



HANSARD

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DAILY HANSARD (PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES)

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

HANSARD NO. 182
TUESDAY 09 FEBRUARY 2016

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



ENGLISH VERSION

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The Hon. Kagiso P. Molatlhegi, MP Gaborone South

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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
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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
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Hon. Sadique Kebonang, MP. (Lobatse)	- Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry

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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. Mzwinila, 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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Tuesday 9th February, 2016

THE ASSEMBLY met at 2:00 p.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

PRAYERS

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MR SPEAKER (MR MOLATLHEGI): Order! Order!
Good afternoon Honourable Members.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Good afternoon Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I can hear that, only those on the right hand side of the isle have responded. Good afternoon Honourable Members.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(murmurs)...

MR SPEAKER: Oh! Greetings gentlemen, if you do not want to talk to me that is fine. Let us start our business with questions.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

QUANTITY OF FLY ASH PRODUCED BY MORUPULE POWER STATION ANNUALLY

MR D. L. KEORAPETSE (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST): asked the Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources to state:-

- (i) the quantity of fly ash that Morupule Power Station produces annually; and
- (ii) the quantity of fly ash from Morupule Power Station that is used annually by Botswana cement manufacturing companies since it is one of the cement manufacturing inputs.

Later date

RESUSCITATION OF TENANT PURCHASE SHCEME

MR W. B. MMOLOTSI (FRANCISTOWN SOUTH): asked the Minister of Lands and Housing when the Botswana Housing Corporation Tenant Purchase Scheme will be resuscitated.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): Mr Speaker, the Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) first introduced the Tenant Purchase Scheme (TPS) in 1986 and was stopped in 2004. The Scheme was aimed at assisting Batswana sitting tenants to purchase residential property they occupied on instalment terms over a maximum period of 25 years. Another instalment scheme; Step Ownership Scheme

was introduced in 1998. The scheme had the same principles as the Tenant Purchase Scheme but had a low initial monthly instalment which was paid together with a portion of the rent.

The schemes Mr Speakers were suspended for two main reasons. First Botswana Housing Corporation could not sustain borrowing money which it paid on short-term to build the houses while recovering payments through TPS on long terms basis. Second there was a high level of arrears as most beneficiaries of the Instalment Schemes failed to honour the agreed payment terms. After careful consideration Mr Speaker the Botswana Housing Corporation is now preparing to sell some of its houses under the revised tenant Purchase Scheme.

In this respect my Ministry is currently working closely with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to finalise the terms of the new scheme after which the sale of some BHC house under the revised tenant Purchase scheme will commence. I wish to underscore however, Mr Speaker, the fact that the new Tenant Purchase Scheme would not necessarily take the same form and shape of the old scheme. Thank you Mr Speaker.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
BENEFICIARIES IN GHANZI NORTH

MR N. S. L. M. SALAKAE (GHANZI NORTH): asked the Minister of Agriculture how many people benefited under Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) in the following categories by District:-

- (i) small stock;
- (ii) poultry;
- (iii) animal husbandry; and
- (iv) water provision.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR AUTLWETSE): Thank you Mr Speaker. There are 17 473 people who benefited under the livestock management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) for the period August 2010 to January 2016. The beneficiaries per category are as follows;

(i) Small Stock	–	14, 002
(ii) Poultry	–	2, 544
(iii) Animal Husbandry and Fodder Support	–	598
(iv) Water provision	–	329

In the interest of time Mr Speaker, I will give the information dealing with district packages to the Honourable Member, for him to appreciate what the government is actually doing. I thank you Mr Speaker.

**REPAIRING OF THE WORN OUT FENCE
ALONG THE NOTWANE RIVER**

MR S. O. S. RANTUANA (RAMOTSWA): asked the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security:-

- (i) if he is aware that the border fence along the Notwane River is worn out; if so, when he intends repairing the fence; and
- (ii) whether his Ministry will consider clearing the bush along the buffer zone to improve patrol along the border.

ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY (MR MOLALE): Thank you Mr Speaker. My Ministry is aware that the border fence along the Notwane River is worn out, and in some places needing replacement as it has been vandalised. However, the construction and rehabilitation of fences between the Republic of South Africa and Republic of Botswana is governed by the 1973 Boundary Treaty. The said Treaty places the responsibility for the construction and replacement of boundary fences on the Republic of South Africa, who after repair and/or construction would bill Botswana for the 50 per cent of the agreed cost.

Mr Speaker, we are currently engaged with the Republic of South Africa on issues affecting our common border in respect of the rehabilitation of the fence, including possibilities for the review of the 1973 Treaty itself.

(ii) Bush clearing along the boundary fence for purposes of security patrols will commence in the 2016/17 financial year, after the necessary consultations with our relevant counterparts in South Africa as it is required by the operational protocols relating to boundaries. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR RANTUANA: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Is the Minister aware that this fence has been like this for a very long, long time and how often is the border fence repaired or there is no maintenance scheduled for that? Is he aware that there is rampant crime across the border especially stock theft and vehicles?

MR MOLALE: I am fully aware Mr Speaker that this fence is repeatedly being vandalised after it has been repaired and as a result these are the issues that we are going to be consulting with and see how we can find a long lasting solution. I also come from a border village

just like Ramotswa and this problem is recurring even there. So what we are thinking among others is to have people along those border lines to be given portions of the fence to reconstruct them and repair on regular basis for on contractual basis. These are some of the things that we are discussing with our neighbours, so we are aware of that. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

MS BATHOBAKAE: Supplementary. What is happening in Ramotswa as you have already said also happens in Tlokweng, but in Tlokweng it is more painful as it has been a long time without erecting a fence, it is worn out. The Batlokwa cattle are being taken by the Boers in South Africa. They charge Batlokwa a lot of money, up to P10 000 to release them. How soon do you think you will respond to this challenge and address it because it has already happened in Tlokweng? Thank you.

MR MOLALE: Mr Speaker, let me say that I am aware of this situation, even in Tlokweng and what we can do for now is to advice and say that, let us keep our cattle as far away as possible from the fence ...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(laughter!)

MR MOLALE: Yes! It is true let us herd our cattle, whilst...

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

MR MOLALE: Yes! If you want to; whilst we are working and discussing with the South Africans on this issues. We have a bi-national commission which sat here last year co-chaired by the two Presidents. This issue was discussed and was not concluded. We are going to be discussing it this coming April when the Bi-National Commission sits in South Africa. So we are aware, we are discussing but in the meantime let us do what we can do as much as possible to avert aggravating the problem by keeping our cattle from the fence. I thank you.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Further supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: The last one.

DR P. BUTALE: Supplementary. Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I wanted to hear from the Minister. In the interim, you have suggested what people could do, what is your Ministry going to do to help and assist these farmers who are losing cattle, who are losing their valuables across the border? In terms of policing, in terms of the army, what are you going to be doing?

MR MOLALE: We can only police the boundary; that is all we can do Mr Speaker.

NAMING OF THE FRANCISTOWN STADIUM

MR W. B. MMOLOTSI (FRANCISTOWN SOUTH):

asked the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture whether it is true that His Excellency the President has already named the Francistown Stadium.

MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE (MR OLOPENG): Thank you Mr Speaker. The Francistown Stadium has been named Francistown Sports Complex and the name was announced by His Excellency the President at the official opening of the stadium on the 10th December 2015 following recommendation from my Ministry. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI: Supplementary. Honourable Minister, is it okay for the residents of Francistown to have their Stadium named by Gaborone while there are people; Councillors, Dikgosi who could have actually done that?

MR OLOPENG: Mr Speaker, thank you. Thank you Honourable Member. The fact that the Stadium has been constructed in Francistown does not mean that it is only for use by the Francistown community, it is for every Motswana to use and hence it remains under the Ministry of Youth Sport and Culture and not under any other entity either Council, tribal community or Kgosi. That is why we came with a name that will cover every person in Francistown, hence the name Francistown Sports Complex. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Further supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: That is the last one.

MR MMOLOTSI: Further supplementary. Honourable Minister, was it not proper for you to have consulted the residents of Francistown for a name they wish for the Sports complex like it was done for the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport; it is an international airport but it bears that name.

MR OLOPENG: We are a government who consults Mr Speaker, just like we consult on everything. In this case we found it proper to have named the Sports complex by the city is has been built in. if we had used a different town like Lobatse or Gaborone, then that could have been a concern that we did not respect the Francistown community, but we have named it Francistown Sports Complex. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Procedure.

MR SPEAKER: No Honourable Butale, you cannot have your microphones on at the same time and request for procedure. Let it be one person on procedure.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: We are done with supplementary questions. I had said that that was the last one. I would take the procedure.

DR P. BUTALE: Thank you very much. I think we would be grossly out of procedure if we proceed with the Minister refusing to answer a very simple question. Did you consult the people of Francistown or not? That is what we want.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Butale, order! Honourable Members, I remember the last meeting advising you that procedure must relate to the procedure to the proceedings of the House. When the Minister has responded to a question and you do not agree to the response please do consider the number of supplementary questions asked, I have allowed two and I do not know what the problem is. If you are not happy with the response you ask again.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of clarity.

MR SPEAKER: You see, Honourable Billy, I am on the floor and there you are seeking clarity, please switch off the microphone and listen. Until you learn the proper procedure you are going to keep having the problem of differing with one another. I therefore cannot refer you back to the Minister because you are calling for procedure of this House from me.

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

MR SPEAKER: You will ask him, again.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Point of Order takes precedence.

MR MMOLOTSI: Mr Speaker, I think this House is completely out of order because the expectation of the Honourable Members is that when they ask questions they must be answered. But as far as I am concerned, Honourable Thapelo Olopeng has not answered my question and therefore I was expecting you to actually tell him to do that. It is not like I am not happy with the answer; he did not attempt to answer the question.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I do not know if you were listening to him when he responded, Honourable Olopeng, please listen to me and stop reading, do stand and repeat your response, on the part of consultation.

MR OLOPENG: Thank you Mr Speaker. May I kindly request that I read out the question since the honourable member feels I did not answer him.

MR SPEAKER: I do not have much time Honourable Members, be quick.

MR OLOPENG: The question reads as thus, “to ask the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture whether it is true that His Excellency the President has already named the Francistown Stadium.”

Answer; “the Francistown Stadium has been named ...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: Hey, listen to him he is responding!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER: Hold it there Honourable Member, he is still on a Point of Order, I have ordered him to respond.

MR OLOPENG: “The Francistown Stadium has been named Francistown Sports Complex and the name was announced by His Excellency the President at the official opening of the stadium on the 10th December 2015 following recommendation from my Ministry.” Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, while you are still on the floor, there was a supplementary question on consultation, please explain that part.

MR OLOPENG: Mr Speaker, I explained that the Francistown stadium is for Batswana, and is under the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture. So as the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture, it is within our responsibility to give the stadium a name that we deem appropriate. There is nowhere where we are bound or compelled to consult the Francistown Council. Thank you Mr Speaker.

USES AND COST OF FLY ASH PRODUCED BY MORUPULE POWER STATION

MR D. L. KEORAPETSE (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST): asked the Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources to state:-

- (i) if all the fly ash Morupule Power Station produces is not used or only some of it is used by Botswana cement manufacturing companies to create wealth and jobs for our people;
- (ii) the quantity that is not beneficiated and the reasons why;
- (iii) what has been done or is to be done with the fly ash that has not beneficiated to date;
- (iv) if it has been disposed of, how that was done and how much it cost to dispose it;
- (v) if it has not been disposed, what he intends to do to ensure that it is not left to degrade the environment; and

- (vi) what he intends to do to ensure that all the fly ash Morupule Power Station produces can be used by local cement manufacturers and reduce this country’s fly ash import bill.

Later Date.

NUMBER OF PLOTS SURVEYED THROUGH THE LAND ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES CAPACITY AND SYSTEM

MR N. S. L. M. SALAKAE (GHANZI NORTH): asked the Minister of Lands and Housing to state the target number of plots that are supposed to be surveyed through the Land Administration Procedures Capacity and System (LAPCAS); and how many have been surveyed thus far by district.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): Mr Speaker,

- (i) The LAPCAS Project targeted to survey an estimated number of 948,013 plots in Tribal Land.
- (ii) The Project has to-date surveyed 306,582 plots across Land Boards as follows;

No.	Land Board	No. of Plots surveyed
1	Kweneng	60,639
2	Rolong	16,868
3	Malete	19,829
4	Tlokweneng	9,961
5	Chobe	12,200
6	Tati	24,096
7	Kgatleng	19,789
8	Ngwaketse	46,150
9	Tawana	22,250
10	Ghanzi	16,524
11	Ngwato	40,906
12	Kgalagadi	17,370
Total		306,582

I thank you.

VACCINATION OF NATIONAL FLOCK/ CATTLE AGAINST ANTHRAX

MR S. O. S. RANTUANA (RAMOTSWA): asked the Minister of Agriculture if it is true that Government has engaged a private company to vaccinate the national flock/cattle against Anthrax; if so, how will the safety of cattle and quality of medication be monitored.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR

AUTLWETSE): Mr Speaker, it is indeed true that my Ministry is engaging the private sector veterinarians, animal health technicians and retired animal health personnel to carry out vaccination of the national herd against Anthrax and Quarter Evil diseases. This ensures that administration of vaccines is done in line with best practices to protect the health of the animals and farmers.

Government provides all the vaccines and ensures maintenance of cold chain for vaccines to be kept at specific temperatures. The quality of such vaccinations is supervised and monitored by District Veterinary Officers. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR RANTUANA: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Minister, how do you prefer to give job to retired veterinarians when there are veterinarians who are employed and supposed to be doing that job? And who monitors the census of the livestock? Do they do the counting of livestock during vaccination or is it the government who has to do that after vaccination? Thank you.

MR AUTLWETSE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Our veterinary personnel are very thin on the ground hence we do supplement them with retired veterinary staff. The other part of the question Honourable Rantuana I did not get it clearly.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Member, remind him what you said.

MR RANTUANA: The other part of the question is who monitors the livestock census, who counts the livestock because during Anthrax vaccination the veterinary people count the stock to give the numbers to their offices. Do these retired or private companies do the livestock census?

MR AUTLWETSE: The livestock census is done by the Ministry. Those ones only go there for vaccination purposes, not stock census.

MR RANTUANA: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Then how do you keep record of how many animals have been vaccinated against Anthrax, those who have not been vaccinated? And when was the last time this vaccination was carried out in the South East District?

MR AUTLWETSE: Mr Speaker, that is a different question, I cannot provide the answer for that one now. If the Honourable Member is interested in that one, he can ask another question, I will be in a position to answer that one.

MR RANTUANA: Mr Speaker, which question because I asked about the livestock...

APPRAISAL ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TIRELO SECHABA AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

MR W. B. MMOLOTSI (FRANCISTOWN SOUTH): asked the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture to apprise this Honourable House on the performance of the following programmes:-

- (i) Internship programme; and
- (ii) Tirelo Sechaba.

MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE (MR OLOPENG): Mr Speaker,

- (i) The Internship Programme is performing well and attracting new applicants on an annual basis.

At the end of financial year 2014/2015, the programme enrolment was 5 934. By July, 2015 the enrolment stood at 6 233. The number of participants was reduced from 6 233 in July to 4 893 in December 2015 as enrolment was frozen to reduce it to below the annual target of 6 000.

Of this total of 4 893 currently enrolled, 2 271 are in the public service; 784 with Parastatals; whilst 1 624 are with the Private Sector, and 214 are currently under the Non-Governmental Sector (NGOs).

Mr Speaker, absorption of the Interns in permanent employment continues to be a challenge. Few companies are absorbing Interns. In this financial year, 384 Interns were employed by different sectors during the period April to December 2015 as compared to 630 in the last financial year during the same period.

Efforts however continue to be made to encourage Interns to venture into self-employment rather than rely on hopeful opportunity for employment.

ii) Tirelo Sechaba

Mr Speaker, Botswana National Service Programme (BNSP) continues to enrol Junior Certificate to Diploma holders. At the end of financial year 2014/2015, the programme had enrolled 10 381 participants. As at end of December 2015, the enrolment was 12 206 against a target of 15 000. Limited placement opportunities, particularly in the rural areas, still remains a challenge for the Ministry to achieve the 15 000 target. However, marketing of the programme has been intensified to improve its uptake.

In our efforts to improve administration of the programme, savings were phased out as at the end of August 2015. From the 1st September 2015, participants were paid monthly allowances of P700.00 which

included the P100.00 that was initially saved for them. Another improvement is that participants are allowed to work half day to allow them to use the afternoon to pursue developmental or employment opportunities.

Mr Speaker, late payment of allowances for these programmes continues to be a challenge for my Ministry. This is caused by late submission of Confirmation Forms by Host Organisations, unreliable Internet connectivity and manual processing of Payroll leading to errors.

To address this, Host organisations are being mobilised to ensure confirmations are done on time. Furthermore, a database is being developed for Tirelo Sechaba programme payments. Mr Speaker, I thank you.

MR MMOLOTSI: Supplementary. Minister, how do you ensure that these young people are not exploited by the departments which have absorbed them, even the private sector?

And secondly, are you aware Minister that towards the end of last year, most of these young people who wanted to join the Internship Programme were referred to Tirelo Setshaba, are you aware of that?

MR OLOPENG: Thank you Mr Speaker. We have an office that is responsible for management of the Internship Programme and the office has very few reports of exportation reported by participants and because we do not leave anything to chance, anytime we receive such a report, we do a follow-up and make sure that we get into the details.

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any interns who have been referred to Tirelo Sechaba. I do not think that is possible because internship is a programme that is aimed for university graduates whereas Tirelo Sechaba starts with Junior Certificate. So no one with a Degree will be allowed to join Tirelo Sechaba. Thank you Mr Speaker.

DR P. BUTALE: Supplementary. Thank you Minister for the answer. I wanted you to speak more on the issue of exploitation; in that certain companies have resolved not to hire these youth, when their internship comes to an end they fire them, only to absorb new interns. How do you mitigate against this?

MR OLOPENG: Thank you Mr Speaker. The Internship Programme goes on for two years, and at the end of the two years, companies or organisations are not compelled to absorb the participants. We try by all means to try to motivate and also advocate for the participants to be absorbed by the companies. Anyway, we are in a process of looking into changing some few guidelines of this programme. One of the things that we want to consider is actually giving interns to government

organisations only, so that private companies could now start budgeting properly for permanent employment. Thank you Sir.

MR NKAIGWA: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Honourable Minister, my question is; have you not tried to engage the private companies to see to it that indeed they absorb such graduates once their internship is complete, rather than to say you are going to be stopping the whole process of giving interns to the private sector?

MR OLOPENG: Thank you Mr Speaker. We try by all means to lobby companies to absorb our interns but because they are private organisations, we cannot really compel them to do so, all that we could do is to try and encourage them to absorb our interns. But we always try our best to do so. Thank you.

REGULATION OF COURT PRESIDENTS IN TOWNSHIPS

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

- (i) whether Court Presidents in townships are also referred to as Dikgosi; and
- (ii) under which Act of Parliament they are regulated.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS TSHIRELETSO): Good afternoon Mr Speaker. Thank you Honourable Salakae.

i. Mr Speaker, Court Presidents in townships are called Dikgosi by the communities they serve out of respect or as a sign of respect mainly due to the duties they perform. Their official titles as indicated are Court Presidents.

ii. Court Presidents are governed and regulated by the Public Service Act No. 30 of 2008 and other statutes in place for public officers. They are not part of or governed by the Bogosi Act.

Thank you.

MR SALAKAE: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Minister, are you saying these people are referred to as Dikgosi or Dikgosana? If they are referred to as Dikgosi, are their conditions of service similar to the other Dikgosi? If they are not the same, why not assimilate them? Do you want them to be named in the same manner yet their conditions of service differ? Why not maybe for example, at Serowe Kgotla, Mr Sediegeng Kgamane...

MR SPEAKER: Make it brief Honourable Member.

MR SALAKAE: Why does he have a large vehicle while others use small ones?

MS TSHIRELETSO: Honourable Salakae, allow me to re-read the answer.

i. Mr Speaker, Court Presidents in townships are called Dikgosi by the communities they serve out of respect or as a sign of respect mainly due to the duties they perform. Their official titles as indicated are Court Presidents. They are not Dikgosi.

In two...

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

MS TSHIRELETSO: Let me say that, the Court Presidents of the townships are called Dikgosi by the communities they serve out of respect mainly due to the duties they perform which are similar to those performed by Bogosi. However their official titles are Court Presidents in townships.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Court Presidents.

MS TSHIRELETSO: Yes Honourable Member, Court Presidents. Thank you, sir. Court Presidents are governed by Public Service Act No. 30 of 2008, they are not part of or governed by the Bogosi Act. They are just like any other public worker. Thank you.

MR SALAKAE: Further supplementary. Honourable Minister, is there a good reason why the government took a decision not to have Dikgosi for these communities and decide to have Dikgosi for other communities? Is there any good reason why the residents of Ghanzi will not have somebody as a Kgosi?

MS TSHIRELETSO: The good reason is that we have Dikgosi in our standalone villages. Now in the cities and towns, we do not have morafe that can call themselves Bakalaka, Bakgalagadi, Bangwato, they are a mixture of people. So we do not have anyone whom we can appoint to maybe take care of the Konyana Kgotla or Botlaote. When we encountered a challenge that we could not have people with no leader, we then resolved that because they are townships and there are no different Dikgotla as is the case in our villages, there should be care takers called Court Presidents. That is how they came to be.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Further supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: I said it was the last one Honourable Member. We are moving on.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure.

MR SPEAKER: We cannot have procedure Honourable Nkaigwa. I said we have finished with that question, we are moving on.

TABLING OF PAPERS

The following papers were tabled:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 108 OF 2015: BOTSWANA STOCK EXCHANGE (TRANSITION) (DATE OF COMMENCEMENT) ORDER, 2015.

(Minister of Finance and Development Planning)

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Minister Matambo, I would urge you to read your papers again. Clerk; give them to the Minister so that he read them the way they are in the Order Paper. Read them for our proper records.

MR MMOLOTSI: On a point of order. Mr Speaker, I think as we dispense the business in the Order Paper, the sitting arrangement of the House must be respected. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, we do not have this kind of sitting arrangement in the House; standing arrangement if you want. So, he must sit down and come back.

MR SPEAKER: Mr Dingalo, come and sit down.

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

The following papers were tabled:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 69 OF 2013: BOTSWANA SAVINGS BANK (TRANSITION) (DATE OF COMMENCEMENT) ORDER, 2013.

(Minister of Finance and Development Planning)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 108 OF 2015: BOTSWANA STOCK EXCHANGE (TRANSITION) (DATE OF COMMENCEMENT) ORDER, 2015.

(Minister of Finance and Development Planning)

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2015.

(Minister of Finance and Development Planning)

STATEMENT

ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE SOME OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MOLALE):** Mr

Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a statement on an ongoing matter of great public interest.

Mr Speaker, the increasing publication of unsubstantiated allegations, gross innuendo and outright disinformation by some through both traditional and new (social) media platforms should be a matter of common concern.

A stark example of this pernicious trend has been the recent publication by the Mmegi newspaper [8/1/16] of the so-called confessions of a 'hit man', which goes so far as to allege a conspiracy to kill a member of this House. When one goes beyond Mmegi's screaming headline, one discovers that the sole source of their story is one certain individual, whose credibility was even doubted by the said newspaper.

Here it may be noted that Mmegi itself acknowledges the plain fact that: "Most [friends and family] interviewed attested to the fact that Kgotlhang has a chequered criminal past..." Ordinarily that should have been the end of the matter. Regrettably, however, the matter has not come to a close.

Mr Speaker, one might ask what then is the supporting evidence to justify Mmegi's mass circulation of such extreme claims online as well as in print? Here again by the newspaper's own admission: "Kgotlhang has no material evidence to support his hit man story (8/1/16)"...

MR NKAIGWA: On a point of order. Thank you Mr Speaker. I think the Honourable Minister is out of order. He just mentioned a name of a certain Richard Kgotlhang who is not even a member of this House. So, the order is, how is Mr Richard Kgotlhang going to be responding to the allegations that he is making about him? I think he should withdraw that Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER (MR MOLATLHEGI): Honourable Minister is quoting from the Mmegi Newspaper edition of 8th January 2016 that is what he said. He is reading a quotation. That is what I heard him say.

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

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Minister did you not say you are quoting from Mmegi newspaper?

MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MOLALE): I would like to repeat the paragraph I was reading Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker one might ask what then is the supporting evidence to justify Mmegi's mass circulation of such extreme claims online as well as in print. Here again by the newspaper's own admission and I requested your permission to quote. The newspaper's edition of

the 8th January 2016 and you gave me the permission and I opened quotes and went on to say, "Kgotlhang has no material evidence to support his hit-man story".

MR SPEAKER: You can continue Honourable Minister. I think he is answered.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: On a point of order. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I am very surprised because the matter the Minister is referring to; I have reported the case to the police. Now I do not know if a Minister can come and make a statement on an issue which affects a Member of this Parliament who has reported the case which the case has been investigated by the police. Is it right? I mean is it right that when the matter is seized with the Botswana Police, to the Speakership you were there and you said "we cannot discuss the matter as long as the police are still investigating." Now is it right for the Minister to come and make a statement here? That is what I want to know because you were there you were part of that discussion in that meeting, in the Speaker's office. Is it right about my life? If the matter is still even investigated, is it right for the Minister to come and make a statement here?

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members as far as I understand the Minister can make a statement on any matter that concerns his Ministerial portfolio unless if that matter has been registered with the courts of law in Botswana. He can still make a statement so he is not out of order, he is in order.

MR MMOLOTSI: Point of order Mr Speaker. It is acceptable for Honourable Minister to bring petty talk into Parliament and we are to sit here and just listen to it?

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Ministers I do not know how you grade petty talk all I know is Honourable Minister is just giving a statement about his concerns about what he read in the papers about his Ministry. Let him give his statement and you can ask him questions when he is finished, that is the procedure of this house.

MR KEORAPETSE: On a point of procedure. Thank you Mr Speaker. I was thinking maybe we could ask the Parliamentary Counsel (PC) to help answer whether the matter that is seized with the Botswana Police can be discussed in this Honourable House? If I have reported a matter to the police can that matter be discussed here in Parliament?

MR SPEAKER: Order! I have already said we are only constrained to discuss a matter only when it is before the courts and at the moment the matter is yet not before the courts, but it seems like you would prefer these words to be coming from the Parliamentary Counsel. PC please answer them.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Further procedure.

MR SPEAKER: No we are still finishing off the issue that Honorable Keorapetse raised.

ACTING PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL (MR CHIKANDA): Thank you Mr Speaker. Maybe to say that without tempering with your ruling, as you have already put it which is correct that currently the matter which is being discussed in the statement is not before the courts, and we are only constrained to discuss a matter only when it is before the courts, and at the moment the matter is yet not before the courts or we do not have information to that effect. So we may proceed and discuss the matter. Thank you.

MR MOREMI: On a point of order. Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker I would like to explain the issue of privilege of the Members; that in his course of duty Honorable Minister discovered something that worried him and he used his privilege to come to Mr Speaker's office. The matter was then reported to the police and now Honorable Minister is casting aspersions on the veracity of what is already on the hands of the police. We are clearly on our own and confidentiality of our issues does not seem to be on Mr Speaker's priority because due to privilege of membership of this house, any matter that is bothering us can be brought into Parliament by Honorable Minister as long as it is not yet investigated.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS TSHIRELETSO): Procedure Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: He is on a point of order, let him finish.

MR MOREMI: Are private matters that we bring in confidence to Mr Speaker going to be publicly discussed in Parliament just because of privilege of membership of this house?

MR SPEAKER: Order! I do not understand what Honorable Moremi is saying. I do not remember Honorable Minister reading out his statement that he got his information from Mr Speaker; he said he got it from Mmegi newspaper's edition of the 8th of January. I do not understand why you cannot let him finish and ask him questions after.

MR MANGOLE: On a point of order. Mr Speaker, can you please remind us....

MS TSHIRELETSO: Is it your turn?

MR SPEAKER: Honorable Tshireletso point of order comes before procedure. Let him talk, your turn will come.

MR MANGOLE: Mr Speaker, I would like you to explain to the house what is the procedure of this house regarding newspapers? When is it acceptable to discuss matters from the newspapers in this house and when is it out of order to discuss them?

MR SPEAKER: I did not understand your question just be specific and stop circling the issue. I want to understand you clearly.

MR MANGOLE: There is a time when the Speakership rules that newspaper reports cannot be discussed in this House but there is a time when those reports are discussed here so we wanted you to explain to us Mr Speaker that when is it the right time to discuss newspaper reports in this House and when is it not the right time.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I do not know which reports you are making reference to Honorable Member. I clearly asked you to be specific to your matter but I still cannot understand you. What I am conforming to here is Standing Order 41.2 which read thus, 'a Minister may make a statement; a) on some public matter for which he or she is responsible; b) to correct facts given under a statement made under paragraph 1 of this Order; c) requested under Standing Order 38.1' (o) That is solely for when a Member of Parliament has requested the Minister to make a statement. I explained that he is making a statement in accordance to Standing order 41.2 allow him do so then ask him questions.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MOLALE): Thank you Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Wait first Honorable Molale. For the sake of progress, I am going to take two last point of orders on this matter, then we proceed.

MR NKAIGWA: Point of order. Thank you Mr Speaker. I am not satisfied. I am still adamant that Honorable Molale cannot come here and discuss Richard Kgotlhang in this House while he is not here to speak for himself. Richard Kgotlhang he is talking about was quoted in Mmegi, Honorable Molale proceeds to say that he agrees with the Mmegi newspaper that he is mad, that is my argument right there that when is he going to speak for himself that he is normal? Mr Speaker we are serious here we did not come here to play games. That is why we argue that we cannot allow Honorable Minister to proceed to talk about someone who is not in this House. How are we going to defend him if we do not know him? That is why I am saying it

is wrong for the Honourable Minister to allege or make such allegations on Richard Kgotlhang who is unable to defend himself. If you allow him we are also going to mention people's names here. We will come here and talk about Masitara who once...

MR SPEAKER: No Honourable Nkaigwa! Honourable Nkaigwa, stand and withdraw that last word now! Stand up!

MR NKAIGWA: I withdraw.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members, listen, let there be peace in this House...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: The problem is you are threatening us?

MR SPEAKER: Let there be peace in the House. Honourable Molale is reading a statement in accordance with your Standing Orders. What you should be doing is to wait him to finish then ask him questions. I do not understand what the problem is. I had said I would take the last two point of orders, yours is the last one Honourable Phenyto Butale.

DR P. BUTALE: Thank you very much. I also echo the same sentiments. I do not know how people can be as insensitive as the Honourable Minister is. There is a matter that is investigated by a Government department. I do not know whether as Honourable Tawana was saying, we should just give up that Minister by his statement is informing us that there is no investigation, you are simply lying to us? You have concluded that this man is mad? I also wanted to say Honourable Speaker that Honourable Minister is talking about a person as argued before who cannot defend himself here. He is making a statement about an article which he had ample time as the Honourable Minister and Government to comment on their story and he chose not to comment. Why do you not go and answer them outside there and stop wasting our time?

MR SPEAKER: Order! Order Honourable Members! I cannot read this Standing Order again, I have already done that. I believe that you understand it. For reference, Standing Order 41.2(a)...

MR NKAIGWA: ...(Inaudible)...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Nkaigwa, you will soon find yourself outside.

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

MR SPEAKER: You will soon find yourself outside Parliament while we are here proceeding with our business. Address me in a respectful manner please.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. The plain truth is that the newspaper has up until now failed to cite anything in support of its allegations. Yet, notwithstanding this fundamental fact, the same newspaper not only reported the matter as "Mokgware's foiled assassination" but also has posted such allegations on YouTube and other social media, in what clearly amounts to a blatant smear campaign by the media house to tarnish the good name of Government and the country.

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

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members stop making noise, just listen to him I implore you.

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

MR SPEAKER: Order! I do not want to have to call out your names one by one.

MR MOLALE: Mr Speaker, I also note that the same Newspaper further alleges in its 8th January 2016 edition that Honourable Mokgware's so-called assassination attempt was foiled sometime last year. If this were so, why was the matter not reported to the police at that time? I further note that the same newspaper article also falsely reports that I, along with the Honourable Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, were subsequently informed about the matter at some unspecified time and date. I can assure this House that had neither of us been actually informed about such a serious matter, we would have promptly referred it to the police. As it is, the Newspaper in question did not contact me before making its scurrilous claim.

Mr Speaker, such behaviour clearly stands in gross violation of the Botswana Press Code's basic guidelines for ensuring accuracy in reporting, which affirms that:

"When compiling reports, media practitioners must check their facts properly, and the editors and publishers of newspapers and other media must take proper care not to publish inaccurate material. Before a media institution publishes a report, the reporter and the editor must ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to check its accuracy. Special care must be taken to check stories that may cause harm to individuals, organisations or the public interest."

Such absurd stories about state agencies seeking to poison Members of Parliament through Parliament's own catering can only make us appear ridiculous in the eyes of our own public and the world.

Mr Speaker, you will recall that the Honourable Minister of Defence, Justice and Security and I, along with yourself met with the Honourable MPs Pius Mokgware

and Phenyo Butale on the 27th of January 2016 to hear about their fears of some sort of plot in this regard. I must say I found it unfortunate that they chose in the first instance to take their fears to a newspaper reporter rather than to the police. The plain truth of the matter is that the police, upon hearing of these rumours, did contact the MPs.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MRSPEAKER: You only have to say it once Honourable Member. I can hear very well. **HONOURABLE MEMBER:** So what should I do if he refuses to yield?

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Phenyo Butale, you only have to say it once not ten times.

DR P. BUTALE: Mr Speaker, I feel you are trying to sensor me. I am a Member of Parliament, I think you need to speak, in as much as...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Butale you called for a point of order and so do not argue with me, continue with your point of order.

DR P. BUTALE: No, no, Mr Speaker, I think you need to...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: He stood on a point of order; let him finish his point of order first.

DR P. BUTALE: My point of order is that I have never at any point gone to the media on a matter that I took to the Speaker. So I think we will be grossly out of order to proceed with that misinformation. I think the Honourable Minister needs to withdraw that statement with regard to the present Speaker, because it is incorrect, it is untrue and it is a fallacy like everything else that your government stands for.

MR SPEAKER: Order. Honourable Mokgware, please behave. Do not point a finger at me Honourable Mokgware. I will order you out immediately. Order Honourable Members. Please listen. Members on my left please refrain from what you are doing. If you keep that up you will find yourselves thrown out of this House. Let us speak respectfully to one another and not argue. Let us follow the norm and work together cooperatively. I was responding to Honourable Butale. Honourable Members, allow me to respond to Honourable Butale because he called for a point of order.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ... (murmurs)...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members order, Honourable Ntlhaile order. Honourable Butale I was reminding you that you only need to call for a point of

order once and if you keep repeating yourself it is as if you are talking to someone with a hearing problem. A point of order is given precedence. I have asked you to allow the Minister to read his statement and I will give you the chance to respond to it.

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

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Nkaigwa, I have told you that such words are not permitted in this House. Honourable Members please allow the Minister to finish reading his statement and I will then grant you the chance to ask him questions. He is about to finish and so please relax. Honourable Butale, now that you are in the House when the Minister finishes his statement you will be one of the people who will ask him questions. I am going to give you a chance to ask questions in accordance with Standing Order 41.3, starting with the Leader of the Opposition.

MR MOSWAANE: On a point of order Mr Speaker. I wanted to enquire why you are not taking any action against Honourable Nkaigwa when he says that the Minister is lying. Why are you so afraid of this man?

MR SPEAKER: Order, order, Honourable Member. Honourable Moswaane I should inform you that Honourable Nkaigwa is fond of saying things with his microphone switched off. He wants me to chase him out so that in the end he dares me to bring proof that he actually said that. I have told you to relax and watch the space because the time will come where Honourable Nkaigwa will answer for this. I have tried to talk to him about what he has been doing and so Honourable Moswaane do not be too worried about that.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to continue. I further note that this particular so-called plot does not appear to have dissuaded them or anyone else with similar wild allegations from continuing to join the rest of us in benefiting from Parliament catering services on the 1st February 2016 after the Budget Speech presentation.

Mr Speaker, there would appear to be a desire on the part of some, to substitute the circulation of slander, conspiracy theories and rumour mongering as a distraction from facing up to real issues that the public are demanding. One can only hope that the ongoing trend on the part of some to promote wild conspiracy theories has not been cynically conceived as a tactic to inundate the public with falsehoods in the expectation that such untruths will remain and will stick. When the public demands answers from us as politicians, we have a moral responsibility to respond accordingly rather than insult their intelligence. This is why we in the BDP have never shied away from acknowledging when

things have not gone according to our expectations. This is because, in the face of our challenges as well as triumphs, we have always appreciated the need for accountability more especially on issues that are likely to disturb the peace, are a threat to order and good governance of this country. It is only sensible to expect the Opposition to do likewise.

Mr Speaker, social media has been yet another tool used to circulate such slander. Let me here confirm that we have started taking action against those who distort social media to denigrate, slander and otherwise libel others. We cannot allow social media to degenerate into a tool of unbridled defamation. We shall therefore be tightening and enforcing our laws to protect the public without fear or favour. The guilty are therefore warned that they are not anonymous to us, as they seem to believe.

We have a Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence and Security, which, in accordance with the Law, is able to give guidance to the Directorate on Intelligence and Security (DIS) and to also act to caution them on any credible allegation of abuse. Let it be noted that neither the DIS nor its staff, including the Director General, are above the law.

By the same token...

HONOURABLE MEMBERS :...(inaudible)...

MR SPEAKER: Order, order Honourable Mokgware, Honourable Butale and Honourable Bathobakae.

MR MOLALE: By the same token, Mr Speaker, let us appreciate that the DIS and its personnel, including its Director General should not be subject to constant abuse based on unsubstantiated hearsay. Let us nip this trend of character assassination by unsupported allegations in the bud. The DISS is doing a good job to protect this nation and they need to be supported, indeed commended, and I hope this House will join me in doing just that.

Mr Speaker, I do not believe I have to cite any of the various international indices that conclude that despite our political differences and economic and social challenges most of our citizens, as well as institutions, continue to uphold the values of “Botho” and “Kagisanyo” in their daily dealings with one another. We should not allow a few to maliciously undermine our collective social dignity.

Speaking on behalf of my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Defence, Justice and Security as well as on my own behalf as the Minister responsible for the DISS, I can assure each and every Member of this House that

both our doors remain open if anyone would wish to approach us about any concerns they might have about the operations of the state security agencies or any other matter of personal or public security.

In conclusion Mr Speaker, I need to reiterate the point that we should all be mature enough to appreciate our common interest in maintaining a society in which peace and the rule of law prevail. Let us therefore refrain from embracing totally unsubstantiated conspiracy theories that only serve to tarnish the good name of our country as a whole. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members. Honourable Members, in terms of Standing Order 41.3, no debate may arise on the statement made by the Minister, but I am going to allow you short questions to elucidate the statement.

MR KESUPILE (KANYE SOUTH): Thank you Mr Speaker. I just wanted the Minister to clarify to us whether the words he has been saying with such passion are an indication that he is going to give the independent print media a headache for a long time because the points he stressed showed he was going to give them a tough time not for one day, but for a long time.

Secondly, and lastly, the person you have been mentioning and considering him to be mad, do you think it is appropriate for you to consider him to be crazy in Parliament before Members of Parliament when he has no way of answering for himself with regard to your statement?

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. I did not say I am going to make it tough for anybody Honourable Member, who does things accordingly. If it is about giving people a tough time, we are going to do so to those who are destructive to you and I and every Motswana who would be unable to defend themselves against them. There is a law which protects him, which protects me; it is not tormenting anyone, it is just adhering to the law.

Secondly, I did not say anything about anyone who is mentally unstable because I never use such language my brother, you raised me up so you should know me better that I know how to speak properly. I just requested permission to quote what was written in the newspaper. I will stop there Mr Speaker.

MR MANGOLE (MOCHUDI WEST): Honourable Minister, the man that you have just mentioned by name, the one you read a quote about his madness and agreeing with it, was he mad when he was a DISS agent or he started being mad after leaving the DISS?

MR MOLALE: First of all Mr Speaker, let me respond by saying the person they are talking about and trying to protect was never employed by DISS. That is a fact.

Secondly, I do not know the state of his mind but those who know him, those who talked to him are the ones who wrote that they suspected he was not well psychologically. I will stop there Mr Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI (FRANCISTOWN SOUTH): Honourable Minister, but since this man you are talking about who seems to be bothering you very much, explained that when he was working at that place you are denying he was killing people, why are you not doing anything about it; why are the police officers not arresting him; why is nothing being done yet he is saying he killed people during DISS assignments? Why are you doing this for the first time ever?

MR MOLALE: Mr Speaker I said this person was never employed by DISS, not even for a day. Therefore when someone confesses things which are not correct we cannot follow him around. We were after an issue of the security of a Member of this House whom it was said there are threats that some people want to kill him, and that person is the one who was uttering those statements. That is why we said after some days, when the police took the matter up, that is when Honourable Mokgware said, "I was going to report after some days." Thank you.

MR MOREMI: Point of order. Thank you Mr Speaker. I just wanted to ask if we are still on procedure. When the Minister started, he was on the issue of publishing malicious things as a Minister for Presidential Affairs. He is now saying the crux of the matter is the security of Honourable Mokgware. Now my question is, through the Standing Order which says a Minister can give a statement with regards to anything that concerns his Ministry, are we still in order because if it is an issue of publication and maliciousness, those we can put upon him. Now it is like we are not sure.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, we are still in order. I am still on Standing Order 41.2, I believe he is saying some things based on the questions you are asking him, he is responding to your questions. Continue asking him questions.

MR MOREMI: Point of order. No, but if you could read it Mr Speaker, that Standing Order does not say what you are saying because you explained very well that it says a Minister gives a statement concerning issues under his Ministry. He explained as he arose that the issue is with regard to the security of a member of the House. So that is an issue of Defence, Justice

and Security, it is not under his office of broadcasting through print media. If he is acting it should be clear.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Minister please respond.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR MOREMI: Point of order. Point of order is for the Speaker, it should not be addressed by the Minister.

MR SPEAKER: Order! I am the one who is supposed to be in charge, do you know that Tawana?

MR MOREMI: But the point of order should be addressed by the Speaker not a Minister. You have to make a ruling ...(inaudible)... Standing Order!

MR SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Moremi, why are you arguing with me? I am the one who is in charge of the House. I am saying the Minister should explain...

MR MOREMI: Point of order should be called for Mr Speaker. You should make a ruling basing on the Standing Order.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Moremi, why are you arguing with me? I am the one manning this House, I said that the Minister should explain, so what is the problem?

MR MOREMI: You are supposed to make a ruling, you are supposed to make a ruling on...

MR SPEAKER: Sit down! I am on the floor

MR MOREMI: You asked me what is wrong with that, I am supposed to respond.

MR SPEAKER: Sit down!

MR MOREMI: And respond to you while I am seated?

MR SPEAKER: And switch off your microphone please.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. The Procedure that is being sought is in line with the fact that I was concerned by the protection of the Honourable Member. And the second part is that I am supposed to deal with the people's security as well as that of the media. They are under my portfolio so I am not out of order Mr Speaker

DR P. BUTALE (GABORONE CENTRAL): Thank you very much ...

MR SPEAKER: Wait a second Honourable Butale. There is a Point of Order being requested.

MR MOSWAANE (FRANCISTOWN WEST): On a Point of Order. I am confused Mr Speaker, it appears Members can just say anything they want off record. Honourable Mmolotsi said 'you kill people' and now Honourable Mokgware said the same thing; 'you kill people.' They just say it without switching their microphones on and everyone can hear that. Is it proper procedure in this House for us to switch off our microphones and then we throw insults on the floor? Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I did not hear him Honourable Moswaane. And if I could hear them say that, proper action will be taken against them. I did not hear anyone say that.

DR P. BUTALE: Thank you very much. I wanted to ask Honourable Minister; you have just told us your views on this matter, and I wanted to know what the on-going investigation is about since you have already concluded. I wanted also to know; you spoke about the meeting at which I attended and Honourable Mokgware attended, is it the same meeting where civil servant in the Director General of DIS said that Honourable Members in myself and Honourable Mokgware were talking nonsense in your presence. Is this not proof enough that he is a law unto himself and you cannot say anything about him? I wanted to also comment about this issue of building a case against the media; is this not building a case against censorship of the media and censorship of the public of Botswana in terms of the laws that are coming. Are you not building a case to come and clamp down on the fundamental and foundational human right of the freedom of expression?

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Freedom of expression is not a one-sided issue. If the newspapers have and strongly believe so that they have freedom of expression, it does not mean that when I stand up here and express freely what I think about them is wrong, it is not. So, what is indicative here is that we as the Government have been quite for a long time because we are tolerant, but there comes a point where we have to say these things out and point to the fact that there are laws that have to be followed. And we are just saying be mindful of the fact that laws are there and have to be obeyed. So, freedom of expression is not a one-sided issue Honourable Butale.

Mr Speaker, the meeting that Honourable Butale is talking about is a meeting that indeed I am referring to, and the incident that he is mentioning I did take accountability for that and responsibility and I have taken an appropriate action. That is why I am mentioning here that nobody is above the law, including me. So, that is the point Mr Speaker. Thank you.

MR DAVIDS (MOCHUDI EAST): Mr Speaker, do you still deny the fact that there are hit men? Please tell me who killed Kalafatis?

Secondly Honourable Minister, the newspapers that you are trying to silence; they have been protecting you but we shall request them to report on everything that you do in the country

MR MOLALE: Mr Speaker, I am aware of the Kalafatis case but personally I have not read its judgement to come to the conclusion of giving him the response he is looking for. So I do not have information on that, but in any case he can go and read that judgement, it is in the public domain.

Point number two that you talked about...

MR MOREMI: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I am scared because we are still out of order because the honourable member has directed a question about Kalafatis to the Honourable Minister and the Minister just said he has not read its judgement. The issue on the floor is recent but the judgement has long been passed. If he is to inform us on what happens in his Ministry regarding security matters, he then should give himself time to respond to Honourable Davids. But we just leave him without responding to him.

MR SPEAKER: No, but he has responded Honourable Member.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. The second part of Honourable David's question; we cannot stop you from telling anybody to write maliciously against the government, we cannot stop you. All I am saying in this statement is that there is a Botswana Press code of ethics which we always advise the media to consider when they report. When you advise them to do that please do remind them to always remember the Press code of conduct. That is all we are saying, and I take that responsibility to always advise them as the Minister responsible for the media. And in my position, I cannot just let things go out of control as if there is no one heading the department. So you must know that, if you want to be slanderous and tell the media to report anyhow they want, it is up to you. You know what you will be aiming at. Thank you.

MR KGOROBA (MOGODITSHANE): Thank you Mr Speaker. Before Mmegi newspaper published the Mr Kgotlhang story, did they make any effort to consult you on the matter?

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. No Honourable Member. Thank you.

MR KEORAPETSE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Minister, what are the implications of your statement on a matter that has been reported to the police and we believe the police are currently seized with it? Secondly, why do you think your government has a good name while she has not given reasons why she forgave Kalafatis's killers.

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

MR KEORAPETSE: Why do you think your government has a good name while there are so many people who died because of extra-judicial killings, including Kalafatis whom until today, we do not know...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure.

MR KEORAPETSE: ...reasons for forgiving his killers. What were they forgiven for?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is irrelevant.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Last week, either on Thursday or Friday the same matter that is being investigated was discussed in some private radio station and the reason I am standing here is to caution that we should not do that. I am only saying the procedure should be followed. So the implications of my statement are that we must ensure that the Rule of Law prevails, that is what I expect from my statement so that while the police are still investigating, we should not be talking on the other side while we are the very same people who could have gone to report to the police but the police out of their own volition, picked up this matter and started investigating. And when they approached those implicated, they said they were still going to report. I think we must talk about that and correct these things because the Rule of Law is not a preclude of some people and not the others. The rule of Law applies to all of us. So, let us not hinder the police from doing their job.

Point number two, a good name or not; it is your opinion Honourable Keorapetse, but what I was saying in my statement is that we get those accolades locally and across the globe on the observance of the Rule of Law and Good Governance. So that is a good name, whether you believe or not, that is up to you. I thank you Mr Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: I said procedure.

MR BOKO: Thank you very much. Minister, you have repeatedly suggested that the reports in respect of which you are aggrieved, in many respects amount to a violation:

- (i) of the laws of this Republic.
- (ii) of the ethics of Journalism, to the extent that they flout the code.

Have you engaged any measures firstly to avail yourself of the suit of relieves that are available in respect of a complaint or complaints against the Press? Two; have you sought to invoke the laws which you claim exist, in order to curb this matter that has aggrieved you so much? Have you engaged any concrete measures in these two regards? Thank you very much.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you Honourable Leader of Opposition. Starting with the last one, no, I have not sought to invoke the law. All I was saying is forewarned is forearmed. That is all I was saying. Point number two, yes there could be a suit of measures and one of them is my regular meetings with the Sub-Council of High Level Consultative Council (HLCC) on the Media which was selected by them and we do discuss these things to try and say, if any of the parties is not doing things right, let us sit down and find out how we can come up with remedies. But despite that, we still find some of these things, and it is within my duty to then remind and caution, Mr Leader of Opposition. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER: I am taking the last three.

MR KHAN: Thank you very much Mr Speaker. Honourable Minister, I would like to try and understand. It is beyond me at the moment to understand why you would make a statement here and not call a Press Conference and just sort it out there because all you are doing is rebutting statements that were made in the newspaper. It is not anything to do here in the House. I do not know what you are trying to achieve Honourable Minister. This should have just been a statement. I find it a waste of time of this Honourable House, we should have continued with the debate before us.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank you Honourable Khan for voicing your opinion and as far as I am concerned, it is an opinion, not even a learned opinion. Mr Speaker, I brought this statement here to Parliament because in the allegations that were made, it was being referred to as using Parliamentary Catering Services to poison some Members of this House. I wanted to come here and allay the fears that there can never be such poisoning from the Parliamentary Catering Services. So it is very clear that it is a relevant statement that I made here, it is not a waste of time. It is about your own security Honourable Khan. I thank you Mr Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MS BATHOBAKAE: Honourable Speaker, I heard the Minister saying that we should trust the DIS and support them. Honourable Minister, how can we trust them if they can hire mad people to do cruel acts of

killing people? And even when they can say Members of Parliament are talking nonsense? Is this right when we pay people with our taxes and they make people suffer like this?

MR MOSWAANE: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: You know what; I am left with one Member before we close this matter. Honourable Minister, respond.

MR MOSWAANE: Did you not hear point of order Sir? You said we should say it once.

MR SPEAKER: Do not speak too close to the microphone. Wait; there is a point of order.

MR MOSWAANE: Point of order. Mr Speaker, this issue has attracted unnecessary comments but you are just too patient. Even the Kalafatis issue is being debated. Mr Speaker, caution the Honourable Members about the use of a statement. Honourable Bathobakae boldly said “the DIS is hiring people who kill people” while it has been explained that it has never hired anyone to do. I wonder what is happening.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Order! Honourable Bathobakae, Order! Honourable Members, take it easy, I will give you an opportunity to comment on this issue. We are left with one person and we will be continuing with the business of the day. I am patient, I allotted you that time. Afterwards, we move on.

MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MOLALE): Thank you Mr Speaker. I said earlier on that DIS employs people who are fit. I cannot use those other words which are used and I do not know anything about them.

Secondly, I said if there is an issue that can cause chaos whether it has happened or you see that it is something you need to accept, I said as a politician, you have to accept it. I had no fear in doing that. If there is any possible consequences that will follow on the acceptance of what I admit to have happened, then so be it. Yes, I did say I take accountability and responsibility for those utterances, but I did caution strongly and in the presence of all those who were there including the Honourable Members that, that should never happen again. This is because of the following;

- (i) It is against the procedures of public service.
- (ii) It is against the procedures of etiquette because we were at the Speaker’s Chambers. The Speaker was the most senior person of all of us there and therefore I cautioned that should that happen again,

I am going to take drastic action and I meant it. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister, I thought I heard you very well saying Honourable Butale and I ran to the newspapers before we came to you or to the Speakers. I want you to produce evidence that I went to the newspapers and discussed this issue with them before I came to you.

Secondly, I need you to confirm to this House that when I approached the Speaker on the concerns I had, you said this matter was being investigated by the Police and therefore it could not be discussed because whatever we may discuss may end up as part of the evidence if there is a case. You also said your name and Minister Kgathi’s were implicated in the case and the man you were talking about mentioned you therefore we should not discuss the matter. Now I want to know if the statement you have just released will it not be implicated in the evidence.

The last one is that, earlier you mentioned that you are the Acting Minister of Defence, Justice and Security, how far are the Police investigations because they report to you and what was the conclusion?

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Mokgware that was the last question.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker. On the first question; it is indeed true Honourable Mokgware that before you went to report to the Police or elsewhere, you went to the newspapers. This is a statement that was said by you.

Point number two...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR MOLALE: Let me finish...

MR SPEAKER: Wait Honourable Minister.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: On a point of order. Mr Speaker, Honourable Kgathi and Honourable Butale were also present. It is very unfortunate that the minister is uttering a false statement. If he says that is what I said, let him produce evidence right now. You were there and Honourable Butale was also present. I have never said that. I would not have come here and enquire about that issue. I wonder what should be done in a case where the Minister is not telling the truth of which you are a witness.

MR SPEAKER: I hear you Honourable Mokgware. Honourable Minister, correct that statement.

MR MOLALE: Mr Speaker, I do not know how to correct what I have said because it is what was said in that meeting. Honourable Mokgware said he told someone to wait while he called for some people. I am talking about this issue, at that time. So, it is hard for me to say...

DR P. BUTALE: On a point of order. I think Honourable Speaker we are now turning this House into a mockery.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is a circus.

DR P. BUTALE: It is a circus. I think Honourable Ministers need to know that truth telling is very important. I was in that meeting and the Honourable Minister knows very well that he is not telling the truth. I think we cannot sit here and listen to the likes of Honourable Maele saying we will attend to this matter outside. We are serious here. We are serious and we are not coming here to entertain such ...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Butale, order!

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: Order!

DR P. BUTALE: I am standing on a point of order.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Of course! I am saying sit down. I am also rising on a point of order.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Maele, Honourable Butale...

DR P. BUTALE: Honestly, I think we need to take this House seriously. This man cannot come here and tell an untruth.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Butale, sit down Honourable Member. Try to calm down. Honourable Maele, do not do that.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): He is disrespecting me ...(Inaudible)...

MR SPEAKER: Do you hear yourself?

MR MAELE: ...(Inaudible)...

MR SPEAKER: Minister Maele, no, no. Order! Order!

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

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Butale, I said calm down. Do you know that it is not right to be that overly emotional? Do not say those things. No! Try to calm down so that we conclude this matter in peace. I gave the Minister a chance to correct his statement. I was still listening to him when you started arguing. Honourable

Butale and Honourable Maele, I am warning you for the last time.

MR MOLALE: Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR MAJAGA: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Majaga, I said enough with point of orders.

MR MAJAGA: I wanted to assist you Mr Speaker...

MR SPEAKER: Since you want to assist me, let me hear what you have to say.

MR MAJAGA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Let us look at Standing Order 51.1, "a Member shall speak standing and shall address his or her observations to the Speaker."

This is continuing, people do not respect you. If we go to Standing Order 59 of decision of the Chair it says, "The Speaker shall be responsible for the observation of the rules of the order. His or her decision on point of order shall be final." I have however realised that this is persistent and I do not know what could be the problem.

MR SPEAKER: I agree with you Honourable Majaga people do not abide by this Standing Order and they will soon get into trouble. You advised well Honourable Member.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): On a point of order. Mr Speaker Honourable Butale stood up, switched his mike (microphone) and said the likes of Maele are not serious in Parliament. I never switched on the mike and mentioned that I am not serious in this Parliament. You are just going to reprimand me and not say a word to him; I am asking him to withdraw those words.

MR SPEAKER: I reprimanded both of you, whether you had switched on or not I talked to you about what you are doing in Parliament. So I am not going to talk to any of you again and I think you and Honourable Butale heard me.

MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MOLALE): Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker I was asking you to...

MR SPEAKER: There is another point of order.

MR MOREMI: On a point of order. Mr Speaker my point of order is that in Honourable Mokgware's plea, you directed Honourable Molale to make a correction, he should either submit the evidence or withdraw the allegation that he made. He is now saying he is not going to withdraw and it is clear that he is refusing to adhere

to the Speaker's ruling. Are we in order if the Speaker's decision of point of order on Honourable Mokgware's issue is not followed?

MR SPEAKER: No Honourable Minister has not concluded his answer. Let me wait for him to finish that is when I will hear if he is going to correct and say what was spoken by Honourable Mokgware and Honourable Butale. I am listening.

MR MOSWAANE: On a point of order. Mr Speaker we are at your mercy. If somebody, "you are not serious," to a Member, it is a serious defamation of character. I am therefore seeking your protection Mr Speaker. Honourable Member is a Minister and a Member of Parliament and there is no how somebody could just talk to him like that for purposes of recording and going to the papers to say "I told him." This is not right Honourable Member as it tarnishes our names, ah!

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members protect yourselves by recognising that you are elders here at work, you should respect each other. I will not revisit Honourable Butale and Honourable Maele's issue. He knows what he said to Honourable Butale when his mic was off. I heard him from here. I am not part of it, we are continuing. Honourable Minister conclude your debate.

MR MOLALE: I thank you Mr Speaker...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order!

MR MOLALE: What are you scared of? Let me finish.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Minister sit down I am left with one minute to conclude this matter.

MR NTLHAILE: On a point of order. Thank you Mr Speaker. I am not at ease, I am really scared. This is so because I understand that in the issue that was presented to us, we are told there were three people and the Speaker's name is also mentioned...

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Ntlhaile the time that I had allocated for Minister's statement has collapsed. So we are continuing with the budget.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: I am on my feet Honourable Members and I have finished what I said no one should challenge that decision.

MAJ. GEN MOKGWARE: On a point of procedure. Thank you Mr Speaker. My name has been tarnished even if you have ruled that the issue be closed before the Minister could withdraw what he said. If that is the case then what should be done because the records will stay like that?

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members I said I am not going back to that statement. We are no longer going to talk about it, we are proceeding. Whoever is complaining will meet with me at the Speaker's Chambers. I am done with it here.

APPROPRIATION (2016/2017) BILL,
2016 No. 1 OF 2016

Second Reading
(Resumed Debate)

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): Point of order. Thank you Mr Speaker, yesterday we had agreed that Honourable Mmolotsi should go and bring evidence. So I was asking that he be asked to present it before we continue.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members. Just wait. Order! Sorry Honourable Members I was still enquiring about the evidence that is expected from Honourable Mmolotsi. I am then reminded that he was supposed to submit evidence to the Speaker's office yesterday. Now he is not here. If he was here I was going to ask him whether he managed to do what was expected from him. I will ask him as soon as he arrives. Let us continue in the meantime.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (MR MOLAO): Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to conclude that we presented through Honourable Matambo a very sound budget which has got something for everyone. I posit that the opposition through the Leader of the Opposition failed in their attempt to give an alternative budget in the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition. I also wish to underscore that the much loathed Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) is real and will be implemented much to the chagrin of the Opposite isle and their handlers out there.

Mr Speaker, we do find some screaming newspaper articles like the Business Weekly, headlined 'The Looters' referring to the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) Government trying to rubbish the ESP. We do find the Patriot saying "we are preparing for war" referring to the budget that has been allocated to the Ministry of Defence and it is not surprising. If you take cue from the newspapers the way they have been rubbishing the ESP and the budget and also coming in to the House listening to Members from across the aisle parroting exactly what is being parroted out there by their media consultants as we do know that they have been strongly advised by their media handlers out there, like the Business Weekly

Newspaper to come here and make concerted efforts to rubbish the ESP at every turn.

We know they have been strongly advised to do so hence at the end of it all what is being captured in the private media out there and what the Members on the Opposite side are saying in Parliament is exactly parroting the message. We are not surprised by that turn of events and we will not be ...

MR RANTUANA: On a point of order. Thank you Madam Speaker. Honourable Minister is calling the members of the opposition parrots. I would like to know whether this child is also referring to me. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Rantuana, I did not hear him call Honourable Members parrots. A parrot and parroting are two different things.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR MOLAO: Certainly Madam Speaker ...

MR RANTUANA: What does parroting except a parrot mean Madam Speaker, I am asking you?

MADAM SPEAKER: You are using words the way we would use them in Setswana context. He does not mean that you are a parrot. I am very sorry. You know that you are not a parrot.

MR RANTUANA: Madam Speaker what does parroting except a parrot mean? This question is directed to you Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: I am not supposed to be questioned.

MR RANTUANA: Point of order! It addresses the Speaker and I am asking; what does parroting except a parrot mean?

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Rantuana, I do not answer questions.

MR MOLAO: Madam Speaker I have never referred to any individual as a parrot but the messaging as parroting the same message that is parroted out there by the private media is being parroted in this House by Members across the aisle. I so submit Madam Speaker.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): Thank you Madam Speaker and good afternoon. Madam Speaker, I wish to start by congratulating the Minister responsible for Finance and Development Planning for presenting a very good budget, a poor people's and immense job creation opportunities budget.

I also want to thank the Minister, Madam Speaker for having indeed presented himself as a listening Minister. Madam Speaker, most of what has been ably presented through this budget has been a response to pleas by Honourable Members of this House. I also want to thank the Minister Madam Speaker that despite the tough economic challenges that are being faced by this country, as he ably presented them...

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Doctor you cannot leave, the quorum will be short. Honourable Makgalemele, you may continue.

MR MAKGALEMELE: Thank you Madam Speaker. I had just appreciated the fact that the Honourable Minister presented this budget faced by a lot of challenges both local and economic conditions, both the local and the international challenges. Despite these challenges, the Honourable Minister has been able to present a budget that to me presents the wishes of the poor, a budget that presents huge opportunities for job creation.

Madam Speaker part of what the Minister has presented under the topic on the 2016/2017 budget proposals at paragraph 72, if you allow me to quote what the Honourable Minister said.

MADAM SPEAKER: Do quote.

MR MAKGALEMELE: "A total budget of P14.82 billion is proposed for the financial year 2016/2017. The Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security with a proposed allocation of P3.5 billion or 24 per cent, takes the largest share of the proposed budget. Mainly to cater for provision of defence equipment, communication equipment and infrastructure in order to improve the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) capabilities. In addition the allocation caters for ..."

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE):

On a point of order. Madam Speaker, yesterday during your absence, Honourable Members asked a certain Honourable Member to submit evidence to validate some of the things that he said. Deputy Speaker decided that; that Honourable Member will submit that evidence today as he was not present yesterday to do so. Thank you Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Indeed Honourable Mmolotsi you promised to come by my office but you did not. I was busy with other meetings but nevertheless I was not told that you passed by when I asked. You said you were going to come today, when are you going to come?

MR MMOLOTSI: Madam Speaker, I was supposed to come yesterday but it was already late. I could then

have come this morning the problem is that yesterday the members of the Botswana Democratic Party went for caucus and were asked to bring them and were taken from them. In fact they were simply invited to discuss them, the poor people went there thinking they are going to discuss, when they got there they were told to bring them back. So I am still looking for a copy, give me time Madam Speaker I shall bring that copy. The ones they were given have been taken back.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS TSHIRELETSO): Point of order. Madam Speaker we never met for that issue yesterday, I was present. We went for a meeting at the Vice President's house to discuss Botswana Democratic Party issues. I want it to be concluded because I am telling the truth that we never brought those papers nor discussed them. If he wanted to know our agenda of the meeting he could have just asked, we were discussing party stuff not this issue. He should just bring that document and stop accusing us, we do not have them.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Procedure.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Father, if one Member is standing on a point of order you have to allow him to finish his point first then stand thereafter. She was responding, do you want to comment on it. I am waiting for Honourable Mmolotsi to bring it. So Honourable Mmolotsi I will call you tomorrow to remind you to bring the evidence just like you are promising today, you are still making that promise even today?

MR MMOLOTSI: Madam Speaker I think you should be patient with me because I do have a plan of where to look for them but they have been taken from them so I am still trying to find another source. So give me a few days I shall bring it.

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE): Procedure. Madam Speaker, I think it is high time we are serious with the proceedings of this House and we follow the procedures of this House. Honourable Member made allegation yesterday and he was sound and he said he has it in his hand and there was even where he said, "I have that copy". Madam Speaker, we cannot be moving in circles because Honourable Members are not taking this House seriously. I think Honourable Mmolotsi must be requested with immediate effect to produce that document because people have been handing over to the Speakers or to you Madam Speaker, sitting where you are if they have what you request. The Honourable Member must hand over that document, he cannot be saying that now the documents are in the hands of the

BDP Members, whilst yesterday he said that he has that document. So really there is no correlation between what he is saying today and yesterday and you still want Honourable Mmolotsi to continue to make a mockery of this House. That Madam Speaker you must stop it. I think the procedures of this House must be followed.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Mmolotsi kindly bring that document to the office as we agreed. You promised to bring it yesterday claiming that you have it so bring it and stop playing games.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ... (Interruptions) ...

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not press that whilst I am standing, why are you pressing while I am still talking to you. So I do not agree with your request a few days. Yesterday you claimed to have that document and you shall bring it today. So I was waiting for you the whole day to bring it, please do that.

MR MMOLOTSI: Madam Speaker, actually yesterday I did not say I have it I said it is there knowing that I will take it from my colleagues. In the afternoon after their caucus Honourable Makgalemele said to me, we have fixed you, you will never get that evidence. So they have rectified this issue but I will search for it Madam Speaker. Honourable Makgalemele I shall rectify... (inaudible)...

MR TSOGWANE: Point of order. Madam Speaker I think you must make a final ruling on this matter and the Member must take you seriously, especially when you are making a ruling. He must not continue playing games with you Madam Speaker as he is doing. You said he should bring that evidence and he cannot go and say people are still having that. We have heard that he has been running the whole night knocking from door to door, trying to get that document and he could not get it. Yesterday I told him that you are going to have sleepless nights, I warned him. Even his best friends did not give it to him.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Order! Father! Listen at least he made an effort to look for it yesterday so Honourable Mmolotsi I am giving you up to tomorrow, if you do not find that document it means...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: We disagree Madam...

MADAM SPEAKER: You cannot dispute my ruling. I heard that you tried knocking on doors yesterday. I am closing that issue, I give him up to tomorrow, if you do not find it tonight you withdraw tomorrow, it would mean that you failed.

MR MMOLOTSI: Madam Speaker since I am going to leave here at the end of business it means I will look

for it during business hours just like you hear that I was running from house to house, which is not true. Honourable Tsogwane is well aware that he invited Members to discuss that document when in fact they are going to take them back all because of me.

MADAM SPEAKER: Let us proceed Honourable Members.

MR NGAKA: Point of order. Thank you Madam Speaker. I just wanted to ask one question, I humbly request that if Honourable Mmolotsi has evidence that the documents have been taken back from some members he should produce it otherwise withdraw that.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Members! I said tomorrow, I gave him up to tomorrow and I have made a ruling. Therefore we can proceed.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): Madam Speaker, when I was stopped you had given me permission to quote and I hope that permission still stands Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: It does, which paragraph is it again?

MR MAKGALEMELE: 72 of the Budget speech Madam Speaker and I will continue basically where I stopped "...mainly to cater for provision of defence equipment, communication equipment, and infrastructure, in order to improve BDF's defence capabilities. In addition, the allocation caters for construction of Police Stations at Mmathubudukwane, Maitengwe and Semolale, as well as staff houses in different locations in order to improve safety and security". Madam Speaker that is part of the presentation made by the Honourable Minister responsible for Finance and Development Planning. Madam Speaker there has been some *hulabaloo* about this aspect of the budget proposal. I want to indicate to this Honourable House that the Members of Parliament...

MR MOREMI: Point of order Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the point of order that I stood on is that I wanted to understand what Honourable Makgalemele is saying. We know that the word is pronounced as "*hullabaloo*", and he just said "*hulabaloo*" and so I wanted to know if it is the same word he refers to?

MADAM SPEAKER: So why did you not call for a point of clarification instead if you only wanted to talk about his pronunciation? Please continue Sir.

MR MAKGALEMELE: Thanks for correcting me, "your assertions", if that makes you happier Honourable Moremi. I understand that you went to an

English Medium School. I am a product of Kgamane Memorial School, and so I will occasionally experience shortcomings with the language as I continue with my speech. Madam Speaker, as indicated at the beginning of my presentation, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning is indeed a listening Minister. If you allow me to quote Madam Speaker, during the 2015 Committee of Supply, Ministry for Defence, Justice and Security, Honourable Kesupile had this to say, "lastly it is about the Botswana Defence Force (BDF). I was fortunate to be a member of a committee that was mandated with monitoring the welfare of the soldiers. We toured all the camps and we saw places where they exercise and where they are trained. We even took a flight in some of their aircrafts and what was clear was that those aircrafts are very old.."

Madam Speaker, still on the same topic, during the 2014 Committee of Supply same Ministry, Honourable Habano of the Botswana Congress Party (BCP) had this to say, "one other point that I would like to touch on is with regard to the accommodation and the conditions of service of the police officers, soldiers and the prisons officials. I want to suggest to the Minister that he should come out clear and request funds for accommodation. How come is it that you can source funding for other projects but you cannot source some for building houses for the police offices? You should build houses for all security force officials. They cannot do a good job if they stay in those conditions because I have seen where they stay as I normally visit some of them in Francistown and Kasane during my private time."

Madam Speaker, if you go through the Committee of Supply debates both for the 10th and the 11th Parliament, there is a clear cut argument that we need to spend more with regards to the BDF, Police and Prisons. Such assertions were also presented by Members of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). I just wanted to quote from these two Honourable Members, both during the 10th Parliament and during the 11th Parliament to demonstrate that there has always been an outcry that we needed to invest more and more on these three institutions. It is therefore really disturbing that when the Minister of Finance brings to Parliament in response to the pleas by Honourable Members and as I have already indicated I am talking of pleas that have been made during the 10th and the 11th Parliament, Madam Speaker, there is an outcry. What is the outcry about? I think this is very unfair coming from Members of the Opposition.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, Members of the Opposition are creating an impression...

MR DAVIDS: On a point of clarification Madam

Speaker. You are referring to two Members and yet you are saying it is the view of the Opposition party Members. Are you really sure about your numbers?

MR MAKGALEMELE: Yes, many of the Opposition Members presented such arguments Honourable Davids and I will be more than happy to hand over to you a Hansard for both the 10th and the 11th Parliament so that you can read for yourself. Honourable Molao yesterday cited other three Members of Parliament who literally said the same thing. So you come to Parliament claiming that you are speaking on behalf of the people you represent, when we respond to what you are arguing for, then we are wrong as the ruling party. I think Madam Speaker this is rather very unfair.

Madam Speaker...

MR MOREMI: Procedure Madam Speaker. I am a bit concerned Madam Speaker that the Honourable Member earlier on felt that I was making fun of him when in fact I was not. He has been quoting what has been said by some Members of the Opposition an argument that some expenditures should be made. He used words such as "hullabaloo" and "outcry." I thought that he would at least name others who said those things. If it was Honourable Boko who said that then it should be said instead of saying that there was a hullabaloo. This is why I asked you to name those you say caused that hullabaloo instead of generalising.

MADAM SPEAKER: So you still want him to explain what he meant by saying there was a hullabaloo?

MR MAKGALEMELE: Madam Speaker, earlier on I said if it makes the Honourable Member happier, I will use the word assertions. These were assertions made by Members of the Opposition as I have already indicated. But I also want to indicate Madam Speaker, a couple of seconds back I did indicate that such sentiments were not only presented by Members of the Opposition, even Members of the Botswana Democratic Party who spoke during various debates on this Ministry's request to this Honourable House. They did indicate their concerns on the plight of the Botswana Defence Force and Botswana Police Services for example. The Committee that Honourable Kesupile was referring to earlier on also comprises of Members of the BDP and the same Members of the BDP Madam Speaker did communicate such concerns.

I wanted to move to the next point Madam Speaker. The arguments presented by the Opposition suggest that as the BDP, we spend more money in the area of defence and security and it is not true Madam Speaker. I have here an analysis of our spending, both for the recurrent

and the development budget during the National Development Plan (NDP) 10 period. As you know our NDP 10 period has been a period of 7 years as opposed to the normal 6 year period. I made an analysis Madam Speaker, of the top five spending Ministries throughout the NDP 10 period Madam Speaker. And what is coming out of this analysis is that, during most years of the NDP 10 period, the bulk of the development budget went to the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources. In fact during the seven-year period, five of those seven years, the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources was Ministry number one on the Development Budget Madam Speaker. During the better part of that period, the Ministry that was number two on the Development Budget was the Ministry of Transport and Communications. I think Madam Speaker this is a clear cut evidence that we have spent the development budget in areas that potentially assisted most Batswana.

When we are talking of delivery of water Madam Speaker, delivery of energy, you are talking of a product that goes to most Batswana including Batswana who are poor in our economy. You are talking of producing a resource that is used by the business sector, Madam Speaker. Therefore to come to Parliament and suggest that we are a government that likes to spend more money on the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security, and there is no war and so on, I think Madam Speaker is misleading to this Honourable House.

As I have already indicated, the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security only made the top five during the 2009/2010 financial year, during the 2010/2011 financial year, during the 2011/2012 financial years, and during the current financial year. The rest of the other years the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security could not even make the top four. In fact Madam Speaker, where they made the top five, in most cases they were either Ministry number four or Ministry number five.

MINISTER OF HEALTH (MS MAKGATO): Elucidation. Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I was a little bit worried when my colleague was debating, and he said that there was hullabaloo and it seemed there was a problem regarding that. I have just quickly looked at what it means and I agree with you that 'it is a confusion and a noisy situation of people that are upset and angry about something that does not exist' and that is contained in the definition of hullabaloo. I also wanted to say to you that, clearly from your stats, anyone who has been saying that you are irresponsible by spending money on Defence is confused or is uninformed. Is that correct?

MR MAKGALEMELE: Indeed! Honourable Minister. Again Madam Speaker, when you make an analysis of

the same NDP 10 period, and you go under the heading Poverty and Social Protection, whilst we started with a budget of P290 million during the 2009/2010 financial year, that is at the beginning of the NDP 10 period.

MR MOREMI: Point of order. Madam Speaker, when I was on the floor debating the Budget Speech 2016, Honourable Makgalemele rightfully said to me 'quote the page where you get that material from.' So, when I am here, when he says 'hullabaloo' I think I am entitled to ask him myself to be specific as to whether when he uses that word he is referring to Honourable Boko when he was talking about the Defence Expenditure but that is never mentioned. You always mention where you say as the opposition we humiliated ourselves trying to criticise the Defence Expenditure. If the word hullabaloo has offended some people, on that point we apologise, but I just wanted to say when you say hullabaloo you are not specific. Just be specific as to what you want to be done.

MADAM SPEAKER (MS KOKORWE): We get what you are saying Honourable Kgosi Tawana.

MR MAKGALEMELE: Honourable Speaker, I think with due respect, Honourable Moremi is just wasting my time.

I was just indicating Madam Speaker that whilst on the recurrent budget under the heading Poverty and Social Protection for the Period of NDP 10, whilst we started with a budget of P290 million during the 2009/2010 financial year, what is being proposed to us currently is P846 million from P290 million 2009/2010 to P846 million proposed during the 2016/2017 financial year under Poverty and Social Protection Recurrent Budget. Not only that Madam Speaker, still under the same issue, under the heading Poverty and Employment Programs, Development Budget, whilst we started during the 2009 financial year with P420 million, we are now standing at P1,5 billion; Poverty and Employment Programs Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, as I indicated earlier, Honourable Matambo has presented a budget that presents immense opportunity for the poor, immense opportunities for job creation. It is very important Madam Speaker that as we are talking of development, safety nets become very important especially to the poor and vulnerable people. That is why Madam Speaker, over the years we have made such significant increase under the headings of Poverty and Social Protection and under the headings of Poverty and Employment Programs. We have not stopped there Madam Speaker, we have committed ourselves as this government that we will eradicate abject poverty during the 2016/2017 financial year. I hold a strong view Madam Speaker that this budget as

proposed by the Honourable Minister presents a huge opportunity for us to be able to achieve that.

Madam Speaker, the Minister has dedicated most of his presentation to the Economic Stimulus Programme as it has been ably presented by my fellow colleagues from the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). The ESP Madam Speaker has three broad objectives; the first objective is simply to stimulate the economy. The second objective Madam Speaker is diversification through the Economic Diversification Drive (EDD). The third key objective Madam Speaker is to accelerate job creation. We have gone a step further Madam Speaker, to say we know we have experienced some challenges in the course of implementing the many, many innovations, policies and programs geared to us Poverty Eradication, job creation, Economic Diversification, over the years. We want to also use the ESP to re-engineer ourselves as a government, and we have put into place many initiatives that are geared towards ensuring that indeed ESP succeeds Madam Speaker. In fact, what we are currently doing Madam Speaker, some Members of Parliament had actually called on us to take action again during both the 10th Parliament and during the 11th Parliament. Members of Parliament had indicated that please, we want you to come up with ideas...

strategies that can stimulate this economy; we want more money to be injected into this economy. Both Members from our side and from the Opposition side, and we have taken such decisions.

Madam Speaker, the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) presents many opportunities for accelerated job creation. As we all know, we have been importing a significant amount of products from outside our borders and as government we have said, as part of ESP, we want to manufacture the many, many products that we have been importing outside our borders. I want to urge ourselves as MPs to go out and promote these many products that are currently being imported from elsewhere, so that these products can now be produced in our country. Some of these products are very simple products to make Madam Speaker. We are talking of products that include; flours, cheese, cans and other food related products. Our bill for the disciplined forces on average is over P800 000 annually and we are saying, these kinds of food can actually be produced in our country and we have further provided additional market for our harvest. The Selebi Phikwe Agro Processing Plant presents an opportunity for us who have produced to go and sell at this particular processing plant.

Poverty Eradication Programme; Madam Speaker, currently we are promoting a total of 45 programmes under this initiative. Whilst we have termed them

poverty eradication programmes, most of them you can literally run as medium scale business projects and as large scale business projects. Therefore it creates an opportunity for somebody to move from a poverty situation to a wealth level. I want to urge ourselves that even as we are looking at the poverty eradication programmes, for example; Small stock, we are currently providing people who can acquire, they can own small stock up to the maximum of P15 000. If taken care of, those small stock, they can actually put you in a situation where ultimately you can be a rich person. Therefore, whilst we have these social programmes that I have spoken about Madam Speaker, the poverty eradication programme, giving it as an example, it basically allows somebody to move to a level of richness.

Not only that, we have many policies that people can access. Recently we repackaged, we improved the Women Economic Programme; it is one of the new initiatives. People can form themselves into a cooperative, they can access up to P500 000 from the Women Economic Empowerment Programme. All these programmes Madam Speaker, are well detailed in this document and titled 'Information on Funding Sources for Small Projects' that has been made available to all constituencies, presents many funding mechanisms that can be accessed by people wishing to move from poverty level to wealth level. Therefore Madam Speaker, I am saying the ESP presents huge business opportunities and the market. For example, I have already talked to imports substitution but it is not only about flagging an opportunity that is presented by the market, Selebi Phikwe Agro Processing, for example, but we are talking about an economy that has got many funding mechanisms. Whether you want a grant, whether you want financing from a bank, everything is there available for the people to access these funds, so that they can move from a position of those challenges to the level that I have already articulated.

Having said that Madam Speaker, I also want to acknowledge the fact that there are challenges within our economy. In my constituency for example Madam Speaker, there is still a desire for the establishment of our constituency as a sub-district. We still feel that despite the economic challenges, that should be possible Madam Speaker. Once again I want to urge the Ministry responsible to look at the arguments that were presented to this Honourable House when a motion that I presented during the 10th Parliament was approved by this Honourable House, because the motion gave some options that can be operationalized in our desire to set up the sub-districts as committed during the NDP 10. But I also want to acknowledge Madam Speaker that there are currently many demands as I have spoken about roads, for example, in my constituency, in places such

as Mosolotshane and Kalamare. There is a dire need for the clinics there to be upgraded to a level where they have maternity facilities Madam Speaker. But we know that there are still some challenges, despite the ESP. We know that not everything can be done at once but I want to make a humble plea that as we move towards the finalisation of the NDP 11, there is need for us to look at new ways of broadening the revenue streams of government because there is need for us to do more and more for the people, for our people on the ground because indeed there is a need for more infrastructural projects.

As I conclude Madam Speaker, I also want to make a humble plea that all of us in this Honourable House, as we are making requests, we must know that government is not, will not and shall never be in a position to provide for all at the same time. Therefore, I want us to structure our thinking and how we can operationalize our needs maybe at three levels Madam Speaker. Yes, at the first level we can appeal to government for support, but I also want us to find ways of promoting, ways of re-engineering the spirit of self-reliance. As you know, we built the University of Botswana through self-reliance, I want that to form part of our development agendas as a country. I want us to also know that part of the support can be derived from the private sector; the corporate social responsibility.

Madam Speaker, as I have already indicated, I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister for presenting a very good budget, a balanced budget, a budget for the poor, a budget that presents immense opportunities for all. I thank you Madam Speaker.

MR GAOLATHE (GABORONE BONNINGTON SOUTH): Thank you Madam Speaker for this opportunity to weigh into this very important debate that influences the direction in which our country should and can move. We know that it is the hope of many of our people that the day will come when each one of our citizens will have opportunity to be employed, opportunity to be the best that they can be. When they will witness the day when the economy of their country would be diversified and witness an opportunity where those who live below the poverty line will live like people with dignity. Where each one of our citizens will live a life that is pleasurable to live and live in a country whose environment is well taken care of and given those aspirations of our people, we acknowledge that the budget is only one of many instruments that any nation can use and apply to assist the country move towards its aspirations.

Today given the presentation by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, we want to submit to them

and to him and to the government that, we realise that the budget plays a number of roles and one of those roles of course is the allocative role; the role of allocating national resources.

The second role; we believe that the budget also is an opportunity for the government to provide feedback to the people around how the economy has performed and how institutions that are vital to the economy have performed. Finally, the budget is a platform for the government to express its policy intentions and as legislatures one of our key roles is that of oversight.

My contribution today is in that context; to provide the Minister of Finance and Development Planning with feedback, to provide the government of the day with feedback around what our views are, around how that allocative role of resources has been played, your feedback on the economy versus other feedback on the economy and what the performance of the institutions is and feedback around what should be a platform for your policy intent.

There are areas where the government and indeed the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning deserve some credit, but there are areas on the hope that we would consider as areas where there is immense opportunities missed. I want to say that I will be making this feedback later on our views on fiscal and monetary management of our economy.

The second area where I will give feedback is around strategy where we believe that there are opportunities that have been missed in relation to our strategic thrust as a country. When we talk about strategy, I want to submit that this government has not and does not ask the difficult questions which ought to be asked and does not probe the difficult issues that need to be probed. I want to submit that in terms of our resolve to build our human resource capital, there are tremendous missed opportunities in terms of how we have been able to harness our human resources as a country.

Thirdly, even though this government has indicated those sectors that it believes provide opportunity as sectors that could be the engines of economic growth, of economic diversification and prosperity in the future, this government has not provided tangible and specific strategies as to how those sectors would be activated and how they would be developed.

The other point that I believe there are missed opportunities is simply around the issue of capacity and capability in respect to public institutions. What I would refer here, I would collectively call our delivery capability and capacity and break it down into two.

These are our systems and processes; the way we do things as a government delivery system.

Secondly, the effectiveness of the government system; all these things pertaining to strategy do have an impact on our overall aspirations in terms of whether we would be able to diversify the economy, whether we would be able to generate those economic engines of growth, whether we would be able to alleviate poverty and whether we would be able to broaden the participation of our people in the economic development.

But there is another issue that I believe represents missed opportunities and that area is our inability to harness our pension resources. Our pension resources are about P60 billion, which is almost the same size of the banking sector in this country. If we were smart and strategic about deploying these resources, we could transform the economy of this country. But there is also the issue of our ability to undertake mega and long term projects and this is an area I would like to talk to a bit later on.

There are issues of social inclusion which I know have become very important for the government and very important for our people. The government procurement system provides an opportunity of making it possible that more of our people can become part of the economic mainstream. Our education system is such an opportunity as well. Our attitude to housing of our people is an opportunity as well. Our delivery in the health system is an opportunity as well for that.

I want to now start specifically talk about missed opportunities in terms of how we develop our human resources. There is a think tank in Ghana, which is an Africa Centre for Economic Transformation and in their studies one of the things that they have established is that, all economies that have been able to transform and catapult themselves to the more successful economies, are economies that have been radical in terms of developing their vocational, technical, management and entrepreneurial aspects of their education system and they go on to give examples of those countries that have done so. Countries like South Korea, countries like Singapore, that have on the main been able to dedicate more than 30 per cent, more than 50 per percent of their secondary school going population have at least 30 or 50 per cent of them involved or participating somehow in technical vocational at that level, and on average Sub-Saharan Africa of which Botswana is,

- (i) We are looking at less than 80 per cent and one of the things that we need to be realistic about is that we would never be able to transform the economy of Botswana meaningfully if we do not create the critical mass in terms of our vocational

and technical human resources within our country and within our education system.

- (ii) The second thing in terms of ability of seriousness of developing our human capital is that we are killing a culture of merit and of excellence. Leaders and people who are in positions of power cannot do it alone but they can set the example. If our leaders fail to set the example there are those who most deserve it, those who are most hard working, those who are most honest, those who are most outstanding. If those people are not given responsibility, if the leadership of this country does not set the example that they will be rewards for people who excel, people who apply themselves creatively and diligently, we are going to have a problem as a country and I see a missed opportunity there.

In terms of Immigration, there is no country that has been able to make it by being overly closed. In fact most economies throughout history whether United States, whether Australia, for them to succeed, they need to acknowledge that they need the expertise and the people with experience and the knowledge of niche markets, knowledge of niche trades, knowledge of certain things to come and inject that knowledge into our system directly and indirectly and creating a whole threshold. A whole generation of people with the knowledge and the knowhow to develop the economy and develop the different sectors that are required. We need to open up and have an Immigration strategy that is very clear about how many engineers we need, how many people in this niche markets we need, how many people with these different types do we need over the next ten (10) years and allow those people to come and participate.

Our early education system, I am talking about missed opportunities in developing our human resources. We do not have a clear system of how we deal with our exceptional people, high performers in the different trades. We do not have a system where exceptional poets, exceptional artists, exceptional anything. We do not know how to deal with exceptional talents in this country. Any nation that is not able to identify its very best and trust them to be at the centre and trust them to be the engines of economic development. We do not have a system of how we harness veterans and retired people. Education is not just about schools. Education is about being able to harness the knowledge and the experience of those who have been there before. We have no system of how to teach the teachers. Those who teach already teach in the classrooms on how to have a continuous, a continuum programme of bringing out the best. Basically in terms of our human resources we do not know how to deploy our people. We do not know

how to bring the best out of them. We do not know how to nurture them. We do not know even how to plan how much we need and from where and how we will do it.

Missed opportunities in terms of engines for economic growth. We have always said, you have indeed identified sectors where indeed we have great opportunity. You have pointed to tourism, you have pointed to services and there is a consensus around those. There are other sectors such as energy. You know this is one area where Botswana has tremendous potential and opportunity. In fact, so much potential that if we did it right it could be a sector that could even overtake the diamond sector, if we were able to do things properly. If we were able to plan in a crystal clear way and say over the next ten years we want to be able to produce 4000/5000 megawatts of electricity versus what we would need which would be much less than that. We need to be able to say, of these after ten years we would like 50 per cent of it or around there to be solar energy. If we were able to say, we would want so many of our people to be participants in the energy sector in this and that way. We want to produce so many entrepreneurs, so many professionals in the sector. If we were able to acknowledge that the difficulties that we are facing now is because we do not have projects implementation and other capacity and capabilities in this and that area within the energy profession, and that this is what we will aim to do over the next five (5) years. If we acknowledge that we needed to setup the regulator which the Government has been talking about for many years and whose absence has meant billions of missed opportunities in terms of people wishing and wanting to invest thousands of jobs. Missed opportunities in terms of billions of investment, missed opportunities in terms of jobs that can be created.

I can say the same thing about food and food manufacturing. The amount of money that we spend to subsidise through programmes make no mistake every country needs to subsidise food production, because food as a product, food as an essential ingredient in the livelihood of our people needs to be subsidised but we need to be smart about exactly what should we subsidise, who should we subsidise to? Within that framework of subsidies where can we create pockets of excellence? If we know there are ten or fifteen farmers who we are sure if they were to come here and we gave them a special dispensation, and we are sure that having them here will create an environment where this country is not only able to create adequate food for its self but food for export as well, that is the starting point so that when we subsidise food for other purposes such as just taking people out of poverty, we need to be very strategic about what we subsidise, how we subsidise and for what. We need to be clear about those areas; which areas within

our food do we think we have a chance of being market leaders in terms of processing for potential export? We need specific sector strategies. We cannot go on many many, years talking about sectors in which we think we will do well and not have specific sector strategies in order to bring the best out of these sectors.

I can go on with other sectors; one of them I believe is the creative economy; our sculptures, our artists. Government has had a good start in terms of a funding system that consists of agencies such as Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) and Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) and others. We need to perfect that system. This system does what can be called a support system for generalised type of enterprises. You need sector specific funding mechanisms that feed into the larger funding network, because to fund creative arts type enterprises, requires certain specialities. To fund mining type projects requires certain specialities and so forth. So we need to extend and perfect this funding system to ensure that those sectors that even you Government says have the potential of driving this economy, are well funded and there is capacity and capability to develop those sectors.

Government delivery

You know the way we deliver our health services, we have done well in terms of an outreach to rural areas, but it is time to perfect the system. We need to be more efficient. We cannot have a system where large institutions like Marina and Nyangabgwe do not even know their core structure. They cannot tell you how much it costs...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR GAOLATHE: They cannot tell you how much it costs to cure a certain ailment. We need to be able to transform...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Murmurs.

MADAM SPEAKER: No! Minister you cannot jump from clarification to point of order.

MR GAOLATHE: We need to be able to transform these large hospitals and institutions in to...

MINISTER OF HEALTH (MS MAKGATO): On a point of order. Thank you Madam Speaker. It is a point of order because the Honourable gentleman here is misleading this House. He is saying that I do not have an idea of my costs at Nyangabgwe Referral and so forth, that is not true unless he can show me and prove that. I have no option but to stop him from misleading the House.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes but it is a point of correction.

MR GAOLATHE: No I stand by my word; I can give the evidence at the right time. I can calculate it for you. Anyway, we need to transform these in to autonomous trusts and institutions that are decentralised, that are able to make decisions about their work, that are able to recruit the right human resources, that are able to make decisions as autonomous institutions. When you look at the performance of our parastatals like Botswana Power Corporation (BPC), it has been losing more than 800 million almost every year, for the last five years or so. Water Utilities has been losing hundreds of millions. This is not a mistake, this is expected, and that is what happens when you do not have the right architecture in a particular sector. We need to fix the architectures in the different sectors; in the meat sector, in the power sector, and the fixing of those architectures has to entail the restructuring of those institutions.

I want to give credit to the Bank of Botswana in terms of its conduct of monetary policy, what they have been able to achieve in terms of price stability and development of the...

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (MR BOKO):

There is too much murmuring, it is actually very disturbing.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes let us pay attention Honourable members.

MR GAOLATHE: Yes, we have a great...

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE):

On a point of order. Madam Speaker the conduct of the Leader of the Opposition is not acceptable, he cannot stand up and switch on the microphone while the other member is on the floor. Talk to him because he is driving this House out of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Makgalemele is telling the truth. Procedurally you are supposed to stand on a point of something, rather than to just stand and say there is a lot of murmuring.

MR GAOLATHE: I think there is a missed opportunity within the government system around the issue of project implementation. The system does not have a robust integrated project monitoring and performance system. I know that there is one in relation to infrastructure which is tied to the infrastructure ministry. There is one at the Office of the President. But we need a much more robust project office which is able to have performance targets and performance measures where we are able to measure how much progress the different institutions

within and outside the Government system have been able to achieve.

We are concerned about the legislative process; its efficiency in relation to the budget process. We have said many times that we need as a country, a budget office, which should be able to give independent expertise around economic issues, independent analysis around impact studies about different policies that we pass through this budget. This will strengthen the entire budget process and make your work Minister a lot easier. We need to consider the idea of community ground level financing of community projects, communities that are able to identify opportunities in terms of how they want to deal with the environment, communities that are able to identify safety needs as a community, communities that are able to identify what they want to do with their sporting and arts. Communities that are able to identify what they can do with their small enterprises, communities which want to undertake special initiatives in healthcare. They need to be empowered, to be able to come together and say this is their contribution in these sectors, this is what they intend to do and government should meet them half way.

I also want to talk Minister about some of the speeches, when we look at the Budget speeches, I want to look in particular at the 2014/2015 Budget speeches. The concern is that, certain pronouncements and promises are made, which I think later on genuinely you forget to follow up on those issues and I want to give a number of examples...

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

MR GAOLATHE: Oh yes! Genuinely. In the Budget of 2014 they talk about performance measurement of parastatals being decentralized to the Ministries and the reporting to the Productivity Improvement Committee, no follow up later on, unless I have missed it or unless I miss them somewhere.

Project management office and its work; no follow up around what they have been able to achieve going forward. There is in the 2015 Budget, issues around Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) and as a solution underutilization of capital expenditure, the work that has been done. There are issues which have not been followed about inclusion in the banking sector for people in rural areas, issues around poverty eradication strategy, which was expected in 2015. The financial inclusion map, issues around the clusters, around diamond, tourism, cattle, mining, where they are right now.

There are issues about the revision of the tourism policy and where many of those issues are ...

MADAM SPEAKER (MS KOKORWE): Your time is up.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): On a point of order. Madam Speaker, earlier on when you asked Honorable Mmolotsi to submit evidence, I heard him falsely accusing me of...

MADAM SPEAKER: But now you are out of order, you should have addressed this issue then.

MR MAKGALEMELE: Madam Speaker, I was still debating and Honorable Mmolotsi was falsely accusing me.

MADAM SPEAKER: No, that is not the procedure.

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND HOME AFFAIRS (MR BATSHU): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion of the budget speech. I wish to start by congratulating Honorable Matambo for presenting a very good budget speech with a clear track of where we are coming from and what to expect in the future. During the 2014 elections, some of the things we promised the nation if they voted the Botswana Democratic Party into power was creation of employment, to continue providing quality education and improving the health care system in our country. We are going to work hard to try and address the water and electricity problem which is still a serious issue of concern as well as fighting corruption. I am pleased that Honourable Minister has taken these promises into consideration in his budget speech. Am I allowed to speak Kalanga?

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

MR BATSHU: After thanking Honourable Minister, I would also like to thank the Botswana Democratic Party Government which has been in power for the past 50 years, this coming September will also be Botswana's 50th independence celebration. There are issues that I will address at length later. I would like to thank Honourable Minister for such an honest budget speech. He did not only concentrate on the achievements, he also acknowledged the issues that are still of concern to the nation like water, electricity, drought and poverty. Responsible and transparent people should when they account provide a clear assessment of the achievements and challenges so that they can come up with initiatives of how to address those challenges. We have experienced drought in our country and it has caused a serious setback because the funds that are being used to relieve people of drought, could be used for the development of the country. This budget comes at the time when the country have been affected by the recession but I would

like to thank Honourable Minister for still managing to come up with a budget that will give hope to Batswana until the next budget year. With your permission Madam Speaker, I would like to quote paragraph 72 to clarify something that seems to be causing confusion.

MADAM SPEAKER: Do quote.

MR BATSHU: A total development budget of P14.82 billion is proposed for the financial year 2016/2017. The Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security with a proposed allocation of P3.59 billion or 24.2 per cent takes the largest share of the proposed budget mainly to cater for provision of defense equipment, communication equipment and infrastructure in order to improve BDFs defence capabilities. In addition the allocation caters for construction of Police Station at Mmathubudukwane, Maitengwe, Semolale as well as staff houses in different locations in order to improve safety and security.” I wanted to quote this statement because some were arguing that this budget, Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) in particular is useless. Therefore I wanted to prove that we are the government which rules the country regardless of political affiliation. Even if one might refute a Police Station at Mmathubudukwane as a responsible government who knows that we have to protect our people we are still going to construct police stations there to protect the nation of Botswana. That is a fact, whether a Member of Parliament needs it or not. We have to continue the legacy of Sir Washington Meswele, may his soul rest in peace.

I would like to address the question of why we have to celebrate. Perhaps before I can do that, with your permission Madam Speaker I would like to quote paragraph 28, “Madam Speaker, the year 2016 marks an important milestone in our journey as a nation. As the country, we will be celebrating 50th anniversary of independence. The year also coincides with the end of Vision 2016. In this regard, the ongoing review of the Vision 2016 will provide an opportunity to assess our achievements as a country over the past five decades, as well as the challenges facing the country.” I would like to address the question, why do we as a country which has been ruled by the Botswana Democratic Party for 50 years have to celebrate? There are criticisms that Botswana Democratic Party has been ruling 37, 38, 49, 48 years without any achievements. Even people who were born during independence and educated by this government were also party to this criticism. Let us assess these things; why should we celebrate? Let us take a look at our Cabinet in 1965/66 which had eight Ministers including the Prime Minister to a Cabinet we currently have, let us take a look at the Members of Parliament during 1966/67 and look at the growth of our Parliament and its responsibility. Let us look

at the economy of our country and the budget during Independence which was around R1 million to run a country and compare to our current budget which sits at P54 billion. This is what the nation of Botswana should celebrate.

Then we reflect on all our achievements to improve our economy, starting from using the South African currency but now we have our own, Pula which is very strong as compared to other foreign currencies. This is something worth celebrating.

Then we look at the programmes of the Ministry of Finance such as Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB), which its existing regulations aims to promote Citizen Economic Empowerment (CEE), and ensure that the money that we constantly account for including the projects are awarded to Batswana.

Let us look at how the Ministry of Trade and Industry have been performing to improve the business sector in our country as compared to where we were before where a large percentage of Batswana were employees but currently we have Batswana employers who run their own companies and different businesses because they had that opportunity to learn in their country.

Furthermore we should also appreciate the contribution of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in encouraging the private sector to play a role in the economic development of our country. And appreciate the economic development and the role played by the private sector and also encourage them to do more.

MR MOLATLHEGI: Elucidation. Thank you Honourable Batshu. The economic development you are referring to there, specifically the private sector, you mean like Honourable Wynter Mmolotsi is enjoying tenders of selling books to the government?

MR BATSHU: I mean as most of us in Botswana can do, if the Honourable Member is also involved then there is no problem, it is his right in the democratic government under the Botswana Democratic Party.

In the education sector; looking at how far we have come regarding the low quality education...

MR MOREMI: Point of order. Madam Speaker, I need your assistance here, they are talking about Wynter Mmolotsi and tenders but you did not comment.

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

MR MOREMI: If you hackle me Madam Speaker, we will not be able to proceed perhaps you should just allow me to finish. They are saying he is enjoying the government tenders through the ESP therefore if at

all Wynter is tendering can that be publicly stated in Parliament?

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Kgosi Tawana, I am not getting involved in the comments on the floor; the time has now passed for me to make comments, this time I cannot.

MR BATSHU: Thank you Madam Speaker. In the education sector, we remember that, way back during Independence when the country was still underdeveloped and there was no education currently we are talking of more than 775 primary schools which were mostly built by the current government. Junior Secondary...

MR MOREMI: Point of order. Madam Speaker if we are no longer following Standing Orders then make that clear because if it is a point of order then Madam Speaker's response is that she is not commenting, that is not procedure. She should rule on a point of order then we can proceed.

MADAM SPEAKER: You asked me why I was not commenting so I told you that I am not commenting. That is all I wanted to say. I am not here to debate.

MR BATSHU: Thank you Madam Speaker. I was still highlighting on the education climate during independence, we did not have even a single university but currently we have three and we educated the nation, they even educated some of us in Parliament. That is why we have to sometimes forget about our political dissimilarity as a country, as a nation and celebrate those achievements. We should remember that in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, there were no roads and nowadays there are tarred roads in Shakawe, Kasane or even Bokspits. Those are developments that should be stated. We are not saying that it is enough, there are challenges but we are simply saying let us celebrate 50 years of a peaceful independent government.

When it comes to employment we can recall that a lot of our people used to work outside the country in places like South Africa at the mines and in Bulawayo, Saulsberry. We now have people working at home in the local mines and contributing to the economy of their country. It is not enough though since more people are still looking for employment as it was stated by Honourable Matambo in his budget speech. When it comes to the agricultural sector we should admit that there are challenges especially when it comes to horticulture. The reason is that we have got climate problems that affect this sector and as a nation we have to come up with a strategy to address this problem and to produce enough food for our country. We have intentions of declaring places such as Pandamatenga as a special economic zone, where food will be produced on a large scale, and that is one

of the initiatives that show our direction and vision for this country. If Batswana can continue to vote for the Botswana Democratic Party it will be a good thing since we have got something to show as our achievements.

The Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) was set up in Lobatse and other abattoirs were opened in Francistown and Maun and this was done to nourish our economy. Despite these efforts the cattle diseases that keep on cropping up are the ones that affected this sector of our economy. I do believe though that there is a clear direction of where we want to go. By sourcing water from the Chobe and Zambezi rivers and directing it to Pandamatenga and perhaps even Gaborone is a clear indication of where we want to take this country.

On the issue of security I would like to say that, Honourable Members we all know where we come from in terms of our security. The Botswana Police Force...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: PMU.

MR BATSHU: PMU! that is correct Honourable Member. In 1977 when we felt that the economy had grown we established our defence force. The intention of its establishment was to protect our country. A defence force is set up to fight wars in return protecting the country and in the execution of those duties they need to use certain equipment. Such equipment is constantly upgraded and so that is why as the BDP government we have seen it necessary to provide all that the military will need in order to do the job effectively. If you recall when the defence force was first set up they were attacked and most of the soldiers died because we did not have proper artillery. We therefore cannot listen to those who say that we should not give them the necessary funds to buy the equipment especially now that we are looking at the Vision 2016 pillar that talks of a safe and secure nation. If we were to listen to such utterances we would not be a responsible government. We have set up bodies like the Directorate of Corruption and Economic Crimes (DCEC) with the intention of ensuring that corruption is fought just as we promised in our manifesto. The Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services...

MINISTER OF HEALTH (MS MAKGATO): On a point of elucidation Madam Speaker. Thank you Honourable Colleague. I want the Honourable Member to tell us what he thinks of all those who have been saying that we are wasting money by buying weapons whilst on the other hand their colleagues were of the view that they should be bought at some point. What is your view when it comes to those people? I ask this because it is important for Batswana to know what their stand is.

MR BATSHU: I believe that Batswana are also listening to them and they should denounce such people who cannot stick to what they said. When it comes to politics I would like to say that the beauty about democracy is the platform it creates for different political parties. The most important issue is that, when it comes to issues of national interest we should stand together to address them. We should be grateful that there has been political tolerance in our country since independence. We all remember those who helped shaped the political landscape both in the past and present and all these should be encouraged in a democratic setup. As we celebrate our independence we should celebrate that as well. We should respect each other and show that we are politically mature.

I would also like to touch on the issue of religion in our country. Our constitution states that we are a secular state and so it means that we accept different religions. There is this tendency though that some people have where they declare that they believe in God more than others. That is confusion in my view and Jesus declared in the Bible by saying that “let both grow together until the harvest.” So Honourable Moswaane learn to ignore all those utterances because the judgement day will come. As Batswana we should know that we need to respect the different religions in our country. I would now like to talk about the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP). I am grateful to my party for coming up with a way of reviving the economy. I am grateful that the government welcomed that initiative by the BDP and even Honourable Matambo came up with a budget that shows...

MADAM SPEAKER: Honourable Davids you are making noise.

MR BATSHU: It is alright; he is an elder and sometimes as we age that is bound to happen. You might do things thinking that it is amusing whilst there is nothing amusing about it. I would like to thank Honourable Matambo for listening to the BDP members when they suggested that the economy should be stimulated. That has come at an opportune time and in the last meeting I informed the House that my constituency is lagging behind when it comes to developments. I chronologically mentioned them here and requested Parliament to give me audience and listen attentively. Now if the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) can be an answer to some of the laments in the Nkange constituency, I would be very grateful for that. I even heard Honourable Madigele saying the Tutume hospital will be constructed through the ESP. The construction of a hospital would mean creation of jobs, we would also be focusing on our objective that health should be paid attention to and given priority.

Therefore, even though the ESP is not an answer to everything, as we know how challenging and heavy it is to govern, there is nothing that can be an answer to everything. The little that it shall address the country over, especially since we are a government which considers or looks at the whole country, anywhere where there is anything that could be done through ESP, we are grateful for that. We even have to encourage our government to keep it up.

I attended a certain funeral the other time; some colleagues here were there when some gentleman said, “Hey! You know being in the opposition feels so good because you just oppose anyway! Hey, you know it is important to have the opposition in a democracy.”

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Who?

MR BATSHU: I do not know who it was, no they were there, even Dr Mmatli was there; they were there when he said, “Opposing is quite good!” That is why you can see Honourable Davids so happy.

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

MR BATSHU: He does not have any responsibility; he does not have accountability, so let us just take him as he is. Therefore I am hoping as Vision 2016 draws to a close, the nation will dialogue with the relevant people to see what could be included in Vision 2036 which would enable us to have moved forward by then as opposed to where we are currently. With those few remarks Madam Speaker, I thank you.

DR P. BUTALE (GABORONE CENTRAL): Thank you very much Madam Speaker for this opportunity to also comment on the speech. I wish to start and preface my commentary with a rather big disappointment. That we continue to call ourselves a democracy, yet when the President comes to address this House, the State Media is here full force. When the Budget Speech is read, the State Media is here to even broadcast it live, but when the alternative voice is now offered, the State Media is not there. What kind of a democracy is this, where only one view matters? I wish to state what I stated before that this continues to be an autocracy, a dictatorship that masquerades as a democracy because you fail the first test which is tolerance of divergent views. That is the very first thing that I wanted to touch on.

The other thing that I wanted to also speak to was that Honourable Minister, you successfully painted a very gloomy picture, you told us about a P4 billion deficit and you are forecasting a further P6 billion deficit, tragically you then abandon us there. You offered no pathway out of the gloom, you told us that the situation is going to be tough but you do not chart the path to recovery. One

expected you to come up with a very aggressive plan that would say this is how we are going to survive. But anyway, without waiting for the end of my speech, I wish to say this...

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Time up!

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE):

Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, as that concludes the business of today, I move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and **agreed to.**

The Assembly accordingly adjourned at 18:00 p.m. until Wednesday 10th February, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

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