



# HANSARD

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## DAILY HANSARD (PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES)

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF  
THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

HANSARD NO. 181  
MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2015

### DISCLAIMER

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



ENGLISH VERSION

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER**  
**The Hon. Gladys K. T. Kokorwe MP.**  
**DEPUTY SPEAKER**  
**The Hon. Kagiso P. Molatlhegi, MP Gaborone South**

Clerk of the National Assembly	- Ms B. N. Dithapo
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly	- Dr R.D. Dingalo
Ag. Learned Parliamentary Counsel	- Mr S. Chikanda
Senior Assistant Clerk	- Mr M. D. N. Gadibolae
Assistant Clerk (E)	- Mr R. Josiah

**CABINET**

His Excellency Lt. Gen. Dr. S. K. I. Khama PH, FOM, DCO, DSM, MP.	- President
His Honour M. E. K. Masisi, MP. (Moshupa-Manyana)	- Vice President
Hon. P. Venson-Moitoi, MP. (Serowe South)	- Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Hon. S. Tsogwane, MP. (Boteti North)	- Minister of Local Government and Rural Development
Hon. N. E. Molefhi, MP. (Selebi Phikwe East)	- Minister of Infrastructure, Science and Technology
Hon. S. Kgathi, MP. (Bobirwa)	- Minister of Defence, Justice and Security
Hon. O. K. Mokaila, MP. (Specially Elected)	- Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources
Hon. P. M. Maele, MP. (Lerala - Maunatlala)	- Minister of Lands and Housing
Hon. E. J. Batshu, MP. (Nkange)	- Minister of Labour and Home Affairs
Hon. D. K. Makgato, MP. (Sefhare - Ramokgonami)	- Minister of Health
Hon. T. S. Khama, MP. (Serowe West)	- Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism
Hon. V. T. Seretse, MP. (Mmopane - Lentsweletau)	- Minister of Trade and Industry
Hon. O. K. Matambo, MP. (Specially Elected)	- Minister of Finance and Development Planning
Hon. T. Mabeo, MP. (Thamaga - Kumakwane)	- Minister of Transport and Communications
Hon. T. Olopeng, MP. (Tonota)	- Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture
Hon. E. M. Molale (Specially Elected)	- Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration
Hon. Dr. U. Dow, MP. (Specially Elected)	- Minister of Education and Skills Development
Hon. P. P. Ralotsia, MP. (Kanye North)	- Minister of Agriculture
Hon. D. P. Makgalemele, MP (Shoshong)	- Assistant Minister, Presidential Affairs and Public Administration
Hon. K. K. Autlwetse, MP (Serowe North)	- Assistant Minister, Agriculture
Hon. B. M. Tshireletso, MP. (Mahalapye East)	- Assistant Minister, Local Government and Rural Development
Hon. F. S. Van Der Westerhuizen, MP. (Kgalagadi South)	- Assistant Minister, Local Government and Rural Development
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
Hon. Dr. A. Madigele, MP. (Mmathethe - Molapowabojang)	- Assistant Minister, Health
Hon. Sadique Kebonang, MP. (Lobatse)	- Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES

<b>Names</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
<b>RULING PARTY (Botswana Democratic Party)</b>	
Hon. S. M. Guma, MP	Tati East
Hon. C. De Graaff, MP	Ghanzi South
Hon. L. Kablay, MP	Letlhakeng - Lephephe
Hon. M. N. Ngaka, MP	Takatokwane
Hon. T. Kwerepe, MP	Ngami
Hon. S. Lelatisitswe, MP	Boteti East
Hon. J. Molefe, MP	Mahalapye West
Hon. K. Markus, MP	Maun East
Hon. K. Mzwini, MP	Mmadinare
Hon. P. Majaga, MP	Nata-Gweta
Hon. M. I. Moswaane, MP	Francistown West
Hon. B. H. Billy, MP	Francistown East
Hon. M. R. Shamukuni, MP	Chobe
Hon. B. G. Butale, MP	Tati West
Hon. I. E. Moipisi, MP	Kgalagadi North

### OPPOSITION

#### (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
Hon. A. S. Kesupile, MP	Kanye South
Hon. N. Salakae, MP	Ghanzi North
Hon. Maj. Gen. P. Mokgware, MP	Gabane-Mmankodi
Hon. Dr. T. O. M. Mmatli, MP	Molepolole South
Hon. S. Ntlhaile, MP	Jwaneng -Mabutsane
Hon. M. I. Khan, MP	Molepolole North
Hon. H. G. Nkaigwa, MP	Gaborone North
Hon. I. J. Davids, MP	Mochudi East
Hon. S. M. Bathobakae, MP	Tlokweng
Hon. N. N. Gaolathe, MP	Gaborone Bonnington South
Hon. S. Kgoroba, MP	Mogoditshane
Hon. Dr P. Butale, MP	Gaborone Central
Hon Kgosi Lotlamoreng II	Goodhope - Mabule

#### (Botswana Congress Party)

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

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Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015

THE ASSEMBLY met at 2:00 p.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the CHAIR)

PRAYERS

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SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MADAM SPEAKER (MS KOKORWE):** Order! Honourable Members, we have students from Baipidi Primary School in Boteti West, you are welcome.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ... (Applause!)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

**EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES BY BOTSWANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE GOVERNMENT TO BID FOR HOSTING THE AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS IN FUTURE**

**MR D. L. KEORAPETSE (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST):** asked the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture if there are any efforts and initiatives by Botswana Football Association (BFA) and the Government to bid for hosting the Africa Cup of Nations in future, specifically in 2025; if so, to explain fully these initiatives and/or efforts.

**MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE (MR OLOPENG):** Good afternoon Madam Speaker, good afternoon Honourable Members.

Madam Speaker, the government and Botswana Football Association have intentions to bid for hosting of the Africa Cup of Nations in future. However, we have not set specific timeframes for the bid due to lack of financial resources to fund both the bidding and infrastructure required.

One of the key requirements for hosting the Africa Nations Cup is for the country to have a 40 000 seating capacity stadium, for the opening and closing ceremonies. Under the current economic climate, construction of such a facility presents a huge financial challenge to the Ministry.

The Ministry will however continue to review the economic situation and will consider bidding once conditions improve to enable construction of required sporting facilities. Thank you.

**ADHERENCE TO FAIR LABOUR PRACTICES BY MEDIA HOUSES**

**MR N. S. L. M. SALAKAE (GHANZI NORTH):** asked the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs:-

- (i) whether there are measures in place to ensure that media houses strictly adhere to fair labour practices with respect to the working conditions of journalists;
- (ii) how often labour inspectors visit media houses for this purpose;
- (iii) how many foreigners are employed by local media houses;
- (iv) whether vacancies are advertised when foreigners are recruited; and
- (v) what measures his Ministry undertakes to ensure that foreigners are not recruited when the same skills are available locally.

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MR BATSHU):** Madam Speaker, there are measures in place to ensure that media houses strictly adhere to fair labour practices in the form of routine labour inspections, spot checks, public education through exhibitions and media interaction.

My Ministry conducts sector specific labour inspections once a quarter in each year. During the financial year 2015/2016, inspections were conducted in the agriculture sector, retail sector and tourism sector with labour inspection in the mining sector planned for the fourth quarter which is January to March 2016. However, during 2015 one Media House was inspected in response to a request by employees.

There are 12 foreigners employed by local Media Houses. Out of which seven are at Dikgang Publishing, one at the Patriot, one at the Botswana Gazette, one at the Sunday Standard and two at the Weekend Post. Mr Speaker, all vacancies are advertised. It might be noted that advertisement is a prerequisite for all work permits applications.

Lastly issuance of work and residence permits to non-citizens is depended upon proof by prospective employers that attempts were made to get locals. These attempts include advertising vacancies in the media and checking availability of suitable skills locally through the Labour Office. A Point Based System is at the end used to assess the eligibility of applicants. Thank you Madam Speaker.

**MR SALAKAE:** Supplementary. Thank you Madam Speaker. Honourable Minister, I have been listening to you attentively. With respect to competencies, do you not think the reason why a lot of Media Houses look across the horizon to get skills externally is because maybe some of our journalists lack the requisite

competencies to undertake the daily works they are required to undertake in their Media Houses?

If that is the case, do you not think it is important that you collaborate with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development to ensure that these kids are retooled to match the requirement of roles?

**MR BATSHU:** Thank you Madam Speaker and thank you Honourable Member of Parliament. My wish as Minister of Labour and Home Affairs is that all posts that are available in this country should go to Batswana and for us to be able to realise that, it means Batswana should capacitate themselves in order to grab these opportunities.

It could be important for us as the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development to do something. There are learning institutions both internally and outside the country where Batswana who wish to take up this position could attend even without having to wait for the Ministry or government to do something for them. That is the right thing to do. Batswana should be encouraged to grab these opportunities by making sure that they capacitate themselves competency wise for them to localise these posts.

**MR KEORAPETSE:** Supplementary. Thank you Madam Speaker, thank you Honourable Minister. Which divisions or areas whether sales distribution, editorial, production or marketing, have many foreigners working in them?

Second quick one is, just to find out if there are any scarce skills in these Media Houses that are not available locally? This is because it is not convincing that in this day and age we do not have Batswana who can work in news rooms.

**MR BATSHU:** At the Sunday Standard, there is one graphic designer, the Patriot a General Manager who is not necessarily a scarce skill as far as I am concerned. Botswana Gazette there is an Accountant of course there is a scarce skill there. We still lack skills in the area of accountancy. Weekend Post; we have a Business Editor and an Advertising Executive. At Dikgang Publishing; a Business Editor, a Features Editor and two Machine Binders and the Plant Foreman.

To be honest with you from our analysis or the skills that we have in this country, it is only the area of Graphics and accountancy that we have information as to their scarcity. Thank you.

**ATTENDANCE OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT**

**MR D. L. KEORAPETSE (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST):** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to state the number of:-

- (i) meetings, summits of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union, Southern African Development Community, United Nations and other international bodies of which Botswana is a member have taken place since April 2008;
- (ii) these meetings that were attended by His Excellency the President; and
- (iii) those he did not attend and the reasons for non-attendance.

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MS VENSON-MOITOI):** Thank you Madam Speaker. Allow me before I respond to the question to give a general background of how Botswana is represented at international meetings and Summits because there is an established practice and norms regarding the attendance of these high level meetings.

Generally summits are attended by representation and the highest level of representation is either the Head of State, if the Head of State is not present, he is represented by the Vice President or Prime Minister, or a duly delegated full Minister. In the case of Botswana usually it is the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Those are the top three people who have lead delegations of Botswana to Summits.

In some cases, we have Ambassadors/Envoys accredited to that Organisation or resident in the country hosting the meeting, representing their Government. But as much as possible, Botswana has always been represented at the highest level possible. In such instances, the rules of procedure of that Organisation will stipulate how the Envoys may participate.

Let me categorically state that Botswana remains an active member of the international community, and whenever she participates in these meetings, she has been represented at the appropriate level and her rights and interests have been duly articulated and safeguarded.

I needed to do this because I was anticipating that there was a reason, the Honourable Member would not have been asking just to while away time, he must have asked for a reason.

Madam Speaker, turning now to the Honourable Member's question, I wish to indicate that:

- (i) Since 2008 the following High Level/Summit Meetings of the various organisations to which

Botswana is a Member have been held:

- Southern African Development Community SADC – about sixteen (16) meetings
- Southern African Customs Union ( 2012 and 2015) - Two (2) meetings
- African Union Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government Meeting (bi-annual, January and June) – Sixteen (16) meetings
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM – held once every two years) – Four (4) meetings
- General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly UNGA (annual) – Eight (8) meetings
- Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) of States Summit – Two (2)
- Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) of States and the European Union (EU) Summits – Two (2) meetings

(II) The following are the meetings personally attended by His Excellency the President and some hosted by Botswana.

- SADC – nine out of sixteen (9/16)
- SACU – all two meetings. Botswana hosted the inaugural Session
- African Union – none
- United Nations General Assembly – none
- Commonwealth Heads of State and Government – two out of four (2/4)
- ACP-EU- none

Other Meetings attended by His Excellency the President included:

- The 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris, France on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) Summit which was held in Yokohama, Japan on 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of State Parties of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the United Nations Headquarters in 2011 where he delivered the Keynote Address.

(III) Lastly Madam Speaker, I wish to state that it has not been possible for His Excellency the President to participate in all these international meetings because of other competing national priorities or conflicting schedules. As I have already stated, where His Excellency the President has not been able to attend these meetings personally, but even when that has happened, Botswana has been appropriately represented either by His Honour the Vice President or by myself, duly delegated to do so . I thank you.

**MR ARONE:** Supplementary. Thank you Honourable Minister, just a quick one. We do sometimes hear that certain decisions are taken, more especially at Heads of States meetings, in a case where someone has been delegated, how far do they go, are they able to take a decision on behalf of the Statesman or what happens?

**MS VENSON-MOITOI:** Generally, for most meetings, you are sent a draft resolution in advance and yes, the Cabinet of Botswana will have met, discussed the resolution and taken a position on how Botswana should vote. And the attending representative will have been given a Botswana position on how Botswana should vote.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Further supplementary. Thank you very much Madam Speaker, thank you very much Honourable Minister I appreciate your explanation. But do you mind sharing with us where the Head of State has been specifically invited, what happens if he is not available? Can you just confirm to this House that since His Excellency, General Khama took over as the President of this country, he has never attended a United Nations (UN) General Assembly and an African Union (AU) meeting?

**MS VENSON-MOITOI:** I missed the final part of that answer.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** If His Excellency has never attended any African Union meeting or of Heads of State?

**MS VENSON-MOITOI:** I did not hide it in my answer that the Head of State has not attended any UN meeting but he was duly represented, either by the Vice President or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Resolutions to be taken, positions for voting had been decided here in his presence before such meetings were attended.

**MR SALAKAE:** Further supplementary. Thank you Madam Speaker. Honourable Minister, I take it that the African Union and the UN meetings are highest organs that chart the democratic path and political discourse of this continent and the world. Are you in a position

to share with this August House where normally the President is whenever these two important meetings are sitting? Are you in a position to do that because I thought there will not be any other more important engagement than these two engagements?

**MS VENSON-MOITOI:** I am not in a position to do that, just as I am not in any position to do that because you never have a hundred percent attendance of Heads of State at the AU.

#### SUPPLY OF STANDBY GENERATORS TO TAKATOKWANE CLINIC

**MR N. M. NGAKA (TAKATOKWANE):** Asked the Minister of Health when Takatokwane Clinic will be supplied with a standby generator since it is a 24 hour clinic.

**MR KABLAY:** I will take his questions Madam Speaker.

#### AMOUNT SPENT BY GOVERNMENT ON ADVERTISING IN EACH PRIVATE LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/2015

**MR N. S. L. M. SALAKAE (GHANZI NORTH):** Asked the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration to state:-

- (i) the amount spent by Government on advertising in each private local newspaper for the Financial Year 2014/2015;
- (ii) the criteria used to select newspapers for advertising by Government;
- (iii) whether there are any newspapers that are blacklisted from advertising by Government; if so,
- (iv) which are these newspapers; he should further state the reasons for denying them business through advertising by Government.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE):** Good afternoon Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, during the 2014/15 Financial year, Government spent a total of P4 388 698.00 on advertising in private local newspapers. The amounts spent by government on advertising in each of the private local newspaper, during the period are as follows;

NEWSPAPER	AMOUNT IN PULA
Mmegi	P926 861.00
The Voice	P724 899.00
Botswana Gazette	P635 740.00
B o t s w a n a Guardian	P574 672.00
Echo	P427 298.00
Weekend Post	P366 578.00
Midweek Sun	P281 160.00
Global Post	P222 948.00
Business Weekly	P184 264.00
Ngami Times	P131 233.00
The Patriot	P122 150.00
The Telegraph	P101 215.00
Monday Times	P98 306.00
Monitor	P59 628.00
The Advertiser	P40 120.00
Tswana Times	P20 386.00
Okavango News	P35 250.00
Sunday Standard	P10 662.00

Madam Speaker, the criteria used to select newspapers for advertising by Government has been determined by individual Ministries on case by case bases. It may however Madam Speaker be noted that all newspapers receiving Government advertising should have:-

- (a) Trading license
- (b) Tax clearance
- (c) PPADB registration.

Madam Speaker, Government is not blacklisting any newspaper and as such part four of the Honourable Member's question falls off. I thank you Madam Speaker.

**MR SALAKAE:** Supplementary. Thank you Honourable Speaker and thank you Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister are you not ashamed that the Government can just....

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

**MR SALAKAE:** Yes, is he not ashamed to state that you pay P10, 000.00 in order for you to advertise on the Sunday Standard paper and yet state that you have not blacklisted it?

**MR MAKGALEMELE:** Certainly, Madam Speaker I am not ashamed. As I noted there are certain requirements that should be in place before we can

advertise in a private newspaper. I thank you Madam Speaker.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Supplementary. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Honourable Minister, are there any problems between government and Sunday Standard?

**MR MAKGALEMELE:** There are no problems Madam Speaker.

#### NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS OPERATING BUSINESS IN BOTSWANA

**MR D. L. KEORAPETSE (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST):** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry to state:-

- (i) the number of foreigners operating businesses in Botswana and the sectors they are involved in;
- (ii) if there are foreigners who operate businesses reserved for Botswana; if so, to state their number and the business sectors they are involved in; and
- (iii) the reasons for such state of affairs.

**MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MR V. T. SERETSE):** Thank you Madam Speaker.

- (i) Madam Speaker, under the Industrial Licensing Act, there are about 190 companies operating in Botswana with foreign ownership of which 105 are 100 per cent foreign owned whilst 85 are joint ventures with citizens. These companies are involved in various sectors such as aluminium, assembly of motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, bicycles and other transport machinery, printing and publishing, wood and wood products, textile and wearing apparel, bakery products, beverages, purified water, building materials, chemicals, dairy, electrical, food packaging, jewellery, metal, meat, grain milling, shoes/footwear, rubber, and paper products.
- (ii) Madam Speaker, reservation of enterprises is strictly for Botswana citizens at small scale levels. At medium scale and above, foreigners are allowed to have a joint venture partnership with the citizens expected to be the majority shareholder. Currently there are 23 companies that operate enterprises that have been reserved for citizens. The sectors they are involved in include building materials, brick moulding, food packaging, shoes/footwear, and purified water and bakery products.
- (iii) Madam Speaker, reservation came with the revised Industrial Development Act of 2006 and by then

some foreigners were already engaged in those activities therefore could not be affected. Some are joint ventures with citizens being majority shareholders. Therefore, such companies have been legally allowed to venture into the reserved activities at a medium to large scale so that citizens can benefit from the foreign expertise.

- (iv) Madam Speaker, there are one thousand three hundred and twenty (1320) foreign owned businesses operating in Botswana under the Trade Act 2003 and Liquor Act 2003. Madam speaker, there are foreigners who operate two hundred and seventy-five (275) businesses reserved for Botswana. The reserved businesses are licensed under the Trade Act 2003 and Liquor Act 2003. Madam Speaker, the reservation of some business activities is strictly for Botswana citizens or companies wholly owned by Botswana Citizens. However, some businesses were licenced before the commencement of the aforementioned legislations and therefore, were protected. Furthermore, some of these businesses are allowed to have a joint venture partnership with the citizens and the citizens are expected to be the majority shareholders (51 percent citizen and 49 per cent non-citizen). In addition, some of these businesses have been exempted to hold these reserved activities by the Honourable Minister after due diligence as provided for in the legislations.

I thank you Madam Speaker.

**MR KEORAPETSE:** Supplementary. Honourable Minister, even though this is not part of the question, but are you in a position to tell us the country of origins of majority of foreigners operating businesses reserved for Botswana?

**MR V. T. SERETSE:** I wish this question was raised because I would have provided that. So it would not be prudent for me to try to guess the origins of these companies, but it might reflect what you see as a Botswana around people here, probably it reflects that.

#### STAFF HOUSES FOR THE DOCTOR AT SEFHOPHE CLINIC

**MR K. MZWINILA (MMADINARE):** asked the Minister of Health if she is aware that there is no staff housing for the Doctor at Sefhophe Clinic; if so, what plans are in place to provide adequate staff accommodation for the clinic.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR MADIGELE):** Madam Speaker, It is true there is shortage of accommodation in Sefhophe. However,

we have identified a house and we are in the process of assessing it so that it can accommodate the Doctor.

I thank you Madam Speaker.

**LACK OF TELEPHONES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATORS IN THE MMADINARE EXTENSION AREA.**

**MR K. MZWINILA (MMADINARE):** asked the Minister of Agriculture if he is aware that the Agricultural Demonstrators in the Mmadinare Extension Areas do not have telephones in

their offices; if so, what is being done to ensure that farmers can communicate with the Officers.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR AUTLWETSE):** Madam Speaker, I am aware of lack of telephones in the Agricultural Demonstrators Offices in the Mmadinare Extension Areas. To address this challenge, the Ministry has a Call Centre where farmers use a Toll Free number (17755) to seek assistance on any agricultural issue.

In addition, my Ministry has made arrangement to purchase airtime for Extension Workers.

I thank you.

**MR ARONE:** Supplementary. Honourable Minister, you are saying you are aware, what was difficult to tell this house that it is not only Mmadinare which is affected, because you are aware that it is the whole country, those people are not provided with telephone facilities.

**MRAUTLWETSE:** Madam Speaker, I responded to the question because it was specifically about Mmadinare. If the Honourable Member had asked about other areas, I would have responded accordingly. In any case, the situation is similar across. Not all Ministry of agriculture offices are connected with telephones lines and this is due to financial constraints. Like I have already stated, this problem does not only affect Mmadinare, it is all over. I thank you Madam Speaker.

**PLANS TO BUILD A TANNERY PLANT AT GHANZI TOWNSHIP**

**MR N. S. L. M. SALAKAE (GHANZI NORTH):** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:-

- (i) whether plans to build a tannery plant at Ghanzi Township are still underway; if so, has a plot been identified and secured; and
- (ii) how much is the cost for the project.

**MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MR V. T. SERETSE):**

- (i) Madam Speaker, I am not aware of any plans to build a tannery plant at Ghanzi Township. Hence, no plot has been identified for the purpose.
- (ii) Since there is no project in the pipeline to build a tannery in Ghanzi Township, it is not necessary to come up with any cost estimates.

I thank you Madam Speaker.

**MR SALAKAE:** Supplementary. Thank you Madam Speaker and thank you Minister. Honourable Minister, as a Minister responsible for trade issues in Botswana, what projects or industrial business do you have packaged for the Ghanzi constituency or region?

**MR SERETSE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I think it is quite a relevant question that he is raising and had he raised it, I would have tried to get information from respective ministries to assist me with what they are doing in Ghanzi.

**PLANS TO DECLARE BOTSWANA A CHRISTIAN NATION**

**MR H. G. NKAIGWA (GABORONE NORTH):** asked the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs:-

- (i) if there are any plans to declare Botswana a Christian Nation; if not,
- (ii) to state the reasons since Christianity is the main religion;
- (iii) what role is given to spiritual leaders in Government; and
- (iv) whether there are any plans to have the churches play a role in Parliament proceedings by giving words of encouragement and opening prayers in each and every Parliamentary Session.

**MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MR BATSHU):** Madam Speaker,

- (i) There are neither plans nor any intentions to declare Botswana a Christian Nation.
- (ii) The reason being that our Republican Constitution protects freedom of conscience under Section 11 where it has been provided that;

**“11. PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE**

- (1) Except with his or her own consent, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his or her

freedom of conscience, and for the purposes of this section the said freedom includes freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change his or her religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others, and both in public and in private, to manifest and propagate his or her religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance.”

Madam Speaker, from the reading of the above Constitutional provision, it becomes succinctly clear that Botswana does not have a state sponsored religion and, therefore officially neutral when it comes to matters of religion, but as a nation we are currently deeply influenced by Christian values.

- (iii) The Government of Botswana engages with all religious leaders of the various denominations and beliefs under the auspices of the interfaith forum. This forum has been utilised by Government every time the nation engages in some activities of national importance such as praying for rain, dealing with the scourge of HIV/AIDS or where as a nation we seem to have lost sight of our moral campus.
- (iv) As to whether there are any plans to have churches play a role in Parliament proceedings, the answer is provided for by Section 76 of the Constitution where at 76(1) it is provided that; “subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the National Assembly may regulate its own procedure.”

This provision makes it very clear that this august House is at liberty to regulate its own procedures and this spirit is reflected in the current Standing Orders. I thank you Madam Speaker.

**MR NKAIGWA:** Supplementary. Thank you Madam Speaker. Thank you Honourable Minister for your answer. Honourable Minister, are you saying that as a nation we are officially neutral. I seem not to believe that statement. Why is it that Botswana being regarded as officially neutral, we do have some paid Christian holidays like the Easter, Good Friday and Christmas which does appear in our national calendar and why is that even at primary and secondary schools Christianity is the main form of religion?

**MR BATSHU:** Honourable Member, you asked the question I provided in the answer. You are saying you do not seem to believe it, it is up to you. Thank you.

**MR KEORAPETSE:** Procedure. Madam Speaker, I do not think the Honourable Minister is in order because in the answer he has read, he says Botswana is neutral, it is a circular state, now what Honourable Nkaigwa is

saying is that he does not agree with that answer because even in Parliament here, we use a Christian prayer yet we have Muslims inside this very House. In schools there are no Islamic prayers, rather Christian prayers are prayed. So what he was saying is that the Honourable Minister is out of order because his answer does not tally with what he is saying.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Honourable Minister, can you respond.

**MR BATSHU:** Madam Speaker, I would rather go back to the question because I thought I did my best to respond to your question...

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

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Hey!

**MR BATSHU:** If he chooses not to believe it, it is not my problem, that is what I am saying.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister, go back to ...interruptions...

**MR BATSHU:** As I said this country is a circular state...

**MR KEORAPETSE:** Point of order. Madam Speaker, we all know what a circular state is, the United States (US) is a good example...

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

**MR KEORAPETSE:** Yes, it is a good example because in their public schools you can never have a prayer of a certain religion and discriminate other religions.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Point of order.

**MR KEORAPETSE:** No! I rose on a point of order. Factually when you say it is a circular state you mean that it is neutral but you all know that it is not neutral, we just had a Christian prayer but there are Muslims inside this very House. So, the Minister is out of order in saying that we are a circular state.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Supplementary.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order! Order!

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

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Let us listen Honourable Members. Honourable Minister, I do not have an answer, help me to respond and please allow him to respond.

**MINISTER OF HEALTH (MS MAKGATO):** Point of order. Thank you Honourable Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am lost, I do not get the point where the House is out of order. That is what I am waiting for, what is it that has determined what Honourable Batshu

said to be out of order in this House, there is nothing. He is expressing an opinion that is differing with the Minister's; that is not a point of order, so I do not see a point of order.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, they are saying we pray a Christian prayer, and that everything is done the Christian way. Maybe the Minister can explain why that is so.

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

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Please allow him to do that.

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

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Procedure.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Please allow the Minister to do that. How come you are now involved in it?

**MR BATSHU:** Madam Speaker, first I want to respond to that reference by the Honourable Member to the United States of America, the Constitution I quoted here is for Botswana. If the Americans are using their constitution in the manner that he is quoting, it is up to the Americans. As far as we are concerned, we are a circular state. With reference to how we take an oath here, how we pray and what have you, I have said that is provided for in the constitution. This House can come up with its regulations. If you want to pray in whatever language as the House you will amend your Standing Orders, that is how things go. Thank you.

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY (MR KGATHI):** Procedure. Madam Speaker, the point of procedure I am rising on is to say the House is out of procedure when a member is rising on a 'point of order' when there is no sound of point of order, and then you then request the Minister to respond. Now reference has been made on rulings ...

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Kgathi we have concluded on that matter, please take your seat.

#### SUPPLY OF STANDBY GENERATORS TO TAKATOKWANE CLINIC

**MR N. M. NGAKA (TAKATOKWANE):** asked the Minister of Health when Takatokwane Clinic will be supplied with a standby generator since it is a 24 hour clinic.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR MADIGELE):** Madam Speaker, My Ministry has plans to procure generators for all the 24 hour Clinics including clinics with maternity. The generator for Takatokwane Clinic is planned for in the financial year 2016/2017. Thank you.

#### MISUNDERSTANDING AT MPHUTHE JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

**MR N. M. NGAKA (TAKATOKWANE):** asked the Minister of Education and Skills Development:- (i) if she is aware of the misunderstandings between the following at Mphuthe Junior Secondary School:-(a) Headmaster and Deputy;

(b) Headmaster and teaching staff;

(c) Headmaster and non-teaching staff; if so,

(ii) what action has been taken to address this; and

(iii) whether this does not contribute to the poor performance at the school.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (MR GOYA):** Madam Speaker,

i) we are quite aware of the misunderstanding at Mphuthe Junior Secondary school between:

a) Headmaster and his Deputy

b) Headmaster and the teaching staff and

c) Headmaster and the non-teaching staff.

(ii) Madam Speaker, to resolve these misunderstandings, my Ministry management has held several meetings with the Headmaster and his Deputy and later with the Headmaster and the general staff, both teaching and non-teaching staff. The last such meeting was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2015. Resolutions have been on how best the misunderstandings can be resolved, and these initiatives are currently being implemented.

(iii) Madam Speaker, certainly any rift between management and staff is highly undesirable and can only hinder the performance of a school. As such the implementation of the resolutions made is expected to yield some positive results with regard to the overall performance of the school. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Supplementary. Thank you Madam Speaker. Honourable Minister, although this seems like an issue which can be dealt with at ministerial level, and you decided to bring it here, what is the misunderstanding about because when you have brought it to this House, we just need to know?

**MR GOYA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. This question could have been more appropriate if it has been directed to the author of the question. But as a Ministry, when

we carried out the investigation, we have realised that there were some misunderstandings ranging in the way the Headmaster, the Deputy and the staff were relating to each other. So, this is what we are trying to address Madam Speaker. I thank you.

### QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

#### PRODUCTION RATES OF VEGETABLES AT TALANA FARM BEFORE AND AFTER THE 2012 FLOODS

**MR K. MZWINILA (MMADINARE):** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry to state:-

- (i) the production rates of vegetables at Talana Farms before and after the 2012 floods and whether there was any insurance claim after the said floods;
- (ii) Talana (Botalana) Farms contribution towards import-substitution to stop the importation of fruits and vegetables from South Africa;
- (iii) the shareholder compact between Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) and Talana Farms in terms of both human and financial resources as well as in the deployment of staff and the number of employees now retrenched; and
- (iv) when and how Talana Farm will be restored to a state of profitability to enable job creation, import substitution and the facilitation of raw material supply to the Selibe-Phikwe Agro-Processing plant.

**MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MR V. T. SERETSE):** Madam Speaker,

- (i) Since the floods, the utilisation of the farm has been ranging from 45 per cent to 60 per cent of the farm's productive area of just over 300 hectares (total farm area = circa 1800 hectares). Following the floods insurance paid out a total of P350, 000.
- (ii) Prior to the 2012 floods, Botalana Ventures were doing an average of 30 – 40 per cent of the local production of vegetables. Since then their contribution to import substitution has been negligible due not only to the floods but also poor mismanagement by the management of Botalana Ventures.
- (iii) Talana Farms is a 600 hectare farm owned 100 per cent by BDC. Talana Farms has entered into a lease agreement with Botalana Ventures to utilise the farm for production of agricultural produce. Botalana Ventures pays an annual rental to Talana Farms. Botalana Ventures is owned, controlled

and managed by Itiya Holdings who hold 67 per cent of the shares in the company with BDC holding a minority position of 33 per cent of the shares of the company. Botalana Ventures has an independent board with Itiya Holdings having majority and control of the board. All management of human and finance resources on Talana is under the purview of Botalana Ventures and not Talana Farms who are merely just the landlord and not the operator. All decisions to retrench are therefore those of the Board and management of Botalana Ventures.

- (iv) Botalana has over the last couple of years failed to pay all its creditors and meet its obligations including the rentals due to Talana farms. As a result of mismanagement and its failure to meet its obligations, Botalana has now been put into provisional liquidation. Due to the fact that the lease with Talana Farms is still in force, the operations of Botalana are now under the sole management of the Liquidator as appointed by the High Court. Until the liquidation of Botalana has been completed, and the lease is terminated, not much production can take place at the farm.
- (v) Notwithstanding the above, plans are underway behind the scenes to ensure that BDC has regained control of the farm, to ensure sustainable utilisation of the farm for commercial agricultural production to make its contribution towards import substitution, food security and job creation for the country. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

**MR MZWINILA:** Supplementary. Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister, how many employees were retrenched and when will the food production be achieved? Thank you.

**MR V. T. SERETSE:** Madam Speaker, as I clearly indicated that the company which was running the farm is under liquidation, when all the processes are complete, then we will engage and make sure that the farm comes under production.

With reference to the number of people who are retrenched; I am sorry I do not have the number here. Thank you.

### TABLING OF PAPERS

The following papers were tabled:

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 108 OF 2013: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ACT (DATE OF COMMENCEMENT) ORDER, 2013

(Minister of Education and Skills Development)

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 75 OF 2015:  
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE NTLO YA**

**DIKGOSI (AMENDMENT) RULES, 2015**

**Later date.**

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 109 OF 2013:  
BOTSWANA QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
ACT (DATE OF COMMENCEMENT) ORDER,  
2013.**

(Minister of Education and Skills Development)

**BOTSWANA NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY  
CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT, 2014-2015.**

(Minister for Presidential Affairs and  
Public Administration)

**Later Date.**

**BUSINESS MOTION**

**HIS HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT (MR MASISI):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move in terms of Standing Order 130.1 for the suspension of Standing Order 23.1. The reason for the suspension Madam Speaker is to compensate for the lost time of 3 hours and 40 minutes due to the tea breaks we have been taking. I move accordingly, Madam Speaker.

Question put and **agreed to.**

**RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S  
SPEECH**

**Motion**

**(Resumed Debate)**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order! Order! The debate on this motion is resuming. When the House adjourned on Thursday last week, Honourable Mokaila was on the floor and he was left with 4 minutes and 27 seconds.

**MINISTER OF MINERALS, ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES (MR MOKAILA):** Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me conclude by saying that I am happy that Honourable Moswaane is in the House, because when I debated the issue of water he was not privy to what I said. So maybe to recap because I want to also give an up-to-date feedback about the happenings in Gaborone, I might as well conclude by saying we continue to drill boreholes in BDF and Mogoditshane, and much as we are doing that, we are hitting blanks at the moment. Yesterday we were at 175 metres in the senior secondary school in Mogoditshane and we hit a blank. We hit a blank in BDF in the first hole but that

still does not discourage us. Yesterday we received the piece that we are going to modify the Mmamashia Water Works to allow us to transfer in the order of 20 million litres of water directly to the Gaborone Water Works which when completed, hopefully by Friday this week or Saturday, we will be able to improve the situation in Tlokweng, Mmopane, Mogoditshane, Gabane, Kumakwane. So what we are doing, hopefully over this weekend, you will see much improvement in terms of those areas. We have also come up with a new design for another modification which would probably take three months, which we are still exploring from a scientific point of view, in terms of the modification. It should also be able to allow us to simultaneously use water from Bokaa and the North-South Carrier optimally to allow us to pass probably another 40 million litres to Gaborone Water Works. So looking at what we are doing to tweak the infrastructure, we should be able to bring back to Gaborone some form of normality in probably another 4 months' time.

So Madam Speaker, I am still standing here and saying that despite the challenges, I am very confident that what we are doing is going to show results sooner rather than later. I know I have been talking about 18 months...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Clarification.

**MR MOKAILA:** I do not have time, we are left with one minute. I can say categorically that the situation will improve despite the challenges. Madam Speaker, with that I thought I will end with a positive note of saying, next week I will come back to the nation to give feedback as I always do, in terms of the improvements if at all there are. If there has been no improvement, I will also say that because that is my job and my intention is always to communicate with Batswana honestly and truthfully as ever, good or bad. I thank you Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Thank you. Order! Order! I should inform you that the Honourable Leader of the House will respond to the debate tomorrow at 1655hours.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (MR GOYA):** Let me thank you Madam Speaker for giving me the chance to comment on the President's State of the Nation Address. But Madam Speaker the Honourable Members who have had the opportunity to comment on the President's Speech, they made their presentations basing on three factors.

Firstly I would like to commend His Honour the President for his speech; secondly I would like to congratulate Honourable Molale for coming back to this Parliament. Thirdly I want to thank Honourable

Lotlaamoreng too for being voted to this Parliament.

If we keep repeating this it seems like we are copying each other. It is proper though for me to start by commending the President for his speech. I would like to talk about the Honorary Doctorate award that he was given in one University in South Korea. We should be honoured as a country because it puts us in the chats as well.

Eventhough some people were saying this award can be earned or given out, I believe that this one is both earned and given. I am saying this Madam Speaker because he really deserves it; he has done a lot for this country. I wanted to stress that point.

Madam Speaker, as I continue to thank him for his State of the Nation Address, I should state that as the leader of the country he informed us about all he needed to ...(interruption)... as the representatives we have been voted by people it is upon us to ensure how best to intensify the President's report because as the leaders of the country we know about its state. So it is upon us to ensure that we intensify the programmes the President did not mention in his report. Madam Speaker during such discussions the most important thing to do is although some of us criticize we should do so in a constructive manner not to criticize simply because our fellow comrades are. We should come up with constructive criticism which can take the country forward. That is what I think we should talk about as Members of Parliament.

Madam Speaker, I do not take the President's State of the Nation Address as a vision and roadmap, some people take this as the President's vision or road map but that is not the case. All he wants to do is to inform Batswana of what has been achieved in the journey of trying to develop the lives of Batswana and what we have not achieved Madam Speaker what are the reasons for not achieving and what do we intend to do in an attempt to achieve them.

**DR MMATLI:** On a point of clarification. Thank you Madam Speaker. I agree with Honourable Minister when he says we have to intensify the President's report. So, let me quickly mention this, does he mean like we have been doing this side when we indicated that it can be intensified only if it shows for instance how much money is in the ESP, the budget, how was that money sourced? Is that the intensification he is talking about?

**MR GOYA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, thank you my colleague. The reason I raised that issue earlier that it should be intensified in a constructive manner is because some of the things I heard, the other part of this House Madam Speaker were spoken in a political view

to try and convince Batswana who voted for us to seem as if we are quiet in this House. It was not constructive. You could only pick two or three constructive things.

As I now proceed with my report Madam Speaker, I would like to focus my attention on thanking Members of Parliament who exercised their right when Honourable Molale was elected in this House. I would like to praise them Madam Speaker.

I would like to say although Honourable Molale did not win the election of Goodhope-Mabule constituency, as the ruling government, as the ruling party we saw it fit to re-elect Honourable Molale into this Parliament. We did so through the procedure in place which this country is well known for if there is an election of Specially Elected Member.

I want to say for Honourable Molale to have shown interest or being re-elected in this House, he did not break any law Madam Speaker as much as he returned so often in this Parliament House. It is not like if he has interest the first time he was elected here and then had interest again of asking Batswana to elect him as the procedure to get back into the House and if that failed and we realised that we still need his skill and assistance in the country, we did not break any law to have re-elected him. I want to say we have created history, most of the historic events are common on this side, they are common in this ruling government. We are the ones who have been making history in this country. So, if some of you are surprised well then know that it is common for history to be created.

Let me proceed to say I would like to congratulate Kgosi Lotlaamoreng II, it is only right to congratulate him, Batswana of the Goodhope-Mabule constituency have voted him out of all the candidates so that he can be their representative in this House. One of the things which really saddened me Madam Speaker is that there was a meeting of the Secondary Teachers Union (BOSETU) at my constituency area of Palapye which I was invited to. I was so ashamed when one of the Union leaders talked to me in private and said "Goya if you keep forcing a person we do not want unto us we are going to keep doing that taking *letlhaku* (branch) to fill the gap" I said "Oh Sir! How can you talk about an Honourable Member like that?" I quickly reprimanded him and asked him to withdraw his words because he was wrong.

Batswana has voted for Kgosi Lotlaamoreng II because of his capability and as the best candidate to represent them. So to talk like that about him is not good more so that he was a candidate of those elections. I fully reprimanded him and told him that is not what I want to hear.

Madam Speaker, I will be perverting the interest of justice in this House if I could just stand and finish my debate without indicating my sorrow about the tragedy which has befallen this country about Matsha students who were recently involved in an accident.

**MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MR SERETSE):** Madam Speaker, is the word *lelhaku* parliamentary?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, in my view he was simply telling a story, he mentioned any names. So he was simply telling a story. If he could have told it at length, I could have stopped him

**MR KEORAPETSE:** On a point of order. Madam Speaker, if you allow it to pass, we also have a lot of stories which can tell here and say "we reprimanded". There is no how one should be allowed to speak like Honourable Goya because we can also speak like that and say "we reprimanded."

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Okay, I have reprimanded Honourable Goya to discontinue with that issue but are you saying it is a story you were told by someone.

**MR GOYA:** Madam Speaker, just like you reprimanded I also did the same when I heard those words. I fully reprimanded! And I think that person will never talk to me about such issues again because I fully reprimanded him!

**HIS HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT (MR MASISI):** On a point of procedure. Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me just remind this House Madam Speaker that it is not procedural to ask for a point of order when the Speaker had just spoken. It is when the House is out of order because you otherwise would imply that the Speaker who is out of order. It is a reminder of our procedure in this House. So, if you want to raise a point of procedure, you wait for the person debating to continue and then raise it. I would urge that your rulings be very firm and final so that they are not ambiguous to anyone Madam Speaker, so that we can proceed with the debate.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** On a point of procedure. Is the Honourable...

**MADAM SPEAKER:** No wait Honourable Boko. I have made a ruling on this matter and so I do not know who you are saying is out of order.

**MR BOKO:** On a point of procedure. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. The Honourable Leader of the House seems to imply that some of your rulings Madam Speaker are ambiguous, which is why he rises first to

speak on the matter that he chose to speak on. But also at the tail end of what you are saying, to then urge you to make unambiguous rulings suggesting that some of your rulings have been ambiguous. Would he care to indicate which ones were, so that we deal with that matter here and now?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members I had already made a ruling, so let us proceed.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (MR GOYA):** Thank you Madam Speaker. Regarding the Matsha students that I was talking about, I want to ask God...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Clarification.

**MR GOYA:** What are you clarifying when I have just started talking? You have been denying me those.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Allow me to clarify.

**MR GOYA:** I am not yielding. I ask God to comfort us after the tragedy that befell our country. Madam Speaker, it is sad to lose young children like Matsha students because we were still hoping that they will continue with their education but unfortunately they had an accident that took their lives. Madam Speaker, education is the backbone of our economy, the backbone of a person's economy, the wealth of an individual and the nation. It is very sad Madam Speaker to have lost those students because they are the ones who would maintain their parents in future. They are the future of our country; they are the ones who could pick up from where their parents left off because there is even a Setswana saying that goes, "*maoto a nong ke phofa*," meaning that they were the future of their parents. To have their lives cut short is very sad and the problem mainly is that we do not know much about life except for God, who made heaven and earth. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Ministries which took part during this tragedy, Health, the Police, the Ministry of Education and Skills Development and all those who took part.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** And myself.

**MR GOYA:** And the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development included Madam Speaker.

I also want to thank Batswana who have been helping in all ways they could. Let this spirit live on. A Setswana saying says, "*fifing go tshwaranwa ka dikobo*", meaning that people should support one another during difficult times. Let us continue with this spirit. Government alone could not have managed and that is why we thank Batswana for all the contributions they made.

Madam Speaker, I also want to indicate that according to our culture, a funeral is not something that should be talked about, it is respected, but I was shocked when the Leader of the Opposition stood here and indicated that government must make an offer to the bereaved families. I was shocked because that was even before we laid those children to rest. Firstly, I wondered if a person has a price tag.

I was really touched by the Leader of Opposition to have said that in an august House like this one Madam Speaker. It is a shame. It did not reflect well on us as Parliament and as Botswana to be saying that and neglecting our culture on what should happen during a time like that one.

I also want to condemn those who incited confusion amongst Botswana when we were supposed to be united and mourn our children. Madam Speaker, we may differ in our opinions but we should not shun our culture. During a funeral, peace should prevail and all other things should be discussed later and not to be saying all sorts of things before the bodies are even laid to rest like it happened recently Madam Speaker.

**MR KHAN:** On a point of clarification. Thank you Madam Speaker, thank you Honourable Goya. What I would like clarity on from you is, are you saying that the Honourable Leader of Opposition wrongly stated what he stated after the death of our children of Matsha? Furthermore, do you not find it irresponsible of the government in the death of these children?

**MR GOYA:** Madam Speaker, what I am saying is that we could not say all that we said before those children were even buried. We could have waited for them to be buried and the way people talked incited confusion amongst the people. It is not like I did not want people to say their views, but we could have waited until after the children have been buried.

Madam Speaker, I want to talk about national unity. I take it that our democracy has developed throughout the years and we should continue in that manner. Another way that I can determine that our democracy has grown is shown in this Parliament. I say this because the representatives of the people from the ruling and opposition parties are free to voice their opinions. According to me, that is freedom Madam Speaker and therefore it can be quite shocking when people state that there is no freedom in our country. You might then wonder if such people stay in the same country that we reside in. Everyone in this House is free to state their wishes regarding the welfare of the people they represent. That is how free we are in this House Madam Speaker.

We are so free in this House Madam Speaker even though you hear some implying that, the only words they only ever get a chance to utter are, "order" and "procedure." The reason why that happens is because whenever Members are expected to debate about the welfare of their people all they do is to keep interjecting by calling for points of order and procedure. Madam Speaker, we should ensure that we nurture this freedom because that is the democratic way of doing things. The other time we witnessed one Member refusing to leave the House when ordered by the Speaker and he ended up being carried outside. That is freedom Madam Speaker because he showed that he wanted to be carried out of the House. Madam Speaker in our wish to nurture this respect I suggest that funds permitting you could buy a stretcher such that whenever such incidents take place that individual Member can be placed on a stretcher and carried out.

Botswana is a country that enjoys the fruits of being a democratic country. A person can leave a prestigious position of Bogosi and choose politics and they are free to do so. Others can spend years having lost elections and when they feel that they are ready to get back to politics they stand for elections and people vote for them. That is the joy of democracy in our country and we should be grateful for that. Madam Speaker, it is disheartening that there are people who feel that there is no democracy in our country. It is painful that there are people with such a mentality when we can all see that it is there. It is seen by people in other countries who wish to come and reside here. Botswana should pay attention to all those who are trying to destroy the peace and tranquility in this country. If some of them would be at the rallies asking for their vote they should come out clearly and refuse. Madam Speaker we do not want to allow the opposition parties to ruin the legacy of this country. That is what I wish for.

**MR KHAN:** On a point of clarification. Thank you Madam Speaker. Honourable Goya, you have been debating well talking about democracy and you now ruined it towards the end. Allow me to advise you so that you can correct what you said. You are saying that Botswana should not vote for certain people and that means you are not giving them the freedom to choose as it is done in democratic countries. Why do you not advise Botswana to choose valuable representatives for this country.

**MR GOYA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, thank you Honourable Member. This is the beauty of our language. You are reiterating what I have been saying; it is just that you are saying it in another way. I would like to encourage Botswana to ignore petty talk because sometimes if one just sits quietly in the House and

listens to people debate, you can hear that people do not talk about the welfare of their constituents. I would like to appeal to Batswana that, when we go back to ask for their votes they should look into what transpired in the five years so that they can use their vote wisely and choose people who can represent them well. Madam Speaker, sometimes I get surprised by the things we say. I heard someone addressing a rally at the bus rank imploring Batswana to vote for them in 2019 because they are going to come up with solutions for the water and electricity crisis. That clearly showed me that people are taking advantage of Batswana who are unable to pay attention to a lot of things or even who do not receive the different government messages. The Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water resource has long informed the nation of the programme by the government to address water issues. In addition to that by 2019 we would have resolved the issue and so I do not know why people want to trick Batswana into voting for them that way. They will not vote for you because we would have resolved the water situation by 2019.

**MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MR SERETSE):** On a point of clarification. Thank you Honourable Member for giving me the opportunity. Is it true that some people have been instructed to keep harping about the year 2019 so that Batswana might think it is an arrangement that things get to be that way in 2019?

**MR GOYA:** I heard those rumors Madam Speaker but the fact is that, Batswana know us. If people think that they are the only ones who can convince Batswana, they should know that even we can talk to Batswana and they listen to us. People talk about coming with a solution for the water and electricity problems; one can only ask them when they have ever done that. Batswana know our capabilities and they know that if we promise them something we take them through each process. Batswana trust us and we shall continue assuring them by delivering on what we promised. I liked the words by the President when he encouraged national unity so that we can focus on the challenges that we have in our country. I would like to quote some of what he said through your permission Madam Speaker. Paragraph 4 states, “we can either become more productive by working together to reach our goals or we can allow individual desires and potentially debilitating divisions to rob us of further progress. As a nation, we can only achieve our full potential if our individual interests remain subordinate to the national interest.

Our greatest strength over the past five decades has been our capacity to find common ground in our planning’, these are the words of a Leader of the country addressing the nation and advising them not to put their interests

first. They should rather put the country first. We thank the Leader that we have today; the President. Since 2008 when the world started experiencing economic downturn, and other countries took the decision to retrench and cut the salaries of workers, he took the initiative to follow the Setswana saying that, ‘go kgaoganwa tlhogwana ya ntsi’ which means sharing the little that we have. He continued to say, the workers should continue getting the little they have been earning without retrenching anyone. That is one thing we need to commend our President on as politicians.

Honourable Members, the challenges that our country is faced with are bigger than our politics and our parties. That is why I want to say that, though there are some parties planning on forming a coalition, the challenges of this country are bigger than that. What is important is that, we should come up with different ways of trying to solve together the challenges we have and not where we criticise as if we are campaigning. The whole criticism is not based on trying to come up with a solution that tries to aid the country in moving forward.

Madam Speaker, I want to say that we are doing something as a country, as we speak, we spent weeks without buying electricity outside the country. Our units like Morupule B were the ones supplying the whole country. That is why we need to commend this government, as well as Minister Mokaila and his staff on the huge job they are doing, of trying to improve the electricity situation in our country. It now seems as if the Opposition parties are the ones praising the problems. They are the ones uttering the words they mentioned in Sefhare-Ramokgonami Constituency when they said, ‘chibi che a kekela’, it is like they want the problems in this country to worsen so that they can use them as a campaign strategy to get votes from Batswana in 2019. That is what they are doing. Madam Speaker we cannot allow narrow sectional interest to cloud our judgement of issues and undermine our national unit. It is something that we need to say.

Madam Speaker, I want to talk about the education of our country. When we as a government realised that the quality of our education was going down, we went country wide and outside the country to get experts in education who can be able to tell us how we can address the challenges of education in our country. They then recommended that we should come up with a good education system from the foundation up to tertiary level. In all these things they were looking at things such as access, equity, quality, relevance and lifelong learning. These are the things they are talking about Madam Speaker which forced us to come up with a plan called Education and Training Sectors Strategic Plan (ETSSP). This programme is the road map we will be following

for the next five years, we should try by all means to make sure that we improve the education system. We have already done part of it; what we call Target 20 000, where we say, our children who did not perform well at form three or form five should go back to school to do practical courses that will be able to sustain them. The aim is to have this programme spread country wide. We do not wish to have children leaving their homes to go to school in Gaborone or Francistown. Our aim is that, institutions which are Botswana Training Authority (BOTA) accredited, all over Botswana should contact us so that they may enrol our children who are in those areas. These children will be trained so that they may be able to sustain themselves thus improve their lives Madam Speaker.

We normally talk about the numerous programmes which we have that are aimed at improving the lives of Batswana, one such is Poverty Eradication. Some initiatives under Poverty Eradication are under criticism, yet those are our efforts of trying to improve the lives of Batswana. We have many youth programmes. However, it is for a purpose that we have so many programmes addressing the many challenges that the youth are facing. We can address them by coming up with initiatives that can improve the youth in the country. Sometimes when we talk about this Poverty Eradication Madam Speaker, you find that Members here forget that, they are products of Poverty Eradication. The government educated you to alleviate you from the poverty that you were in. What did you think it was educating you for? Some of you we know your life stories, we know that you grew up under abject poverty. We have educated Batswana, we have educated our children. Our children sustain themselves through education; it is part of Poverty Eradication to educate the children of this country Madam Speaker. It is very embarrassing that today people criticise the Poverty Eradication programmes. When you find someone crying of thirst and you give that person water and instant powder drink, people feel that is not right. Then somebody goes out and says people are bought with instant powder drinks, hey! We are addressing the challenges that people are faced with of thirst and hunger. Right now you will realise that, when a person has problems they cry in front of people, and someone who is supposed to offer assistance to that person comes with a tissue and says 'here wipe your tears'. Now when we see someone hungry and we give that person that powdered drink and bread, we are said to be buying elections. Now the one who cried in front of people and they offered him a tissue, cannot offer assistance. We should be careful when we talk about these things.

Honourable Members, we will continue to talk about the challenges of Batswana and help them with their

needs as the ruling government. We will only stop when Batswana come to us and tell us that they no longer want instant powder drink. If they still receive it, we will give it to them, they will drink it because they want it and they like it.

Madam Speaker I want to continue by talking about the programme of Economic Stimulus Package (ESP). People are criticising the ESP programme which tries to revive our economy. Now one wonders whether some people are not aware that, when the economy of the country is not stable, one has to come to a point where they have to find ways of stimulating it, and we have come up with this ESP programme to do just that. We are going to revive it, whether someone likes it or not. If some think we are going to despair, we are not. Just continue crying in front of people like you are doing, saying that they should wipe away your tears yet you do not want to help them with things that can improve their lives. We will continue giving the people instant powdered drink.

Madam Speaker, I wish to engage this Honourable House about my area, Palapye. It is quite unfortunate that the Minister of Transport and Communication is absent. I wanted to talk about the ESP programme in connection with how he can improve the road that passes through Palapye village. When people pass through Palapye going north, they spend about 30 to 45 minutes on traffic especially in the evenings because there is just too much congestion. I wish to submit my request that, he should plan for a dual carriage way on that road to ease the traffic congestion,

Another aspect Madam Speaker is that, when you get into Palapye, there is a flyover which goes over the railway and it connects straight into the A1 road. It sometimes happens that trucks that come from the side of Martins Drift, when they descend from the flyover, the brakes fail to work and goes into the road right away without stopping for other vehicles. Sometimes the brakes are in condition but the weight that the truck is carrying forces it to fail to stop causing it to collide with other vehicles already on the A1 road driving at a high speed. Now my request is that, this flyover could be extended into the A1 road so that all the vehicles from Martins Drift side will go over the road and connect to it from the other side which will reduce road accidents.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the Ministry of Lands and Housing who have brought some developments in my area of road constructions and electricity connection. I only wish that these plots could...

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

**MR GOYA:** Yes I applaud Honourable Mokaila for the connection of electricity. My request is that, the main village could be connected with roads that will link to the roads that are in the new plots. It should not appear like the new plots have been given much attention in terms of developments and thus bringing about a disproportion between the new and the old Palapye. The old roads should also be tarred and linked to the new ones.

Madam Speaker, I wish to further commend the Ministry of Health for turning one of the clinics in Palapye into a 24 hour service facility. However, I would like to urge them to increase their staff and also work on turning another clinic to operate 24 hours on the other side of Palapye because the village is growing.

The other thing is that, this A1 road has a lot of accidents so much that the residents can already identify the siren of an ambulance, police car and fire brigade vehicle because they are just too many. Most of the patients involved in road accidents are attended in Palapye hospital that is why people are very familiar with the sirens. Our wish is that, these departments like the ministry of health, police department and fire brigade could have a collaboration where they will establish a Rapid Response Centre because the fire brigade is on the periphery of the village. In this way, when there is an emergency to attend to, they all leave at once to attend to it. This will alleviate situations where one department will rush to the scene of the accident first only to find that the one urgently needed has not yet arrived and thus delaying the urgent help needed which might cost a life that could have been saved.

I would like to also commend the health department for having been able to take their services to the people, they have reached an 88 percent of the target because most of the population have an access to a health facility within a radius of 8 km and 93 percent of Batswana have an access to a health facility within a radius of 5 km given that, I would like to encourage them to continue taking their services to the people.

Madam Speaker, I wish to further talk about rape against women. The rate at which this happens is quite a disgrace. My message to men is that, it has been established that women are more in numbers than men and the ratio is 3;1 and therefore there is no excuse because they can always choose to have any of the three women rather than conduct that disgraceful act of raping women. Honourable Members, there are so many women who are single and are searching so, men should desist from this shameful conduct, just be kind enough to ask and you shall be granted. Do not forcefully take.

**MR DAVIDS:** Clarification Madam Speaker. If we have too many women, why can we not then have a law that allows polygamy? Maybe it was going to help reduce the number of rape cases.

**MR GOYA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. If the Honourable Member feels that this could be a way of reducing this situation, this is a democratic country, he is at liberty to table a motion in this Honourable House that will advocate for that, not me. What I am advocating for is men must learn to ask not to take forcefully.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) for assisting a lot of my constituents to start their own businesses and even employ the locals. There are about 40 projects in my constituency which have been financed by CEDA and the funds amounted to P34.8 million and 73 per cent of them are in full operation.

Madam Speaker, lastly I would like to touch on the issue of corruption that it involves two people. Let us therefore desist from corrupting our public servants, let us allow them to execute their job in a professional manner because if we approach them from that angle, that means we are also corrupt.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity you have accorded me to make my submissions and thank our President for his speech on the state of the nation address. I thank you Madam Speaker.

**MR DAVIDS (MOCHUDI EAST):** Thank you Madam Speaker. I wish to take this time to make my submissions as well concerning the state of the nation address delivered by His Excellency. I will try as much as I can to be brief because there is really not much to say about it. We have the same address being done year after year and it has been 47 years doing that but without any progress. There is nothing to commend about it. The only noble thing I could do is thank my President from Opposition for a commendable delivery of speech in response to address that was given but now everyone does not want it. Just sit down and pay attention to what I say because a bootlicker does not need a labelling and I am not bootlicking Honourable Boko.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ...murmurs...

**MR DAVIDS:** I am not bootlicking ...

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ... murmurs.

**MR DAVIDS:** First of all as we are in this Parliament we have to ensure that Parliament becomes independent. We cannot just be Members of Parliament and change laws here, become bootlickers yet being controlled by Office of the President. Look how many we are, we

must have powers, we must be given powers even to impede the President if need be. Now we are just here, talking. Someone is from Palapye, we are not sure if they came here with cheap politics or what; there is nothing that is helping us because we do not have powers as Parliament to rule this country. Now this country is being ruled by one person, that person does as they please yet Parliament is here. This Parliament should be above the President because we are the legislators, not him.

The other thing which is necessary which has to happen immediately is that, the President should be here. After presenting he should not just dump us, and then we give advice in his absence. We should consider whether we are doing ourselves any justice by debating the President's Speech in his absence, not hearing...

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ...inaudible...

**MR DAVIDS:** Yes he is there. The other thing which is a concern to me and the nation at large is the corrupt acts by the BDP (Domkrag). You are so corrupt that you think Botswana Television, Radio Botswana and Daily News belong to the BDP (Domkrag). I have told you that, these are state assets; they do not belong to you people. Right now when you switch on the TV you will find someone officially opening a stadium in Francistown, hey!

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** ...laughter...

**MR DAVIDS:** Even when he is sleeping BTV probably follows this person around. Now, Parliament should have the powers to control; it should have the authority to allow BTV to have a live recording of Parliament proceedings, so that Batswana can be able to see us when we debate. This Btv does not belong to Ian Khama and the BDP...

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ...inaudible...

**MR DAVIDS:** Yes, I was a member of the BDP (Domkrag), I have left it, and I will never go back there again, never! It does not help being there!

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ...murmurs...

**MR DAVIDS:** Btv belongs to Batswana...

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ...inaudible...

**MR DAVIDS:** Btv is for Batswana, it is not yours and you can hear what I am saying...

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ... murmurs...

**MR DAVIDS:** If you keep quiet, you would listen; because you are just waffling...

**HIS HONOUR, THE VICE PRESIDENT (MR M.E.K. MASISI):** On a point of order. The point of order I wish to rise on Madam Speaker is that, the President should at all times be respected, and I would request the Honourable Member on the floor to use appropriate phraseology to demonstrate respect even if he disagrees with the President Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Davids, we always say you should call each other 'Honourable' so use appropriate words.

**MR DAVIDS:** I hear you Madam Speaker, I will speak properly. At this time I just wanted...

**MADAM SPEAKER:** No, you had said Ian Khama.

**MR DAVIDS:** Madam Speaker I said I will use proper language.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Yes, please make a correction.

**MR DAVIDS:** Yes, I have made a correction...

**MADAM SPEAKER:** No, say it out.

**MR DAVIDS:** No, it is His Excellency President Khama.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Doctor!

**MR DAVIDS:** Doctor, Lieutenant General, Field Marshal...

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ...laughter...

**MR DAVIDS:** Independence of Parliament is of utmost importance to all of us so that, we have the power to rule this country. These are some of the advices we are coming with. The use of Btv, Radio Botswana, Daily News and other state media should benefit Batswana not only one party, which is now having the last kicks of a dying horse.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** ...you were in it.

**MR DAVIDS:** I never wanted to be in it. On that note Madam Speaker, let me also take this opportunity to welcome my colleague, my Kgosì; I am one of the people who were in Mabule/Sekhuthane. I saw what was happening on the ground. I am one of the people who saw helicopters which we did not know where they were coming from; those from Botswana Defence Force are state assets. That is why I am saying, these things are used by the BDP (Domkrag) to campaign. We in the opposition have nothing. Beasts were slaughtered, buses were coming in, but over and above that, I should thank Barolong. Barolong know how to punish if I may say so; they know how to vote. We were there, and had no meat; we were having pap with cabbage and from there we went ahead and won.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ...laughter...

**MR DAVIDS:** We emerged victorious. You brought buses and your helicopters wasting national resources. Right now if there could be a bye-election we are going to teach you what elections are. Batswana know what is good for them, 53 per cent of Batswana in this country cannot be wrong, you cannot prove them wrong. You cannot come here with cheap politics and think Batswana can give you an audience. Anyway, I will go to Palapye and tell them that they did not vote for a representative of substance.

Let me thank the people of Borolong, let me thank Bakwena, and be thankful for the coming elections; hey! 6 – 0 is very painful. Now we are being accused of being at fault, we say this today and tomorrow we say something else. We in the opposition are waiting for 2019, do you hear me Honourable Kablay; whether you like it or not some of you will not even know where to go, people like Goya will not know where to run to.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** ...murmurs...

**MR DAVIDS:** In the government of His Excellency the President of this country Doctor Lieutenant General we live under fear, you also know that...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Afraid of what?

**MR DAVIDS:** Yes you know that we live under fear; we are always followed around day and night. Even when you are on the phone...you are the ones who are complaining that your phones are tapped. We have nothing to fear. I have nothing to fear in this country because I am not in government. The one who has put you there does not trust any of you. You live under fear. We saw people being shot for the first time, a person being shot from the back; guns which are supposed to be protecting them were used to shoot Kalafatis. They followed him when he was drinking his beer and shot from behind by trained soldiers, that is murder, nothing else but murder...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** ...inaudible...

**MR DAVIDS:** You do not see it because at the end of the day, all you do is spend time riding in a black ministerial car and you think life is over.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** ...laughter...

**MR DAVIDS:** But for Kalafatis it will go down in history that he was shot when drunk in the car; shot by three trained soldiers. Those bullets, those guns were there to protect Kalafatis, whether he was a criminal or not, no one had the right, and no one has got the right even now except a court of law, just like you are claiming to lead

this country by the rule of law. Kalafatis is no more, his father is no more and this very same government tried to eliminate his brother, and then you claim to lead, the way you are!

Comrade Motswaledi would be sitting here, and not Honourable Phenyo Butale. You knew very well that Motswaledi was going to take Gaborone Central straight. He was eliminated, and at the same time you claim that you have the leadership. Yes you are leading but the day will come, we will catch up with you. The day will come, whether you like it or not, the day will come. Our youth are not just sitting there, you may bring...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** On a point of clarification.

**MR DAVIDS:** I am not yielding. I want to come back to the people who sent me here, I want to talk about Bakgatla; our very proud tribe. We love ourselves and we love our Kgosi. You people underestimate the leadership of Dikgosi, you call meetings in their Dikgotla and then you expect them to worship you, but you are the ones to worship Dikgosi. You seem to be controlling Dikgosi, I stand here to implore all Dikgosi to stand for their rights, if anything they should join politics so that we vote you out and we are going to do that. Kgosi Lotlamoreng has joined, Kgosi Tawana Moremi has also joined, and we are still expecting more. We will see the outcome of your Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP). Botswana Democratic Party government; Bakgatla want their Kgosi back, you made a big mistake, when your shallow minded Minister came to Kgatleng he was whipped. When he came back...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** On a point of order Madam Speaker.

**MR DAVIDS:** No, just listen, and enjoy it. I am educating you Honourable Masisi.

**LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR MASISI):** On a point of order. Madam Speaker, I know we may be enjoying the comedy but order is demanded. It is totally out of order for the Honourable Member to refer to any Minister as shallow minded. I would wish that he withdraws that because it puts this House out of order. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Davids, I am talking to you and stop pointing fingers. Your problem is that you address side remarks and you do not address me as the Speaker. But there is no how you could say that the Minister is shallow minded. Kindly withdraw that statement

**MR DAVIDS:** I withdraw that statement Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order! Order! As you withdraw the statement, it is now four o'clock and we shall adjourn for tea for 20 minutes.

**PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED FOR  
APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, let us proceed, Honourable Davids, take the floor.

**MR DAVIDS:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I am surprised as to why we are calling you Madam Speaker when we are speaking the vernacular, please remind those who address you as Madam Speaker when they are speaking in the vernacular and not English. Thank you. I was still on the issue of Bakgatla and Kgosi. I want to implore the government to reinstate our peace in Kgatleng, because no one has ever told us as Bakgatla that our Kgosi is no longer recognised as one. There was no consultation on this matter, ever since Kgosi was imprisoned from there he went back to the Republic of South Africa for asylum, he never came back. We want this issue to be resolved promptly, we want our Kgosi back and we need peace because where there is no peace, it is chaotic. I will be visiting Kgosi at Moruleng in a few days and I will tell him that I have requested the Minister to speed up the process. I will move on, with the hope that this will be attended to. I want to move on the Citizen Economic Empowerment...

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR RALOTSIA):** On a point of clarification. Thank you Madam Speaker. Is it true that Kgosi Kgafela has acquired the South African citizenship, because you just said you stay with him every day Sir?

**MR DAVIDS:** Minister, with due respect, we have not been told, and as such we do not know. I will ask him next week when I see him. Even if he has gotten a South African citizenship, the Moruleng village and the surrounding areas belong to him, he originates from there. He is Kgosi this side even in South Africa, but...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Nyalala...

**MR DAVIDS:** No, Nyalala was Motshwarelela Kgosi. I was there when he was installed. I am Mokgatla Honourable Members. We also want to take him to our initiation.

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

**MR DAVIDS:** I want to take Honourable Kgathi to our initiation school.

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

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY (MR KGATHI):** Procedure. Madam Speaker, sitting there do you think the Honourable Member is being nice to me; he is offending me to the extreme...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Are you okay?

**MR KGATHI:** Are you okay as the Speaker with what the Honourable member is saying to me?

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

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Being taken to an initiation school is Setswana, I heard him saying he will take you there.

**MR DAVIDS:** I thank you Madam Speaker. In Kgatleng we can take everyone to our initiation school. Bangwato were there, I am always there as well. If I can take you there Minister I am going to take care of you, you will have to go through me first and then go and stay at the bush where we are going to train you.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** How can you do that when you did not go there yourself?

**MR DAVIDS:** I will be taking you there, how can I do that if I have never been there? I was talking about Citizen Economic Empowerment and I would like to say, Honourable Members especially those in the ruling party, ESP and other programmes that we have been coming up with will not help us if we are not going to motivate the workers. If we are not going to support the local companies and see to it that, Batswana run the economy, we are going to continue experiencing same old problems. We are going to continue spending billions of money. We must empower Batswana economically and stand by them and provide them with assistance and advice.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Which language are you using?

**MR DAVIDS:** I am speaking English, however I would not get lost in it. I am stressing a point that, taking money from our foreign reserves without a budget is really heartbreaking. We are doing this whereas we have been talking about Citizen Economic Empowerment that, there should be a policy that will protect Batswana in their country. That is when we can manage Honourable Kgathi my friend.

**MR GUMA:** Correction. Thank you. Madam Speaker, the correction I want to give this Honourable Member is that, there are no amounts that will be taken from the reserves outside the budgetary process. So a budgetary

process will entail that you will have to say, "this is what I am going to do, these are the projects that I am going to do" and the funding will either come from the reserves, domestic savings and any other. So there is no way monies can be drawn from the reserves without a budgetary process that goes through this Parliament. I thank you. That is the correction I wanted to make.

**MR DAVIDS:** I thank you. Your colleague sitting next to you is saying it has already been implemented, I do not know where he got that from, Honourable Kably. He is saying ESP has been implemented already, I guess it has in Kweneng and Ngware where we won the elections.

One thing that really worries me Honourable Members is that, we are not allowed to vote the President of our choice. It is important Madam Speaker and it is high time that the Constitution of this country be reviewed so that it is at par with the current life situation. Batswana want to vote their own President.

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

**MR DAVIDS:** Not Domkrag (Botswana Democratic Party) voting, I mean Batswana, you hear me Honourable Kgathi? I am taking you to join a regiment, I think we have agreed, unless on the contrary.

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

**MR DAVIDS:** You can respond by writing, but we are going this winter. When Kgafela returns we are going in winter. Batswana want us to vote the President of our choice. I too wish I had voted my president. I was not given that opportunity and I wish I would have. I want to promise you that in 2019 when me and Honourable Kgathi return from the initiation school, we are going to amend the Constitution of this country. We are going to tour this country allowing people to come up with suggestions on how this Constitution could be amended. Maybe Kgafela is where he is because of this Constitution because he had wanted to amend it. At that time Dikgosi were never consulted.

**DR P. BUTALE:** Clarification. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. You are handling it so well Honourable Member. I was saying, if the voters could be given the chance to vote their own President, that is where there can be accountability that we always talk about, that he should come to this Parliament and account for all the money.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Is that elucidation?

**MR DAVIDS:** Yes, if I was to be given the permission to vote my own President, I was going to be free to approach him and say "No, President I am you voter,

I want you here". Just like we want President Dr Lieutenant General to be here today. It was going to be nice if he was here because he was going to be able to go and sleep through what I said. I do not want his Vice to take the message for him.

One thing Honourable Members that I want to stress is that, the time has come, ESP would not help us, let us change where possible. The other thing that I am worried about Madam Speaker is Kgatleng constituency. I will say Kgatleng because currently there is no Kgosi there...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** There is no Member of Parliament.

**MR DAVIDS:** The Member of Parliament is standing right here, you can see him, I am also representing the one who is not here today, he asked me to represent him. He has gone on a Botswana Democratic Party official duty at Brussels and I think it is now time to urge my fellow comrades to resign from the committees of the Botswana Democratic Party. We running errands for the Botswana Democratic Party and you are here governing this country.

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

**MR DAVIDS:** We do not have electricity and water. I do not want even to talk about water and electricity because it is a disgrace that after 49 years when you have to attend Parliament session, you still take a small bucket to bath. The English have invented showers and other stuff but here we are still using the old tools for bathing as if we are in the olden days when Bakgatla invented the toilet, during the time when Kgathi was still...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** ... (Laughter!)...

**MR DAVIDS:** Kgatleng region Madam Speaker we are in a crisis. If you look at the proximity of Mochudi or Bakgatla starting from Mmamashia, the land belongs to Bakgatla although you took it away from us it remains Kgatleng District, the land belongs to Kgafela. Madam Speaker there are no developments in Mochudi, I am not talking about these other small villages. We are not sure if the government loves us or not. The President once visited Kgatleng and told us that we are tricky; we did not appreciate those words at all. It shows that Bakgatla are completely disliked by this government.

I am saying this in light of the promises which have been there for a long time...

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY (MR KGATHI):** On a point of procedure. Madam Speaker, last week you made a ruling on what seems tantamount to hate speech which every colleague

on that other side of the aisle stand to talk about how the Botswana Democratic Party government hates this morafe, this is not good, it is going to divide us in the country. The Honourable Member should just speak the truth. You made a ruling Madam Speaker, reprimand him.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Not only that side, both sides. Stop being tribalist on both side of this House. Honourable Davids, I have made a ruling, sit down, I am standing. I said I made a ruling on this issue last week, that is why I am saying, I do not want to hear anything from both sides. Let us talk about the developments of our country.

**MR DAVIDS:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I do not have any hatred in my heart and I will not encourage any Mokgatla to have hatred, we are very straightforward people, we are vocal about our complaints. In fact, there is a Setswana saying that the highest form of war is dialogue.

Time is not on our side Madam Speaker, as Bakgatla we should start fighting the government because we have reasons to. First of all it is disheartening that while representing a constituency named Kgatleng East it is later changed to Mochudi East. The residents of Sikwane, Mmathubudukwane, Dinokeng le Oliphants Drift are refusing, say they do not fall under Mochudi; we cannot be called Mochudi East.

What I want to say is that, Bakgatla are closer to Gaborone but we only see developments in other villages. We were promised that our youth would be assisted. Those of you who are responsible for the youth, assist them. Honourable Olopeng are you saying you can assist the youth, you cannot manage. You could have started at Mochudi first and observed the situation so that as I stand you could perhaps have my support. Without it, you will not succeed.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Oh really!

**MR DAVIDS:** I am telling you because I do talk to the youth. They should not be given false promises, you are just troubling yourselves. The day the youth realise that they are being used, there is going to be a problem here.

He has been bought jets at Korea so that perhaps when it all starts because it is approaching ...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Starting what?

**MR DAVIDS:** Starting to fight for our rights. Let me tell you Honourable Kgathi, we have long been promised a stadium at Kgatleng East in 2002 including Mochudi; I was sitting there next to Dada at the time up till now

nothing has been done. At Dinokeng a beautiful village next to the river up to Oliphants and the Limpopo river...

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR MADIGELE):** On a point of procedure. I am talking about the time; it has since stopped at 1642 hours. It is not moving Madam Speaker.

**MR DAVIDS:** It should stop doctor so that I talk till we adjourn, no problem. Honourable Members we do not see any government efforts at Kgatleng. I have only seen Honourable Minister Batshu once visiting Dinokeng, I was thinking that he will perhaps extend the operating hours at the Sikwane border, even up to now. I do not know whether to plead because I have been pleading from 99. People even lost hope in me and think that I am useless; I even lost elections, you Members of the Botswana Democratic Party...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** While you were still a member of the Botswana Democratic Party.

**MR DAVIDS:** While I was still a Member of the Botswana Democratic Party.

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

**MR DAVIDS:** I lifted my hands for a long time till I got tired and lost hope!

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

**MR DAVIDS:** There is nothing in the Botswana Democratic Party. Minister Olopeng, when you build a stadium in Francistown you must build one at Mochudi. We want the stadium, we are demanding it now. We are no longer requesting, the plot has long been allocated in 2002 at Mochudi by the Minister. The Vice President was still a teacher by then. I was with T. W. Masisi he was sitting there we were both requesting for a stadium. It is unfortunate Minister Mabeo is not here.

Honourable Members, the road connecting the city and the beautiful villages of Dinokeng and the border...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Clarification.

**MR DAVIDS:** Sit down I will yield.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Laughter.

**MR DAVIDS:** Minister, we have agreed, so do not worry I will assure you that you would be informed when the time comes.

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY (MR KGATHI):** Clarification. Thank you Honourable colleague. I can hear you are wailing and I would like to say that, there are constituencies which

have been represented by the opposition like the one that was represented by Mr Modubule, but he explained himself and government saw it fit to go and do projects in his constituency. So do you not think that this may be revealing some weakness on the part of former Members of Parliament for Kgatleng East?

**MR DAVIDS:** No, by the time I was here, I did not talk in Parliament, but I talked to Ms Phumaphi who was the Minister of Health then. We hurriedly went to look for a primary hospital plot. Anyone can be a representative and standing here in Parliament and talking is nothing difficult. You have failed us in Kgatleng and that is why I say you do not like us.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Inaudible

**MR DAVIDS:** I mean nothing else but love Madam Speaker. Just like us Madam Speaker, we have not wronged anybody. The Modipane-Sikwane road has long been talked about; imagine the late Meswele talked about it and up to now it has not been constructed but was included in the National Development Plan which the Government has now suspended. Now you are just fumbling, today you are financing such and such a project, tomorrow the Economic Stimulus Package (ESP). No, we cannot work like that. We demand that road as Bakgatla.

**MR GUMA:** On a point of correction. No sir I wanted to correct that the notion that we have suspended the National Development Plans cannot be correct because we have to come to Parliament and do so. All National Development Plans have to be approved by Parliament, I just wanted to correct that it is not possible that we can suspend it.

**MR DAVIDS:** Well since I came to Parliament, I have not heard anyone of you talking about the National Development Plan. The same applies to District Councils. You people have dismantled this country; there are no District Development Plans. If there are no plans at the Districts, how can there be a functioning National Development Plan? I heard you say you have extended it until next year so that it coincides with Vision 2016 that has failed. Vision 2016 is another disaster in your planning and we have got the right to stand here and tell you that you are disaster yourselves.

You suspended the National Development Plan as you want it to coincide with Vision 2016. You do not even understand the Vision 2016, it has long failed. You have made promises to this nation but all in vain.

**MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE):** On a point of procedure. I want to help my colleague

because he took a long time outside Parliament and maybe he has forgotten some procedures. Honourable Moyo has indicated that no Development Plan has been suspended. So, he should tell us which Parliament has suspended Development Plans because this very Parliament is the one that approves Development Plans.

**MR DAVIDS:** I am not going to bother responding to that because you know very well that we are not following any plan. Madam Speaker, I have given an example that when government should do a certain project for the nation, it is financed impromptu and...

**LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR MASISI):** On a point of order. Madam Speaker thank you, the House certainly cannot be in order if a Member of this House makes a statement that is misleading or incorrect about this very House that you preside over. Could you please ask him to set the record straight? For the purpose of the record, there is no National Development Plan that is suspended. He might think otherwise of it but it is not suspended.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Wait Honourable Vice President I did not hear what it is that you want him to correct?

**MR MASISI:** Honourable Davids said again prior to Honourable Tsogwane intervening, the National Development Plan has been suspended. That is what I wish him to correct. Thank you.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** It is extended right? Have you heard me?

**MR DAVIDS:** That is what I said. The National Development Plan is not functioning at this point in time.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Murmurs.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order! They said it is extended; Honourable Davids take your seat. It was said here in Parliament that it has been extended.

**MR DAVIDS:** We have agreed here even though I did not agree.

**DR P. BUTALE:** On a point of order. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I believe that it is wrong to make the Honourable Member to withdraw what he said because if NDP 11 is not in effect now, then it has been suspended. Whether you want to say suspended or NDP 10 extended but is has not been put into use as we speak. So what I am saying is that, it is just an issue of interpretation. There is nothing out of order with what he said; the NDP 11 that we should be implementing is not implemented.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable Members NDP 10 is extended. Honourable Davids proceed but you should know that it has been extended.

**MR DAVIDS:** It is clear that the ESP has now taken over and each Cabinet Minister wants a share. They have already allocated the ESP funding and used it for their personal benefit before we even know as Parliament.

**MINISTER OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY (MR KGATHI):** Clarification Madam Speaker, the Honourable Member keeps on insinuating that the Cabinet has already spent money and so I wanted to say that during the time when the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) was discussed you pulled me by the jacket and asked if it includes drilling of boreholes as well. I now wanted you to reconcile the issues that you are raising.

**MR DAVIDS:** I need to take you to school and that is where you will learn that the truth needs to be said in this House. If I want to talk about boreholes I would talk to Honourable Mokaila, what do you know about boreholes?

**MR GAOLATHE:** On a point of elucidation. I wish to reiterate by way of elucidation, Honourable Davids's words, that in fact the introduction of National Development Plan 11 (NDP) has been suspended, I would even go as far as to say it has been suspended indefinitely ...

**MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE):** On a Point of Order. Madam Speaker I think it is better you get the Honourable Members to observe and know the procedures of this House. You have long made a ruling on this matter and I do not know why people come and start to challenge your ruling on this matter.

**MR DAVIDS:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Please do not waste my time I still have a lot to say. I have spoken to the relevant Minister that we do not have enough roads in Kgatleng District. We have also requested the Ministry of Agriculture to open the Sikwane border so that people can be able to travel a shorter distance to South Africa to buy hay for their cattle instead of having to travel another 40/50 kilometres to the Tlokweng border. I still request that the government should look into that issue. There should be an Agricultural Officer at the Sikwane border which will in turn minimize expenditure on the part of the farmers. Drought is worse in our area and the farmers have lost their cattle. That is what I have asked for but nothing is happening.

We have asked the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security to go and assess the situation in Sikwane. We

even showed him the Police office and he witnessed that there were holes on the floor of the caravan and one's leg could actually go through to step on the ground. The situation is like that and yet we expect the police officers to perform well and those are some of the things that do not please us at all. The water that is being consumed has a dark colour and Honourable Mokaila even confirmed that he is aware of those pipes, but what has been done? We are not saying that we do not have water, we do have it but the problem is that Honourable Mokaila has forgotten that it has got rust. Thank you.

**ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN):** Thank you Madam Speaker for the opportunity that you have given me to also comment on the State of the Nation of the Address by President. First and foremost I would like to thank all the public Servants that serve in my constituency. They are far away from home, far away from their families and I am very much concerned that so many posts are vacant and are not taken up by other Officers in other Districts, especially Officers who are working along the railway line. I would like to salute those who are serving in the Districts at the moment for the services they are providing and thus contributing to the development of Kgalagadi South Constituency.

I am a bit concerned especially about the four Districts in Botswana, namely: Kgalagadi, Ghanzi, North/West and Chobe, especially Kgalagadi. Even up to today there are people who cannot differentiate between Kgalagadi and Ghanzi. I would like the public out there, the rest of Botswana to familiarize themselves with our districts and also about the people and the different cultures that are in these four Districts.

We are suffering because people are not informed about the challenges of the people who live in these constituencies and mostly when people refuse to go and work and serve in these constituencies, it is because they are not well informed about how those people live and struggle and what they have got to offer as well. What are the positives and the negatives of these constituencies? Before you refuse to go and serve there, please go and do some research about the people who live there, but to those who are already there and serving, I would like our government to look into how to improve the conditions of service, especially those who have been serving there for many years and have not been transferred. For example, the government could look into the transfer policy and perhaps set a standard that people who are serving in these constituencies that have to endure a lot of discomfort, could only serve there for three years. These include those who serve in the RAD settlements; we may have to come up with a

special intervention to improve the conditions of service for them so that they can be able to serve people in those Districts diligently.

I am still a member of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) and I support policies and programmes that are introduced by the BDP Government. We are tasked with the responsibility to lead this nation. We do not have the comfort of praying for disasters, drought and tragedies so that we can then bring issues to Parliament. When we have accidents and tragedies and people are in pain few cannot capitalize on them and try to gain political mileage. The BDP Government is a responsible government and it is not in its policies that students and people should be transported by trucks.

All of us or most of us who are sitting here, as politicians and leaders are also guilty of the same practice. When the public asks for transport from us as politicians, to get their votes, we use trucks to transport them, we have seen it happening a lot of times. Just because it happened that the students were transported by a truck, which is not the policy, and it will show after the investigations and the completion of report what did happen, just because this Government is responsible, they now find themselves in the dark and people want to put on their gowns to go and defend families. I attended one of the funerals in one of the villages and people were sharing as to how opposition parties wanted to derail them, to go against the Government when Government was trying its level best to assist these families. To me, it is a very sad story.

The water situation in this country; you want to blame the present Government yet the Gaborone Dam is empty. You want to state that the dam is now dry and has no impact on water supply to Gaborone and the Greater Gaborone. All of us are suffering. I am in fact very impressed by our Minister who is managing this crisis, even when we are informed that we are in El Nino type of weather system. We know that we are going through a drought which was internationally announced that we have drought in Southern Africa. The weather predictions also confirm that we have average and below average rainfall, but our Minister is still able to manage the situation and keep people calm. He is not even shy to go to any place in this country when invited to come and address the Kgotla meetings. He is able to stay calm. In fact my request would be that he should have an Assistant Minister in his Ministry. So when we have a crisis as a party that is in Government, it means we have to respond responsibly to the crisis.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Clarification.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** I think I am very clear. When we have drought, we have drought...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Clarification. Why not?

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** One of your officers, you know a very irresponsible person one time when I was still working in the district, you know what he said to me? When we had water problems, struggling with boreholes and the dropping levels, he said to me, 'do you want me to urinate water...'

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** You are from Bokspits...

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** of course, I come from Bokspits. Let me explain to you, Botswana has got a water crisis and it is not easy to solve the water crisis that we are now experiencing. I personally go without water for two to three weeks. I personally call the Minister and the managers of Water Utilities about water problems in my District. I went for a briefing in the Minister's office about my constituency's water problems. He is even more informed than me. I was very much impressed by the way he responded to my problems. I think the BDP Government has got exceptional leadership qualities to lead this country and they also have got the experience. They have gone through a crisis, managing this country and always having the resources to attend to the crisis. The Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP), is informed by the leaders of this country, Members of this Parliament, Councillors, Dikgosi and Village Development Committees (VDC)s, when we addressed Kgotla meetings, in 2008 and 2009, people demanded development. When we came into Parliament, small contractors were complaining about idling machines, who informs you?

Employment; the BDP Government wants to create employment. The BDP Government has got a very capable Ministry of Finance and Development Planning led by a very capable Minister that even if this party wants to introduce things that will affect the economy negatively, they manage to advise us and tell us that this is not the right way to go. Even when you question him from the other side of the aisle, he is able to respond to your concerns.

Development plans; the DDP's and the NDP's are implemented when funds are available. There is no guarantee that District Development Plans (DDP) and National Development Plans (NDP) will be implemented. We have a very capable team and when the BDP Government is advised by the Ministry of Finance, they will consider the advice.

A few years back, there was a complaint that we are not using foreign reserves, now when the BDP Government says we want to dip into the foreign reserves, you also complain about that, and say we should not be using the money. In all this, when there are problems

of implementation and quality, there is nobody to be blamed but as Batswana, you are the ones to be blamed. When we provide money, I know many of the Members of Parliament (MPs) both sides, approach us for developments in their constituencies. All of you want internal roads, street lights and you want your wards to be developed. We say yes, we will do that and we have never said that we will not do developments or service delivery in opposition held constituencies, we have never said that and you are going to experience it. We have been looking at all constituencies when needs arise and where there is a lack of development. All our development plans are informed by all of us, I would even implore and encourage all MPs to engage with the district leadership when it comes to development plans. I have realised that plans are informed by district leadership, and Members of Parliament in some instances they are not part of that planning process. You should be informed about what people are planning in your constituencies. All that is in this Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) is from plans and also projects that have been prioritised because as you go with the plan, you would want to prioritise other projects. So, let us watch and see.

You see, when I came here to Parliament, it was for better service delivery to my people; improved service delivery to my people, and for development of my constituency. And now it is for improved national service delivery and also national development. The ball is in our courts to deliver this ESP. If money is not spent, whose fault is it? Who is holding and who is managing our projects. It is us who are doing the plans. It is us who have to do the implementation. The BDP government is always willing to provide funding for development, and it is so easy to demand from this BDP government and then we fail ourselves and we want to come back and blame the BDP government. But you have asked for it, you have asked for development.

So, if I am sitting with over a 100 Headmen of Records, Administration of Tribal offices, and then I have to go back to Dikgosi and say 'but the opposition party does not agree with us that we should build your offices.' If we have teachers complaining that they are sharing accommodation, but they have children; I remember Honourable Kgoroba asked the question about one of his schools where children are going to class under the trees outside. He is now singing a different tune, "no, do not do..."

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** This one or the father.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** No, the present Member of Parliament. In this Parliament, he had asked about classrooms. Yes, you cannot refute it. So, we want

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our children to go into classrooms. We are doing what the people want, and what we have requested.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Clarification.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** I am not going to allow any of you to speak.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Point of order.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** In my constituency...

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Point of order.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** I appreciate...

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Honourable Kgoroba, I am not allowing it because you said clarification at first and now all of a sudden you are saying point of order. I am not allowing it.

**MR KGOROBA:** Because it is something different, Madam Speaker.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** I do appreciate developments that are taking place in my constituency.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** On a point of order Madam Speaker.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** In the last financial year, we had completed...

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** On a point of order Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** I said I am not going to allow you, do you understand.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** No, it is me Madam Speaker.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Oh, Honourable Mokgware.

**MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. We might not be in order because the Honourable Minister is implying that we are declining planned developments to do implemented, that is his statement, I do not think that is right. And when we stand on clarification, he is refusing to yield and yet he is not representing us well. None of us on this side of aisle has refused to have developments done in their area. We are the ones who proposed to have those developments. I will kindly ask the Honourable Member to correct that statement.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** No that is not a point of order. Honourable Minister, did not say they are refusing to have developments in their areas. Proceed with your debate.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** I do not know how they got elected more so that they have to go and account to the electorate.

I do appreciate developments that are taking place and on-going projects in my constituency, like the optic fibre cable that will now improve access to the internet, that was done from Sekoma to Tsabong. It was completed and now at present there is an on-going project with the same optic fibre from Tsabong to Two Rivers. So, for that I am very thankful. This thing of not having access and struggling to access the internet will be something of the past very soon.

When it comes to education, I am very much concerned that our constituencies; Kgalagadi, Ghanzi and North West, we are the worst performers as far as education is concerned. It is a concern to me, and I have to talk about it. What I would request from the Ministry of Education is that, over the years we have introduced directors to these regions, to these constituencies. We have enough staff compliment. That was a way of trying to intervene so that education results could improve in these districts. But we still need more special interventions by the Honourable Minister. We need to attend to the maintenance of our facilities. These children are not exposed to urban environments. We need to introduce and make sure that our labs are functioning; our schools are computerised and connected to internet to make it easier for our children to go through the learning process. We need a special intervention.

I want you to have a task team to go and visit these four districts that are lagging behind. I am not only talking about my constituency, I am also talking about my Honourable MP Salakae's constituency and Southern, and all of those that are lagging behind in terms of the education results. We need a special intervention. We need you to intervene on our teachers' behalf and see that they are taken care of for them to be able to focus and improve the results of our children.

We are struggling in Kgalagadi because of our education levels. In today's world even to run a street vending business you need basic education. Even when you are given Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) by government. you need to be educated for you to make success of any project that you might be doing. I am really concerned.

In all my Kgotla meetings during my time as Chairman of the council, my first agenda item has always been education. So, special request or a special intervention is for education in those constituencies that are left behind and have poor results.

Health services in my constituency, the biggest concern that I have is Tsabong Primary Hospital which my Honourable Minister has visited, Minister of Health.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Do not read too much Honourable Minister.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** No I am not reading. I am just looking at my notes.

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Standing Order 51.

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** I am not reading. What is happening is the Honourable Minister herself had gone and visited my hospital in Tsabong. This is a primary hospital in the district, we are 500 km away from Marina which is a referral hospital. Our vehicles are not in a good state. Our vehicles are not in a good state, they need to be replaced, the maternity ward in the hospital is almost non-existent, the building is poorly ventilated and we are experiencing serious heat waves in that district, up to 42 degrees Celsius. I hope that the Ministry of Health will be looking into expanding the hospital and the administration block for our staff.

Agriculture; I am concerned about our land management. I would like to see people with boreholes being allowed to fence up to 2000 hectares, that is a viable unit if you want to start a farming project. We are always talking about measles but how do we control measles if we do not have fencing? We should allow our farmers who have boreholes to fence, where we can fit in as small farming project, taking into account the 20 kilometres radius around our villages. We have big stretches of land that are getting eroded because we do not have any land management in place. I would like to see us moving towards fencing our land. Allow those who want to continue to farm on communal land, but also those who want to fence, where possible allow them to fence. We need fencing for better management and disease control.

We have a serious challenge of water for livestock in my constituency or Kgalagadi as a whole, a serious water shortage. People in my Kgotla are requesting that the assistance that government is giving through Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) where the threshold is now 200 cattle, it should be increased to 300 cattle. Every week I interact with people who drill up to five boreholes at a depth of 200 metres and spending over P1 million, they have to expand to 300 and in no time after drilling two to three boreholes, they will be left with nothing and back into poverty. Even for other areas that have serious water challenges, my request is that we increase it to 300 cattle, so that if you own 300 cattle you will be assisted. At the moment I think it is only 200 cattle.

I have an issue with the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) payment through our post offices. Technically we would say it is a good arrangement but the problem is when I have remote villages where poor farmers who have sold one or two cattle have to travel up to 300 kilometres to cash the cheques. That is unacceptable. You are almost taking 10 per cent of their income at that moment through travelling and feeding costs from places like Struizendam to Tsabong, to come and cash the little that they have received from BMC. Sometimes when they get there, money is not available, and they have to spend one or two nights or even go back with those slips. It is a concern to me because 90 per cent of my people are the ones who sell two to eight cattle and it is a cost that is incurred by them. Most of those people will sell one or two cattle once or twice a year and having to travel long distances and incurring those costs.

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR RALOTSI):**

Clarification. Thank you very much Madam Speaker. May I request the Honourable Member to suggest the most appropriate method of payment for his constituents if he has any at all?

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** What would happen is that in the past, BMC used to issue farmers with cheques which they could cash at the local businesses. This is also affecting the small businesses. As we know, the small businesses are almost non-existent because of the chain stores that have taken over retail in Botswana. By giving people slips to go and cash at far distances, you are incurring unnecessary cost to those people and you are killing the local business, small businessmen. So I would suggest in some instances, it would be almost better that for the remote villages anywhere in Botswana, rather issue people with cheques, even if they are post-dated. Then you will have a choice that you want to travel to Tsabong or to wherever to cash, but not to be forced to go, even if you do not want to because of the extra cost that you incur.

I have a concern with the Khawa event under tourism. The Khawa event for me was good because we as a district were exposed and people could see what we got to offer but now it is a short-term event that takes place and benefits people for two or three days. What we want is sustainable tourism to take place. By this time I thought there would have been tourist routes to all the beautiful pans of Kgalagadi. We have a very strong following for the Transfrontier Park. We need more resources to expand and develop the tourism industry in the Kgalagadi District. The people who come there, mostly are those who travel from South Africa, we have a few coming from overseas countries. But the ones who come from our neighbouring countries, they

come equipped with everything they may need; fuel and drinks. Basically they come equipped and stocked with everything but enjoying our parks and our nature almost for free.

I would like to see in Tsabong an airstrip like in other catchment areas where tourism is being concentrated. We could also have safari companies taking out groups from overseas to come and spend dollars and euros in our country. Our district is unique, our tourism and the environment are attractive, and there are people who love it and come back every year. I would like to see tourism and the Khawa event being expanded, so that we have sustainable projects and sustainable employment. I would like to see to it that it does not take time for farmers to be compensated. It is unbearable for poor people when lions or predators kill their animals and then it takes time for them to be compensated. We can help to look after our wildlife but let us also keep the promises that we make. That is also one of my concerns that our farmers should be compensated on time.

As far as my roads are concerned, as I have also indicated last time, I have a concern with the Kokotsha/Tsabong Road which has reached its lifespan. Honourable Mokaila can attest to how many punctures he has had on that road; almost not making it back to Gaborone. That road has a lot of potholes. So, reconstruction of the Kokotsha/Tsabong road is one of the projects on my priority list, I want to see it being executed during my term of office.

We have the Bokspits/Trans-Frontier Road that is in the National Development Plan (NDP) 10. It was good for us to construct the road from Tsabong to Bokspits. That has really added value as it has improved the quality of life and has also contributed to the economy of that District as well as the national economy. But with that portion of 60 kilometres that is left from Bokspits to Trans-Frontier, I have a challenge because people with small cars can only go as far as Bokspits and from there they are stuck. They cannot access the park if they do not have a 4x4. I would like to see people who travel even from Gaborone or from wherever being able to access the Trans-Frontier and enjoy its beauty.

I have the Khuis/Khawa Road which we know with increased tourism, that 60 kilometres stretch also needs to be tarred and then also the Werda/Hertford Road which is about 50 kilometres. In total, I have about 180 kilometres of roads that are still gravelled that need to be tarred and the Kokotsha/Tsabong stretch which is approximately 200 kilometres.

I have a serious challenge in Hertford. I must state here today that I am very happy. I was impressed by the

response of government when I came into Parliament and requested them to go and look into the issue of land for the community of Hertford or Bray where they have no land to farm on. And the government's response was very powerful and was immediate in trying to acquire land for these people; 1 000 people staying on the stretch of 500 hectares.

**MR LELATISITSWE:** On a point of clarification. I hear you honourable minister. Are you of the idea that every Motswana should be allocated a farm or we should start commercialising farming like any other business?

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** Well, in the first instance, not all of us are farmers. I am of the view that commercially we should increase Batswana farmers. We should have more commercialised farming in Botswana. We have also introduced new technologies that compete with the rest of the world. But for me to say that we should be making land available to all people who will not be able to manage or utilise it properly, I will not agree with that. I want passionate people to get into farming and we will also try to do it the right way; not suitcase business. Like in my case, I am a suitcase farmer. I think many of us here go to our farms at the end of the month. So really, if we make land available for fenced farms, it must be people who are really passionate about farming and know how to do it, because farming is not an easy thing to do.

In Hertford; 1 500 people are staying in a 500 hectares of land, they cannot access government programmes but what I can positively say is that government had tried to acquire land for those people. Minister of Lands and Housing, Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, we should try and continue with our efforts because those people are really suffering.

I want to talk about McCarthy's Rust. McCarthy's Rust is known by so many people; many senior officials who have worked in Tsabong District. The sad part for me about McCarthy's Rust is that it has been in existence for 70 to 80 years but the problem is that the whole issue of McCarthy's Rust is that it is so politicised, not in the interest of the people staying there. Politicians play with those peoples' land rights and access to land to settle. I hope the present regime and government will assist me that McCarthy's Rust be declared a settlement because of the history and the time those people have settled there if for no other reason. Just for the period that those people have been there, McCarthy's Rust should be declared a settlement or a village. They cannot grow under the policy that we currently have in place. They cannot also grow because for a place to be declared a settlement, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural

Development requires that they should be at least 250. When they expand, then Lands and Housing say, 'no, you cannot go out of parents' house and have your own plot.'

Just on the basis of history of McCarthy's Rust, I am requesting all of you to support me that we stop playing with those peoples' lives so that they expand and develop into a proper village. The ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has already provided two classrooms; we have expanded to three classrooms and three teachers' school.

We have a Headman of Record and health services there. All we need is for that small village to be declared a settlement.

Youth - Kgalagadi has no industries, we have land and tourism. The P2 million that you are giving for projects for youth per constituency is too little. In my constituency, up to 300 people will apply per cycle but only 20 get approved and I have got 22 villages. Who do you give and who do you not give? I would like ...

**MINSTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE**

**(MR OLOPENG):** On a point of clarification. Thank you Madam Speaker, thank you Honourable Member. How many of the approved projects have seen light, or are still in operation so that I may assess on the situation and consider increasing on what you have in the constituency?

**MR VAN DER WESTHUIZEN:** I cannot give you that figure at the moment Honourable Minister. What I know is that because of different challenges, I can assure you that some of them maybe were not doing well because of water challenges and others because of management skills. That is where the Ministry of Agriculture comes in.

We have a facility in Lobu Farm that is not being utilised at the moment. I have engaged the Honourable Minister and I hope he will be able to assist us to utilise that facility to train our people to have better management of livestock especially when it comes to small stock. Our youth should get trained and be able to manage their projects successfully.

In my constituency we need a sports centre. In the past we have requested a stadium, but I have requested the Minister at least in Tsabong that we have different sports facilities to accommodate all other sports. Right now my teams are struggling. There is a team that has progressed to the First Division, but they do not have the necessary finance to attend to all the football matches especially when they have to travel to Gaborone. This puts them at a disadvantage. There should be some

kind of intervention from your Ministry. When we have teams that are doing well, there should be assistance from your office to these teams. That would really encourage sports in my constituency.

I am concerned when people talk about Ipelegeng. We do not have industry where we can employ people. Ipelegeng, LIMID and Poverty Eradication Projects help Batswana. I am very happy for the sand brick project that is going to be started in Tsabong. But I would like to see that project in all my clustered villages, starting from Bokspits, Struizendam, Rappel's Pan and Vaalhook. I would like to see that sand being utilised because there is a lot of sand there. I would like to see those projects in areas that are poverty challenged. Minister Molale knows the area very well. He can support me with small projects to provide employment for my people. I support the BDP Government for whatever challenges it has, because they can address the issues in my constituency.

I would like to implore all Ministers to put attention to my constituency. Sometimes I can get very worked up if things do not go my way and I feel neglected, they know. That is how I feel about my constituency. I have decided not to get so worked up anymore. I will not stop talking because I have to make a difference in that constituency. They must be at the same level as all other the districts in this country and people should want to go there. So, I need your assistance and I will keep on getting angry now and again. So please bear with me. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (DR DOW):** Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the State of the Nation Address. Let me start Madam Speaker by congratulating and welcoming to this House the Honourable Kgosi Lotlamoreng. Kgosi, we welcome you. Let me start by saying Madam Speaker that I offer to this new Member of this House my respect and I am sure 2019 is a very long time from here. So, everybody must co-exist in this House, respect must be at the top of the agenda. So, I offer you that Honourable.

When the Honourable Member was debating Madam Speaker, he indicated that there were certain issues that were causing Magosi to leave their various Dikgotla. Let me assure him that he can find comfort in the statement made in this very House by His Excellency the President last year during the SONA address of 2014 and let me quote at Paragraph 47 of that particular statement with your permission Madam Speaker. His Excellency said, "Government recognises the important role of Bogosi in nation building. As an institution Bogosi provides a solid foundation for community mobilisation, for development and national building. In this regard,

government is committed to strengthening the institution, ensuring its continued role and relevance."

I want to suggest to you Honourable Member through you Madam Speaker that, that is the view of government and I am sure you may have been assured somewhat by the utterances made in the House by Honourable Tsogwane. He indicated that his Ministry is very much on this path to make sure that going forward, no Magosi will leave their Dikgotla because of the way that the...

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

**DR DOW:** Honourable Member, that is how it is. I want to also say Madam Speaker, that the election of this particular Honourable Member reconfirms that democracy is alive, it reconfirms that custom is not static and that more particularly it reconfirms the following, that even a Kgosi must be subjected to the test of a popular vote, if he is to assume a leadership role he did not assume as a birth right. This is an important statement, I will tell you why.

Following from that Madam Speaker, it also negates a message that was peddled in Mochudi West during the last elections that women are not entitled or should not be voted into position of leadership. So, your vote here gives me comfort because you are telling me that those who actually use the leopard skin rules in politics are hypocritical. We welcome you in your new job having set aside the leopard skin, I am sure they will keep it safe for you. One day you wear it again, but we welcome you with new colours. Let me restate that I welcome you and respect you Honourable.

I also want to welcome to this House Honourable Molale. I congratulate you Sir, I know that I was not in the House when you were voted, you are not in the House today, but I am sure the Hansard is capturing this, you will read it at your own time.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** He is here.

**DR DOW:** Ooh! My apologies Honourable. I welcome you. I was not in this House when you were voted back into Parliament, I could not have voted had I been in the House because I came into this House through the same way you came here as a specially elected Member of Parliament. You have been called many names Honourable. Madam Speaker, through you and one of them is that, "he came through back-door." No doubt that insult was extended not just to you, but to other Members who are in this House through that particular method, we came here specially elected by this House. I want to say four things about that, first to the extent that all these utterances are intended to insult and ridicule. They more tell us about utterers than the

people about whom it is spoken. Ridiculing is immature and therefore at the end of the day it really reduces the value of this House, it lowers the esteem of this House. Madam Speaker, if I can say a Setswana saying which says, "*tau e na le ditawana e itlhopha motlhala.*" May I urge the leaders in this House to behave, let those who follow you be the ones who insult but not you, you are above that.

Secondly, the process by which we came here, is actually in accordance with a legislative enactment that is consistent with the Constitution. For a legislature to announce publicly in this House, heard by the public, that they actually reject a law is to reject themselves. If you do not yourself abide by law who else will do that? Who else will abide by a law? And therefore I think it is actually a statement of self defeat to do that.

Thirdly, the Honourable Members, the utterers themselves participated in this process, they put a name forward, you cannot decide to like something and suddenly change, make a choice, either you believe in the law or you do not.

Lastly Madam Speaker, a year later the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) cannot still accept that they lost. Please, even if a child cries, he sits in a little corner, sucks his thumb and sleeps when he wakes up he plays. Wake up, the year has passed.

Let me go to the issue of 16 days of activism against violence against women, which as we celebrate this year around; the topic is, "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World." May there be peace in homes. On this point I want to commend Honourable Tshireletso for the statement she made in this House and for the very brave and forward-looking statements she always made. She made them at the last sitting of this Parliament and she made them today, around the issue of gender. I particularly recall her words when she said, "Who am I to judge?" We commend Honourable Tshireletso for always being our beacon on these particular issues.

Let me talk about Matsha. I pose Madam Speaker to remember those who perished. I want to say that this government and my Ministry being at the forefront, is committed to support the families who have been affected by this tragedy. We pose also to wish all those who have survived speedy recovery. We now have less than 20 students in hospitals. They continue to be discharged and we of course offer them our support. I also want to make a public undertaking to them that we will continue to support them. I want to also thank the health care industry, both private and public. I particularly recall a statement made by one doctor at Gaborone Private Hospital (GPH) when he said that the

survival of a particular young lady depended on how she was handled at the scene. We want to commend the particular health care givers who made sure that they brought their professions to the fore at the time they were required. I want to also thank the public support. I want to thank the teachers of Matsha who continued to support the children who were there even after this incident. I also want to thank the public for the various contributions, including money and I want to say how that money is going to be used is going to be made a matter of public record and public accounting going forward.

Let me leave that and go to the issue of the call for my resignation. I think I will be remiss if I did not deal with this.

**HONOURABLE MEMBER:** Someone said that?

**(Certain words were ordered to be expunged from the record as ordered by the Speaker.)**

**DR DOW:** The call for my resignation was made by Honourable Mmolotsi. He made this call Madam Speaker on an abuse of the process of this particular House. He stood up suggesting that he had point of order, he knew he had no point of order and he knew that once he made that statement, I had no opportunity to respond and he said I should resign because I had failed to protect children. I must assume the only reason he did that was headline grabbing. He wanted to make the news, he wanted to offer a headline and indeed that happened. During the following days, he continued to milk that particular abuse of process by hopping from one newspaper to another to again expand on his comments.

**(Certain words were ordered to be expunged from the record as ordered by the Speaker.)**

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Order! I shall now call upon the Honourable Leader of the House to move adjournment.

#### MOTION

#### ADJOURNMENT

**LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MASISI):** Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until Tuesday 08<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

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