



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
SPEECH DELIVERED TO
PARLIAMENT**

BY

HONOURABLE MOETI CEASAR MOHWASA, MP.

Minister for State President, Defence and Security



0100 PARLIAMENT

2026/2027

I. INTROCUCTION

1. **Mr. Chairman,** allow me to present before this Honourable Committee the 2026/2027 Budget Proposals for Organization 0100-Parliament. These Budget Proposals follow the adoption of the Draft National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) that was held during a Special Meeting from the 16th October to the 7th November 2025 under the theme: Building a Diversified and Inclusive Deep Economy for Sustainable Jobs.
2. **Mr. Chairman,** the NDP 12 marks a strategic shift towards a private sector led economy as outlined by the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) which was adopted by this august House alongside the National Development Plan 12 on Friday 7th November 2025. The BETP is intended to be the engine of the plan focusing mainly on transforming the economy.
3. **Mr. Chairman,** the 2026/2027 budget proposals reflect our commitment to the NDP 12, which speaks of defining Botswana's true north and charting a clear course for sustained and inclusive growth, renewed institutions, and strategic investments in productivity, resilience, and human development.

II. PARLIAMENT REFORMS

4. **Mr. Chairman,** Government is committed to reform both the Parliament and Ntlo Ya Dikgosi to strengthen their roles, democracy, accountability and improving legislative efficiency through Parliamentary independence/autonomy. This financial and administrative independence ensures that the Legislature can effectively perform its functions of legislation, oversight and representation. These reforms will be part of the review process of the Constitution.

5. **Mr. Chairman,** allow me now to state some of the achievements realised during the year under review.

III. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

6. **Mr. Chairman,** the vision of the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly is to transform Parliament into a high performing institution through strengthening the institutional capacity and change management process, enhancing the efficiency of systems and processes of Parliament. In pursuit of this vision allow me to highlight some of the achievements, aimed at enhancing the performance of Parliament.

a. LEGISLATION

7. **Mr. Chairman**, during the year under review Parliament passed **20 Bills** demonstrating effective legislative output. The 20 Bills passed were as follows:

- i. Medical Aid Funds Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 5 of 2025)
- ii. Employment and Labour Relations Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 10 of 2025)
- iii. Community Based Natural Resources Management Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 11 of 2025)
- iv. Conventional Arms Control Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 13 of 2025)
- v. Forest and Range Resources Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 12 of 2025)
- vi. Botswana (Governance and Economic Resilience Support Programme) African Development Bank (AfDB) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 15 of 2025)
- vii. Governance and Economic Resilience Support Programme, OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 16 of 2025)
- viii. Anti-Doping Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 18 of 2025)
- ix. Botswana National Sports Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 17 of 2025)
- x. Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 22 of 2025)
- xi. Digital Services Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 23 of 2025)
- xii. Cybersecurity Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 24 of 2025)
- xiii. Cannabis Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 25 of 2025)

- xiv. Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 26 of 2025)
- xv. Emergency Preparedness Response and Resilience Project, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 34 of 2025)
- xvi. Radiation Protection Regulatory Authority Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 32 of 2025)
- xvii. Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 30 of 2025)
- xviii. Medicines and Related Substances Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 29 of 2025)
- xix. Trade Disputes (Repeal) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 28 of 2025)
- xx. Trade Unions and Employers' Organisations (Repeal) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 27 of 2025)

7. In addition to the above, the **Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 14 of 2025)**, which sought to establish the Constitutional Court as an important step towards developing Botswana's constitutional democratic system and consolidation was referred to Ntlo ya Dikgosi in terms of Section 88(2) of the Constitution.

8. Some of the key achievements from passing these legislations are:

- i. The Loan Authorisation Bills were enacted to fund among other things the implementation of the Health Emergency Preparedness

Response and Resilience (HEPRR) Project and as budget support for the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

- ii. In advancing the digital transformation agenda and reducing the carbon footprint, Parliament passed the **Digital Services Bill**.
 - iii. The **Cybersecurity Bill** was passed to operationalize national cybersecurity strategies, strengthen threat prevention and response, and ensure a safe, secure digital environment for our citizens and institutions.
 - iv. The **Cannabis Bill** was passed to enable medicinal, scientific, research, and industrial applications, and to establish the National Cannabis Control Authority. This reflects global regulatory trends and supports Botswana's economic diversification and healthcare innovation strategies.
 - v. The **Employment and Labour Relations Bill** was passed to strengthen labour relations, promote orderly collective bargaining, and improve dispute prevention and resolution, aligning our framework with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 87 on freedom of association and the right to organize.
 - vi. The **Anti-Doping Bill, 2025** sought to establish a National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) and its associated structures which will be the principal regulatory instrument for anti-doping in Botswana.
9. In addition to the above, the House adopted two (2) Policies namely;

- i. The **National Occupational Safety and Health Policy, 2025**, which sought to entrench the right to a safe, healthy workplace across all sectors of the economy; and
- ii. The **National Productivity and Competitiveness Policy** which was adopted to raise economic productivity, support growth, create employment opportunities, and improve the livelihoods of Batswana.

10. **Mr. Chairman**, in an effort to improve pre-legislative scrutiny all Bills (including the Appropriation Bill) and Policies will hence forth be scrutinized by the relevant Portfolio Committees prior to being presented to Parliament.
11. This initiative commenced during the November/December 2025 Meeting and five (5) out of six (6) Bills were scrutinized by the relevant Committees. This strengthens legislation by allowing early and detailed reviews of Bills and Policies.
12. **Mr. Chairman**, in furtherance of the transformation of our Parliament to a well informed and high performing institution, we intend to implement the E-Parliament initiative through leveraging on Information Communication Technology (ICT) to enhance legislative efficiency and improve citizen engagement. ICT solutions will be employed for managing parliamentary business (minutes, Hansard, library books, order and notice papers) and optimizing legislative

workflows. This will enable staff and the legislators to share information and collaborate effectively and most importantly to track the progress of bills. This initiative will reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks and overall costs at the same time protecting parliament's legitimacy to deliver for its people.

b. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

13. **Mr. Chairman,** Oversight and Accountability are crucial for good governance, ensuring transparency and curbing corruption.
14. **Mr. Chairman,** to this end Parliamentary committees have extensively been receiving briefings from Ministries and stakeholders in fulfillment of their oversight role. This exercise reinforces the notion of scrutiny, transparency, and accountability across government operations.
15. **Mr. Chairman,** these comprehensive and informative briefings from various ministries and agencies have provided insights to Members of Parliament to understand the context and scope of their mandate, ongoing projects, and completed works, thereby significantly strengthening their oversight role.
16. **Mr. Chairman,** during the year under review the Committee on Education and Skills Development addressed issues raised by students from the DDT School of Medicine. The oversight intervention of the

Committee led to the Ministry of Higher Education and the Botswana Qualification Authority (BQA) carrying further investigations into the issues of the accreditation of institutions of higher learning.

17. **Mr. Chairman,** the Public Accounts Committee convened the 61st Meeting to examine the 2021-2022 annual final accounts and statements. The sitting of the Public Accounts Committee underscores the importance of the Legislature to hold the Executive accountable. To this end I am happy to report that from May to December 2025 there has been 47 meetings of Committees.

18. **Mr Chairman,** the current economic situation presents an opportunity for robust monitoring and evaluation. This calls for the Parliamentary Committees in the 2026/27 financial year to engage in significant oversight actions aimed at deepening the quality and impact of parliamentary oversight. It is worth noting that strong parliamentary oversight is the pillar of accountability and good governance, as such the intention is to implement a structured post budget oversight framework. This would be moving beyond the traditional practice of Committee of Supply briefings, by establishing and implementing a mechanism for tracking the implementation of the Executive's planned activities, and monitoring of the expenditure against the approved budget.

c. PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

19. **Mr. Chairman,** Parliamentary diplomacy serves as a crucial complementary tool to the Executive's foreign policy, strengthening Botswana's overall international relations through democratic legitimacy and peer-to-peer engagement.
20. **Mr. Chairman,** to this end, the National Assembly attended 30 international missions, including inter-parliamentary plenaries, committee meetings, and election observer missions across various memberships namely; Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Organization of African-Caribbean and Pacific States-European Union (OACPS-EU), Pan African Parliament (PAP), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), and Southern African Development Community Organization of Public Accounts Committees (SADC OPAC).
21. Honourable Members of Parliament have assumed key positions of influence within these international bodies:
 - i. Africa Representative to the Bureau of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians.
 - ii. the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Regional Representative for Central Africa.
 - iii. The Vice Chairperson of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

22. **Mr. Chairman**, there is a need to enhance Botswana’s parliamentary engagement in the global sphere. We would therefore be intentional in overhauling our approach to parliamentary diplomacy in the 2026/27 financial year. This involves moving from reactive attendance to proactive engagement by all our delegations to inter parliamentary bodies and meetings. This should propel our engagement to be objective and take up our role as Parliament to properly pursue an oversight role on the treaties and protocols which Botswana is party to. This will ensure that Botswana’s participation is aligned with national interests and that valuable outcomes and best practices are systematically reported back and integrated into domestic parliamentary processes. Furthermore, we aim to foster closer bilateral ties with selected sister Parliaments to facilitate peer-to-peer learning on committee systems and legislative best practices.

23. **Mr. Chairman**, these engagements, are central to translating international obligations, for example, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), African Union (AU Agenda 2063), into domestic law and policy through Parliament's legislative function.

d. REPRESENTATION

24. **Mr. Chairman**, Parliament remains committed to upholding citizen inclusion in all its endeavours, equity, and gender sensitivity in policymaking and development strategies. This, we strive to achieve

even though we are faced with fiscal constraints. Government is committed in doing so by adopting innovative, cost-effective engagement methods with its citizenry.

25. **Mr. Chairman**, through Botswana Speaks, our vital data management system, enables citizens to communicate with their Members of Parliament on constituency and national issues, including Bills. The platform is free, and it accessible through the web and mobile phones.
26. **Mr. Chairman**, in April 2025, Botswana Speaks transitioned into a Parliamentary Services Division. As a result, the platform underwent major updates and upgrades, and ultimately a mobile application was released on both Google Play and Apple Store. We therefore encourage citizens to visit **www.botswanaspeaks.gov.bw**, download the Application (app), register, and actively participate in governance issues.
27. **Mr. Chairman**, on schools' outreach, the programme continues to grow in leaps and bounds, with a total of 145 school visits in the year 2025/2026 to Parliament. It is a notable increase from 89 visits in the year 2024/2025, this **Mr. Chairman**, speaks volumes about young persons' rising interest in the legislative process.
28. Our digital footprint has expanded significantly, **Mr. Chairman**, with 1,359 multimedia posts across various media platforms. This is up

from 951 in the previous year. It is an indication that broader, timely, and inclusive access to parliamentary information is enjoyed by Batswana. This is an indication that our dream of becoming a paperless/green Parliament will be realized.

29. **Mr. Chairman,** the "Taking Parliament to the People" outreach programme continued, with the Speakership visiting six (6) constituencies. The purpose of the visits was to listen, inform, and gather valuable insights from Batswana on how Parliament can better serve them in this new Republic.

30. **Mr. Chairman** it is our intention to make the legislative process more inclusive, accountable and reflective of the diverse populace through increased transparency and improved dialogue between members and citizens.

31. This will require meaningful participation and representation that integrates all stakeholders into the decision-making process. To this end we will partner with strategic partners to improve the representative role of Parliament and strengthen its ability to reach out to all sectors of society.

e. NTLO YA DIKGOSI

32. **Mr. Chairman,** Ntlo ya Dikgosi considered the **Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 14 of 2025)** in October 2025 and submitted its resolutions to the National Assembly as part of their Constitutional mandate as per Section 85(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Botswana. The Ntlo ya Dikgosi was fulfilling their advisory role to the National Assembly focusing on a Constitutional matter.
33. **Mr. Chairman,** in contributing to nation building and good governance the Ntlo ya Dikgosi partnered with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to develop a framework to guide the Members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi on grassroots engagements, actions and in advancing gender and women's rights.
34. The awareness campaign and the framework will allow our traditional leadership to actively engage the nation on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Gender Development which also include Gender Based Violence (GBV).
35. **Mr. Chairman,** to ensure the Honourable Speaker's vision of transforming Parliament into a high performing institution through strengthening the institutional capacity and change management process, enhancing the efficiency of systems and processes, Ntlo ya Dikgosi will embark on the following;

- i.Uptake and use of technology by Members and Staff (paperless House)
- ii.Training Members and staff to use digital devices and software effectively
- iii.Digital tools for remote work through provision of routers
- iv.Digitizing workflow through intranet
- v.Conducting in-house training for Members on effective and efficient Legislative output, focusing on:
 - vi.Legislative drafting
 - vii.Policy analysis
 - viii.Amended Rules of Procedure

f. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, DIKGOSI AND STAFF

36. **Mr. Chairman,** in an endeavour to build a strong Parliament, Members of Parliament, Ntlo ya Dikgosi and staff will continue to be capacitated so as to develop their skills and competencies to effectively execute their mandate.
37. **Mr. Chairman,** through our intensified capacity building efforts, Members of Parliament, Members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi and staff attended various international training sessions. In this regard thirteen (13) Members of Parliament, six (6) Members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi and thirty-two (32) members of staff attended training in China. Furthermore,

one (1) Member of Parliament and seven (7) members of staff attended training in India.

38. **Mr. Chairman,** these capacity building initiatives, were made possible through the generosity of Parliament strategic partners following the historic hosting of a successful Strategic Dialogue in September 2025.
39. **Mr. Chairman,** in November 2025, Parliament notably hosted a Commonwealth Governance Forum (Latimer House Principles) which brought together Members of Parliament, Judges and other stakeholders to discuss strengthening democratic governance and the separation of powers.
40. **Mr. Chairman,** in view of the austere economic conditions, Parliament will continue to explore all other available options from our various stakeholders to capacitate both the Legislators, Members of Ntlo Ya Dikgosi and staff. To this end we will continue to seek collaborations through signing of Memoranda of Understanding with various institutions, sister Parliaments and Donor Agencies.

g. FACILITIES AND HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

41. **Mr. Chairman,** we aspire to build infrastructure that not only serves our democratic functions, but also reflects and depict our indigenous heritage and promotes civic pride. Our initiatives in infrastructure development, alongside a comprehensive Heritage Management

Strategy, will integrate cultural and heritage symbols into parliamentary buildings and spaces.

42. Through these strategies, Parliament seeks to uphold national identity and inclusivity, encourage public ownership of democratic institutions, and strengthen the link between traditional governance and modern democratic standards.
43. **Mr. Chairman**, in an endeavor to rise to these challenges it also presents opportunities. We can leverage technological advances to digitize legislative services, strengthen oversight and accountability on the Executive, and deepen citizen participatory democracy.
44. **Mr. Chairman**, among these opportunities is the construction of a **Parliamentary Democracy Heritage Site** — a museum with statues, plaques, busts, and monuments that will preserve our democratic journey for generations to come.
45. The delimitation has made us realize the urgent need for a new Parliament Chamber as well as additional offices, meeting rooms, auditoriums, and committee facilities. **Mr. Chairman**, this is not merely about buildings. It is about building trust, identity, and pride. It

is about ensuring that our Parliament reflects the values of our people, while equipping us to meet the demands of a modern democracy.

46. It is our desire and wish therefore, **Mr. Chairman** to construct a new Parliament Chamber or failing which to increase the capacity of the current Chamber. Through the Government fiscus and collaboration with our strategic partners we intend to turn this wish and desire into a reality that Batswana in general can be proud of.

IV. **REVIEW OF THE 2025/2026 RECURRENT AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGET**

a. **RECURRENT BUDGET**

47. **Mr. Chairman**, for the 2025/2026 Financial Year, Parliament was allocated a recurrent budget of **Two Hundred Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty Pula (P200,865,820)**, a total of One Hundred and Forty-Four million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Pula **(P144,258,690)** has been spent as at 31st December 2025, which translates to **72%** expenditure.

b. DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

48. **Mr. Chairman**, for Financial Year 2025/2026 Parliament was allocated P8,000,000.00 and there is no expenditure to date. The reason for zero expenditure is that the Government suspended procurement as a mitigating factor to address the current economic condition. This affected all the three (3) funded projects.

RECURRENT AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGET REQUESTS FOR 2026/2027

49. **Mr. Chairman**, allow me to present the budget proposals for the Financial Year 2026/2027 for both recurrent and development budgets.

a. RECURRENT BUDGET PROPOSAL

50. **Mr. Chairman**, the recurrent budget proposal for **Organization 0100** is **Two Hundred and Six Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Ten Pula (P206,424,410)**. The budget request reflects an increase of Five Million, Five Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety Pula (P5,558,590) or 3% when compared to the 2025/2026 budget allocation of **Two Hundred Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty Pula (P200,865,820)**.

51. Out of the proposed budget, **One Hundred and Forty-Seven Million Six Hundred and One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Pula (P147,601,950)** or **71.5%** is allocated to personnel emoluments for both National Assembly and Ntlo Ya Dikgosi, while **Fifty-Eight Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixty Pula (P 58, 822, 460)** or **28.5%** is reserved for operational costs.

b. DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PROPOSAL

52. **Mr. Chairman**, the Development Budget proposal is **Eight Million Pula (P8,000,000)** which will cover six (6) ongoing projects that are aimed at modernizing the National Assembly facilities and services as detailed below:

i. Computerisation (P2,000,000)

53. **Mr. Chairman**, this project is meant to support the Parliament Digital Transformation Strategy to enhance democracy, representation and oversight. It will enable us to digitize our processes, reduce manual work and the use of paper. By automating our processes, efficiency of the House will be enhanced and transparency and citizen engagement will be improved.

ii. Refurbishment of Parliament Buildings (P1,000,000)

54. **Mr. Chairman,** the project is meant to maintain a higher asset value through continuous repairs, face lifting and renovation of existing buildings for a conducive work environment. For 2026/2027 the project will focus on renovation of the Main Committee Room.

iii. Parliament Security (P2,000,000)

55. **Mr. Chairman,** this project will enhance Parliament security. The project is on-going with current works (building Access Control) at 85% completion. The remaining works include fiber connection to Parliamentary Village, commissioning and post project training.

iv. Organisational Structure (P1,000,000)

56. **Mr. Chairman,** the envisaged new structure will be aligned with the current strategic objectives and the new governance framework to ensure transformation and that Parliament remains relevant. The structure will adapt to the recent governance changes and address newly emerging issues such as Parliament autonomy.

v. Live Broadcasting of Parliament Proceedings (P2,000,000)

57. **Mr. Chairman,** this project is meant to improve our system to attain a high audio and visual resolution standard that is compatible with international broadcasting standards. Upon completion all Parliamentary proceedings will be transmitted in all available channels.

V. CONCLUSION

58. **Mr. Chairman**, this concludes my presentation of the 2026/2027 Recurrent and Development Budget proposals for **Organization 0100-Parliament**. I therefore move that the sum of **Two Hundred and Six Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Ten Pula (P206,424,410)** under the Recurrent Budget for **Organization 0100** in the Schedule stand part of the Schedule and that the sum of **Eight Million Pula (P8,000,000)** for **Organization 0100** in the Development Fund Estimates stand part of those Estimates.

59. I move accordingly and I thank you, **Mr. Chairman**.