

BOTSWANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

(FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST, 2024)

MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME

HRS/MINS

0900 - 0945

- Minister of Health

THEME: DETERIORATION OF MENTAL HEALTH

To ask the Minister of Health:

- (i) whether he is aware that there seems to be a pattern of increasing murder, suicide, passion killings and similar tragic events across the country;
- (ii) whether his Ministry does not consider these gruesome events to be symptoms or end results of a situation of worsening mental health within the nation;
- (iii) if any study been undertaken to determine the state of mental health nationally, especially post COVID-19 and in consideration of rising unemployment and tough economic conditions. If not, will the Minister consider commissioning such a study with a view to determining the causes of deteriorating mental health; and
- (iv) what does the Ministry of Health currently have in place in order to make the public aware of the importance of mental health as well as where and how they can seek help in times of need of mental health support.

(Mr. M. Balopi, MP. – Gaborone North)

- **PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY DR. T. MATSHEKA, MP. – LOBATSE**

**MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT – DEFINITE
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

1. "That this Honourable House requests Government to adopt a more flexible land use for agricultural land by permitting the establishment of diverse business ventures in agricultural land (*masimo, meraka*, ranches, integrated farms etc.) without necessitating a formal 'Change of Land Use,' including such enterprises but not limited to restaurants, spas, craft shops, recreational facilities, filling stations, meat processing facilities, dairy processing facilities, guest cottages, camping sites etc in order to foster inclusive economic growth in Botswana."

(Mr. T. Letsholo, MP. – Kanye North)

(Resumed Debate)

REVAMPING SELEBI PHIKWE ECONOMY

2. "That this Honourable House requests Government to consider revamping Selebi Phikwe economy through the mining industry by relocating the Department of Mines Headquarters to the town, prioritising the town for base metal processing plants such as smelters, refineries and manufacturing facilities; establishing a national Nickel and Copper Mining Museum; favouring the town for major mining events; and moving the Department of Mining and Geological Engineering of the College of Engineering and Technology at the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) from Palapye to Selebi Phikwe for the purpose of establishing BIUST Phikwe Campus among other workable current and past initiatives."

(Mr. D. L. Keorapetse, MP. – Selebi Phikwe West)

(Resumed Debate)

**GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER ASSISTING
FARMERS TO DRILL BOREHOLES**

3. "That this Honourable House requests Government to consider assisting farmers to drill boreholes in their farms in order to encourage food security and food self-sufficiency."

(Mr. W. B. Mmolotsi, MP. – Francistown South)

**RELOCATION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TO THE
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

4. "That this Honourable House requests Government to relocate Primary Health Care to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development."

(Mr. F. T. Leuwe, MP. – Takatokwane)

**REVIEW OF THE POLICY ON ALLOCATION OF
BOREHOLES IN COMMUNAL AREAS**

5. "That this Honourable House requests Government to consider reviewing the current policy concerning the allocation of boreholes in communal areas with a view to reduce the radius between boreholes from six (6) kilometres to four (4) kilometres in order to reduce the over concentration of cattle around limited boreholes resulting in over grazing."

(Dr. K. Gobotswang, MP. – Sefhare-Ramokgonami)

**SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE
BILLING SYSTEM AT WATER UTILITIES CORPORATION (WUC)**

6. "That this Honourable House resolves to setup a Special Select Committee as per the Standing Order to investigate on the water billing system at Water Utilities Corporation."

(Mr. O. Ramogapi, MP. – Palapye)

**DECLARATION OF GABORONE MAIN MALL
A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE**

7. "That this Honourable House requests Government to declare Gaborone Main Mall as part of Special Economic Zone geared towards the creative sector and entertainment hub."

(Mr. T. Mangwegape-Healy, MP. – Gaborone Central)

(Resumed Debate)

INSTALLATION OF BACKUP GENERATORS

8. "That this Honourable House requests Government to install backup generators in all Government clinics in the Takatokwane Constituency as a matter of urgency."

(Mr. F. T. Leuwe, MP. – Takatokwane)

INCENTIVES FOR LONG SERVING CIVIL SERVANTS

9. "That this Honourable House requests Government to introduce an incentives programme for long serving civil servants to incentivise them to take early retirement and make way for younger, more able-bodied graduates with the right skill sets and qualifications so that they get an opportunity for employment in Government."

(Mr. B. Mathoothe, MP. – Serowe North)

INTRODUCTION OF A POLICY THAT COMPELS SUPERMARKETS TO SUB CONTRACT THEIR IN-HOUSE BUTCHERIES AND BAKERIES

10. "That this Honourable House requests Government to come up with a policy that compels supermarkets to sub-contract their in-house butcheries and bakeries to 100% citizen owned businesses in which the supermarket owners are not shareholders as a way of making up for mainstay businesses such as bakeries and general dealers which have generally closed down due to being outmuscled by supermarkets."

(Mr. M. Balopi, MP. – Gaborone North)

INTRODUCTION OF A RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

11. "That this Honourable House requests Government to introduce a Rural Water Supply Scheme in order to promote economic and social upliftment of the rural communities."

(Mr. K. C. Hikuama, MP. – Ngami)

AMENDMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

12. "That this Honourable House requests Government to amend the Public Health Act in order to give the Director of Health Services powers to be able to contain and control the outbreak and spread of any disease without the need for His Excellency the President to rule by decree in a protracted State of Emergency."

(Mr. L. Lesedi, MP. – Serowe South)

DESIGNATING MAUN A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

13. "That this Honourable House resolves that Maun be designated a Special Economic Zone for tourism."

(Mr. D. Saleshando, MP. – Maun West)

REGULATION OF INTERNATIONAL SELF DRIVE CUSTOMERS

14. "That this Honourable House requests Government to regulate international self-drive customers to utilise local companies in undertaking their game drives and related activities in local National Parks and Game Reserves in an effort to promote economic inclusion of locals in the tourism industry."

(Mr. G. Kekgonegile, MP. – Maun East)

GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE ALLOCATION OF PLOTS

15. "That this Honourable House requests Government to expedite the allocation of plots earmarked for Self Help Housing Agency (SHAA) Project and business in Sowa Town."

(Mr. P. Majaga, MP. – Nata-Gweta)

REVIEW OF SPEDU INCENTIVES

16. "That this Honourable House requests Government to consider reviewing SPEDU incentives to boost domestic and foreign investment."

(Mr. D. L. Keorapetse, MP. – Selebi Phikwe West)

GOVERNMENT TO EVOLVE A COMPREHENSIVE RURAL INDUSTRIALISATION STRATEGY

17. "That this Honourable House requests Government to expeditiously evolve a comprehensive rural industrialisation strategy with clear resource allocations and timelines to address unemployment and poverty in rural areas."

(Mr. T. B. Lucas, MP. – Bobonong)

QUOTA FOR LAND ALLOCATION TO CHURCHES

18. "That this Honourable House requests Government to set a quota of at least 30 percent for land allocation to churches on advertised plots and further demarcate plots to be specifically allocated to churches only."

(Mr. O. Ramogapi, MP. – Palapye)

BANNING OF NON-ESSENTIAL PLASTICS

19. "That this Honourable House requests Government to consider banning the use of non-essential plastics."

(Mr. K. Nkawana, MP. – Selebi Phikwe East)

CREATION OF A CITY/TOWN IN THE NORTH WEST REGION

20. "That this Honourable House requests Government to create a city/town in the North West Region given that the North West Region is underdeveloped, but it could be the hub of tourism with a city/town that fits a tourism hub status in terms of infrastructural development and services. This is the Region which is home to Okavango River, Thamalakane River, Lake Ngami and a wide range of flora and fauna. Creation of a tourism city in this Region would not only put the country in a better position to exploit the rich natural resources found in the Region and to create jobs, but also because the country is ready for an additional city to alleviate crowding in the existing towns and cities."

(Mr. K. C. Hikuama, MP. – Ngami)

AMENDMENT OF THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ACT

21. "That this Honourable House requests Government to consider amending the Public Holidays Act so that it reads "if a public holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the Monday becomes a public holiday" as opposed to reading "if the public holidays listed fall on a Sunday then the Monday shall be a public holiday" as it has now become common that if a holiday falls on a Saturday then the next Monday is declared a public holiday at short notice and this disrupts planning and is bad for business."

(Mr. L. Lesedi, MP. – Serowe South)