



COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SPEECH

ORGANISATION 3200

LAND TRIBUNAL

BY

**MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES**

HONOURABLE RAMAOTWANA N RAMAOTWANA

MARCH 2026

I. INTRODUCTION

1. **Mr. Chairman**, I have the honor to present the 2026/2027 Budget proposals for the Land Tribunal, for consideration by this Honorable House.

II. MANDATE

2. **Mr. Chairman**, the Land Tribunal was established by Section 3 of the Land Tribunal Act, to adjudicate appeals emanating from decisions of Land Boards in terms of the Tribal Land Act, (CAP 32;02) and Planning Authorities, in terms of the Town and Country Planning Act (CAP 32;09). It does this by ensuring that both the Land Boards and Planning Authorities arrive at fair and equitable decisions according to mandate legislations.
3. **Mr. Chairman**, before I present the budget proposals, let me update this house on the achievements and challenges encountered by the Tribunal during the 2025/2026 financial year.

III. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE DURING 2025/2026

4. **Mr. Chairman**, the Land Tribunal remains committed to fostering a culture of integrity and accountability within public office, specifically land disputes resolutions. To this end, initiatives are underway to provide Batswana with a speedy, less cumbersome, efficient and affordable land disputes resolution mechanism. This endeavor

underscores a steadfast commitment of classifying land or a shelter as basic human right and disputes relating to land are approached along that line.

5. **Mr. Chairman**, Land Tribunal's current performance is satisfactory, save for backlog of unheard cases at Gaborone Division. During the current financial year up to January 2026, the Land Tribunal registered 156 landboard appeals with 109 completed, yielding a 70% completion rate. During the same period all 9 planning appeals received were finalized, achieving a 100% completion rate.
6. **Mr Chairman**, we are furthermore faced with the issue of limited resources, including inadequate funding, staff shortage and poor infrastructure which affect the Tribunal's efficiency and outreach, especially in remote areas.
7. Another challenge **Mr. Chairman**, is that many Citizens are not fully aware of the Land Tribunal's role, procedures, nor their right to appeal Land Board decisions. Some of them may even struggle to access services due to distance, transport costs or lack of regional offices.
8. Incomplete, inconsistent or poorly kept Land Board records also can weaken cases and slow down proceedings.

REMEDIAL ACTIONS

9. **Mr. Chairman**, the Land Tribunal is undergoing a process of internal review and proposal for structural transformation, continuously, the

aim being to serve Botswana timeously and also deliver judgements that will stand when reviewed by upper courts. In order to achieve this, there is need for improved resources to train presiding officers and support staff on emerging land issues placed before the Land Tribunal.

10. **Mr. Chairman,** to increase and improve access to justice by Botswana, as well as reducing the cost of litigating one's rights to land, the Land Tribunal, in the 2024/2025 financial year, commenced the process of amending the Land Tribunal Act proposing to elevate it to a High Court level.
11. **Mr. Chairman,** in this regard, the Land Tribunal is presently at an advanced phase of transformation and upgrading. It is currently in consultations with stakeholders, with the view to weigh options on how best it could be part and parcel of the current Specialized Court approach by our Administration of Justice.
12. **Mr. Chairman,** the country is currently in the process of constitutional transformation. There is therefore a need to reform land adjudication and integrate the Land Tribunal into a new judicial hierarchy in order to align with the envisaged Constitutional Court.
13. The utilization of Circuit Courts, which is a mechanism through which land disputes resolutions are taken directly and closer to the people, has contributed to the timeous resolution of cases. The above-mentioned mechanism also plays a critical role in resolving the backlog eradication.

IV. BUDGET UTILISATION OF 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

14. **Mr. Chairman**, the Land Tribunal was allocated an amount of **Fifty Million, Two Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety Pula (P50,265,290)** for the Recurrent Budget. There were no funds allocated for the development budget.

15. As at 28th February 2026, expenditure stood at **Thirty-eight Million, Three Hundred and Forty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety-Eight Pula (P38,343,598)** or **76%** of the approved budget. The slight under-expenditure is attributed mainly to the travel and procurement moratoriums which have impacted on activities that were scheduled for the 2025/2026 financial year.

V. 2026/2027 BUDGET PROPOSALS

RECURRENT BUDGET

16. **Mr. Chairman**, I request an amount of **Fifty-One Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-four Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy Pula (P51,954,670)** for the recurrent budget. This represents an increase of **One million, six hundred and eighty-nine thousand, three hundred and eighty pula(P1,689,380.00)** or **3%** over the 2025/2026 approved budget of **Fifty Million, Two Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety Pula (P50,265,290)**. There is no provision for development budget.

17. **Mr. Chairman**, allow me to outline the major items that comprise this budget proposal. The large share of the budget proposal for 2026/2027 is under Personnel Emoluments at a sum of **Thirty-two Million and four hundred and eighty-six thousand, four Hundred and eleven Pula (P32,486,411)**. This constitutes 65% of the budget. The second largest share of the budget is under the major accounts that support the Core mandate at the sum of **eleven million, forty thousand and twenty-nine pula (P11, 040,029)** and the rest of the budget is accounted for under various accounts, which is **seven million, eight hundred and forty-six thousand, five hundred pula (P7,846,500)**.

VI. CONCLUSION

18. **Mr. Chairman**, this concludes my budget proposal for **Organisation 3200-Department of Land Tribunal**. I now move that the sum of **Fifty-One Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-four Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy Pula (P51,954,670)**, under the recurrent budget for Organisation 3200 be approved and stand part of the Schedule of the Appropriation (2026/2027) Bill, 2026 (Bill No.1 of 2026).
19. I move accordingly. Thank you, **Mr. Chairman**.