



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

13th
PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT OF BOTSWANA
— OUR PARLIAMENT OUR PRIDE —

23rd August 2026

To: All Media Houses
Att: Assignment Editors

PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT CONCLUDES THE 3RD MEETING OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 13TH PARLIAMENT (LEGISLATIVE MEETING)

The six-week 3rd Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 13th Parliament commenced with its historic inaugural Official Opening on 13 July 2026 and concluded on 21 August 2026. During the Meeting, Parliament considered legislation, national policies, Government resolutions, Parliamentary Questions, Private Members' Motions and other matters of public importance, with Bills and policies first scrutinised by the relevant Portfolio Committees before debate in the House. The conduct of business reflected growing bipartisanship and improved processing of Motions, culminating in the House adjourning sine die, with no fixed date for its next sitting. The Meeting was preceded by a Pre-Winter meeting Capacity Building Seminar held under the theme, "Fostering Dialogue among Legislators to Strengthen Legal Frameworks for a New Botswana," which equipped Members with skills and knowledge to discharge their constitutional mandate with competence, confidence and excellence.

Key Legislative Business

During the Meeting, Parliament passed **13 Government Bills**, covering areas including industrial development, retirement of the Attorney General, gambling, National Library Services, National Research and Innovation Council, Married Persons' Property, Societies, Financial Intelligence, Proceeds and Instruments of Crime, Trust Property Control, Loan Authorisations and Counter-terrorism.

On Private Members' Bills, the Electoral (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 21 of 2026) was negated (rejected) while other Private Members' Bills were presented for First Reading.

Policies and Resolutions

Parliament considered and adopted the Botswana National Migration Policy, National Health Insurance Policy, National Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy.



For More Information, contact Public Relations on: **3616 869/370 5506/588/522.**

The House also authorised Government to increase the ceiling on the Government Bond Issuance Programme from P55 billion to P85 billion.

Questions and Motions

A total of **389** Parliamentary Questions were received, **165 noticed**, **4 asked without notice**, and **148 answered**, with **21 affected by time constraints** and **241 remaining overall**. Ministers' Question Time recorded **12 questions received**, **11 noticed**, **8 answered**, **1 deferred (later dated)** and **2 withdrawn**.

The House also considered **30 Private Members' Motions**, of which **14 were debated**, **6 adopted**, **5 negated** and **3 withdrawn**. Among the adopted motions were those concerning Safe and Student-friendly School Buses, Electricity Distribution by Botswana Power Corporation (BPC), Recruitment of Older Casual labourers during Emergencies, Introduction of Sign Language as An Official Language, and Mechanisms for Assisting in the Search for Missing Persons.

Ministerial Statements and Other Business

The House received nine Ministerial Statements covering, among other matters, El Niño Conditions, Food Security, Foot and Mouth Disease, Extreme Heat Preparedness, Electoral Reforms, Employment and Labour Reforms, Botswana Defence Force Pensions, Public Health, and the Involvement of Botswana in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and related immigration matters.

The Meeting also received a personal explanation by the former Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Hon. N. S. L. M. Salakae, and the tabling of the BOFINET Integrated Report, 2025, alongside other various Statutory Instruments. The Leader of Opposition, Hon Dumelang Saleshando, as well presented a statement on the state of public health in Botswana.

Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight

In the build-up to and during the Meeting, different Parliamentary Committees sat to consider legislation, policies, Government programmes and other matters referred to them. This marked a significant step towards enhanced parliamentary scrutiny and oversight, with Bills considered by the relevant Committees to allow for thorough examination, scrutiny and informed debate before being considered by the House.

The **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** conducted examinations as part of its mandate to scrutinise public expenditure and Government financial management, while the **Statutory Bodies and State-Owned Enterprises Committee** and the **Government Assurances Committee** also conducted examinations in line with their respective mandates. The **Finance, Trade and Economic Development Committee** considered the Industrial Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and Gambling (Amendment) Bill, 2026, while the **Labour and Home Affairs Committee** considered the National Library Service Bill, 2026 and Botswana National Migration Policy.



Other Committees, including Governance and Oversight; Agriculture, Lands and Housing; Health and HIV/AIDS; Education and Skills Development; Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Security; and Local Governance and Social Welfare, considered legislation and policies, engaged stakeholders and received briefings on various matters related to their mandate.

Botswana's Voice Beyond Its Borders

The Winter Meeting also coincided with key inter-parliamentary engagements, with Botswana contributing its voice to regional and continental dialogue. At the 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference in Malawi, Botswana supported discussions on strengthening parliamentary oversight of continental trade agreements to ensure the AfCFTA delivers tangible benefits for African citizens. The Speaker also advanced Botswana's perspective on human rights, inclusivity, gender equality and democratic governance at a SADC Parliamentary Forum dialogue alongside the Pan-African Parliament's First Ordinary Session.

In the build-up to the Winter Meeting, Botswana's parliamentary diplomacy recorded significant milestones as several Members of Parliament and Ntlo ya Dikgosi secured key regional and continental leadership positions. Deputy Speaker Hon. Helen P. Manyeneng was elected unopposed Chairperson of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development (GEWARD), while Leader of the Opposition Hon. Dumelang Saleshando was elected Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI), both for the 2026–2028 term. Kgosi Mosadi Seboko of Ntlo ya Dikgosi was also elected Deputy Chairperson of the Southern Region Caucus of the Pan-African Parliament.

Botswana's representation was further strengthened through the election of Hon. Mabuse Pule as Vice Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region Executive Committee, Hon. Dr Unity Dow as Commonwealth Women Parliament (CWP) Africa Region Central Sub-Regional Representative, and Hon. Letlhogonolo Barongwang as CPA Africa Region Central Sub-Regional Representative. These leadership roles strengthened Botswana's voice and influence in advancing regional and continental parliamentary cooperation, democracy, trade, gender equality and inclusive development.

The Legislative Meeting concluded with significant progress in legislation, policy consideration, oversight and public representation, reaffirming Parliament's constitutional mandate to make laws, hold Government to account, represent the interests of citizens and address matters of national importance.

Silas Sehularo
For/Clerk of the National Assembly

