



**REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**ORGANISATION: 2400**  
**2026/2027 RECURRENT AND**  
**DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PROPOSALS**

**PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY**

**BY**

**HONOURABLE DAVID TSHERE**  
**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INNOVATION**

**17<sup>TH</sup> March 2026**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. **Mr. Chairman**, it is my pleasure and honour to present the Ministry's budget estimates for the 2026/2027 financial year for consideration and approval by this Honourable Committee, under the Organisation **2400 - Ministry of Communications and Innovation**.
2. **Mr. Chairman**, the Ministry's 2026/2027 budget proposals are firmly focused on improving implementation, strengthening cost efficiency, and ensuring value for money. In line with Government's belt-tightening measures and the current fiscal environment, the emphasis is not on expanding expenditure, but on prioritisation, discipline, and delivering measurable results from limited resources.
3. I therefore, **Mr. Chairman**, seek the Committee's support to continue enhancing our digital infrastructure and in turn accelerate the Government digitalisation agenda, particularly the scaling up of digital public services to improve efficiency, curb corruption, reduce bureaucracy, and enhance service delivery across Government. These efforts are complemented by targeted investments in research, development, and innovation, pursued through strategic partnerships with academic and research institutions, the private sector, and development partners.
4. **Mr. Chairman**, the proposed estimates also support key flagship initiatives across Government, including the continued rollout of the Village Connectivity Programme, connecting Government offices,

the Digital ID and the National Retail Payment Switch system to mention but a few. These interventions are critical to enabling inclusive access to Government services, strengthening secure digital transactions, and laying the foundation for a resilient and competitive digital economy.

5. **Mr. Chairman**, in line with the priorities and implementation focus of the Twelfth National Development Plan, I wish to present updates on key sectors mandated to my Ministry, namely: Information and Communications Technology; Research and Development; Technology and Innovation, as well as Radiation Protection. These sectors are central to driving digital transformation, innovation-led growth, and the safe application of advanced technologies.

## **II. PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

### **(a) INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY** ***Digital Transformation and Services Online***

6. **Mr. Chairman**, the national digital transformation agenda is advancing through the implementation of the **Digital Services Act** and the establishment of the Digital Services Authority to modernise public service delivery. The Act, which commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025, provides a legal and policy framework for a digital-by-default government, setting standards for digital services, system interoperability, secure services, and governance across all Ministries and Agencies.

7. **Mr. Chairman**, the **Digital Services Authority** will serve as the central body to coordinate ICT investments and accelerate the rollout of priority e-Services and shared national digital platforms, including secure information exchange and payment systems. This will support the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme by leveraging digital infrastructure to drive economic diversification, productivity, and private sector growth. The process of establishing the DSA is ongoing and is expected to complete in the financial year 2026/2027.
  
8. **Mr. Chairman**, the Ministry continues to advance the digital transformation agenda by strengthening the 1Gov-1Citizen platform as a secure, seamless gateway for public services. During the year under review, the platform was enhanced to improve reliability and interoperability, increasing the number of accessible e-Services from **33** to **52** and enabling services such as teacher registration, appointment scheduling, and business facilitation to improve efficiency and convenience for citizens and businesses.
  
9. Moreover, my Ministry is advancing the nationwide deployment of a secure and resilient **Software Defined - Wide Area Network (SD-WAN)** - a modern, software-managed approach that intelligently connects sites using the best available connections for faster, more reliable, and cost-effective networking infrastructure. This initiative will significantly enhance the accessibility, reliability, and performance of essential government services, enabling their

effective delivery to **six hundred (600)** priority sites targeted for rollout in the coming financial year. This strategic project builds upon and complements the strong foundation already established by the SmartBots Programme, further accelerating our inclusive digital transformation agenda for the benefit of all Batswana.

10. **Mr. Chairman**, Honourable Members will recall that 194 public-facing e-Services developed last year were withheld due to technical challenges with the Government Accounting and Budgeting System. The redesigned payment platform is under procurement and will enable direct revenue collection to the Bank of Botswana, supported by investments in data centre capacity, cybersecurity, and digital identity systems to strengthen the resilience and security of online services.

### ***Operational Excellence***

11. **Mr. Chairman**, in pursuit of operational efficiency and effectiveness across Government, the Ministry continues to expand and strengthen the Government Data Network (GDN) to ensure reliable connectivity to all Government institutions across the country. This ongoing expansion programme is aimed at extending secure and high-speed network infrastructure to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), including those located in remote and previously underserved areas.
12. **Mr. Chairman**, the expansion of the Government Data Network is critical to enabling seamless communication, efficient data exchange, and the delivery of digital public services. By improving network coverage and capacity, Government is creating a resilient

digital backbone that supports e-Government initiatives, enhances collaboration among public institutions, and ensures that citizens across the country can benefit from improved access to Government services. The continued investment in network infrastructure also strengthens cybersecurity posture, improves system performance, and reduces operational inefficiencies associated with fragmented connectivity solutions.

13. Furthermore, **Mr. Chairman**, the Ministry remains committed to enhancing the effectiveness, resilience and reliability of Government ICT infrastructure and services, particularly the main Government hosting environment that supports a wide range of mission-critical applications and digital platforms. A key initiative in this regard is the migration of Government systems and services to the **Delta Digital Data Centre (DDDC)**, an internationally accredited facility owned and operated by **Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet)**, which commenced in November 2025. This initiative has been made possible through the financial support of **P100Million** from the Universal Service Access Fund (USAF).

14. **Mr. Chairman**, looking ahead, once the migration process to the DDDC has been fully concluded, Government intends to establish another internationally accredited data centre facility outside **Gaborone** as part of a long-term strategy to further strengthen national digital infrastructure resilience. This future facility will provide additional redundancy, enhance business continuity, and reduce the risks associated with concentration of critical infrastructure within a single geographic location.

15. **Mr. Chairman**, while notable progress has been achieved, challenges remain, including legacy system integration constraints, limited digital skills within some institutions, cybersecurity risks, and connectivity gaps in underserved areas. To address these, the Ministry is accelerating migration to the new Data Center, system modernization, strengthening digital skills development, enhancing cybersecurity monitoring, and expanding broadband connectivity.

### ***Local Access Network Project***

16. **Mr. Chairman**, in order to facilitate the government's digitalisation efforts, the Ministry has a supply-side initiative to provide high speed broadband internet. The Local Access Network Programme uses optical fibre to connect essential facilities, businesses and government buildings to high-speed internet.

17. During the 2025/2026 financial year, the Local Access Network Project rolled out broadband internet connectivity to Ramotswa, Taung, Thamaga and Moshupa. The Ramotswa, Taung and Moshupa projects were completed at the end of January 2026 whilst Thamaga is envisioned to be completed at the end of April 2026. These four (4) projects have created employment opportunities for **136** people. Once these projects are complete, a total of **207** Government and Business premises will be added to the Local Access Network, resulting in expansion of the high-speed internet network. To date, a total of **13,456** essential facilities, government and business premises have been connected to high-

speed internet countrywide, under the Local Access Network Programme.

***National Backbone Network Project***

18. **Mr. Chairman,** the Takatokwane - Morwamosu Link was completed in March 2025. Meanwhile, the Oodi-Machaneng link is complete and has been active since 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024. However, there was some delay in the procurement of Backup Generators. I am happy to report that the generators have since been delivered and installation is ongoing. Completion is planned for end of March 2026.
  
19. **Mr. Chairman,** a number of link projects are awaiting implementation and will provide protection on the national ring as well as services to villages along the routes. These are Sherwood – Zanzibar - Platjaan; Two Rivers – Khawa – Hukuntsi -Charles Hill; Metlojane - Jwaneng, Maitengwe – Mapoka - Ramokgwebana, Maitengwe - Manxotai-Nata, Tutume - Maitengwe, Gudigwa - Khwai and Nata – Gweta – Motopi. However, these have been deferred due to budget constraints, with only Metlojane - Jwaneng and Sherwood – Zanzibar - Platjaan approved for implementation in the 2026/2027 financial year. Given the limited budget, the Ministry will use the 2026/2027 budget provisions to finish the two National Backbone projects that started in 2025/2026 financial year.

20. **Mr. Chairman,** in addition to construction of links/routes, the Ministry through BoFiNet has upgraded some segments of the existing national backbone infrastructure network to enhance capacity and reliability of our network. The scope covers upgrading and replacement of obsolete network equipment (that is, the Internet Protocol (IP) Core and Internet Protocol (IP) Metro) or international internet gateways in Gaborone, Johannesburg and London commonly known as IP Core project as well as upgrading of national nodes known as IP Metro project in Gaborone and Francistown to contend with increased capacity demand. Internet traffic has since been migrated into these networks and final works are due for completion by the end of March 2026.

### ***International Connectivity***

21. With regards to the International Connectivity projects, the link connecting Johannesburg to Kopfontein/Tlokweng was undertaken to deploy a high-capacity fibre connection from Johannesburg to the Kopfontein/Tlokweng Border Gate, enabling seamless interconnection with BoFiNet infrastructure in Botswana. The link was completed in July 2025, and commercial negotiations have commenced and are progressing well; and will pave the way for migrating traffic by March 2026. While interest remains to diversify the routes (Botswana-Zimbabwe-Mozambique and Botswana-Zambia-Angola), our current financial situation compels us to only prioritise those projects from which we can gain maximum value in the shortest time possible. This is why the focus is on completing the Tlokweng- Johannesburg link.

### ***Cybersecurity***

22. **Mr. Chairman**, as part of the implementation of the Cybersecurity Strategy, the Cybersecurity Bill was enacted into law in November 2025. The primary objective of the Act is to establish and empower a cybersecurity institutional framework that ensures a safe and secure cyber environment. This will protect our Critical National Information Infrastructure, making Botswana a more attractive destination for investment, and fostering trust in digital growth. The Act provides for the establishment of a National Cybersecurity Authority, which will be implemented during the 2026/2027 Financial Year.

### ***Policy Posture***

23. **Mr. Chairman**, in order to establish a policy direction for the effective and efficient utilization of radio frequencies and to revise the current National ICT Policy of 2007 to better support a digital economy, my Ministry will engage with stakeholders to gather insights for the new policy. Additionally, we will conduct the necessary capacity-building activities during the 2026/2027 financial year.

### ***Postal Development***

24. **Mr. Chairman**, BotswanaPost is in the process of applying for a Banking license, in part fulfilment of the Government's mandate of improving the quality of life of Batswana and developing an indigenous bank. The Post Bank aims to leverage BotswanaPost's large branch network to offer tailor-made, affordable financial

products and services in the form of deposits, transactional accounts, insurance cover and loans that are structured for the underbanked and unbanked population.

***Insurance Brokerage (PosoInsure)***

25. **Mr. Chairman,** BotswanaPost has diversified into the insurance sector, having attained a license from NBIFRA on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024. So far, the institution has since signed several agreements with both short and long-term underwriters. The goal is to successfully enable unserved groups to access financial and insurance services they ordinarily would not have access to.

***Deployment of Virtual Teller Machines (VTMs) & Digital Post Products and Services***

26. **Mr. Chairman,** BotswanaPost plans to rollout 12 Virtual Teller Machines nationwide and also rollout Digital Post Products and Services in the Financial Year 2026/27.

**(b) RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE BUSINESS**

27. **Mr. Chairman,** the Government of Botswana remains steadfast to her visionary commitment to attain the upper middle-income knowledge-led economic status underpinned by Research and Development. To that end, Cabinet has approved the National Research Agenda in July 2025. The Agenda, consisting of eight Research Focus Areas and 22 Research Themes, sets out the National Research Priority areas to ensure that the operationalization of the National Research Fund is laser focused on nurturing the National System of Innovation and creating the

desired socio-economic impact. The development of the Agenda followed a rigorous technology foresight study which culminated in identification of eight (8) focus thematic areas and twenty-two (22) research theme areas. These are **Agriculture; Digital Economy; Energy; Environmental Sustainability; Health; Manufacturing; Social Development and Mineral Beneficiation.**

28. **Mr. Chairman**, My Ministry has successfully put in place the National Research Fund Management Committee, as an oversight structure and framework to ensure transparency, accountability in line with the National Research Fund Order, 2024.

29. **Mr. Chairman**, to further consolidate Government's resolve to nurture a vibrant National System of Innovation (NSI) and generate quality research outputs, my Ministry has developed and is scheduled to table a draft National Research and Innovation Council Bill during 2026/2027 financial year. The Draft Bill has been approved by Cabinet. The Bill seeks to establish an autonomous body, which will oversee the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national policy on research, development and innovation so as to catalyse the country's industrialization efforts. The Council will be responsible for administration of two funds, for research and innovation.

30. Furthermore, my Ministry is at the tail-end of the development of the Indigenous Knowledge Systems Policy; National Private Sector Engagement Strategy for Research, Science, Technology and

Innovation and; the Space Science and Technology Strategy. The development of these frameworks is meant to create a conducive legislative environment for the NSI to thrive.

31. **Mr. Chairman**, in light of the above, during the 2025/2026 financial year, this Honourable Committee approved over **P200 Million**, under the Research Fund to finance different research projects. However, due to budgetary constraints, this amount was subsequently revised to **P50 million**, of which, a sum of ***Nine Million, Five Hundred and Eight-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Six Pula, Twenty-Five Thebe (P9,583,636.25)*** has been spent. A total of forty-five (45) projects, approved in 2024 were continued with no addition of new projects and these are ongoing at various stages.

32. The wide scope of research covers different thematic areas of Mining; Human Health & Social Sciences; Water & Environment; Indigenous Knowledge Systems; Livestock & Veterinary Research; Food and Agriculture as well as digitization and digitalization. The beneficiaries are from local research institutions inclusive of universities, private sector entities and the civic community. Out of the 45 projects, five (5) projects have been concluded and policy briefs are being developed to share with the stakeholder community.

33. Steady progress has further been made towards impactful research, particularly the research undertaken by Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) covering

areas such as Natural Resources, Climate Change, Energy, ICT and Nano materials. The latest solution is that for the Foot and Mouth Point of Care Diagnostic kits and Next Generation Sequencing pathogen surveillance.

34. **Mr. Chairman**, during 2026/2027 financial year and pursuant to recommendations from the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) review of 2020, my Ministry shall revise the National Research Science Technology and Innovation Policy of 2011 and its implementation Plan. The revision of this policy is critical to ensure Botswana keeps abreast in today's world where disruptive innovation is increasingly becoming the norm. Furthermore, My Ministry will develop the Space Sciences and Technology Policy as Botswana aspires to become an emerging African space nation by 2030, leveraging space science and technology to drive economic diversification, innovation, and societal transformation.

### ***Research Collaborations and Partnerships***

35. **Mr. Chairman**, in light of the current fiscal position, My Ministry continues to leverage partnerships to augment national resources. Continuous and active participation in the regional and international research partnership initiatives is of paramount importance. By virtue of our participation in the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) and the Africa-Japan Collaborative Research (AJ CORE) Programme, Botswana researchers are currently collaborating with researchers from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Japan, South Africa, Zambia, and Kenya undertaking fourteen (14) research projects in the areas of Mineral Beneficiation, Clean Energy, Climate Change,

Environmental Sustainability and Indigenous Knowledge. Botswana is currently pursuing participation in the Belmont Forum; Horizon Europe; the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP); and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). Participation in these Initiatives is expected to immensely contribute to capacity building and create financial inflows into the local research landscape.

### ***Science Promotion***

36. **Mr. Chairman,** the Science Communication and Public Engagement Strategy of 2022 seeks to enhance research uptake, promote the use of research outcomes, and ultimately increase research impact across all sectors. To advance these objectives, the month of August has been designated as the Month of Science. This initiative provides a national platform for stakeholders to engage the public and to dispel the stereotypical perception that science and technology are difficult, unaffordable, or inaccessible. Through this platform, my Ministry, in collaboration with a wide range of partners, conducts targeted science- and technology-based activities across the country, reaching diverse communities and interest groups.

37. During the 2025/2026 financial year, the Shakawe National Science Week was cancelled due to budgetary constraints. Notwithstanding the continuation of the economic challenges, I wish to reaffirm that during the 2026/2027 financial year, the Month of Science will be commemorated in Shakawe, as part of our continued commitment

to fostering a vibrant research and innovation culture and advancing Botswana's transition to a knowledge-based economy.

## **(c) TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

### ***BOTSAT-1 Data Commercialisation***

38. **Mr. Chairman**, following the successful launch of BOTSAT-1, Government is now focused on the commercialisation of satellite data. The objective is to unlock economic value from earth observation data in sectors such as precision agriculture, urban planning, climate monitoring, and mineral exploration. **Mr. Chairman**, it is expected that revenue generation through data services will ensure sustainability while catalysing private sector innovation in geospatial analytics.

### ***Drone Technology Project***

39. **Mr. Chairman**, the Drone Programme is being implemented to strengthen capacity in unmanned aerial systems for applications in agriculture, mining, environmental monitoring, disaster management, and border surveillance. This initiative is not only building local technical skills among the youth but is also positioning Botswana as a regional hub for drone services and regulatory excellence.

### ***Smart Labs Initiative***

40. **Mr. Chairman**, the Smart Labs Programme located at the Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH) is modernising science and technology education infrastructure across selected schools. These labs are equipped with emerging technology tools

to promote STEM learning, rapid prototyping, gaming, artificial intelligence and experimentation. This intervention strengthens the foundation of our innovation pipeline and nurtures future engineers, scientists, and technologists.

### ***Botswana Innovation Fund***

41. The Botswana Innovation Fund currently supports a portfolio of 33 innovation projects, with a total approved value of P37.3 million, of which P20.4 million has been disbursed across sectors including ICT, agritech, cleantech and mining technologies. In 2026, Botswana will participate with 10 other countries in the Grand Challenges Climate Health Call, scheduled for launch in June 2026, for which the Fund has secured matched funding through the Grand Challenges NEXUS programme. In addition, the Scalar partnership launched on 10 March 2026, giving Botswana innovators access to the Scalar Decarbonization Fund valued at USD 150 million.

### ***Robotics and Coding Programme***

42. To prepare Botswana for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, robotics and coding are being integrated into the national skills development framework. The programme supports curriculum development, teacher training, and national competitions to cultivate problem-solving, computational thinking, and entrepreneurship among learners. Phase 1 has been implemented and phase 2 is currently under way in the 2025/2026 financial year.

### ***Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKA) Participation***

43. **Mr. Chairman**, Botswana's participation in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project presents immense scientific and economic opportunities. Through collaboration in radio astronomy and big data science, we are developing high-level research capabilities while enabling technology transfer, advanced computing infrastructure, and international partnerships.

### ***National Artificial Intelligence Policy***

44. **Mr. Chairman**, the National Artificial Intelligence Policy (2026–2030) provides a governance framework for the ethical, inclusive, and secure adoption of AI technologies. The policy prioritises local capacity development, data governance, innovation ecosystems, and regulatory oversight to ensure AI contributes meaningfully to productivity and enhanced public service delivery.

### ***Botswana Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology (BCNST)***

45. The establishment of BCNST is a strategic investment in advanced nuclear infrastructure. The Centre will support applications of nuclear science in medicine, agriculture, water resource management, and industrial testing. It will also enhance Botswana's compliance with international safety and regulatory standards while building domestic scientific critical mass of expertise.

### ***Business Process Outsourcing (Call Centres)***

46. **Mr. Chairman**, the expansion of call centres and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) operations remains a priority for employment creation. By leveraging Botswana's stable environment, competitive connectivity infrastructure, and English-speaking workforce, we aim to position the country as a preferred destination for regional and international BPO services. The first call centre is in operation at the BDIH.

### **(d) PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY IN USE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES**

47. **Mr. Chairman**, Botswana as a member state of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in good standing maintains a firm commitment towards peaceful and beneficial use of nuclear technology. In this regard, Government has successfully amended the Radiation Protection Act (CAP 24:03), the outcome of which is the Radiation Protection Regulatory Authority Act, 2026. The new law will pave way for a robust nuclear regulatory infrastructure to ensure safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear science and technology in line with international standards and instruments. In 2026/2027 financial year, our efforts will be focused on finalizing Regulations and establishment of the necessary structures to operationalize the Act.

48. **Mr. Chairman**, the peaceful use of nuclear technology is anchored on three areas, being; radiation safety, nuclear security and safeguards. The radiation safety infrastructure is well established as worker protection and public exposure programmes are progressing well. Safety audits at user facilities, radiation

monitoring and surveillance programmes aimed at protecting workers, the public and the environment will be continued during the 2026/2027 financial year.

49. However, the area of nuclear security needs to be further strengthened to prevent nuclear material from falling into the hands of people who might use it to cause terror or public disruption. An Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainable Programme which focuses on five functional areas that aim to protect against nuclear terrorism: 1) Legal and Regulatory Framework; 2) Prevention; 3) Detection; 4) Response; and 5) Human Resources Development, has been developed and implementation of the programme is ongoing.

50. One of the key milestones under the Programme is to establish, operate and entrench capabilities for surveillance and detection of radioactive materials at national points of entry to ensure that material brought into the country is accounted for. So far, detection systems have been installed at Kazungula and Tlokweng borders as an upgrade from use of hand-held detectors. Plans are at an advanced stage to deploy the same systems at Pioneer Border near Lobatse and completion is expected during 2026/2027 financial year. Deployment at other ports of entry such as Mamuno and Martin's Drift are expected during NDP12 implementation period.

51. **Mr. Chairman**, my Ministry is collaborating with Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) to construct the Storage Facility for disused/orphaned radioactive

sources. This project is also aimed at supporting our nuclear security efforts, and will, in addition, ensure such materials do not end up in the public domain, hence protecting the people and the environment from ionizing radiation exposures. My Ministry is providing funding and regulatory oversight whilst BIUST will host the facility, provide expertise and manage the facility. Geotechnical studies have been completed and facility designs are expected to be completed in April 2026. Currently, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies are ongoing and expected to be complete by October 2026 and pave the way for construction of the facility in the 2027/2028 financial year.

52. As a member state of the IAEA, Botswana benefits from the Technical Cooperation Programme and other Programmes designed to benefit member states. Currently, the programme is supporting projects in agriculture aimed at improving production of selected crops, detection and control of priority animal and zoonotic diseases and increased productivity of superior animals. There is also support in the area of human health through the Rays of Hope initiative that promote increased access of cancer patients to quality treatment.

### **III. 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET UTILISATION**

53. **Mr. Chairman**, my Ministry was allocated a Recurrent Budget of ***Nine Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Three Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand and Ninety Pula (P966,373,090.00)*** for use in its operations and those of its

parastatals for the 2025/2026 financial year. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, a total of ***Six Hundred and Sixty-One Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand and Five Hundred and Seventeen Pula (P661,769,517.00)*** or 68% was already been expended. The highest expenditure is recorded at Headquarters at 85% which covered key items such as subventions for State Owned Enterprises (Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH); Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI); and BotswanaPost), office rental expenses, Postal Charges, Computer System Consumables and Office Equipment, and the Department of Radiation Protection Inspectorate at 80%.

54. The remaining balance of ***Three Hundred and Four Million, Six Hundred and Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-Three Pula (P304,603,573.00)*** or 32%, shall be utilized during the remaining period of the financial year to pay for salaries & allowances and other charges.
  
55. In terms of revenue generation, my Ministry had estimated a sum of ***One Million, Eight Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Three Hundred and Ten Pula (P1,870,310.00)***, out of which ***Seven Hundred and Eleven Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy-Nine Pula (P711,479.00)*** was collected as at 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Sale of Tender Documents, Sale of Government Furniture, Nuclear Radiation Monitoring Fees and Nuclear Source Registration and License fees are the main sources of this revenue. The Radiation Protection Inspectorate (RPI) is the main revenue contributor with a total of ***Two Hundred and Eighty-One***

**Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twenty Pula (P281,720.00).** This drastic drop in revenue collection is mainly attributed to the breakdown of the sole Dosimetry Evaluation System for the National Dosimetry Laboratory. **Mr. Chairman**, the TLD Reader has been repaired successfully while a new one has been procured to augment the capacity within the Department. Consequently, revenue collection is expected to return to normal level in the fourth quarter of the financial year.

56. With respect to the Development Budget, a total of **Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Three Pula (P853,907,763.00)** was approved by this Honourable Committee in March 2025. The budget was however reduced by **Three Hundred and Nineteen Million, Twelve Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Seven Pula (P319,012,857.00)** or **37%**, to **Five Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Six Pula (P534, 894,906.00)** in August 2025. As at 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026, a total of **Two Hundred and Ninety Four Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Eighty Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Five Pula (P294,278,725.00)** or **55%** was expended against the revised budget.

57. The highest expenditure is for Government Data Network Expansion III project at **Seventy-Four Million, Thirty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty-Two Pula (P74,034,562.00)**, followed by National Backbone Network

project at ***Thirty-Four Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Two hundred and Ninety-Eight Pula (P34,365,298.00)*** and Government Online (e-Services) project at ***Thirty-Two Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, Three hundred and Twenty-Four Pula (P32,992,324.00)***. The remaining balance of ***Three Hundred and Twenty-Four Million, Thirty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Nine Pula (P324,037,239.00)*** will be used to honour payments until the end of the financial year.

#### **IV. 2026/2027 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET PROPOSALS**

58. **Mr. Chairman**, my Ministry's proposed combined budget for the 2026/2027 financial year is ***One Billion, Four Hundred and Twenty-Three Million, One Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Nine Hundred Pula (P1,423,120,900.00)***. Out of this amount, ***Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Nine Hundred Pula (P949,920,900.00)*** or **66.7%** is for the Recurrent Budget whilst ***Four Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pula (P473,200,000.00)*** or **33.3%** is proposed for the Development Budget.

##### ***2026/2027 Recurrent Budget Estimates***

59. **Mr. Chairman**, I propose and request this Honourable Committee to approve a total of ***Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Nine Hundred Pula (P949,920,900.00)*** as my Ministry's Recurrent Budget for the 2026/2027 financial year.

60. The largest share of this budget, amounting to ***Five Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million, Three Hundred and Ten Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Pula (P587,310,850.00)*** or 62% is proposed and allocated to the Department of Information Technology. Out of this amount, a total of ***Two Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million, Six Hundred and Eighty-Three Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Pula (P298,683,120.00)*** caters for major and/or core items being: Postal Charges at ***One Hundred and Forty-Two Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty Pula (P142,577,380.00)***; Computer Systems Consumables at ***Seventy-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Forty Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty Pula (P76,940,620.00)***, Application System Administration at ***Thirty-One Million, Five Hundred and Eighty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty Pula (P31,584,550.00)*** and office equipment at ***Forty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy Pula (P47,580,570.00)***. The remaining balance of ***Two Hundred and Eighty-Eight Million, Six Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty Pula (P288,627,460)*** will be allocated between Personnel Emoluments and Other Charges at ***Two Hundred and Sixty-Nine Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty Pula (P269,549,880.00)*** and ***Nineteen Million and Seventy-***

***Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Pula (P19,077,580.00)***, respectively.

61. **Mr. Chairman**, the second largest portion of the budget goes to Ministry Headquarters at ***Three Hundred Million, One Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty Pula (P300,001,130.00)*** or **32%**. The bulk of this budget is shared amongst the Ministry's State-Owned Enterprises comprising of Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH); Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI) and BotswanaPost at ***One Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Ninety-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred Pula (P187,599,700.00)***. The residual allocation is for Personal Emoluments and Other Charges at ***Fifty-Two Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Pula (P52,495,120.00)*** and ***Fifty-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Six Thousand, Three Hundred Pula (P59,906,300.00)***, respectively.

62. The remaining balance of ***Sixty-Two Million, Six Hundred and Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Pula (P62,608,930.00)*** is shared by four Departments as follows: Digital Communications, Infrastructure and Business at ***Twelve Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety Pula (P12,692,290.00)***; Innovation and Technology at ***Twelve Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty Pula (P12,965,230.00)***; Radiation Protection Inspectorate at ***Twenty-One Million, Two***

***Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy Pula (P21,273,870.00)***; and Research & Knowledge Business at ***Fifteen Million, Six Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty Pula (P15,677,540.00)***. These funds will largely be used for Personal Emoluments and core mandates mainly Technology Pitso, Intellectual Property Summer School, Robotics and Coding Competitions, World Telecommunication Information Society Day, World Postal Day as well as Radiation Safety and Security Compliance Inspections and Emergency Response.

### ***2026/2027 DEVELOPMENT BUDGET ESTIMATES***

63. **Mr. Chairman**, I propose the sum of ***Four Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pula (P473,200,000.00)*** for my Ministry's Development Programmes. This budget shall be used for implementation of several projects under three priority areas of Information and Communication Technology; Research and Development; as well as Detection and Disposal of Radioactive Materials.
64. **Mr. Chairman**, the largest share of this budget is proposed to fund Information and Communication Technology Programme at ***Two Hundred and Fifty-One Million Pula (P251,000,000.00)*** or **53%** of the overall Development Budget. Major activities include the Government Data Network Expansion III project at ***Seventy-Five Million Pula (P75,000,000.00)***; Government Online Services (e-Services) project at ***Seventy***

**Million Pula (P70,000,000.00)**; National Backbone Network project at **Sixty-Five Million Pula (P65,000,000.00)**; Cyber Security project at **Thirteen Million Pula (P13,000,000.00)** while **Ten Million Pula (P10,000,000.00)** goes towards the International Connectivity project.

65. **Mr. Chairman,** a total of **Nine Million Pula (P9,000,000.00)** is proposed to be shared between four projects in this order: **Five Million Pula (P5,000,000.00)** for Local Access Network project; **Two Million Pula (P2,000,000.00)** for Government of Botswana Enterprise Architecture and **One Million Pula (P1,000,000.00)** each for Asset, Facilities, Fleet and Fuel Management as well as Land & Geographic Information System projects.
66. **Mr. Chairman,** the remaining **Nine Million Pula (P9,000,000.00)** is proposed to be shared between four new projects in this order: **Four Million Pula (P4,000,000.00)** for Application Programming Interface (API) Management and Licensing project; **Two Million Pula (P2,000,000.00)** each for ICT Policy and Governance Framework and Digital Signature Infrastructure (PKI) and **One Million Pula (P1,000,000.00)** for Documents and Records Management System.
67. The second largest share goes to Research and Development Programme at a total of **Two Hundred and Thirteen Million, Seven Hundred Thousand Pula (P213,700,000.00)** or **29.6%**. The projects to be implemented include those under the

Research Fund proposed at ***One Hundred and Thirty Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Six Thousand Pula (P130,176,000.00)***; Innovation Fund at ***Eight Million Pula (P8,000,000.00)***; while Research Capacity Building and Climate Change Projects, are proposed at ***Five Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pula (P5,750,000.00)***; and ***Four Million Pula (P4,000,000.00)***, respectively.

68. Furthermore **Mr. Chairman**, a total of ***Fourty-Five Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Nine Pula (P45,774,639.00)*** is proposed to complete construction of Block F of the Icon Building at Botswana Innovation Hub.

69. **Mr. Chairman**, I further propose that a total of ***Fifteen Million Pula (P15,000,000.00)*** under the Implementation of Research, Science, Technology and Innovation project be approved to finance the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project including its capacity building related activities while the Botswana Satellite 1 (BOTSAT-1) project is proposed at ***Five Million Pula (P5,000,000.00)*** to continue the ongoing works of this project.

70. The Detection and Disposal of Radioactive Materials Programme takes the smallest share of ***Eight Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P8,500,000.00)*** or **1.8%** of my Ministry's Development Budget. The proposed funds will pay for the construction costs of the Orphan Radioactive Storage Facility project in Palapye as well as for installation of a Border Detection

System at Pioneer Border Gate at ***Eight Million Pula (P8,000,000.00)*** and ***Five Hundred Thousand Pula (500,000.00)***, respectively.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

71. **Mr. Chairman**, this concludes my Ministry's presentation for the 2026/2027 financial year's Recurrent and Development Budget proposals. I now move that the sum of ***Nine Hundred and Fourty-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Nine Hundred Pula (P949,920,900.00)*** for the Recurrent Budget for Head 2400 be approved and stand part of the Schedule of the Appropriation (2026/2027) Bill No. 1 of 2026; and that the sum of ***Four Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pula (P473,200,000.00)*** for Development Budget for Head 2400 together with the Sub Heads, be approved and stand part of those Estimates.

72. I thank you **Mr. Chairman**.