

BOTSWANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

(TUESDAY 12TH AUGUST, 2025)

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

HRS/MINS

PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS

0900 - 1300

1. Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 22 of 2025) An Act to amend the Value Added Tax Act.

(Published on 8th August, 2025)

(Minister of Finance)

2. Digital Services Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 23 of 2025) An Act to provide for the regulation of digital services; to enhance the management and promotion of digital services and processes; to establish the Digital Services Authority which shall be responsible for the formulation of digital services standards and provide for its functions; facilitate access to digital services to improve service delivery, administrative functions and productivity in order to enhance public access to digital services and information; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental, to the foregoing.

(Published on 8th August, 2025)

(Minister of Communications and Innovation)

3. Cybersecurity Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 24 of 2025) An Act to provide for the establishment of structures to promote cybersecurity and capacity building in Botswana; to regulate and promote the development of cybersecurity activities in the country; to provide for the identification and declaration of critical information infrastructures and measures to protect critical information infrastructures; to provide for secure and cyber resilient systems for the protection of

users; to provide for the governance and securing of network and information systems essential for the functioning of society and state and local authorities' network and information systems, liability and supervision as well as the basis for the prevention and resolution of cyber incidents; and for matters connected or incidental therewith.

(Published on 8th August, 2025)

(Minister of Communications and Innovation)

4. Cannabis Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 25 of 2025) An Act to provide for the regulation of the cultivation, manufacture, production, storage, distribution, import and export of cannabis for medicinal, scientific or research or industrial purpose; establish the National Cannabis Control Authority which will be responsible for the licensing of cannabis for medicinal, scientific, research or industrial purposes; provide for security measures for the cultivation, manufacture, production, storage, distribution, import and export of cannabis for medicinal, scientific, research or industrial purposes; domesticate Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; and provide for matters connected with, or incidental to, the foregoing.

(Published on 8th August, 2025)

(Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture)

QUESTIONS

HRS/MINS

1400 - 1445

1. **MR. S. O. MAPULANGA, MP. (CHOBE):** To ask the Minister of Trade and Entrepreneurship to apprise this Honourable House on:
 - (i) how many businesses have been funded in Chobe from 2014 to 2024;
 - (ii) how much was disbursed in the same period;
 - (iii) how many are operating and in which sectors;

- (iv) how many failed or have been repossessed and in which sectors; and
- (v) the major challenges of those unsuccessful businesses.

2. MR. M. M. PULE, MP. (KGATLENG EAST): To ask the Minister of Health to provide a detailed and timely update on specific measures taken to improve the quality and reliability of healthcare services in Kgatleng East Constituency, and further state: **(465)**

- (i) the current availability of essential medications in clinics and health posts throughout Kgatleng East;
- (ii) what the Ministry identifies as the key reasons behind recurring medicine shortages in clinics and health post and if the constraints are currently being addressed;
- (iii) what specific interventions the Ministry is actively implementing to improve access to healthcare in the constituency, including staffing, equipment upgrades, mobile health services;
- (iv) whether the Ministry has conducted any recent needs assessment or audit in the health facilities within Kgatleng East, and if so, whether the findings will be shared with the community and local leadership; and
- (v) when the people of Kgatleng East can expect to see visible and measurable improvements in their access to medicine and health services, and how such progress will be monitored and communicated public.

3. MR. O. KWAPA, MP. (JWANENG-MABUTSANE): To ask the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs whether he is aware of the inadequacy and untimely payment of Old Age Pension in the Jwaneng-Mabutsane Constituency and to state the assurances the Government can provide to ensure that this arrangement does not repeat. **(471)**

4. MR. G. KEKGONEGILE, MP. (MAUN EAST): To ask the Minister of Water and Human Settlement to brief this Honourable House on the progress of Maun Water Works project, with emphasis on: **(493)**

- (i) the percentage and stages of each of the four (4) components or contracts;
- (ii) the dates of completion of each component or contract and reasons for delay of each;

- (iii) the amount of cost overruns of each component or contract and reasons thereof;
 - (iv) the activeness of the engaged company and whether it has demobilised for other projects; if so,
 - (v) what mitigating factors are in place to ensure smooth completion of the project; and
 - (vi) the number of household damages reported, number of those compensated and mitigating measures in place to ensure payment of pending cases.
5. **MR. T. B. LUCAS, MP. (BOBIRWA):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to apprise this Honourable House on preparations to transform the Ipelegeng programme. (494)
6. **MR. A. K. KHAN, MP. (MOLEPOLOLE NORTH):** To ask the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure to update this Honourable House on the upgrading of the A12 road to a dual carriage from Metsimotlhabe to Molepolole. (495)
7. **MR. K. C. HIKUAMA, MP. (MAUN WEST):** To ask the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs to state the current vacancy rate for Environmental Health Officers within the Ministry and at local authority levels and to further state: (496)
- (i) challenges the Government is facing in filling these posts with suitably qualified and experienced Batswana; and
 - (ii) whether the omission of Environmental Health Officers from the Scarce Skills allowance could be a contributing factor to decline in the quality and consistency of environmental health services across the country.
8. **DR. U. DOW, MP. (KGATLENG WEST):** To ask the Minister of Lands and Agriculture whether Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) will make profit during its current financial year and: (498)
- (i) if the answer is in the affirmative, what lessons other state-owned enterprises can learn from the example of Botswana Meat Commission;
 - (ii) if the answer is in the negative, when it is expected to make profit; and
 - (iii) whether there are any plans to privatise the entity.

9. **MR. P. M. SEGOKGO, MP. (TLOKWENG):** To ask the Minister of International Relations if he is aware of any citizens of Botswana who have sought asylum in the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom; if so, to state: (501)
- (i) the reported numbers of such asylum seekers in each country over the past five (5) years;
 - (ii) the reasons cited by these asylum seekers; and
 - (iii) steps, if any, the Government has taken to address the root causes leading to such asylum claims.
10. **MR. L. BARONGWANG, MP. (MOGODITSHANE EAST):** To ask the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs to state: (502)
- (i) the current capacity and legal empowerment of Government officers, beyond judicial magistrates and judges, who are authorised to hear and issue legally binding rulings on labour disputes in Botswana, specifically detailing the roles and powers of the Commissioner of Labour and arbitrators under the Trade Disputes Act, 2016;
 - (ii) the average turnaround time for labour-related matters to be completed within the Ministry's dispute resolution framework for the last three (3) financial years (2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24), compared to the Ministry's set targets; and
 - (iii) the specific legislative amendments being considered to enhance the adjudicatory powers of labour officers and address any identified delays.
11. **MR. J. J. FRENZEL, MP. (SHASHE WEST):** To ask the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure when the A30 Road at Matakana that leads to A3 which passes through Matsitama and Lepashe will be tarred. (503)

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

HRS/MINS

SECOND READING

1445 - 1800

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| 1. | Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 22 of 2025) | An Act to amend the Value Added Tax Act. |
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(Bill No. 23 of 2025)
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