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THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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ENGLISH VERSION

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DEPUTY SPEAKER
The Hon. Kagiso P. Molatlhegi, MP Gaborone South

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Hon. B. G. Butale, MP	Tati West
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(Umbrella for Democratic Change)

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Hon. G. S. M. Mangole, MP	Mochudi West
Hon. W. B. Mmolotsi, MP	Francistown South
Hon. T. Moremi, MP	Maun West
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Thursday 25th February, 2016

THE ASSEMBLY met at 2:00 p.m.

(THE SPEAKER in the Chair)

PRAYERS

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SPEAKER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

MR SPEAKER (MR MOLATLHEGI): Order! Afternoon Honourable Members. Today we have guests in the public gallery. We have pupils from Maitlamo Primary School in Lobatse and they have visited you in Parliament.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS :...(Applause!)

MR SPEAKER: Good afternoon pupils and teachers. They are not alone, we also have the Miss RADP beauty contestants who will be competing this weekend. I will quickly call out their names so that you see them. There is Matshidiso Gadifele from D'Kar, Amogelang Morris from Xhabo, Oneilwe Gabothuso from Tshwaane, Nametso Raditshephe from Kgomodiatshaba, Ivy Ntshela from Kgomodiatshaba, Netefatso Morena from Gudigwa, Letshephang Obiditswe from Mababe, Tshiamo Kengwegile from Mokgenene, Oduetswe Kenyaditswe from Lephokole, Tsaone Ditshoso from Inalegolo, Keamogetse Motswapupung from Ncang, Gofaone Thojane from Kutuku, Kganetso Lesogonyane from Mahotshwane and Mmatlhopho Patsea from Kaudwane. Let us welcome them Honourable Members.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: ...(Applause!)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

ALLOCATION OF PLOTS IN QUOTAS IN SOME AREAS OF BOTSWANA

MR W. B. MMOLOTSI (FRANCISTOWN SOUTH): asked the Minister of Lands and Housing whether, given His Excellency the President's interest to allocate plots in quotas in some areas of Botswana, the same interest will be extended to allocation of quotas to people living in areas with other natural resources such as water and mineral resources.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): Mr Speaker the decision to allocate plots in quotas in some areas of the country is specific to residential plots and it would not be extended to allocation of quotas to people living in areas with other natural resources such as water and minerals. As the Honourable Member may be aware, the decision to introduce Quota System for residential land allocation

in high pressure areas was motivated by Batswana's wish to protect the cultural fabric and history of villages with high demand for residential plots. Thank you.

MR MMOLOTSI: Supplementary. Mr Minister are you not aware that people living in areas where there are natural resources have been complaining for some time that, they need a part of the natural resource that is obtainable in their areas? If you are aware, now that His Excellency feels that those who have land can be given quotas, why can't the same be extended to this people, they have complained as well?

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker I am not aware. As far as I am concerned people living around places where there are natural resources such as diamond mines and all other mines have actually been talking about corporate social responsibility by those particular mining entities. They have never said they too have to share those mine revenues like the Honourable Member is saying. I am convinced and aware that they have been talking about corporate social responsibility only, which is happening in majority of areas.

Therefore we do not have intentions of saying those who are around water or minerals should also have quota for those particular minerals and water. What we can assure you Mr Speaker, is that we can encourage people that in terms of corporate social responsibility, they have to take care of the areas around them, as they have been doing. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR ARONE: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Honourable Minister, are you aware of the fact that land is also a natural resource just like diamonds and any other resources that we talk of, why would the policy recognise the need to reserve a quota of land and not other resources, because they are all important to human livelihood?

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker it is different. With regards to land, you tend to have user rights and real rights on that particular land. When we talk about mines or water you do not have real right nor user rights, you may have user rights for that water. In terms of real rights you cannot have, but with land you can have real rights. So that is why it is different. We cannot do that which we are doing for land to minerals. We can never have a scenario where one may be given their piece of diamond, no you cannot do that. In terms of land it is different, that is why I am saying with land you can have real right on a particular plot, that is yours and yours alone. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR MMOLOTSI: Further supplementary. Honourable Minister, would this not lead to a situation whereby those who originate from places which have water

like in Mmadinare would have water shortage in the village and those who are from Letlhakane and Orapa where there are diamonds would be some of the poorest areas. One day they will revolt wanting an explanation as to why they are not benefitting from their resources whereas with land, we use quotas. Do you not realise that could happen as other tribes might feel that they are not treated fairly?

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker I think it is important for me to mention the fact; I have addressed about 39 kgotla meetings ever since I became Minister of Lands and Housing. I have addressed kgotla meetings in areas such as Letlhakane, where we have these resources. To a greater extent they are talking about corporate social responsibility. That is what they are talking about, that no; the people who are mining around us should actually be able to help us in terms of corporate social investment. That they can start complaining and say no, now if you are going to sell these diamonds for P40 each, P5 should be ours. They are not saying that, they are talking a different story from what Honourable Mmolotsi is talking about. They are only saying these people must actually have corporate social responsibility.

So I do not foresee Batswana revolting on the basis of the fact that with the land people could have quotas, but for water and minerals that is not possible. Like I said the main thing is the principle of real rights and user rights, that is the most important thing. You cannot say we should give you a diamond if you are from Boteti, because in any case, it is not the same as the land. The land is yours, that is exactly what I am trying to explain so that Honourable Mmolotsi could understand. Thank you sir.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MR SPEAKER: For what Honourable Moremi?

MR MOREMI: No it was just a correction now they have concluded, thank you.

MR SPEAKER: You were supposed to say correction.

POWER CRISIS AT TSOANG CLINIC

MR H. G. NKAIGWA (GABORONE NORTH):

Asked the Minister of Health:-

- (i) When the power crisis at Tsogang Clinic will be addressed; and
- (ii) If there are plans to install backup generators.

ACTING MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR MOLEFHI): The Ministry of Health is not aware of the power crisis at Tsogang Clinic as it is connected to the national grid. However, there is a challenge in the

event of the power cuts because the generator can only cater for maternity ward. Rechargeable lamps are used in other parts of the clinic during emergencies.

The generator at Tsogang is currently being repaired and expected to be back in service by mid next week. In the meantime, rechargeable lamps are being used in the event of the power cut. It is however important to note that only one brief power cut was experienced at Tsogang Clinic between January and February 2016.

The Ministry has a plan to procure backup generators for all clinics with maternity and those operating 24 hours. Therefore the Ministry will procure the backup generator with enough capacity at Tsogang Clinic when funds become available in the Financial Year coming. Thank you.

MR NKAIGWA: Supplementary. I am wondering where the Honourable Minister stays because clearly if he stays in Gaborone he would have taken time to pass by Tsogang clinic to....

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Nkaigwa, your supplementary should be about the clinic.

MR NKAIGWA: Honourable Minister, are you aware that this clinic was extended to add a maternity wing? When the extension was made, no thoughts were given to the fact that more power will be needed to run the maternity ward which could have been resolved by upgrading the power to 3 phase. That is why I asked a question about power crisis in the clinic. Despite the generator that is used as a backup, there is generally a power crisis in the clinic. That is why I want to know when the project for upgrading the power situation in the clinic is going to start.

MR MOLEFHI: I stay in extension 5 and I use the African Mall clinic, which is why I am not aware of the conditions of Broadhurst Clinic.

MR SPEAKER: Are you letting him derail you?

MR MOLEFHI: I was only answering Honourable member's question, my apologies. It is withdrawn Mr Speaker. Honourable Member should have asked when the electricity will be increased from 1 phase to 3 phase. He asked when generators will be available for backup in the clinic. As previously said, in the event of the power cuts the available generator can only cater for maternity ward but there are plans to procure backup generators that will cater for the entire clinic. The issue of upgrading can be looked into as it would not cost a lot of money to upgrade from 1 phase to 3 phase.

MR NKAIGWA: Supplementary. Honourable Minister you are putting words into my mouth. My first question

was; when will the power crisis at Tsogang Clinic be addressed? The question about generators came second. Do you not find it necessary to go and ask your people when the power will be upgraded in Tsogang Clinic? It was part of the plan to extend the clinic and upgrade the power; but the extension was made and the upgrade was left behind. That is why I am asking when it will be done.

MR MOLEFHI: thank you Mr Speaker. I am not putting words into Honourable Member's mouth like he is saying; he was indeed talking about power crisis. My response addressed the crisis not the upgrading as he suggests on the new question he is putting forward. I can make an undertaking Honourable Member that the upgrading will be done during the course of this financial year because it does not cost that much money.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RESERVOIR AT PANDAMATENGA COMMERCIAL FARMS

MR M. R. SHAMUKUNI (CHOBE): asked the Minister of Agriculture:-

- (i) If he is aware that the drainage system in the Pandamatenga commercial farms drains into the wilderness; and
- (ii) If he will consider constructing a reservoir into which the flood water would drain and be put to productive use.

ACTING MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (MR MAELE): (i) I am aware that the drainage system in the Pandamatenga commercial farms drains into Matesi River System in the east and into pans and sandy terrains in the west and south of the farms.

(ii) There are no plans to construct a reservoir as this was previously explored and was found not feasible at design stage due to the area being a flat terrain. However, along the drains, excavations were made below the drain level to create water storage to recharge boreholes in the vicinity of the drains. Thank you.

MR SHAMUKUNI: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Honourable Minister, since these drainage systems are in commercial farmers only, when do you plan to extend this to the small scale farmers as well because they also need them. Thank you.

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker I have explained that it will not be possible to excavate on the side where the small farmers are located because it is flat unlike on the commercial farmers' side. Feasibility study which was carried out to see if it is possible to excavate indicated that it will not be cost effective; therefore we do not have intentions of doing it.

MRMMOLOTSI: On a point of procedure. Honourable Minister your answer indicates that few things have been done, can you please elaborate further on them.

MR MAELE: Thank you Mr Speaker, when going to Kasane there are some commercial farms on your left; this is where excavations have done for holding water. On the right side there is a flat terrain so we were unable to make those similar excavations because the area is flat. Thank you.

ACCOMMODATING PUBLIC OFFICERS AT BOTSWANA HOUSING CORPORATION (BHC) HOUSES

MR K. MZWINILA (MMADINARE): Asked the Minister of Lands and Housing:-

- (i) To mention areas or villages where he has constructed Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) houses with the sole purpose of accommodating Public Officers over the last 10 year period;
- (ii) to state the number of Public Officers (both Central and Local Government) in Bobirwa Sub-District who have benefitted from BHC constructed houses targeting their housing needs; and
- (iii) To state if he has any plans now or in the future to construct BHC houses for Public Officers in the Bobirwa Sub-District.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MAELE):

- (i) Mr Speaker, in the last 10 years, Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) has not built houses for the sole purpose of accommodating public officers. However, BHC builds houses throughout the country where there is effective demand. BHC also built houses for various government institutions on an urgency basis. It also provides houses to the government pool housing portfolio for rental to house public officers in areas where there is effective demand. In addition, different Ministries/Government departments also buy and rent houses from BHC to house their employees as institutional houses.
- (ii) Madam Speaker, BHC does not have any houses in the Bobirwa Sub-District. However, the corporation has been engaged to construct houses under the District Housing Programme to house public officers. The programme has provided four (4) houses in Bobirwa Sub- District in 2008/09 financial year.
- (iii) Mr Speaker, under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP), BHC has awarded tenders

for construction of 37 houses in the Bobirwa Sub-District under the Public Officers Housing initiative. The houses are being constructed at Bobonong (15), Semolale (3), Mathathane (16) and Tsetsebjwe (3).

I thank you.

MR MZWINILA: Supplementary. Thank you Honourable Minister. How many staff houses will be built for public officers in Mmadinare? Thank you.

MR MAELE: This was not even his question it was Honourable Kgathi's, he is now asking about Mmadinare, I do not have the statistics for Mmadinare, I was looking at Bobirwa. Honourable Speaker...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of procedure Honourable.

MR SPEAKER: No, time is not on our side.

MR MZWINILA: Bobirwa Sub-District is Bobonong, Mmadinare villages Honourable Minister. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Maele, quickly answer that so that we may proceed.

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker, I apologise to have said what I said. I wanted to indicate that I did not get the statistics for Mmadinare. Had the one asking the question requested them, I could have brought them but I am willing to give them to you even tomorrow, we can give you Mmadinare statistics. I do not have it just now. Thank you.

MR ARONE: Further supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, last one.

MR ARONE: Further supplementary. Honourable Minister, in view of the fact that shortage of accommodation, more especially in rural areas, public officers have no other option but to rent from the communities, would you not see it as an opportunity for BHC to build more houses in rural areas because Government departments can then become the potential clientele to rent?

MR MAELE: It is a great potential Sir for BHC to be able to do that. The problem that we have is financial resources; we do not have resources. Currently as I speak to you, we have actually given BHC money enough to build just 540 houses in the whole country. If we had enough resources we would be able to construct houses all over because in so far as land is concerned, we could be able to assist them as the Ministry of Lands and Housing to allocate land to them but the problem is

the financial resources. This financial year, 540 houses will be built the whole country...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: I said that was the last one, Honourable Kwerepe is not here.

UPDATE ON SELF HELP HOUSING AGENCY LOAN APPLICATIONS

MR H. G. NKAIGWA (GABORONE NORTH): asked the Minister of Lands and Housing:-

- (i) how many people benefit from the Self Help Housing Agency loan on average annually in Gaborone;
- (ii) how many applications are received on average annually; and
- (iii) whether this scheme satisfies the needs of beneficiaries.

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

- (i) Low Income Housing Programme has two components being Home Improvement and Turnkey Development Scheme. From 2008/09 to 2015/16, two hundred and thirteen (213) applications were received for Home Improvement in Gaborone. All the applications were funded, and this translates to about 26 people benefiting from the SHHA Home Improvement Loans on average annually. For Turnkey Development Scheme, 130 applications were received between 2008/09 and 2015/16 all of which were funded and houses delivered from the scheme. There are no outstanding requests for Gaborone under the scheme.
- (ii) Mr Speaker, for the Home improvement 26 applications are received on average annually while 16 are received for the Turnkey Development Scheme.
- (iii) Mr Speaker, the scheme satisfies the needs of the beneficiaries in the sense that all projects for the past eight years have been delivered.

I thank you.

MR NKAIGWA: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Honourable Minister. Minister as enthusiastic as you are, why are the numbers low, why is it that in the city of Gaborone when looking at people's lives, one can clearly see that people need this assistance whereas the numbers are low?

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker, to a greater extent, we request Honourable Councillors, Honourable Members of Parliament to relay the information to the public and educate them about SHHA. One of the reasons which I think is contributing to this is that perhaps the Councillors, Members of Parliament are not informing people about this SHHA scheme. That is my suspicion.

Secondly and honestly I believe that the lives of people in Gaborone might be better than those who are using SHHA in other areas. Lastly Sir, let me indicate that when I realised that people have a bit of a challenge in accessing these funds, you would recall Mr Speaker that last year I explained that we have created what we call housing fund so that we can take all the revolving fund which was at the Councils so that we can top-up the money we had at hand to finance a lot of people. We have done this. I am sitting at about P157 million, the amount I took from the revolving funds. So I am saying here and now Mr Speaker that Members of Parliament should go out and inform people that they should apply for SHHA particularly those in Gaborone, Jwaneng and Phikwe. Those are the people who do not take a lot of these funds. Thank you Sir.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Supplementary.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: The last one.

DR P. BUTALE: Supplementary. Thank you very much. Minister, you spoke in your response to the question on the response to SHHA, is it your position that there are no other factors that are stopping people or making it very difficult for people to access SHHA? Is it just because people are not interested because I think our experience is pointing to a totally different direction?

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker, I mentioned three reasons, firstly I talked about the information they cannot access, secondly I said it might be because a lot of them have already developed their plots and therefore they do not need it.

Thirdly I indicated that perhaps it might be due to shortage of resources but seeing that that might be the cause we took the revolving fund from the Councils and transferred it to the Ministry to distribute to the Districts who take a lot of money than any other department. And I am saying to Honourable Butale that we are sitting with P157 million from the revolving funds which we injected in the housing fund so that a district which utilises more than others we can assist it because we can see that there demands there. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of procedure.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable is not here, stop right there with your procedure.

**STATUS OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL
PLOTS ALLOCATED IN THE LESOMA/
PANDAMATENGA AREA**

MR M. R. SHAMUKUNI (CHOBE): asked the Minister of Lands and Housing:-

- (i) to state the number of agro-industrial plots that have been allocated in the Lesoma/Pandamatenga area;
- (ii) how many of these have been serviced, in terms of provision of roads, water and electricity;
- (iii) how many have failed to honour the development covenant as a result of lack of services in the said industrial areas; and
- (iv) when he intends to service this industrial area to facilitate speedy investment in the area.

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

- (i) Chobe Land Board has allocated 40 and 66 agro-industrial plots in Pandamatenga and Lesoma respectively in 2013.
- (ii) All the 106 plots are not serviced in terms of provision of roads, water and electricity.
- (iii) Out of the 106 plots, only 2 plots, one at Pandamatenga and the other at Lesoma are developed and the remaining 104 plots are not developed as a result of lack of services in the two industrial areas.
- (iv) Mr Speaker, as part of the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP), my Ministry is currently processing tenders for minimal servicing for both industrial and residential plots in some parts of Chobe District; and this includes the servicing of 444 plots in Lesoma.

I thank you.

MR SHAMUKUNI: Supplementary. I want to know whether you are not planning to repossess from anyone who was unable to develop due to lack of servicing of the land?

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker, each case of repossession is treated on its own merit. I cannot come here and guarantee that I am not going to take Lesoma plots because people have not developed because there is no water and other services. What we do is, we call people and ask them to show cause why we should not take

their plots and depending on the reasons that they give, then we can make a determination in terms of whether we are taking or not taking but for me to come here and make a blanket statement that “I am not going to repossess,” no I cannot Mr Speaker. Thank you Sir.

MR LELATISITSWE: Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: It will be the last one Honourable Lelatisitswe.

MR LELATISITSWE: I was asking the Minister why they would call people for interviews of repossession when they know very well that the land is not serviced.

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker, if you were listening to my response earlier I mentioned that there are some individuals who have managed to develop their plots on that land which is not serviced. What we are doing is to call them for interviews and to request them to show cause as to why we should not repossess their plots. If their reasons can show that...

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Minister we do not have children in Parliament.

MR MAELE: Sir!

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Lelatisitswe.

MR MAELE: What did I say?

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Maele!

MR MAELE: Sir!

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Lelatisitswe was asking a question.

MR MAELE: No, I did not hear myself say that sir, I really apologise Honourable Lelatisitswe.

MR SPEAKER: Yes continue.

MR MAELE: No, honestly, I did not hear myself say that.

MR SPEAKER: Continue and finish your answer Honourable Member.

MR MAELE: No, honestly. I want to be honest. My apologies sir, I did not hear myself call you a child.

Mr Speaker, the fact that plots have been allocated on land that is not serviced cannot stop us from calling people to come and explain why we should not repossess their plots. As I have said in my answer, people have managed to develop their plots despite the fact that the land is not serviced. The reason that land is not serviced can be considered but we will determine their cases

individually and we shall not make a blanket statement. I do not want to make a blanket statement that since the land is not serviced we therefore cannot repossess it. That is basically what I am saying sir. Thank you.

LOCALISATION OF TOP MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AT BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA

MR B. ARONE (OKAVANGO): asked the Minister of Finance and Development Planning to state:-

- (i) efforts to localize top management positions in the local private banking sector with specific reference to Barclay Bank Botswana; and
- (ii) the composition of the Board of Directors at Barclays Bank Botswana in relation to local participation.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (MR MATAMBO):

Good afternoon Mr Speaker, consistent with Government policy on localization, Government and Bank of Botswana continue to urge commercial banks to localize senior management positions. Efforts made to localize top management positions have borne fruits as three (3) out of four (4) top commercial banks accounting for 80 per cent of the banking industry assets, have localized positions of CEO.

Mr Speaker, Barclays Bank of Botswana Limited (Barclays) was the first commercial bank to localize the position of Managing Director (MD) in 2001, followed by two successive citizen MDs in 2003 and 2010.

In 2010 and 2012, the two citizen MDs respectively terminated their employment with Barclays for various reasons. This abrupt and consecutive departure of key senior staff of a large bank was a cause for concern to Bank of Botswana and Barclays Plc, the parent bank of Barclays. The departure of the two MDs had created instability in the management of the bank's operations, which had the potential to undermine its safety and soundness. Consequently, Barclays Plc deployed one of its senior management staff from the Regional Group Head Office in South Africa to Botswana as Managing Director, with the specific mandate to stabilize the Bank. However, efforts are being made to identify and groom a qualified and experienced citizen as the future leader of the Barclays Bank Botswana. Barclays Bank is expected to appoint a citizen Managing Director at the expiry of the contract of the current expatriate Managing Director.

Mr Speaker, the current Board of Directors of Barclays Bank of Botswana comprise four (4) citizens of Botswana and two (2) expatriate executive directors.

The Chairperson of the Board is also a citizen.

I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR KESUPILE: Supplementary. Thank you Mr Speaker. Could the Minister explain why the new MD had problems with the employees of the bank when the previous MDs did not have a problem with them? This is to the extent that they employ people and within a short period those people are dismissed. What is the problem really?

MR MATAMBO: Mr Speaker, I am not very sure that I understand this question. I have not quite understood the question, maybe he can repeat.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Kesupile, repeat your question.

MR KESUPILE: I was saying that those people who have been managing the bank have not been experiencing any problems and so why is it that when the new MD from another country came in they started having problems with the employees who are locals? What has the MD seen that others have not been seeing?

MR MATAMBO: Thank you very much. I think I understand the question. It is quite possible Honourable Speaker that the Honourable Member knows a lot more than I do about the subject we are discussing. For all that I know, there has been only one member of senior management of Barclays who left since the current expatriate Managing Director came to Gaborone. So I know of only one. But the way you are putting it, apparently there are many more that and I do not know. I will therefore not be able to know the reasons about those many more that I do not know.

MR MMOLOTSI: Further supplementary. Minister, do you not think the dismissal of a senior manager was constructive dismissal? Do you not realise...

MR SPEAKER: you keep code switching.

MR MMOLOTSI: Let me wrap up then. Does the Minister not realise that the dismissal of the senior manager that you have just mentioned was through what we can term as constructive dismissal?

MR MATAMBO: No, I did not realise that. In any event, I do not think that it will be appropriate for me here to go into the details of what was behind the departure of the senior Motswana officer that you are talking about. I think it would not be appropriate here. Therefore, I am constrained in going any further than I have done so far in this regard. I thank you Mr Speaker.

ISSUANCE OF GAZEBOS INSTEAD OF TENTS TO POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES

MR H. G. NKAIGWA (GABORONE NORTH): asked the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration if he is aware that beneficiaries who applied for tents under the Poverty Eradication Programme are now being given gazebos; if so, what are they expected to do with gazebos.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): Thank you Mr Speaker. For your information, I am the Acting Minister today.

MR SPEAKER: Okay, I was not aware.

MR MAKGALEMELE: Mr Speaker, I am not aware that beneficiaries under the Poverty Eradication Programme, who have applied for tents are now given gazebos, save for the 118 beneficiaries in Gaborone.

Mr Speaker, this was a special dispensation as per the request by Gaborone City Council in 29th January, 2013 to be specific. For example; for the period 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years, 415 beneficiaries were given tents. As I have already indicated, the 118 who were given gazebos, it was just for that particular period.

Mr Speaker, gazebos just like tents are used for hiring to enable beneficiaries to make a living from the proceeds received. My Ministry however, will investigate further the provision of gazebos instead of tents to the said beneficiaries and give feedback to this Honourable House. I thank you Mr Speaker.

MR NKAIGWA: Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Please wait a moment Honourable Nkaigwa, Honourable Guma, before you came here there was no noise. Please just go and sit there alone and keep quiet.

MR NKAIGWA: Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister since you were saying people are given tents, those who were given gazebos are 118; do you not see it fit to go back to them and give them tents since that is what they had requested, not gazebos. Honourable Minister, can a gazebo alleviate poverty?

MR MAKGALEMELE: Honourable Speaker, as I have already pointed out, when Honourable Nkaigwa was still the Mayor of the City of Gaborone, his Council wrote to us in 2013 requesting for what we have done. We believe the Honourable Member as the leader of the Council had done research and he was satisfied.

Mr Speaker, since the Honourable Member made that request, we believed he was aware that gazebos could be hired hence alleviating poverty. As I have already mentioned, we are now also suspicious whether or not during his tenure the Honourable Member was treading well. We will find out...

MR MMOLOTSI: Point of order. I think Honourable Makgalemele is deliberately misleading this House. This is because I am not so sure whether he can produce evidence to the effect that it was Honourable Nkaigwa who actually wrote a letter to the Minister asking for the gazebos. So, if he can produce evidence Honourable Speaker, then I think that will help the House.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Makgalemele where did you get that information from, that he is the one who wrote to you?

MR MAKGALEMELE: No, I said the Council he was leading is the one which made the request. I have proof Mr Speaker that the Council he was a leader of wrote to us.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Supplementary!

MR SPEAKER: Order! Please wait, we have no time, I want to take another question.

PROVISION OF PALISADE FENCE TO ETSHA AND SEKGOMA JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

MR T. KWEREPE (NGAMI): asked the Minister of Education and Skills Development:-

- (i) if she is aware that the Etsha and Sekgoma Junior Secondary Schools have not been provided with palisade fence; if so,
- (ii) why have they not been provided.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (MR MOLAO): Thank you Mr Speaker. Madam Speaker, I am aware that Sekgoma CJSS and Etsha CJSS have not been provided with palisade fence. It is our wish to do so, but due to financial constraints we could not use palisade fence at the two schools. The schools are however fenced with mesh wire security perimeter fences. Palisade fences will be provided at the two schools when the funds become available. I thank you.

MR LELATISITSWE: Supplementary.

MR SPEAKER: Yes, the last one Honourable Lelatisitswe.

MR LELATISITSWE: Thank you Mr Speaker. I just wanted to ask the Minister that since he is aware that such a fence is necessary, has he not planned for it in the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP)?

MR MOLAO: No Sir, we have not planned for it in the ESP.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Supplementary!

MR SPEAKER: No, I had said the last one.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order!

MR SPEAKER: Hold those points of order of yours.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Why?

MR SPEAKER: Anybody taking questions for Honourable Billy?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order! Point of order!

MR SPEAKER: I said hold on to your point of orders.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: On what basis?

MR SPEAKER: Anybody taking questions for Honourable Billy?

LOSS OF JOBS BY BOTSWANA NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL EMPLOYEES SINCE FEBRUARY 2015

MR H. B. BILLY (FRANCISTOWN EAST): asked the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture:-

- (i) how many Botswana National Youth Council employees have lost their jobs since February 2015; and
- (ii) to state the reasons why they lost their jobs.

Question 7- Later date.

MR MOREMI: Point of order. Mr Speaker, I am a bit concerned; there are some words which were uttered in this House. If we leave those words just like that, we will be out of order.

MR SPEAKER: Which words?

MR MOREMI: The words which were uttered by the Minister of Lands and Housing when he said people do not have rights in their areas. He said they only have user rights over the land; they do not have mineral rights and water rights. If we could leave those words in the Hansard, we would be out of order.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Why did you not correct when he was still on the floor? Honourable Minister, clarify your statement.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND HOUSING (MR MAELE): Mr Speaker that is a point of order hence I believe it is not directed to me. If it was a supplementary...

MR SPEAKER: Order! He is asking you to respond. I am the one who is saying clarify your statement.

MR MAELE: Oh alright!

MR SPEAKER: Yes.

MR MAELE: Mr Speaker, I was just pointing out that we mine diamonds at Jwaneng, in Boteti, we have a dam at Letsibogo, but people in those areas do not have real rights. When somebody owns a plot; it is theirs; they have what is called real rights according to the Land Policy. That is what I was trying to show Honourable Tawana. This is basically what I was saying, but if he did not understand I would not know how.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Members, the time for questions has elapsed.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Mr Speaker, but it is still...

MR SPEAKER: The time for questions is finished Honourable Member. Let us stop right there.

**APPROPRIATION (2016/2017) BILL,
2016 (NO. 1 OF 2016)**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE
(CHAIRPERSON in the Chair)

**HEAD 1500 – FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

(Resumed debate)

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order, Mr Chairman!

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Please keep quiet Guma!

MR CHAIRPERSON: Order! Order!

MR MMOLOTSI: Point of order. Mr Chairperson, I do not think it would be proper if we leave this matter hanging because I think it is a very important matter that we need to have closure on. It is an issue of a constitutional nature, which I think we must sort once and for all.

MR CHAIRPERSON: Order! Honourable Members, Honourable Mmolotsi I cannot answer you when I am here. We are now in Committee Honourable Members and it is the Committee of Supply. Honourable Members, the debate on this organisation is resuming. I therefore remind Honourable Members that I shall call upon the Honourable Minister to reply to the debates at 1600 hours today and the question will be put at 1630 hours.

Honourable Members, when we adjourned yesterday, Honourable Keorapetse was on the floor and he was left with 34 seconds. Honourable Keorapetse is not here, the floor is open.

DR P. BUTALE (GABORONE CENTRAL): Thank you very much Mr Chairperson. I wanted to comment on this organisation and state...

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): On a point of procedure. Mr Chairperson, yesterday we had expressed concern over the imbalance that you continue to display when it comes to giving us the chance to be on the floor. We had suggested that you balance numbers from each side but you have not done anything about that.

MR CHAIRPERSON: Do not be worried, I have a plan.

MR MAJAGA: On a point of Order! Thank you Mr Chairperson. Let us not let the House to be misguided by allowing shallow responses and rushing over questions by Ministers. We bring questions here because we want proper answers to that but it seems like we are harbouring the habit of rushing over them.

Secondly, I would like to know if now the House has adopted the Council procedures where names of Honourable Members who wish to speak are captured down instead of catching the Speaker's eye because others yesterday were given the floor when they were just seated. Thank you.

MR CHAIRPERSON: Order! Honourable Members, I am not going to respond to those questions because we are at committee stage right now. You can ask me when I assuming the Speakership role.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of Order!

MR CHAIRPERSON: Bear in mind that point of order, clarifications and procedure will take up your time for debate.

MR MOREMI: On a point of Order! Mr Chairman, the other question was asked while you were assuming

the Speakership role before the Chairperson role. You switched roles while we were still asking questions. Now you are being stubborn because you are there.

MR CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Moremi, you cannot address the Chairperson like that, you will land yourself in trouble. Let us focus on the committee of supply, we were on foreign affairs.

DR P. BUTALE: Thank you very much, cease fire Honourable Members. I wanted to speak briefly about this particular portfolio ...

MR MAELE: Point of Order! Mr Chairman, I do not think this use of the word stubborn should just be ignored and not expunged from the Hansard because I might use it in future to address the Chair. For the unfortunate, we will be thrown out of the House for addressing the Chair in that manner. This word is not parliamentary, I therefore request that it be expunged. Thank you Mr Chairperson.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: On a point of Order!

MR CHAIRPERSON: Wait a minute Mother of the House, I want to assume the Speakership role now. Wait a minute.

MR SPEAKER: Order! Honourable Maele, I had requested that we cease fire. Some of these words are not parliamentary and I am a man of peace just as my name proclaims and I do not wish to go back there. I believe that Honourable Moremi will never use that word again in this House because the Speaker or Chairperson cannot be labelled as stubborn.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: You have addressed what I wanted to say. When Honourable Moremi has used a word like that regardless of whether it was intentional or not, it is not parliamentary because now it broods up other issues like being an unfortunate member. These words are not good, we are all adults here but you have addressed it and therefore let us not indulge on it further.

MR NGAKA: On a point of Order! Mr Speaker, the procedure is that when a Member has used a word that is not parliamentary, they should withdraw it and expunge from the Hansard because it has been recorded. I have never seen a case where the Member is just told not to repeat the use of the concerned word. Therefore, the Honourable member should withdraw the word stubborn.

MR SPEAKER: Order! If I remember correctly, I had asked for cease of fire. Honourable members, refrain from using words like that in the House, case closed.

MR CHAIRMAN: Honourable Butale, you were on the floor.

DR P. BUTALE: Thank you very much. I want to talk to two issues; one which is economic diplomacy which I believe is an area that we are still lacking on and I will end with a comment on our foreign policy and its inadequacies, which I believe are getting us into a lot of trouble. But with the issue of economic diplomacy, I believe Honourable Minister, there is a lot that we could do and we have not harnessed our position on the international stage. I think we need to do more in terms of equipping our embassies into proper centres that generate information, proper researched information on opportunities that can come this way for our citizens and business people.

I want to give an example, Japan for example, before they started a consular in South Africa; they sent a really big team of experts. They have anthropologists and historians who come and give a holistic picture to potential investors of their country to the SADC region. I think instead of having undersecretaries who give very basic information, we need to have much more equipped embassies that will also help sell this country to potential investors where they are. I think we need to have much more than political scientists in our embassies. We need to have other experts in their areas, e.g. having cultural experts to sell our culture who can help identify opportunities in the cultural sphere of that particular country.

I also wanted to say that some countries have done something which I believe we should also try which is combining Foreign Affairs and External Trade Departments. That places these countries at an advantage because having harnessed the operation of these two departments, it makes it easier for ...*interruption*... Honourable Chairperson, I think there is too much noise, the Minister is not even listening.

I think we need to explore this particular area of combining Foreign Affairs and External Trade Departments to ensure that we really benefit optimally from the opportunities that are out there. Globalisation has made countries and our economies more interdependent and countries that have combined Foreign Affairs and External Trade Departments have been at an advantage. While countries like Botswana have since become more of victims of globalisation, instead of taking advantage of what globalisation brings, in terms of the interrelatedness of the economies and how countries are becoming much more dependent on one another. I think we need to explore those two areas much more aggressively in terms of further equipping our Embassies and further considering that particular point.

I wanted to get into the issue of Foreign Policy, we know it has been documented that we have moved away from a very cautious and pragmatic approach in terms of our foreign policy, a pragmatic approach that has been based on real politics. Now to a very disastrous attempt at what is often called ethical foreign policy. You know, yesterday when Honourable Keorapetse was speaking here, he gave examples of circumstances or instances where we spoke and after speaking we were embarrassed. He gave an example that when there was a problem in Ivory Coast we were the first to invite the then President elect to come to Botswana. Ever since he ascended to the presidency he has never shown any interest to honouring such an invitation, which shows that we are turning ourselves into big jokes. I believe that this roof top diplomacy is going to harm this country.

This megaphone diplomacy which has found us Honourable Minister speaking or singing from a hymn book in the continent is really bad for this country's interests. I was watching you Honourable Minister, through you Mr Chairperson on television, you are a woman of good speech, eloquent, but I was watching you when you were trying to explain the China-Botswana impasse and I could not believe it was you, because you found yourself in a situation that nobody should be there.

You know I am one of those people who said that we need not have a codified foreign policy because the ideals that we subscribe to are there. Clearly we have now a situation where I think the current leadership has lost touch with those very ideals that one would have thought would have guided our foreign policy. As a result we often get ourselves into difficult situations, I mean I cannot help but wonder before we made whatever statement we made on the South China sea, do we have a full appreciation of the historical background of that conflict? If we are to just do an analysis of whether before that statement was done, did we explore the diplomatic channels? The reason why you have Embassies is because you open diplomatic channels. Winston Churchill says that diplomacy is the art of saying to somebody go to hell, you say it in such a way that they will ask you for directions to go to hell. But Honourable Molao says our voice has to be heard on the international stage. I asked, heard by who? You cannot shout in a bush and expect to be heard by somebody. You have diplomatic channels, through which you can do these things. I wonder if little obscure Botswana wants to get into a fight, you know Americans have interest in the South China sea, the Chinese have interest there and we want to get involved. When America speaks and makes a public statement about a small country they

know that, that country will listen because they have what it takes to make them listen.

Honourable Minister, how can you tell China what to do, with what? You know I was so shocked when I read the statement that we wrote to the Americans. I was wondering, is this the same country that I grew up in, telling the Americans that before they can tell us about the wrong things that we are doing, arresting journalists, they should tell the world about Guantanamo Bay, is this Botswana? If you are so ethical Honourable Minister, about the same thing, they were questioning the very same things that you always question about Zimbabwe, about other countries, why were you offended when the Americans were practising the same ethical approach to issues in saying why are you arresting journalists? You have the audacity to go to Ivory Coast before the regional grouping echo has dealt with the issue, you have the audacity to make pronouncements, you have the audacity to say you do not recognise Zimbabwe, but you think nobody else can tell you do not arrest journalists because that is undemocratic.

The President has made more than two visits to Swaziland, but he is silent about human rights abuse in Swaziland, I call it hypocrisy, confusion, you know, it is unacceptable. I think it is high time Honourable Minister as we say to you that you need to be funded to make the reforms that we need, to make your ministry much more useful to this country. You need to make this correction and do that which will help our interest as a country not individual interest.

Now I wanted to end by saying, the Clerk of the National Assembly of Botswana...

MR CHAIRPERSON: Your time is up.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): Thank you Mr Chairperson. Let me start by assuring Honourable Minister Venson-Moitoi that I support her budget proposal. Mr Chairperson, allow me to commend Minister Venson-Moitoi for the excellent leadership of this ministry and the impeccable explanations that she gave recently on the issue of South China sea.

You handled the matter exceptionally well and you gave us quality lecture on the reasons why we need to comment on issues such as this one. Mr Speaker, we should not doubt ourselves as a small country, even in the Bible David defeated Goliath. It is not like that big countries cannot make a mistake, we must speak especially when we know that we are a respected country like you said.

Let me commend you for recently appointing some of our young people like Mr Goitsemanang to a higher post and Mr Ramodimoosi who has been in Mozambique now appointed to the post of an assistant. I believe that just as you are new to this ministry and they are also new, you will bring a fresh new perspective to certain issues so that the goals of your ministry may be attained.

I notice that in your proposal you have indicated in number 5 and 6 that you have shortage of resources and you would want to be assisted with more considering your responsibility. I support that you should be accorded more resources looking at the challenges you are facing. You must face them...

One of the things that you should consider honourable minister as you wish to have equipment is to help Batswana understand the importance of attracting investors into our country. My wish is for those who are representing us outside should have relationships with these countries. In the 10th Parliament, I had requested that those who were representing Botswana in foreign countries should be allowed to hold Kgotla meetings when they come back. This would help us get the information from the Horse's mouth. Your responsibility is not to hold Kgotla meeting because you always represent us outside the country. And therefore their responsibility is to share the opportunities that are there, both internal and external business opportunities in their mission countries. Please do consider this issue more so that you have a new youthful work force who can look at things differently. Honourable Minister please consider the Rural Development Council whose chairperson is the Vice president of the Republic. In one of the objectives of the Rural Development council and the Rural Development policy, it has been highlighted that everything possible will be done in order to attract investors into this country especially in rural areas. I do believe that from what I am requesting, the investors will be in a position to consider setting up their businesses in our rural areas. I do believe that that will be a major benefit for us from the foreign investors. I am thankful for His Honour the Vice President to have attended the India Africa Summit. Please look further into the agreements that were made at the Indian summit because I do believe that we can benefit from them as well. I am of the view that whatever was agreed at the India Africa summit and China Africa Summit will benefit us in developing our country.

I want us to look at the fact that most of the countries have pulled back in assisting us given our deteriorating economic status. Chairperson, the most affected are the Non-Governmental Organisations, this has led to some of the NGO community based Organisations to close

down. Please, as you undertake these international trips, please implore and talk to the supporting countries to restore their partnership with us and continue investing in our country. Another issue that I want you to look into is the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD) recommendations where a lot of money was authorised for use towards Africa Development. The funds are geared towards accelerating infrastructure development. Japan has shown its interest in supporting Africa in infrastructure and as you know we are still in need of infrastructure development, roads in Dibete, Poloka, Mokgenene and Otse are the ones which need a boost in their production. When we look at the commitment from the TICAD V, it could assist more and we might be able to benefit from some opportunities which are already there. Through you Chairperson, let me encourage you Honourable Minister that you re look into some of the conventions that we have and the memorandum of agreements that we have signed. Look into those and see where we could benefit more. Probably you should give them targets. Look at different components and look at international funding, look at investments, each and every important component which could help us develop; look at those and give them targets they can work with. Chairperson, since I have highlighted that the mandate of the Honourable Minister requires her to be outside the country in most cases, I want to implore her to educate Batswana on the duties of her ministry. I do not recall, for as long as I was in this Parliament, any day where I heard that the Ministry took services to the people. My wish is to have your Ministry take its services to the people, it could be in Shoshong or any other village of your choice. We should see you out there, your staff should do that. I support you, and I wish for this parliament to pass your budget proposal. Thank you Chairperson.

VICE PRESIDENT (MR MASISI): Thank you very much Mr Chairperson. I wish to begin by expressing my support to the Minister for her to be given this budget request to run the Ministry. Insufficient as it is when faced to the limited resources, the results of prioritisation unfortunately will yield the little that you have.

I wish next to commend you for a sterling job given the very meagre resources you are working with, your ability to penetrate the world, transverse the world, communicate with Batswana and so archly and eloquently express the viewpoints of Botswana the country and Botswana the people, that is commendable. So I commend you and your staff for a very good job. I have had occasion to travel under your care and support when I led some delegations abroad and I found your staff to be nimble footed and intellectually competent to deal with issues we face and as our preparations are

often far superior to those of other delegations that are superior in numbers to ours and better resourced than ours. So I commend you and your staff for that.

Mr Chairman, let me point out that the Foreign Policy of Botswana has been extremely, clearly understood by Africa and the rest of the world. It is a pity that the few Africans in the House want a minority, uniquely remain those who are among the last to understand it. It has done so well to them because they participate in it. They stand tall and proud to have benefited from it, they are beneficiaries of this Foreign Policy that we have had so long. I want to commend them; my sister and brothers across the aisle for participating so very patriotically in the articulation and the realisation of Botswana's Foreign Policy. Whenever you travel internationally or even in the sub-region, region and abroad, you have been such good ambassadors of Botswana. You have been mingling with those from your opposition which is us in a very fraternal and collegial manner to the extent that many in those countries often do not believe you or us that you are from the opposition. They do believe, as I sometimes myself do, that we really do not have an opposition in Botswana. They believe it sincerely. That is an expression of the thoroughness by which the Botswana Foreign Policy is not only communicated, but articulated, you are its applicants. Now if you have not seen or realised this, please wake up to it. You are a good expression of our Foreign Policy.

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

MR MASISI: You are, I am very proud of it. That is part of our Foreign Policy. I say it is part of Foreign Policy because you do not know other Foreign Policies but our own and you are likely not to know any other Foreign Policy but ours. Properly so, and always so Dr Butale for in 2019 you will be trudging you way back to Botswana Television (Btv) to read or prepare the news, or lead the department or even be Permanent Secretary if you are good enough.

I have been amazed Mr Chairman by the grotesqueness of the hyperbole coming from across the aisle; grotesqueness of hyperbole, exaggerated speech that we have no moral or high ground to state our position. Hey! Let me remind you, the Botswana Foreign Policy which so well-known and you also understand is predicated upon Botswana First. That is one.

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

MR MASISI: And two, keep quiet because I am teaching you what it is...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MR MASISI: No hang on; let me make it very clear to you. Two; Botswana's Foreign Policy is predicated on the expression of our own domestic policy. So our domestic policy gets turned outward, and it is informed by our democratic credentials, *mmualebe o bua la gagwe*, meaning that 'everyone is entitled to their own opinion.' If it was not so why and why I keep saying you are a manifestation of an example of our Foreign Policy, you would not be sitting across the aisle. Some of you would not have crossed the floor as you did in 2010 and formed an entirely new formation which you are grappling to understand. You would not, for there is total freedom of speech, we are a very tolerant society and that is what our Foreign Policy is all about. We are so tolerant that we have an Opposition Member who can walk across from the furthest sit in Parliament to the nearest far end sit and switch off the microphone of an Honourable Minister speaking.

Mr Chairman, this is Botswana's Foreign Policy and we respect and protect it, for those are our values. Mr Chairman, it would be remiss of me if I did not remind this House that Botswana has a right like no other time before to express her views in a manner that is premised on these values of democratic dispensation, peace and determination to resolve conflict through dialogue. That is our Foreign Policy. Now why are we making hullabaloo about a statement that is issued? Would you say the same thing when we made a statement about apartheid South Africa? Why did you not and where were you? We made statements about powerful countries that are friendly to us. It is in the nature of relations of nations and will continue be, for those small and meek to make their views known. It is part of the belonging to an international community and I applaud you Honourable Minister, feel not afraid for those who are ill informed and inexperienced, never to be experienced in managing the affairs of our nation state would always break critical of you. So that is the basis of our Foreign Policy.

His Excellency the President shares leadership responsibilities. He shares it even with the Opposition on matter of Foreign Policy because Foreign Policy is so important. It embraces the whole nation state and being. Leader of the Opposition and his deputy travel internationally and fly the flag high at International Parliamentary Union (IPU). A Botswana flag; Leader of Botswana's Opposition who has belonged to a number of Opposition parties even though it is contested whether he joined the Botswana National Front (BNF) legitimately or not, that is not our business. Honourable Gaolathe joins him...

DR P. BUTALE: On a point of order. You know Mr

Chairman; I think if the Leader of the House is going to stand here and make unsubstantiated allegations, this House would be out of order. If he is going to impute improper motives on the Leader of Opposition, he needs to substantiate. If he makes a statement like “it is contested,” by whom because we are in the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), we know he is a bonafide member of BNF and there is no such contestation. So he needs to withdraw or tell us who is contesting and substantiate his allegation.

MR CHAIRPERSON: You said point of order, you want me to answer but I am not the one talking. Why did you not say clarification so that he could explain what he is saying?

DR P. BUTALE: Mr Chairman, you need to make a ruling because if we proceed under this misconception, we would be out of order.

MR CHAIRMAN: How would I know that what he is saying is not the truth? I am not part of your debates, why do you not ask each other questions?

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): Point of order. Thank you Mr Chairman. I want to know who had given him the permission to speak for the second time? You allowed him to talk first from there he stood up without your permission.

MR CHAIRMAN: Order! Honourable Members, calm down. Honourable Leader of the House clarify the words that Honourable Butale is complaining about so that he understands. You are the ones debating there and please do not include me in your debates.

MR MOREMI: On a point of order. Thank you Mr Chairman. Just to get this House to Order, Honourable Butale said substantiate and you are saying clarify, to clarify is to correct. He said substantiate, to back up what you were saying with substance.

MR CHAIRMAN: Yes, substantiate in Setswana means to clarify. Clarify your point Honourable Member.

MR MASISI: Mr Chairman, very briefly in the seconds remaining, I had said even though his membership of the Botswana National Front (BNF) may be under contestation or has been contested, it is a fact! It was at court and there are litigants who were there, it ended up being withdrawn and we know why. You and I do, but anyway, for the sake of peace, let me withdraw that, eventhough you know the truth Honourable Butale. But what I want to say is that...

MR MOREMI: On a point of order. Mr Chairman, we were told that our withdrawals should never have butts.

MR CHAIRMAN: Order! Honourable Moremi, I take it that we are done with this issue. The Vice President has withdrawn what he said, calm down, let there be peace.

MR MASISI: If they were offended I will withdraw, I love these people. But you should cease your insolence for the Foreign Policy of Botswana, you are hypocrites. Amen!

MR KESUPILE (KANYE SOUTH): Let me thank you Mr Chairman. I hope you will increase my time because I have caught flue and it is going to influence my speed. Before I could comment on the Minister’s budget estimates, I would like to say the relationship that we have with our neighbouring countries is natural. The reason why this country size has decreased is because of the borders, the fact that we share borders with them means we have to treat them with respect. We work more closely with two countries that I would like to mention; South Africa and Namibia. We visit each other and go for training in these countries, also as already mentioned by Honourable Moswaane we go there for medical reasons as those people have good health practitioners. This side we are not that good. The other thing that is promoting our relationship is our lifestyles, culture and how we relate.

One thing that I am worried about is that Batswana are getting hurt when they visit these countries and you wonder whether the Minister ever pass our grievances when she meets with her counterparts from these countries. It is clear that whatever that they discuss never reach the people. I sometimes wonder whether when the South Africans and Namibians come to our countries we treat them the way they treat us when we visit their countries. Throughout our stay in South Africa, Motswana will be trembling with fear. The fear starts at the border up to one’s final destination, just the fact that you are in South Africa, that fear does not go away.

What is it that the Ministers are doing when they meet? We were thinking that they talk about the security, that the South Africans should know that we have to feel the same way when we are in South Africa, the same way they feel when they are this side. You might be excited for now by the fact that you are transported in a flying machine and welcomed by the other Minister and you never go through what we go through. But not some of us who travel using buses and private vehicles and end up being hijacked on the way. From here going

to Gauteng, your vehicle can be taken at Zeerust or Rustenburg. They never want to see the Botswana plate numbers; they take all your belongings including the car. Do they still call us fools like they used to in the apartheid era?

Ministers be warned that the security that you are getting will be no more in 2019. You will be forced to use public transport when travelling to South Africa just like any Motswana who wants to be secure when going there. I wish you could invite the Ambassador of South Africa to the television so that he tells us the measures that he is taking to make sure that Batswana enjoy their visits to South Africa. I believe that we try by all means that they enjoy themselves when they are here.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): Clarification. Honourable Minister, why will we be using public transport while you never used it; or are you going to confiscate our cars?

MR KESUPILE (KANYE SOUTH): Thank you for the question Honourable Minister, one day you will not have the privilege of the security that you are revelling in due to your status. You will be an ordinary citizen living a normal life like any other person and get to experience the dangers that they go through.

Batswana love South Africa, they visit it for shopping therefore contributing to the economy of the country. I wish Motswana can be able to visit South Africa and feel as happy and as safe as they do; but that is not the case. Carrying a gun around in South Africa is a very normal practice to them. Batswana are constantly afraid when travelling to South Africa because of the killings and hijacking. We need to turn around and look at more important things. As neighbours we should be able to inter relate. The government also needs to remember that while busy talking about mutual relations, Batswana are getting killed in these countries that they visit. Thank you Mr Chairperson.

MR GUMA (TATI EAST): Thank you Mr Chairman for giving me this opportunity to take part in this debate. What did you say?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Comment.

MR GUMA: I liked what Honourable Kesupile just said and I wish he had more time to say more to address our neighbours. I am from Tati East Honourable Kesupile and we also have crisis with our neighbours, they are taking our livestock.

MR CHAIRPERSON: Livestock, Honourable Member

MR GUMA: Our livestock

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Repeat what you said.

MR GUMA: *Ngi kholoma isiNdebele mina.*

MR CHAIRPERSON: Order! We only speak English and Setswana here.

MR GUMA: Our people use donkeys for ploughing and cattle to make a living. Donkeys are slowly becoming extinct in Matsiloje and Matopi, they are stubbornly taking them. Our cattle have also been struck by foot and mouth disease so after they take them, on their return the Veterinary officers under Ralotsia's Ministry shoot them and the people are given P400 as compensation; Batswana are deeply aggrieved by this. Elephants cross over from Zimbabwe and we look after them but they destroy our crops. What do you call crops in Setswana?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: *Dijwalo.*

MR GUMA: We are really struggling because foot and mouth from our neighbouring country. This disease is an international concern but we have never united to try and find ways to fight it like we do with other diseases. Sometimes I worry that Ebola will also attack us due to our very unrestricted borders. Our border is 900 kilometres; therefore it is difficult to maintain the fence and Zimbabwean border without any assistance from them. Meetings have been held about this issue but to no avail. We are really troubled by this; right now residents of Matsiloje, Jakalas No. 2, Matshelagabedi and Tonota are living in poverty because of Foot and Mouth disease. This issue can be resolved by communicating and uniting with our neighbours to fight this disease because but they seem to be unmoved by this disease. This is probably because they do not sell their cattle outside the country. Another resolution can come from the fact that we are well acquainted with each other and even speak the same language; our Dikgosi and those from the other side could unite and try and resolve this problem. We cannot singlehandedly resolve this. Honourable Merafhe used to say 'you can choose a friend, but you cannot choose a neighbour'. These are our neighbours and they are permanent and pensionable; if they will ever get to become pensioners, we need to coexist with them. To achieve that, there have to be communication. Issues are left unsolved in Harare while there are people who are capable and willing to go and get them settled...

DR P. BUTALE: Elucidation. Thank you. You are right about the issue of communication. Communication is very important because they will always be our neighbours and we should continue to foster good relations with them.

MR GUMA: Your problem is telling small untruths sometimes. You were not elucidating anything, you wanted to provoke and I am not there. You were busy with your debate and I did not for once make some side remarks, I am not holding it properly, you will insult me.

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

MR GUMA: I am holding it nicely? How does one hold it? The Honourable Member is imputing improper motives.

MR CHAIRMAN: The debate is on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MR GUMA: We definitely have to talk about this issue Honourable because it affects our public relations with our neighbours. If we do not assess it and give it attention it is going to impoverish our people.

I am the Chairman of the Standing Orders I am going make an amendment so that only one language is used. I also want to debate in Indebele, this is oppressing my rights. I am still debating, our neighbours speak Indebele Honourable Member. So allow me to debate using it, it is foreign policy.

I just wanted to quickly mention that issue Mr Chairman that Minister use us, let us foster relations with the neighbours; we are relatives, we are one nation. You should not paint it as if it is a concern when we can just communicate. When there are funerals we can cross the border to go and bury and vice versa. People of Patse are basically Bangwato, they speak Setswana which is one of the official languages at Zimbabwe so we can simply communicate, the problem is lack of communication. Let us communicate with our neighbours so that we can be able to fight Foot and Mouth disease and stock theft. With those few remarks, I conclude thus, you should give me an opportunity again.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE (GABANE – MMANKGODI): Thank you Mr Chairman. Let me also comment on the request of the Mother of the House regarding Foreign Affairs. I agree with her budget proposal although I have a few reservations about her office more especially the performance of her ministry. I do agree that the performance of her ministry can improve if she can be allotted more funds because it is embarrassing sometimes when you visit embassies, they are usually in a bad state, even the flag is worn out and does not reflect that this is the middle income country.

We should understand that foreign policy is the face of a country and our public relations tool with other countries. If countries want to know about our country they do so through foreign policy just like you were

saying Honourable VP, Leader of the House that when you get there you cannot tell a leader from the people. We are carrying ourselves in a good manner trying to show what we are as a nation. Therefore we would like such things to be improved by allotting more funds to the ministry.

Our missions outside are in a sad state. Sometimes you find that there are only three staff members. I am worried because you will find only three staff members and the rest are foreigners. This is such a concern; our graduates are here and have studied International Relations. I request that they be employed; we should open embassies and expand to other countries. If we keep opening them nearby, you even wonder if priorities of some are right, you find that they are not carrying out the mandate. That is my humble request that let us benchmark in other developed countries we work with and beef up those embassies. It is very important that we benchmark from those countries.

Another issue which concerns me about Foreign Affairs is that we want representation in international organisations, Batswana should also seriously market the country, we have to have Batswana working in international organisations. That is just a dream; the government does not support Batswana who seek employment opportunities there. I can give a simple example about someone who applied for the post of Clerk at Pan African Parliament at South Africa and was number 1 and Algeria was number 3. The President of Algeria flew from Algeria to South Africa and met with the hiring caucus to lobby for his citizen who was number 3 to be hired. Our number 1 candidate was not hired. We need to support our own citizens and be proud. Right now we could be having a Motswana Pan African Parliament Clerk something which could make us proud but we do not do that. It was just recently when you tried to make an attempt with Ms Sekgoa and it was too late. You could have started a long time back to try and seriously assist with her campaign. We cannot just go there in the last minute and campaign for her.

I would like to say, let us seriously try to find employment opportunities for Batswana in international organisations, this can automatically open doors for us just like we know that as a country in need of assistance from other countries we can only get them if we have Batswana representatives out there. If we do not have Motswana representative out there who can advise us we will never know, opportunities will just pass us by. The financial aid from overseas countries like now at China they...

ASSITANT MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MR KEBONANG): On a point of

clarification Mr Chairman. Thank you. Minister clarify that when you say the government from this side or the Botswana Democratic Party government did not do enough what is it that it should have done that it did not do in your books in relation to Mma Sekgoa?

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Thank you very much. Honourable, If it was me in that position which is very very important, I could have engaged a campaign team lead by Minister of Foreign Affairs to campaign in other countries. Our President could have travelled to lobby at other neighbouring countries, our friends. We did not do that. He went there late. I could tell you more if you are interested...

LEADER OF THE HOUSE (MR MASISI): On a point of Order! Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Let me advise my colleague because the House would be out of order. Ms Sekgoa Masire - Mwamba was endorsed following vigorous campaigning by herself and her team and the government of Botswana, including the Head of State, by SADC first and the AU. Those we secured, and the majority of the Commonwealth countries outside Africa which we met at UN. People changed their minds last minute at Malta after being persuaded by other countries and offered bribery which we could not afford.

MR CHAIRMAN: That was just a correction.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Okay you have explained clearly Honourable, right now there are allegations of bribery. We have to seriously address this and market Batswana. We want to see our graduates employed and working at AU, UN, all these international bodies so that they may represent us. There is plenty of money.

The other issue I would like to discuss is talking vaguely or criticising other countries, let us be careful. Let us avoid being too quick to criticise without knowing the full story. A recent example is that of South China, we could have not done that. Right now China has withdrawn 60 billion which was supposed to be our financial aid and we did not submit a request, this was supposed to aid Africa yet we did not submit our request. We could lobby for financial aid through the techniques I just mentioned.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MS VENSON-MOITOI): On a point of correction Mr Chairman. That financial aid is for Africa, out of that lot, Botswana was allotted 160 million. We had submitted a request.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: US Dollars!

MS VENSON-MOITOI: 160 million US Dollars, Botswana made the request and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning can confirm that.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Yes, well even if we have made that request the best thing is for us to know which side our bread is buttered. We cannot make requests and then attack other countries and then then around and explain that we might have erred in what we said. What we should understand is that there is what is referred to as globalisation. We are not an island, we must embrace globalisation, and we must deal with other countries correctly and work well with them. Issues such as terrorism cannot be fought in isolation but only with good friendship. If you have countries that you work well with and understand each other, then that is when you can be able to fight terrorism.

DR P. BUTALE: Elucidation. On the issue that you raised of just giving out statements without stopping first to think it through I would like to say that the United States of America have the political capital and if it tells a country in Africa to do something that country can oblige. In our statements that we normally release do they ever make any impact or even did the conflict in South China Sea get resolved because we issued a statement? The same applies to the conflicts in the Ivory Coast, is it helping or this is a shouting match that we are trying to win?

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Yes, and I was told that I am meddling in things that do not concern me sometime in this House and so I am saying that we should also not adopt that sort of mentality. We should get serious. I wanted us to understand our foreign policy and that is why I suggested that it should be documented. I do not understand the argument of those who say that we know it and it is within our values, because it contradicts itself. In the past we have had one Minister of foreign affairs who referred to a country President as a Disc Jockey (DJ); those are not the right things...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: He was not a President.

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Yes he did say that though and little did he know that one day we would be having a Minister who is a DJ...

HONOURBLE MEMBERS: ...(laughter!)

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: What should they say then about that situation? If they were to say something you would retaliate by saying that they did not say the right thing.

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

MAJ. GEN. MOKGWARE: Yes I mean that whenever we issue statements about other countries we should remember that it could be us in future. Honourable Minister through you Chairperson, I urge you to request more funds so that you can increase staff.

MR CHAIRPERSON: Order! Honourable Olopeng you only have three minutes!

MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE (MR OLOPENG): Thank you Mr Chairman. I just wanted to say a few words and start off by thanking Honourable Venson-Moitoi and her staff for the wonderful job they did regarding the Ministry of foreign Affairs committee speech. I support the job they did and I thank all those who have commented including others from that side of the aisle whom we can just say they are entitled to their opinion. Our Foreign policy is very clear and it demonstrates that we live in a global village.

It affects us both ways in the sense that if we feel that one of the countries is not satisfied with how things are then we are free to express our views regardless of whether they are a powerful country or not. That is what our foreign policy shows, that indeed we are part of a global village. I want to advise them that they should not fear anything and being a coward does not help. There is no one who can be upset and decide to fight you for showing them what they are doing wrong. If that is the case then that would not be a true friend. Mr Chairman I even wish that the Honourable Member could approach the more than 20 countries that we no longer have embassies at to give us an opportunity to begin...

MR CHAIRPERSON: Your time is up.

Order Honourable Members, I now call upon the Honourable Minister of foreign Affairs and international cooperation to reply to the debate. I am giving you 30 minutes Honourable Minister.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MS VENSON-MOITOI): I thank you very much Mr Chairperson. Let me thank Honourable Members for their contributions and for the support they have given to the request that we have made and particularly give thanks to His Honour the Vice President for the commendation that he has given to my staff and I. I have to say that it is always heart-warming to know that one's work is appreciated, we thank you sir.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: You have started bootlicking.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: Exactly, people have benefited...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: ... (laughter!)...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Him too.

MS VENSON MOITOI: Even he included. His Honour the Vice President summed up our foreign policy extremely well. I would like to say that for those Honourable Members who asked us to give codified version, I will confess here that I am amongst those people who are hesitant to give a codified foreign policy. For the simple reason that a codified version ties you down into a format that it is not movable with the times. Foreign exchange is fluid, the world around us is not static, the world around us moves very, very quickly as we can see that so many years ago the East was the East and it was socialist and communist, when the West was capitalist and locked and the right was right and the left was left. These days right has moved to the centre and left has moved to the centre and we are no longer sure who is capitalist and who is as socialist or as communist as they used to be. The pressures of the communities we serve have forced us to move from our hard core positions; everybody has come out of their locked positions. Therefore, foreign policy is determined by the environment that you work on and we are more for a foreign policy that is based largely on our national policy and that is what we reflect as we go out.

We draw ours largely from a statement made by our first President at a Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) conference in Molepolole 28th March 1970, where several words were used; democracy, development, unity, self-reliance, good neighbourliness, peaceful resolution of conflict, territorial, integrity and the sovereignty of nations. That is the basis of our foreign policy, nothing has changed. We have consciously decided the route of putting together these guidelines that I have said, we might put together guidelines that will just say to a foreigner when we do a Botswana hand-out that, "these are the guidelines of what our foreign policy looks like", but we will not have a codified foreign policy to avoid rigidity as I said. To respond specifically to the comments of you Honourable Members, what are we doing making our voice heard all over the place; because our voice has value. In 50 years we have achieved something that other countries have not achieved in 50 years. We have demonstrated peace; we have demonstrated stability and you gentlemen across the aisle and lady were part of that peace and stability. Do not belittle your contribution to this. You are part of this. You are part of the Botswana that is renowned for peace and stability and this is what few countries can boast of. We are the beacon of peace and stability, steady development, a place where natural resources are put together in a consolidated fund and national wealth is redistributed for the development of

all and we do not take our children to school because they are so and so's children. We take them to school because they have passed with 42 points, with 48 points or with whatever. We do not care whether they belong to Botswana Movement for Democracy (BMD) or to Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) or whoever. This is us ...

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

MS VENSON-MOITOI: Yes, because these funds..., this is our policy because this is the Botswana we have built together and I am not excluding anyone. This is us. We are big in that way Honourable Members, all of us together. Do not complain, I am not excluding you. Now because this is what we are and this is who we are, people do listen when we talk. The world listens when Botswana talks.

I am very sorry Honourable Butale that you are going to talk of this country as little and obscure. I am really sorry. I do not live in a little and obscure country. Botswana is big. You did not mean to utter that statement. If you think you want to lead some little obscure little country that nobody wants then you are in the wrong place. This country is big because we have a lot to show to the world. We have a lot to share with the world. There is a lot going for this country and we have to be proud to share this. There are not many countries that can display what we can display. Yes when we speak the world listens. Now I will answer who cares.

When we vote at the United Nations, one vote is one vote. It has got no colour, and it is not weighed by size of population or by economic value. The one vote for Botswana counts as the one vote for the United States. It does not matter how many jet fighters you have. It is one vote and that is the value of your word in the international world. That is the value of your might and therefore when we speak in our foreign policy we say that might is not always right. This is what we say as Botswana. Might is not always right because when you have too much might you could also be a bully. Therefore...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: I have a lot to say Honourable Butale.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Please yield.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: No, I do not yield to children, and I did not bring any child here. As Honourable Nkaigwa always says that he did not come with his mother here in Parliament I also did not bring children. I will yield.

DR P. BUTALE: On a point of clarification. You are debating very well Mother of the House, but I was thinking you should clarify this point where you were commenting on the issue of Botswana speaking going against or outside diplomatic channels, how does it help? That is what we are saying.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: We never speak outside diplomatic channels. If there is a need to dialogue with a particular country on a particular issue we know what channels to follow. He was talking about the issue of South Seas of China; we were not talking to any particular country; we were listing several countries to all of them, a group of our friends involved in the conflict. Let me not engage you in a bilateral; one of our friends reacted the way they did.

I will show you examples Madam Chairperson and welcome. When we spoke about the hostilities in Syria, people wondered what we were doing in Syria. Right now we hear about the possible cessation of those hostilities. We would welcome that because it is human kind. When a government turns on its own people we get worried because we do not want any Government to think that it is fashionable to have people who voted for you and you turn around and kill them. It is not on. We do not believe a government which was elected by the people should be a torment to people. It is not the democracy we would promote in this country. We would not at all because it is against the principles of the International Criminal Court (ICC) which we are affiliated to. Governments can be bad as well.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: I do not have time Honourable Members. I have quite a lot to say, please allow me to finish. When North Korea tested hydrogen bombs we put up a statement. Hydrogen bombs, they will make a small one today, tomorrow they will put up a huge one. These things are airborne. We do not know how far it will go and Botswana are all over the world. How many of our people will get affected and will end up back in Botswana with the effects of whatever may have happened and humanity in general. We cannot keep quiet because our one vote which weighs as much as the vote of Canada and the United States and everybody else counts.

Uganda elections - We do not believe that when an opponent is arrested, arraigned and interfered with during a campaign, during an election, is the right thing to do. It is not democratic process in the elections. We do not believe in those things and this is why we have sent a press statement out to say, we are not comfortable with that because it does not promote democracy on the

continent. We have not done that. We do not believe in that kind of promotion for democracy because it does not follow the ideals that we promote, that we wish for in our own country.

The South China Seas; everybody there is a friend of ours but some of them were loading up and buying more weaponry. There were all sorts of incursions with all sorts of foreign aeroplanes in the area. There is oil rigs showing up out of the middle of nowhere, drilling oil and fishing without permission. All kinds of things that indicate that there is interference and some of them actually offending, the very Chinese that you claim to be defending. So we would go out there and we make a statement, a general statement to say, “dear friends please, this is not on, these actions, these activities that we see have got the potential to disturb peace in the area,” and then you and your friends in the media, say something else, yes, an irresponsible media ought to be attacked. The least they could have done is to report the right things, because they are sensational, they disturb Botswana. The truthful thing is that who did they ask about the closure of that embassy?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Are you attacking media?

MS VENSON-MOITOI: Yes I am attacking them. Madam Chairperson, they cannot fail to ask me these questions because they use the same media for putting them out of the profession. God shall judge you because you take these officers out of their profession.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: Now, China is amongst the most favoured nations for Botswana, if you want to know. But as for you, you are so desperate that you will utilise any gap as an opportunity in a quest to get funds but that will never happen.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Clarification.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: No I refuse to fall for that because as we speak the Chinese Ambassador is at the Office of the President donating a vehicle. As for you, you come late and talk. Please make up your minds on what you want to do. We all belong to this country. When the sky comes down it comes down on all of us. When people talk about a peaceful Botswana and a Botswana with a clean record of peace and stability, it does not just mean the BDP, it includes all of you. You cannot complain to us about things in one day, but when all of you talk about the BDP Government refusing to give somebody a permit when you know nothing about that person. These people later become your relatives.

HONORABLE MEMBER: ... (Inaudible)...

MS VENSON-MOITOI: Tell them to stop shouting at me.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Minister, ignore them and address me.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Murmurs.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Order!

MS VENSON-MOITOI: I become worried about these Honourable Members who have the tenacity to advocate for foreigners to be issued with permits more than they could advocate for the interests of Botswana. They overlook the capability of this person that once they land here....

MR SALAKAE: Clarification. You are in order with that eloquence Honourable Minister but my question is, are you saying it is fine for you to decide for us as to who we befriend us because you are scared of that friendship?

MS VENSON-MOITOI: No Mr Chairperson, I am saying we do host people from outside because we are not an island. When we have diplomatic relations with other countries, we should be at liberty to advise them if they are on the wrong. Precisely my point because the world is a global village, and it has become smaller, which seems to surprise you when we do it..

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Are you contradicting yourself now?

MS VENSON-MOITOI: No, I am not. Now Honourable Wynter Mmolotsi has expressed concern over the failure to attend United Nations (UN) summits by the President. We respect our President but besides that the law expects us to give him that veneration which Honourable Mmolotsi fails to accord him so much that now it is like it is lawful for him to do that and nothing is being done or said about it...

MR MMOLOTSI: Point of procedure. Madam Chair, I had assumed that this Parliament is led by the Speaker and any Member who violates the Standing Orders in any manner should be brought to order by the latter. Now I am surprised that the Honourable Minister is accusing me of being discourteous to His Excellency the President and yet no one ever raised that up. Therefore I think Honourable Moitoi is out of order and must withdraw those words and apologise because that did not happen.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Yes I did not hear that as well, you might have said it in my absence but she

was just generalising that there is a tendency of being insolent to the President.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: Madam Chairperson, it does not have to be obvious. We are all Batswana...

MR MOREMI: Point of order. Madam Chair, I would like to assist because it seems like Honourable Mmolotsi is fighting a battle that does not concern him. Honourable Mmolotsi is disputing the allegations made by the Honourable Minister that he has a tendency of being discourteous to the President because even the Speaker has never brought him to order concerning that but she is still adamant, so Honourable Mmolotsi is simply asking the Minister to withdraw the words.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Minister explain yourself what you mean.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: What I am trying to say is that it does not have to be explicit words, we are Batswana and Honourable Mmolotsi....

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

MS VENSON-MOITOI: Why are you murmuring? When he says the President does not attend summits but rather opt to give away *diphathatha* (bread)...

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

MS VENSON-MOITOI: In relation to the President, he says, he does not attend the meetings but busy with handing out bread. Madam Chairperson, does that not pass for disrespect? You are saying the President has neglected a United Nations meeting and resorted to distributing bread at Bontleng. I do not believe that the President can refuse to go for a United Nations assembly in exchange for distributing bread. Can I sit down or I can just proceed?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Proceed Honourable Minister.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: In my reading, such talks are demeaning to the President. That is my stand. Now because my time...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Who said that?

MR MMOLOTSI: Madam Chairperson, I still think the Minister is out of order because the President likes distributing blankets and bread and he does this often. He has done that more than 30, 40 times countrywide. The Minister says it is disrespectful of me to say that, can she tell us if in her view the distribution of these items is wrong?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: I think it depends on how you say it and how she interpreted it. If you said he goes around distributing bread saying it in a demeaning manner that is how she interpreted it.

DR P. BUTALE: On a point of procedure. Thank you Madam Chairperson. I just wanted clarity here. You spoke of interpretation of the Honourable Minister. I think our argument is that it is you the Speaker or Chairperson of this House who is supposed to interpret and rule whatever it is said out of order. Now that has not happened. What we are saying is that, the Minister is now masquerading as a Speaker and that is unacceptable. She should withdraw and apologise to the Honourable Member.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: No! I have moved on from that one. I responded to it. The Honourable Minister should continue because anybody can stand here and raise a point of order that a certain Standing Order has been violated. Now if no one has done that and the Minister expresses herself today that she feels it is disrespect, I cannot dispute that.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Point of order!

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: I said I have ruled on that issue. We proceed. Please proceed Minister.

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

MS VENSON-MOITOI: ...(Laughter)... a scuffle in this case is inevitable.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Look here, it is better for you to go and sing out there, do you hear me! ... (Laughter)...

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

MS VENSON-MOITOI: No one can go down without fighting. Let me move Madam Chairperson.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: You have nine minutes, you can still continue speaking.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: Oh! I have nine more minutes?

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Continue responding to them.

MS VENSON-MOITOI: No, let me forgive them. I move that the sum of P491, 639, 278 for the recurrent budget be approved and stand part of the schedule of the 2016/2017 Appropriation Bill. I further move Madam Chairperson that the sum of P31, 050,000.00 for the

development budget be approved and stand part of these estimates. I thank you Madam Chairperson.

Question put and **agreed to.**

ORGANISATION 0700 - TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Order! Please note that 2 hours 45 minutes has been allocated to this organisation, and I shall call upon the Honourable Minister to reply to the debate at 15:30 hours on Monday and the question will be put at 16:00 hours.

MR MOREMI: On a point of procedure. Thank you Madam Chairperson. Is it not procedural for us to start with Organization 0700 when you are on the Speaker's Chair?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: No, you forgot Kgosi, sit down.

ASSISTANT MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MR KEBONANG): Thank you Madam Chairperson. Those who have their phones on, may I humbly request that they be switched off for this presentation.

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

MR KEBONANG: Madam Chairperson...

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Mmolotsi, quorum.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: ... (Inaudible) ...

MR KEBONANG: Is it fine?

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes.

MR KEBONANG: Okay! Madam Chairperson, if the quorum is ...

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Proceed.

MR KEBONANG: No, let me verify.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Proceed.

MR KEBONANG: Yes Madam Chairperson, perhaps before I start, let me acknowledge the return of My Minister, Honourable Seretse who was away on matters we all know about. His return has seen my acting role coming to an end Madam Chairperson. He has however been kind enough to let me exit in style by presenting this Estimate of Supply statement on his behalf.

Madam Chairperson, I have the honour to present my Ministry's budget proposals for 2016/17 under the Development and Recurrent Expenditures, Organisation

0700. Before I present the budget proposals, it is important for this Committee to have an appreciation of the contribution that my Ministry continues to make to the economy of this country as well as progress in implementation of the Ministry's core mandate during the 2015/16 financial year.

It is my pleasure to share with this Committee that employment created by my Ministry from the beginning of this financial year stood at 4 375 jobs as at 31st December 2015. The main contributors were businesses in the mining, retailing distribution, manufacturing, property, services, agri-business and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sectors.

It is also important to note that the Ministry realised total investment worth P4.291 billion over the same period, compared to P2.3 billion realised around the same time in the last financial year. This year, the largest contribution has been yielded by Domestic Investment at P1.666 billion, followed by Foreign Direct Investment at P1.408 billion and Investment Expansion at P1.217 billion.

II. UPDATE ON PROGRESS DURING 2015/16

Madam Chairperson, I wish to give an update on the implementation of my Ministry's core mandate with regard to legislation, policies, strategies, initiatives and programmes during the 2015/16 financial year.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Implementation of the Gambling Act, 2012

The Gambling Authority has been preparing itself for implementation of the Gambling Act, 2012 during the past year in anticipation of taking over from the Casino Control Board. This preparation included recruitment of senior executives and putting in place infrastructure required to regulate more license types than previously. The new license types which would be issued are: betting license; bingo license; bingo machine license; bookmaker's license; gambling establishment license; gambling machine license; lottery license; lottery machine license; racing license; testing agent license; and totalisator license. We believe there is much anticipation in the market for the new licenses, which when issued would lead to citizen business growth and employment creation. Further, Gambling Regulations were signed on 3rd February, 2016 and sent to Attorney General's Chambers for publication in the Government Gazette. The implementation of the Regulations, together with the remaining parts of the Gambling Act will commence on 1st April, 2016.

Review of the Consumer Protection Act, 1998

Madam Chairperson, the Consumer Protection Act, 1998 is being reviewed in line with Section 8 (h) of the National Competition Policy for Botswana, 2005, which places the administration of the Act under the Competition Authority. It is envisaged that this will strengthen the implementation of the Act by bringing about greater institutional emphasis on consumer welfare objectives, reducing the opportunity for unfair business practices and promoting competitive markets. Due to the intense nature of the review of the Act, the Draft Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015 was not presented to the July 2015 Parliament sitting as anticipated. However, the Draft Bill is expected to be presented to Parliament in the July 2016 sitting.

Amendment of the Trade Act, 2003

The Trade Act, 2003 is being amended in line with the recommendations of the Doing Business Reform Roadmap for Botswana. The Reform Roadmap is aimed at improving the business environment with a view to ensuring that Botswana remains competitive. The review will consider doing away with licensing, except for business activities that have impact on human health and environmental safety. Instructions for drafting of the Trade (Amendment) Bill were issued on 30th November 2015 and it is anticipated that the Draft Bill will be presented to Parliament in the November 2016 sitting.

Amendment of the Liquor Act, 2003

Madam Chairperson, the Liquor Act, 2003 is being reviewed after identifying some implementation insufficiencies. The review will provide for: the definition of terms such as “liquor depot, major road and high way” to allow for uniform interpretation; exemption of bottle stores, liquor wholesalers and liquor distributors from the 500 meters distance requirement for school, highway, major road or church; and removal of the requirement for work and residence permits for obtaining a licence. The Liquor (Amendment) Bill, 2015 is expected to be presented to Parliament in the July 2016 sitting.

Amendment of the Industrial Development Act, 2006

The Industrial Development Act, 2006 will be reviewed during the 2016/17 financial year with a view to incorporating the recommendations of the Doing Business Reform Roadmap for Botswana as well as to align it to the Industrial Development Policy of 2014. The review of the Act will remove the impediments that are experienced by investors. Expectations are that with these changes investment will increase.

Amendment of Acts to Provide for On-Line Registration

The amendment of the Registration of Business Names Act CAP 42:05 and Companies Act CAP 42:01 has been initiated to allow for the transformation of the Companies and Business Names Registry from manual registry to electronic registration system. This will provide customers with options to incorporate search and register companies and business names online.

Review of the Control of Goods, Prices and Other Charges Act, 1973

Madam Chairperson, the review of the Control of Goods, Prices and Other Charges Act of 1973 has been initiated to align it to the latest national and international developments. The revised Act that will focus on the control of imports and exports will be implemented by the Botswana Trade Commission (BOTC).

FORMULATION/REVIEW/IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES

Implementation of the Industrial Development Policy 2014

Madam Chairperson, the Implementation of the Industrial Development Policy 2014 is still at an early stage. A series of consultative forums have been held with Government institutions, Private Sector and other stakeholders with regard to the Action Plan. In addition, information dissemination is ongoing in Local Authorities to educate them about the purpose and impact of the Policy on the economy and buy in. Industrial initiatives to promote local, industries are currently being implemented and these include guidelines on the restriction of exportation of Ferrous and non-ferrous metal as well as restriction on importation of table salt in small quantities. All these are implemented with a view to stimulate local production and employment creation. On the other hand, there are also Strategies and Programmes in place such as the Special Economic Zones, Economic Diversification Drive and Citizen Economic Empowerment that support industrialisation.

Development of National Entrepreneurship Policy

Madam Chairperson, the development of the National Entrepreneurship Policy and Strategy (NEPS) for Botswana has been concluded. The Draft Policy is expected to be presented to Parliament during the July 2016 session. The Policy, which replaces the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) Policy of 1998, has been reviewed to incorporate promotion of entrepreneurial culture as well as facilitate and accelerate the development of SMMEs entrepreneurs together with the innovative opportunity-driven entrepreneurs.

Development of National Quality Policy

In recognition of the need and importance of a structured national quality infrastructure and a coordinated regulatory framework, Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) has conducted a study that will form the basis for the development of the National Quality Policy during the 2016/17 financial year. The study provides for clarity in the different roles that institutions forming the national quality infrastructure and regulatory entities in the country perform, including how they would relate one with the other, in matters of standards, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment services. An effective National Quality infrastructure is a critical enabler for industry development and its competitiveness in the global market.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE MINISTRY

Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA)

The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) which took over the operations of the Office of Registrar of Companies and Intellectual Property (ROCIP) from 1st November 2014 is now fully operational. The transition from a Government Department to a parastatal ended on 30th October 20

In an effort to provide an enabling environment for doing business, CIPA is undertaking a number of projects including on-line business registration system in collaboration with the New Zealand Government, aimed at achieving an efficient, cost effective and more accurate business registration process in Botswana. The system will be launched in December 2016. In addition, a Unique Identification Number (UIN) for companies and business is being formulated. This will enable tracking and monitoring by different organisations such as Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) and Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB).

SPEDU

Madam Chairperson, Government's strategy is to establish and promote inward investment and trade facilitation with a view to securing long term sustenance of Selebi Phikwe and the SPEDU region at large. In 2012, a deliberate step was adopted, resulting in the registration of SPEDU as a Company wholly owned by Government. This initiative was adopted to ensure improved operational efficiency of SPEDU and to improve customer satisfaction.

The transition process of SPEDU continued satisfactorily. SPEDU started operating as a Company on the 1st April 2015. The Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) and other members of the Executive team have been appointed and the Company is fully operational.

Botswana Trade Commission (BOTC)

The Botswana Trade Commission (BOTC), whose mandate is to administer tariffs and regulate exports and imports of goods in collaboration with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Tariff Board, appointed a Board of Directors on 1st January, 2015. The CEO has been appointed and took office on 1st February 2016. The CEO has commenced work on the operationalization of the Commission.

Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA)

The Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Bill No. 10 of 2015 was approved by Parliament in August 2015. The Act pronounces the establishment of a Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA), whose mandate is to oversee the roll out and effective operation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at identified sites (Gaborone (2), Lobatse, Pandamatenga, Francistown, Selibe Phikwe, Tuli Block, and Palapye) across Botswana. To this end, the founding members of the Board of Directors for the SEZA were appointed in December 2015. Further, plans are underway to engage a SEZ Technical Advisor with international experience on operating SEZs, to work with the Board and commence the strategic and operational functions of the Authority.

DOING BUSINESS AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Madam Chairperson, the 2015/16 World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report shows that Botswana's competitiveness improved by three (3) places, from the previous 74th position in the last report to position 71 out of 144 economies globally. However, as we celebrate this improvement, we must bear in mind that a lot still needs to be done as pillars such as Higher Education and Training, Business Sophistication, Innovation, Goods Market Efficiency, Infrastructure and Technological Readiness performed poorly.

Once more, the World Bank, through its 2016 Doing Business Report, indicates that the country's ranking improved two (2) positions from position 74 in the 2015 report to position 72 out of 189 economies in 2016. This is because of the methodology change which is now deeper and broader and captures quality of the reforms. Through this new methodology, Botswana moved from position 157 to 51 under the Getting Electricity indicator, as the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) made getting electricity easier by enforcing service delivery timelines for new connections and improving the stock of materials for connection works.

Madam Chairperson, Government is working closely with the World Bank to continuously improve the rankings and ultimately build investor confidence in the economy. It is worth mentioning that implementation of the Doing business Reforms Roadmap is ongoing under the administrative and regulatory reforms. Currently the World Bank is providing technical assistance under the tax reforms, trade facilitation, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and communications, among others, and through this, we anticipate to perform even better in the next report.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION DRIVE (EDD)

Madam Chairperson, economic diversification continues to be one of the Government's national priorities. Government, through the Economic Diversification Drive (EDD) Short Term Strategy, remains committed to leveraging on the use of its enormous purchasing power to promote locally manufactured goods, services and agricultural produce. To date, cumulative total purchases amounting to P18.8 billion worth of goods and services has been recorded since inception of the EDD Initiative in April 2010. Out of this figure, the value of purchases from local manufacturers and service providers is P9.8 billion. As at January 2016, a cumulative value of P2.091 billion worth of purchases was recorded since the beginning of the 2015/16 financial year.

Further, a total of 1 511 enterprises have been issued with EDD certificates, out of which 480 (32 per cent) are manufacturers, 996 (66 per cent) are service providers and 35 (2 per cent) are in the agricultural produce. From the 1 511 certified enterprises, 1 260 (83 per cent) are classified under the small scale category, 162 (11 per cent) are under the medium scale while 89 (6 per cent) are classified as large scale category. These 1 511 enterprises together employ a total of 41 672 people.

Implementation of the EDD Medium to Long Term Strategy, which was approved in 2011, is ongoing. The aim of the Strategy is to develop and improve global competitiveness of enterprises through the development of sector strategies, amongst others. To this end, under the implementation of the Dairy Strategy, the country is realising an increase in the amount of milk being produced. By the end of December 2015, the amount of milk produced locally stood at three million, six hundred and ninety-eight thousand, five hundred and seventy-eight litres (3 698 578 litres), an increase of 68 per cent from two million, two hundred and two thousand and sixty-two litres (2 202 062 litres) produced during the same period last year. These developments are mainly attributed to the new investment realised at Sunnyside Farm; increase in the national herd and general improvement of management in major dairy

farms; and improvement in the production per cow from 20L to 24L milk per day.

On a related matter, Milk Afric project, a dairy project, is progressing well in terms of preparation of the site for milk production. The plan is for the first batch of 500 cows to be on site by April 2016 to start production. In addition, Pitsane Plant, another dairy project, is being prepared for milk production and is anticipated to start production during the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year. These two projects are expected to improve the country's milk output.

With regard to the implementation of the Leather Strategy, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the Leather Industry Park to be established at Lobatse commenced in November 2015 and consultations with stakeholders are currently ongoing. The study is expected to be completed during the first quarter of the next financial year. Moreover, during the months of October to December 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture held consultative workshops across the country to sensitize stakeholders on the need to preserve the quality of hides and skins. Further, the Ministry of Agriculture is considering the different Acts - Hides and Skins, Cattle Branding and BMC Act as well as other related Acts to support the establishment of the Leather Park.

Madam Chairperson, implementation of the Enterprise Competitiveness Programmes namely, Tokafala and the Private Sector Development

Programme is continuing. The Tokafala Programme, a collaboration between Anglo American and Botswana Government, which commenced with a pilot programme in 2013, has to date enrolled 158 enterprises. As at September 2015, revenue growth for the enrolled participants had grown by 60 per cent from P39.9 million to P63.7 million, while finance accessed through the programme amounted to P9.5 million.

The Programme has however experienced delays in signing of the Agreement by the Government of Botswana and Anglo American. The Ministries of Trade and Industry and Finance and Development Planning, Attorney General's Chambers, De Beers, Debswana and Anglo American are currently working together to refine the Financing Agreement. The process is anticipated to be completed during the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year.

With regard to the implementation of the Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP), major strides have been achieved. Initially the Programme was to run for a duration of three years, ending in March 2016. However, following the announcement of the impending closure

of the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) offices in Botswana, the funding partners, European Union (EU), extended the Programme to December 2016 and Government made provisions for continuity of the PSDP. The Programme was transferred to Business Botswana in December 2015 for implementation. Consequently, a Grant Agreement was signed on 7th December 2015 between EU and Business Botswana to mark the commencement of the implementation of the Programme under the expert guidance of Business Botswana until December 2016.

Madam Chairperson, PSDP is assisting SMMEs and Community Based Organisation (CBOs) in four priority sectors that have export potential. These sectors are: Manufacturing including Agro Industries; Tourism; Construction and Public Works; Information and Communication Technology. The programme also undertook to enhance service delivery of Intermediary Organisations providing Business Development Services. To date, the programme has assisted 100 enterprises in areas such as business management, market access and access to finance.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Monitoring of Markets and Enhancement of Competition

Madam Chairperson, since the beginning of this financial year, the Competition Authority completed 28 mergers which attracted expansion in domestic enterprises with a capital injection of P791.6 million. The mergers have led to transfer of skills in production of wheat products, diamond mining and canvas and tent manufacturing. There has also been increased citizen empowerment as two (2) citizen owned companies acquired foreign and or international owned companies. During the year, the Competition Authority also began to conduct post-merger impact assessments on selected mergers which were approved more than three (3) years ago to document the benefits that the mergers have had in the economy and effect necessary interventions where conditions or undertakings given have not been complied with.

Furthermore, over eleven (11) cases are being investigated and two (2) of them which relate to bid rigging are at the High Court after the Competition Authority appealed a decision made by the adjudicating organ, the Competition Commission. As opposed to the last financial year where the Authority's intervention lifted barriers to entry across various sectors which led to five (5) new market entrants, there has been two (2) cases of abuse of market power in the supplier market to the retail sector where barriers to entry have been

removed. This has led to enhanced competition, instant 20 additional jobs (more jobs anticipated), increase in consumer choice, as well as pricing being more competitive. All these efforts are expected to enhance fair market entry, growth and participation within the domestic market in Botswana.

Promotion and Development of Creative Industries

Madam Chairperson, the Levy on Technical Devices Fund whose objective is to award grants for the promotion and development of creative industries is administered by the Companies and Intellectual property Authority (CIPA). In August 2013, an open call was issued resulting in four (4) successful projects, which commenced in February 2015. To date, a total of one million, two hundred and twenty-three thousand, two hundred and two Pula (P1 223 202) has been disbursed for these projects. In May 2015, another open call was issued leading to 13 successful projects, which are expected to commence in March 2016. The projects are expected to provide employment opportunities especially for the youth in the creative Industry.

Madam Chairperson, my Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture is developing the Creative Industry Sector Strategy that will see the development of a sustainable creative industry in the country. Meanwhile, CIPA is preparing to undertake a study on the performance of the Creative Industry, the results of which will inform the preparation of a Strategy for the development of the sector.

Co-operatives Development

Madam Chairperson, following the successful hosting of the 11th International Co-operative Alliance Africa Ministerial Conference in October 2015, Botswana through my Ministry, assumed Chairmanship of the International Co-operative Alliance-Africa for the period 2015-2017. As the Chairperson of the Alliance, my responsibilities include: ensuring the alignment of the Co-operative Movement ideals to the whole of the African continent economic and social strategies; and accelerating socio-economic and growth of Co-operatives development in Africa. I am assuming the Alliance Chairmanship under the theme "Contribution of Co-operatives to African Union (AU) Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want". The theme reinforces the need for the Co-operative Movement Strategies to be aligned to the African Union agenda.

Botswana signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Kenya in 2015, for co-operation on capacity building, trade and promotion, exchange of information, tourism, agriculture, finance, livestock, food stuff, consultancy, research and development,

investment, Co-operative colleges and any other areas that may be agreed upon from time to time.

Madam Chairperson, my Ministry continues to implement the Co-operative Transformation Strategy, which aims to revive and resuscitate Co-operatives in Botswana. There are currently 236 registered Co-operative Societies throughout the country. Out of these, 137 (58 per cent) are operational, 25 (11 per cent) are dormant, 42 (18 per cent) start-ups, while 32 (13 per cent) are under liquidation. A total of 37 out of the 137 operational Co-operatives are leasing out their properties/premises, for different trading activities, including butcheries, furniture shops and distribution centres.

It is worth noting that Co-operatives like the Dibete Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd, which is engaged in grass harvesting, has benefitted from Government initiatives like Poverty Eradication Programme.

Madam Chairperson, let me highlight that Co-operatives are also faced with challenges. The current drought and the outbreak of the Foot and Mouth Disease have adversely affected the performance of the livestock marketing co-operatives, resulting in the reduction in livestock marketed to slaughter houses.

Developments at the SPEDU Region

Madam Chairperson, developments at the SPEDU region during the current financial year include refurbishment of the Selebi-Phikwe Airport which was completed in September 2015. The works involved resurfacing the runway and ensuring the airport is safe for aircraft landing. It should be noted that efforts are being made with commercial airlines to consider utilising the Airport.

Another project is the Motloutse Farm Electrification project involving provision of a 42 km electric power line, aimed at easing access to electricity to the national grid for 44 practicing horticultural farmers operating along the Motloutse River from downstream Letsibogo Dam to Bobonong/Gobojango Bridge at a reduced cost. The provision of power requires that a comprehensive EIA be undertaken. The EIA is expected to be completed by end of March 2016, while the electrification component is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year.

In an endeavour to develop high profile tourism niche products and opportunities, SPEDU in collaboration with Botswana Tourism Organization (BTO) is developing tourism Master Plans to guide the development of tourism clusters at Letsibogo, Dikgatlong and Thune

Dams. The Master Plans will guide the nature and extent of primary infrastructure required, address Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and guide investor engagement. Once the Master Plans are approved, SPEDU will embark upon trade and investment missions to identify private sector who would invest in the identified tourism enterprises.

Furthermore, SPEDU's facilitation has resulted in the commencement of operations of Pula Steel and Castings (Pty) Limited in October 2015. The project entails processing of scrap iron and steel to produce billet for export markets. The target is to produce 6 600 tonnes of billet per month, which translates to 220 tonnes per day. However, the plant is currently producing 20 tonnes per day. At the moment, billets are exported to South Africa. As at the end of January 2016, a total of 1 286 tons had been exported at an average price of ZAR 4 350 per tonne. A total of 250 jobs have been created by the first stage of operations. At the final stage of the project, which entails high value beneficiation to produce stainless steel products, among others, employment will peak at 1 000 jobs.

Madam Chairperson, one project of significant importance is the Processing Plant for Horticulture Produce. Customisation of the site to a processing plant and installation of equipment have been completed. Various commodities are being tested at the plant and commercial operations are anticipated to start on 15th March 2016. SPEDU continues to mobilise farmers to intensify production so as to meet the requirements of the plant.

It is also important to indicate that the process for allocation of 74 light industrial plots in Selebi-Phikwe has started. It is anticipated that the plots will be disposed by the end of the second quarter of 2016/2017.

Quality Assurance Activities

Madam Chairperson, BOBS continues to promote the use of standards as a means to enhancing productivity in the industry. A total of 178 standards for different sectors were developed during the 2015/2016 financial year and approved as Botswana Standards, ensuring availability of standards to our industry, hence enhancing its competitiveness, technical progress, participation and accessibility to both domestic and foreign markets.

To ensure that industry is well versed in conformity assessment issues, a total of 67 courses were conducted with 1 278 personnel trained. A further 261 clients were provided with testing and calibration services. These services are at significantly reduced costs to encourage industry, especially the small and medium enterprises to use and benefit from conformity assessment activities.

In order to protect the health and safety of human, plant, animal life and the environment, BOBS continues to inspect facilities for regulated products where compliance to the regulations is currently at 99.3 per cent, a notable improvement from the 70 per cent recorded at the initiation of the Standards (Imports Inspection) Regulations (SIIR) in 2009.

Entrepreneurship Development

Rapid Incubation Project Madam Chairperson, the Rapid Incubation project has been renamed Kutla Incubator to capture the nurturing of entrepreneurship which is at the heart of the incubation Programme. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Poverty Eradication Coordinating Unit (PECU) under the Office of the President, primarily to capacitate beneficiaries of the Programme with technical and business skills. The Kutla Incubation Programme will incubate entrepreneurs for a period of three (3) months, where they will undergo rigorous training to acquire practical skills, knowledge and mentorship. Upon graduation, the incubates should be able to start their own sustainable businesses or get gainful employment under different industries. The trainees will be capacitated in any one of the following products: Toilet Roll; Maize Flakes (Corn flakes); Biscuit (Cookies)/ Bread Making, Sunflower Oil Extraction; Detergent liquid; Packaging (granules/ powder); Tomato Ketchup; Wire Nail making; Socks Knitting; Soya Milk Extraction; Potato Wafers; and Ice Cream Cone Manufacturing.

Leather Industry Park

In an effort to facilitate the development of leather manufacturing sector in Botswana, Government intends to provide basic infrastructure to incentivize the private sector to set up tanneries in Lobatse. In this development model, Government and the private sector would invest in the project, where Government will fund the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) and other basic infrastructure, while the private sector will fund and operate the tanneries. Due to the magnitude and complexity of the project, as well as to safeguard the success of the project through appropriate decision and due diligence, a Transactional Advisor has been appointed for the project. The project will be implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which will host the interest of Government and other partners in its development. In order to establish the SPV, the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) is in the process of seeking the services of a technical partner who will lead the process of forming an SPV.

Business Review

In pursuit of the twin objectives of promoting successful entrepreneurs and developing competitive, profitable

and sustainable enterprises, LEA continues to provide a number of business development and advisory services to Botswana and their enterprises. These business development services range from basic ones such as screening, training to advanced interventions such as incubation, clustering, technology adoption and diffusion. Since inception of LEA in 2007, the organisation has provided screening services to 18 233 entrepreneurs through its national branch network. Of these screened clients a total of 8 332 (340 Small and medium enterprises; and 7 992 Micro enterprises) remain active on the LEA database and continue to receive assistance through the LEA branch network.

During the 2015/16 financial year, 2 390 entrepreneurs (2 292 trainings and awareness and 98 mentoring and coaching) were trained, coached and mentored. Majority of the trainees were youth at 1 913 (933 males and 980 females). The training included both business management and technical skills on diagnosis of pests and diseases of vegetables, improving business, sales and marketing, customer care, modern technology for horticulture, food hygiene, intellectual property, branding and packaging, front office operations and horticulture management. Training, coaching and mentoring add value to a business as they lead to skills development, business efficiency, cost savings, all of which play an instrumental role in SMME competitiveness, growth and expansion.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Workshops (EAW)

Madam Chairperson, LEA continues to conduct Entrepreneurship Awareness Workshops (EAWs) in the country aimed at improving awareness of entrepreneurship among these citizenry. It is therefore not surprising that the country continues to register positive outlook on issues as reported in the 2015 Global Entrepreneurship Competitiveness Report. The EAW is a flagship Programme seeking to promote general entrepreneurship and SMME awareness among the youth. The Programme targets secondary school leavers, vocational education trainees as well as prison inmates left with six (6) months to complete their sentences. From 1st April 2015 to 31st December 2015, a total of 2 331 participants attended Entrepreneurship Awareness Workshops.

Despite the harsh economic environment and operating conditions our SMMEs find themselves in, the local enterprises have been able to create a total of 5 941 jobs since 2007. In the current financial year, LEA has facilitated the creation of 311 (246 SMEs and 65 Micros) jobs as at the end of December, 2015. The organisation was able to facilitate investment value of P 62 million as at 31st December 2015.

Funding for Businesses through the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency

Madam Chairperson, since inception in 2001 to date, the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) financed 5 039 projects valued at P3.536 billion. During the 2015/16 financial year, CEDA financed 325 projects valued at P336 million. The Services sector received funding of P173 million for 199 projects, Agribusiness with 92 projects worth P113 million received the second largest share of funding, while Property and Manufacturing received funding for 34 projects valued at P50 million. The funded businesses are expected to create employment opportunities for 2 140 people when fully operational.

INVESTMENT AND EXPORT PROMOTION

Performance Overview

Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) continued to promote Botswana to global audiences as a leading destination to visit, invest and trade. For the 2015/16 financial year, BITC had conducted nine (9) Investment and Trade promotion missions to Angola, South Korea, India, South Africa, Namibia, Poland, Swaziland, generating eighteen (18) investment leads in key sectors of ICT, manufacturing, resources, financial services, agriculture, and health. During the same period BITC received and hosted nine (9) inward Investment and Trade missions from Turkey, South Korea, Poland, India, Czech Republic, Singapore, Switzerland and Russia, generating five (5) investment leads.

Investment Promotion

Madam Chairperson, total investment generated through BITC during 2015/16 financial year amounted to P2.970 billion, constituted by P1.356 billion in Foreign Direct Investment, P1.244 billion in Domestic Investment, and P369.6 million in expansions of existing investments.

Export Development and Promotion

BITC participated in eight (8) international fairs and expositions, to expose Botswana companies to opportunities in external markets. The value of exports facilitated through BITC amounted to P1.670 billion generated out of 27 products exported to 19 markets.

Global Expo Botswana, 2015

60. Madam Chairperson, during Global Expo Botswana 2015, a total of 202 exhibitors took part from 15 countries, compared to the previous year's 158 exhibitors. This represents a 28 per cent increase on the exhibitor figure year on year. Global Expo Botswana 2015 received a total of 2 411 visitors compared to 3

933 in 2014. In addition, the Expo injected more than P5 million into the economy during a four day period from 24th to 27th November 2015. This relates to expenditure by participants on items such as hotel accommodation, food and transport, compared to P3.6 million incurred during the three days of the 2014 Expo.

Funding for Investment Projects under Botswana Development Corporation

Madam Chairperson, Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) completed an extensive restructuring and rationalisation exercise in December 2014 following which the business has been showing signs of a steady recovery. The Corporation declared a profit before tax of P110 million for its financial year that ended in June 2015, following a four-year loss making period. This performance was driven by increased focus on subsidiary companies (resulting in increased revenue) as well as proceeds from divestments. The Corporation has since resumed its core business activity of processing and funding new investment projects, with a total of P68 million having been disbursed to new and expansion projects during the post transformation period.

A five-year investment strategy is under implementation, at the centre of which is an evolving pipeline of investment projects. Currently, the active pipeline is valued at over P1 billion and targets a number of industries including dairy, energy and infrastructure. The process of arranging for funding for these investment projects from commercial debt markets is at an advanced stage and is expected to be concluded within the first quarter of 2016/17 financial year.

Madam Chairperson, it is important to note that as part of the liquidation process of the Feng Yue glass project, a fundamental assessment was carried out by specialist firms with an objective of determining the viability of the project. This assessment concluded that at the very best, the project can only be marginally viable with slim chances of success. The liquidation process is expected to conclude by March 2016 and BDC intends to retain the land with an intention to avail it for future development projects.

BRAND BOTSWANA 24

In an effort to raise the global level of awareness about Botswana, BITC undertook some interventions from the beginning of the 2015/16 financial year towards the end of the third quarter. These include: a BBC Network campaign over a period of seven (7) months from March 2015 to September 2015; a CNBC Doing Business in Botswana Programme, with a total of 26 episodes from August 2014 to April 2015; setting up of a Botswana Stall at the Nation Brand and Investment Expo in

Netherlands; holding capacity building workshops for Botswana Embassies staff in 5 Embassies (this Programme is continuing with a view to empower all Botswana Embassies located in key Botswana Markets); and holding capacity workshops for University of Botswana Exchange Students, and other Botswana travelling abroad.

TRADE ARRANGEMENTS

Madam Chairperson, my Ministry continues to negotiate trade agreements with a view to securing markets for local goods and services. I wish to highlight progress as follows;

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Madam Chairperson, during the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference held in December 2015 in Kenya, a milestone in achieving a more transparent international trading environment was made through agreement to eliminate export subsidies. This is a significant gain for developing countries who have consistently demanded action on export subsidies due to their enormous distorting potential on domestic production and trade.

My Ministry continues to consult all relevant stakeholders in preparation for the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation which was adopted in December 2013. The Agreement will be implemented once two thirds of the Membership have deposited such instruments of acceptance. Currently, only 62 out of 162 Member States have ratified the Agreement.

Southern African Customs Union (SACU)

Madam Chairperson, the implementation of the 2002 SACU Agreement has been on hold for the past two years. This has impacted on the implementation of the SACU work programme that was prioritised by the Heads of States and Government in 2011. I am pleased to inform this Committee that the SACU Council met in Windhoek, Namibia in November 2015. At this meeting the Council re-affirmed their commitment to SACU and its importance to the economies of the Member States and agreed on a Roadmap to re-invigorate the SACU work programme. This would be done in alignment with the ongoing regional and global developments. Hence, SACU agreed on holding a Ministerial retreat in April 2016. The Council will discuss all issues that have been hindering progress of the SACU work programme.

SACU- India Preferential Free Trade Area

Madam Chairperson, negotiations with India have still not commenced and consultations at SACU

Level continues to pave way for the resuscitation of negotiations with India.

SACU- European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

Internal national consultations and at SACU level are continuing to prepare for the comprehensive review of the SACU-European Free Trade Association (SACU-EFTA), which will also include the review of the Bilateral Agricultural Agreements with individual EFTA Member States. This will commence during the latter part of 2016 after signing of the European Union (EU) - Southern African Development Community (SADC) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) (EU-SADC EPA).

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

With regards to SADC, the region has been developing the Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap which was approved by the Extra-Ordinary Summit in April 2015. The objective of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap is to stimulate major economic and technological transformation at the national and regional levels within the context of deeper regional integration. The Strategy also aims at accelerating the growth momentum and enhancing the comparative and competitive advantage of the economies of the region.

The Regional Indicative Strategic Plan (RISDP), which was also reviewed and approved in April 2015, aligns the strategic objectives and priorities with the policies and strategies to be pursued over a period of fifteen years. It is designed to provide strategic direction with respect to SADC programmes, projects and activities. Botswana has aligned her national plans and strategies towards embracing the regional priorities on industrialization.

EU - SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EU-SADC EPA)

73. Madam Chairperson, negotiations on the EU-SADC EPA on the goods chapter have been concluded in October 2015. The legal scrubbing of the Agreement was concluded in October 2015. Further, the text has also been translated into all the EU languages. The text will now undergo final consideration for confirmation in preparation for signing. In the meantime, internal and regional preparations are underway to prepare for the signing of the Agreement planned for June, 2016 in Botswana. It is important that the EPA is signed on time lest we jeopardise our beef market to the EU, which has been given up to October 2016. Negotiations on the services chapter will commence during the latter part of 2016.

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

(COMESA) – East African Community (EAC) – Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement

74. The COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement was launched on 10th June 2015 and member states signed the Agreement. However, Botswana did not sign the Agreement when it was launched. This is because some critical issues such as identification of ‘Tripartite’ products eligible for preferences and emergency safeguard measures which a country may apply to protect its industries from unexpected increases in imports, among others, are still outstanding. These issues need to be finalised first before the country could sign the Agreements it is non-implementable. Work is currently ongoing to finalise the remaining elements of the Agreement by end of June 2016.

The launch also signalled the ushering in of the second phase of the negotiations covering Trade Development and Competitiveness, Trade in Services, Competition Policy and Intellectual Property Rights. With respect to Trade in Services, studies have revealed that Botswana has comparative advantage, therefore it is one important area of national interest.

African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA)

The African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) is a unilateral trade preference between the United States of America (USA and African Member States that was signed into law in 2000, for a period of eight (8) years. It expired in 2008 and was extended to September 2015. The AGOA programme has now been extended by ten (10) years, and will end on 30 September, 2025.

The Act allows African countries an opportunity to export 6 500 product lines to the USA Duty Free and Quota Free (DFQF). The products are to be wholly produced in Africa or partly in other AGOA partner countries.

After years of implementation, there is evidence that AGOA has resulted in a substantial increase in exports from Sub-Saharan Africa to the USA, that is between 2001 and 2014 exports from AGOA-eligible countries increased by threefold (from US\$ 1.3 billion in 2001 to US\$ 4.4 billion in 2014). In addition, AGOA has resulted in a quantum increase in USA direct investments in Africa. In spite of these impressive statistics, it is acknowledged that only a few countries have taken advantage of AGOA and the product coverage under AGOA of these countries’ exports to the USA are still limited. Botswana is one of those countries that has had limited success in utilizing the AGOA Preferential Market, and therefore will develop new strategies to

better take advantage of AGOA opportunities. These are expected to strategically increase competitiveness and diversification of beneficiary exports to the USA. Botswana will thus develop her own AGOA Strategy during the 2016/17 financial year.

BUDGET UTILISATION DURING 2015/2016

Madam Chairperson, the 2015/16 overall budget allocation for my Ministry for both the Recurrent and Development Expenditures was nine hundred and forty-six million, three hundred and eighty-three thousand, four hundred and ten Pula (P946 383 410).

The Recurrent Budget provision was nine hundred and twenty-five million, three hundred and eighty-three thousand, four hundred and ten Pula (P 925 383 410). Out of that amount, seven hundred and forty-three million, two hundred and fifty-three thousand, nine hundred and twenty Pula (P743 253 920) was for the Ministry’s Parastatal organizations while one hundred and eighty-two million, one hundred and twenty-nine thousand, four hundred and ninety Pula (P182 129 490) was for the Departments. To date, an expenditure of seven hundred and eighty-four million, seven hundred and twenty-six thousand, eight hundred and eighty-six Pula (P 784 726 886) or 84.8 per cent of the budget provision has been expended. The Development Budget was allocated an amount of twenty-one million Pula (P21 000 000) to cover MTI Computerization, MTI Consultancies, and the Leather Industry Park project. Expenditure incurred as at end of January 2016 amounts to nine million, four hundred and ninety-six thousand, six hundred and twenty-seven Pula (P 9 496 627) or 45.2 per cent of the budget provision. However, a payment of three million, two hundred thousand Pula (P3 200 000) is currently being processed and it is expected to increase the development expenditure to twelve million, six hundred and ninety-six thousand, six hundred and twenty-seven Pula (P12 696 627) by end of February 2016.

BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2016/2017

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2016/2017

Madam Chairperson, it is now my pleasure to present budget proposals for financial year 2016/2017 for my Ministry, Organisation 0700, to cover both Recurrent and Development Expenditures. The total proposed budget is nine hundred and eighty-two million and seventy-four thousand, three hundred and twenty Pula (P982 074 320). This shows an increase of thirty-five million, six hundred and ninety thousand, nine hundred and ten Pula (P35 690 910) or 3.8 per cent above the 2015/16 budget allocation.

RECURRENT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2016/2017

Madam Chairperson, the 2016/2017 Recurrent Budget proposal for my Ministry under Organisation 0700 is nine hundred and eight million, five hundred and twenty-six thousand, three hundred and twenty Pula (P908 526 320). This covers the Ministry's Departments and Parastatal organisations. The budget proposal shows a reduction of sixteen million, eight hundred and fifty-seven thousand and ninety Pula (P16 857 090) or 1.8 per cent from the 2015/16 allocation of nine hundred and twenty-five million, three hundred and eighty-three thousand, four hundred and ten Pula (P925 383 410).

The Ministry's Parastatal organisations namely; Botswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS), Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC), Botswana Trade Commission (BOTC), Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), Competition Authority, Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA), Gambling Authority, Local Enterprise Authority (LEA), and SPEDU have been allocated seven hundred and twenty-one million, five hundred and sixty-three thousand, two hundred and twenty Pula (P721 563 220). The allocation per organization is as follows: two hundred and eighty million Pula (P280 000 000) to CEDA; one hundred and forty-one million, six hundred and eighty-one thousand, one hundred and fifty Pula (P141 681 150) to LEA; one hundred and one million, eight hundred and thirty thousand, five hundred and sixty Pula (P101 830 560) to BITC; sixty-seven million, seven hundred and sixty-six thousand, nine hundred Pula (P67 766 900) to BOBS; thirty-two million and twenty-five thousand, five hundred and

sixty Pula (P32 025 560) to CIPA; thirty-one million, two hundred and fifty-seven thousand, four hundred and twenty Pula (P31 257 420) to SPEDU; twenty-nine million, two hundred and fifty-two thousand, two hundred and sixty Pula (P29 252 260) to Competition Authority; twenty-seven million, seven hundred and ninety-eight thousand and sixty Pula (P27 798 060) to Gambling Authority; and nine million, nine hundred and fifty-one thousand, three hundred and ten Pula (P9 951 310) to BOTC.

Madam Chairperson, the proposed total allocation for the Ministry's Departments is one hundred and eighty-six million, nine hundred and sixty-three thousand, one hundred Pula (P186 963 100). The breakdown per Department is as follows: seventy-nine million and fifty-six thousand, one hundred and twenty Pula (P79 056 120) for Ministry Headquarters; thirty-six million, one hundred and thirty-five thousand, five hundred and eighty Pula (P36 135 580) for Department for Co-

operative Development; twenty-seven million, four hundred and eighteen thousand and eighty Pula (P27 418 080) for Department of Trade and Consumer Affairs; fifteen million, two hundred and thirty-four thousand, six hundred Pula (P15 234 600) for Department of International Trade; fourteen million, eight hundred and five thousand, six hundred and sixty Pula (P14 805 660) for Office of the Registrar of Companies and Intellectual Property; and fourteen million, three hundred and thirteen thousand and sixty Pula (P14 313 060) for Department of Industrial Affairs.

Out of the Ministry's proposed Recurrent Budget of nine hundred and eight million, five hundred and twenty-six thousand, three hundred and twenty Pula (P908 526 320), a total of ninety-eight million, nine hundred and seventy-three thousand, one hundred and thirty Pula (P98 973 130) or 10.9% goes to the Ministry's Personal Emoluments, eighty-three million, two hundred and fifty-four thousand, one hundred and sixty Pula (P83 254 160) or 9.2 per cent goes to Other Charges and seven hundred and twenty-six million, two hundred and ninety-nine thousand, and thirty Pula (P726 299 030) or 79.9 per cent goes to Add Back Items.

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2016/2017

Madam Chairperson, the 2016/17 Development Budget proposal for my Ministry under Organisation 0700 is seventy-three million, five hundred and forty-eight thousand Pula (P73 548 000). This represents an increase of fifty-two million, five hundred and forty-eight thousand Pula (P52 548 000), more than 100 per cent, above the 2015/2016 budget provision of twenty-one million Pula (P21 000 000). The proposed budget is to cater for the following projects: MTI Computerisation with budget proposal of one million, two hundred thousand Pula (P1 200 000); MTI Consultancies with a budget proposal of two million, five hundred and twenty thousand Pula (P2 520 000); Leather Industry Park with a budget proposal of twenty-seven million Pula (P27 000 000); and Special Economic Zones with a budget proposal of forty-two million, eight hundred and twenty-eight thousand Pula (P42 828 000).

CONCLUSION

Madam Chairperson, this concludes my presentation on the 2016 /2017 Recurrent and Development Budget proposals for my Ministry. I therefore move that the sum of nine hundred and eight million, five hundred and twenty-six thousand, three hundred and twenty Pula (P908 526 320) under the Recurrent Budget for Organisation 0700 be approved and stand part of the schedule of the Appropriation (2016/2017) Bill

2016; and that the sum of seventy-three million, five hundred and forty-eight thousand Pula (P73 548 000) for Organisation 0700 under the Development Budget be approved and stand part of the estimates for the financial year 2016/2017. I move accordingly. I thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MR GAOLATHE (GABORONE BONNINGTON SOUTH): Thank you Madam Chairperson. Like many other people, I would also like to welcome Minister Seretse back and express that we too are praying that the author of life comforts and guides you and your family. To the one who has been very keen to tell us that he is exiting from his acting role with style, I thought I should respond by providing one or two pieces of advice in respect to your Ministry.

I have the impression and I have always had this impression about the Ministry of Trade and Industry that there are certain capabilities and certain elements of capacity that the Ministry needs to work on. Given that the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning's focus is that at a macro level, I have always felt that the role of the Ministry of Trade and Industry should be to vigorously be the advocate mouth piece strategist for what this country ought to be doing at micro level. In particular what this country needs to be focussing on, in developing certain strategic sectors of the economy. By developing these sectors, I mean delving deeper into issues of what you as a Ministry perceive as what should be the targets in terms of employment, skills development, calibre of people you want into that sector and in terms of relative sizes of those sectors in relation to the economy. I have always believed that you should go even deeper and start as a Ministry developing your own economic models. You should be able to model for this country what would happen in the event that you change certain policies? What would happen to a particular sector and so forth. In the development of those models, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning at the macro level should be able to feed your models into their larger micro models in order to create a very robust integrated debate about the development of this country.

Like many people I welcome the idea of Economic Zones, but I do have concern, that if it is not done properly, if it is not adequately invested in, there is a danger that it may not yield the desired results. I hope the Ministry also realises that what the Ministry says are objectives of developing the Economic Zones, should really be what happens in the country or what obtains in the country in general. If we were efficient and effective at what we do, we should not have to be setting up Economic Zones. The country itself should be an economic zone that is able to have a one stop station that is very clear about the sectors

that it wants to focus on and how it wants to develop those sectors. That is an aside, as I say it is a welcome development and I hope that we invest adequately in this initiative to yield the desired objectives. I have been a major critic and I have conveyed this even to the Minister of Finance and Development Planning about how this country at the public sector level finances economic projects or facilitates or participates in the financing of businesses. The financing architecture of the public intervention is very fragmented, you have the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC), and you have the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDAs), you are not quite sure who does what, why and how. You have Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) which is the research and development arm of Government, you have Local Enterprise Agency (LEA) which is supposed to develop entrepreneurs in this country, this should form part one integrated system, researching development, funding of these businesses, training of entrepreneurs, the school curriculum, everything should form one integrated system. What this country needs to do, I am talking about the financing of these businesses, we need to agree, as I think there is a relative agreement about the sectors that this country should be investing in.

What should be happening is, we should establish funds. A fund that we say this fund is going to be responsible for financing and developing this sector that we believe is the future. Power, water, technology, tourism, manufacturing, there is a general consensus what those sectors should be. Once you have decided on these sectors and the sector funds have been established, then you have a series of management companies, of which the BDC and CEDA has proven to be one of them, but management companies that can actually compete in the management of these sector funds. BDC for example can manage may be mining fund plus power fund for Botswana, two funds, or three funds or four funds depending on how it is, that the government would want to do it. Then you would also have what is a generalised fund, which does not necessarily look at sectors, which simply looks at businesses that have potential whatever sector it is, particularly businesses that are small in size.

We know that Botswana is a small economy in which government plays a major role, especially through government procurement system. I think that what we ought to be doing is to be thinking very carefully about how we use this government procurement to develop the private sector, to develop the type of sectors or to develop the type of entrepreneurs and businesses that we believe can catapult this country into the future. To do that we have to calibrate what type of criteria we want to be looking at in our procurement system and there

are scientific ways of actually establishing businesses that have potential of becoming multinational. There are scientific ways of establishing businesses that have potential of being more sustainable than others. My request is, we need to be looking a lot closer around newer type of criteria that helps us identify nature businesses that can indeed align to Botswana's objectives of creating the type of economy and businesses or business entities that we want to develop as a country.

The moral of the story, seeing that time is gone is that, you as a Ministry, you need to be looking at certain key and fundamental capabilities and capacity you need to build in order to do the things that I think you want to do. One of those we talked about with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning days ago is the statistics, the ability to accumulate the right type of data in an intensive way that would help your Ministry make the right type of decision. With those words, thank you Madam Chairperson.

MR B. G. BUTALE (TATI WEST): Thank you Madam Chairperson. Welcome Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry. Honourable Minister you almost found us beaten but it is good to have you back.

Madam Chair, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, with their Economic Diversification Drive (EDD) is a good policy that if taken to its logical conclusion can develop our country. The EDD has a potential to move our country forward. I am a bit worried that we do not seem to have targets or rather I am unaware of any targets of how much in Pula terms of goods are we planning to have produced in Botswana. For instance, what kind of products are we planning to have produced in Botswana in this year, in the next year, in the next five (5) years? If we could have targets Honourable Minister I think we would go far in realising EDD.

Secondly, I am happy that you mentioned International Doing Business rankings. These are very very important in trying to gauge ourselves with other competitors worldwide on how well we are doing. We seem particularly on trade to be behind countries like Rwanda. I know that Rwanda has got certain advantages that we as Botswana might not necessarily have. One of them being that the Executive can give orders and they will be followed to the latter whilst in Botswana we do not have that latitude. I would not say luxury, I say latitude.

Having said that, I think that Botswana has got other advantages really that should leverage us above all African countries. If we could get way up there in the rankings above Rwanda and other countries I think we would be well on our way to attracting the kind of Foreign Direct Investment that we are looking for.

Red tape, Madam Chair. We still lag behind in doing business because of Governmental red tape. It seems our civil service really take delight in penalising a businessman for not fulfilling the requirements of the law. Whilst I know that once we give the civil servants latitude or discretion on licensing and other things like that perhaps we would be opening a door to lax standards, to corruption, but sometimes it seems...

MR MOREMI: On a point of order Madam Speaker. Madam, are we in order? I heard yesterday this continuous vilification of the civil service. Could the Member withdraw that one and correct government policies because to continue saying "civil service"...

MR B. G. BUTALE: I think Honourable Kgosi is a bit tired. Go and get your nap Honourable Member.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Sit down first. I do not hear Honourable Kgosi Tawana. What is he saying?

MR MOREMI: I am saying, this continuous vilification of the civil service when we know that the buck stops with us the Executive that side, is not in order.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Okay! I did not hear properly what you said about the civil service. Continue so that I may hear you properly.

MR B. G. BUTALE: Thank you Madam Chair. What I was saying was that, it seems that some civil servants really delight in need picking and making sure that all the regulations are followed and if an investor might fall short in one small insignificant requirement, some civil servants will just be so happy to deny a license or to deny a permit. This red tape instead of facilitating business is doing the opposite.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: I have heard you now. What I am saying is that they should comply. If he/she does not comply it means the permit will be denied. Proceed.

MR B. G. BUTALE: Thank you Madam Chair. But sometimes it seems the whole idea is to find fault. That is all I was saying.

The other thing Madam Chair is that, most countries in Africa take out the red carpet for investors. I know of two (2) billionaires who say they came to Botswana and they were not treated very well; Mr Jindal and Mr Dangote from Nigeria. They say they came to Botswana and they were not treated well. The other one said he is not coming back again. Fine, I do not know what happened. I do not know the story but we cannot have this kind of publicity, whatever might have transpired. In other African countries if they know that you are Mr Jindal or you are Mr Dangote when you get to the airport you are

given Very Important Person (VIP) treatment. You will find government officials waiting for you there. I know Batswana we do not care about anybody or anything but this kind of attitude will really set us back in our drive to lure Foreign Direct Investment. We have to treat these people with so much respect when they come here and they should feel that we really want them in our country and that they are not doing us a favour by being here.

Again Honourable Minister, I think your Ministry can help in educating Batswana, especially the simple Motswana that, when foreigners come to Botswana to set up businesses here they are not here to take away their wealth. They did not come here to take anything but they are here to give expertise, to give skills, to give capital to advance our country. If we could change this mind-set, even though it is really not that significant in moving our country forward but really it would go some ways in changing the work ethic of our fellow countrymen.

I have talked about targets on investors, targets on jobs, targets on goods and services produced in Botswana, if we could have these targets. I know that our friends on the other side of the aisle would be very happy to have these targets for ulterior reasons but targets always help us see whether we are moving in the right direction. Maybe the targets are there. Maybe you have the targets on how many jobs you want created in two (2) years. Maybe you have targets on how much Foreign Direct Investment you want to attract to Botswana in the next 12 months but I am not aware of those targets and if they are there could they be published. Not so that we could vilify you but that we can encourage you in the right direction. Special Economic Zones, the way to go. I have said this before that countries like China, Singapore, Malaysia and many other countries all over the world developed through the Special Economic Zones. And when my colleague Honourable Gaolathe spoke about Special Economic Zones a couple of minutes ago I was very interested to know how we can make sure that they are developed in the right way, but I am sure he will inform us in due course on how we can do that. I will agree with him, we must do them correctly and they must work for us. These Special Economic Zones Honourable Minister in my opinion are our lifeblood as a Government. They are our 'get out of jail clause, get out of jail card' and if they are not able to operate as envisaged, I think we are going to have a tough time in the coming years with hoards of youth unemployed and high unemployment. The Special Economic Zones should be really the way to go, they should be mantra of the Ministry, the mantra of economic diversification and job creation. With those few remarks, I thank you Madam Chairperson.

MR GUMA (TATI EAST): Madam Chair, thank you very much. Minister, take it from me, I support you but also asking you to support me on a motion or a Private Members' Bill deliberately, that I want to bring to this Parliament to capacitate youth. You know, if we do not use the national budget to empower our citizens, we are misdirecting ourselves. The biggest chunk of the recurrent budget is to a large extent procurement, may be 34 or 40 per cent. What is the difficulty in Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), Botswana Development Corporation (BDC), National Development Bank (NDB) or any other bank to finance the youth? Just by a presentation of a purchase order, why can you not finance a young person? You are facilitated by the Ministry of Finance and development planning and the Ministry should actually pay the supplier directly. Tell me that it cannot be done. I will tell you why it is not being done. It is because people out there in the Ministry of Finance and development planning or any other, would tell you that there is going to be too much work. Yes, there is a lot of work, but if you do not use these funds to assist the youth and take it as a deliberate decision... why are you afraid? This is a Government Purchase Order (GPO), you set up standards. You have to assist CEDA or the financier to say, 'look, the standards are this, upon delivery of this, the supplier pays so much and then give the balance to the young person.' Is that not empowering our own people? Is this budget not ours? Are we not supplying the very same Government? Are we not in control of the funds? What are we afraid of? Compliances? People are afraid to take responsibility. I will tell you how we should do it. We must make it into a law and impose it on the implementers; to make sure it should be mandatory for us to empower our citizens in particular the youth. We must take this as a deliberate decision. Tell me Minister, I can sit down for clarification if you want to tell me that I am talking crap but it can be done.

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

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Are you inviting for a clarification?

MR GUMA: No, I am saying to you I want to bring it as a motion and if it is not a motion, maybe we should look into enforcing it into a law. We have been talking about Citizen Economic Empowerment Law. I am a little bit wary on that one but on the youth, we have to take very tough decisions and use the national budget to empower youth who have got businesses. A purchase order is an order from Government. Why is Government afraid to take responsibility? CEDA, BDC and others, those are agents of Government. Ministry of Finance and development planning process it. Pay the supplier directly and tell me you have not empowered the youth.

Now, they have to compete with the foreign companies that have got access to funding, have a credit rating and the poor chap does not have money to supply stationery, just pencils. Is it difficult for CEDA or BDC to do that? I can tell you something that you need to do again Minister. CEDA, BDC I do not know whether NDB is still under you, it does not matter, we need to rationalise these institutions. I can see BDC is saying they have made good profit. Thank you very much. Have they declared the dividends? I am not sure but may be it is just out of asset valuation and selling of properties. Look, I do not think that is what we intended that they should be doing. They are taking time to get down and start showing us value for what they are worth.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: That displayed time is not correct.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: I am correcting it.

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

MR GUMA: That time is fine. They are taking time. I can tell you now; CEDA is performing far much better than BDC, far! And you can see their (CEDA) visibility. BDC's class is gentlemen's business and you do not know who they are financing. You can see CEDA's visibility with the small business people. We do not see BDC, they are taking time. The report that we are getting is the glass project. We are tired of hearing about that, it is a dead project. We have had so many excuses about it. It is gone, finish! Please do not talk to us about that glass factory! The money is gone, finish! Please for heaven's sake; do not even talk to us about it.

Can those guys start working please? Where are they? When it comes to talk, they are very good. Public Relations, they are very good! They speak so well. Delivery zero! I can tell you.

The second one is Local Enterprise Authority (LEA); please can you close that shop? Please close them! If I were the Minister of Finance and development planning, I would not give them a cent again until they show us value. They need to be helping the youth, capacitating them; their results are not showing, they are not there on the ground. You only see them being smart when they are having their own conferences and workshops. We cannot use public funds this way please! Crack the whip Minister! Thank you Madam Chairperson.

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE): I thank you Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, let me first commend the Minister and also welcome him back after a very sad situation. Let me just start by commending the Minister for having delivered his

budget within time and it is very good that when you look at this budget here, it provides a very good framework in terms of the legislation and policies which I think for all intent and purpose are meant to prove that indeed Government is providing an enabling environment. It is this enabling environment Madam Chairperson that I would like the private sector to look into and consider more seriously than before and take advantage of the enabling environment that is provided here in terms of the so many legal frameworks that have been provided by the Minister. I do not have to go through them, they have been read, the Minister read them through and you can read them on his speech.

Madam Chairperson, just on the onset, the Minister is looking into the implementation of the Gambling Act of 2012 and he has gone on to review the Consumer Protection Act of 1998. I must say here that I have a little bit of discomfort when dealing with these matters because yes the benefits are there; we are aware, even for the economy the benefits are there through taxes. Unfortunately Madam Chairperson, is like we have overlooked a very important element of welfare and domestic economy or the household economy.

What can we say? Why can we not speak more on these issues? All I am saying Madam Chairperson is that, these laws if you look at the review of the Consumer Protection Act, you would feel much more comfortable and say 'well I think the consumer here is going to be protected' but when you look at the gambling; gambling on its own is a good thing for the economy but also we must look at the flip side and see how the household economy is affected. We have people who are addicted to some of these activities, how do we protect them? Where is an element of trying to bring in counselling? These issues have deeper impact on individuals. We have people who are addicted to gambling to the extent that their families go on empty stomachs. Every month they go for gambling or they sell their cattle and go for gambling. Are we saying we just leave these people as they are or they need some sort of counselling? Minister, in future look into counselling and see how we can help these people out of this addiction because to me addiction is sickness. So we need to look into the social aspect of these innovations or these activities and see how we can address them.

Madam Chairperson, because of time, I must also move quickly to the amendment of the Act to provide online registration...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Order! Order! Honourable Members, there is no quorum.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: Give us five more minutes...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: No, I am not giving you any five more minutes; please call them so that we proceed.

Order! Order! We are qourated. Proceed Honourable Tsogwane.

MR TSOGWANE: Thank you Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, still on the Gambling Act of 2012, the Honourable Minister has a number of licences that have to be obtained but for all intents and purposes, you find that they are pushing for the same objective. I thought the Minister could have a consolidated Act, so that he does not have to come up with these number of licences. You look at the Lottery, Gambling, Bingo Machine Licence or the Bingo Licence; why can you not consolidate them Honourable Minister? On Paragraph 7 you mentioned that you will be amending the Trade Act 2003 with a view to do away with licensing, except for business activities that have impact on human health and environmental safety. So I would, in the same token, advocate for a consolidation of some of these licences Minister.

Minister, let me move fast to deal with this Industrial Development Policy; it is a very critical policy. It is a policy that can move us to the next level of development in this country, coupled with Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP). It is an opportune moment that we must push for this Industrial Development Policy. I also think if this policy is applied and consideration is made, Boteti Sub-District is well placed. Boteti is an area where you find a diversity of activities. We have mining, a cattle industry which is thriving and we are in the middle of the two game reserves (Central Kalahari Game Reserve and Makgadikgadi Game Reserve). Even the soil formation there shows clearly that Boteti if properly explored, it could be one area that you might have the prospects of having oil because the floods from the highlands of Angola flow into Lake Xau in Boteti. If there can be a serious exploration of oil in that area; there can be a possibility. The Makgadikgadi, the Kalahari Basin, Mababe Depression, they have a link with Boteti area. So it is an area that you can look into and consider it for an economic zone, especially looking into the Industrial Policy, it could do well. I am saying that because we only need enablers in the form of infrastructure. Boteti is in the centre. When we consider the Walvis Bay, the rail to the south and even to the northern part of this country, Boteti will be in the centre. So it is an area that can be considered and explored, and also considered along other comparative advantages from other places. It is an area that we can develop more seriously.

We only lack the financing sector. We do not have banks, especially in Boteti West and even government

financing institutions are not there. We were earmarked for National Development Bank (NDB) for a very long time. We also had Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) and it was relocated to Palapye, which also was an advantage for Boteti. So we should consider this financing sector and bring back CEDA, as well as implementing the National Development Bank in Boteti.

In economics and development studies, we know that farmers are good savers than any other people. If you compare them to the workers, farmers are good savers because they do not know what tomorrow will bring for them. In most cases you will find that they do not access loans from the banks, so whatever they have, they save for tomorrow. So if we can consider the financing institution, then Boteti will be well placed for industrial development and this is what I advocate for Minister, as you are going to look into that.

I cannot agree with you more Minister when you considered electronic communication in terms of registering for business. It is a good move because people today come from far places to go and access that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Time up!

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MR MAKGALEMELE): Thank you. I would like to also take this time to welcome back Honourable Seretse and that God continues to comfort him and his family. Mr Chairperson, I would also like to express my gratitude for the unwavering support that we get from this Ministry because in my constituency, they do that.

We have an initiative to uplift and attract investors in our constituency. Annually, we host local business show to give businesses exposure and it is open to every aspiring entrepreneur and the turnout is always good. My constituents have asked me to relay this message of gratitude before I submit their requests.

All the concerned organisations like Botswana International and Trade Centre (BITC) and others have shown their unwavering support to our constituency. However, despite all the gratification they have expressed, they are still worried about a few issues that are still lagging behind especially the Special Economic Zones. Looking at our constituency, we have the potential to attract investors as we have been the station for business from South Africa. Our village has rich history which have given birth to villages like Serowe, Palapye and Pilikwe.

We have a rich history which qualifies us to fall under the Special Economic Zone looking at issues of farming and tourism. We have farms which supply Botswana

Meat Commission (BMC) with beef. Majority of people own farms at the western central but they still have a problem of ...

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

MR MAKGALEMELE: I am disturbed by Members who use cell phones in the House. My constituents are still worried about lack of inclusion under the Special Economic Zones but they are hopeful that in the next Special Economic Zone Number 9, they will be included because they trust Honourable Seretse and his assistant to be very considerate people.

On the submission that has been made by the Honourable Minister, there is a proposal to have the National Entrepreneurship Policy and Strategy. I support this proposal and would like to urge them to act quickly on it because my wish is to see this entire nation aspiring to be an entrepreneur with the relevant skills. I wish to see this Ministry collaborating with Honourable Unity Dow's Ministry so that students are equipped with entrepreneurship skills right from grass roots level. This will pave a way for a rich potential business person who can create employment in our country

Furthermore, we have opportunities that we could utilise. Under the Ministry of Education, we have the department called the Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning (BOCODOL). BOCODOL offers courses like Certificate in Small Scale Business Management and my wish is to see a collaboration between this Certificate in Small Scale Business Management and the Ministry of Education so that it can create business opportunities for young people who are unemployed.

This should be a programme that should be taught to all young people so that ultimately we have young people who have been trained on entrepreneurship. Some should be done through distance learning and awarded the Certificate in Small Scale Business Management as I have pointed out.

Mr Chairperson, this submission has highlighted a growth when it comes to progress made regarding SPEDU in Selibe Phikwe which we have given our support at the Office of the President because we allocated money through the Nyeletso Lehuma programme to build the Agro Processing Plant. This will create opportunities for farmers to have a local market for their fresh produce. They will be manufacturing products like tomato sauce. Mr Chairperson, my wish is for SPEDU to consider areas that have already started their own businesses because in our constituency we have started something called 'Shoshong Constituency Your Investment Destination.' It is our own SPEDU we

have created ourselves. We have engaged our various expertise in the area and they came up with the name 'Shoshong Constituency Your Investment Destination.' Even though this was started in 14th February, 2011, it is at a stage where it needs government intervention to boost what we already have.

We believe that we have demonstrated a spirit of self-reliance in business promotion and we believe that we have reached a point where we now need the Ministry of Trade and Industry to assist us to take this initiative to the next level.

I would like to commend them for the progress made under the cooperatives because we have supported them in our area. Our aim is to have a hub of cooperatives in our country. Currently we have a cooperative for young people under construction who have already registered themselves and I believe they will benefit from the ESP. My request is that they should be regarded at international level.

They should apply the principle called 'cooperation amongst cooperatives.' This will assist our local cooperatives to collaborate with other cooperatives internationally for business exchange. I believe this will upgrade our local cooperatives.

Furthermore, I propose that they consider the issue of funding cooperatives. I am very much aware of the fact that as a business, they are supposed to receive some kind of funding, either from Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), or various funding opportunities that are available. When we developed the 2012 Cooperative Transformation Strategy, it highlighted that there will be a bank for cooperatives and my request is that it should be done hastily.

Or better still, if the economy is not yet stable to fund that, we should consider coming up with a special fund for CEDA which will specifically be for cooperatives. This can even be extended to fall under programmes like Youth Development Fund. I know that Honourable Olopeng supports them fully. My wish is that there should be a clear pronouncement that, if our young people generally in the countryside could come together and form cooperatives, they could receive better funding than that of Youth Development Fund. I commend the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs for having come up with that clear cut pronouncement when they came up with the guidelines for their program.

As I conclude, I support them on their Economic Partnership Agreement which was signed just recently. I believe this will allow us to continue exporting to Europe which does not charge us tax, quota free and duty free basis. Furthermore, I would like to commend

them for the European market of African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which they have indicated allows us to sell 6 500 different goods. Madam Chairperson, I believe this gives traders an opportunity to sell to other countries.

Let me conclude by encouraging them to look into Intra Africa Trade as supported by African Union (AU) so that we sell to other African countries.

MR MOREMI (MAUN WEST): Thank you Madam Chairperson. Let me extend my condolences to Honourable Seretse. We grieve with you.

Madam Chairperson, there is a major issue which is debated across the aisle of promoting Botswana. There was once a BEDIA manager who complained that they travel around the world in order to attract investors into our country but deporting them becomes so easy for the government. Investors are afraid of coming because of this treatment. Still on that, even those that are here are afraid of expanding their investment because they do not know when they will be deported and under which circumstances.

When the Immigration Bill was passed here, Mr Siele promised that we will come and look into this matter afresh. Honourable Kebonang you could have requested that we look into this Immigration Policy and see how it can assist us. At one point we came up with Economic Diversification Drive (EDD). EDD would have made you to believe that it is an innovation of scientific and high standards but it just meant that we are going to promote the procurement of local goods.

Madam Chairperson, looking at political will, we would have long surpassed the billions that Honourable Kebonang is talking about when it comes to the EDD. I commend you for having seen it fit to support our citizens. Madam Chairperson, political will is prevalent in Africa as a whole. Different governments appreciated the importance of having local investors. It is documented. It is studied. Since it was the electoral *fora* therefore it will be used during elections after they have been given those hand-outs and paid that patronage. If we are moving away from that and the political will is there and it can empower Batswana, then I will be grateful.

What we need in Ngamiland is to formalise the landholding that we have. That is all. If the government could have given us leases, we will own the tourism sector in that area. There is nothing there that we could not have done. It has been a long standing belief that the Blacks should not go into that industry in numbers that is why those leases have been given to certain people only, while we become workers. South Africa fully

supports the issue of local empowerment. Right now the locals are at the forefront in handling their economy.

Why does it seem like we will all decry Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The Members of Parliament for Shoshong and Boteti have been complaining that this should be extended to their constituencies too. Geographically, Ngamiland is a Special Economic Zone. Maybe what the Minister needs to do is to request for funds in order to accelerate the issue of Special Economic Zones rather than saying you are piloting just the three which were listed. In Ngamiland we are not even clustered. They said we are going to be clustered looking at mining and tourism but we are cattle farmers. We want a Special Economic Zone that is quick to profit, support and improve the welfare of the locals which in this case is a cow.

Madam Chairperson, I am concerned about Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA). CEDA in Maun does not permit the locals to engage in cattle farming projects. However, like the Minister of Agriculture acknowledged yesterday, it is possible to move cattle from the red zone to the green zone in the case of Foot and Mouth. If the Veterinary officers could allow for protocols to be handed...

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MR TSOGWANE): On a point of Order! I wanted to remind my colleague who has long shifted to the entrance side not to forget things like phone given the few minutes left because ...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Whom are you talking about?

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Go back to your seat. Proceed Honourable Kgosi Tawana.

MR MOREMI: Madam Chairperson, I was saying seeing as we are here, I could go through Agriculture so that they may furnish me in bullet form their protocol which can permit me to move Ngamiland cattle from the red zone like they said it is possible. If they could give me that, CEDA could also acknowledge that it is possible to finance cattle projects in Ngamiland.

What is happening now is that farm owners sell their farms because they are unable to sell cattle. The transfers of farm ownership at Ngamiland serve to show that their trade is locked. Their hands are tied because financiers are unable to assist due to Foot and Mouth. However, it is possible to trade in that area despite the Foot and Mouth. My request therefore is for CEDA to look into this matter and assist the cattle farmers.

Madam Chairperson I got such a fright that I even crafted a question on Botswana Development Corporation (BDC). BDC is giving loans amounting to P30 million and above to Batswana. This means that Honourable Moyo and I do not qualify only the unknown few will qualify. Why not reduce this P30 million threshold so that it can cover the likes of Honourable Moyo and eventually us?

Madam Chairperson, Leather Park has been discussed for years. I am told it went for the liability phase in November 2015. Honourable Members, it has been too long even Honourable Modubule could testify if he was still around but nothing has been done. We could understand if we were to be told that this year we are moving from the first phase of viability and to the second phase which is construction. It is just similar to the Zambezi Water Works project. Zambezi, Pandamatenga Infrastructure are issues discussed daily but you will never be brought abreast on the progress. We are only told about the request for implementation funds.

Madam Chairperson, allow me to touch base with the economy of my area; we have a problem when it comes to slaughtering cattle. Selling that one cow you depend on for a livelihood is similar to throwing it away. We are told to start from the abattoir which is registered there. I do not know why the same procedure for Halaal could not be followed, just like in Supermarkets, where Halaal products are labelled against those which are not. I could understand if anyone told me that there was an outbreak of some disease when animals were not slaughtered in abattoirs. It could still happen for one to have a choice of meat to buy when they get into a supermarket and be told that the meat they want to buy is from an abattoir or just ordinary meat. If one has just one cow and they want to use it, and they are forced to sell it at the abattoir, they have to find transport for that and from there, there are other charges while on the other hand the cow did not sell best. It is only that we never document how much we spent in one cow. Honourable Minister, in Ngami land we are looking up to the mineral rights and the Land Act, we want to see how we could fit into this value chain. What has happened is that, a certain person was given land rights and a lease agreement over some land, and they went back to their homestead and brought their business partners to establish various businesses like butcheries, garages and this has left us Batswana out. We could be benefiting something because there is a local involvement percentage when we the locals have lease agreement in a particular land. It is therefore not good for us to be here and watch people taking over our land. Thank you.

MR LELATISITWE (BOTETI EAST): Thank you Madam Chairperson. I would like to support the budget proposal tabled by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. I must say that in Boteti constituency, we just launched the Special Economic Zones Act and this is

one of the Acts which the Boteti constituents are hopeful in because Boteti is such a rich area and could feed the country as a whole. I do believe that if the Special Economic Zones could be implemented then we could see the youth of the area working in mines since Boteti is a mining town. I do believe that Special Economic Zones will address that. We have so much cattle which I believe they surpass the central district population.

When it comes to tourism, we have enough land. Another thing that I have noticed is that the Ministry of Trade and Industry seems to be more based in Gaborone and I believe that since we are a developing country, the Ministry could develop this country to be at the level of those developed countries, only if they could engage organisations such as Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) which are under the Ministry of Trade and Industry. I have come to realise that they have done so much research which the county could use to develop itself. I believe that if these research and recommendations could be implemented and not only be kept in books then we could go somewhere. I would like to commend the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) which still falls under the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the good work they are doing. As well as BITC which some of its employees think it is a private company. When one gets there, the attitude that they give you, is of people who do not know that, it is a government organisation. That kind of thing...

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

MR LELATISITWE: Yes sir, those are organisations that I always visit.

HONOURABLE MEMBER: How are they doing?

MR LELATISITWE: Maybe if you could go there then you will be able to give people feedback.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Order! Time up Honourable Lelatisitwe. Honourable Itumeleng Moipisi, happy birthday.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MS VENSON-MOITOI): I was not aware that Honourable Moipisi's birthday is today. Happy birthday my other little brother. Madam Chairperson I have the pleasure to now move that this House do now adjourn.

Question put and **agreed to.**

The assembly accordingly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until Friday 26th February 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

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