

BOTSWANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

(WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH, 2024)

QUESTIONS

HRS/MINS

1400 – 1445

- 1. MR. P. MAJAGA, MP. (NATA-GWETA):** To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development if he is aware of the Nata Senior Secondary school boys' hostels that were gutted by fire; if so:

 - (i) when the Minister and other senior Government officials intend to visit the school to appreciate the accident as they did in other schools;
 - (ii) what permanent plans are in place to maintain the boys' hostels;
 - (iii) to state short term plans in place to accommodate the 2024 Form Fours;
 - (iv) if he is aware that 2 out of 3 boys' hostels are burnt;
 - (v) when were the first and second blocks burnt; and
 - (vi) why his Ministry took long to respond to the first incident until the second one happened.
- 2. MR. D. SALESHANDO, MP. (MAUN WEST):** To ask the Minister for State President:

 - (i) to state the number of acting or substantive Directors appointed to head the Directorate on Economic Crime and Corruption (DCEC) since April 2018 and the reasons for the changes; and
 - (ii) if the changes effected to the leadership of the DCEC enhance or erode their independence.
- 3. MR. K. C. HIKUAMA, MP. (NGAMI):** To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development if Government through his Ministry ever conducts skills inventory in the public service, parastatals and private sector in the country; if it does:

 - (i) how often and what is meant to be their purpose; and
 - (ii) do the outcomes of the inventory confirm or reject the long held view that there is a high level of skills' mismatch to the country labour market demand.

4. **MR. P. K. MOTAOSANE, MP. (THAMAGA-KUMAKWANE):** To ask the Minister of Transport and Public Works to apprise this Honourable House on the status of the Thamaga-Molepolole road project: **(282)**
- (i) if he is aware that the delay of the progress on this project is due to the Roads Department; and
 - (ii) what he is doing about this delay.
5. **MR. O. KEDIKILWE, MP. (SEROWE WEST):** To ask the Minister of Agriculture to update this Honourable House if there are plans to match expiry dates of farmer's keeper identity card with the cattle brand certificate. **(284)**
6. **DR. T. MATSHEKA, MP. (LOBATSE):** To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development to state: **(285)**
- (i) when maintenance was last done at Ipelegeng Junior Secondary School;
 - (ii) when the next cycle of maintenance for the school will be;
 - (iii) whether he considers the state of the school conducive to appropriate learning by the students; and
 - (iv) whether he considers the state of schools infrastructure a national issue and what he plans to do about it.
7. **MR. B. MATHOOTHE, MP. (SEROWE NORTH):** To ask the Minister of Trade and Industry to state: **(286)**
- (i) if he does not see the need to decentralise the trade offices;
 - (ii) the process of applying for the mophane worm trading license for exportation; and
 - (iii) the levies for the phane exportation.
8. **MR. O. RAMOGAPI, MP. (PALAPYE):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to explain educational challenges in the Palapye Constituency addressing the following: **(287)**
- (i) why Palapye primary schools are allocated a budget of less than the recommended amount of P450.00 per student unlike other councils;
 - (ii) how much the council budgets per student and what the Ministry gives per student;

- (iii) why the Handy man maintenance of P10, 000 per school is not given to the primary schools as it has been happening in the past;
- (iv) why the council disobeys the directive as the amount came through the Presidential Directive;
- (v) why parents in Palapye are requested to buy stationery for their children;
- (vi) if he is aware that some parents are unable to buy the stationery and how can they be assisted;
- (vii) why there is acute shortage of classrooms and teachers' accommodation in all Palapye primary schools;
- (viii) if there are any plans to build more schools other than the primary school under construction at Extension 5; and
- (ix) if he is aware that Ratsie Sethako, Khurumela, Serorome and Kediretswe Primary Schools are using old bat infested kitchens as classrooms which is dangerous to the health of pupils and teachers; and if so, what he is doing to address the problem.

9. MR. G. KEKGONEGILE, MP. (MAUN EAST): To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development to brief this Honourable House on progress made to resolve challenges within the Ministry emanating from workers' welfare disputes; in particular: **(198)**

- (i) the long-standing concerns of levels of operation amongst teachers at primary, secondary and tertiary institutions;
- (ii) lack of a long-term agreement between teachers and the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) concerning marking of examinations;
- (iii) continuous poor results due to the huge load of work and congested curriculum for both learners and educators;
- (iv) review of load of work for students (reduction from 8 to 4-6 subjects at primary and secondary); and
- (v) review of the examination load from 10-25 examinations papers at primary and secondary level.

- 10. MR. D. L. KEORAPETSE, MP. (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST):** To ask the Minister for State President if he will consider paying teachers 26 days, or more days than currently paid, so as to restore the tradition of teachers in schools working outside the normal eight (8) hours a day: **(219)**
- (i) the Minister should state if he appreciates the ramifications of treating teachers like ordinary civil servants and subjecting them to typical civil service structures especially under the Public Service Act;
 - (ii) to update this Honourable House on whether he has conducted any study to assess the results of this relatively new policy; and
 - (iii) to explain his engagement with teachers' unions on the same.
- 11. MR. T. MANGWEGAPE-HEALY, MP. (GABORONE CENTRAL):** To ask the Minister of Defence and Security to state: **(249)**
- (i) the number of reported drugs and substance abuse cases since 2022, and the percentage of the contributing drugs;
 - (ii) whether his Ministry is collecting data to collate the prevalence of drug abuse given how the scourge of drugs and abuse is afflicting the nation and whether besides reported police cases, the Ministry collects data from schools and clinics;
 - (iii) if he will consider propagating regulations that will increase the use of drug testing kits for certain services offered by Government as well as employment prospects, as a way to limit the use of drugs; and
 - (iv) what has been done to curb drugs entering the country since the establishment of Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and ways it has implemented to limit drug abuse.
- 12. MR. T. B. LUCAS, MP. (BOBONONG):** To ask the Minister of Health to apprise this Honourable House on the following: **(290)**
- (i) the health facilities planned for Bobirwa in the current National Development Plan (NDP) namely a 70 bed primary hospital, level I primary hospital in Tsetsebye and Borotsi Clinic;
 - (ii) the upgrading of all health posts to clinics; and
 - (iii) the number and functional mobile health stops in the Bobirwa Constituency.

- 13. MR. M. G. J. MOTSAMAI, MP. (GHANZI SOUTH):** To ask the Minister of Health whether he is aware of the inhabitable state of the New Xanagas Clinic; if so, when does he intend to address the matter given that the two (2) year Transitional Plan has not accommodated the maintenance of the clinic. **(195)**
- 14. MR. J. L. THIITE, MP. (GHANZI NORTH):** To ask the Minister of Minerals and Energy if there are any plans to connect Kacgae and Bere villages in the Ghanzi Constituency to the Botswana Power Corporation power grid; if so:
- (i) when will this be undertaken; and
 - (ii) how much is budgeted for the project.
- 15. MR. T. LETSHOLO, MP. (KANYE NORTH):** To ask the Minister of Finance to update this Honourable House on the status and progress of privatisation initiatives in Botswana and the potential considerations for specific entities like Air Botswana, specifically: **(253)**
- (i) which entities are earmarked for privatisation and the associated timelines for each;
 - (ii) over the past five (5) years, which entities have been successfully privatised, and what key lessons or learnings are derived from these privatisation efforts;
 - (iii) has there ever been any consideration to privatise Air Botswana; if so, how far did the process progress, and why did it not reach its conclusion; and
 - (iv) what are the primary factors causing delays or obstacles in the privatisation agenda, and what measures are being taken to address these challenges.
- 16. MR. K. NKAWANA, MP. (SELEBI PHIKWE EAST):** To ask the Minister of Entrepreneurship whether he is aware that since the start of the Poverty Eradication/Wealth Creation Programme, there are beneficiaries who take up the programme and end up unceremoniously abandoning the equipment/programme, demonstrating lack of commitment; if so: **(254)**
- (i) what steps does the Ministry intend to take in order to correct the situation; and
 - (ii) does the Ministry ever do market research to establish feasibility before giving out projects to potential beneficiaries in view of the fact that there is so much equipment lying idle in people's homes.

- 17. MR. M. REATILE, MP. (JWANENG-MABUTSANE):** To ask the Minister of Agriculture to apprise this Honourable House on the development of agriculture in the country and to further state: **(292)**
- (i) strategies in place to promote sustainable agriculture and food security in the rural areas of Thankane, Mahotshwane, Kanaku and Itholoke which can contribute to better livelihoods of local farmers; and
 - (ii) how his Ministry encourages the use of indigenous agricultural knowledge and practices to enhance agricultural productivity in these rural communities.
- 18. MR. K. K. KAPINGA, MP. (OKAVANGO):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to state why the headquarters of the Okavango District Council cannot be relocated from Gumare to Shakawe as is being demanded by the majority of the people of Okavango. **(297)**
- 19. MR. O. REGOENG, MP. (MOLEPOLOLE NORTH):** To ask the Minister of Lands and Water Affairs: **(298)**
- (i) how many land title transfers for residential plots in Molepolole were approved and effected in the last twenty-four (24) months;
 - (ii) which specific areas of Molepolole were significantly affected by these transfers;
 - (iii) whether the transferors had other residential plots in Molepolole or outside Molepolole at the time of transfer; and
 - (iv) whether those who transferred their plot titles through sale or otherwise are eligible for second allocation by land authorities in Molepolole or any other place in Botswana, if not, were approvals by Land Board to transfer not viewed as systematic rendering the transferors forever landless.
- 20. MR. D. TSHERE, MP. (MAHALAPYE WEST):** To ask the Minister of Health to apprise this Honourable House on the status of early and unintended pregnancies amongst girls under the age of eighteen (18) years in the past ten (10) years and further explain: **(299)**
- (i) how many births were recorded for girls under the age of 18 years in the past 10 years;
 - (ii) how many cases in (i) above were declared as medical miscarriage;

- (iii) how many cases in (ii) above were a clear case of unsafe abortion;
- (iv) what his Ministry is doing as an intervention to address this problem;
- (v) if there is any intention from his Ministry to review abortion laws to prevent early and unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions;
- (vi) if he will consider reviewing the law on morning-after pill to make it accessible over the counter; and
- (vii) how far Government is in establishing Southern African Development Community (SADC) recommendations for multi-sectoral leaders to transform the regional policy environment on access to safe Abortion by Adolescent Girls and young women and commitment made by member states to the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), African Union (AU) Maputo Protocol and Plan of Action and the SADC Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Scorecard (SRHR) strategy.

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT – DEFINITE
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- "That this Honourable House requests Government to declare a state of disaster as a matter of urgency and take special temporary measures, in view of the ongoing extreme weather phenomena that has resulted in prolonged drought conditions which have greatly affected people's livelihoods and socio-economic development."

(Mr. S. J. Brooks, MP. – Kgalagadi South)