

We can fight against corruption of course. If certain areas have suspicions about it, we can do that because we support it. We were referring to the waiting list because it will help us to reduce it. That alone worries me because it does not address the purpose of the Motion, when he talks about the waiting list, it is another issue, but if he talks about corruption or a certain area that was acquired unlawfully, it is a separate matter. So, we have to differentiate between these two. That is why Honourable members say that we have an ongoing process of land registration through which we believe in the end, it will be clear who owns land as you can see how he jumps which shows that he has land.

I suggest that he goes back because we do not want this Motion to be rejected because of flawed reasons which he gave to us, the idea alone is fine. We do not want it to be like that because the reasons given are flawed. The main objective which this Motion aims to achieve is different from what the audit will achieve. Now the waiting list is caused by many things. We all know that some areas usually stop giving land reasons being that they are still measuring plots to create waiting list. As such there are many reasons surrounding that. We have to know that, that is what we have to look at. Honourable member has to know that we are not afraid of the audit or there is anyone who is afraid of that in-depth audit. If you carry it anyhow just as Honourable Members pointed out that it must be targeted...

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

MR TSOGWANE: No, I said that an audit is not supposed to be carried out in every area. Stop being dirty minded as it seems to be a norm nowadays. We know very well that we are in a challenging time; Honourable Members are aware that it is difficult, everyone has to come up with anything that they can bring to Parliament so that everyone can feel that they are really representing the people. Those are efforts of course but we are not supposed to mislead people. Such that tomorrow when an audit has passed then they tell us that they now have the waiting list, we are under the impression that at the end of the audit we will get land, we will not know what to say to them, what it achieved like that.



With those reasons, let me say that Honourable is very attentive and understands a lot of things, he will not refuse to let this Motion to wait so that we can assess it, perhaps we will come up with something better such that when he tables it again since the elections are still a bit far, it will be perfected. I request that from him.

With those words, right now, it is not easy for us to understand what we will find within this audit, which we cannot find through the ongoing land registration. Thank you. I do not support my colleague and I hope he will not embarrass us; he will withdraw that Motion.

MR MOREMI (MAUN WEST): Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me give you information that France has a population of 65 480 710 people. It is statistics 2019. Botswana have 2,3 million...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Moremi, where did you get the statistics of France and Botswana from?

MR MOREMI: I got it from the web...

MR SPEAKER: Sir?

MR MOREMI: I will bring the exact reference of where I got it from.

MR SPEAKER: Give it to this House so that they can go and see for themselves.

MR MOREMI: I gave it Mr Speaker? I got it from Google. If only you can observe my time.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ... (Murmurs!)

MR MOREMI: Those are the statistics. I am simply trying to give an example that country that is as wide as Botswana, like France, but they house 65 million people while we are housing 2,3 million.

Mr Speaker, let me say that if you are coming from Francistown, perhaps crossing the North up to Nata, when you get to Nata take a car and drive to Maun and then look to the left and right, you will see plenty of land. Even when you leave from Maun going to Kang you will find plenty of land. Likewise, if you can leave Kang going to Sekoma you will see that huge land. We do not have shortage of land in Botswana. Perhaps if you could be saying some people envy other people's land I would agree with you on that one, because those of us in the North West District are robbed of our land by people from the other side of the country despite having land that is just enough for us. That makes it appear like

our land is not enough for us; but it is enough for us. The land in Botswana is enough for all Batswana, even if we can increase up to 65 million, it will take us years. Our only challenge is that some people want to live in congested areas like Gaborone, where there is no land just like Honourable Member said, you are surrounded by land that already has owners. I do not agree with Honourable Sadique when he says that Batswana are busy selling their land to foreigners. In Ngamiland we do not have an option; the only thing we can do is to sell land to the highest bidder because we cannot sell our cattle. The owner of the brands certificate can sell about 10 cattle per year or when you are selling on a serious note. 10 times three is P30 000 which is not enough to manage a family or a cattle post or even pay school fees for the kids. So at times usually those who have fields in Maun, before it grew, found themselves having nothing to survive with, perhaps he set aside a portion of the land for his kid but ends up selling it to make ends meet. That is how the Government of Botswana imprisoned us. It is like we are hand cuffed while at the airport, where the handcuffs were too small for the big hands. That is very painful Mr Speaker.

We have a right to a livelihood just like everybody else and this Government is denying us that livelihood. If only you can reduce your brutality on us at Ngamiland, so that we do not sell our land because it is bought by the same people who the Government handed business to. They use our resources to buy our only land in Maun and push us further out. As such, we will find ourselves in areas like Gweta as it is also our land, our desire was to live in Maun because that is where we commune. So Mr Speaker, there is a challenge regarding land and it is prevalent everywhere. I do not agree with Honourable Kebonang when he says the Government gives a Motswana land. Where I come from it is the reverse, instead the Government is grabbing land away from us.

Mr Speaker, I once said it in this Parliament that Maun especially, could be given a Sub Land Board to assist it to speed up the applications that have long been pending. Most of the complaints that I receive at my Parliamentary office concern the Land Board, land allocation and people saying the Land Board has taken land away from them forcefully. They would be saying things like "my land has been given to a white man." Most of these issues would be pointing to the executive team of the Land Board, working together with surveyors, allocating themselves people's land, and people's ploughing lands. That is where the problem is.



If you could pay close attention Mr Speaker, you would notice that in Botswana we work for only one day, 1.8 days a week. When you count eight hours times five, it gives you 40. When you divide that further, it is 1 and something days, that is the time we are at work in the offices. 1 day a week, 52 days a year. So, if one member is not there and there is no quorum at the Land Board, work becomes stagnant. So, that is 1 day from the 52, we remain with 51. People are not working, work is not being done, and that is why the waiting lists at the Land Board are so long. There is no service delivery; there is jealousy by the Land Board Executive team, and theft among these Land Board executive teams. That is where the problem is.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, an issue like that of the Land...

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Moremi!

MR MOREMI: Sir!

MR SPEAKER: I do not think the words you used are appropriate, when you said there is larceny at the Land Boards executive teams.

MR MOREMI: Yes, there is sir. In fact, I submitted questions last year, and you are refusing to put them in the Order Paper, so I do not know where to report my case.

MR SPEAKER: No, Honourable Moremi.

MR MOREMI: You are only serving Honourable Lelatisitwe, ours do not make it to Parliament.

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

MR MOREMI: No, corruption has to be talked about Mr Speaker. We submit questions here frequently, and you do not bring our questions to the Order Paper, you choose whom it is you are going to serve in this Parliament and when we try to speak, you say "please wait a moment!" I will soon lose it like Honourable Moswaane.

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

MR SPEAKER: Please wait a moment Honourable Member!

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

MR SPEAKER: Order! Please calm down Honourable Member. I just wanted to remind you that you cannot talk like that about public service employees, saying they

are thieves, yet there was never a single day that they went to court and were sentenced regarding the issue that you are talking about. I believe there is a way you can communicate your suspicions of corruption there, there are certain words that you could use, rather than blatantly saying they are thieves. That is the statement I wish you could correct.

MR MOREMI: Thank you Mr Speaker. At Tawana Land Board, we have...I do not want to use the word "long time." We have cases where the Land Board Executive, Secretary and their Chairman, write their own resolutions, and then say "the Board has resolved..." yet there would not be such resolutions. When we bring questions relating to that in Parliament, you do not add them to the Order Paper. The corruption of the Speakership should be looked at, as to how is it that we work hard, we submit questions here, and there is not one question of mine here, there is not one Motion of mine here. We should look at that corruption with the Speakership. How is it that you afford other Members audience in this House, you afford their work to go on, but, those that we request, the Motions that we submit, you do not put them here?

MR SPEAKER: Order! Please calm down. Take your seat.

MR MOREMI: I am calm. You are the one standing up, you could be sitting down.

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

MR SPEAKER: Please sit down Honourable Member, and please switch off your microphone.

MR MOREMI: ...(Inaudible)...

MR SPEAKER: No, please do not do that Honourable Member. I am not aware that there are some questions that you asked that were never captured in the Order Paper. If there are some questions that you submitted, and you have not seen them on the Order Paper, you know the proper procedure. You go to the office where questions are submitted, and check how far your questions are. Please do not fight me in Parliament yet I do not know which questions you are talking about, which you submitted when, and where. Go and check how far your questions are at the relevant office. When you talk about Public Service Employees, just remember that they are not here to speak for themselves, so we should address them properly.



MR MOREMI: Mr Speaker, I have not mentioned anyone by name. I was saying the executive teams of the Land Board write resolutions when they are only two in the office, and then say, “the board resolved.” That is how they take away land from people. That is how they take away Game Reserves and concessions from morafe. That is how they operate. The corruption in the Land Boards is almost the same magnitude as that of the National Assembly Speakership. That is what I wanted to say.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Moremi, you are out of order.

MR MOREMI: Mr Speaker, actually to have...

MR SPEAKER: No! Order! Order! Honourable Moremi! You are out of order. Withdraw the statement you just uttered concerning the leadership of this House.

MR MOREMI: I withdraw what I said regarding the leadership of this House.

Mr Speaker, I would like to move that the Motion by Honourable Rantuana be amended. It should be amended by just one word and read thus, “Government should carry out land audits, periodically”, because I do not trust that the land registry system could just be carried on without being evaluated, the veracity of the register should be checked whether it is on track. For there to be a once-off land audit, then once it is done we would leave it at that, it would not work for us. In a certain period, in particular intervals, it should be done just like the Auditor General going through Ministries checking this and that, even the land registry should be a standing thing. Maybe it should even come in as a statute that every three years or every five years it should be amended. I move accordingly Mr Speaker. I amend the Motion.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Moremi, whilst at that with your amendment, I wanted to let you know that we are left with seven minutes so I want to know whether you are still going to propose your amendment because if that is case, then it means you are going to discuss it within the remaining seven minutes. Do you still wish to carry on with your amendment despite the fact that there is no time?

MR MOREMI: Mr Speaker, you used up my debate time.

MR SPEAKER: Your time had already gone. I was just asking you about the amendment, whether you would like us to carry on with it even though we are left with only seven minutes allocated to this Motion, because it has to end at 12 p.m?

MR MOREMI: Well, actually I like periodic audits Mr Speaker, rather than having a once off audit.

MR SPEAKER: ...*(Inaudible)*...

MR MOREMI: Yes, let us proceed with the amendment.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, please write it down and bring it here.

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

...*Silence*...

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members! Honourable Moremi, has suggested a motion of amendment. He wishes this motion to read thus “that this Honourable House requests Government to carryout periodic/regular land audits as the current Land Administration Procedures and Capacity and Systems (LAPCAS) is not addressing the issue of long waiting lists for plot allocations”. This amendment has not changed the motion much, the question is do you accept the amendment?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: It is the same.

MR SPEAKER: We have a procedure, you stand up to speak when I have given you permission to speak. Stand up.

MINISTER OF LAND MANAGEMENT, WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES (MR MZWINILA): On a point of procedure. Thank you Mr Speaker. I think it is the same thing, because by definition audits are periodic, the nature of land allocation is dynamic, not static. We are dealing with allocations which I will be carrying over some time, period. By definition an audit has to be periodic and it has to be regular. Therefore, I do not agree with the amendment. Thank you sir.

MR RANTUANA (RAMOTSWA): Thank you Mr Speaker. I agree with the amendment as a once off audit would not be enough. If you do a just once off audit and you forget about what you have done, you would still bring us back to this problem. If it is a periodic audit, just like the Auditor General spend time at the National Petroleum Fund (NPF), they can do the same at land. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY (MR KGATHI): On a point of procedure. I was just checking the semantics of it as to whether you



can really say regular/periodic? It does not sound like good English, which word do we want to use there?

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

MR KGATHI: No, it is true, either it is tautologous or...

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

MR SPEAKER: No, I believe that maybe how the words are arranged will get us into trouble. It is like we repeat what is supposed to be done. I believe if we say 'periodic land audits' and remove the word 'regular', which ever word that you remove it is still the same.

MR MOREMI: Honestly Mr Speaker, we have a problem that where the large portion of Botswana land is allocated, there is no oversight happening. I do not know whether Parliament has a committee of Lands, where we can be able to call various Land boards and inform them about the concerns of our constituents. Apart from that, there should be periodic/regular audits to give us a measure of where we are coming from, LAPCAS is there but we can audit what has happened in the past five years since we left LAPCAS. Then we take five years from there going forward, so at all the times we have on a computer at the finger tips information as to the transfers and land holdings that are currently in Botswana. I just wanted to explain Mr Speaker that where we are, we are in darkness. People do as they please in our constituencies with our land but there is no where we meet with them. Even at the councils they do not go.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Thank you Honorable Moremi. The time for debate is up but we have to continue with the amendment issue first so that we conclude it.

Question put and **Division called for.**

MR SPEAKER: Division. Ring the bell for two minutes. Order! Honorable Members, the question is that the amendment be agreed to. I am activating voting, vote. Those who say "yes" press two, those who say "no" press three and those who abstain press four.

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

MR SPEAKER: Are you done voting?

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

MR SPEAKER: I am stopping this side. Those who say "yes" are 11 and those who said "no" are 21, there is no one who did not vote. The noes have it, so the amendment would not be carried.

Amendment **negated.**

MR SPEAKER: Honorable Rantuana, you respond on the original Motion. Please respond to the debates.

MR RANTUANA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me thank my dear comrades who supported this Motion, those who did not support this Motion, the voters are listening and they know how to deal with you. Mr Speaker, a few of those who did not agree with the Motion, inside they agreed with it but outside they had to do what the party says, but I do not blame them. One of them is Member of Parliament for Lobatse, Lobatse people did themselves a favour, they got rid of him. Mr Speaker, Rolong Land board that he spoke about saying there is no waiting list, there are infact 18 398 plots surveyed and none has been allocated up to date. I do not know where he gets the story that, in Rakhuna one is allocated a plot within six months after application. I have written to people at Surveys and mapping here, that is my source.

MR SEGOKGO: On a point of clarification. I thank the Honorable Speaker. Right there Honorable Rantuana waiting lists are many, even at Tlokweng they go as far as 50 000. Since I did not have the chance to comment because of time, let me state that those of you Ramotswa are just like us in Tlokweng. There are certain pieces of land which the Government has not clearly stated who they belong to. I can cite the farms that we have, Honourable Maele is aware he was supposed to go there to discuss these issues that affect the country. He promised to come but never did. We have farms like Almond Hill, 3-KP and Clent Hill, in Tlokweng we call them majwe a *Dikgokong le boPetros*. If issues regarding farms are not handled then it shows that there are problems of...

LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR TSOGWANE): Point of procedure. No, I want to help Honourable Segokgo because he is only taking a ride and not saying anything. Anything you say cannot be broadcasted because you were seeking clarification. That means that you can only debate in this House. There will be no report which will show your comments. It was just a clarification. Even if you can take all your time addressing Tlokweng issues.

MR SPEAKER: No, give Honourable Segokgo a chance. He wants to explain so that we can understand some things. Let him debate. Proceed Honourable Segokgo.



MR SEGOKGO: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I know that most of the time some of us here debate to please some people without considering what Batswana are going to benefit from the debate. As we speak I am considering what we want to benefit as well as how the land audit is going to help us. Honourable Rantuana, if these issues are not looked into we will not be able to resolve these long lists. His Honor the Vice President, it is still fine if what I said is not captured in the recording. Let me tell you that it is important that your government finds a way to solve land issues at Tlokweng.

DR VENSON-MOITOI: Point of procedure.

MR SPEAKER: Let him finish.

MR SEGOKGO: Let me leave it to you Honourable Rantuana, I am disturbed by Honourable Venson Moitoi. Honourable Venson Moitoi you are disturbing me.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Let him finish, I believe that he has concluded his clarification.

MR RANTUANA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I do not know why they are complaining because they are near Tlokweng and they are experiencing the same challenge that we are facing. Some are still crying for our Kgale farm. If we could carry out the land audit, we could determine the original title holder and take him to court so that he can give us answers as to how he acquired that Land without the Botswana Citizenship. I should have stated that after the land audit we should capture these freeholds. I do not think that there is any European who has the right to own any freehold here as much as there is no Motswana who owns a freehold land at England. We should introspect on how and why freehold applies on Europeans while it does not apply to Ramotswa dwellers who bought freehold land. This land audit can show who has the right to freehold. We will eliminate that freehold.

Let me go back to the Motion. Batswana are put under poverty. I heard one Former Member of Parliament for Lobatse saying that Batswana are selling plots.

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

MR RANTUANA: Yes, Batswana are selling plots because ...

LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR TSOGWANE): Point of order. I believe that there are few months left for you to complete your five years term as a Member of Parliament. You do not understand that Members of Parliament have not yet completed their term that is why you are saying a former Member of Parliament for Lobatse.

MR SPEAKER: Yes I can hear that you are provoking Honourable Kebonang. Honourable Kebonang will answer for himself once he returns to the House.

MR RANTUANA: Thank you Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: You have not yet completed your term Honourable Rantuana, Proceed.

MR RANTUANA: Thank you Mr Speaker. His Honor the Vice President should never comment on these issues. There are other important issues for him to comment on not these ones.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: We are not led.

MR RANTUANA: You have put Batswana under extreme poverty to an extent that...

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (MS MAKGATO): Point of order. Thank you Mr Speaker. This matter might seem like a laughing matter but it is serious for our records. We have Members of this Parliament currently sitting in the 11th Parliament if I am correct, among those Members is Sadique Kebonang who is representing Lobatse. It is out of order for this House to refer to him as a former Member of Parliament for Lobatse. We cannot allow that with an excuse that Honourable Kebonang will answer for himself

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

MS MAKGATO: Issues of Botswana Democratic Party (*Domkrag*) are for Botswana Democratic Party (*Domkrag*). As we speak, he is a Member of Parliament. He must withdraw the fact that he is referring to Member of Lobatse as a former Member for our record because our Parliament has defined. It is not proper for Honourable Rantuana so refuse to be corrected and in the process say that His Honor the Vice president is playing while he is trying to correct him. It seems like he still does not know the procedures of this House even after five years. It is a priority for the Leader of the House to correct him. He is the one who should go and play there! There!

MR SPEAKER: Wait Honourable Rantuana, order! Order! Do not make a big issue out of that matter. It is not an issue which you should be fighting over. Honourable Rantuana was provoking Honourable Kebonang so it should not be a fighting matter because Honourable Kebonang will have his fair share.



MR RANTUANA: Thank you Mr Speaker...

MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (MR SERETSE):

Point of order. Mr Speaker, you always do exceptionally well when it comes to assuring that the records of this House are clean. Today I am shocked at the fact that what the Member of Parliament, my brother in law just said could be brushed away just like that. Some of us are going to write memoirs when we knock off so it will not be right to come across a statement where the respectable Member of Parliament was not telling the truth. We were saying that he should withdraw that statement and refer to Honourable Kebonang as a Member of Parliament.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: We never see him anywhere.

MR RANTUANA: Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I suspect that you will get in trouble because I have already addressed that issue and you want to go back to it...

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

MR SPEAKER: You will be in danger, proceed Honourable Rantuana.

MR RANTUANA: Thank you Mr Speaker. You did the right thing by showing them that you have already taken a decision regarding that issue. Those who keep going backwards should be careful.

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

MR RANTUANA: Honourable Members, I was saying that you have put Batswana under pressure, you have put them under extreme poverty and they no longer have a choice. When a person is given a plot, he is told that he should develop it within five years even when he does not have resources. When he comes across someone who wants a plot, he sells his plot. They do not do that because they want to, they do that because of the poverty they are put under.

Mr Speaker, let me get into the land audit issue. Thank you Honourable Members. The main thrust of the land audit is to document land in Botswana in terms of who owns what and how it was acquired; value, tenure and the variation between planned and actual use of land. The move is triggered by worrying land allocations where some individuals own hundreds of plots while others have been waiting for more than 20 years.

MR KEORAPETSE: Point of elucidation. On Judge Lesetedi's Commission he stated that there is someone who owns 700 plots in Gaborone. When that report was being drafted, that person had not yet reached 25 years as a Motswana. These are the issues which are worrying that Batswana do not have plots yet other people of different race as was alluded to in Dikhutsafalo are at an advantage.

MR RANTUANA (RAMOTSWA): Thank you Honourable Keorapetse. Mr Speaker, this means there is something wrong with our land administration in this country. One of the main challenges ...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR RANTUANA: A minute my colleague. One of the main challenges which is a serious problem in land administration in Botswana is inadequate skills in the various fields required to run an effective and efficient Land Administration System. This has in turn led to inadequate records keeping which results in slow service delivery as a lot of time is spent trying to retrieve record or information on land.

Mr Speaker, there are some people who are still waiting for their certificates, Land Administration Procedures Capacity and System (LAPCAS) was concluded in 2016, not a single certificate has been issued. Land boards are staffed with people who do not know anything about record keeping; even drivers have been engaged to hang plot numbers. You will find a plot with two plot numbers. How come one plot has two numbers under LAPCAS and we call that a very good thing!

MR MOLEFHE: On a point of clarification. Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable. Enlighten us here, you are saying your request will deal with a challenge where one person has numerous plots. Moreover, what is your take concerning the law which allows companies even those of foreigners to buy plots?

MR RANTUANA: Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable. It is easy, rescind this law because we are not going to implement it ...(Inaudible)...

Mr Speaker, like I said, LAPCAS is an inventory that has been carried out by unskilled personnel. That is why it is just continuing and not going anywhere. If at least they had put people who know what they are doing, we would be going somewhere. Even the Minister of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services is here, he has never seen LAPCAS certificate, he does not know how it looks yet it was concluded in 2016. He does not know if it is blue or green, now he is smiling.



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

MINISTER OF LAND MANAGEMENT, WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES (MR MZWINILA):

On a point of order. The Member is out of order, I have seen the certificate, and I know the colour.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Rantuana, it seems what you said is not true.

MR RANTUANA: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I am not referring to seeing it in a presentation ...

MR SPEAKER: No! No! Let us focus on the debate.

MR RANTUANA: I am not talking about seeing it in a presentation, I am talking about the real certificate, paper. Let him bring it to Parliament so that we can see it.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is not there.

MR RANTUANA: It is not there, I am not talking about in a power point, what colour is it, is it red?

Mr Speaker, in 1992, the magnitude of corruption scandals associated with land allocation were exposed by the President's Commission of Enquiry on land problems in Mogoditshane, commonly known as the Kgabo Commission. Inappropriate, irregular as well as self-allocations were discovered by the Commission. More than 25 years on, after the Kgabo Commission, problems of land allocation still persist, and someone comes here with something from 2009, LAPCAS, an inventory which was made to trace people during voter registration with Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) sticks. LAPCAS was made for EVM, it was not made for land allocation.

Mr Speaker, it was for this reason that the Lesetedi Commission was established to investigate controversial allocations of the state land in Gaborone. The Commission revealed among other things a clear collusion between the senior employees (like Kgosi said earlier) of the Department of Lands and land grabbing powerful individuals depriving poor Batswana of their right to own land.

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

MR RANTUANA: This was said by Lesetedi not I.

Let me quote from one trustworthy old man Nelson Mandela, he has a quote which says, "if the rich and powerful...

MR SPEAKER: Go on and quote, what is the source?

MR RANTUANA: In Mandela quotes of leadership; "if the rich and powerful want to make themselves more rich and powerful at the expense of the poor, we must protest in the name of universal freedom."

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

MR RANTUANA: This is how I am protesting for my people that the rich who are laughing saying they are entrepreneurs who have illegally acquired land, we need to protest here in Parliament that they have acquired land illegally. We want that land back. We hear that some have collusion with some in Dubai want our farm. That one we must state it that it is not in the national interest, this land audit will reveal that it is not in public interest that we are now involved in a legal battle concerning the said farm. It is for individual greed that we want to establish with audit.

Mr Speaker, it is against this backdrop that there is need for a comprehensive land audit to examine the problem of land management, land disparities as well as illegally or corruptly acquired land among others in Botswana with a view to formulate sustainable solutions. Only the land audit can do that, sustainable solutions, not Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are mentioned thoughtlessly. These ones we will be moving in the right direction.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Rantuana, leave two minutes for me ...

MR RANTUANA: Yes Sir. The problem of land management in Botswana cannot be addressed by LAPCAS exercise which is basically a land inventory programme which was politically motivated by evil intentions of tracking people during voter registration.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, this encourages Gender Based Violence (GBV), you will find that the uncles and sisters are sharing a home, eventually fights ensues about their grandmother's home. Now since men are victimised a lot, they will be accused of beating their sister only to be found out that the sister provoked the brother by eating his child's yoghurt given that they do not have plots. Women, let us support this issue, Gender Based Violence is caused by lack of plots. Land Policy states that if you are married, you will not be allocated a plot, you are supposed to stay with that man until court declares that you are officially divorced, that is when you can be allocated land and right now it is a problem.



The management of land in Botswana continues to be a major challenge, access to land is the key to economic well-being. Such inequalities in land ownership can be addressed by the land audit as it can help in determining who owns land, where and how it was acquired among others. Political will is needed to achieve all this, now with the politicians not agreeing, you have deprived yourselves. Ownership and control of land and related resources are often associated with influence in decision making.

Mr Speaker, I request that my Motion be agreed to though some have refuted the amendment. Anyone who will refuse will reap the consequences. Amen.

MR SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Rantuana.

Question put and **Division called for.**

MR SPEAKER: It is now 12:30 p.m. We are left with 8 seconds before the division time elapses. So next week we are going to proceed with this Motion. You will start by voting as to whether you support it or not and then we move on to the next motion.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR TSOGWANE):

Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 12:30 p.m. until Monday 11th February, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.



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