



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SPEECH
FOR ORGANISATION 3300
THE CONSOLIDATED AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS ESTIMATES
2026/2027**

BY

**HONOURABLE PRINCE MAELE
MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**DELIVERED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON
23rd MARCH, 2026**

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Mr. Chairman,** I have the honour to present to this Honourable House, the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) budget proposals for the 2026/2027 financial year under Organization 3300. My budget request, as shown in the estimates, is ambitious, though it is not sufficient to address the much needed technical and vocational education (TVET) and maintenance of educational facilities requirements. The budget estimates reflect my desire, and indeed my commitment and responsibility to transform our country from a resource-based to a knowledge-based economy through educational transformation in particular the revitalization of TVET. My ministry places human capital development at the centre of Botswana's economic transformation agenda, recognizing higher education, technical training, and skills development as critical enablers of productivity, innovation, and sustainable job creation.
- 2. Mr. Chairman,** Botswana has made notable strides in terms of its vision of having an educated and informed nation however, there has been stagnation in productivity of these skills hence the need for a transformative and supportive higher education and skills development system that is relevant, responsive, inclusive, and globally competitive.
- 3. Mr. Chairman,** my Ministry continues to prioritize the revitalisation of Technical and Vocational Education Training and industry partnerships, curriculum and assessment modernisation, optimisation and development of multidisciplinary centres of excellence, enhancement of the national education blueprint, transformation of teacher education, upgrading and rationalisation of Institute of Health Sciences (IHS), industry-led upskilling,

and staff- welfare. These initiatives directly support National Development Plan 12 (NDP12) objectives of addressing skills mismatches, enhancing employability, and promoting economic diversification.

- 4.** Furthermore, **Mr. Chairman** the Ministry remains committed to expanding equitable access to tertiary education through sustainable financing mechanisms, strengthening partnerships with industry and the private sector, and improving institutional governance and accountability. It is against this background that 2026/27 budget made provision for the development of a tertiary education financing policy which will guide how tertiary education will be funded in a sustainable, equitable, and efficient manner.

- 5.** In line with NDP 12's emphasis on fiscal consolidation, my Ministry is also implementing measures to enhance cost containment, promote third-stream income generation, and ensure value for money in the utilization of public resources.

- 6. Mr. Chairman,** in order to achieve our transformative agenda, it is paramount that we reform our learning institutions and transform the quality of education throughout the Brigades; Technical Colleges, Institute of Health Sciences, Colleges of Education and Universities. **Mr. Chairman,** allow me to speak to the work on the ground by my ministry in efforts to realise our mandate.

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING

RAPID SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- 7. Mr. Chairman,** the Construction Industry Trust Fund (CITF) has been transformed into a Rapid Skills Development Centre (RSDC). This was done through legislative review in order to align RSDC programmes with the new government's vision on the prioritisation of TVET. The transformation will ensure that the RSDC now trains for all sectors of the economy, as opposed to only construction and allied trades as it was previously the case. As part of the transformation, the RSDC footprint around country is being expanded to support and sustain rural economies with the intention of mitigating against rural-urban migration by supporting and strengthening sustainable jobs in the rural areas.
- 8.** By the end of December 2025, RSDC enrolled a total of **3 440** trainees at all its training centres, inclusive of Ikageng Public Works Programme which has enrolled **2 053** trainees. This is notwithstanding the fact that some RSDC facilities are operating below full capacity while still waiting for the completion of the necessary infrastructure and introduction of new programmes.
- 9. Mr. Chairman,** my ministry is in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs through RSDC in the implementation of the re-engineered Ikageng Public Works Programme to deliver government projects ranging from LA2 staff Houses, Classroom Blocks, Kgotla Shelters, Market Shelters, Road Paving, etc. During the 2025/26 financial year, RSDC employed a total of **522** contract employees (Facilitators) in **87** building and

road construction projects to facilitate the transfer of skills to beneficiaries using a hybrid training approach of Training with Production (TWP) and Competency Based Modular Training (CBMT) methodology. The skills acquired through this programme include Bricklaying & Plastering, Carpentry, Painting, Electrical Installation, Plumbing, Tiling and Road Paving. When candidates attain the required levels of competence, they are awarded CITF certificates at National Credit and Qualification Framework (NCQF) Level 3.

10. Mr. Chairman, RSDC is also in the process of implementing an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system that will help the organisation to automate its processes and deliver more quality services to Botswana. This is in line with the Botswana Digital Transformation Strategy (SmartBots). The system is expected to amongst other things, but not limited to the elimination of deficiency of interfaces between multiple and diverse systems, coupled with the absence of an effective and user-friendly data extraction and reporting tools. The system is expected to be completed by the end of the 2026/2027 financial year.

11. Mr. Chairman, during the 2026/27 financial year, RSDC will start construction of three new Satellite Centres at Kazungula, Seronga and Bokspits as part of a drive to equip Botswana with requisite occupational skills needed to sustain livelihoods in those areas. In the spirit of increasing the enrolment capacity, satellite centres at Thamaga, Chadibe and Moreomaoto will be expanded. The expansion will include amongst other the building of hostels in remote areas like Moreomaoto while in other places the expansion will include building new workshop facilities and offices for staff members.

MAINTENANCE OF HIGHER/TERTIARY EDUCATION FACILITIES

- 12. Mr. Chairman,** the maintenance of education facilities remains a critical priority for Government during the 2026/27 financial year. Well-maintained infrastructure is fundamental to the delivery of quality education, learner safety, staff welfare, and the optimal utilization of public investment in the education sector. In recognition of this, Government has prioritized maintenance and refurbishment of existing education facilities across all levels of education in line with National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) and Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP).
- 13.** During the 2026/27 financial year, the focus of the maintenance programme will be on **rehabilitation, upgrading, and life-cycle preservation** of existing infrastructure rather than extensive new construction. This approach supports Government's fiscal consolidation agenda while ensuring that learning environments remain safe, functional, and conducive to teaching, learning, and skills development. Funds have been provided for the maintenance and upgrading of facilities at Universities, Technical Colleges, Brigades, Colleges of Education, and Institutes of Health Sciences.
- 14. Mr. Chairman,** as a cost-containment and skills development measure, the Ministry will utilize students and trainees from Technical Colleges and Brigades to undertake selected maintenance works as part of their practical training. Institutions offering automotive trades will conduct minor servicing and selected repairs on government vehicles under supervision. This Training-with-Production approach enhances hands-on

learning, reduces maintenance costs, and accelerates the acquisition of employable skills while ensuring value for money.

15. **Mr. Chairman**, trainees will manufacture protective clothing for Ministry of Higher Education facilities, beginning with two-piece overalls and expanding to additional garments in other sectors.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HRDC)

16. **Mr. Chairman**, the need for coherent and aligned policies in human resource development cannot be overemphasized. As one nation our policies should present vertical and horizontal integration and alignment as the target is one, our people. A project will be carried out in 2026-27 to assess and align our policies at all levels of human resource development such that we ensure relevance to achieve outcomes and impact expected of our planning frameworks being the Vision 2036, National Development Plan 12 and the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme.

17. HRDC continues to produce annual reports on priority occupations and skills required by the labour market. These reports provide guidance on current, emerging, and future skills to support strategic planning, inform decision-making and career guidance and planning. To strengthen the quantitative component of this work, HRDC will in 2026/27, develop the Human Resource Development Forecasting Model capable of robustly informing projections of the priority occupations.

18. **Mr. Chairman**, as an effort to develop skills surrounding environmental conservation for sustainable livelihoods, I am pleased to inform this house that my Ministry, through the HRDC, has secured a two-

year UNDP Grant of **USD 49,904.00 (Forty-Nine Thousand, Nine-hundred and Four US Dollars)** for the implementation of the Community-Led Capacity Development for Panhandle Communities. The project aims to address environmental conservation skills deficiencies amongst communities.

19. Mr. Chairman, HRDC continues to pursue alignment of human capital to the industry skills requirement. To this end, in 2026/27 HRDC will spearhead, industry-led upskilling project piloting with Textile and Leather industry. The project aims at addressing youth unemployment by retooling young people for employment and business start-ups. The re-tooling process will be demand-led, ensuring that training targets employer defined skills gaps for immediate absorption into the labour market.

20. Mr. Chairman, my Ministry has successfully completed **Phase I** of the Botswana Labour Market Information System. The project commenced in February 2023 and, while initially scheduled for completion in October 2024, experienced implementation delays arising from external system integration challenges, slower stakeholder engagement, extensive content development requirements, administrative processes, competing institutional priorities, and technical deployment and quality assurance issues.

21. Notwithstanding these challenges, the LMIS Portal is now fully operational. It hosts comprehensive modules covering economic sectors, education and training, occupations, and career guidance, alongside a fully functional employment services component supporting employer and jobseeker registration, vacancy posting, job search and application, and automated job matching.

- 22. Mr. Chairman,** key system integrations have been completed with the National Identification System, Companies and Intellectual Property Authority, the 1Gov SMS Gateway, and the Immigration and Citizenship System, while integration with the Work Permit System is ongoing. The LMIS.stat interface is operational, and both the Employment Information and Education Information subsystems are complete. Quality Assurance has confirmed system readiness, achieving a 98 percent pass rate as at December 2025.
- 23.** To consolidate these achievements and ensure effective rollout and sustainability, an amount of P8 million is proposed for the 2026/27 financial year to implement **Phase II**. The funding will support final contractor payments, system rollout and maintenance, content development, stakeholder data management warehouse development, progressive integration with 16 external stakeholder data sources and visualization, stakeholder engagement and capacity building, and the strengthening of strategic partnerships. This phase is expected to take 24 months starting in April 2026 and ending in March 2028.
- 24. Mr. Chairman,** the LMIS will play a critical role in monitoring and evaluating key national development and human capital policies, including the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, National Development Plan 12, the National Employment Policy, the National Human Resource Development Strategy, and other active labour market programmes.
- 25.** Upon completion, a structured handover of LMIS modules will be undertaken with the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs (MLHA) and the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM). Under MLHA, the system will support the operations of the Department of Employment Services and District Labour Offices by enabling end-to-end employment service delivery,

employment returns management, and broader labour administration functions. The handover will facilitate nationwide rollout, clarify institutional mandates, and strengthen public confidence.

- 26.** In parallel, the LMIS jobseeker–employer matching platform will be handed over to DPSM to support Public Service recruitment through a consolidated national jobseeker database, advanced matching and shortlisting tools, and real-time analytics. This will modernize recruitment processes, improve efficiency and transparency, and integrate Public Service recruitment into the broader national labour market ecosystem, while strengthening collaboration and accountability.

BOTSWANA QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (BQA)

- 27. Mr. Chairman,** BQA registered 1153 Qualifications on the NCQF compared to 991 in March 2025. Accredited Learning Programmes stands at 1185 against 948 in 2025. Evaluated Qualifications stands at 8446 compared to 7583 qualifications that were evaluate by March 2025. To date, the Authority has registered and accredited 128 TVET Education and Training Providers (ETPs), against 91 in 2025, 62 HE ETPs against 59 in 2025. Consultancies ETPs stand at 836 compared to 739 in 2025.

- 28. Mr. Chairman,** in line with the BQA mandate, and a quest to support the NDP12's agenda to Enhance Human Capital Development, the Authority has developed key strategic policies such as, Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). The RPL policy enables workers and community learners to have informal, non-formal and experiential learning assessed and recognized. This way it opens progression and employability pathways particularly for TVET, artisans and emergent occupations.

- 29. Mr. Chairman,** the other key policy that has been developed is Policy on Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS). This policy is geared towards creating seamless learner mobility by allowing credit banking and transfer across institutions and subsystems, strengthening articulation and supporting lifelong learning. These policies have been developed, approved and the roll out to stakeholders began in February 2026.
- 30. Mr. Chairman,** it is worth noting that BQA has completed the development of Norms and Standards for Higher Education and TVET. These should be rolled out during the first quarter of 2026/27 financial year.
- 31. Mr. Chairman,** BQA has applied for an independent review by Harmonization of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency. This is an initiative established by Africa EU to support the development of harmonized, high-quality assurance and accreditation systems across African higher education institutions, national QA agencies, and regional bodies. The HAQAA team is expected to be in Botswana to conduct the BQA review between September and November 2026.
- 32. Mr. Chairman,** BQA in the process of aligning the NCQF to the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF). This will enhance cross-border recognition, learner and worker mobility, and comparability of Botswana's qualifications. The referencing exercise will explicitly incorporate micro-credentials and part-qualifications to future-proof portability. Progress has already been made in relation to the alignment to ACQF.
- 33. Mr. Chairman,** to support rapid skills development, BQA will introduce a micro-credentials framework under the NCQF to certify short, targeted learning outcomes that respond rapidly to labour-market needs. Micro-credentials are short, focused, quality-assured learning certifications that formally recognize a learner's achievement of specific, targeted

competencies required by industry, employers, or emerging economic sectors. They represent smaller, stackable units of learning in our context, these could be Technical and Vocational, digital skill areas such as Solar PV Installation Basics, Plumbing Repairs Micro-Skill, Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning Safety, Forklift operations, Introduction to Cybersecurity, and Using AI tools in the Workplace, to state but a few. These would not lead to any qualification, but they respond to the need for short, verifiable, job-ready skills.

TERTIARY EDUCATION FINANCING

34. Mr. Chairman, my Ministry has been on a continuous effort to facilitating access to finances for our students to study in Botswana and abroad. Currently, a total of 44 506 students are being sponsored with 11 761 started to benefit during the financial year 2025/2026. Of these 44 506 students, 43 732 are enrolled in local institutions while 774 are in external institutions.

35. Mr. Chairman, The 11 761 total for new students included **10 794 new students** under DTEF inclusive of **1 424** students under the **Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Remote Area Dwellers and Special Education Needs (OVC/RAD/SEN)** category, 62 under Top Achievers Programme as well as 967 students under the four Department of Teacher Training (TT&TE) technical colleges; Gaborone Technical College (GTC), Oodi College of Applied Arts and Technology (OCAAT), Botswana College of Engineering and Technology (BCET) and Francistown College of Technical and Vocational Education (FCTVE). It is also worth noting that out of the 10 794 new students, **8 464 or 78%** were placed in the Health, Science and Technology, Business and Financial Services, Education and

Engineering. During 2025, a total of 4 160 students graduated from local institutions against an anticipated 6 680, which is 62% graduation rate.

- 36. Mr. Chairman,** the Ministry has made considerable effort in improving service delivery in line with Government digitalization transformation agenda through implementation of the on-line services platform to facilitate on-line application and automatic processing of tertiary education financing requests. This has reduced service turnaround time and improved access to tertiary financing services.
- 37. Mr. Chairman,** for the financial year 2025/2026 the Ministry had budgeted to collect P20 Million Pula towards student loan recoveries. As at December 2025, collection stood at **Six million, nine hundred and forty-three thousand, one hundred and twenty-three pula and six thebe** (P6 943 123. 06) or 34% against an annual target of P20 Million. The under-collection of student loans is due to high unemployment rate, challenges experienced in tracking and tracing of beneficiaries, particularly in the private sector severely limited the Ministry's ability to recover from beneficiaries.
- 38. Mr. Chairman,** this is a serious challenge contributing to budget shortfalls as my Ministry continues to experience budget shortfall both in the student training budget and operational budget due to the limited ceiling. For the 2024/2025 financial year the Ministry experienced a budget shortfall under Tuition Fees amounting to **Seven hundred and eighty-five million, nine hundred and fifteen thousand, seven hundred and forty-five pula and thirty-five thebe (P785, 915,745.35)** which were paid off in the first quarter of the current 2025/2026 financial year. As a result, the Ministry anticipates an estimated shortfall of **One billion, one**

hundred and twenty-nine million, four hundred and twenty-nine thousand, five hundred and eighty-eight pula and fourteen thebe (P1 129 429 588.14) consisting of shortfall for Semester 1 (August to December 2025) estimated at **Two hundred and thirty-four million, one hundred and sixty-seven thousand, nine hundred and seventy pula and ninety thebe (P234 167 970.90)** and Semester 2 (January to June 2026) estimated at **Eight hundred and ninety-five million, two hundred and sixty-one thousand, six hundred and seventeen pula and twenty thebe (P895 261 617.20)**. Further, the Ministry had initially planned to increase students' allowances to P2,500.00 in April 2026. However, this has not been possible due to prevailing budgetary constraints. These fiscal limitations have also affected the Ministry's ability to extend sponsorship for progression and re-sponsorships. Notwithstanding these challenges, the Ministry is working tirelessly to increase students' allowances this financial year as soon as funds are sourced.

- 39. Mr. Chairman,** in efforts to alleviate this huge challenge the Ministry intends to develop a department of tertiary education financing policy aimed at better facilitating sponsorships, improve sustainability and cost recovery. The sponsorship was meant to be a revolving fund however due to poor loans recovery it has become costly to government and needs relevant mechanisms in place supported by the right infrastructure for productive implementation.

INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- 40. Mr. Chairman,** The Institute of Health Sciences (IHS) continues to play a pivotal role in the development of Health Human Resources in Nursing

and Allied Health disciplines. The institution remains a health training provider of choice, offering transformative education that produces globally competent and competitive health professionals. IHS is internationally recognized and contributes meaningfully to employment creation for youth, both locally and internationally.

41. The institution is currently undertaking comprehensive curriculum modernization initiatives. These include the implementation of Outcome-Based Education (OBE), alignment of programmes to the National Credit and Qualifications Framework (NCQF), and the upgrading of selected programmes to Bachelor's Degree and Postgraduate Diploma levels.

42. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report that IHS has successfully upgraded the Ophthalmic Nursing programme to Postgraduate Diploma level. It is further envisaged that the Postgraduate Diploma in Community Health Nursing will soon follow pending approval by the regulatory body. The programme is scheduled to enroll its first cohort in the 2026/2027 financial year at the Institute of Health Sciences Molepolole.

43. Additionally, IHS plan to introduce an Honours Degree in Nursing at IHS Gaborone in the 2026/2027 financial year. Preparations are underway to adopt the programme in collaboration with one of the institutional partners.

UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

44. Mr. Chairman, the University of Botswana continues to play a pivotal role in advancing the Government's human capital development, research, and innovation agenda, in line with the National Development Plan 12, the

Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, and the priorities outlined in the 2025 State of the Nation Address.

- 45. Mr. Chairman,** under teaching, learning, and human capital development the University has intensified curriculum modernization through the implementation of Outcome-Based Education, strengthened quality assurance systems, and expanded the use of digital and blended learning platforms. Teaching and learning programmes increasingly embed Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Information and Communication Technology, and entrepreneurship to ensure graduates possess industry-relevant and future-ready skills aligned to national labour market needs.
- 46.** In response to emerging skill demands and digital transformation, the University has developed new Artificial Intelligence and advanced engineering programmes that are currently undergoing accreditation. Teacher education programmes have also been revised to support the national Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) agenda, while short courses are being offered to upskill in-service teachers across the education sector.
- 47. Mr. Chairman,** during the 2025 academic year, the University enrolled 21,445 students and graduated 3,601 graduates across doctoral, master's, diploma, and certificate levels. To strengthen national research capacity, the University is implementing initiatives to increase postgraduate enrolments and graduations to at least fifteen percent of total enrolments over the next three years through graduate assistantships and industry-supported sponsorships.
- 48. Mr. Chairman,** in regards to research, innovation, and knowledge economy development the University has launched a new strategic direction that is anchored on research and innovation. The implementation of

strategic initiatives is now underway to drive economic diversification, and foster innovation-led growth.

49. The University of Botswana has demonstrated notable performance in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, reinforcing its position as one of Africa's leading institutions of higher learning. The University has consistently ranked among the top 1,000 universities globally, with improvements in key performance indicators such as research output, teaching quality, and international outlook. This recognition highlights the institution's growing academic influence and commitment to advancing knowledge in critical areas such as climate change and sustainability. Aligned with Botswana's climate change and clean energy agenda, University researchers actively participated in the United Nations Climate Conference, positioning Botswana within emerging carbon markets and unlocking clean energy investment opportunities.

50. The University is also collaborating with the Government on clean energy transition research and playing a pivotal role in the development of the National Research and Innovation Council Bill, which seeks to enhance the coordination of the national research and innovation ecosystem. The Okavango Research Institute continues to serve as a national and regional centre of excellence, providing vital research, policy support, and capacity building in water resources management, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.

51. Mr. Chairman, innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization are important and the University's Innovation Pod (UniPod) remains a strategic instrument for advancing the national economic transformation agenda and the aspirations of Vision 2036. By strengthening entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and innovation-led enterprise

development, UniPod aims to contribute directly to economic diversification, job creation, and the transition to a knowledge-based economy.

52. Through structured incubation, innovation financing, and skills development programmes, the University supports students, researchers, and early-stage entrepreneurs to translate research and ideas into viable enterprises. Currently, **Mr. Chairman**, the UniPod supports 20 active start-ups operating in priority sectors aligned with national development objectives, including agri-business and food security, health and bio-innovation, digital technologies and artificial intelligence, clean energy, mobility, and community-based commerce.

53. **Mr. Chairman**, these initiatives promote inclusive growth, with strong participation by youth and women, and contribute to building national innovation capacity and private sector development, in line with Vision 2036's pillars of sustainable economic development, human and social development, and innovation. Notably, the University has filed its first patent application, marking a key milestone in the commercialization of research outputs and reinforcing the University's role in translating publicly funded research into tangible socio-economic impact.

54. **Mr. Chairman**, in efforts to better implementation and enhance institutional efficiency, infrastructure, and financial sustainability the University of Botswana has undertaken a comprehensive organizational restructuring process aimed at streamlining operations, improving institutional efficiency, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability. These reforms are explicitly aligned to Vision 2036, National Development Plan 12, and the Government's Green Economy agenda, and are positioning the University as a high-performance institution capable of delivering effectively on its core mandates of teaching, research and innovation, and societal engagement.

- 55.** As part of its sustainability, cost-containment, and green transition initiatives under Vision 2036 and NDP 12, the University successfully implemented the first phase of its Solar Energy Project, delivering 815 kilowatts of installed capacity. The second phase of the project is scheduled to become operational in 2026 and will deliver an additional 4.7 megawatts of clean energy, significantly reducing electricity costs and the institution's carbon footprint.
- 56. Mr. Chairman,** the University is also implementing a water purification plant, which will purify approximately 85 percent of its current water consumption, directly supporting national water security objectives under NDP 12. In addition, six student residences have been fitted with solar hot water systems that substantially reduce electricity usage, while water-saving infrastructure installed in student residences has reduced water consumption by approximately 40 percent.
- 57. Mr. Chairman,** the Solar Energy Project, water purification plant, water-saving infrastructure, and solar hot water systems have all been implemented through Public Private Partnership arrangements which is one of the priorities of government, demonstrating innovative infrastructure financing models that advance the Green Economy agenda while reducing pressure on the public fiscal capacity. Through these interventions, the University of Botswana aims to position itself as the first Green University Campus in Botswana, and one of the first in Africa, by the end of 2027.
- 58. Mr. Chairman,** the university as part of their strategic outlook, the University of Botswana will focus on strengthening postgraduate training and research excellence, expanding innovation and technology commercialization, deepening industry and international partnerships, and advancing sustainable financing mechanisms, including the exploration of a university endowment fund during the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

BOTSWANA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- 59. Mr. Chairman,** Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources continues to produce innovative graduates, impactful research and sustainable solutions, that advance agriculture and natural resource management to be a transformative and globally recognised University.
- 60.** During the Transitional National Development Plan, the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources successfully completed its key capital project, the construction of new laboratories, lecture halls, a chemical store and associated external works, at a total investment of about P79.5 million, with all key components completed. As we enter NDP 12, BUAN now presents a strong pipeline of transformational projects that align with our national priorities under Vision 2036, National Transformation Strategy and Botswana Economic Transformation Programme. Sebele Bio-City Project, a P1.7 billion flagship project that will convert 492 hectares of the BUAN Sebele farm into a modern biotechnology and agro-industrial hub will be prioritised and developed in partnership with the private sector. This project combines advanced vertical farming, agro-processing industries, research and development platforms, a botanical garden, and mixed-use residential and commercial precincts. Once implemented, Sebele Bio-City is projected to generate more than 2,500 direct and indirect jobs while strengthening Botswana's position as a regional centre for sustainable agriculture, bio-innovation and high-value manufacturing.
- 61. Mr Chairman,** to support the national goal of growing the cattle herd to five million and addressing long-standing shortages in veterinary and animal health expertise, the Ministry through BUAN's proposes to establish the country's first Veterinary School of Medicine in the Kgatleng area. This

initiative will also produce innovative graduates equipped for modern commercial agriculture, agribusiness and value chain development.

62. Mr. Chairman, BUAN has also outlined several strategic projects for NDP 12, including investments in renewable energy, such as solar, green hydrogen, and biomass technologies, the development of a School of Tourism and Hospitality, the establishment of model farms and Centres of Excellence, the expansion of satellite campuses, and a comprehensive institutional infrastructure modernization programme.

63. Mr. Chairman, in support to the priorities of government of revitalizing TVET the University also plans to develop a Business School to strengthen agribusiness and entrepreneurship capabilities, expand Technical and Vocational Education and Training offerings in agriculture and processing, upscale the Glen Valley water purification plant to enhance water security, and transform the Meat Industry Training Institute into a fully-fledged Meat Research Institute. The entity also has a Centre for In-Service Continuing Education (CICE) which plays a pivotal role in strengthening Botswana's agricultural workforce and enhancing the country's capacity for agricultural transformation. Through the short courses, professional development, community training, and industry-focused programmes CICE ensures that farmers, agricultural workers, youth, extension officers, and agribusiness actors gain practical, relevant, and up to date skills.

64. Collectively, Mr. Chairman these initiatives reflect Ministry's commitment to supporting economic diversification, promoting youth employment, advancing skills development, and building competitive agricultural and manufacturing value chains. They represent high- impact opportunities that will contribute meaningfully to Botswana's long-term growth and transformation, and the Government remains committed to

facilitating their successful implementation in collaboration with private sector partners and development stakeholders.

65. Furthermore **Mr. Chairman**, in support of all these ground breaking initiatives BUAN will partner with farmers, private sector, Government and international partners to convert scientific insights into practical solutions and assist in delivering the national Agenda of increasing domestic production, enhancing food security and transitioning Botswana's agriculture towards a higher value technology driven output.

66. **Mr. Chairman**, let me share with this house that, BUAN has an investment arm (BUAN Enterprises (PTY) Ltd) which has a subsidiary (Agrivolt BE (Pty) Ltd) in partnership with a private company called Market Vest which operates a 1MW Agrivoltaic plant at the BUAN campus in Sebele. It combines food with solar electricity generation on the same piece of land. This plant provides electricity to the BUAN main campus during the day and sells surplus power to the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC). This project will go a long way in the country achieving sustainable use of resources and use of land and management. BUAN is also planning to establish a school to train and accredit solar equipment installers through a short course program.

67. BUAN Enterprises (BE) have an operational water purification plant which is used for irrigation purposes. The company (BE) is also in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs on the Sechaba Farms Program. In this collaboration, the Ministry has already given the University 100 hectares of land in Mmankgodi, and the project will involve agriculture and natural resources start-ups targeting out of school youth. The other arm of the University Business Development (BUAN Consult (PTY) Ltd) concentrates on consulting services and is currently offering services to Ministries of Environment and Tourism, Lands and Agriculture and Water and Human Settlement.

- 68. Mr Chairman** it is also worth noting that, BUAN is also involved in Safflower production which is a climate and multipurpose crop that produces high quality cooking oil equivalent or better than olive oil. It is drought, heat, cold and saline tolerant with many uses in food, textile, pharmaceutical and industrial purposes. Currently farmers have been trained in Boteti, Molepolole, Tati West, Borolong, Kgatleng and Pandamatenga. Secondary schools are also targeted and Moeng College is one such school where the University collaborated with the school on a safflower project.
- 69.** Further, BUAN is also doing research on dryland rice in collaboration with African Agriculture. This is an important project that is working on production of rice that does not need a lot of water and this project in its success will contribute towards food security. Rice is the primary source of energy for over half of the world's populace, and contains considerable amounts of fibre, protein, vitamin B, iron, and manganese, as such it can play a vital role against malnutrition and food security. Trials are on-going in Sebele (BUAN), Serowe, Sefhare, Mochudi, Lentsweletau and Mosesedi farms.
- 70. Mr. Chairman,** BUAN in collaboration with Conservation International and the Government of Botswana are running an innovation and transformative project on "Ecosystem based adaptation and mitigation in Botswana's communal rangelands for ecosystem and livelihood resilience". The funders of the project are Green Climate Fund. The main purpose of the project is to curb ecosystem challenges encountered such as degradation, poor animal conditions, disease outbreaks and market exclusions. This will be achieved by training 6000 participants (eco rangers, restoration workers, monitors) by the end of the project in 2029 through Centre for In Service and Continuing Education (CICE) in BUAN. A Herding for health model will be used with the transformative intentions which focuses on "re-purposing

Ipelegeng programme, creating professional qualification for herders, restoring rangelands to improve livestock conditions, empowering women and youth in livestock sector and sustaining by unlocking livestock value chains". The project sites are Bobirwa, Ngamiland and Kgalagadi where there are experiences of human wildlife conflicts.

BOTSWANA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (BIUST)

- 71.** **Mr Chairman,** the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) is mid-way in implementing its 5-year Transformative Strategy (2023-2028), which facilitates delivery of its mandate and its national obligation of contributing to the country's transition from a mineral-led to a knowledge-based economy.
- 72.** **Mr. Chairman,** through its specialised programmes in Science, Technology, Engineering, and ICT, Botswana International University of Science and Technology equips its graduates with the advanced technical competencies and critical-thinking capabilities necessary to propel industrialisation and digital transformation, both of which constitute foundational pillars of the contemporary economy, increasingly shaped and accelerated by rapid advances in Artificial Intelligence.
- 73.** The University continuously engages in impactful applied research addressing national challenges in energy, mining, water, and climate, while promoting entrepreneurship and technology commercialisation to convert knowledge into economic value. By collaborating with industry, government, and international partners, BIUST strengthens Botswana's science,

technology, and innovation ecosystem, supporting economic diversification and sustainable development.

74. Mr. Chairman BIUST continues its academic excellence Strategic Drive through notable upward trajectory in student enrolment. The University recorded a steady increase in students' enrolment below 700 in 2014 to 3112 in the current academic year. Graduation rates have stabilised at around 75-78% completion across all levels (Undergraduate and Postgraduate) within the normal study period, with postgraduate throughput improving as a result of heightened student support programmes.

75. Mr. Chairman the University strategically restructured its academic structures by transitioning from Faculties to Schools in response to industry, labour market and national priorities. Inherently, this transition framework allows the university to offer cross-cutting curricula that integrates Engineering, Life Science, Business and Earth Sciences. This transitional move has been augmented by the development of responsive learning programmes. Resultantly, programme expansion has included new specialisation in energy systems, data science, biotechnology and environmental engineering.

76. Mr. Chairman the University has recently concluded the Student Centre project which has delivered the following benefits: Enhanced Learning Spaces; Access to Recreational Facilities; Access to Infotainment Facilities. It should also be noted that the University is in the process of constructing the Teaching & Learning Centre and student residences (a PPP project) which will increase enrolment.

77. Mr. Chairman, BIUST has strategically positioned itself for advanced entrepreneurial drive by partnering with the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology (MIT) to deliver student empowerment entrepreneurship fellowship and MASA Innovation programme.

78. Operationalisation of the School of Business and Professional Development within the University offers entrepreneurial skills and business acumen to students. Additionally, the school initiated the BIUST Entrepreneurship Hub coupled with Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bootcamps. Mr Chairman, these value-adding efforts have been bolstered by industry-responsive accredited short courses.

79. Mr. Chairman, the University has been able to attain noticeable strides relating to global, regional and local rankings. BIUST has been ranked in the 2025 Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR). Over 2,000 institutions from 115 countries and territories have been ranked. BIUST maintained its positions on the World University Rankings at band 1201-1500. The institution was ranked 1st locally and 19th regionally.

80. Mr. Chairman, the University has attained the following Research Chairs: The OR Tambo Africa Research Chair on Climate Change Adaptation in Water, Vegetation and Livestock Resources - funded for five years from 2021 and further supported by the German Ministry of Education and Research; The UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Manufacturing and Innovation Technologies. (UcoSMIT) - established in 2022 for four years, leveraging European Commission projects to enhance research in sustainable production.

81. Mr. Chairman, the University has been mandated as the project lead for the BOTSAT-1 Project and SKA/AVN project. BOTSAT-1 is fully

operational in orbit and has begun receiving hyperspectral images, with the BIUST Ground Station operational as well. A total of ten postgraduate students are actively involved in the BOTSAT-1 science research, building national capacity for the ecosystem.

- 82. Mr. Chairman,** in terms of the SKA/AVN project, there is beneficial ongoing training and skills development aligned with the long-term objective of strengthening national capacity in radio astronomy and space sciences. This project inherently carries value-adding benefits for astro-tourism. Notably, preparations are underway for the Astro-tourism pre-conference workshop in collaboration with Career Dreams Tourism School and local partners, including international experts from Kenya and Thailand.
- 83. Mr. Chairman,** BIUST Enterprise was established as a commercial wing and a special purpose vehicle through which the university plans to attain its commercialisation and business growth imperatives.

BOTSWANA OPEN UNIVERSITY

- 84. Mr. Chairman,** the ministry through Botswana Open University has made progress in the implementation of their strategic objectives where they hosted *the Pan Commonwealth Forum 11*. The Forum attracted about a magnitude of participants from over 50 countries. It is hoped that the resultant engagements from the Forum will go a long way in improving the University's operations as well as attracting partnerships for academic, research and community development.
- 85. Mr. Chairman,** the University managed to implement its business development strategy and registered *a* subsidiary company (BOU

Innovations Pty Ltd) with the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority. At present, efforts to transfer services with commercial viability are ongoing. It is anticipated that the successful operationalization of the subsidiary will improve the third-stream revenue markedly.

86. Mr. Chairman, the University has also earmarked development projects which will be paramount in their operations. There has been 2 prioritized strategic projects, being the removal of asbestos roof material and roof restoration at the Gaborone Regional Campus facility and the development of the new Palapye Regional Campus. The former sought to ensure compliance with the environmental and building control requirements, while the objective of the 2nd project, was to provide suitable office space for the Regional Campus to meet the operational requirements. Both projects have not progressed owing to budgetary constraints.

87. Mr. Chairman, the University has also made an achievement in developing a PhD programme in the School of Business and Management Studies and it is in preparations to be offer in the year 2026 while two more are at an advanced stage of accreditation. Several new undergraduate programmes have been accredited and will be offered in the next academic year.

88. Mr. Chairman, allow me share with this extinguished house that the University has efforts in securing grants for resource capacity through partnerships and grants which this government commends. BOU has continued to seek and leverage value-adding partnerships. For the obtaining year, a new grant through an existing partnership with South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE) has brought in over P1.4 million.

Several MoUs have been signed with both local, Regional and international partners.

89. Mr. Chairman, given the budgetary constraints experienced during the financial period under review, the university has not been able to develop a comprehensive master plan for coordinated infrastructure development. Through this master plan, the University sought to ensure sustainable growth by attracting investment as part of its 3rd stream income generation in addition to its core needs. Moreover, financial dearth has also affected planned maintenance works for the available facilities, thereby resulting in non-compliance to BQA and other building requirements in some cases.

90. Mr. Chairman, in an endeavour to unlock value on the available land resources, the University will explore the PPP approach to deliver its strategic projects. It is envisaged that these partnerships will go a long way in helping the University access capital, leverage diverse skill sets and facilitate market access amongst others. There are strategic infrastructure projects identified being development of the Head Office Integrated Academic Building and Office Expansion Project in Gaborone, development of the new Palapye Regional Campus Project and the asbestos removal and roof restoration works at Gaborone Regional Campus.

91. The implementation of a robust marketing plan forms a key part of attracting both students and partners. BOU will review its IT systems and platforms for maximum utility and service to the client for both enrolment and retention. In line with this the University also purports to deliver new programmes at all levels including TVET while also looking to pool all the

promising areas of business to enhance third stream revenue and grants for research through the BOU subsidiary.

- 92.** In this context, the Ministry's budget proposals before this Honorable House are aimed at strengthening the relevance, quality, and efficiency of higher education and skills development. Our interventions focus on ensuring that graduates from our universities, colleges, and technical institutions are equipped with industry-relevant competencies that respond to labour market demands, technological change, and national development priorities.

BOTSWANA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SCIENCE

- 93. Mr. Chairman,** I wish to highlight an important milestone in the evolution of our national higher education landscape. As part of its ongoing transformation agenda, and in pursuit of programme expansion that is responsive to industry needs, learner aspirations, and regulatory imperatives, the **Botswana Accountancy College (BAC) has now transitioned to the Botswana School Business Sciences (BSBS) — and officially adopted its new institutional name on 15 January 2026.** This change signifies a strategic repositioning of the institution from a **predominantly accountancy-focused college** to a comprehensive provider of business, applied sciences, and innovation-driven education.

- 94. Mr. Chairman,** the institution is now in the advanced stages of realizing its lofty goal **"to become a university of choice for business sciences in Africa and beyond."** Significant strides have already been recorded, including: **Strengthened governance structures** that enhance

institutional efficiency, accountability, and strategic alignment; **Modernization of infrastructure and campus facilities** to support contemporary teaching, learning, and research environments; **Revisions and alignment of academic programmes** with regulatory requirements, industry expectations, and international standards; and **Comprehensive staff capacity development initiatives**, aimed at increasing qualifications, strengthening research output, and improving pedagogical excellence.

95. The remaining steps toward full realization of university status relate largely to **regulatory and quality assurance processes**, which are well underway. Once concluded, this development will mark a major national achievement—expanding Botswana’s university ecosystem, strengthening our human capital base, and accelerating our transition into a competitive, knowledge-driven economy.

96. Mr. Chairman, in line with Government’s commitment to developing a competitive, knowledge-driven economy, the Botswana School of Business Sciences continues to strengthen the relevance, quality, and responsiveness of its academic offerings. The institution has intensified efforts to ensure that all programmes remain aligned with evolving industry needs, labour-market trends, and national development priorities. It is worth noting that programmes have been refined and reviewed using **data-driven insights** obtained through strategic engagements with employers, regulators, and industry stakeholders. To further enhance graduate employability, the institution has integrated **Work-Based Learning (WBL)** and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) principles across its programmes, ensuring that students acquire practical skills, workplace competencies, and industry-ready capabilities.

97. Mr. Chairman, recognizing that not all graduates will be absorbed by the labour market, and in line with national efforts to combat youth unemployment, the institution has also undertaken a comprehensive review of its academic programmes to embed **entrepreneurship modules across all disciplines**. This strategic enhancement is intended to equip learners with the **entrepreneurial mindset, innovation capacity, and business-startup skills** necessary to create their own enterprises and generate employment opportunities for others. By empowering graduates to become **job creators rather than job seekers**, the Botswana School of Business Sciences is directly contributing to national priorities of **economic diversification, enterprise development, and sustainable youth empowerment**.

98. With respect to graduate output, the Botswana School of Business Sciences set a strategic target of producing **6,000** globally competitive **graduates by March 2027**. I am pleased to report that, to date, the institution has successfully graduated **4,631 students**, representing **77 percent achievement** of the strategic target. With one financial year remaining in the current strategic cycle, the institution is firmly focused on closing the remaining gap of **1,369 graduates**.

99. Mr. Chairman, these efforts collectively demonstrate the institution's commitment to advancing Botswana's human capital agenda, strengthening workforce readiness, and contributing to the national transition toward a productive, diversified, and globally competitive economy.

100. Mr. Chairman, BSBS is implementing the Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) for Tuberculosis Diagnosis Project with Government research fund. This national flagship initiative demonstrates the growing

impact of the higher education and research ecosystem in responding to priority national challenges. This project centres on the development of an **explainable artificial intelligence model** capable of interpreting chest X-ray images to enhance the **accuracy, efficiency, and transparency** of tuberculosis diagnosis.

101. Mr. Chairman, the institution's commitment to **digital transformation and innovation** is further demonstrated through its partnership with **Orange Botswana** to establish a state-of-the-art **Digital Centre** at the Francistown campus.

102. Mr. Chairman, in support of Botswana's vision to strengthen regional integration, expand academic influence, and build a globally competitive higher education system, the **Botswana School of Business Sciences** continues to prioritize strategic collaboration and partnerships at local, regional, and international levels. These partnerships play a central role in enhancing academic quality, expanding market reach, and reinforcing the institution's contribution to national development. To date, the School has successfully established institutional partnerships in **Namibia**, through the University of Namibia, and in **Lesotho**, through the Centre of Accounting Studies. Building on this momentum, the institution has set an ambitious goal of extending its footprint to **at least five African countries by 2027**.

103. Mr. Chairman, through these strategic partnerships and innovation-led initiatives, the Botswana School of Business Sciences is reinforcing its position as a forward-looking institution committed to

excellence, regional leadership, and meaningful contribution to Botswana's socio-economic transformation.

BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2026/2027 FINANCIAL YEAR

104. Mr. Chairman, allow me to present the budget proposal under my Ministry for the financial year 2026/27. The proposed budget for the financial year amounts to **Seven Billion, Five Hundred and Twenty Million, Two Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Pula (P7, 520, 214, 850.00)**, of which **Seven Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Pula (P7, 366, 469, 850)** is under the Recurrent Budget and **One Hundred and Fifty-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand Pula (P153,745,000)** is under the Development Budget.

RECURRENT BUDGET

105. Mr. Chairman, the sum of **Seven Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Pula (P7, 366, 469, 850)** is requested for my Ministry's Recurrent Expenditure. The budget allocation is as follows:

MINISTRY HEADQUARTERS

106. The sum of **One Billion, Nine Hundred and Twenty- Four Million, One Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Eight Hundred and**

Eighty Pula (P1, 924, 170, 880) or 26% of the Recurrent Budget is proposed under this head. Out of this provision, an amount of **One Billion, Eight Hundred and Fourteen Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty Pula (P1,814,732,840) or 94%** is allocated to the eight parastatals and it is distributed as follows;

PARASTATAL	Amount (BWP)
Botswana School of Business Sciences (formerly, Botswana Accountancy College)	17,844,950
Botswana University of Agriculture Natural Resources	216,693,480
Rapid Skills Development Centre (formerly Construction Industry Trust Fund)	56,628,600
University of Botswana	784,802,750
Botswana Open University	124,920,110
Botswana Qualifications Authority	85,529,000
Botswana International University of Science and Technology	482,525,100
Human Resource Development Council	45,788,850
Total	<u>1,814,732,840</u>

DEPARTMENT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION FINANCING

107. I request an amount of **Four Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Four Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-six Thousand, Five**

Hundred and Thirty Pula (P4,174,826,530) or **57%** of the Ministry's Recurrent Budget for the Department of Tertiary Education Financing. This is significant increase of 200% from the 2025/2026 budget of **One Billion, Three Hundred and Ninety Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty Pula (P1, 390, 991, 920)** which is attributed to the transfer of Tuition fees from Ministry of Finance. Out of the total Departmental Budget, **One Billion, Five Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred Pula (P1,554,576,900)** or **37%** is for student allowances, whereas **Two Billion, Five Hundred and Forty-Nine Million, Six Hundred Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty Pula (P2,549,600,180)** or **61%** is for Tuition fees.

DEPARTMENT OF TEACHER TRAINING AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

An amount of **Three Hundred and Thirty-Eight Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Pula (P338,391,250)** or **5%** of the recurrent budget is requested under this Sub-Head to cover training and development of lecturers and operational expenditure for Colleges of Education.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

108. Mr. Chairman, the sum of **Two Hundred and Fifty Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Three Hundred Pula (P250,351,300)** is proposed under this Sub-Head, representing **3%** of the Ministry's total recurrent budget. The proposed budget will be used to cover training and development of Health personnel and operational expenditure of health Institutions.

DEPARTMENT OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

109. For this Department, I request **Six Hundred and Seventy-Eight Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety Pula (P678, 229, 890)**, which is **9%** of the Ministry's recurrent budget estimate. The proposed budget will be used to cover operational costs and coordination of Technical and Vocational Education and Skills Development. Out of this budget, **One Hundred and Forty-Seven Million, Six Hundred Thousand Pula Only (P147, 600, 000)** or **22%** is for students allowances under the Department of Skills Development.

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

110. **Mr. Chairman**, moving further, the Ministry requests a total of **One Hundred and Fifty-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand Pula (153,745,000)** for the 2026/27 Financial Year under the Development Budget, which is allocated as follows;

111. **Thirty Million Pula (30 000 000)** is requested for **Tertiary Education Facilities** where funds are required for the expansion and improvement of infrastructure at Colleges of Education, Institutes of Health Sciences, Brigades and Technical Colleges. The focus will be on maintenance, expansion, and equipping of these institutions in order to create a conducive learning environment that can accommodate the growing number of students.

112. As part of TVET revitalisation and transformation, the Ministry requests a sum of **Sixty Million Pula (60 000 000)** for the **Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Development** programme,

and these funds are requested for the construction and expansion of Rapid Skills Development Centres around the country, and for the implementation of TVET transformation Clusters.

113. Mr. Chairman, my Ministry further requests funds amounting to **thirty million pula (30 000 000)** for **public universities**, where the intention is to improve and expand instructional space at our public universities, including the University of Botswana (UB), Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), Botswana Open University (BOU), and Botswana Accountancy College (BAC). This includes maintenance of facilities in these institutions. These investments will enhance teaching, learning, and research, enabling our institutions to produce graduates who are competitive both locally and globally.

114. Mr. Chairman, in order to support operations and enhance implementation, the Ministry requests an amount of **Ten Million Pula (10 000 000) for MoHE Consultancies** to cover implementation of the National Human Resource Development Strategy (NHRDS), the development of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Act, Tertiary Education Financing Policy and Higher Education Act. These will ensure that our education system remains responsive to national development objectives.

115. The Ministry also requests a sum of **Twelve Million Pula (12 000 000)** for **MoHE Computerization**. The funds will support the completion of the Labour Market Information System, which will provide reliable data on labour market trends; the development of Enterprise Resource Systems for the Rapid Skills Development Centres, formerly Construction Industry Trust Fund (CITF) and Botswana School of Business

Sciences (formerly, Botswana Accountancy College), as well as the upgrading of the DTEF system and improvement of ICT infrastructure across the Ministry. These initiatives will enhance service delivery and ensure that higher education institutions operate effectively and in alignment with labour market needs.

116. Finally, Mr Chairman, the ministry requests the sum of **Eleven Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand Pula (11 745 000)** for on-going projects such as BUAN facilities and the Shakawe Rapid Skills Centre that the Ministry inherited during rationalization and plans to conclude them.

CONCLUSION

117. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my presentation of the 2026/27 Recurrent and Development Budget request for my Ministry. I therefore move that the sum of **Seven Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Pula (P7, 366, 469, 850)** under the Recurrent Budget and **One Hundred and Fifty-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand Pula (153,745,000)** under Development Budget be approved and stand as part of the Schedule of the 2026/2027 **Appropriation Bill No.1 of 2026** for Head 3300 in the Development Fund Estimates.

118. I thank you all for your attention.

