

BOTSWANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER P A P E R

(TUESDAY 23RD JULY, 2024)

QUESTIONS

HRS/MINS

1400 - 1445

- 1. MR. S. N. MOABI, MP. (TATI WEST):** To ask the Minister of Defence and Security: **(182)**

 - (i) if there is any new strategy to reduce cross border crimes in Moroka and Mbalambi; and
 - (ii) what specific measures are being undertaken to enhance border security and prevent criminal activities in these areas.

- 2. MR. C. GREEFF, MP. (GABORONE BONNINGTON SOUTH):** To ask the Minister for State President to give an update on the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Scholarship offered by the Indian High Commission for the year 2023-2024; and further state the number of: **(192)**

 - (i) applicants across the 57 constituencies;
 - (ii) successful applicants and their distribution by the 57 Constituencies;
 - (iii) successful applicants with Junior Certificate qualifications and those with Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE); and
 - (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 scholarships 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.

- 3. MR. T. MANGWEGAPE-HEALY, MP. (GABORONE CENTRAL):** To ask the Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology: **(204)**
- (i) to state how much Government spent on research and development during the National Development Plan (NDP) 11;
 - (ii) how much of the research turned into implementation or commercialization of research and development that was carried during that period;
 - (iii) to list the success stories; and
 - (iv) what has been done to improve and enhance research and development in Botswana.
- 4. 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 the 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.
- 5. MR. M. BALOPI, MP. (GABORONE NORTH):** To ask the Minister of Transport and Public Works if he is aware that public infrastructure is generally dilapidated and not well maintained, e.g. classrooms, hospitals, police stations etc, and if so; to state: **(227)**
- (i) why maintenance of Government infrastructure, especially buildings, is often delayed, compared to private sector infrastructure;
 - (ii) if there are any plans in place to streamline processes, especially the procurement process, with a view to reducing the length of time taken before damaged or worn-out infrastructure is attended to; and
 - (iii) if there is room for private sector players to come on board and assist in infrastructure development and maintenance without being subjected to bureaucratic red tape.

6. **MR. S. J. BROOKS, MP. (KGALAGADI SOUTH):** To ask the Minister of Defence and Security to state: **(235)**
- (i) the number of people who drowned in different dams and rivers throughout Botswana over the past twelve (12) months;
 - (ii) how many lost their lives and how many were rescued by scuba divers;
 - (iii) why scuba divers cannot assist even at night or help those who drown at night; and
 - (iv) if it is due to lack of equipment and what will be done to address the problem.
7. **MR. D. SALESHANDO, MP. (MAUN WEST):** To ask the Minister of Transport and Public Works if Botswana Railways (BR) has ever procured goods from a company named Worldwide Railing and Mining Solutions; if the answer is in the affirmative, the Minister should further state the following: **(260)**
- (i) if the procurement agreement was between BR and the company as registered in Botswana or outside Botswana;
 - (ii) the total monetary value of goods and services procured from the company and whether the procurement was subjected to a competitive bidding process; and
 - (iii) directors and shareholders of the company.
8. **MR. G. KEKGONEGILE, MP. (MAUN EAST):** To ask the Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture to brief this Honourable House on the economic value of Constituency, Culture and Sports competitions in their current state, in particular: **(277)**
- (i) if he is aware that the cost of participating in the competitions as a group sport team (e.g. football) far outweighs benefits, if so, how he is rectifying the scenario;
 - (ii) when the programme was last reviewed, the findings and recommendations; and
 - (iii) which recommendations have been implemented and when the rest will be implemented.

9. **MR. D. L. KEORAPETSE, MP. (SELEBI PHIKWE WEST):** To ask the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs to state if she is aware of the discontent of workers about the ineffectiveness of the Commissioner of Labour in resolving trade disputes and if it is the intention of her Government to in future improve trade dispute resolution mechanisms by inter alia: **(279)**
- (i) establishing an independent body responsible for conciliation, mediation and arbitration with quasi-judicial functions;
 - (ii) moving the Industrial Court from the Ministry to be a creation of the Constitution and set it up as a specialised court of the High Court; and
 - (iii) setting up a Labour Appeals Court or a division of same at Court of Appeal.
10. **MR. W. B. MMOLOTSI, MP. (FRANCISTOWN SOUTH):** To ask the Minister for State President to state why: **(289)**
- (i) this country still needs Specially Elected Members of Parliament; and
 - (ii) Specially Elected Members of Parliament are given Constituency allowance when they do not have constituencies.
11. **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.
12. **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.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

HRS/MINS

PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS

1445 – 1800

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| <p>1. Standing Committee on Remuneration (Members of the National Assembly, Councillors, <i>Ntlo ya Dikgosi</i> and Specified Offices) (Bill No. 3 of 2024)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Published on 1st March, 2024)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Minister for State President)</p> | <p>An Act to amend the Standing Committee on Remuneration (Members of the National Assembly, Councillors, <i>Ntlo ya Dikgosi</i> and Specified Offices) Act.</p> |
| <p>2. Specified Offices (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 11 of 2024)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Published on 24th June, 2024)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Minister for State President)</p> | <p>An Act to amend the Specified Offices (Salaries and Allowances) Act.</p> |
| <p>3. Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 9 of 2024)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Published on 31st May, 2024)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Minister of Minerals and Energy)</p> | <p>An Act to amend the Mines and Minerals Act.</p> |

4. Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 6 of 2024) An Act to amend the Deeds Registry Act.

(Published on 15th March, 2024)

(Minister of Lands and Water Affairs)

5. National Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 8 of 2024) An Act to amend the Citizenship Act.

(Published on 29th May, 2024)

(Minister of Labour and Home Affairs)

6. Judicial Services (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 10 of 2024) An Act to amend the Judicial Services Act.

(Published on 24th June, 2024)

(Minister of Justice)