

BOTSWANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

(FRIDAY 15TH MARCH, 2024)

MINISTERS' QUESTION TIME

HRS/MINS

0900 – 0945

1. Minister of Entrepreneurship

THEME: UPDATE ON ECONOMIC INCLUSION ACT

To ask the Minister of Entrepreneurship:

- (i) to give an update on the Economic Inclusion Act;
- (ii) to explain to this Honourable House what constitutes targeted citizens;
- (iii) how the Act is being used to assist the previously disadvantaged Batswana; and
- (iv) what role the Ministry is playing in narrowing the huge inequality gap that exists in Botswana.

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

2. Minister of Transport and Public Works

THEME: SUBCONTRACTING POLICY FOR BATSWANA OWNED COMPANIES

To ask the Minister of Transport and Public Works:

- (i) to provide updated information on the number of projects awarded to Chinese-owned companies and the total value of such projects under his Ministry since the year 2020, as of the most recent data available;
- (ii) if there is any data or records available regarding the extent to which the 30 percent subcontracting policy for Batswana-owned companies has been fulfilled in these projects, and if so, could the Minister provide those details;
- (iii) to elaborate on the reasons for any variations that may occur between the contracted sum and the end sum paid for in these projects and if there are any specific examples or statistics available regarding these variations;
- (iv) considering the Minister's mention of difficulties in retrieving information due to COVID-19 related office closures, could he

provide a timeline or plan for when the missing data on end sums paid for these projects will be available and accessible;

- (v) in light of the Minister's acknowledgement that records on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of these companies have not been maintained, could he share plans to establish and maintain such records in the future to ensure transparency and accountability in similar projects; and
- (vi) are there any specific guidelines or mechanisms in place to monitor and evaluate the Corporate Social Responsibility contributions of companies involved in these projects, and if so, could the Minister provide details on how these are implemented and enforced.

(Mr. M. Reatile, MP. – Jwaneng-Mabutsane)

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

1. **MR. M. I. MOSWAANE, MP. (FRANCISTOWN WEST):** To ask the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs is the Minister aware: **(274)**
 - (i) that there are stateless children in Botswana, mainly children born of a Motswana and foreigner parents;
 - (ii) in most cases most of the children affected are those whose parent especially Motswana is omitted from the birth certificate or names are wrong;
 - (iii) that Omang office requires DNA tests, which are out of reach for most of Batswana as the exercise is very expensive;
 - (iv) lack of documentation means no work, no proper health care plans and how can they make a living & money without documents;
 - (v) why can't Government incur the costs of doing the DNA tests on behalf of the affected;
 - (vi) why can't a child born in Botswana, holding birth certificate, schooled in Botswana and have never had any other country documents cannot be given their Omang cards
 - (vii) how many IDs have been rejected to date because of the issue of false declarations;
 - (viii) how many IDs have been rejected to date because of incomplete birth certificates details; and
 - (ix) can the Minister brief the house on remedial actions taken by her Ministry to tackle the issue which is very rampant.
2. **MR. P. K. MOTAOSANE, MP. (THAMAGA-KUMAKWANE):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to apprise this Honourable House on the distribution of Rural Sector Grant (RSG) among Districts and Town Councils on the proposed budget for 2024/2025 financial year and further share the following: **(275)**

- (i) number of villages per District;
- (ii) whether all Councils have deficit or not from the previous financial year 2023/2024; and if so, how do you think this will affect the said Councils; and
- (iii) the Ministry's strategy to close the gap.

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

- "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)

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

HRS/MINS

MOTIONS

0945 - 1230

REVAMPING SELEBI PHIKWE ECONOMY

1. "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, prioritizing 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**

2. "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**

3. "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**

4. "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)**

5. "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**

6. "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

7. "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

8. "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**

9. "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

10. "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

11. "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

12. "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

13. "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

14. "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

15. "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

16. "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

17. "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

18. "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

19. "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

20. "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)