

BOTSWANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

N O T I C E P A P E R

(FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024)

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

(FOR ORAL ANSWER ON TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY, 2024)

- 1. MR. O. RAMOGAPI, MP. (PALAPYE):** To ask the Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology to apprise this Honourable House on the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) satellite, stating the following: **(84)**

 - (i) the benefits that this country has already enjoyed from it and future benefits;
 - (ii) total money spent from design up to the completion of the project; and
 - (iii) what efforts have been made in marketing and advertising the satellite and finding other countries/clients who can pay Botswana for its use.
- 2. MR. M. I. MOSWAANE, MP. (FRANCISTOWN WEST):** To ask the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs: **(148)**

 - (i) how many Batswana are on renunciation process;
 - (ii) what is the average time taken to finish the process; and
 - (iii) what is causing the delay, which in most cases has adverse effects on Batswana.
- 3. 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.
- 4. MR. L. LESEDI, MP. (SEROWE SOUTH):** To ask the Minister for State President to update this Honourable House on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and to state: **(152)**

- (i) what steps have been taken to ensure effective implementation of the UNCRPD at district and national levels;
- (ii) the definition of an individual with disability according to Government and why are many (presumably) disabled persons disqualified from receiving disability benefits;
- (iii) measures that have been taken at local level to implement our national and international disability rights instruments;
- (iv) (iv) apart from policy, what steps have been put in place to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full equality under the law and unleash their contribution to our economy;
- (v) when a replacement for the former Director–Coordinating Office for People with Disabilities will be found and why it took so long to find a replacement, and how this has affected delivery of services for people with disabilities; and
- (vi) when Botswana will ratify the African Disability Protocol (ADP).

5. MR. M. G. J. MOTSAMAI, MP. (GHANZI SOUTH): To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development to state progress on the commencement of the construction of the Charleshill Vocational Training Centre because the plot now attracts people who dump rubbish inside it. **(153)**

6. MR. J. L. THIITE, MP. (GHANZI NORTH): To ask the Minister of Lands and Water Affairs to provide an update on the status of the recently implemented Kuke water project and to state: **(154)**

- (i) the expected date for the commencement of water reticulation at Kuke, allowing residents to connect standpipes to their homesteads; and
- (ii) the anticipated installation date of the long promised prepaid public standpipes.

7. MR. S. N. MOABI, MP. (TATI WEST): To ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism if she is aware that elephants have destroyed ploughing fields in the Tati West Constituency, particularly in areas like Sekakangwe, Gambule, Mbalambi and Gungwe; if so: **(155)**

- (i) why the Minister has not engaged with the affected Batswana who lost their harvest to elephants during the previous ploughing season and why they have not been a priority; and
- (ii) to state plans in place to compensate or support the affected Batswana to recover from their losses.

- 8. MR. K. K. KAPINGA, MP. (OKAVANGO):** To ask the Minister of Transport and Public Works: **(156)**
- (i) what achievements, if any, he has made in ensuring that the Mohembo East–Gudigwa road is maintained to a reasonably traversable standard;
 - (ii) if he would acknowledge that the quality of the road severely impacts on the quality of life of residents, the durability of their vehicles, including public transport and generally on the poverty levels in the area; and
 - (iii) what can be expected immediately on the part of the Ministry, in terms of interventions, to improve the road.
- 9. MR. P. K. MOTAOSANE, MP. (THAMAGA-KUMAKWANE):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development when he intends to appoint a Deputy Headman of Record at Kumakwane. **(157)**
- 10. MR. T. MANGWEGAPE-HEALY, MP. (GABORONE CENTRAL):** To ask the Minister of Minerals and Energy about: **(164)**
- (i) the revenue sharing model between Botswana Government and De Beers;
 - (ii) at what point does the Government make money from the deal as diamonds trade flow from Debswana and Diamond Trading Company Botswana (DTCB), before it goes to De Beers and Okavango Diamond Company (ODC);
 - (iii) who values the diamonds on behalf of Government;
 - (iv) Debswana's revenue in the last five years and how much it pays back to Government;
 - (v) the value of rough diamonds revenue to Government against the value of rough diamonds exported and against the total value of the diamond industry in the last five (5) years, with each figures given annually; and
 - (vi) as public entities, when last Debswana and Okavango Diamonds published their financials and if those financials are publicly available.
- 11. MR. D. SALESHANDO, MP. (MAUN WEST):** To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development to state if the Maun Centre for Children with Severe and Multiple Disabilities is fully operational, the Minister should further state when the project was completed and handed over to the Ministry and when the first children were admitted to the school. **(175)**

- 12. MR. L. KABLAY, MP. (LETLHAKENG-LEPHEPE):** To ask the Minister of Minerals and Energy if there are any mineral deposits found in Letlhakeng-Lephepe Constituency and if so, whether Botswana Geoscience Institute is ready to share this information with the Letlhakeng-Lephepe community so that Botswana Investment Trade Centre (BITC) can find investors for them as they did for the Mmadinare Cooperative and to state the following: **(176)**
- (i) the names of minerals found in the area;
 - (ii) the potential size of the deposits;
 - (iii) the potential use and by products of these minerals; and
 - (iv) if the Ministry has any programme for encouraging rural mineral benefiting by communities through partnerships with Minerals Development Company Botswana (MDCB) and other investors as seen in other neighbouring countries to enable the rural transformation as espoused in the Vision 2036.

(FOR ORAL ANSWER ON WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024)

- 1. MR. L. LESEDI, MP. (SEROWE SOUTH):** To ask the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs to state: **(96)**
- (i) the number of jobs created by Government from October 2019 to date;
 - (ii) sectors that most of the jobs were created from and the number of jobs per sector;
 - (iii) the rate of youth unemployment in Botswana from 2019 to 2022;
 - (iv) the total rate of unemployment in Botswana and why youth unemployment is high in the country;
 - (v) what comprehensive plans, solutions and strategies are in place to create employment for the youth;
 - (vi) how many graduates are unemployed in Botswana and causes of high unemployment;
 - (vii) the number of people who have lost jobs in the last three (3) years and those who have lost jobs due to the **COVID-19** Pandemic; and
 - (viii) if the Ministry will consider introducing unemployment compensation to cushion all those who have lost jobs due to the COVID-19 Pandemic as well as unemployment insurance and unemployment benefits for unemployed youth graduates.

- 2. MR. G. KEKGONEGILE, MP. (MAUN EAST):** To ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism to brief this Honourable House on the efforts being made by her Ministry to rid the national streets and localities of extreme dirt; in particular: **(104)**
- (i) paradigm shift on the current refuse collection strategy as it is not working;
 - (ii) upgrading decision making on environmental issues (Department of Environmental Affairs) with an establishment of an independent Environmental Affairs Agency bringing environmental issues under one roof; and
 - (iii) current environmental safety collaboration strategy between her Ministry, Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Public Works and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.
- 3. MR. B. MATHOOTHE, MP. (SEROWE NORTH):** To ask the Minister for State President to brief this Honourable House on the status of recruiting personnel with Certificate, Diploma and Degree qualification for Government employment; he should state: **(116)**
- (i) the number of interns who have been absorbed for permanent and pensionable positions in Government in the past five (5) years; and
 - (ii) remedial actions in place to absorb more graduates.
- 4. DR. U. DOW, MP. (SPECIALLY ELECTED):** To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development whether he appreciates that a village preschool of approximately 50 children, that is two (2) classrooms earns the proprietor, on average, P6 500 per month and that being the case: **(121)**
- (i) does he not consider the current regulations governing preschools over burdensome on these small businesses;
 - (ii) why are these regulations only applied to private businesses but not to Government preschools;
 - (iii) why does he not consider a large shady tree to be sufficient protection from the sun but considers it very pleasant at the cattle post and in homesteads;
 - (iv) why does the requirement for toddler toilets apply only to private preschools but not to Government preschools, hospitals, malls or homes; and

- (v) does he realise that the provision of day care and preschool services is particularly important to women, who otherwise cannot work, as they are generally the primary child care providers in their homes.
- 5. MR. K. C. HIKUAMA, MP. (NGAMI):** To ask the Minister of Education and Skills Development to apprise this Honourable House on: **(162)**
- (i) what led to the paralysis of sports in Government schools; and
 - (ii) plans to ensure that sports are as active as expected in Botswana schools given their benefit to the general development of learners and academic performance.
- 6. MR. D. L. KEORAPETSE, MP. (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to enlighten Parliament on the Selebi Phikwe Town Council (SPTC) budget for each year since a decade ago, he should specifically state: **(163)**
- (i) how much SPTC usually budgets for and the percentage that their proposed budget is cut;
 - (ii) how much was allocated to the municipality each year since a decade ago and how much was for recurrent expenditure and how much was for development;
 - (iii) if he knows and can state challenges emanating from low budget and budget cuts for SPTC, which main services have been affected over the years; and
 - (iv) whether he intends to increase the amount allocated for SPTC and if so, when and by how much and if not, to explain.
- 7. MR. C. GREEFF, MP. (GABORONE BONNINGTON SOUTH):** To ask the Minister of Transport and Public Works to apprise this Honourable House on his Ministry's strategy to achieve road safety in Gaborone; he should further state: **(165)**
- (i) the total number of fatal road accidents and deaths of pedestrians hit by vehicles along the Western Bypass, between Game City and Phase 4, Gaborone West and Block 5; and
 - (ii) if he would consider constructing an overhead bridge for pedestrians crossing Western Bypass, between Bus rank and The Fields Mall (A12), Block 5 and Phase 4.

- 8. MR. W. B. MMOLOTSI, MP. (FRANCISTOWN SOUTH):** To ask the Minister of Lands and Water Affairs: **(166)**
- (i) why it has taken so long for Batswana to be given Secure Land Titles for their plots; and
 - (ii) whether he is aware that the delay is causing problems for people who want to do businesses in their plots.
- 9. MR. T. LETSHOLO, MP. (KANYE NORTH):** To ask the Minister of Health to update this Honourable House on the current state of ambulance services in Government health facilities and the potential solutions for better healthcare delivery in Botswana; more specifically: **(171)**
- (i) if there is a shortage of ambulances or a problem with the availability of ambulances in Government health facilities and if so, what are the key reasons for this shortage or availability issue;
 - (ii) if the Ministry has considered the privatisation of ambulance services and what are the factors that have led to or prevented the consideration of such a move; and
 - (iii) to elucidate on the potential benefits and advantages associated with privatising ambulance services, including any improvements in service quality and efficiency.
- 10. MR. P. P. P. MOATLHODI, MP. (TONOTA):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development whether he is aware that an access road from A1 into Loomboko Village in the Tonota Constituency does not have road markings; and if so, when markings will be made with a view to avoid accidents. **(173)**
- 11. MR. S. J. BROOKS, MP. (K GALAGADI SOUTH):** To ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism whether she is aware of the delay of the two (2) projects in Kgalagadi South Constituency being: **(177)**
- (i) construction of a Nature Reserve Park and gate house at Khuis;
 - (ii) construction of ablution block and gate house at Khawa; and
 - (iii) to state the budget of each project and the completion dates of both projects.
- 12. MR. P. MAJAGA, MP. (NATA-GWETA):** To ask the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs if she is aware of the influx of illegal immigrants especially Zimbabwe citizens; and further state: **(178)**

- (i) if she is aware that most of the heinous crimes are committed by these nationals, such as murder, rape, defilement and robbery;
- (ii) whether it is true that Government is considering the use of national identity cards instead of passports as travelling documents;
- (iii) the number and type of crimes these nationals have committed; and
- (iv) if it is not high time for the Minister to strengthen the security at borders and monitor ungazetted points of entry where illegal immigrants gain entry.

NOTICE OF TABLING OF A PAPER

(FOR MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY, 2024)

- Financial Statements, Tables and Estimates of the Consolidated and Development Funds Revenues 2024/2025.

(Minister of Finance)

NOTICE OF PRESENTATION OF A GOVERNMENT BILL

(FOR MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY, 2024)

- 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)