



**STATEMENT ON THE  
RECURRENT AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PROPOSALS  
TO THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY**

**ORGANISATION 2200**

**BY**

**THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS**

**HONOURABLE LESEGO CHOMBO**

**24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. **Chairperson,** it is my pleasure to present the 2026/2027 budget proposals for the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs, Organization Head 2200 for consideration by this Committee.
2. **Chairperson,** as espoused in the recently approved Twelfth National Development Plan, the Ministry is prioritising the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment as well as youth development. The Ministry specifically aims to create an inclusive environment, where women, men and the young people of Botswana are active participants and beneficiaries in socio-economic, cultural and political development.
3. **Chairperson,** let me express my sincere gratitude for the resourcing of the Ministry with nineteen positions of District Coordinator to head District offices across the country. This will improve service delivery and ensure that the needs of the people are met. Let me further express my trust that proper resourcing of this Ministry through creation of more positions by DPSM will be a priority to realise the desired impact on the youth, women and other vulnerable groups.
4. **Chairperson,** allow me to briefly highlight on the Ministry's performance during the 2025/2026 financial year.

## II. 2025 /2026 BUDGET EXECUTION

5. **Chairperson**, for the 2025/2026 financial year, the sum of **seven hundred and seven million, six hundred and fifty-six thousand, six hundred and sixty Pula (P707, 656, 660.00)** was approved for the recurrent budget, while the sum of **ten million, five hundred and twenty-seven thousand, seven hundred and thirty-nine Pula (P10, 527, 739.00)** for the Development Budget.
  
6. **Chairperson**, as at 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the utilisation rate for the Recurrent Budget was **three hundred and fifty-three million, five hundred and eighty-seven thousand, six hundred and ninety-five Pula (P353,587,695)** which is **50%** of the approved budget. The expenditure on the Development Budget amounts to **three hundred and seventy-nine thousand, nine hundred and eighty Pula (P379,980.00)** denoting **3.6%**.
  
7. **Chairperson**, I wish to highlight that, for the most part, the reason for the low recurrent budget expenditure is because of the implementation of the austerity measures that were instituted by the Government last year in July.

## III. REVIEW OF 2025/2026 MINISTERIAL PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGIES FOR 2026/2027

## (a) Youth Development

8. **Chairperson**, the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs has instituted a plan to strengthen its mandate to coordinate all sectors in an effort to strengthen youth mainstreaming thus ensuring that youth development is factored in the sectoral legislation, programme and policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This will be done through the Revised Youth Policy and Implementation Plan which will oversee the development and operationalisation of youth sectoral interventions towards youth inclusion.
9. Moreover, with regards to job creation, the Youth Employment Strategy, once completed, will have tools that create a cohesive ecosystem where Government and strategic partners can work efficiently to support young people's economic development whilst also strengthening accountability.
10. **Chairperson**, in recognition of the challenges that the youth face in accessing start-up capital and sustaining their enterprises, the Ministry is in the process of remodelling the Youth Development Fund (YDF) to make it sustainable and efficient. It is envisaged that once remodelled, the programme will improve financial and operational sustainability, automation, strengthen governance and accountability. The programme is expected to create decent employment for young people coupled with mentorship, post funding support and facilitation to access markets.

11. Furthermore, the Ministry commenced the review of the Botswana National Service Programme (BNSP) in an effort to enhance the employability and upskilling of youth whilst improving private sector involvement in the sustenance of the programme and also improving the employability of the participants.
  
12. **Chairperson,** the Ministry continues to appreciate the support of strategic partners who have been instrumental in assisting the Ministry to fulfil its mandate in various capacities. These include: the UN Family, the European Union, the American Government, Business Botswana (BB), Lucara Botswana, De Beers, Botswana Exporters and Manufacturing Association (BEMA) and Civil Society. The working relationship is at different levels and on specific areas such as policy and programme development, delivery and mentorship on building excellent business acumen.
  
13. **Chairperson,** the Ministry continues to implement tangible interventions aimed at addressing youth-related challenges and rolling out initiatives designed to empower young people across the country through its subsidiary body, the Botswana National Youth Council (BNYC). The BNYC empowers young people through a comprehensive approach that includes skills training and employability support, health and life-skills education, leadership development, advocacy and civic engagement, recognition, networking and resource mobilisation, as well as the provision of community spaces and youth centers.

14. **Chairperson,** on the matter of youth centers, I am pleased to report that significant strides have been made in engaging and mobilising the private sector to support the renovation and upgrading of existing youth centers such as Ghantsi, as well as the establishment of new centers in areas where such facilities do not exist such as at Molepolole. Youth centers play a pivotal role in providing educational support, recreational activities, platforms for community dialogue, as well as digital and life-skills development. These centers serve as all-inclusive hubs where young people can gather, learn, innovate, and build sustainable networks that meaningfully contribute to national development.

**(b) Gender and Development**

15. **Chairperson,** the Government remains committed to building a just, equitable, and prosperous society for all. The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is a foundational driver of sustainable development, economic growth, and national stability.

16. The Gender portfolio is strategically anchored on two pivotal frameworks being the National Policy on Gender and Development and the National Strategy Towards Ending Gender-Based Violence. Recognising the evolving landscape of our society, both instruments are currently under comprehensive review to ensure they remain robust and responsive to contemporary challenges. Consultations for the reviews are ongoing, while finalization is planned for August 2026.

17. **Chairperson,** to further solidify our legal architecture, Cabinet has approved the drafting of a transformative Gender-Based Violence (GBV) legislation. Preliminary stakeholder consultations for the GBV legislation have been completed. Drafting instructions to the Attorney General Chambers for this Legislation were submitted in February 2026. The envisaged Legislation will close the identified gaps in the National GBV Management, as it will be comprehensive, strengthening the existing legal provisions and ushering in an inclusive, preventative, survivor centred and multi-sectoral approach.
  
18. **Chairperson,** despite our collective strides in the fight against Gender-Based Violence, it remains a persistent and devastating scourge. According to the 2018 National Relationship Study, 37% of women and 21% of men indicated that they had suffered some form of violence once in their lifetime. In 2024, the Botswana Police Service also recorded 31,975 cases related to offences against the person. Of these, 10,747 were offences related to Gender Based Violence. These include; murder, rape, defilement of children under the age of 18, violence against children including murder of children by their parents. These trends reported by the Botswana Police Service are a sobering reminder that violence against women and girls continues to undermine the fabric of our community. In direct response, the Ministry has also re-energised our grassroots engagement, working hand-in-hand with communities to inculcate a sense of responsibility, build local capacity, and co-create targeted solutions to eliminate GBV

in all its forms and manifestations. We continue to work with the local authorities, Dikgosi, religious community and CSO's to transform social norms that perpetuate violence.

19. To bridge the critical gap between reporting violence and accessing justice, the Ministry is part of a multi-sectoral team advancing the establishment of **One-Stop Service Centres for Gender-Based Violence**. This initiative represents a decisive shift towards a comprehensive, survivor-centred response, where victims can access integrated medical, legal, counselling, and psychosocial support in one location. This model is essential for a coordinated national response, ensuring no survivor is left to navigate a fragmented system alone.
  
20. **Chairperson**, we recognise that women economic empowerment is a critical shield against vulnerability. To address the complex link between economic disenfranchisement and GBV, we are accelerating women's economic participation through initiatives such as the **EntreprenHER Programme**. A significant milestone in this endeavour is the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Botswana and Stanbic Bank. This partnership is designed to dismantle financial barriers and provide dedicated business development support for women-owned enterprises, fostering greater financial independence and decision-making power.

21. The Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs (MYGA) observed an imbalance in programming between women and men and has accordingly incorporated the men's sector into its mandate. While this shift was not accompanied by dedicated personnel or budget provision in the current financial year, these will be catered for in the upcoming financial year. The Ministry will therefore take a deliberate and structured approach to ensure that programming is inclusive and responsive to the needs of both genders.
  
22. **Chairperson**, integrating a gender perspective across all sectors of government and society is not an option but a strategic imperative for effective governance and sustainable development. To institutionalise this approach, the GBV legislation will be instrumental, together with the revitalisation of the Inter-ministerial Committee on GBV, the strengthening of the National Gender Commission and well as institutionalizing gender responsive budgeting.

## **V. BUDGET PROPOSALS**

23. **Chairperson**, I now move to present the Ministry's 2026/2027 budget proposals. I will begin by outlining the recurrent budget estimates.

### **2026/2027 Recurrent Budget Estimates**

24. I request the sum of **six hundred and eighty-six million, six hundred and forty-nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy Pula only (P686, 649, 970.00)** for the recurrent budget. The requested amount is allocated as follows:

**2201: Headquarters – P128, 087, 670.00**

25. I request **one hundred twenty-eight million, eighty-seven thousand, six hundred and seventy Pula (P128, 087,670.00)** for Ministry headquarters. The largest share of the department's budget, which is **thirty-five million, sixty-three thousand, three hundred and twenty Pula (P35, 063,320.00)** is for staff salaries.

26. The next largest share of the budget is for rental of offices at **thirty-five million, twenty-one thousand, one hundred and thirty Pula (P35,021,130.00)** whilst service charges take the third largest share of the budget at **nine million, six hundred fifty-seven thousand, six hundred and forty hundred Pula only (P9,657,640.00)** for services and utilities including security, power and water.

**2210: Gender Affairs Department – P100,324,880.00**

27. A budget provision of **one hundred million, three hundred and twenty-four thousand, eight hundred eighty Pula (P100,324,880.00)** is requested for the Gender Affairs Department. The largest share of the department's budget, which is **twenty-five**

**million, three hundred and twenty-five thousand, eight hundred and seventy Pula (P25,325,870.00)** is will cover gender mainstreaming activities. **Twenty-two million, three hundred and ninety-two thousand and five hundred Pula (P22,392,500.00)** will be for the Department's salaries while women's voluntary organisations will be supported by a budget of **Sixteen Million and Fifty Thousand Pula only (P16,050,000.00)**. **Annual National Women's Expositions and Gender Based Violence** votes will get **Five Million Pula (P5,000,000.00)** and **Four Million Pula (P4,000,000.00)** respectively to round up the Department's top five budget items.

#### **2215: Department of Youth Affairs – P458,237,420.00**

28. The sum of **four hundred and fifty-eight million, two hundred and twenty- seven thousand, four hundred and twenty Pula (P458,237,420.00)** is requested for the Department of Youth Affairs. The largest share of this budget provision, which is **one hundred and fifty-four million two hundred thousand Pula (P154,200,000)** goes towards the payment of allowances for Tirelo Sechaba participants.
29. The second largest share of **One Hundred and Twenty Million Six Hundred Thousand Pula (P120,600,000.00)** is requested for the Youth Programme including that for out of school youth. The Department's third largest share of its recurrent budget amounting to **seventy-five million, four hundred and sixteen thousand, two hundred and forty Pula (P75,416,240.00)** is requested for

salaries whilst the service charges vote comes fourth at **fifteen million, three hundred and seventy-nine hundred thousand, six hundred and thirty Pula (P15,379,630.00)**.

## **2026/27 Development Budget Proposals**

30. **Chairperson**, I request the sum of **five million Pula (P5,000,000)** for the Development Budget. This is to fund the ongoing Development of IT Infrastructure project.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

31. **Chairperson** this concludes my presentation on the 2026/2027 Recurrent and Development Budget proposals for the Ministry of Youth and Gender Affairs. I therefore request that the sum of **six hundred and eighty-six million, six hundred and forty-nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy Pula (P686,649,970.00)** under the Recurrent Budget for **Organisation 2200** be approved and stand part of the **Schedule of the Appropriation (2026/2027) Bill, 2026** and that the sum of **five million Pula (P5,000,000)** for the Development Budget for **Organisation 2200** be approved and stand part of the estimates for the Financial Year 2026/2027. **I therefore, move accordingly.**
32. I thank you, **Chairperson**.