



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SPEECH**

**BY**

**HONOURABLE MOETI CAESER MOHWASA**

**MINISTER FOR STATE PRESIDENT,  
DEFENCE AND SECURITY**

**ORGANISATION: 0200**

**FEBRUARY 2026**

- **Mr. Chairman**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

- 1. Mr. Chairman,** I rise to present the Recurrent and Development Budgets for the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security for the 2026/2027 financial year. I request an amount of **Thirteen Billion, Fifty Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, Six hundred and Sixty Pula (P13,050,492,660)**, and **One Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventeen Pula (P1,997,742,917)** for the Recurrent and the Development budgets, respectively.
- 2. Mr. Chairman,** allow me to start by drawing your attention to the ministry's performance in the 2025/2026 financial year. My Ministry is composed of the following departments: State House - 0201, Office of the President - 0202, Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) - 0203, Office of the Former President Mogae - 0213, Department of Information Services - 0215, Department of Broadcasting Services - 0216, Government Printing and Publishing Services (GPPS) - 0217, Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) - 0220, Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) - 0221, Office of the Former President Khama - 0222, Headquarters (MSP) - 0224, National Planning Commission (NPC) - 0225, Office of the Former President M.E.K. Masisi - 0226, Government Communications - 0227, Botswana Defence Force (BDF) - 0228, Botswana Police Services (BPS) - 0229, Drug Enforcement Agency

(DEA) - 0230, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Weapons Management Authority (CBRNWMA) - 0231. Let me hasten to inform this Honourable House that, as a result of the rationalization exercise in my Ministry, the Department of National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA) has been transferred to the Ministry of Health.

**3. Mr. Chairman,** as we discuss requests for budget allocation by different ministries, it is important to reflect on the broader performance of government. Despite global economic challenges and mounting fiscal pressures, as government we have remained steadfast in our commitment to prudent financial management, inclusive development, and institutional reform. We wish to reiterate our commitment that our governance record will continue to demonstrate progress in strengthening accountability through modernized procurement systems, enhancing efficiency in public finance management, and safeguarding essential services for our people. Accordingly, to consolidate these undertakings, infrastructure maintenance has been prioritized to preserve national assets, while diversification efforts in agriculture, tourism, and digital services are laying the foundation for sustainable growth beyond diamonds.

**4. Mr. Chairman,** the government's transparency in acknowledging our fiscal challenges, coupled with the determination to implement reforms, underscores our credibility. Clearly, Batswana have expressed their trust that their welfare remains at the center of our policies, and investors can be confident that Botswana continues to offer a stable, predictable, and

competitive environment. This performance outlook reinforces the aspirations outlined in the Budget Speech, affirming that our nation is not only managing present challenges responsibly but also positioning itself for long-term prosperity.

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES**

### **PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS/NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

- 5. Mr. Chairman,** the draft National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) was presented and approved by Parliament in November 2025. To facilitate NDP 12 implementation, key reforms will be undertaken, including capacity building in project selection and prioritisation, as well as aligning national planning processes with district-level planning processes.
  
- 6.** The focus in this Plan is on improving national service delivery performance to 75 percent by 2036 through the introduction of innovative implementation approaches and the institutionalisation of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. In this regard, NDP 12 is underpinned by targeted actions aimed at strengthening coordination and accountability across the public sector, centred on enhanced implementation mechanisms, improved data management, and the systematic institutionalisation of the national monitoring and evaluation system.

- 7. Mr. Chairman,** the development of a comprehensive National Environmental, Social and Governance (NESG) Framework has been identified as a national priority. This initiative is meant to position Botswana as a preferred destination for sustainable investment, ensuring the responsible management of our natural resources, promoting equitable and inclusive long-term growth, and enhancing access to international green finance. A Steering Committee as well as a Technical Working Committee have since been established to drive the development of the framework.
- 8.** The NPC is coordinating key stakeholders across our economy, to advance the development of the Framework, planned for completion during the 2026/27 financial year and implementation following thereafter. The Steering Committee includes the Permanent Secretaries and Chief Executive Officers of different institutions, amongst them, development partners, NGOs and the private sector. The same institutions are represented at lower level in the Technical Working Committee.
- 9. Mr. Chairman,** since the review of the Botswana National Population Policy in the year 2010, significant changes have occurred in the national, regional and global development environment which need to be addressed. These include; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its underlying goals, International Conference and Population and Development (ICPD)+25 National commitments, the African Union Agenda 2063 as well as the National Vision 2036. These developments

suggest that the current National Population Policy (NPP) may not be adequately positioned to support the country in responding to current and potential population dynamics in its national sustainable development efforts. Given the NDP 12, the National Demographic Dividend Roadmap, and the results of the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the time is opportune for a thorough review of the NPP.

- 10.** Lastly on this focal area **Mr. Chairman**, Government is continuing with the institutionalization of the National Monitoring and Evaluation System (NMES) to track Botswana's progress towards achieving the national development goals through implementation of the National Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. Priority will be given to improving data quality; NMES automation, including the development of a dashboard to improve performance reporting; institutionalization of the evaluation agenda through the development and implementation of the National Evaluation Plan (NEP) for the NDP 12. The roll-out of the NMES beyond Central Government to include Parastatals and Local Authorities will also be prioritized.

## **GOVERNANCE**

- 11. Mr. Chairman**, I now wish to address the Committee on matters pertaining to Governance and our efforts to strengthen the administrative fabric of our nation. Recently Botswana participated in the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Summit, which was held on the margins of the 38th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Demonstrating

our unwavering commitment to continental good governance standards, our delegation engaged constructively with our peers to advance the APRM mandate.

**12. Mr. Chairman,** in line with this commitment, Government has successfully resuscitated the local APRM national structures, which will serve as the bedrock for our forthcoming engagement with the mechanism. As a next step, preparatory arrangements are underway to host the APRM continental secretariat in Botswana to facilitate a comprehensive sectoral assessment, which will provide a vital diagnostic tool to evaluate our governance and socio-economic development practices against the Union's shared values.

## **DATA PROTECTION**

**13. Mr Chairman,** the Information and Data Protection Commission (IPDC) has actively cascaded the requirements of the Data Protection Act of 2024 across government, parastatals and private institutions. This outreach has significantly raised awareness amongst Data Controllers and provided support in aligning their data processing operations with the law. As a result, a culture of compliance has grown steadily. By January 2026, approximately 120 organisations across the public and private sectors had formally designated Data Protection Officers, a critical first step towards embedding data protection, governance, and accountability within institutions.

**14. Mr Chairman,** so far implementation of the Data Protection Act has been slow. To add impetus to implementation of the Act, government is in the process of establishing the Information and Data Protection Tribunal which will be charged with handling appeals of the IDPC decisions.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT**

**15. Mr. Chairman,** we wish to reiterate government's commitment to transform the public service through Human Resource Management Programmes/projects that focus on key areas which include (i) Efficiency of the Public Service, (ii) Competency Based Human Resource Management, (iii) Productivity Improvement, (iv) Modernising the Public Service, (v) Employer/Employee Relations (Employment Relations), and (vi) Establishment of the Human Resources Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

**16. Mr. Chairman,** to effectively transform the public service, it is essential that we begin with transforming our people, starting with the leadership. The Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM), has to date, initiated a Public Service Transformation Program. This program will include leadership coaching and mentorship. The mentorship and coaching programmes are designed to equip leaders in the public service with skills that will enhance execution and delivery of Public Service policies and reforms.

**17.** The Public Service E-learning Platform was officially launched on 18 November 2025. A total of **1,340 public officers** enrolled during the pilot phase, followed by an additional 5,451 officers in the first cohort, which ran from November 2025 to January 2026. The next cohort is scheduled to commence in March 2026, with subsequent cohorts planned to run continuously throughout the financial year. It is anticipated that **over 15,000 public officers** will access the online courses during the financial year 2026/27.

**18. Mr. Chairman,** DPSM through the ongoing Business Process Reengineering Initiative is building capacity to support ministries with re-engineering of their business processes for automation, with a view to promote the provision of services online to the citizenry. Accordingly, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Digital Re-engineering Specialist has been engaged to deliver the training which started on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The following three (3) process groups have been prioritised for streamlining to enable digital transformation, namely:

(a) Social protection processes at the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs;

(b) Immigration processes at the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs;  
and,

(c) Business registration and set-up processes at the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship.

## **PERSONS WITH DISABILITY**

**19. Mr. Chairman,** the Disability Coordination Office continues to play a critical role in mainstreaming disability across government ministries, departments, and agencies. Its mandate is transformative; ensuring that policies, programmes, and budgets are inclusive by design. During the past financial year, the Office focused on strengthening inter-ministerial and district coordination, improving data collection on persons with disabilities, and supporting the implementation of national (Revised National Policy on Disability and Persons with Disability Act) and international disability frameworks, including United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

**20. Mr. Chairman,** let me appraise this house that Persons with Disabilities Act, 2024 was commenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 and as such the state is expected to lead implementation of the Act across all sectors. The Act has commenced in parts, i.e. Parts I-VI, IX and Section 72, to enable the establishment of other administrative and governance structures created under this Act, to allow time for implementers to adopt and adapt to the new legal requirements and prepare resource allocation, training of staff and review of existing policies and legal frameworks before enforcement provisions come into effect. The deferred provisions impose substantive duties on sectors including employers, education providers, service providers and others for compliance preparedness.

**21. Mr. Chairman,** notable progress has been recorded in several areas including the incremental commencement of Persons with Disability Act, increased engagement with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

(OPDs), continued advocacy to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities through public engagements such as the international day for persons with disabilities, albinism day, etc.

**22. Mr. Chairman,** although there is notable progress, challenges still remain. These include limited resources, fragmented implementation, and persistent social barriers faced by persons with disabilities. However, with continued resource support including funding, the Disability Coordination Office is well-positioned to strengthen its leadership role and drive meaningful transformation geared towards inclusion of persons with disabilities.

## **CORRUPTION PREVENTION**

**23. Mr. Chairman,** Botswana continues to perform relatively well in international assessments on corruption perception. According to the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2025, Botswana scored 58 out of 100, indicating a perception of moderate integrity in the public sector. This represents an increase from a score of 57 in 2024. On the global CPI ranking, Botswana is positioned as the 41<sup>st</sup> least corrupt country out of 182 countries assessed. Regionally, Botswana remains among the top performers in Africa, tied with Rwanda and behind Seychelles and Cabo Verde. Despite this relatively strong position, there are persistent challenges. As such, the Directorate will continue to collaborate with relevant agencies and stakeholders to enhance anti-

corruption frameworks, promote transparency, and support initiatives that reinforce public trust in governance.

**24. Mr. Chairman,** to facilitate these efforts, the Directorate is working closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to review and finalise the Draft National Anti-Corruption Policy (NACP). The Project funding is shared between UNODC (75%) and DCEC (25%). Once finalised, this policy will provide a robust framework to guide Botswana's anti-corruption efforts and strengthen the DCEC's capacity to deliver on its mandate.

**25. Mr. Chairman,** the DCEC has conducted targeted corruption audits and risk assessments across government agencies and state-owned enterprises. The audits highlighted a need for strengthened internal controls and oversight mechanisms. Recommendations for improving transparency, accountability, and fiscal management have been shared with audited institutions. However, the Directorate has noted that limited enforceability of audit recommendations has hindered effectiveness. This remains a focus area, with plans to adopt policies that ensure agencies act on audit recommendations.

**26. Mr. Chairman,** the review process of Corruption and Economic Crime Act (CECA) is underway, against the background that certain provisions of the Act no longer adequately respond to the evolving nature of corruption and economic crime. Once the drafting and technical vetting processes are completed, the Bill will be put before Parliament for

consideration. These reforms are expected to significantly strengthen Botswana's anti-corruption legal regime and reinforce a culture of accountability and ethical conduct across both the public and private sectors.

**27. Mr. Chairman,** in alignment with Government priorities and the broader governance reform agenda, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime is undergoing a process of de-linking from the Public Service in order to operate as an independent and robust anti-corruption agency. This represents a critical step towards strengthening institutional independence and promoting public confidence in anti-corruption efforts.

**28. Mr. Chairman,** once the revised CECA comes into force, the de-linking process will enable the Directorate to implement appropriate administrative, operational, and governance structures that are responsive to its specialised mandate. This will include strengthening oversight mechanisms, enhancing institutional capacity, and improving systems that support investigation, prevention, and public education initiatives.

## **GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS**

**29. Mr. Chairman,** Government has in the past had coordination challenges in effectively communicating government projects, policies and programmes to the public. As a result, many citizens were not fully aware of the progress being made on initiatives developed to benefit themselves and their communities, and ultimately improve livelihoods. To address

this gap, the Department prioritises workforce capacity building, upskilling of Communicators nationwide, and public awareness, to ensure a coordinated, more proactive and impact driven communication approach. The goal is to ensure that the public not only receives accurate information about programs and initiatives, but understand its intended benefits.

## **DIGITALIZATION**

- 30. Mr. Chairman,** the implementation of Village Connectivity project will continue in 2026/27 with implementation of Phase 4. This phase will be connecting 440 public facilities across 132 villages and bringing the connected population coverage to 95%. Phase 4 of the Village Connectivity aims to connect the residual and far-flung villages taking advantage of the opportunities brought about by the availability of Low-Earth Orbit (StarLink) satellite internet services now available in the local market.
- 31. However, Mr. Chairman,** Phase 1 of the project, has not been implemented smoothly owing to challenges brought about by insufficient electrical protection devices in facilities, which resulted in uncontrolled power surges, over-voltage events, current spikes, and increased vulnerability to lightning strikes. A significant number of network switches and access points were damaged, leaving multiple facilities offline, pending electrical system upgrades. To this end, installation of dedicated power isolation outlets for network cabinets will be installed to monitor

and control power distribution while providing enhanced surge protection during the coming financial year. The damaged equipment will also be replaced to bring internet connectivity to Batswana.

**32. Mr. Chairman,** as a complement to Government's ambition to close the connectivity gap, StarLink has commissioned three ground stations expanding its infrastructure investment and providing an internet gateway in Botswana and the SADC region. This will bring with it strategic benefits for the country including: improved connectivity in remote and rural areas; improved education opportunities, such as digital and distance learning; supporting government services and e-governance; supporting emerging technologies, such as agriculture and Internet of Things (IoT) and Smart City applications, amongst others. The overall impact would be to help transform Botswana into a digital hub for the SADC region, boosting economic development leading to increased employment opportunities and attracting investment to Botswana.

**33. Mr. Chairman,** Government aims to implement the Digital Competency Framework to help build digital competences for the public officers and citizens to match digital skills and the job market. SmartBots works with the Botswana Public Service College to prepare training programmes on specific digital skills, which follow the framework. In addition, the Digital Business Package for Women will be rolled out as a means to directly address entrepreneurship competencies and unemployment crises particularly among women and young people. The Digital Business Package development is spearheaded by the Digital Innovation Network.

The network approach brings coherence in the activities of the different innovation partners, and ensures coordinated and consistent support to the entrepreneurs. These activities are supplemented by low-cost digital wallet piloting, which informs government actions on how the currently unbanked entrepreneurs can best be enabled to join the formal economy in digital era.

### **FACILITATION OF CREATIVE INDUSTRY SECTOR**

- 33. Mr. Chairman,** the Department of Broadcasting Services plays a pivotal role in advancing the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), which seeks to diversify our economy beyond diamonds and foster sustainable growth. The creative sector harnesses Botswana's cultural assets, natural landscapes, and talent pool to create export-oriented content, reducing dependency on extractive industries and promoting a knowledge-based economy. In 2025/26 financial year, the Botswana Audience Measurements System continued to provide invaluable market intelligence, guiding our programming decisions by revealing viewer preferences, peak listening and watching times, and audience demographics. This data driven approach has enhanced the relevance and reach of our platforms. **Mr. Chairman,** as a testament of this, another milestone is the introduction of eight indigenous languages into our radio and television news bulletins, promoting linguistic diversity and inclusivity in line with our public service ethos.

- 34.** The government is in the process of starting a wholly government-owned Special Purpose Vehicle known as **1966 Media Services**, established to commercialize the assets, platforms and intellectual property of Government Mass Media. The company will serve as the dedicated commercial engine for broadcasting, print and digital operations by centralizing advertising, sponsorship, partnerships and content monetization. Its objective is to grow audiences, diversify revenue streams and strengthen financial sustainability, thereby creating the capacity to reinvest in local content commissioning and the wider creative industries, while laying the financial and institutional foundation for the long-term transition into a resilient and fully-fledged public broadcaster.
- 35.** In terms of job creation, our content initiatives, including Botswana Ignite and the Miss Botswana, Music Awards, generate over 500 freelance opportunities annually and approximately 80 permanent positions across various productions. These roles span scriptwriting, production, technical support, and post-production, directly contributing to youth employment in a country where unemployment remains a pressing issue. Additionally, over 100 Botswana youth have been trained in key aspects of the creative industry, such as filmmaking, broadcasting, and digital media, equipping them with skills for long-term careers.

## **DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

**36. Mr. Chairman,** our nation continues to be adversely affected by a range of disasters (floods, pest infestations, wild fires, etc.) which are often accompanied by threats to human lives, damage to property including critical infrastructure as well as other key sectors of the economy such as agriculture and transport. The current rainy season in Botswana has seen above-average rainfall resulting in floods in various parts of the country including Greater Gaborone, Tonota, Tutume and Selebi Phikwe to mention a few. The Pandamatenga floods of 23 January 2026 form a severe case where a total of 8082.5 hectares comprising Sorghum, Sunflower, Maize, Onions, Cotton crops amongst others were damaged. Another issue of interest is the land subsidence that's become prominent in certain areas around the country such as in Hatsalatladi village in Kweneng District, that require all stakeholders to work together to find a long term solution.

**37. Mr. Chairman,** currently there is an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in South Africa and Zimbabwe resulting in transmission into Botswana in the North East District from the Zimbabwe side where intense surveillance and controls have been put in place resulting in the disease confined to the area to this end; zone 3c and 6b. Resultant from strict prevention measures such as border line patrols and use of drone technology, no cases have been registered from the South African side.

**38. Mr. Chairman,** it is for this reason that different measures are continuously being put in place to further enhance the country's disaster

risk management posture/architecture in the face of the ever -increasing severity of climate change conditions and other cross cutting issues. These include the development and enactment of a disaster legislation, which will provide a unitary legislation to manage disaster risk reduction matters in the country. Such a legislation will give clear set of comprehensive legal framework for proactive, effective and enhanced management of disaster risks in the country.

- 39.** Furthermore, **Mr. Chairman**, construction of the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) will commence in 2026/2027 financial year. The project is expected to be completed in 22 months. The National Emergency Operations Center is a hub for coordination and mobilization of resources to respond to any type of disaster or national emergency that may occur in the country.

## **DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY**

- 40. Mr. Chairman**, the development of a National Security Strategy for Botswana has long been recognised as both urgent and necessary. However, previous efforts did not culminate in an approved Strategy, thereby leaving a strategic gap within our national security architecture. This gap has become more pronounced as Botswana's security environment continues to evolve, shaped by both traditional and non-traditional threats, including transnational crime, economic vulnerabilities, climate-related risks, technological disruptions, and shifting geopolitical dynamics.

**41.** It was therefore timely that since April 2025, Government has revived and institutionalised a structured and accountable process to finalise the development of a comprehensive National Security Strategy (NSS). Accordingly, a comprehensive capacity building and stakeholder engagement has been undertaken to ensure broad-based institutional ownership and technical competence. These engagements were designed not merely as consultative forums, but as structured platforms to cultivate a shared national understanding of security as a “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” responsibility.

**42.** As part of the forgoing, and in keeping with Government’s commitment to evidence-based policy making, a nationwide National Security Development Baseline Survey was successfully conducted in collaboration with Statistics Botswana. The survey covered all districts of the Republic and captured public perceptions on security, emerging vulnerabilities, community level threats, and national security priorities. **Mr. Chairman**, we are happy to report that as a result of these efforts, a Draft of the National Security Strategy document has since been completed with finalisation expected by May 2026. This draft consolidates initial research findings, stakeholder inputs, threat assessments and Strategic analyses. As a way forward there is need to establish permanent working structures that will be responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Security Strategy (NSS).

**43. Mr. Chairman,** the ministry is alive to criticism levelled at the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS). The concerns are mostly around issues of accountability at the Directorate. As government, we are not taking these concerns lightly. Therefore, the ministry has prioritised reforms aimed at giving the image of the Directorate a facelift. These include resuscitating all oversight structures as proposed by the Intelligence and Security Service Act. Members of this House will recall that not long ago that processes to activate the Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence and Security had commenced. Consultations between Mr. President, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Leader of Opposition in Parliament have been concluded and we trust the Parliamentary committee will be in operation soon.

**44. Mr. Chairman,** looking ahead, our strategic focus is anchored on cementing national sovereignty through robust border management, modernized policing, and resilience against cyber, illicit drug trafficking and transnational threats. We will continue to promote a secure environment that supports economic recovery and social stability, while ensuring that our security institutions remain disciplined, professional, and responsive to the needs of citizens.

**45. Mr. Chairman,** the ongoing global geopolitical instabilities present both direct and indirect implications to Botswana's aspirations to attain the desired peace and security, which is a foundation for sustainable economic development. The Botswana Defence Force (BDF), as a

protector of Botswana's sovereignty and preservation of peace within and beyond its borders should be well equipped with robust capabilities in order to carry out its mandate. This will be achieved through the modernization of critical platforms that are necessary for effective operation and functioning of the BDF.

**46.** Given the diverse roles of the BDF, it is imperative that its operational readiness should be maintained at the highest levels at all times. Besides the key role of protecting Botswana's territorial integrity, sovereignty and national interests, the BDF has often been called upon to perform domestic enduring operations such as anti-poaching, aid to civil authority, support to other government agencies in combatting crime and fulfilling the VVIP protection, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, as well as the logistical and transportation duties.

**47. Mr. Chairman,** several challenges were witnessed during the implementation stages of the 2025/26 budget. Notably, the fiscal challenges led to implementation of austerity measures to curb spending and address the liquidity challenges. As a result, the BDF aims to be effective and efficient by cutting waste to maximize operational outcomes. Issues of concern such as operational communication, morale and welfare of troops, accommodation, mobility assets, uniform and equipment maintenance will be prioritized over other requirements. In addition, cost saving measures

such as fuel and food rationing has been put in place to ensure an affordable and sustainable force.

**48.** Notwithstanding the above challenges, the 2025/26 financial year recorded notable achievements. These include the completion of 420 housing units in Gaborone (Tsholofelo East) constructed by RIC Development Botswana which are scheduled to be commissioned by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. The remaining land also in Tsholofelo East, acquired by the Government for additional BDF housing units will be developed subject to availability of funding. As a result of this achievement, it is anticipated that the accommodation shortfall will be reduced to below 16 percent. Furthermore, two (2) VVIP helicopters are due to be delivered before the end of this financial year. Lastly, BDF continued to maintain staff housing and office blocks across various installations, as well as other equipment and air platforms.

**49. Mr. Chairman,** the Botswana Police Service on the other hand remains focused on ensuring public safety and security. In this connection, the Police continue to intensify law enforcement efforts, and collaborate with stakeholders especially community policing structures in the fight against crime. However, high incidences of crime remain a concern. In 2025, overall crime rose by 6%, driven by a 25% increase in the category of Other Offences, while Penal Code Offences declined slightly. Road safety outcomes improved, with fatalities reduced by 5.2% due to stronger enforcement and public education. We are gravely concerned by the incidence of gender-

based violence (GBV) and drug abuse in our communities. These will be addressed through multisectoral approaches, including the rollout of One-Stop GBV Service Centres.

- 50.** Generally, Botswana remains vigilant against transnational organised crime, including cybercrime and trafficking. This can be attributed to investments in artificial intelligence, the expansion of the Safer City CCTV project, and enhanced intelligence-sharing frameworks which are strengthening national resilience. At the same time, human capital development through training and capacity-building ensures that the Police Service remains agile and professional.
- 51.** Mr. Chairman, Ensuring public safety and security is resource intensive. The Police face challenges such as the acute shortage of staff accommodation, aged infrastructure, and shortage of transport. My Ministry will therefore continue to resource the BPS incrementally, as the budget may permit to address this challenges.
- 52.** To further complement policing efforts, the Private Security Licensing Unit continues to register and regulate private security companies to help the Botswana Police Service combat crime. The total number of private security service licenses issued to date is five thousand three hundred and eighty-eight (5388). However, most of these are not operational as shown by the fact that during the 2025-2026 financial year only a total of eight hundred and one (801) private security service licenses were renewed. Looking ahead, the Police Service will

continue to embrace advanced technologies and adaptive strategies to safeguard and ensure the safety and security of all communities.

**53. Mr. Chairman,** as part of our commitment, the Drug Enforcement Agency will continue to play a central role in safeguarding the nation against the harmful effects of illicit drugs through law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and regulatory oversight. One of the most pressing challenges facing our country is the rising number of individuals affected by drug-use disorders, particularly among the youth. It is against this background that the DEA in partnership with the Ministry of Health will ensure the delivery of the DEA Rehabilitation Centres projects which aims to do the following;

- i) expand the national treatment and rehabilitation service, including outpatient and residential care pathways;
- ii) operationalise the Halfway Home Programme to support re-integration and relapse prevention;
- iii) strengthen partnerships with health facilities, NGOs, and private rehabilitation providers. Furthermore, DEA in collaboration with other stakeholders is working on developing and rolling out a voluntary boot camp programme for the youth to reinforce national values and impart anti-drug messages.

**54. Mr. Chairman,** another notable development is that Botswana is emerging as a regulated participant in the Cannabis Industry, particularly for medicinal and industrial purposes. This industry presents opportunities for economic diversification, employment, and

investment. However, it also comes with risks of diversion to illicit markets, criminal exploitation, and international non-compliance. **Mr. Chairman**, to safeguard the integrity of the industry and in line with international treaties and conventions, the DEA will procure the track and trace technology to strengthen compliance; accountability; regulatory integrity and prevent diversion into the illicit market.

**55. Mr. Chairman**, looking ahead, our strategic focus is anchored on cementing national sovereignty through robust border management, modernized policing, and resilience against cyber, illicit drug trafficking and transnational threats. We will continue to promote a secure environment that supports economic recovery and social stability, while ensuring that our security institutions remain disciplined, professional, and responsive to the needs of citizens.

### **III. PROPOSALS FOR THE 2026/2027 BUDGET**

**56. Mr. Chairman**, allow me to now present details of the Ministry for State President, Defence and Security's Recurrent and Development budget proposals for the 2026/2027 Financial Year, for consideration by this Honorable Committee. **Mr. Chairman**, I request a total of **Thirteen Billion, Fifty Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, Six hundred and Sixty Pula (P13,050,492,660)** for the Recurrent Budget and **One Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventeen Pula (P1,997,742,917)** for the Development Budget.

## **A. Recurrent Budget**

**57. Mr. Chairman,** I request a total of **Thirteen Billion, Fifty Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, Six hundred and Sixty Pula (P13,050,492,660)** for the Recurrent Budget, which represents an increase of **Five Hundred and Two Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Fifty Pula (P502,768,650)** or **4.0** percent over the previous year's allocation. The increase is mainly attributable, among other factors, to the following:

**58.** A provision of **Four Hundred and Ninety-Five Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Pula (P495,722,930)** is requested under the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) to cater for Termination Allowances. This represents an increase of **One Hundred and Seventy Million, Sixty-Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty Pula (P170,062,380)** over last year's provision.

**59.** An amount of **One Hundred and Fifty-Six Million Pula (P156,000,000)** is requested to cater for the establishment and operations of the Botswana Sovereign Wealth Fund Secretariat. The Fund aims to effectively manage the Country's sovereign wealth by securing savings for future generations, supporting the development

of critical national infrastructure as well as promoting fiscal stability and economic resilience.

- 60.** For the Botswana Defence Force, **One Hundred and Thirteen Million, One Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty Pula (P113,159,640)** is requested to cater for allowances, institutional service charges as well as uniforms and protective clothing.
- 61.** Under Botswana Police Service, an amount of **Thirty-Three Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty Pula (P33,828,840)** is requested to cater for allowances as well as uniforms and protective clothing for Special Constables who will be absorbed to regular Police Constables.
- 62.** The remaining allocation of **Twenty-Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Seventeen Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety Pula (P29,717,790)** will cater for various items including notch increments, upward adjustments of housing and upkeep allowances for officers on A3 to D1 salary scales, as well as other operational expenses of the Ministry.

## **B. Development Budget**

**63. Mr. Chairman,** I request for a total amount of **One Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventeen Pula (P1,997,742,917)**. This represents a reduction of **Four Hundred and Three Million, Five Hundred and Twelve Thousand, Three Hundred and Six Pula (P403, 512,306)** or **16.8** percent from the 2025/2026 financial year's revised budget of Two Billion, Four Hundred Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Twenty- Three (P2,400,255,223). This budget will fund various programmes and projects under the Ministry. Allow me to just highlight the departments which have been allocated a larger share of the budget. These are as follows:

#### **Strengthening of Botswana Defence Force (BDF)**

**64. Mr. Chairman,** for the Botswana Defence Force I request a total of Nine Hundred and Thirty-Five Million Pula (P935,000,000) to continue implementation of various infrastructure projects, including accommodation facilities. This budget will also cover the enhancement of Air Capability and maintaining the existing fleet of aircrafts, as well as defence and communication equipment.

#### **Strengthening of Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DISS)**

**65. Mr. Chairman,** One Hundred and Fifty Million Pula (P150,000,000) is requested to implement development projects which include Geospatial, Security and Communication related projects, procurement of vehicles and enhancement of security interventions.

## **Strengthening of Botswana Police Services (BPS)**

**66. Mr. Chairman,** for the Botswana Police Service (BPS), I wish to request for an amount of One Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P154,500,000). The allocation will be utilised as follows;

**i) Police Facilities: Eighty-One Million Pula (P81,000,000)**

**Mr. Chairman,** I humbly request the sum of Eighty-One Million Pula (P81,000,000) to finance the on-going construction of the Forensic Science Laboratory in Gaborone, Police Posts and Base Camps at various locations, Semolale Police Station access road, Maitengwe Police Station and Letlhakane Police Station including staff housing. This budget will also cover costs for maintenance of some existing police facilities.

**ii) Police Telecommunication: Seventy-Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P73,500,000)**

**Mr. Chairman,** under this account, I request for the sum of Seventy-Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P73,500,000) to continue financing the Upgrading and Expansion of Radio Communication Network System (Smartzone), Introduction of Incident Management System for the Safer City Programme, Roll out of Computerised HR Management System to all Police Districts and Stations, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) Technology and Installation of Multimedia Area network.

## **Improvements to Broadcasting Services**

**67. Mr. Chairman,** a total amount of Three Hundred and Ninety-Six Million Pula (P396,000,000) is required for the Facilitation of the Creative Industries, upgrading of Transmitters and Broadcasting Facilities as well as Development of Radio and TV Infrastructure. This allocation is critical to sustaining the mandate of delivering high-quality public broadcasting services, fostering the creative industries, and supporting Botswana's broader economic transformation agenda.

### **Other Programmes**

**68. Mr. Chairman,** the budget will also cover the cost of implementation of other projects such as:

- i) MSP Computerization at a total cost of One Hundred and Forty-Eight Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pula (P148,200,000). MSP Computerisation covers projects such as Village Connectivity as well as E-Cabinet among others.
- ii) Drug Enforcement Agency at a total of Seventy Million Pula (P70,000,000). This covers projects such as the Drugs Testing and Detection Equipment, the Tracking and Trace System for Cannabis as well as establishment of drug rehabilitation centres.
- iii) Other programmes that will be supported from the remainder of the budget are for DCEC, DPSM and MSPDS Consultancies, OP Infrastructure, Social Protection and Botswana Public Service College (BPSC).

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

**69. Mr. Chairman**, this concludes my presentation of the 2026/2027 proposed Budget for my Ministry. I therefore, move that the sum of **Thirteen Billion, Fifty Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, Six hundred and Sixty Pula (P13,050,492,660)** for the Recurrent Budget and **One Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventeen Pula (P1,997,742,917)** for the Development Budget stand as part of the schedule of the Appropriation Bill 2026/27.

I therefore move accordingly, **Mr. Chairman**.