

BOTSWANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

(WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2024)

QUESTIONS

HRS/MINS

1400 – 1445

- 1. DR. K. GOBOTSWANG, MP. (SEFHARE-RAMOKGONAMI):** To ask the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs to apprise this Honourable House on labour issues in the Tuli Block commercial farms; the Minister should specifically state: **(246)**
- (i) if she is aware that farm workers are subjected to poor labour practices such as being paid below Statutory minimum wages, long working hours without overtime payment, unfair dismissals, living in squalor conditions, no sick leave and verbal abuse;
 - (ii) the number of labour inspections conducted since November 2019 indicating the last time such inspections were undertaken; and
 - (iii) whether she will consider opening labour offices in the Sefhare-Ramokgonami Constituency in consistent with the decentralisation policy.
- 2. MR. J. L. THIITE, MP. (GHANZI NORTH):** To ask the Minister for State President to apprise the Honourable House on the delay of paying salary arrears to many public service employees, which arose from a Court of Appeal Judgment on Multiple Graded C-Band positions, despite the Ministry of Finance allocating one billion, four hundred and ten million Pula (P1 410 000 000) for this purpose and to further state: **(258)**
- (i) when employees can expect to receive their salary arrears;
 - (ii) if there has been any formal communication to the concerned employees regarding the non-payment of their salary arrears;
 - (iii) whether non-payment of salary arrears is not contempt of Court of Appeal Judgment; and
 - (iv) whether any action will be taken against officers who caused or contributed to the delay in payments of salary arrears.

- 3. MR. S. N. MOABI, MP. (TATI WEST):** To ask the Minister of Agriculture to state: **(259)**
- (i) plans in place to rehabilitate community dams for livestock watering;
 - (ii) the number of community dams currently in need of rehabilitation and the timeline for implementing these plans; and
 - (iii) what budget allocation was made for the rehabilitation of community dams and if there are any partnerships or collaborations with local communities or organisations involved.
- 4. MR. C. GREEFF, MP. (GABORONE BONNINGTON SOUTH):** To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development to update this Honourable House on the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Scholarship offered by the Indian High Commission for the year 2023-2024; he should further state: **(192)**
- (i) the total number of applicants distributed across the 57 constituencies;
 - (ii) the total number of successful applicants and their distribution by the 57 Constituencies;
 - (iii) the total number of successful applicants with Junior Certificate qualifications and those with Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE);
 - (iv) the key selection criteria and whether first come first served takes precedence over merit;
 - (v) if he is aware that there are applicants with lower BGCSE points who have been awarded scholarship over those with higher points; and
 - (vi) if he will be willing to investigate the ICCR scholarship during the last five (5) years for possible corruption, nepotism, favouritism and fraud.
- 5. MR. P. MAJAGA, MP. (NATA-GWETA):** To ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism to mention all companies which were awarded hunting quotas concession in Botswana, after the lifting of the hunting ban from 2020 to date: **(262)**
- (i) how many Batswana companies applied for this quota;
 - (ii) how much was raised from hunting quotas tenders;

- (iii) any quotas reserved for Community trust foundations;
- (iv) when will the Ministry make Public Education Workshop Seminars for Batswana interested in Tourism businesses to undergo training, basic knowledge of hunting and concession applications.

6. MR. D. L. KEORAPETSE, MP. (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST): To ask the Minister of Minerals and Energy to state and explain what “maximum power demand billing system” is, when it was conceived and implemented and elaborate on the exact rationale of the system and to explain how it differs from other billing system(s) that exist in Botswana Power Corporation (BPC); the Minister should further update this Honourable House on: **(264)**

- (i) the category or type of companies billed using the system;
- (ii) the criteria used to apply the billing to a manufacturing company or other companies;
- (iii) the number of companies in Selebi Phikwe which are affected by the maximum power demand billing system and how this has affected manufacturing companies; and
- (iv) if he will consider billing users, especially manufacturers, for the amount of power used as an incentive to lure domestic and foreign investors as a cost of production reduction measure.

7. MR. P. K. MOTAOSANE, MP. (THAMAGA-KUMAKWANE): To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development to apprise this Honourable House on the status of Construction Industry Trust Fund (CITF) around the country especially Thamaga CITF and what is the intention of the Ministry about these institutions as it looks like the Ministry is not aware of what is happening in these Institutions. **(267)**

8. MR. B. MATHOOTHE, MP. (SEROWE NORTH): To ask the Minister of Finance to inform this Honourable House on: **(268)**

- (i) the company responsible for the Government Accounting and Budgeting System (GABS);
- (ii) the total number of pending payments for the last six (6) months; and
- (iii) why the system is regularly down.

9. **DR. N. TSHABANG, MP. (NKANGE):** To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development if he is aware of a long standing despair amongst University of Botswana (UB) employees due to a retrenchment exercise which has no timelines; if so: **(269)**
- (i) when he intends to solve the impasse; and
 - (ii) has he done any assessment of the potential damage the exercise will cause on staff morale.
10. **DR. T. MATSHEKA, MP. (LOBATSE):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to inform this Honourable House on the following: **(270)**
- (i) how the Local Economic Development (LED) has performed since its commencement in the town of Lobatse, specifically from 2018 to 2023;
 - (ii) how many procurement awards have been made to the local businesses in Lobatse;
 - (iii) to share the value and percentage of awards in favour of Lobatse businesses; and
 - (iv) challenges in implementing the LED and what remedies are envisaged to be implemented.
11. **MR. G. KEKGONEGILE, MP. (MAUN EAST):** To ask the Minister of Transport and Public Works to brief this Honourable House on whether all the individuals relocated to give way to Maun International Airport have been compensated, with particular emphasis on: **(271)**
- (i) the number of unpaid beneficiaries and target date of paying remaining beneficiaries;
 - (ii) the number of beneficiaries to be paid through Court/Trust process and the number of beneficiaries whose payments have been sent to High Court so far;
 - (iii) how the Ministry is addressing queries raised by unsatisfied beneficiaries; and
 - (iv) why his Ministry is not collecting queries directly from Disana or the affected community.
12. **MR. M. BALOPI, MP. (GABORONE NORTH):** To ask the Minister of Finance to state the latest unemployment figures in Botswana, and: **(151)**
- (i) distribution of unemployment between male and female Batswana;
 - (ii) the level of graduate unemployment; and

- (iii) whether Government has a strategy in place to increase economic activity in order to improve the prospects of job creation in both private and public sector.

TABLING OF PAPERS

1. Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) Annual Report, 2022/2023.
(Minister of Trade and Industry)
2. Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure from the Consolidated and Development Funds – Financial Paper No. 3 of 2023/2024.
(Minister of Finance)

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

HRS/MINS

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

1445 - 1900

- Appropriation (2024/2025) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 1 of 2024) An Act to authorise the payment out of the Consolidated Fund and the Development Fund of sums of money for the year ending 31st March, 2025.

(Published on 1st February, 2024)

(Minister of Finance)

(Resumed Debate)

	<u>ORG</u>	<u>MINISTRY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>HRS/MINS</u>
Day 11	2400	Communications, Knowledge and Technology	1445 hrs – 1520 hrs	0.35
	1500	Foreign Affairs	1520 hrs – 1720 hrs	2.00
	2800	Ethics and Integrity	1720 hrs – 1900 hrs	1.40