



HANSARD

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DAILY HANSARD (PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES)

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

HANSARD NO. 181
WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2015

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ENGLISH VERSION

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The Hon. Kagiso P. Molatlhegi, MP Gaborone South

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Hon. E. M. Molale	- Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration
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Hon. P. P. Ralotsia, MP. (Kanye North)	- Minister of Agriculture
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Hon. K. K. Autlwetse, MP (Serowe North)	- Assistant Minister, Agriculture
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Hon. M. M. Goya, MP. (Palapye)	- Assistant Minister, Education and Skills Development
Hon. F. M. M. Molao, MP (Shashe West)	- Assistant Minister, Education and Skills Development
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Hon. Sadique Kebonang, MP. (Lobatse)	- Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry

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Hon. C. De Graaff, MP	Ghanzi South
Hon. L. Kablay, MP	Letlhakeng - Lephephe
Hon. M. N. Ngaka, MP	Takatokwane
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Hon. B. G. Butale, MP	Tati West
Hon. I. E. Moipisi, MP	Kgalagadi North

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(Umbrella for Democratic Change)

Hon. D. G. Boko, MP (Leader of Opposition)	Gaborone Bonnington North
Hon. G. S. M. Mangole, MP	Mochudi West
Hon. W. B. Mmolotsi, MP	Francistown South
Hon. T. Moremi, MP	Maun West
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Hon. M. I. Khan, MP	Molepolole North
Hon. H. G. Nkaigwa, MP	Gaborone North
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Hon. S. M. Bathobakae, MP	Tlokweng
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(Botswana Congress Party)

Hon. B. Arone, MP	Okavango
Hon. D. L. Keorapetse, MP	Selebi Phikwe West
Hon. S. O. Rantuana, MP	Ramotswa

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Wednesday 25th November, 2015
THE ASSEMBLY met at 2:00 p.m.
(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

PRAYERS

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SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

MR SPEAKER (MR MOLATLHEGI): Good afternoon Honourable Members. I hope you are all ready to start. Before we start, I have some announcements to make. The first one is that, we have visitors in the public gallery. We have students from Khuto Primary School in the Kanye South Constituency, please welcome them!

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Applause!

MR SPEAKER: We also have visitors from the Youth Health Organisation (YOHO) and they are with delegates who attended the African Youth Activists Network Regional Conference and among them there is Honourable Member from Sweden, Anders Österberg. You are all welcome.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Applause!

MR SPEAKER: And the last announcement is that there would be a General Assembly tomorrow at 1000 hours, the usual place Annex 2 Auditorium. Thank you Honourable Members; let us start with questions.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): On a point of procedure. Mr Speaker, thank you for welcoming our guests and I think you made an omission, you did not mention that I am actually the Patron of YOHO.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Applause.

MR SPEAKER: Sorry for that, it was not an omission, I was not informed but thank you for letting us know that you are a Patron. I am not very sure.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

PLANS TO FILL THE POST OF DEPUTY COURT PRESIDENT AT GHANZI TOWNSHIP

MR N. S. L. M. SALAKAE (GHANZI NORTH): asked the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development:-

- (i) whether there are any plans to fill the post of Deputy Court President at Ghanzi Township; if so, when; and
- (ii) what has caused the delay to fill the post.

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN): Mr Speaker, my Ministry has

challenges in filling the posts of Deputy Court President in the Ghanzi Township because of the difficulty in attracting candidates with the required qualifications. The only candidate who responded to the advertisement and meeting the requirements of the post withdrew when he was to be interviewed. My Ministry has therefore decided to re-advertise the post and the plan is to have it filled by the end of December 2015. Thank you.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Honourable Minister, do you mind to share the qualifications?

MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: The qualifications are Diploma in Law, Human Resource Management and Public Administration.

MR SALAKAE: Thank Mr Speaker. Honourable Minister, would you dare kindly share whether you have already noticed the advert in the newspapers and how long should we expect it to be in the newspapers? Thank you.

MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: I cannot confirm if it has been advertised in newspapers but I can confirm that the post will be filled by end of December 2015.

INCLUSION OF SIGN LANGUAGE IN THE CURRICULUM AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

MR S. O. S. RANTUANA (RAMOTSWA): asked the Minister of Education and Skills Development:-

- (i) when sign language will be included in the curriculum at primary and secondary schools; and
- (ii) whether it is not time the language is made part of the mainstream education even at tertiary level.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (MR GOYA): Thank you Mr Speaker, my apologies once again for being delayed.

Mr Speaker, my Ministry has adopted an inclusive education policy which provides for all learners to access education equitably in all schools thus affording learners with special education needs opportunity to enrol at their nearest school where all teachers will be able to assist them.

This ideal can only be realised following the appropriate training of teachers and also the production of relevant learning materials and the review of the curriculum.

Mr Speaker, it is therefore true that we still have a long way to go to realise the vision of inclusive education. However, my Ministry is currently reviewing the senior secondary schools curriculum and is planning to introduce sign language at that level in the year of our Lord, 2017.

The adoption of the Revised Senior Secondary Curriculum and the sign language introduction at that

level will then be followed by reviews of other curricular including basic education and even tertiary education level to accommodate and facilitate the introduction of sign language. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI: Supplementary. Mr Speaker, I just wanted to find out whether it would make a lot of sense to start sign language at senior secondary school as opposed to basic education?

Secondly, just to find out whether you said it is going to be included in the inclusive education policy?

MR GOYA: Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable Member. For us to start sign language at senior secondary schools, we are looking at the fact that they are not many in numbers. There are about 32 senior secondary schools. We will start off with a small number of schools so that when we are faced with challenges, then we would have dealt with them before rolling them out to other levels. Thank you.

MR MMOLOTSI: Further supplementary. Mr Speaker, given that the draft syllabi for different subjects are almost out, how come there is no draft syllabus for sign language so far?

MR GOYA: Mr Speaker, we cannot do all at the same time. One of the things that contributed to not having the draft is the introduction of the ETSSP strategy, which is the guiding tool in the drafting of such. This is why we are going to have an introduction of sign language at that level in 2017, we are still using the ETSSP guidelines. Thank you.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: No Honourable member that was the last one.

LACK OF SENIOR TEACHER POSITIONS IN SOME PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF PUPILS

MR A. S. KESUPILE (KANYE SOUTH): asked the Minister of Education and Skills Development if she is aware that some primary schools with a large number of pupils (e.g. Selokolela with 473 pupils) in the Southern District do not have positions of Senior Teacher; if so, to state:-

- (i) why teachers with the necessary experience are not promoted into the Senior Teacher positions and allocated as needed;
- (ii) and clarify if these positions could not benefit schools with dismal performance in the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE);
- (iii) why Deputy Head-teachers in these schools are assigned classes to teach;
- (iv) and explain the lumping of teachers with responsibilities with those without responsibilities at C1 scale; and

- (v) the number of untrained teachers responsible for Guidance and Counseling in the Southern District and plans in place to train them.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (MR GOYA): Thank you Mr Speaker.

- i. Mr Speaker, I am not aware that some Primary Schools with a large number of pupils such as Selokolela Primary School in the Southern District do not have positions of the Senior Teacher I. The fact is that Selokolela Primary School has three positions and three people in the position of Senior Teacher I as per the establishment register.
- ii. Mr Speaker, if a Senior Teacher I post is established, the post is then filled accordingly with experienced teachers, as is the case in Selokolela Primary School.
- iii. Mr Speaker, positions of Senior Teacher I do indeed benefit schools with low performance in the Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE).
- iv. Mr Speaker, Primary Deputy School Heads of group three schools, which comprise of between two and 20 teachers maximum do teach. Selokolela Primary School with just 15 teachers falls within this category.
- v. Mr Speaker, there are 125 teachers responsible for Guidance and Counselling who are not trained in the Southern district. Nationally most Primary Schools Guidance and Counselling teachers are not formally trained but have been in-serviced to offer psychosocial support to learners. My Ministry continues to provide in-service training and also provides long-term training for the Primary School teacher counsels. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR KESUPILE: Supplementary. I thank you Mr Speaker. I did not hear your response to question IV.

MR GOYA: Mr Speaker, we are trying to train the Guidance and Counseling teachers who are not qualified for the job using the in-service system.

MR KESUPILE: Supplementary. Honourable Member, we might be having two different papers but the one that I am referring to says, 'explain the lumping of teachers with responsibilities with those without responsibilities at C1 scale'.

MR GOYA: I thank you Mr Speaker. I probably overlooked that response and may I provide this at a later stage. I thank you.

STATUS OF RAMOTSWA INTERNAL ROADS

MR S. O. S. RANTUANA (RAMOTSWA): asked the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development

if he is aware of an audit that was done on the status of Ramotswa internal roads; if so, what initiated the audit and what was its outcome.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR VAN DER WESTERHUIZEN): Mr Speaker, I am aware of the audit that was done on the project of construction of Ramotswa internal roads. The audit was initiated by a concern expressed by South East District Councillors in the full Council of 25th to 28th June of 2012 regarding the poor workmanship on the project.

My Ministry through the South East District Council therefore requested the office of the Auditor General in November 2013 to undertake an audit of the project.

The Audit Report has since been compiled and submitted to the Council on the 11th September 2015. The report is still to be tabled before the relevant Council structures to facilitate action.

Thank you.

MR RANTUANA: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Is the Minister aware of what caused the poor workmanship of those roads and is he aware that, the sizes of the roads have been reduced as well?

MR VAN DER WESTERHUIZEN: Mr Speaker, all the shortcomings or over expenditure or roads that have been cut I think will be in the audit report.

MR RANTUANA: Is the report for Council consumption only or is it going to be made public because Balete want to know what the problem is?

MR VAN DER WESTERHUIZEN: As I had explained in the last paragraph, the report still needs to be tabled before the relevant Council structures to facilitate action and I do not think there should be any secrecy when it comes to that. It will be open to the public but after going through the relevant Council structures.

LACK OF MAINTENANCE AT LEFHOKO, TSONYANE, SEHERELELA, BETESANKWE, SESU AND SELOKOLELA SCHOOLS

MR A. S. KESUPILE (KANYE SOUTH): asked the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development if he is aware that professional school work at Lehoko, Tsonyane, Seherelela, Betesankwe, Sesu and Selokolela is gravely hindered by lack of administration blocks, lack of water borne toilets, inadequate maintenance of school fences, shortage of electrical power and shortage of library rooms; if so, to state:-

(i) schools that will be covered for maintenance and infrastructure under the Economic Stimulus Package (ESP);

(ii) reasons for the schools that will not be covered and state the plan for their attention in the future and the timeline thereof.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR VAN DER WESTERHUIZEN): Mr Speaker, I am aware that there are no administration blocks and library rooms in Lefhoko, Tsonyane, Seherelela, Betesankwe, Sesu and Selokolela Primary Schools. There are, however, eight water borne toilets in Lefhoko, 13 in Tsonyane, two in Seherelela, nine in Betesankwe, six in Sesu and 24 water borne toilets in Selokolela. Lefhoko, Betesankwe and Sesu are connected to the national grid while in Tsonyane and Seherelela contractors are on site to electrify the Primary Schools using solar.

Betesankwe and Lefhoko will be covered under the Economic Stimulus Package.

As for the schools that are not covered under the Economic Stimulus Package, they will be covered under District Development Plan 8 and the normal maintenance under the recurrent budget. Thank you.

PLANS TO BUILD A MINI STADIUM IN GHANZI TOWNSHIP IN 2017

MR N. S. L. M. SALAKAE (GHANZI NORTH): asked the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture whether the proposed mini stadium in Ghanzi Township under the 2012 OlympAfrica International Foundation is still planned to kick start in 2017 as promised; if so, has a location been identified and secured.

MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE (MR OLOPENG): I thank you Mr Speaker, I thank you Honourable Member. The mini stadium that was proposed in Ghanzi under the 2012 OlympAfrica International Foundation is still in the plan and we want to commence the project in 2017. We have found land already. I thank you Mr Speaker.

NUMBER OF TEMPORARY TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN JUNIOR AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

MR S. O. S. RANTUANA (RAMOTSWA): asked the Minister of Education and Skills Development:-

- (i) how many temporary teachers are employed in junior and senior secondary schools throughout the country and their terms of contract; and
- (ii) if she does not find it necessary to give them pensionable employment especially the mathematics and science teachers

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (MR GOYA): Thank you Mr Speaker. There are 1303 temporary teachers who are at Junior and Senior Secondary Schools throughout the country. It is worth noting Mr Speaker that their terms of contracts vary according to the reasons attributable to their temporary employment. For instance; temporary teachers engaged on behalf of teachers on study leave

are contracted for the duration of their studies. Other reasons for absence which warrant recruitment of temporary teachers include unpaid, maternity or prolonged sick leaves.

Mr Speaker, given the experience gained through their temporary engagement, temporary teachers have been captured in the pool of the Ministry's entry level graduate database. As such, they continue to be absorbed on permanent and pensionable basis as and when suitable vacancies become available in all the different subjects, including Mathematics and Science.

I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI: Supplementary. Mr Minister, assuming that the teacher student ratio was to be constituted at 1 is to 35 as per the recommendations of the Revised National Policy on Education, do you think all these temporary teachers will be absorbed?

MR GOYA: It is possible but impossible at the same time. First of all, in order to absorb temporary teachers, we have to have classrooms. Currently we have shortage of classrooms in most schools in the country and for Junior and Senior Secondary Schools we have shortage of about 753 base rooms. If there were enough classrooms Mr Speaker it would be possible to absorb all the temporary teachers. Thank you.

MR MOLEFE: Further supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Enlighten us Mr Speaker, since you talk about classrooms and accommodation for additional temporary teachers, in other Ministries like hospitals although there is no accommodation, public servants are still employed to execute different government duties, so do you not think it is necessary Honourable Minister to recruit these temporary teachers, accommodation will be assessed while the quality of our education improved?

MR GOYA: Thank you Mr Speaker. I was saying, the issue of accommodation can be addressed because they can rent, the problem is classrooms, where will they be teaching if there are no classrooms? Do you wish to see students being taught under trees? Right now we are trying to address the issue of teaching students under trees. Mr Speaker currently there are teachers who are retiring and we are in the process of employing these temporary teachers to fill the posts of those who retire.

PLANS TO EXEMPT ELDERLY PEOPLE ABOVE 65 YEARS FROM ALL FORMS OF TAXES

MR H. G. NKAIGWA (GABORONE NORTH): asked the Minister of Finance and Development Planning:-

- (i) whether there are any plans by Government to consider exempting elderly people above 65 years from all forms of taxes; if not, why; and

- (ii) whether it is not considered double taxation to tax pension as it was taxed before.

ACTING MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (MR SERETSE):

Mr Speaker, income tax is premised on the taxation of income and not of persons. As a result any individual, regardless of age, who earns an income of over P36 000.00 a year is liable to income tax. On the other hand, VAT is a consumption tax that is paid by the final consumer of goods and services; regardless of the consumer's age or level of income. These taxes are levied on residents of Botswana to finance the nation's development agenda.

Botswana has traditionally been sensitive to how she levies tax on her citizens and has as such maintained low income tax and VAT rates, which by comparison, are amongst the lowest in the Southern African region. Government believes that these low tax rates are not onerous on taxpayers including those aged over 65.

Mr Speaker, a blanket exemption of tax on people aged 65 and above would erode the tax base and thus leave Government with no option but to increase the tax rates for those who would be required to pay the tax in order to maintain a reasonable tax revenue base. On the other hand, this would be regressive since consideration would be made to age and not the ability to pay.

As you may be aware, Mr Speaker, Government has introduced a number of social safety nets that ensure that all Batswana who cannot afford a decent living are assisted by Government. Further, Government has introduced old age pensions to people aged 65 and above and progressively introduced more VAT exemptions and zero rated supplies to ensure that the tax burden is eased. An example is the recent increase in the list of zero rated supplies, effective from January 2015, to include food items such as vegetables, fruits, milk and bread.

On account of the foregoing, Mr Speaker, Government has no immediate plans to exempt the elderly people aged over 65 from all forms of taxes.

Mr Speaker, I wish to inform this Honourable House that the Income Tax Act provides for the exemption from tax of contributions made by employers and employees to approved pension funds provided the total contribution does not exceed 15 per cent of that total income of the employee. Approved pension funds themselves are not liable to tax. At the time of making contributions to a pension fund, no income tax is levied to an employee. However, when a pensioner starts to receive their pension, one-third of the lump sum is not subjected to tax while two thirds paid monthly is subjected to tax in accordance with the thresholds provided by the income tax schedules.

Since individual pensioners enjoy relief from tax during the time they make contributions to pension funds of

their choice, charging tax when the pensioners receive their monthly pension income does not amount to double taxation. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**CONCLUSION OF CONTRACTS OF
TEMPORARY TEACHERS IN THE SOUTHERN
REGIONAL OFFICE**

MR A. S. KESUPILE (KANYE SOUTH): asked the Minister of Education and Skills Development if she is aware that the Southern Regional Office is not able to conclude contracts of temporary teachers in time for posting to schools at the start of the school year in January and that instead, such teachers report to schools three (3) to four (4) months after schools reopen; if so, to state:-

- (i) why such contracts cannot be processed early enough for posting at the start of the school year; and
- (ii) what remedies the schools affected are putting in place to make up for the lost time, and the extent to which such actions successfully enables the teacher to sufficiently cover the material to be taught

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (MR GOYA): Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I am aware that due to reasons beyond our control, a few contracts for temporary teachers were only closed after the opening of schools in January this year. Previous isolated delays have been caused by unemployed teachers who declined to assume duty in remote areas.

Mr Speaker, we do process contracts early but the response from temporary teachers is unpredictable. Presently, the South Region is running advertisements that are closing on the 4th December 2015 for employment of temporary teachers in January 2016.

The selection and placement of these temporary teachers will be done before the schools open next year.

We do anticipate that, some teachers will again decline to report for duty, so we have developed a database so that we may immediately replace such teachers.

My ministry has put in place Heads of Department for Learning Difficulties whose mandate is to ensure all learners reach their full potential. Learners who may have been disadvantaged for some time will be remediated by the normal operation of the school. I thank you.

MR BILLY: Supplementary. Minister I understand your explanation but I want to know why is it that your ministry continues to attract temporary teachers while qualified teachers are still there and not employed?

MR GOYA: Mr Speaker, for the past few years we came up with a programme to upgrade the qualifications of our teachers. Those who had certificates were enrolled for diploma, those with diploma were enrolled

for degree. Since they are currently at school, we have employed temporary teachers to fill up their posts. When they complete their studies, they will occupy their posts. That is why we still have temporary teachers in our schools. Thank you.

MR MMOLOTSI: Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: That should be the last one Honourable Mmolotsi.

MR MMOLOTSI: Minister, would you tell us whether those temporary teachers are qualified to teach at that level or they are just teachers qualified at a different level?

MR GOYA: Thank you Mr Speaker. These temporary teachers I am talking about, first of all are qualified teachers, they are qualified to teach, but in other circumstances Mr Speaker, especially in remote areas there are some teachers who are qualified to teach at that level, and they would not want to go and teach there. For example, you will discover that there a teacher who is qualified to teach at a junior secondary school, but they are teaching at a primary school, this happens because if we would not have found anybody willing to go and teach in remote areas, we end up picking any qualified teacher to go and teach there . Thank you.

MR MOLEFE: Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: I had said it was the last one Honourable Molefhe.

**PLANS TO INCREASE NUMBER OF
AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATORS IN
MMADINARE**

MR K. MZWINILA (MMADINARE): asked the Minister of Agriculture if he is aware that:-

- (i) Mmadinare South Extension Area has one Agricultural Demonstrator who attends to almost 1500 farmers;
- (ii) Mmadinare North Extension Area has one Agricultural Demonstrator who attends to about 800 farmers; if so, what plans are in place to increase the number of Agricultural Demonstrators in the areas so that the ratio of farmers to Agricultural Demonstrators is more manageable.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR AUTLWETSE): Mr Speaker, I am aware that Mmadinare South Extension area has one Agricultural Demonstrator (AD) who attends to averagely 765 farmers annually. This is on the basis that during the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 cropping season 1, 106 and 425 farmers were attended to ploughing 2, 699 and 993 hectares respectively. The decline in area ploughed is attributed to low and erratic rains experienced during that period.

(ii) I am also aware that in Mmadinare North Extension area one Agricultural Demonstrator attends to about 482 farmers. This is on the basis that during the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 cropping seasons 652 and 319 farmers were attended to for ploughing 1698 and 795 hectares respectively. The decline in area ploughed is attributed to low and erratic rains experienced during that period. There are no plans in place to increase the number of Agricultural Demonstrators in these areas due to budgetary constraints. However, Mr Speaker, to ease the challenge faced by the Agricultural Demonstrators, especially during the ploughing season and Intern, Tirelo Sechaba participant and four fielders Assistants have been posted to Mmadinare South Extension area, while one Tirelo Sechaba Participant and three Field Assistants have been deployed to Mmadinare North Extension area. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI: Supplementary. Honourable Minister could you clarify to us whether those interns or Tirelo Setshaba participant are qualified just like those at the Ministry of Education and Skills Development or they are just lay people?

MR AUTLWETSE: Mr Speaker they are qualified, but the problem like I have already mentioned is the budget, it is impossible for them to be employed because we do not have vacant posts at the moment.

MR NKAIGWA: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable Minister. Where did the Tirelo Setshaba participants attain their Agricultural Demonstration qualifications?

MR AUTLWETSE: Mr Speaker, in the various jobs country wide Tirelo Setshaba participants operate under qualified personnel. They are not given jobs which they can fail to execute. They are assigned duties such that, during the ploughing season, because that is when most people are needed; they would be able to assist because they would be with people who have been trained in that field. They are given simple assignments which they would be able to do under closed supervision. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI: Point of order Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: It better be a point of order.

MR MMOLOTSI: I do not want to be threatened. I just wanted to say the question asked was, where did the Tirelo Setshaba participants acquire their...

MR SPEAKER: Order! Sit down Honourable Mmolotsi. Yesterday I told you about Standing Order 53.1, where point of order, point of procedure are used. Do not get used to disobeying my rulings. When I make a ruling, adhere to it.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ...(inaudible)...

MR SPEAKER: Okay, even if you want to ask a question I said there should not be any more supplementaries; you do not do that through point of order or point of procedure. You are out of order.

MR MMOLOTSI: On a point of clarification.

MR SPEAKER: No, you are out of order Honourable Mmolotsi.

MR MMOLOTSI: No, I would like you to clarify something to us Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: You are out of order, you are out order.

MR MMOLOTSI: No, Mr Speaker, we are asking for clarification.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I understand the Minister of Trade and Industry has a paper to table...

MR MMOLOTSI: Point of order Mr Speaker. No, Mr Speaker be patient with me; I just wanted you to assist us. If we are in a situation where we want you to help us in terms of the Minister deliberately not answering questions, what do we use? I think the House is out of order.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Mmolotsi, we came at the same time in this Parliament, read your Standing Orders, they will tell you what to do. I did not come here to teach anyone, when I am here I lead the proceedings. Read the Standing Orders, they will tell you what you should do when you are not satisfied with an answer given by the Minister.

TABLING OF PAPERS

The following paper was tabled:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 47 OF 2015: LIQUOR (RESTAURANT) (EXEMPTION) (REVOCATION) REGULATIONS, 2015.

(Minister of Trade and Industry):

BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT, 2014/2015

(Minister of Trade and Industry)

COMPETITIVE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT, 2014/2015

(Minister of Trade and Industry)

LOCAL ENTERPRISE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT, 2014-2015

(Minister of Trade and Industry)

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON WOMEN

CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON WOMEN (MS TSHIRELETSO):

Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the year 2015 marks the 24th year of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, initiated in 1991 and coordinated by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership. Through this Campaign, over 5 478 organizations, policymakers, governments, UN agencies and countless individuals from over 180 countries have participated in Activism against Gender Based Violence.

Here we shall commend Honourable Dow too, she was once sent to the International Global Leadership. Thank you very much Madam Minister.

Mr Speaker, this year's 16 Days of Activism is celebrated under the theme – **"From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World; Make education safe for all."** The theme recognizes the dire situation for millions of girls and boys, and young women and men, whose universal human right to education is daily impacted or cut short due to violence, lack of resources, and discrimination. It is our obligation as leaders to focus on the precarious situation of education for girls and boys, young women and men this year through the 16 Days Campaign.

Mr Speaker, Education is a good public and fundamental human right recognized in Article 26 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it is upheld in various international and regional human rights conventions and treaties. Nonetheless Mr Speaker, the right to education is subject to political, economic, social shifts and upheavals, leaving certain groups (especially women, girls, and people with disabilities, and indigenous people) particularly vulnerable and liable to being denied this crucial right.

Recent data shows that approximately 38 million people are internally displaced worldwide, while 16.7 million are refugees. Girls and young women in particular are most adversely impacted by insecurity and crisis, with the most recent estimates showing that 31 million girls at primary level and 34 million at lower secondary level are not enrolled in school, and 15 million girls and 10 million boys will never see the inside of a classroom.

As many as 58 million children of primary school age do not have access to education, with approximately half of these (28.5 million) living in conflict affected areas. This is disheartening and should not be allowed to continue in this milieu. Mr Speaker, I must commend the Government of Botswana for making education free and safe for all irrespective of gender. In addition, the Government continues to provide various initiatives to support our education system. The Back to School initiative introduced in 2012, aimed at giving young people a second chance to enrol back to school to get necessary education and skills that can enable them to make the necessary move into the world of work.

Since its inception to date, a total of 55 468 learners were enrolled under this programme. Out of this total number, 24 703 (44 per cent) learners were enrolled in primary and secondary school education, 10 909 (20 per cent) in artisan and technical programmes whilst 19 856 (36 per cent) were enrolled in tertiary education.

Mr Speaker, in his 2015 State of the Nation Address, the President, His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama, informed this House that Government has set up the "Target 20 000 Initiative" for the rapid up skilling and re-tooling of unemployed youth to meet current industry needs. These efforts are commendable and will indeed take our education system and country forward as well as aiding in the implementation of the renowned Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP). Mr Speaker, as we celebrate this global theme, the 16 Days Campaign seeks to appeal to our conscience and gestures us all to join in advancing the right to education and challenging violence, discrimination, and inequity in education at the intersection of gender, race or ethnicity, religion, real or perceived sexual orientation, socio-economic status, and other social identifiers. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you very much Honourable Members.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I will allow short questions for elucidating the statement. If you have any, the floor is open. Order! In the absence of the questions, I will proceed.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Point of order. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. In the light of your rulings, I would like you...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Mokgware Order! Order! Honourable Mokgware take your seat.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Let me finish.

MR SPEAKER: No, sit down. If I have made a ruling you do not challenge it. No! You do not. If you want to follow it up or you want to question my ruling, you will do so at the General Assembly not here.

RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Motion

(Resumed Debate)

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members. Order! Honourable Makgalemele, why are you standing and not seated? Honourable Members we will continue responding to the President's Speech. Yesterday when the House adjourned, Honourable Dr Mmatli, the Member of Parliament for Molepolole South was on the floor. He is left with 2 minutes 51 seconds. This is your time Honourable Member, if you still want to continue although you are not under any obligation to do so.

DR MMATLI (MOLEPOLOLE SOUTH): Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me conclude with the issue of the Beef Industry. I would like to state that Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) monopoly does not benefit the farmers. I am of the view that this industry must be liberalised. I believe that different people; local traders and foreign traders should be allowed to trade in beef and cattle. These people can find us a better market and prices will then improve.

What we need to find out is; are farmers making profit from selling cattle. I believe that different traders will help solve the issue of EU market which may not be working for us on its own.

Honourable Members, I want to conclude my debate by reminding this House that Molepolole South residents are tired. Molepolole electorates are tired. Their Members of Parliament have brought their pleas here and they are ignored, they always waiting for developments. Molepolole looks like a cattle post. This is not the first time a Member of Parliament of Molepolole stands here. Former Member of Parliament Mr Kwelagobe used to stand here but under the BDP ticket. Even up to now, Molepolole still looks like a cattle post. This shows that you do not hate me only, you hate Bakwena; you hate the people of Molepolole. As members of the BDP, you hate the people of Molepolole South. When will this hate end? I do not want to come here and debate and be told, 'no, we will look into it'. When I bring a request as a Member of Parliament, developments should be brought to our area and not be one sided.

I heard that you said, we will do the good things we speak of once we are in government. People are listening when you say we will implement these good things once in power. In other words you are asking people to vote us into power to implement the good things we are talking about. Batswana are listening to you, not only those in Molepolole South. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SALAKAE (GHANZI NORTH): Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me start off by thanking God for the gift of life. It is evident that he will continue to protect the life he has given me. His protection gives me the assurance that I will be alive to see the coming years of the much awaited change. All eyes will see these changes.

Let me commend my colleague in absentia for having won the elections. I want to welcome him and thank him for having made our job easier in Goodhope. It was my first time ever to see such easy elections. In the past elections, the experiences were that when a candidate campaigned, someone will say 'when, are you going to give me a t-shirt because BDP members passed by and gave their members t-shirts?' In Goodhope no one demanded t-shirts. I would also want to thank the former Member of Parliament for Goodhope, Mr Mathokgwane. He once confided in me that his battle with Honourable Mokaila was very fierce. However, the battle which was greater than that one was very easy.

Let me state that it is going to get easier than this because it is evident that Botswana Congress Party (BCP) is joining us, we are not saying we are going to hold talks, we are already on track. It is here, fear has descended on some people. I want to advise them to accept that being in opposition is also democratic.

There are certain things which I wish to remark on, which I was not able to remark on in the last Parliament. Before I debate on the President's Speech, let me touch briefly on my status as a Member of Parliament. There are some people from BDP in Ghanzi who ask for jobs from the Ministers when they are in Ghanzi. They say I might have been voted by BDP members. Mr Swartz and I are the only ones in possession of evidence which supports that there are some members of Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) who voted for him and some who voted for me. There are BDP members who voted him and some who voted me. Though voting is confidential, the majority of people in Ghanzi both the BDP and UDC members showed that I was worth taking to Parliament.

Let me mention that those who still believe that BDP can win Ghanzi are nursing a pipe dream because when I won Ghanzi, I was not working, had no pay and I was not even married. I presume that by 2019 I will be married and will be privy to some of the things in Parliament that I was not privy to. If maybe they wish to know these things, my predecessor, Mr Swartz is available as we both share a mutual respect.

It is proper for me for send my accolades to the President. Honourable Tshireletso has taught me to properly arrange the President's names, that is Lieutenant General Dr Khama, because I have been confused not knowing which one comes first between Dr and General. I would like to commend him for delivering the State of the Nation Address annually without fail and that excludes the content of the speech.

Moreover, I would like to thank Honourable Comrade Duma Boko. To be honest with you Mr Speaker, that was the best speech I ever heard since I came to this Parliament. What blows my mind is the fact that he managed to deliver such an amicable speech in just one day. Responding to the speech that has probably taken more time to put together. I had wished that Honourable Molale was there because he was taking chances on my President yesterday. The speech that was delivered in this House by the Honourable Leader of Opposition can probably take Honourable Molale months to put together but it took Honourable Duma Boko just one day. I heard him yesterday mimicking Honourable Boko about his style of talking. I was just laughing thinking that if the tables were to be turned and do the same with Khama, they will cry and talk about how indiscipline we are in funerals.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Salakae, when you are talking about Honourable Members here, you ought to address them as Honourable.

MR SALAKAE: Yes sir, thank you. I knew that if I start mimicking, because I know it is bound to happen one day if Honourable Molale continues to do the same...

MR SPEAKER: What is to mimic Honourable Member?

MR SALAKAE: Repeating what he was saying but in a ridiculing manner. He is a leader and yet he was mimicked in a ridiculing manner and all I can say is what goes around comes around. So if we adopt the same behaviour, no one should be offended because this is something that we know better.

Mr Speaker, allow me point out that Standing Order 22.4 accords me the opportunity to respond to the speech delivered by the President which I so wish to do today. My expectation was to hear about the planned projects and their achievements instead of introducing new plans. This habit of assuming that Batswana forget all the promised deliverables, then nothing is done about them and the next thing new projects are promised; one day it will come to an end. Batswana wish to be updated on what they were promised. Things that were proclaimed back in 2008 like appearance fees for officials in national teams; they want to know what has deterred its implementation. A lot of people have lost hope on the President so much that even if he were to promise to buy helicopters for each of them, they will still not vote for the ruling party. They will not take the offer because they will be looking at the fact that they are promised something which its sustainability is questionable.

Batswana have requested me to ask the President to give an update on the accomplished projects that were planned for. They have further talked about the programs like Self Help Housing Agency (SHHA) and so forth; they have proposed that we should assist the President's consultants by informing them that when the President gives this beautiful update, information on the statistics and the indicators of what has been accomplished should be availed. I do not dispute the fact that he sometimes gives the indicators but only positive ones. There are those serious ones that we can ask for and consider them. Some of them include what we call gini coefficient. The President is fond of talking about the inclusive economy which he perceives as being capable of including everyone to take part and I want to believe he means equal contribution. Now, this indicator gini coefficient helps us to establish the contribution put forth towards the economy between the rich and poor. Gini coefficient can only embarrass us because when you compare it to what is actually on the ground, it is not a true reflection.

In 2012...

MR MOREMI: On a point of clarification. Thank you Honourable Sakalae. Are you in a position to include the issue of handing out to the poor as something that can be classified as inclusive economy when it comes to issues social welfare?

MR SALAKAE: Thank you Honourable Member. I cannot classify it as such because in his first State of Nation Address in 2008, the current President, he was totally against the spirit of being too dependent on Government by Batswana. He was against this issue that you just mentioned and the issue of free issuing of licences because there is no spirit of self-reliance. That is not a reflection of what inclusive economy means. Even in family set ups, if you keep giving your children sweets, there will come a time when they will wish you give them money so that they can buy for themselves or even learn how to make money. While still on that, the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) has requested me to ask about their radios as to what happened to their delivery because some have been given. We are against that idea. I strongly agree with what the Honourable Member has said, that practice is not an inclusive economy.

As I have pointed out earlier on, this issue of gene coefficient is exposing us because while we are busy talking about how our Government is good when it comes to welfare issues to an extent that he can pray for rain in Parliament, this report by South African Customs Union (SACU) indicates that from time immemorial, the country that has had the huge disparity between the rich and the poor is South Africa. However, of late they are way better than us. As for us, those differences continue to grow on a daily basis. Another indicator which we believe the President should talk about without fail is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita income, which indicates the economy of the country and how much each citizen would get if it were to be divide amongst them. I went to Central Statistics yesterday and they indicated that each would get P66 289.70 per year. This clearly shows that the economy is rich, the problem is its management because they do not have the fear of the Lord. If you have the fear of the Lord, you become compassionate and care about your neighbour who is in need.

My constituents in Gantsi North have requested that the A and B scale in public sector should be abolished because it embarrasses them.

Every time the President talks about a dignified society but we still have people whose earnings are less than Dr Madigele's dog allowance. I wonder if we can boldly say...

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR MADIGELE): On a point of order. Is it right for Honourable Salakae to be talking about dog allowance when I have never owned a dog in my lifetime?

MR SPEAKER: Order! He is provoking you, he seems to be enjoying that you are listening to him. Stop provoking others. Honourable Madigele has told you that he has never had a dog in his life, so stop provoking others and get back to your debate.

MR SALAKAE: Pardon me my friend. I wanted to highlight that constituents of Ghanzi North are complaining that Ministers have allowances which are more than their monthly salaries.

MR MMOLOTSI: On a point of elucidation. The Honourable Member is talking about allowances like the Minister's housing allowance which is P13, 500 per month.

MR SALAKAE: You are right Honourable Member and seriously that allowance is way higher than A and B scales.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): On a point of clarification. Thank you Mr Speaker. I think the Honourable Member should maybe compare the allowances that he has been talking about with those of ordinary Members of Parliament.

MR SALAKAE: Yes we should compare them like Honourable Mmolotsi is saying. When we talk of payments of Members of Parliament, we are talking of allowances. When a Minister refuses to stay in a luxurious house that the Government has built for them, they are given P13, 000 whereas ordinary Members of Parliament are given P6, 500 and should one agree to occupy the institutional house, they will never get this allowance, but it is a separate dispensation for Ministers. That is why...

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: On a point of elucidation. Talking about Minister's houses, it is said that they can look for a person for the whole month without seeing him because the houses are so big.

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

MR SALAKAE: These are the things that Batswana have sent me to talk about because they embarrass them. Just imagine a Minister with an allowance of P13, 500 yet there is someone on salary scale A and B. I wish God can touch these people.

They are begging and they have also sent me to ask if the Ipelegeng programme is still a short term measure for unemployment like the President said in his previous addresses or is it now a programme that is budgeted for and projections are made? They also said that since the President always say that he wishes Batswana could lead dignified lives; Ipelegeng workers do not have any dignity. Those who have been in Ipelegeng indicate that it is a desperate measure because when someone is living in poverty, they have no choice, they cannot refuse whatever is thrown their way. They are requesting that since the ESP is here, something should be done about Ipelegeng and the Internship Scheme. Graduates are stuck in the Internship Scheme after acquiring Masters Degrees and Bachelor Degrees from universities. Imagine that we give the Ministry of Education and Skills Development funds to train our

children for Ipelegeng and Internship Scheme and still believe that the BDP is still fit to rule. We are not being sarcastic about these things Honourable Members and these are the very justifications that make us want things to change.

I agree with the Manual Workers' Union in the report they released last year entitled, 'A Quick Guide to Disturbing Developments in the Governance of Botswana.' May I quote what they say about unemployment in this country or what they believe to be the main challenge, it says, "The major cause of unemployment and economic inequality in Botswana is that Government tenders were monopolised by ruling party cadres while businesses of young Batswana without necessary political connections collapse and lead to widespread of unemployment and poverty." They were saying this at a time when there was a certain woman whom I could name if she was here, but I will not for the respect of the procedure of this House. She was a leader of a certain Council in Botswana and owned a bakery which won all tenders in her area of jurisdiction just because she was a member of the BDP. Initially, we thought they were not telling the truth, but another Member of Parliament of the BDP who is also not here said that it is their time to benefit. What the Manual Workers Union report says is true that it is not that Batswana are not educated nor are they lazy, but the major challenge is that of the timing; it is some people's time to gain.

My constituents are saying that I should tell you that your era will come to an end. It is sad that there is a village in my constituency called Groote Laagte where a certain BDP member whom I cannot name as well can threaten the residents that should they attend my meetings, they will disconnect the water and when I get to my constituency, I will be receiving calls all night enquiring about this.

These are issues that worry my constituents. We know very well that we have water problems in this country and we are even praying about this situation. Recently, maybe the Minister will recall, people came to my office in Ranyane giving me issues that I should ask the President regarding the State of the Nation Address and I told them that he never comes to this House.

They said that if there are those who can relay the message to him, ask him if he is the one who sent the Council Secretary and the District Commissioner to disconnect water at Ranyane. As I speak, water has been disconnected in Ranyane. They had a borehole for which they could contribute and buy diesel for the engine and the sad thing is that they were using their last cattle because they are not even in Ipelegeng. The problem being that they refused to move to a village that the Government had chosen for them so that they do not disturb wildlife in Ranyane. Some of them have been moved to Bera as we speak and if you can go there you are going to be heart broken. They abuse alcohol

like nobody's business. But in Ranyane, I bet with you nobody drinks alcohol there. The President is however saying they should move from this place and go where they could be free to do what he hates, only because he does not want them to disturb wildlife.

The people in Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) who remained when others were moved to New Xade do not take alcohol. There is no alcohol in CKGR and in New Xade they drink alcohol from morning until evening. I sometimes wonder if the President did this alcohol levy deliberately so that he moves people to where they would feel helpless and start abusing alcohol. This is serious. I am not bragging...

MR LELATISITSWE: Clarification. I want to thank you Honourable Member. I can hear that you are representing your constituency so well, and I would like to say is Ranyane a legal village?

MR SALAKAE: It is like that Honourable Member. In Botswana people do not suffer only because they live in an illegal village. There is poverty even in proper villages. Honourable Kablay was going to agree to that because that is what he always complains about.

If I may continue Mr Speaker, the Department of Statistics Botswana has indicated that Botswana has got a population of 2 185 903 this year. It has increased from the 2 024 904 that they gave us in 2011 and I believe that if we were serious about helping the nation, we could be managing this number. This number should be our point of reference; we should be managing this 2 million number which is equal to the one in Harare only which is 2.1 million.

The Umbrella for Democratic Change wants Batswana to give us the chance to rule because this is a small number; measured against the resources that we have in this country, tourism, mining and everything and still we fail to manage population of 2 million.

The department of statistics shows that the unemployment rate for people of ages 18 and above is 17 per cent. I am using the survey that the President was using, the 2005/2006 Labour Force Survey. However I know that there is the recent one for 2013 which was 20 per cent. They indicate that unemployment rate is 17 per cent. I would like to indicate that if you translate it in absolute terms we say 17 per cent means so many people, you will realise that Botswana Democratic Party is really tired.

When we say 50 per cent Mr Speaker, we mean 159 469 people. If you hear that 4 or 8 Ministers have gone to places such as Xabo to promote backyard garden they will be visiting that number.

MR B. BUTALE: On a point of clarification. Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to confirm the 17 per cent, the thing is the statistics sometimes can be confusing. What is the 17 per cent for? Is it the 2.1 million that

you are talking about? Does it include the children who are below two days at Marina or is it the 17 per cent of people who are looking for jobs excluding students and toddlers? I just wanted to know what the 17 per cent entail.

MR SALAKAE: Thank you Mr Speaker, you too Honourable Member. If you were paying attention you could have realised that I started off with the unemployment rate affecting the people aged 18 years and above, and since it looks like you do not have maths phobia, it means 159 469 over 800 036 of people who are actively looking for work. These are the people that if jobs were available, they could be working. Now it means those who are employed are 159 469. This number was given to us in 2005 even before then. That is the number that we are using even when we go out to request for funds, we use this number and we want to manage it.

Personally I believe that if we had Ministers who are very serious, who liked their work, respecting it, they would be coming here to listen to people's problems. Maybe we were going to be able to take a day to find jobs for Batswana who were mentioned in these numbers. I am glad that I am debating after Honourable Member for...

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Point of order. Thank you Mr Speaker. I am worried about what is happening in this House. There are 12 members this side and that side they are 9 and they are supposed to be 37. It is painful for us because we cannot go out and the door is an advantage for them they go out as they please.

MR SPEAKER: I thank you Honourable Mokgware. I will help you to monitor them. I really do not know why we keep going in and out. Why can you not wait until the 4 0'clock break? We have a 20 minutes break, so sit down and pay attention to other Honourable Members debating.

MR SALAKAE: I thank you Mr Speaker. I agree whole heartedly with Honourable Guma Moyo that it is high time we bring the declaration of assets policy because Batswana suspect that if it is said that we are a wealthy country whereas they have a high rate of poverty, somewhere...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I do not think that is how that word is pronounced.

MR SALAKAE: Which one?

MR SPEAKER: The one you were using.

MR SALAKAE: *Mamphemphe*,

MR SPEAKER: Pronounce it correctly, it is *mantlentle* (beauty).

MR SALAKAE: I did withdraw that one. I meant to say *mamphemphe*, in the context of quantity not beauty...

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

MR SALAKAE: No my time has elapsed. Let me simply indicate Mr Speaker that I totally believe that the time has come to table the Bill on declaration of assets because Batswana also agree and they are suspicious because in our small population there is evidence that there are resources available therefore the only logical explanation is that some are selfish. Others acquire them lawfully but others Batswana suspect that there is theft. I am also beginning to be suspicious because it has been years since the tabling of this Bill in Parliament but there are still some who are refusing to endorse it. The time has now come to pass it.

Let me indicate Mr Speaker that before the end of this term, that is before 2019, we would have brought this Bill to Parliament. We cannot act like Honourable Members on the other side of the aisle who are always talking but not taking action.

I was recently taken aback by a motion which was tabled by one Member of Parliament here, I would mention his name if he was here; he tabled a motion which was once tabled. I met a news reporter and asked him why they do not ask these people if they will always accept this motion even if it can be tabled every year and his reply was that, "we are used to that and the truth is that the Botswana Democratic Party is tired, its only advantage is that some Batswananyana have not realised these things..."

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Salakae.

MR SALAKAE: Sir?

MR SPEAKER: Are there Batswana who are referred to as Batswananyana?

MR SALAKAE: Some Batswana. I withdraw. If only the framers of our Constitution had included Sekgalagadi, you could not be on my case correcting my Setswana from time to time. Perhaps you should just listen attentively to the context...

MR SPEAKER: You are now provoking me. Just focus on your debate. My job is to help you correct your grammar.

MR SALAKAE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me indicate that Batswana agree with us as the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) that one of the ways in which we can invest for this small population is to concentrate more on sectors which are quick to pay off such as beef trade or the beef sector. The problem is that the Botswana Democratic Party government in being dishonest and is afraid to tell Batswana that...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Billy, go back to your seat, Honourable Mmatli is leaving. Honourable Salakae sorry for that.

MR SALAKAE: The problem is there is someone who should be honest but no one is coming forth to say that the Botswana Democratic Party government has completely forgotten about the beef industry. Currently the main subject is wild animals. Just recently, five days back, there was one cow which fell in the trench at your constituency and this was reported to the Council, everyone was informed...

MR SPEAKER: At whose constituency?

MR SALAKAE: At the constituency of the Deputy Speaker, Gaborone South. The cow fell somewhere in the trench and this was reported to the Council. There was no one who showed remorse to rescue that cow from the trench, no one took that responsibility. I am sure that if it was an antelope which fell in the trench, even aeroplanes would come to rescue that poor antelope from dying.

Therefore we strongly believe that the time has now come to focus on sectors that are quick to pay off and those are mainly about cattle. We should then ensure fight this spectre, monster or dinosaur which is the monopoly of the BMC which Batswana everywhere not only at Ghanzi believe that the time has come for the BMC to be assisted. Batswana who can afford should be allowed to have abattoirs so that those whose livelihood depend cattle farming could have an option of selling their cattle at a better market price. If we are still defending the BMC it shows that we are no longer interested in the beef industry.

Why am I saying this Mr Speaker, in 2010 BMC incurred losses of P129 million; 2011 it had P233.5 million loss; 2012 the loss was P290.9 million. Just recently they requested for P400 million so that they can pay farmers. Therefore is there really no other hidden agenda which hinders some Batswana who have money to be allowed to build abattoirs so that they can assist BMC which is clearly overwhelmed.

In fact in the past few years before I came to Parliament, there were some Batswana at my constituency who had saved US\$100 million and wanted to build the state of the art abattoir at Ghanzi so that they could use Walvis Bay as a channel to reach markets BMC was unable to reach, now look what happened. BMC refused saying they cannot allow establishment of other abattoirs because they will compete for the markets with us, investors on the other hand said we have US\$100 million we can build state of the art facility. Then all of this went down the drain because some believe that beef industry does not stand a chance anymore and such investments are not even considered and there were no consultations made regarding this.

Mr Speaker others asked me to request that while you are still assessing this matter because we are going to talk about it every year until the government listens, the problem is cattle farming is the only business in which

if you were able to produce in excess you cannot get rid of excess, you are going to have to wait for BMC to want this excess, which some might say even though it is a commodity which is sold locally, we should find another way to sell this excess to other countries. When it comes to cattle farming business the government refuses completely, she says cattle would rather be killed by drought rather than selling them at a good price. Therefore they request that during these times, when there are no rains and we know that cattle are going to die, there should be temporary permits to allow them to sell their cattle at a better price because at my area there are many cattle which when there is drought, old men suffer from high blood. The Botswana Democratic Party does not seem to be concerned by this because they have built hospitals and these people will be admitted there should they get high blood pressure because their cattle are dying.

Moving on to the second sector, they believe that after discussing this beef industry which is quick to pay off, we should focus more on the education sector and we have to take heed of Mr Kedikilwe's recommendations on the Revised National Policy on Education of 1994. The recommendations are excellent. One of them is to stop automatic progression because it is difficult to believe that in future we want to have top class pilots and so forth, but when a child shows that they are failing at one level, we say we shall see them at the next level.

This thing, in the end makes us realise that our children are only fit for Ipelegeng, and nothing else. Now they believe the time has come for you to release enough funds to strengthen the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) so that it could be able to look into these issues that...

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Salakae, when you say "they should strengthen" whom are you including in this? Are you including me? Remember you are addressing me here.

MR SALAKAE: Thank you Mr Speaker. I am referring to the government.

MR SPEAKER: Yes.

MR SALAKAE: Yes Mr Speaker, they believe this government which is remaining with only these four years, at least in these years she should pay attention to the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, and assist the Human Resource Development Council. There was a very good motion which was moved by Honourable Arone requesting that we should consider other departments which are also looking into our education.

Parliament declined this motion, and I asked myself whether we were really serious. I wondered if really the job is being done because we have sent people to go and look into important things like education and they refuse

to keep checking whether they are doing the job very well. I thought we needed to remind them it is important for the Ministry of Education to be serious looked at. The people of Qabo are lamenting Mr Speaker, since my time has already been used up I had intended to talk about police stations, hospitals and so forth. I wish to skip those and talk about it. There was a time when eight Ministers went to them in a quest to eradicate poverty. In this village, figures from Statistics Botswana show that they are only 900. Right now they are lamenting. One of the projects they were given was that of making coffins, unfortunately they were instructed to make coffins for poor people only. Maybe through the Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) they should be further trained so that they would be able to make better coffins, maybe even their numbers could be reduced at Ipelegeng. I went there many times and the coffins they make are for poor people. Therefore one can ask themselves whether we are still on track when we say they should only make coffins for poor people.

Now these are the things which I wish Parliament could take seriously. The people of D'kar have pointed out that District Commissioners and the Council Secretaries do not have much to do, the only work they do is preparing for meetings with the Minister. They were saying in the issue they are still addressing together with their church in D'kar, they should leave it alone; right now the government is failing to take care of the residents of D'kar because it is believed they are in someone's farm. When these people make an effort to dialogue with the owner of the farm, the District Commissioners and the Council Secretaries come in and interfere with the dialogue. This has resulted in the issue not to reach a conclusion; it rolls over to other years. This then elates the government because the budget would not stretch much because the people of D'kar would not be included in it.

Therefore I wanted to make my request in this House that the District Commissioners should be asked to continue doing their job of preparing for meetings with the Minister and not be involved in messing up the people of D'kar concerning their village. The only thing they are asking for is water, because no matter how cruel a person is, they cannot fail to give you water. Therefore I just had to say this; I know they are very cruel.

In the end I wanted to send my deepest condolences to the families of the Matsha students who were involved in an accident. I was told that some are still in hospital, our prayers are with them; they should lie in those hospital beds knowing that God is with them, and they will receive healing. They should pray because prayer is the only tear which touches God's bosom. Unfortunately I am getting surprised that while we are still doing investigations as to what happened for students to use a truck when they were supposed to use a bus; the School Head gets suspended. When it was enquired, it was discovered that he was suspended because he said to the

children “*le tla ipona*” (you are on your own) with this government which does not believe in witchcraft. While at that the students encountered a bad presage “*ba ne ba ipona*” so to say, therefore it meant he was guilty. Now the question is, since when we were at the funeral some students were transported in a truck, which School Head is going to be fired now? I just wanted to relay this issue and agree with Honourable Boko that if the BDP government is not serious with the investigations on this issue, playing around by suspending innocent School Heads, we are going to do the right thing as a government in waiting to ensure that investigations are done on behalf of justice.

With those words Mr Speaker, I just wanted to relay my concerns or my condolences to the bereaved families after the road accident involving Matsha students. Thank you Mr Speaker.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR MADIGELE): Thank you and good afternoon Mr Speaker and good afternoon Mr Salakae who we met in a different era when I was a man of medicine and you were a man of statistics, when I was your doctor sometime back. Let me take this opportunity Mr Speaker to thank you for giving me this opportunity to address this House and respond to the State of the Nation Address as tabled by His Excellency Dr Ian Khama. I would like to congratulate President Khama for one of his best (SONA) speeches, one of his best and inspiring speeches that touched on many people’s lives. I would also like to congratulate him for having earned his Doctorate from an esteemed University in South Korea. Let me also take this opportunity Mr Speaker to thank or congratulate Honourable Eric Mothibi Molale otherwise known as ‘Hardrock’...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(laughter)...

DR MADIGELE: For having been nominated once again, having made history, he got nominated, he resigned and he got nominated again.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(laughter)...

DR MADIGELE: That is a true sign of democracy at work. I would also like to congratulate Kgosikgolo of Barolong who happens to be Kgosi to most of the people I represent or some of the people I represent in the Mmathethe-Molapowabojang Constituency. His tribesmen are in Digawana, Metlobo, Mmathethe and some of them are in Lorolwane in the fringes of the Kalahari Desert. Honourable Member we welcome you and we wish you well in the deliberations of this House. I will also like to pay tribute...

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): Procedure. I thank you Mr Speaker. This issue of calling Honourable Members by their nicknames in the House, is it procedural Mr Speaker?

MR SPEAKER: No, he said Honourable Molale otherwise known as ‘Hardrock’

DR MADIGELE: I do not know Honourable Makgalemele’s nickname, I could use it...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(laughter)...

MR MAKGALEMELE: Further procedure Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I think this House is out of procedure, there is nowhere in our procedure; even if I had a nickname I would not allow him I would not allow him to use it. It is not allowed to use nicknames in this House. We will be sending a wrong message to the records of Parliament that our children are going to read.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Makgalemele, I do not find it wrong for Honourable Dr Madigele to say Honourable Molale is also called Hardrock because Honourable Makgalemele is also known as Philibao being his football nickname. I do not see any problem with that Honourable Member.

MR MAKGALEMELE: On a point of order. Mr Speaker, with the greatest respect, we are not supposed to use nicknames in this House and I request that you should advise accordingly. You are one Speaker who does his work diligently and so I am begging you to put a stop to it.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Madigele, please refrain from using nicknames. That also refers to the rest of you Honourable Members.

DR MADIGELE: It means they should no longer call me Ali or even call one Honourable Member Fokon Bastard!

Mr Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all those who perished in the Matsha tragedy. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the health care workers who did the best they could to take care of the sick under those tragic circumstances. Mr Speaker, I would like to thank Batswana in general for their generosity towards the welfare of all those who were admitted. I also like to update this House that most of the patients who were admitted at our facilities have been discharged and they are undergoing psychosocial therapy and rehabilitation to make sure their state of mind is stable going forward.

Mr Speaker, we have a jobs problem in this country as we heard the Honourable Member who is well versed in statistics saying that it is around 17 per cent of unemployment. To me that is a problem that we should not run away from. It is a problem that we need to face head-on especially because it involves many young Batswana. Some of whom have Degree qualifications and we find that most of them are roaming the streets because of lack of job opportunities. But in any case we still have an economy Mr Speaker that has its own

strengths. We have strong fiscals; a strong rule of law, high rankings in the peace index and these are a plus for us as we battle with this job of creating job opportunities.

We have a problem of low commodity prices but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. We know that there are good initiatives like the Economic Diversification Drive (EDD) and the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) that will help us in our struggle to get jobs for our populace.

Mr Speaker, I am talking as an optimist, I never like to be a pessimist even under trying conditions. Like I said, I am not in denial that there is a problem or there are some problems that are besieging our economy but I am not going to try to explain the problems away. I am going to say that we need to be in touch; we need to be in the path of our aspirations, our dreams, through appreciating the challenges that we have so that we come up with solutions. We come up with tangible and solid solutions to make sure that our country moves forwards.

One of our colleagues in the Opposition, he knows himself Mr Speaker, sometimes utters words that are derogatory. The other day he said that the BDP members are idiots and that is not a nice way to deliberate especially in this House and especially if someone wants to be addressed as a Pastor. I think as we move forward, even in the midst of our differences, we should always try to respect one another. This figure Mr Speaker, I have since realised that he likes to clap hands to his own shadow. Mr Speaker, it does not sit well with some of us who are trying to be respectful in this House. I am not going to be apologetic Mr Speaker when I talk about fixing the economy. I am not going to try to be apologetic when I talk about diversifying the economy. I think history will judge me harshly if I stand to be apologetic when we talk about jobs that will help our youth to benefit from them and improve their social security and their social standing.

Mr Speaker, when we talk about ESP; I do not want to say that ESP is a panacea to the problems that are besieging our economy but I think ESP...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification!

DR MADIGELE: I will yield towards my conclusion. I think ESP is a start in the right direction and it is very important that we push the monies into the economy so that our people can benefit from the jumpstart that will be provided by ESP.

Moving forward Mr Speaker, I would once again like to thank the Ministry of Health for their speedy response. It shows that the values that we are trying to enshrine and what we are trying to put into our roadmap of transforming the Ministry is actually on track. There is a clear demonstration that what we are trying to do within the Ministry, trying to push the Ministry to greater heights, is taking course.

Mr Speaker, we have what we call the organisational transformation in the Ministry that which we are trying to enhance our human resource capacity; our human resource. We have also embarked on strengthening primary prevention which includes the pre-hospital services like ambulances that can be used in dire situations like RTAs and disasters. I think, through enhancing those Mr Speaker, we can find indeed that the Ministry of Health is doing all it can to make sure that health reaches all corners of the country.

It is important not to short-change ourselves. We have achieved to this date 0.11 out of 1 000 malaria infections Mr Speaker over a period of 10 years. That is commendable. We have also achieved a Tuberculosis (TB) notification rate of less than 300 or around 300 per 100 000 population and that also is something that we can boast about.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification; on 0.01 please Honourable Member.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Salakae, do not do that.

DR MADIGELE: Mr Speaker, we also have challenges especially with HIV/AIDS pandemic. We are not out of the woods yet because currently we have about 10 000 new infections of HIV every year. That is a very large number that means that we should actually not rest in our laurels and make sure that we push the HIV/AIDS agenda, we push the primary prevention of Public Health Education. We push Public Health Promotion. We also push the secondary preventative methods, the curative methods. We also come up with tangible measures to make sure that we achieve rehabilitation victims.

MR SALAKAE: On a point of procedure. Mr Speaker, I need your guidance. The Assistant Minister of Health is on the floor addressing serious health issues. There are figures in his address that needs clarification so that we understand them. He is not yielding. What should we do now because the figures stated by the Assistant Minister of Health affect the people we are representing here in Parliament?

MR SPEAKER: That is not a procedure Honourable Member. Order! Order! Why were you asking me if you do not want me to respond? Honourable Nkaigwa, please behave. I will throw you out, I am talking to you and you start gesturing. What is wrong with you that you have to be admonished like a primary school pupil?

Honourable Salakae, Standing Order 53.1 is the one you use when you interrupt with a clarification or correction or what. I always encourage you to give each other a chance to ask questions during the debate to make your debate lively and no one will be bored just as you hear Honourable Nkaigwa saying what he is saying. This will engage you all in the debate and you will understand what you are talking about. I am encouraging you from both sides.

DR MADIGELE: Mr Speaker, let me ask Honourable Salakae to pardon me. I will give him a chance later, for now he should give me a chance.

MR MMOLOTSI: Clarification. No, the clarification that I seek from the Honourable Minister; in fact I am not so sure whether is clarification or elucidation, but you know the Honourable Minister is using so many acronyms, and you know these acronyms, because they come from medical field, we may not understand what they stand for, and therefore we plead with him to say things in full. Thank you very much.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Madigele, they are saying you are using a lot of terminologies.

DR MADIGELE: I thank you Mr Speaker. I heard Honourable Mmolotsi's advice.

We have a situation Mr Speaker, which I think also we should not shy away especially when it comes to HIV/AIDS scourge. There are increasing reports and there is a growing trend Mr Speaker of some married men who during the day they lead that normal blissful marriage life but at night they engage in same sex copulation. This Mr Speaker has emerged from the studies that have been done by several Non-Governmental Organisations. It is proving to be one of the battles when it comes to fighting HIV/AIDS scourge. I think we also need to take into account going forward when we form policy frameworks to also include the female sex workers because although there are the wilds oldest noble profession Mr Speaker, I know some men really like Female Sex Workers (FSW). I think going forward Mr Speaker, these are the very important groups of people that we need to...

MR SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Members, at this time I will suspend proceeding for 20 minutes. Honourable Members, I ask that you should be here by 16:20 p.m

PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED FOR 20 MINUTES

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Kwerepe, please call them in. Order! Order Honourable Members, I regret having given you a break in good faith. I did not think that those who have gone will go. As they are not in, it means I should descend from my seat as we knock off. May God keep you. I will see you tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly adjourned at 16:36 p.m. until Thursday 26th November, 2015 at 2:00 p.m

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