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THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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ENGLISH VERSION

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(Umbrella for Democratic Change)

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Hon. S. O. Rantwana, MP	Ramotswa

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Friday 13th November, 2015

THE ASSEMBLY met at 9:00 a.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

PRAYERS

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SPEAKER'S REMARKS

MADAM SPEAKER (MS KOKORWE): Order! Honourable Members, yesterday we had an issue that was brought by Honourable Rantuana; he was not happy.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Makgorwane*

MADAM SPEAKER: No, not *makgorwane*, Honourable Rantuana. He was not happy about what Honourable Moswaane said. I have with me yesterday's Hansard, those are not pleasant words, they are a bit demeaning in a way. I will not talk about those words because Honourable Moswaane is not on the floor; he will be on the floor on Monday and we shall talk about them then. Now let us do Minister's questions, we have two questions

MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME

MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE

THEME: BOTSWANA 50TH CELEBRATIONS

MR NKAIGWA (GABORONE NORTH): Thank you Madam Speaker for the opportunity. Honourable Minister, I want you to update the House on the following in regard to the BOT50 celebrations, whether there is any Board that oversees these celebrations. If indeed there is a Board, what is its composition and the criteria that was used for their appointment, whether there was expression of interest for members of the public to express interest to be members of this Board? Also I want to appreciate the expenditure that you have spent so far in regard to these celebrations.

I also want to appreciate the role of the private sector. Is there any contribution from the private sector? What role are they playing? How have we engaged stakeholders to be part of these celebrations? Also appreciate the districts celebrations, like in Gaborone where I am a Member of Parliament for Gaborone North, we only hear of these celebrations but they do not include youth groups from our constituencies. The only youth groups that we have seen to be included in these celebrations are from Gaborone South and Gaborone Central. I want to appreciate why is it a bit selective?

Honourable Minister, local artists and promoters are crying foul that for several times they have been overlooked when it comes to them partaking or participating in these celebrations. I can note for this year there was what you call an electronic music festival which local promoters believed that they should have been given an opportunity to also tender to deliver on that mandate. So maybe you can take us through your procurement procedures, how do you procure for services or for goods in relation to the BOT50 celebrations?

What is also interesting is that, in regard to the interfaith services, I am a member of some of the churches in the city but what I have realised Honourable Minister is that, how do you invite churches to be part of the interfaith services? Most of the churches are not invited, so I want to appreciate your process of invitation to all churches within the city or in Botswana.

Initially when BOT50 was launched, the President assured us Botswana that some of the events that shall take place during these celebrations shall include panel discussions, fashion shows, traditional and cultural festivals but I have not seen those taking place. Having said that, I believe you will give me and update Botswana on the BOT50 celebrations which I believe they concern all of us as Botswana. Thank you Madam Speaker.

MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE

(MR OLOPENG): Thank you Madam Speaker. Thank you Honourable Member. Let me take this opportunity to go through the details on how the BOT50 celebrations are going to be planned and carried out.

The Government of Botswana has restructured the Botswana 50 Anniversary of independence celebrations being (BOT50), which purpose is to coordinate the countdown to 50th Anniversary celebrations in the year 2016. This is necessary in order to build the hype and create excitement among Botswana towards our milestone. The tagline for the celebrations is 'United and Proud.' It is intended that the tagline focuses the attention of Botswana on being patriotic by putting the interests of their country ahead of everything in all their social-economic activities.

Madam Speaker, BOT50 is a national assignment that is focused on the delivery of memorable Golden Jubilee celebrations for Botswana. These celebrations are a historic moment for the country and should be befitting for such an occasion. It is therefore important that these celebrations demonstrate inclusiveness of all Botswana as we celebrate our milestone as a country. Madam Speaker, Members of Parliament are critical stakeholders in the overall Golden Jubilee celebrations,

in terms of providing strategic direction to the whole celebration project. In addition, in assuring monitoring of implementation on agreed activities.

In June 2015, Cabinet put in place a structure BOT50 National Organising Committee (NOC) to ensure successful celebrations. The decisions are outlined in Presidential Directive Cab. 18 of 2013. The main function of the BOT50 National Organising Committee is to provide oversight and strategic directions to the Secretariat to ensure successful Golden Jubilee celebrations. The National Organising Committee serves as a Board for the celebrations at villages, districts and national levels, thus it holds the responsibility to guide the celebrations for the country. Madam Speaker, the key deliverables of the committee includes among others; communication strategy, countdown strategy and 2016 celebrations.

Madam Speaker, the Board 50 National Organising Committee is composed of five independent members and nine representatives from various institutions; we have tried to include a diverse skilled and competency mix. Madam Speaker, the Secretariat operates another general direction of the Board 50 National Organising Committee chairman and administrative control of the Board 50 Coordinator. The National Board 50 is accountable to the Minister and reports to Cabinet on monthly basis.

Madam Speaker, the Honourable Member has raised in a few questions where I think I need to respond to directly, the expenditure for Board 50; I am not sure if he is referring to the 49th celebrations or he is referring to the 50th anniversary celebrations. I will get that clarification later and I will be able to provide the expenditure towards that if he is particularly referring to preparations for the 50th anniversary celebrations. Madam Speaker, Honourable Member wanted to know the criteria that was used to appoint this National Organising Committee. The Cabinet Directive that I have already mentioned give me the powers to appoint the National Organising Committee and with assistance of my officials at the Ministry we came together and appointed the sitting committee. The Honourable Member wanted to know the involvement of the private sector and other entities like youth, districts and so on, and as I have already alluded to Madam Speaker, these celebrations are for all Batswana and it is important that we embrace that as a nation to make sure that we all take part and my committee and its Secretariat are already designing platforms, they are already working on a programme to consult different stakeholders. I may Madam Speaker mention that the stakeholders that my committee is going to start with is Cabinet, Parliament,

Ntlo ya Dikgosi, Full Councils, Business Botswana, Botswana Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO) representing civil societies, youth organisations, media, pic-force which is the meeting of the senior government officials, private secretaries and so on and any other. My committee at the first quarter of the year are going to come up with the following platforms; ideas bank, where they will put up different communication platforms in place, it is either through social media, through internet services, through short messages (sms) and so on, so that anyone who wants to contribute an idea towards this should have a platform to do so.

He mentioned the music industry that there have been some complaints and so on and he said they feel they had been left out. Madam Speaker, no one is going to be left out or no one will be left out because there is also within the first quarter of the year where the committee is going to call all musicians through relevant bodies like Botswana Music Union (BOMU), to call all musicians in the country to come up with a theme song that will be sang during the celebrations on the 30th of September 2016.

Madam Speaker, he mentioned complaints that came through the electronic music festival that happened on the 49th anniversary celebrations, yes indeed there were complaints from the local musicians, I intervened, I called both the Organising Committee, the Secretariat and my officials, the Permanent Secretary included and also called the other parties being all music promoters in the country and I remember at that particular time my office was full because there were about 10 of them representing music industry. And the bone of contention was that why did Board 50 Committee assign a South African company to come and host the electronic music festival and the answers I got from my officials were very straight forward, 'Minister you appointed us to carry out the Board 50 celebrations being the 2016 anniversary celebrations but at the same time within short notice you also gave us the mandate to organise the celebrations for the 49th anniversary celebrations.' So they even made it very clear in the presence of those who represented music industry that they tried to find out if there is anyone who has ever hosted that kind of festival in the country and they found none.

I did ask the same question in front of the people who represented the music industry that 'is there any company that you know of that has the capacity and the capability to host this kind of event', none of them raised their hand but they still felt like they could have been given a chance to become middle man in this regard and I made it very clear to them that, 'let by-gones be by-

goners, let us get ready for the bigger picture which is the 50th anniversary celebrations because if we are to go for tender now, remaining with 30 days, it was going to be almost close to impossible to deliver the project as planned by the committee.' I would like to report to this House that, that event was very, very successful, those who participated appreciated the whole set up and they are working together with the Ministry to make sure that they become part of the same event on the coming celebrations and because that one was planned to be sort of like an international event, that is why international DJs were roped in, we had a record of 160 000 people watching the event online. This was more on tourism and it was sort of like a trial to see if that coming event would be popular among young people in the country and where it was hosted from, at the cricket club, we had around 4, 000 young people attending the celebrations and BTV assisted the Ministry to project this to other parts of the country where it was possible.

Madam Speaker, the districts are already on board through consultations with the BOT50 National Organising Committee. They have already engaged with the District Commissioners at different districts because these celebrations is for all Batswana, it is not just for the capital city Gaborone. Youth will be very very much involved through different platforms.

As I have already mentioned, we will have the social media for youth to participate on this, for youth to share the ideas. We will have the sms platforms where we are going to have some competition in there as to how you know Botswana and so on. We will have all the 16 districts being involved in the countdown.

Madam Speaker, I have made the procurement processes very very clear to the Board. They just came back from the retreat in Maun, that this time there is still 12 months left. They have to call all the stakeholders and tell them the requirements as early as now. We have also made it very clear that we would like almost like 90 to 99 per cent of all procurement of these celebrations to be procured here locally. Talk of the merchandise of the Botswana flag; they have to be bought through our entities here in Botswana. We have companies here; Gala, All Kasi and so on. They are already engaged and they have already developed the t-shirt samples and so on.

The discussion panels; there will be television, radio debates and discussions about BOT50. So, those platforms are already on board Honourable Member.

Lastly Madam Speaker, let me end by saying I really like to encourage every Member of Parliament to be committed and to join the country, the Batswana and their people to prepare and make sure that we come up

not with a party but with a great celebration on the 30th September 2016.

Madam Speaker, lastly also to inform Honourable Members that a decision has been made that every Friday could we try to wear Botswana colours as much as we could. I will have to appreciate Madam Speaker, by coincidence I like the regalia that your team is putting on. It fits the purpose of Botswana colours. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

MR NKAIGWA: Madam Speaker, I wonder why this question has been given 20 minutes, I thought it is 30 minutes. Honourable Minister, I want you to confirm that indeed the South African company that have been engaged for the electronic music festival did not perform according to the tender. That is why at the last minute BTV had to be roped in so that Batswana can be able to see those celebrations.

Lastly, I thought that maybe you will give us the composition of the Committee Members who are there and also money was spent Honourable Minister for events leading to the bigger event, that is BOT50. I was referring to money that has been spent from 2013 until now on these celebrations leading to the bigger event, which is BOT50 in 2016.

MR OLOPENG: Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that the company that was engaged to deliver the electronic music festival did not deliver according to the tender requirements. But if there is anything like that, I will take this up with my officials and try and find out and give the Honourable Member an update on this response. But from what I know is that they delivered according to how they were expected and BTV was also part of this Madam Speaker, and they were roped in, in order to cut costs of the whole event. And also it should be understood that this was also a service that needed other stakeholders like our local service providers such as mobile companies and so on. The composition of the committee I will ask them to give you all the full names. I will pass them onto you on Monday Honourable Member.

And lastly, we are also going to work out the cost from 2013 to date on how much was spent, as you are all aware that flags have always been hoisted on towers and so on in order to hype up to the final celebrations of the 2016 Golden Jubilee. Thank you very much.

MR MOREMI: On a point of procedure, Madam Speaker. Thank you Madam Speaker. This session should be more of a discussion between us and the Minister so that we are fully enlightened but if the

Minister takes the whole allocation responding, it does not give us time to comment.

MADAM SPEAKER: You are right, I agree with you he spent a lot of time responding. You cannot say it is an update because you can still come to make a statement as the Standing Order permits you to. If it is a question you should give them time. Since I know what is going to happen next, I will allow a few to ask question especially those who do not stand whilst I am standing; I will not give the floor to those who stood while I was.

MR SALAKAE: Thank you Madam Speaker. I am very sorry for coming into this House five minutes late and when I came in, the Minister was already making his presentation. Something that I heard that I want to ask a question on is; the Minister indicated that his Committee tried to establish whether we have internal capacity to stage this music festival. I wanted to enquire from the Minister the mode of communication that they used to reach the many Batswana in this country to try and establish whether they have the same capacity as South Africans to host this music festival?

Secondly, now that the Minister was there during the festival, did he find anything extraordinary that Batswana would not have had, or did he find any capacity that is absent in Botswana that the South Africans had such that we only had to go to South Africa to get people from there and come and host a music festival which Batswana are said not to have capacity to host? Thank you Madam Speaker.

MR OLOPENG: Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Thank you very much Honourable Member. Madam Speaker, there is an organisation that is in partnership with the Ministry that looks after all artists in the country called Botswana Music Union (BOMU). This is the organisation that anything that the Ministry wants to do with musicians, they engage this organisation.

Secondly, as I had already alluded to, I had a meeting with representatives from the music industry, the music promoters and they made it very clear to me that none of them had ever hosted any festival of such magnitude. Secondly Madam Speaker, I had to make a point that I go and see. I went to the event on the day and I left the place around 9:30 p.m. because I wanted to see what was special about this and I was taken around. The kind of equipment that was displayed there, the kind of technology that was there capacitating this company to being the signal to all the districts that were selected, is equipment that we do not have. I still say we do not have it in Botswana. I repeat, we do not have it, because musicians and music promoters acceded to that, that they do not have it, they confirmed that.

Also, the whole idea by the committee as they briefed me was to make it an international event hence they roped some international DJ's to participate. This is why I had reported that a report and the statistics we have is that 160 000 people were able to watch this event online. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Thank you very much. Good morning Madam Speaker. Thank you very much Honourable Minister for your good answers. I heard you very well that you said the Presidential Directive gave you the power to appoint. Will you share with us the criteria which you and your staff used to select or to appoint those committee members? The second question is, is there a company which had been awarded a tender to publish a booklet on the 50 years anniversary and how was that tender done and who has won the tender? Are you in a position to tell us who actually won that particular tender? The third question is that I would like you to confirm again indeed that did this particular South African company perform as per the tender and how much were they paid? And why was BTV roped in at the last minute because we are told that the company did perform and because we do not have a 4G that is why Btv was roped in. I would just like you to confirm that. Thank you Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER (MS KOKORWE): Honourable Minister. Please be brief because we are only left with 12 minutes.

MR OLOPENG: Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the criteria that was used to appoint the committee as indeed I was given the powers to appoint the committee, we just selected people we know have the capability and the only people we selected from outside government, were five. As the Honourable Member would know that we probably have half a million people who are capable but we could not bring all of them into the committee. We only selected five and the rest are from government departments represented in the Board.

And for a company not having delivered according to the tender specifications, I have made it very clear that I am not aware of that but I will follow up and I will therefore give both Members a copy of the response, fortunate enough they are sitting next to each other Madam Speaker. Lastly, I am not aware of any tender that has been awarded to a company to publish a book.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ...(Murmurs)...

MR OLOPENG: Yes, but I do not know any company that has been awarded a tender to that effect and actually I would have known if there was any. I do not think there is any company Honourable Member that has been

given a tender to publish any book. Thank you Madam Speaker.

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

MADAM SPEAKER: Did you say you were making a follow up?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: I was making a follow up on the first one.

MADAM SPEAKER: Okay, please continue.

MR SALAKAE: Madam Speaker, listening to Honourable Minister's response to questions in Parliament at times shows that Ministers are completely lost. They lack the capacity to provide many answers that we look for. I had asked the Honourable Minister to try and assist me appreciate the thing that South Africans had that was extraordinary that made them qualify compared to any other Mofswana to host that festival.

ii. The Honourable Member of Parliament asked the Minister to try and provide us or furnish us with the names of the people who made up the committee that went to South Africa to bring those people to us. Can he confirm to this Honourable House that this person that I know that sits in all tender committees in the Ministry was not part of that committee, Mr Pabalinga?

MR OLOPENG: Madam Speaker, thank you very much. I think it will help us if the Member asked questions with respect. When a Member says it shows that Ministers are lost, he is probably the one who is lost. Even the way he talks to some elderly people like me.

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

MR OLOPENG: You know, I am not his age mate...

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

MR OLOPENG: So he is lost. Madam Speaker...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ...(Murmurs)...

MR OLOPENG: ...And I would like him to open his ears and listen; you know. I said there was no company that had the capability to host this kind of event in Botswana and he can go and do his own research and come back to me and give me the name of a company...

MR KGOROBA: On a point of procedure. Madam Speaker, you have given us 12 minutes to ask the Minister questions and every time the Minister begins to answer a question, he starts going round in circles first to use up our time. Please ask the Minister to respond to

the questions and stop beating about the bush because we need that time.

MADAM SPEAKER: Let us try to be brief, both sides.

MR OLOPENG: Thank you Madam Speaker, I am going round in circles because he was also doing the same saying we are lost.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: You are a Minister not a Member of Parliament.

MR OLOPENG: Yah! You are a Member of Parliament of a very distant place man!

MADAM SPEAKER: No, Honourable Minister!

MR OLOPENG: I withdraw Madam Speaker.

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

MR OLOPENG: Madam Speaker, the Member can go and do his research and he should not ask questions based on hearsay; he should find out if there was any company that had the capability to host such an invent. We looked around, we could not find anything. He mentioned the name 'Pabalinga,' and the Pabalinga that he mentioned was one of those who came to complain at my office. I said there were about 10 of them and he was one of those 10 who came to complain. So how does he sit in a tender committee and at the same time come and complain that the tender is being given to a South African company? Thank you Madam Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI: Minister, maybe two very short questions. Can you give us the five names of people who come from the private sector, those that do not come from government who form part of that committee? Secondly, Minister, do you not know that if local companies had been given the opportunity to do what the South Africans did, they could have actually engaged those South African companies to do that but do you not think one way of empowering our people is to give them such opportunities so that they can later on rope in those that can do the job?

MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE

(MR OLOPENG): Thank you very much Madam Speaker, thank you very much Honourable Member. The Chairman is within the five names. There is Mr Boyce Sebetela, Ms Magdalene Tsiane, who is a Chartered Accountant, Mr Jacob Sesinyi, Mr Solly Reikeletseng and Mr Kenneth Molusi. Those are the five that are not within Government.

On the second question Madam Speaker, I entirely agree with the Honourable Member. This is what I said to our local music promoters when they came to see me, that let us all understand what this is all about because you

said you have never hosted anything like this. Check the standard and then know what is happening so that by next year you will be able to be contracted by the Ministry to organise the same. So I entirely agree with you that it is important for them to learn. I think they have learnt because they are working with us now. Thank you very much.

MR KGOROBA (MOGODITSHANE): Honourable Minister, whenever we procure guns, ammunition and fighter jets at the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) we never say that there is no one who manufactures them locally, yet we appoint middlemen so that they can source them from the manufacturers.

Secondly, why did we come up with such a sophisticated mode for this festival when we knew that in our 50 years we have not developed our people to a level or to a stage where we could stage a festival of that magnitude? Was it not ideal to tap into the education and skills that we imparted to our children to avoid a situation where when we celebrate our 50 years of independence we have a requirement that indicates that we are not at that level.

MR OLOPENG: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, thank you Honourable Member. Madam Speaker, I think I made it very clear that if the committee could have gone through the procurement process of appointing middleman; that was going to take a long time. They were only left with 30 days to get this event going. Therefore they could not have managed to get a middleman to go and look for the company that is capable of delivering the event. So there was a question of time constraints there.

Then on sophistication of the event, I think it is important that despite the fact that we are 50 years old, we have to keep on learning and growing. We cannot allow ourselves to be stagnant, it is important that we be sophisticated. Right now the company managed to deliver the event and our young people in this country; they are now as we speak working together with that company to make sure that next year they will have the capability to host the same. I thank you Madam Speaker.

DR P. BUTALE (GABORONE CENTRAL): Thank you very much. Honourable Minister, how do they have the capacity to do the same when they were standing on the outside and watching? You are agreeing that they were not given the chance to even work with this South African Company, but you have confidence that they will in future have any experience to deliver the same.

You also keep talking about the middleman; I do not know why you do that. Why did you not, as Honourable Mmolotsi said, give them this job and then they partner

with that foreign company. The other thing is, did this company deliver according to tender specification? Why was Botswana Television (BTV) roped in, because we have information to the effect that they were roped in because the company could not deliver? Can you share with this House whether that is true or not.

MR OLOPENG: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, thank you Honourable Member. Honourable Member, one of things that happened when the South African Company came to Botswana was for our young people to establish relationship with that company. They even had a music seminar with our young musicians in this country. Currently as we speak, they are actually working together because we want our young people to be the ones hosting or leading the host of this event on the 30th of September 2016. This is why I am saying they will have the capacity to do so, because they are working together with them. There is something called skills transfer.

Madam Speaker, yes I have been calling them middleman because it is not allowed that we could just select one person and say, 'go and work with company C.' The procurement process dictates that we could have floated a tender for a minimum of 14 days or 30 days for those who want to be middleman, to participate. So my committee was left with only 30 days to deliver the event, I mentioned it many, many times.

On whether the company delivered according to terms of reference, I have made it very clear that I have got no information to such, but I will go and consult and give you copies. I will even print more; I will make sure that I have 20 copies to give to each one of you. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time is up! Order! Order! Honourable Members, I knew that this is an important question and that you would need all the information. I gave you 40 minutes so that you can continue with it because the Honourable Minister of Finance and Development Planning was supposed to be here to answer a question from Honourable Gaolatlhe but he could not make it. It is going to be the first question in the next order paper.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: On a point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Makgalemele I do not see what warrants you to call for a point of order; you are abusing this point of order. Please state what you want to say.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

(MR MAKGALEMELE): Madam Speaker with due respect I do not think it is fair to attack me when you do not know what I am planning on saying.

MADAM SPEAKER: ... (Inaudible) ...

MR MAKGALEMELE: No Madam Speaker, I do not think it is fair.

The point of order that I stood on is that I believe that this House is out of order. Yesterday we were forced to adjourn the House because of lack of quorum. Madam Speaker my wish is that we should discuss this issue because we are wasting each other's time. Most of us are always in attendance and some Members from both sides of the aisle always leave before the House adjourns. So this matter has to be addressed. My request is that we should take this issue seriously especially that the Mother of the House is present as well as the Father of the House. It is very important that we agree on the minimum numbers that should be maintained either at Cabinet level, backbench level and the opposition level and there should be people that are held accountable. Otherwise we come here, we waste our time and we go home depressed. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Elucidation.

MADAM SPEAKER: No, please wait. Order! Order! Honourable Members, the reason I spoke the way I did initially is because there was no reason to call out for a point of order when there was nothing out of order. You all know that the issue of the House not being quorated bothers me and I have spoken about it before. I saw what happened yesterday and I had planned to raise the issue today however I felt that the issue will be discussed at the next General assembly. Please do attend because it is very painful to see an Honourable Member leaving the House despite being told that if he or she leaves the quorum collapses like the one who did that yesterday. It is an issue we cannot discuss right now because the timing is not right, we will discuss it at the next General Assembly Honourable Member.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: What are you clarifying?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: We want clarification on what you have been saying.

MR MOREMI: Madam Speaker, I wanted to caution that the Standing Order is silent on leaving the House thereby resulting in the collapse of the quorum collapse, so it is our democratic right to make the quorum collapse when we feel like it.

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

MADAM SPEAKER: They are listening to you in your constituency. Let us proceed.

MR SALAKAE: Clarification. Thank you Madam Speaker. I am also worried about this issue. My question is; what is the problem in discussing this issue in Parliament while Batswana are listening because they are also concerned about this issue? I am asking what the problem is in debating it now because I believe the truth should come out. Let Honourable Makgalemele ask this question; "we request that you ask Ministers like Honourable Tshekedi Khama why they do not respect and attend Parliament," instead of painting us who normally attend Parliament with the same brush. We should debate it here.

MADAM SPEAKER: No, Honourable Members that is why we have General Assembly to go and discuss some of these things. So, in all honesty we cannot discuss it today, we will handle it at the General Assembly, so that you may all air your views to help us this side and also assist Mother of the House because we once discussed it at the General Assembly. She also spoke about it at the General Assembly. She was saying "let us be accountable." I request that we now proceed.

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

MADAM SPEAKER: No, Honourable Maj. General, if t the General Assembly agrees that it should be brought here, then it will be so. May be it will be a good thing me too.

MR KEORAPETSE: Procedure Madam Speaker. I wanted to know if it was possible to request the interpretation of the Parliamentary Counsel (PC) on whether there is a timing of when the point of order may be made in terms of the Standing Orders. This is because sometimes if a Member of Parliament rises on a point of order he is told that it is not time for points of order. I am saying this so that we do not abuse it.

ACTING PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL (MR CHIKANDA): Thank you Madam Speaker. If you read Standing Order 59.1 it says; "the Speaker shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the House." That Standing Order gives the Speaker power to regulate the processes in the House. If there is a point of order which is in accordance with the Standing Orders then it is allowed, but there are points of order which are actually out of order because they then have the effect to disturb the processes and the running of this House. For example, when the points of order are repetitive and they are meant maybe to disturb the programme as it stands, then it will depend on Madam Speaker whether

Motion

they are out of order or not. So, she is responsible for the observance of the rules of order in this House. It will depend on Madam Speaker whether that is out of order or not.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I said we will discuss this issue at the General Assembly. I will be pleased if we agree to bring the issue here. We would have discussed that it be included in the Order Paper of that day. It will also give Batswana a chance to appreciate the situation if it is brought here. If it is brought here after discussing it first at the General Assembly, I will also be free to quote and say just like a certain Member left although I told him not to. Okay!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure.

MR MANGOLE: Procedure on a totally different matter. Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to talk about the issue that you first mentioned relating to Honourable Ndaba's question. Madam Speaker, it is worrying that we are left with only six Fridays and we have a lot of questions relating to Ministers' question time. When a question is noticed, it means that the Minister is ready and has confirmed that he or she will respond to that question. Now when we come to this House, with the question on the Order Paper and get told that the Minister is not in, it is wrong because the Minister could have notified you well in time to put another question instead. I understand that Honourable Member Gaolathe only learnt about the absence of the Minister today. I can confirm that he spent the whole night preparing for his question and here we are today and we are being told that the Minister is not in. This is not fair. Madam Speaker, could you have not done something better so that we may proceed?

MADAM SPEAKER: Unfortunately we also heard late, but I do note what you are saying. I agree that it is not right. It is something which I believe it is also being noted by the Ministers who are here. It is something that I have already talked to them about. So, I believe that this thing must come to an end but I agree with you that it is not right.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Procedure on a different item Madam.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure.

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you aware that you are wasting time?

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: No, Madam, it is serious. I am making a brief comment.

MADAM SPEAKER: You are wasting time for motions because the Minister you say is not in, is here.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I am just saying procedure, I am rising on a serious issue of national interest from what transpired in this House yesterday. During the elections of the Specially Elected Member of Parliament, whereby some of us did not take part because we did not agree or were not happy about the procedure, because we wanted the names of people who were making the nominations. At the end the Honourable Acting President by then, stood and said, "no, there is no need to divulge the names of those people," and you agreed with him. You made that ruling that no, we are not going to state the names of people who nominated them. But we were so surprised when we left here yesterday and heard on radios a statement supposedly signed by the Vice President saying the people from Opposition are the ones who, I quote, one legislature nominated Botsalo Ntuane without his consent. He even said it is a mischievous act done by the Opposition.

That statement does not sit well with me Madam Speaker because you are the only one privy to the names of those who submitted the nominees. So we want to establish if he...

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane, kindly sit down because the Honourable member is standing on a point of order.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: We want to know where His Honour the Vice President took that information from because he is insinuating that it was from the opposition because that statement is tantamount to tarnishing our reputation. We are seeking clarification on that Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: This is something that we can discuss at the General Assembly more so that he is not even here to respond to your question. I am not yet sure about the allegations you have made on him. So General Assembly is meant to address issues like these because some of them are better discussed in that kind of set up as tempers may rise. It shall also be part of the agenda. Let us therefore proceed.

**POLICY TO PROTECT THE
INTERESTS OF THE INFORMAL
SECTOR**

Motion

MR MOSWAANE (FRANCISTOWN EAST): Madam Speaker, I came ready to present my motion, but unfortunately the Minister responsible is not here. So, I do not know if I can proceed with it or not. Both the Ministers are not here.

Motion

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes it is a bit disappointing. The information I received is that the Mother of the House is not sure of where the Minister is because he is held up somewhere. I have said it over and over again that Ministers ought to come on time to respond to questions and motions or send another Minister on their behalf. That is the practice that we used to do while we were still Ministers.

MR KESUPILE: On a point of procedure. Madam Speaker, it seems like you are not sure where she is and I believe it is on record that you are not aware of his whereabouts. So maybe the Mother of the House needs to say it so that you are fully informed as well.

MADAM SPEAKER: Can you help mother. Where is he?

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MS VENSON- MOITOI): Madam Speaker, I believe the Minister of Trade and Industry is attending the Botswana Economic Advisory Council this morning.

DR P. BUTALE: On a point of procedure. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I think we have said this before in this Parliament that, this conduct, the way of doing things where we are saying motions for Members of Parliament on a day designated for Members of Parliament will only proceed at behest Ministers is unpractical. I think we are not going to have any productivity. Members of the Cabinet are here, we have a Hansard. I think that the only way forward is for us to resolve this so that we can proceed or else we are always going to be postponing motions because Ministers are not here. These Ministers are busy, they have other things to do that are more important than Parliament. So, I think we need to resolve to proceed with the business of Parliament not to be held at ransom by the executive. Thank you very much.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Ministers who are present here, is it possible to have another Minister respond on your behalf just like it happens with Members of Parliament if they are absent but have questions to ask?

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE): Madam Speaker, I think that can only happen when there is a proper arrangement because there are issues that the substantive Minister may raise or may want to raise when the debate is going on. So, it can only happen if he has asked someone to stand in for him or her.

MS VENSON -MOITOI: May I take this suggestion back to the substantive Leader of the House Madam

Speaker and suggest that so that for the future that arrangement can be considered; if I may with your permission Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: ... (Inaudible)...

MS VENSON -MOITOI: Yes Madam Speaker. After today because I do not think any of the Ministers here would be in a position to take on that responsibility without any prior arrangement being made. We do take in to consideration the concerns being raised by our colleagues. Thank you Madam Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI: On a point of procedure. Madam Speaker, let me express my worry with regards to the conduct of both the Leader of the House and his team. When it was still Honourable Kedikilwe and Honourable Merafhe, they always made it a point that when a person or when a Minister was not in the House somebody will stand in for that particular Minister. And since His Honour Masisi took over the reins of the leadership of this House, nothing is on track. What I want to ask you Madam Speaker is to implore on the Leader of the House to take his duty seriously because as far as I am concerned the Leader of the House is not taking this House seriously.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have taken note of that and I concur with you. I will do it.

**INCREMENT OF VALUE ADDED TAX
TO FOURTEEN PER CENT**

Motion

MADAM SPEAKER: Unfortunately the responsible Minister is absent as well but I will not allow that comment.

**NEGOTIATIONS WITH FARMERS
TO PAVE WAY FOR THE EXPANSION
OF TOWNS, CITIES AND MAJOR
VILLAGES**

Motion

MR MOSWAANE (FRANCISTOWN WEST): Madam Speaker, I am not sure if the responsible Minister is around before I proceed.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: He is not in.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is he around?

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): I am around Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you Sir. Honourable Member of Parliament, proceed.

Motion

MR MOSWAANE: Madam Speaker I am tabling this motion after I realising that the population of Botswana has over some years grown and yet we found that there is no land available to allocate plots to develop our country. At the time of independence, most people in Botswana resided in rural areas. According to the 1964 Census, the three towns of Lobatse, Francistown and Gaborone had a combined population of 21 000 inhabitants.

MR NKAIGWA: On a point of Procedure. Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me an opportunity to seek clarity on the motion that is being presented...

MADAM SPEAKER: Do you stand on a point of clarification Honourable Nkaigwa?

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

MADAM SPEAKER: You said procedure, do you seek clarification? If you seek clarity please follow the procedure

MR MOSWAANE: Madam Speaker, at the time of independence, most people in Botswana resided in rural areas. According to the ... (interruptions)...

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

DR BUTALE: On a point of Procedure. I said Procedure; I do not know why they gave you the role of the Father of the House when you do not know certain things. Madam Speaker, I wanted to rise on a point of procedure, we have skipped two motions from the same Member, and I think to be fair to the Member, he must have prepared along those two lines. I do not know whether we are not compromising the quality by proceeding when we do not even know whether he is ready with the third motions. I do not know whether we can at least establish that or else we might be compromised.

MADAM SPEAKER: No, I implore you to come prepared to debate any number of motions noticed in a day.

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE): On a point of procedure. Just to teach those who have just arrived in Parliament, it would be wrong and the public would get it wrong if they think that Father of the House is given. It is not given; you achieve it by being voted several times by your constituency. So it is not given like your Doctorate.

DR BUTALE: Point of order. Thank you very much, let me explain something. The Father of the House, sorry if you were not given, but you see there are two types of

PhDs, there is one that is given, and there is one that is earned, mine is earned. Thank you very much.

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

MR MOSWAANE: I am having a big problem Madam Speaker. Every time when I am supposed to present the motion before this House, the Opposition Members are disturbing.

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

MR MOSWAANE: No, there is a serious disturbance in this place. We bring general issues instead of...

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

MR MOSWAANE: No, I must complain about it, you must desist from that. Madam Speaker...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of procedure Madam Speaker.

MR MOSWAANE: Disruption deliberately. I am addressing issues that are pertinent in Gaborone and we do not like it...

MR NKAIGWA: On a point of procedure. Madam Speaker, I think it is important for me to rise on this procedure, whether it is procedural for this House to have the Honourable Member presenting a motion that we know very well that, that is the current order of Government, in terms of the way cities and major villages are expanding.

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

MR NKAIGWA: No, I am saying, is it procedural for us to be sitting here debating a process that is already being undertaken by the Government? What are we going to be debating, as it is the procedure by Government that in order for cities to expand, they negotiate with farmers?

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! No Honourable Nkaigwa, let us listen, I have not heard him say anything. Let us accord him a chance to speak so that we get to know what he has to say.

MR KEORAPETSE: On a point of procedure. Madam speaker, it is not important for us to listen to him. The motion is here but the question is, is it procedural to debate something that we know is already underway. The Minister of Lands is actually nodding to that. You can even confirm from him ... (interruptions)...

MR MOSWAANE: Madam Speaker, a point of order.

MR KEORAPETSE: Madam Speaker, please protect me from Honourable Moswaane.

Motion

MR MOSWAANE: Point of order!

MADAM SPEAKER: No, please hold it there, he is still on the floor

MR MOSWAANE: He is the one I am raising a point to. He is out of order, how do I interject?

MADAM SPEAKER: No but he stood on a point of procedure so you have to allow him.

MR KEORAPETSE: Look here, you are not the Speaker!

MADAM SPEAKER: Look here Honourable Moswaane, he is still on a point of procedure, will you ... (interruption)...

MR MOSWAANE: These people are out of procedure. They do not want any debate from Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). They just want to boycott this House

MR KEORAPETSE: That is why you are not a Speaker.

MR MOSWAANE: I know that you want to go home, just go!

MR KEORAPETSE: Madam Speaker, I am asking, is it procedural to proceed with a motion on an issue that we know is underway? As I speak, the Honourable Minister of Lands is nodding; you can also seek clarification from him. Is this a process that is underway?

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! This motion has been noticed, and has been put on the notice paper. We have not heard anything from the ministry. Honourable minister, can you say something?

MR MOSWAANE: The procedure is that I present the motion and people can come after that. How do they come before I present the motion? Something is very wrong Madam Speaker.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): Madam Speaker, I just wanted to clarify two things so that we are all on board. One is that is it procedural for him to present even though we know the issue is underway? The other thing is that, are we really doing that?

I want to start off by saying that yes the procedure is that he should present, but the crux of the matter is I am going to oppose the motion because exactly what Honourable Nkaigwa and Honourable Keorapetse are saying is exactly what is being done. So it depends on this House to actually decide whether they want to change the procedure or go ahead with the procedure. In

any case, he is saying exactly what we are doing. Thank you madam speaker.

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

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members, we have heard the honourable minister. Let us allow him to speak then. I am hoping immediately he completes...

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

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Order! Let us give him a chance to speak and I am hoping that when he completes then we take it from there. He just said he will be opposing motion. Then he could even end up saying; let the question be put, then we move on like that if that is your feeling...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of procedure.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of procedure.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Where is Point of Order coming from?

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Tawana sit down.

MR MOREMI: I have raised a point of order Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: I have made a ruling already.

MR MOREMI: I am standing on a point of Order Madam Speaker. If only you could listen to my point of order we could make some progress

HONOURABLE MEMBER: We are now fed up.

MR MOREMI: I am standing on a Point of Order to say this House is out of order because it is not following the Standing Orders to guide in what we want to do. Right now we are going to go on a ruling that we get from Honourable Maele who did not refer to any Standing order to explain the procedure. If only you could guide us and maybe explain the Standing Order that he is standing on. So it looks like we are going to continue just because Honourable Maele said so.

MADAM SPEAKER: I said it has happened and practiced in this House that the mover of the motion reads it, the Minister responds and then you vote. It has happened on several occasions in this House.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: But the procedure...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of procedure.

Motion

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Honourable Members...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: I just wanted to guide you.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ... (Inaudible)... have this guy speaking...

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MS VENSON-MOITOI): On a point of procedure. I thought the institutional memory may help.

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

MS VENSON-MOITOI: Please ask Honourable Nkaigwa to be patient. This is the most distasteful part of the things we have to do in this House which most of us have found wasteful in terms of time spent in this House.

Motions have come before this Parliament where we knew things were happening in Government but because of the grand standing that some of us Members of Parliament wish to do to be heard, motions have been allowed to be tabled. This is not the first one and motions have been tabled hours wasted, sometimes weeks, only to be thrown out or sometimes to be backed up, never to be enforced. This is a tradition that only we as Members of Parliament must correct. Unfortunately we cannot correct it here, we have to go back to the General Assembly and to the Standing Orders and correct it.

Madam Speaker, we are causing you a headache trying to correct it saying "point of order, point of procedure" here. Make a ruling, let Honourable Moswaane present, let the Minister do what he has to do and put the question. Let us kill the debate and proceed. It is Friday, we need to go home. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of clarification Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: That is exactly what I said. So can you proceed Honourable Moswaane.

MR MOSWAANE: Thank you Madam Speaker. We do have a problem. There is a lot of hatred here, it is however shocking because it is amongst the people who claim to master the procedure...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: They are saying you are wasting our time.

MR MOSWAANE: Honourable Members, I have tabled this motion. I am from the City of Francistown where we are surrounded by farms for the rest of our lives and...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of procedure.

MR MOSWAANE: My intention is to help Francistown City grow, Tlokweng to grow and Gaborone to grow. People are talking of fields, I am talking of farms and I have never seen any farm surrounding Gaborone being taken from any person. There are many of them and this City cannot grow. I know what I am talking about. I stand here to present my motion which I believe will help most people in Botswana and I am so surprised that Opposition is opposing this motion before it is presented. It is unfair.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go ahead and present.

MR MOSWAANE: I am making a presentation. This is an introduction of my statement.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ... (Murmurs)...

MR MOSWAANE: Madam Speaker, let me start again and say, at the time of independence, most people in Botswana resided in rural areas and according to the 1964 Census, the three towns of Lobatse, Francistown and Gaborone had a combined population 21 000 inhabitants accounting for about 4 per cent of the country's total population. By 1971, the total urban population had more than doubled to 59 000 and accounted for 10 per cent of the country's total population. The establishment of mining towns of Selebi-Phikwe, where Mr Keorapetse comes from and Orapa increased the number of towns to 5. The rapid growth of the urban population between 1964 and 1971 is generally attributed to rural-urban migration due to rural poverty.

By 1981, the number of urban settlements had increased to 8 with the addition of Jwaneng and the villages of Tlokweng where Honourable Bathobakae comes from and Palapye. The urban population increased to 163 000 being 17 per cent of the national population. As of 2001, the urban population stood at about 877 000 people and accounted for 52 per cent of the entire population of the country while in 1981 about 50 per cent of the country's population lived within a radius of 200 kilometers from Gaborone. By 1991, the radius had reduced to 100 kilometers thereby greatly increasing the demand for land, housing and other services in Gaborone and its surrounding settlements.

Post-independence, urbanization in Botswana has largely been due to the establishment of mining towns and urbanization of traditional settlements, especially Districts and Sub-Districts, administrative centers such as Serowe, Kanye, Molepolole, Ramotswa, Moshupa and others. Peril-urban settlements such as Tlokweng, Mogoditshane and tourists villages such as Kasane and Maun.

Motion

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Ntlhaile, the quorum will be affected if you go out. Come and count them.

MR MOSWAANE: Gaborone and Francistown have grown rapidly in terms of status, population and areas covered according to the 2001 Census. Gaborone population was recorded at about 186 000 inhabitants. Gaborone's population and special growth has been paralleled by the growth of surrounding villages such as Mogoditshane, Gabane, Tlokweng, Ramotswa, Mochudi and so forth. The same could be said of Francistown, Lobatse and other fast growing towns.

The rapid population growth experienced in these areas means there is growing demand for land for development. The infrastructure or developments and industrialization necessary for employment creation require more land thus calling for more deliberate efforts to address the challenge.

With the rapid growth of urban centers, the acute shortage of land in such areas could be major impediments to the development and employment creation and however with the availability of land, expansion of such areas could result in employment creation as development such as infrastructure, industries and others could assist in mitigating worrying unemployment rate. Therefore, this calls for serious intervention measures to be put in place to facilitate expansion of urban areas. A more comprehensive purchasing of land from the farmers surrounding the urban centres is needed. Some of the farmers make it difficult for the expansion of such that it was due to their proximity and the amount of land they have taken.

It is important that the government vigorously negotiate with the farm owners to purchase such land even though some of the land the farmers acquired freely. This could be done on a willing biased seller basis and will not in any way unlawfully repossess land. However, there are those who are of the opinion that the government should also pursue legal avenues to repossess land particularly where the ordinary citizens have been unduly and unfairly prejudiced in land ownership. Francistown City just like any urban area is expanding and requires more land. The city's Vision 22 is aimed at transforming it into an economic hub.

This means more investment opportunities which essentially result in the city growing, hence more land needed. Therefore, negotiating with the farm owners surrounding Francistown to sell their lands for investment opportunities will help in the realisation of the vision. The Vision will create an environment which is conducive for investment through collaboration and

good working relationship between the government, parastatals and the private sector.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, rapid urbanisation has numerous effects on the environment, employment and social economic wellbeing of any country. Botswana has since independence experienced rapid economic growth and achieved political stability. The government has had substantial resources and considerable administrative capacity to sub divide and service relatively large areas of land. Purchasing freehold farms on the urban periphery when necessary to expand its stock of land. More land is still needed in view of the expansion of urban cities and purchasing land from those farms adjacent urban areas will result in further development and investment.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL
AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

(MR MAKGALEMELE): On a point of clarification. Thank you Madam Speaker. Before the Honourable Member concludes, I would like to ask him that, when he compares his motion to the efforts that are in place, what limitations did he discover in these efforts which prompted him to table this motion? Moreover, what more does he think can be done?

MR MOSWAANE: Thank you Honourable Minister. I am from the City of Francistown where we are having more than 25 000 people on the waiting list. Gaborone I believe it is more than 100 000 and Mogoditshane I believe it is more than 100 000 and if I talk of Tlokweng, they have no land at all yet the farms are surrounding them. So, there is need for my motion to be considered by this Parliament. The truth of the matter is that as a Member of Parliament on the 11th Parliament, I have not received any single report that informs me that these farms are being bought or they are negotiating with the farmer. All I know is that the poor Batswana who are owning fields in Mogoditshane and surrounding areas, their fields are being taken away for a simple one cent.

If I want to explain this further, rich people have enjoyed owning land when we do not have land at all. I will be so surprised for this Parliament to oppose this motion just because they say Moswaane we might give him leverage to a successful political career, no, I am not doing that for political mileage. The people of Botswana are suffering. I am now 49 years, I cannot own land in Gaborone. So my answer to that is that there is absolutely nothing being done about it. Thank you.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL
AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR**

MAKGALEMELE): On a point of procedure. Let me explain to the Honourable Member that it is not like I am

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opposing him by my question. He does not even know what I am going to say, I simply wanted him to give me additional ammunition as to why such a motion should be passed whereas there are some efforts underway. I think he has clearly enlightened me Madam Speaker.

MR MOSWAANE: Madam Speaker, I have already mentioned and given details of my motion and my plea to my colleagues as Honourable Members of this House. Honourable Members, Gaborone has grown big and it is landlocked. We cannot do anything except to buy or negotiate with the farmers who own big chunk of land. If we call for applications for people who are looking for land in Tlokweng, we have what is called stampede, people may die looking for land.

So, I will be so surprised and shocked if Members of this House would say they want to oppose this motion and say something is being done, no. Francistown City is having a waiting list of more than 25 000. Gaborone as I said, it is more than 100 000, Mogoditshane, more than 100 000, Tlokweng more than 100 000. People have got no land when somebody have got more than 10 hectares, staying in that 10 hectares alone while the rest of the people are suffering or staying in that one hectare alone. That is why I am saying, for the benefit of this nation, we can negotiate with farmer and say, look, more than 100 000 people are looking for land and you are occupying an undeveloped land for more than 300 years. I humbly request this House to adopt my motion. Thank you Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Members, the floor is open.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on Honourable Moswaane's motion which requests that we purchase land from farms in the urban periphery so as to expand towns, cities and major villages. Madam Speaker it is of utmost importance before I dwell on this motion to indicate that, in Botswana we have three types of land tenures; the first one is tribal land, the second is state land and the third is freehold land. I want to point out that the way I understand Honourable Moswaane, he must be talking about what we call freehold. The laws that were made in this Parliament in the past when we were still not in this House with Honourable Moswaane, maybe we were not even born, have shown that one cannot just approach the owner of the freehold farm and claim their land. Let me also point out that, people who have freehold land in Botswana, if I may give an example with Francistown; Tati Company has a lot of land surrounding Francistown. In Gaborone, the Roman

Catholic has got plenty of land surrounding Gaborone. Ghanzi also has a lot of freehold. We have not failed to talk to any of these people. Most of the time the government fails to get freehold land back because it is very expensive such that, we could eventually find ourselves only buying such land.

What Honourable Moswaane has said is indeed true, there is no land. In the absence of land as is the case, there is nowhere people would be allocated plots. That being the case, this puts us in a situation where we now have to look around and see how much land we could get back. Like I was saying, cities are surrounded by freehold lands which are not easy to repossess. The way I understand it, these are the words of a leader speaker with sad emotions realizing that there is nowhere people are going to stay. I was hoping that in his research he would make a comparison, like I heard Honourable Makgalemele asking him a question which I thought he was going to respond to; he should have compared and told us how we can acquire freehold land.

Right now we are depending on getting people's fields Madam Speaker; the one he says he is not talking about. These are the ones we are getting back. That being the case, these fields are the ones we demarcate and allocate to people because in terms of freehold, the laws of Botswana do not allow us to do anything. If it is state or tribal land, the law allows for us to talk to you and negotiate with you, and ask you. After asking from you, if you refuse, in the interest of the nation, we do an obligatory acquisition. So this is how we normally do things.

I would like to point this out; Francistown and Gaborone which the Honourable Member is talking about, we already know that there is no land, but there are things which we are doing which and the Honourable Member would not be telling the truth if he said there is absolutely nothing that is being done.

Secondly, what is not true about what he is saying is that, he says he does not know anything about what is being done, or he has no idea. What I can tell the Honourable Member is that, in the committee of supply, it was me who read it here and indicated to this Parliament that we are requesting funds for what we call growth points. Growth points means where the cities are expanding or growing to. I am the one who was asking for funds here, Honourable Moswaane was present. He says there is nothing we are telling them about shortage of land, and there is nothing we are doing with regard to this shortage. When we asked for funds for growth points, I explained that growth points do not refer to Gaborone growing towards a place next to her; it could be 20 or

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30 kilometres or so out of Gaborone. This thing is done in other countries. Growth points are done outside the capital cities because we would be doing what is called decongesting cities. So we are doing that in Gaborone and Francistown.

In Francistown between Shashe and the Gerald side, there is an area which is not productive which we have seen; we want Francistown to grow toward that side. We are hoping it is going to yield several plots that side, which would try to address this challenge.

If you look between Molepolole and Lentsweletau, there is a very high hill which is called Magokotswane. We have been able to go there and see how many plots that area could yield and discovered that there are many plots which could come out from there. That is where we want the city to grow toward.

We are doing that in Lobatse again. We are looking into those places which we call unproductive areas like those hills, which we believe cities can grow towards. I can cite many examples, but because I also want you to have a chance to speak Honourable Members the truth is that, what Honourable Moswaane is doing, we have even done better than what he is proposing in terms of identifying growth areas or growth points for cities and bigger villages.

Another thing that maybe Honourable Moswaane would want to know is that, in those hills found in Manyana, we are also doing something there. There are going to be a lot of plots that are going to come out of there and people would be allocated that side, to see what they can do. We have identified several of them.

Even Palapye, we have already done growth point of Palapye, where the area is going to expand to. We have just made a circle around Palapye which will include places like Radisele, Lecheng, Malaka, Topisi included, those being a growth point for Palapye. That is exactly what we are doing.

Therefore it would not be right for me to leave the Honourable Member hanging without telling him the truth about some of the things he is talking about, which he says he has not been consulted on. Let me also inform the Honourable Member that as late as two weeks back or as early as two weeks back, we were with the Roman Catholic authorities, having talks with them with regard to buying their land at Kgale.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: The Roman Catholic Church?

MR MAELE: The Roman Catholic Church. We want to buy the land at Kgale. Therefore Madam Speaker,

I do not know how I am going to say these things because at the end of the day I do not think it is going to be beneficial for me to talk about things we are still negotiating. Maybe you should take this request to be something we are currently doing. I do not want to say the Honourable Member did not know, I suspect he forgot that I once told him about these things during the committee of supply, I think the Honourable Member should be able to recall this issue, so I think we will leave this Motion as is. Anyway, if the Honourable Members want to continue debating it, there is no problem. I will be listening to them because I totally do not agree with what the Honourable Member is saying. I think we are doing much more than what he may even be suggesting we do. The other thing that I want to conclude...

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE): On a point of procedure Madam Speaker. Maybe we should draw Members of this House to standing procedures of the House, especially with regard to asking for clarification, that Members holding the floor once they have indicated to a Member who wanted a clarification that they are going to yield, they should not forget that or take too long and eventually ignoring the clarification. I thank you.

MR MAELE: Thank you so much Honourable Member. Thank you Madam Speaker. I think I forgot Honourable Kesupile, but if he signals I will yield. I was gravitating towards conclusion Madam Speaker, and I was pointing out that, we are supposed to recall that most of the places in Botswana have what is called planning and development. We have already started showing that when we say we want Gaborone to grow, particularly in the next 10 to 20 years, where would the circle be drawn. As we shall be starting the Gaborone development plan as you might have heard people saying, there is a development plan for Palapye, Gaborone, Francistown, and other places; we have already pointed out that in terms of plots, we would want Francistown or Gaborone to be at this particular place. So we have already done that. I believe if the Honourable Member had gone to look at the Francistown development plan in terms of physical planning, he could have seen which side Francistown is going to grow towards. Therefore, if we could start talking to everybody, asking for land from them, at the end of the day that area does not become the growth point for Francistown or Gaborone and that would not be very beneficial.

Madam Speaker, what I am saying is that we are doing something about this, we are doing growth points. Over and above that, we are now saying to Batswana, let us learn or get used to constructing what is called high rise

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buildings because these would be helpful in trying to solve these issues of shortage of land.

As you would know Madam Speaker, at the beginning of this year I went to Singapore. Singapore has a population of 5.6 million. When you look at their country, it is very small such that even the Bamangwato area could be bigger than that country, but people in Singapore almost all of them have accommodation because they are doing high rise buildings. If we can tell ourselves that we will keep acquiring land, buying land just because we want to give people plots, it is going to create a problem for this country in the next 100 years. So the best thing that we should be doing is to actually look at other alternatives, like high-rise buildings, so that we can allocate it to those people who are not fussy about having a big piece of land in areas like Francistown and Gaborone. At the end of the day competition for land by humans, animals and all other things is eventually going to end up surpassing our wishes. With that said Madam Speaker, I wanted to say that, I do not agree with this motion and the reason not being in terms of the principle, because principle is okay, we have to engage people but I do not agree with it because the motion is saying exactly what we are doing. I believe that even if Parliament could agree on it and resolve that I should do something about it I would not be sure what to do because there is nothing for me to do. Perhaps it would be the platform for you to vent about your frustrations regarding land shortage but there would be nothing I can do about it because I have thought about this thing already and I am doing something about it.

So in the interest of saving time for Parliament perhaps the Honourable Member could consider responding as we sometimes do and indicate that he heard what I said and that he recalled some of the information that I have shared with this House that we are doing exactly what he is asking for. I know and believe that shortage of land is very painful and a lot of people do not have land. The numbers that the Honourable Member has been stating are true; there are high numbers in terms of people in the waiting lists for plots. I do not want us to start implementing things due to the pressure that the waiting lists are too long. We are trying by all means to make sure that people are allocated land, to make sure that we service as much land as possible, so that we can assist people who need land. Madam Speaker, I think with all this I have assisted Parliament with information about the direction we want to take and to also decide what they can do with Honourable Moswaane's motion.

My last words are that, in terms of ploughing fields even though he mentioned that he is not particularly talking about them, we are doing this with restraint. This is

because the Ministry of agriculture has approached us and advised that we should not be too hasty to buy people's fields. These areas are referred to as green veldt and green veldt has been designated as areas where we have to get our food. As we speak, we are going to be allocating plots behind the airport in Mmopane. We managed to buy those people's fields through the assistance of the former Member of Parliament, Mr Kgoroba, whom we engaged during that time. The crux of the matter is that the Ministry of agriculture does not support this because as I said that is called a green veldt and that is where we produce our food for consumption. With that said Madam Speaker I shall stop here but I agree with the principle behind the motion but in terms of carrying forward this motion I oppose the motion Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The floor is open.

MR MOLATLHEGI (GABORONE SOUTH): Thank you Madam Speaker. After listening to Honourable Mosswane's presentation I agree that the motion is important since it seeks to address the serious issue of land shortage. After listening to the Minister's response though I feel that he has said all that could be said Madam Speaker. I suggest that you invoke Standing Order 55.1 so that we conclude this issue. In short that is all I wanted to say Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Let me remind you; 'after a question has been proposed a Member holding the floor may at any time during the course of debate claim to move that the mover be now called upon to reply', and unless it appears to the Chair that the motion is an abuse of the rules of the assembly or an infringement of the rights of the minority the question that the mover be now be called upon to reply shall be put forthwith'

Question put and **agreed to.**

I do not know why others are not voting; otherwise I am going to allow the debate to continue. Let us vote.

Question put and **agreed to.**

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members the question is "that this House requests to government to start negotiations with all farm owners who have land surrounding all cities and major villages to pave way for the expansion of towns, cities and major villages". I will allow the Honourable Member to respond.

MR MOSWAANE (FRANCISTOWN WEST): Thank you Madam Speaker, it is a sad day today when most of Batswana are remaining without land and today the Opposition is so silent pretending to stand for the rights of those who are looking for land. Your

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silence is really surprising. If you go to Johannesburg, between Johannesburg and Pretoria there were farms and the government of South Africa bought those farms realising that the population is growing.

MR MOREMI: On a point of order. Madam Speaker perhaps you could help us with this issue as far I can remember Honourable Molatlhegi stopped the debate and so now the mover of the motion is taking out all this anger on the Members of the opposition, he says we are the ones...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS...laughter...

MR MOREMI: But all the while it was Honourable Molatlhegi who stopped it. I therefore request that this point be withdrawn because Honourable Molatlhegi is the one who stated that it should be stopped.

MADAM SPEAKER (: Honourable Moswaane...

MR MOSWAANE: Madam Speaker...

MADAM SPEAKER: Please wait, I am still speaking. Honourable Moswaane when you are asked to respond it will be on what the other Members raised during the debate. The only person who debated is the Honourable Minister, so you can only respond to what he said.

MR MOSWAANE: I am going to respond to what they have not said.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Member?

MR MOSWAANE: I am responding to all those who call themselves the voice of the people.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane, you should not be standing when I am also standing.

MR MOSWAANE: Oh! Sorry Madam.

MADAM SPEAKER: Switch off your microphone. When you respond please focus on what the Minister said because he is the only one who has spoken so far.

MR MOSWAANE: Madam Speaker, I must say...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ...(procedure!)

MR MOSWAANE: I do not think I should be confined to respond to Minister's comment, I also have to comment about this House, and how it looks at this matter. It is all about this House, it is the one that is going to vote and I think I have to say my feelings and tell them that I am not happy.

MR MOLATLHEGI: On a point of procedure. Thank you Madam Speaker. The procedure that I rise on is

that, it seems like the blame is going to be laid on me. I am not the one who is supposed to be admonished; I only moved Madam Speaker and the House supported my motion. Now we all own it. I was rising on that procedure Madam Speaker.

MR MOSWAANE: Madam Speaker, I was just saying that most Members here have been to South Africa (Johannesburg and Pretoria). Between these two towns, there is a distance of 50 kilometres and before, there were farms there and the Government of South Africa saw it fit for the development to create employment and bought those farms from the owners, built residential property, commercial property and industrial plots. I was expecting the same here that we can consider the matter in that way.

Honourable Member, I come from the city of Francistown, Honourable Minister here has said that there is land in Francistown. Yes of course, there is land in Francistown which can only allocate 15 000 plots and already we have a waiting list which has been existing for the past 30 years. Even if you start today to allocate the 15 000 plots, there are more than 100 000 people waiting to register for applications. As for me Honourable Members, if you people understand the problems that we are going through, I would ask that you vote for a 'yes' not 'no' because the problem that is existing in Botswana, you have seen in Mogoditshane, people are waiting for many years. In Gaborone; people are waiting for many years. I will be so surprised that this House can vote for 'no' and I wait to see that. I will tell the people of Botswana that today the Eleventh Parliament let you down.

Honourable Members, we are talking of land at Mmankgodi or somewhere else, 50 kilometres away from Gaborone and we have people occupying farms. They have been staying there from a long time ago and one person occupying a farm of 10 hectares doing nothing about it and we are scared to approach that person.

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

MR MOSWAANE: It is his Honourable Members, I have never said the land must be repossessed, I said we negotiate with the owners. Those who are willing can sell. It has happened in Francistown, we bought the land in Gerald Estates in 1988 because we negotiated with the farm owner. Tati Company is willing to sell their land, it is not expensive because individuals are affording to buy that and Government can afford to buy that.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of Clarification.

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MR MOSWAANE: Honourable Member, you have failed to assist me. So, I am not going to allow you to play with my mind. You are playing with the ... (interruptions)... of Batswana. How many minutes have you given me Madam? I am working within those minutes.

MADAM SPEAKER: No, wait, Honourable Moswaane, those across the aisle request that you refrain from speaking very close to the microphone because they cannot hear you. Thank you Honourable Member.

MR MOSWAANE: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would not allow any member of Opposition to comment because they have remained silent. They think it is a trap for the BDP Government but it is your own trap that you are digging.

DR P. BUTALE: On a point of procedure. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I have really exercised a lot of restraint but I think all of us need to equally respect the rules of this House. I have seen since morning the Honourable Member on the floor, when you are standing, he is standing and speaking, he is speaking to you sitting down and you make a ruling that he stops attacking us, he continues. So I think the rules only make sense if they are followed and enforced by everyone. Please Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please Honourable Moswaane, do as expected of you. Please proceed.

MR MOSWAANE: I am just giving a fair comment. If they want to listen to it they can listen and I am not castigating them. I am only praying that this Honourable House be merciful to Batswana on issues of land and order the Minister of Lands to go and negotiate with the farmers to bring back that land. We need those farms in Gaborone to allocate plots to Batswana.

MR KEORAPETSE: On a point of procedure. Honourable Moswaane was reminded not to speak so close to the microphone but it seems he has not heeded to that. I was requesting that you ask him to emulate me.

MR MOSWAANE: Madam, that is an expensive joke by Honourable Keorapetse. I think we have more important issues to discuss than to be joking around.

MADAM SPEAKER: But I am sure you want the recorders to capture you that side.

MR MOSWAANE: Selebi Phikwe people are waiting to see him being productive. Honourable Members, with those few remarks I humbly request the Eleventh Parliament to bless my motion by voting for a 'yes' because the people of Botswana need land. I am only

saying let us negotiate. I am a Francistowner, I have not heard of any negotiation with the farm owners in Francistown. I have been a Councillor for the past ten years and today I am a Member of Parliament, I have not heard about it and I represent the City of Francistown. That is why I am here today. That is why I am moving this motion here today.

I have given you a lot of examples, I know the Honourable Minister is trying by all means to meet the demands of allocating land. I am saying one of the ideas is to buy land adjacent to the city of Gaborone and other places.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): On a point of clarification. Madam Speaker, I do not know how to explain this issue. Honourable Moswaane is saying we should start negotiating with plot owners particularly owners of freehold land. I am saying to Honourable Moswaane and I have said it before in the response; I cited an example of Roman Catholic Church that as we speak, we are in negotiations. I said that in Francistown, we are in negotiations with Tati Company and I can tell Honourable Moswaane that, as the Minister, I have within a year managed to engage Tati Company. If I tell you so that you become comfortable, Tati Company managers are in South Africa and the senior management is in England. Honourable Moswaane, I now do not understand what negotiations you want us to do more than what we have done because we are continuing to do this. I have talked about Francistown that, there is what is called growth area of Francistown. If I talk of growth area of Francistown, the 15 000 plots which you are referring to in Francistown, I am not talking about Gerald. I am saying between Shashe and Francistown there is a place where Francistown can extend to. I have seen it personally where Francistown would grow to. So I do not really know Honourable Member how I should explain that, we are doing exactly what you are saying. The fact that some of these things you do not know does not mean that we are not doing anything; we are doing something. Thank you Madam Speaker.

MR MOSWAANE: Madam Speaker, this motion was noticed seven months ago, and it is only now that I have been told all these things, why should I believe that? I am a member of a big city of Francistown, any Minister who visits Francistown for negotiation of land, should let me know.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of correction, Madam Speaker

MR MOSWAANE: Honourable Members, my electorates want me to speak about this matter because

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we have not been told anything, and I have given examples, and I was just concluding by saying I appreciate what you are saying Minister, but there has to be an order from Parliament, ordering you to do more work on that.

The land issue Honourable Members one day we will be standing on our toes. The young people will rise and repossess their land from the farm owners. We do not want that; let us negotiate, and all stakeholders, the city of Francistown where I have been a Councillor, I should be knowing. I am now a Member of Parliament, I should know of these things. I have noticed Parliament seven months ago of my intention to move this motion, only to know about it that something is being done 20 minutes ago.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Laughter.

MR MOSWAANE: That is not justice to a Member of Parliament, because when I move this motion, I am being sent by people whom I represent, and Gaborone has been having problems ever since our existence.

I end my presentation by requesting Members of Parliament especially from the Opposition to stop laughing.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Laughter.

MR MOSWAANE: They are enjoying this thing thinking that they will gain political mileage but Batswana will judge you in 2019, they know you very well that you are so deceptive.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane, you cannot utter those words when you are in this Honourable House which we call our Parliament, our Pride. May I kindly ask you to withdraw them now?

MR MOSWAANE: I withdraw, I wanted to say they are big headed (*bo tlhogwana mo imele*).

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Laughter.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Moswaane...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Murmurs.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: He should be thrown out of this Parliament otherwise we are going to beat him.

MADAM SPEAKER: No I am on the floor, therefore we cannot be speaking at the same time. Honourable

Moswaane, no one is deceitful here, so I request that you withdraw those words then move your motion, because at the end of the day, you have to move

MR MOSWAANE: No Madam Speaker, I withdraw but being big headed is not an insult.

MADAM SPEAKER: No Honourable Member. Withdraw.

MR MOSWAANE: I withdrew manipulators. .

MADAM SPEAKER: Withdraw all of them.

MR MOSWAANE: what is wrong with the other one Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: No, it is not appropriate.

MR MOSWAANE: It is just a Setswana expression.

MADAM SPEAKER: No, it is not proper.

MR MOSWAANE: I withdraw it Madam Speaker. I had already concluded by requesting this Honourable House to support my motion. I move accordingly Madam. Thank you.

MR P. BUTALE: On a point of order. Thank you very much Madam Speaker, I still stand up again to remind you of what I said, we cannot be blamed for somebody's own lack of initiative in terms of research. He is now blaming us and calling us names, please we need to be protected. The things that the Minister is saying are easy, Google, you will find them. I think the attacks are unwarranted, and I think you need to tell him to withdraw and use a very strong voice. This is un-Parliamentary and unwarranted.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Butale he has withdrawn, what more do you want now? Honourable Members, the Honourable Member has moved his motion, it is time to vote now.

Question put and **negated**.

MR MOSWAANE: Division Madam.

MADAM SPEAKER: You see, this is an abuse of the Standing Orders.

MR MOSWAANE: I was saying division, simple.

MADAM SPEAKER: No.

MR MOSWAANE: Are you now helping them to vote Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: No I am not voting, how am I helping them to vote?

MR MOSWAANE: No, because you are now coercing us to support your decision and I am saying division, it is a democratic principle.

MADAM SPEAKER: I have noted that.

MR KEORAPETSE: Point of order Madam Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI: Point of order.

MR KEORAPETSE: Two things Madam Speaker. Can you kindly ask Honourable Moswaane to accord you the respect you deserve and seize from addressing you while seated? Secondly, you have put the question and the ayes have it and there was no negation even from the mover of the motion himself, and from the preponderance of the voices, the Nos have it .

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MS
VENSON-MOITOI):** Thank you Madam Speaker, on that note I move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 11:13 a.m. until Monday 16th November 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

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