



Republic of Botswana

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SPEECH

ORGANISATION 0800

BY

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MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

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INTRODUCTION

- 1. Mr. Chairman,** I have the honour to present before this Honourable Committee, the 2026/2027 financial year Recurrent and Development budget proposals for the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs Organization **0800** for your consideration.
- The Ministry is requesting for a total of **Fifteen Billion, Eight Hundred and Forty - Two Million, One Hundred and Twenty Five Pula** (P15 842 000 125) only.
- This amount is made up of **Twelve Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Ten Pula** (P12,985,277,310) for the Recurrent Budget and **Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifteen Pula** (P2 856 722 815) for the Development Budget.

4. **Mr. Chairman,** preparation of the Financial Year 2026/2027 Ministry Budget took into consideration the National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12), the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP), the UDC 2024 Manifesto, prevailing fiscal constraints, and the need to sustain effective service delivery in the face of current socio-economic challenges.

5. **Mr. Chairman,** in alignment with Government's vision of re-engineering and repositioning the role of Local Government institutions, including Bogosi and Local Authorities, the Ministry reaffirms its unwavering commitment to building resilient, adaptive and forward-looking Local Governments. These institutions will be empowered to continuously innovate, embrace modern systems and approaches, and sustainably deliver efficient, inclusive and people-centred basic services that respond to the evolving needs and expectations of our communities.

6. **Mr. Chairman,** the Ministry is committed to building and sustaining a high-quality, efficient and responsive local government system, anchored on sound policies, robust institutional arrangements and effective coordination mechanisms. This system will promote accountability, consistency and excellence in service delivery, while ensuring that Local Authorities are adequately capacitated to discharge their mandates.

Through continuous improvement, innovation and strengthened oversight, the Ministry will ensure that the local government system delivers reliable, equitable and quality services to all Batswana.

7. In addition, Mr. Chairman, efforts are underway to transform our Councils into high-performing institutions. In that regard, the Ministry is currently developing a comprehensive template and prototype for a “High Performance Local Authority.” This model will establish clear standards for governance, financial management, service delivery, and institutional capacity, positioning Local Authorities to be functional, effective, efficient, and agile in responding to community needs. It will promote accountability, revenue mobilisation, enhance planning and implementation systems, and foster innovation, ultimately ensuring that Councils deliver quality services, value for money, and sustainable local development.

8. **Mr. Chairman,** before presenting the 2026/2027 Budget proposals, let me provide an overview of selected interventions implemented by the Ministry during the 2025/2026 financial year. This period was characterised by a number of fiscal and operational constraints; however, the Ministry remained focused on delivering its mandate.

Meaningful progress was achieved in priority areas aimed at improving the well-being of Batswana and strengthening local service delivery systems. Social welfare frameworks were reviewed and enhanced to better respond to the needs of vulnerable groups and to promote improved quality of life.

9. In the same vein, the Ministry prioritised investment in the upgrading, modernisation and expansion of essential infrastructure, including road networks, health and educational facilities, as well as Dikgotla, in recognition of their central role in service delivery, community development and social cohesion across the country.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26 PERFORMANCE

POLICIES AND REFORMS

Decentralisation Policy

10. **Mr. Chairman**, as mentioned in my maiden address, the Ministry is at an advanced stage of finalising the National Decentralisation Policy, aimed at equitable and sustainable development while deepening citizen participation in governance through the systematic transfer of decision-making authority, functions and resources from Central Government to Local Authorities.

The Policy is currently awaiting Cabinet consideration. During the 2026/2027 financial year, the Ministry will further refine the Policy through structured stakeholder engagements to develop a comprehensive implementation action plan to guide a phased and effective rollout. Once approved, the Policy will mark a significant shift in the country's system of local governance by transitioning from the existing mixed model to a fully devolved framework.

Review of Local Government Act, 2012

- 11. Mr. Chairman**, the Ministry is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act of 2012 to ensure that the legal framework governing local authorities remains responsive to the evolving governance, service delivery and development needs of the country. The review seeks to strengthen local governance by enhancing accountability and transparency, improving responsiveness to community priorities, and promoting inclusive and equitable development.
- 12.** Furthermore, the review will provide for greater local autonomy through clearer assignment of functions, strengthened intergovernmental relations, and improved fiscal decentralization to enable local authorities to effectively plan, finance and deliver services.

It will also align the Act with other contemporary policies, national development priorities and emerging governance best practices, while fostering citizen participation and rebuilding public confidence in local institutions. The review process will be consultative and evidence-based, and is expected to be concluded during the 2026/2027 financial year, with the development of the concept note currently underway.

Review of the Revised Customary Court Act of 2013.

- 13.** Mr. Chairman, in pursuit of aligning the administration of justice in Customary Courts with Government's commitment to a human rights-based legal system that guarantees access to justice for all, the Ministry is reviewing the Revised Customary Court Act of 2013. The review seeks to strengthen the judicial functions of Customary Courts by enhancing procedural fairness, safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms, and ensuring consistency with the Constitution and the international human rights obligations to which Botswana is a signatory.
- 14.** To date, a Cabinet Memorandum has been approved to formally signal the commencement of the review process. A dedicated Task Force, supported by a Reference Group, has been established to steer and coordinate the exercise.

The team is presently undertaking data analysis to ensure the review is evidence-based and well-informed.

Review of Bogosi Act

- 15. Mr. Chairman**, in a bid to elevate the status of Bogosi and ensure it reflects the responsibilities, authority, and relevance of the institution within Botswana's governance framework, the Attorney General submitted the draft Bill to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs on 26th January 2026 to advance the review process. Once enacted, it is expected to reinforce the position of Bogosi as a key partner in national development, community cohesion, and local decision-making.

Revised National Policy for Rural Development of 2002

- 16. Mr. Chairman**, The Ministry has concluded the review of the Revised National Policy for Rural Development of 2002. The draft Policy, together with its implementation plan and risk matrix, was presented to Cabinet on 3rd December 2025. Upon approval, the Policy is expected to provide a strategic framework to facilitate and catalyse rural industrialisation initiatives across the country. **Mr. Chairman**, the Rural Development Council (RDC) is currently implementing eight (8) key rural development projects, spanning from tourism, mining and natural resource commercialisation.

Revised National Policy on Destitute Persons

- 17.** A comprehensive review of the Revised National Policy on Destitute Persons started in the financial year, 2025/2026. The review seeks to ensure that the policy remains responsive to the evolving socio-economic realities of the country. It further seeks to strengthen the policy framework in order to promote equity, social inclusion, and the economic empowerment of beneficiaries, while improving targeting, accountability, and coordination across social protection programmes.
- 18.** In addition, it will assess the adequacy of existing support mechanisms, identify gaps and inefficiencies, and introduce measures that facilitate the graduation of beneficiaries from dependency to self-reliance through skills development, livelihood support and linkages to economic opportunities. A Cabinet Memorandum has been drafted for consideration by Cabinet in the first quarter of 2026/2027 financial year after which implementation modalities and institutional arrangements will be finalised.

Development of the Policy on Indigenous People

- 19.** The Ministry has made significant progress in the development of the Policy on Indigenous Peoples, which will establish a comprehensive and responsive framework for addressing the unique needs, rights, and socio-economic development aspirations

of indigenous communities, including the Khoena. The Policy seeks to promote inclusive development, safeguard cultural heritage, and strengthen equitable access to public services and economic opportunities. It is being formulated through an extensive and participatory consultative process to ensure that the voices of affected communities are fully represented, and will be supported through funding from development partners.

Review of Village/Ward Development Committee Regulations

- 20. Mr. Chairman,** the review of the Village and Ward Development Committee Regulations has been completed and approved by Cabinet on 19th December 2025 and gazetted on 30th January 2026. The revised Regulations aim to strengthen community governance, align local development with national priorities, and create an enabling environment for VDCs and WDCs to operate more effectively. Key focus areas include promoting local economic development, enhancing accountable and ethical leadership, improving financial management, modernising committee structures, and prioritising community-led development and infrastructure initiatives.

Ikageng Public Works Programme

- 1. Mr. Chairman,** The Ipelegeng programme has been reviewed in 2025 and renamed Ikageng. It has achieved significant milestones, including creating employment opportunities, enhancing skills development in construction trades, promoting local economic participation through community procurement, improving environmental cleanliness, supporting small-scale infrastructure projects, and strengthening community policing and biodiversity conservation. It has also fostered community engagement through Village and Ward Development Committees. However, the programme faces challenges such as limited funding, inadequate capacity and training for participants, coordination difficulties across local authorities, uneven implementation across regions, and occasional gaps in monitoring and evaluation, which can affect its overall effectiveness and sustainability.

Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) 2009

- 2. Mr. Chairman,** in recognition of emerging socio-economic realities and lessons learnt over the years, the Ministry is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Remote Area Development Programme. The review seeks to reposition RADP from a predominantly welfare-based approach towards a sustainable empowerment and resilience-building framework.

This review is fully aligned to the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, which calls for inclusive growth, productivity enhancement, and integration of marginalized communities into the mainstream economic activity. Progress on the review has been minimal due to budgetary constraints.

Relocation of Primary Health Care Services

3. **Mr. Chairman**, the transfer of Primary Health Care Services to the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs is progressing well, with key institutional, administrative and governance frameworks now firmly established. Measurable progress has been achieved in the transfer of records, migration of staff, and the piloting of decentralised systems. This transition is not merely administrative; it is a strategic reform aimed at delivering quality, accessible, and people-centred health care in line with our broader transformation agenda.
4. However, the transition continues to face a number of residual challenges, particularly in the alignment of human resource data, the timely transfer of funds, and the completion of outstanding functional transfers. These constraints have implications for service continuity and operational stability at Local Authority level.

The Ministry is therefore strengthening inter-ministerial coordination to address these risks and to ensure a smooth, sustainable and fiscally responsible decentralisation of Primary Health Care Services.

Matimela and Foot and Mouth Disease

5. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, in addition to its core mandate of managing Matimela, plays a pivotal role in the National Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Contingency Plan. The Ministry's responsibilities include providing psychosocial support services to affected farmers, ensuring the secure management and humane disposal of stray livestock, and leveraging traditional leadership structures to foster community awareness, buy-in, and cooperation in controlling disease outbreaks.
6. The Ministry also coordinates district-level interventions, working closely with veterinary authorities to implement preventive and containment measures, including community sensitisation and enforcement of livestock movement controls. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry is currently implementing a Mass Matimela collection campaign in the targeted districts. This initiative strengthens the Ministry's capacity to contain and mitigate the impact of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), while safeguarding livestock, protecting farmers' livelihoods, and supporting overall community resilience.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

BUDGET PERFORMANCE

7. **Mr. Chairman**, let me indicate at this juncture that, the Ministry was allocated a budget of **Thirteen Billion, Nine Hundred and Twenty Three Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety- Two Pula (P13 923 359 492)** constituting Recurrent budget of **Eleven Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy-One Million, Four Hundred and Thirty Nine Thousand, Six Hundred Pula (P11 271 439 600)** and a Development budget **Two billion, Six Hundred Fifty-One Million, Nine Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Eight Hundred Ninety-Two Pula (P2 651 919 892)** to deliver its mandate during financial year 2025/26.

8. **Mr. Chairman**, it is important to note that expenditure performance during the period under review was significantly affected by the implementation of austerity measures necessitated by the prevailing fiscal position. These measures were introduced to contain public spending, safeguard macro-economic stability, and ensure fiscal sustainability in the face of constrained revenues and competing national priorities.

As a result, expenditure was carefully prioritised, with emphasis placed on essential services and high-impact programmes, while non-critical and lower-priority expenditures were deferred or scaled down.

9. **Mr Chairman**, as at 31st January 2026, Development expenditure stood at **One Billion, Six Hundred and Three Million, Sixty - Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty - One Pula (P1 603 066 951) or 60%** of **(P2 651 919 892)**. Recurrent budget expenditure stood at Eight Billion, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, One Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand and Fifty-Four Pula **(P8,797,133,054)** or 78% of the allocated budget of **Eleven Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy-One Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred Pula (P11, 271,439,600)**.
10. Mr. Chairman, I must hasten to indicate that the remaining balance of the Ministry Budget is largely earmarked for final-quarter disbursements; Ipelegeng Programme, Social Welfare Cash allowances, personal emoluments and other ongoing projects.

11. Mr. Chairman, as at 31st January 2026, total revenue collection for the Ministry at the center stood at **Seven Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand and Fifty-Seven Pula (P727,057)** or **65%** of the estimated revenue of One Million, One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty Pula (P 1,115,230). For the same period, Local Authorities had collected **Two Hundred and Forty-Seven Million, Ninety-Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Two Pula (P247,098,302),** representing 58 % of the target of **Four Hundred and Twenty-Four Million, One Hundred and Seven Thousand and Eighteen Pula (P424,107,018).**

12. Mr Chairman, it is worth bringing to the attention of this honourable house that Local Authorities bear the biggest brunt of the impact of low government cash balances, with delayed disbursement of subventions that hinder service delivery. As this honourable house may well know, Local Authorities are central to how public services are accessed. The effects of delayed subventions, therefore ripple across communities they serve. Delayed disbursements, weaken allocative efficiency and equity making it harder for local authorities to align spending with national priorities and community expectations. The Ministry continues to work in close consultation with Ministry of Finance to establish how best Local Authorities can be assisted under the circumstances.

Revenue Maximisation

- 13. Mr. Chairman,** Local Authorities are empowered to mobilise Own Source Revenue, primarily through the collection of fees and charges, including property rates. In this regard, Gamalete, Palapye and Mogoditshane have been declared as rateable and the Ministry is actively progressing with additional rateable areas.
- 14.** Furthermore, the Ministry has been facilitating innovative approaches to enhance financial sustainability within Local Authorities. A notable development is the ongoing collaboration between Gaborone City Council and the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE). This partnership was formalised through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 12th August 2025.
- 15.** The Ministry is also finalizing development of a standardized framework to guide Councils when establishing private entities for investment purposes. The initiative is ideal to address past challenges experienced around lack of good Governance, internal control and Risk Management. These measures are aimed at broadening the revenue base, improving compliance, and ensuring that Local Authorities reduce dependence on Central Government Grants to meet their developmental and service delivery mandate.

Implementation And Service Delivery

Improving Quality of Life

16. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry remains resolute in its mandate to uplift the wellbeing of vulnerable members of society by broadening access to critical services and implementing focused interventions that deliver tangible benefits at community level. We acknowledge that improving quality of life extends beyond income measures alone and requires an integrated approach that combines sound economic management, innovation, strategic infrastructure investment, and responsive local programmes. Through coordinated action across these areas, the Ministry seeks to foster inclusive development and ensure that all Batswana are able to participate meaningfully in, and benefit from, national progress.

The Transformed Ipelegeng Programme – Now Called Ikageng Public Works Programme

17. Mr. Chairman, The Government of Botswana through Cabinet, has approved the transformation of the Ipelegeng Programme, marking a historic shift in the country's approach to community development, social protection and inclusive economic empowerment.

This transformation represents a decisive move from a largely welfare-based relief programme to a modern structured, skills-oriented and productivity-driven national public works initiative.

18. For decades, Ipelegeng has played a crucial role in providing temporary employment, maintaining public infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable households across Botswana. Guided by extensive consultations, technical evaluations, and national development priorities, Government has approved a comprehensive redesign that will reposition the Programme to meet the socio-economic demands of today's Botswana.

19. Mr. Chairman, the transformed programme, now renamed Ikageng Public Works Programme (IPWP) introduces several critical reforms drawn from the Transformation Strategy Document presented to and approved by Cabinet on 9th September 2025. The Key Components of the transformation include introduction of a Performance-Based Model; strengthened skills development and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) integration; community-led project identification and local Economic empowerment; improved governance, monitoring and supervision; sustainable livelihoods and graduation pathways and inclusive approach targeting vulnerable groups.

20. This Government reaffirms its commitment to building a productive, self-reliant and inclusive nation. The approval of this transformation marks a new chapter that aligns with Vision 2036, the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Constituency Community Programme (CCP)

21. Mr. Chairman, the Government has taken a decisive step to reposition the Programme as a socially inclusive, community-driven infrastructure development initiative. Through this renewed focus, the Programme will empower constituencies to identify and implement targeted development interventions that promote self-reliance, strengthen community participation, and sustainably improve livelihoods. The programme will implement community projects across the 61 constituencies.

Rural Development Projects

22. Mr. Chairman, the Rural Development Council continues to implement rural development initiatives aimed at sustaining rural livelihoods, across various regions. While these initiatives create employment, transfer skills and enable communities to leverage local natural resources, many have yet to reach commercial breakeven and remain dependent on Government support.

The Ministry therefore intends to transition these projects towards greater transparency, fiscal accountability and financial sustainability by intensifying their implementation and involving all the necessary stakeholders with the objective of transforming community initiatives into self-sustaining drivers of job creation and skills development.

Remote Area Development Programme (RADP)

23. Mr. Chairman, one critical programme we continue to implement is the Remote Area Development Programme (RADP) which plays a central role in advancing Government's commitment to equitable service delivery and inclusive national development. Through RADP, Government ensures that communities residing in remote and hard-to-reach areas have access to essential services such as social protection, livelihoods support, education, health, water, and infrastructure, delivered in a coordinated and integrated manner. It focuses on poverty reduction, human capital development, and social inclusion.

Khoena Development

24. As part of the rural area development framework, the Ministry is developing the Khoena Development Model as a practical and community driven approach to indigenous development. The Model seeks to translate policy commitments into tangible socio-economic outcomes by leveraging Khoena cultural assets, traditional knowledge systems, and natural resource endowments. This model focuses on sustainable livelihoods anchored on culture, heritage, and eco-tourism; skills development and entrepreneurship; strengthening community institutions and local economic ecosystems; and facilitating access to markets and value chains in line with BETP priorities.

Building Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Local Economies

25. **Mr. Chairman**, Local Economic Development (LED) remains a key priority, particularly amid current fiscal challenges. The Ministry continues to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to promote business development, economic diversification, and job creation, with special attention to the informal sector under the National Informal Sector Recovery Plan. Engagements with communities, the private sector, and other government entities have been reinforced, largely through digital platforms, and the anticipated

approval of the National Decentralization Policy is expected to further enhance LED implementation at the local level. The Ministry will continue to support local authorities in expanding LED initiatives during the 2026/2027 financial year.

Sustainable Livelihood Approach

26. In the same vein, Mr Chairman, the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, is transforming its community and social development programmes to enhance their effectiveness, responsiveness, and impact. This strategic reform is grounded in the principles of social inclusion, participation, self-reliance, and community-driven economic development. Central to the transformation is the adoption of the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA), which provides a holistic framework for addressing poverty, vulnerability, and inequality, while empowering communities to realise their potential and actively participate in local development. The programme will largely promote partnership with development partners.

Social Welfare Programmes

27. Mr. Chairman, Government continues to provide social protection services to the targeted vulnerable groups through various social protection programmes, such as Old Age Pension Scheme, Destitute Programme, Orphan Care Programme, Community Home Based Care Programme, World War II Veterans (WWV II), and People with Disabilities.

28. As at November 2025, a total of **252,374** beneficiaries were registered under various social protection programmes which is an overall increase of 1.6% from **248,410**. Current enrollment includes;

Old Age Pension (OAP) **148,863** pensioners,

Destitution Programme: **46,184** beneficiaries

Orphan Care program: **15,787** beneficiaries

Community Home Based Care (CHBC): **986** beneficiaries

Persons with Disabilities: **11,260** beneficiaries

Vulnerable children: **28,684** beneficiaries

World War II Veterans (WWII): **610** beneficiaries

- 29. Mr. Chairman,** Government has continued with the provision of Supplementary Feeding to public primary school children and vulnerable groups at health facilities countrywide. The objective of the Supplementary Feeding Programme is to enhance a conducive learning environment, while also addressing hunger and malnutrition among under-five children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and TB outpatients.
- 30.** Currently, the Ministry provides meals to 388,919 learners across 768 Government primary schools, as well as to 306,966 vulnerable beneficiaries in 967 health facilities, several districts have been particularly hard-hit in terms of enrolment and demand for the Supplementary Feeding Programme. Notably, Gaborone, with 31 schools and 26,249 learners, Mahalapye, with 52 schools and 25,979 learners, the North West, with 39 schools and 23,144 learners, and Kweneng, with 40 schools and 22,773 learners, represent the highest demand for school feeding services.
- 31.** However, inadequate funding for the Supplementary Feeding Programme remains one of the most significant and persistent challenges confronting the Ministry, and this constraint continues to place pressure on the sustainability and effectiveness of the programme.

School Feeding

- 32. Mr. Chairman,** Botswana's School Feeding Programme has been a cornerstone of social protection for decades. In response to challenges such as inconsistent supply, logistical difficulties, and nutritional gaps. In that regard, Government is transforming the programme into a Home-Grown School Feeding Programme. The Home-Grown School Feeding Programme aligns social protection with economic growth, strengthens food system resilience, and reflects Government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.
- 33.** Through this initiative, Botswana aims to nurture a healthier, more productive generation, while ensuring that public resources deliver lasting value for children, farmers, and the national economy This approach sources nutritious foods, from local producers, enhancing meal quality while supporting rural livelihoods and local economic development.

Modernising and Transforming infrastructure

34. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing the quality of infrastructure delivery across Botswana, in line with Government's vision of developing world-class infrastructure that supports economic growth and improves the quality of life for all Batswana. Significant progress is being recorded in the construction and upgrading of roads, as well as in the development of essential community infrastructure, including primary schools, health facilities, fire stations, and modern waste management infrastructure. These investments are aimed at strengthening service delivery, improving public safety, enhancing environmental sustainability, and ensuring that communities across the country have access to reliable and resilient public infrastructure.

Road Infrastructure

35. Mr. Chairman, with regard to road infrastructure, the Ministry has successfully completed the tarring of 25 km of internal roads in Tlokweng. This development will significantly improve people's lives by facilitating ease of movement within the village, enhancing road safety, and improving storm water drainage, thereby reducing flooding and safeguarding property and infrastructure.

However, the Mogoditshane Internal Roads Project has not yet commenced due to procurement challenges and ongoing litigation. The project was initially scheduled to commence in April 2023. The matter is currently at status hearing before the courts, and the Ministry continues to monitor developments closely to ensure that implementation proceeds once the legal processes are concluded.

36. Mr. Chairman, the Ministry is also continuing efforts to restore the integrity and improve the efficiency of the national road network through the maintenance of internal roads across all districts. These maintenance works are primarily funded through the Road Fund Levy, from which an amount of Four Hundred and Ninety Million, Seven Hundred and Eleven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two Pula (**P490,711,962.00**) has been disbursed to District Councils for the 2025/2026 financial year. Expenditure currently stands at Eighteen Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-Two Pula and Twenty-Four Thebe (**P18,251,122.24**). The Ministry is closely engaging Councils to expedite implementation and ensure that the allocated resources are utilised efficiently and within the financial year.

37. Mr. Chairman, further, during the 2025/2026 financial year, the Ministry allocated Forty-Three Million, Thirty-Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty Pula (**P43,035,320.00**) for the construction of Maun internal roads under the Development Manager Model. The funds were subsequently transferred to the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure as the implementing agent. The latest status indicates that the project is ongoing, with 31% actual progress achieved to date. However, the remaining nineteen (19) projects under the DM model were suspended following the revocation of the Presidential Directives that had approved the Model.

38. Mr. Chairman, the Government of the People’s Republic of China has generously provided funding for the construction of a 9km Mmopane –Gaborone Block 8 road and Legolo Road. While China will cover the construction costs, the Botswana Government will be responsible for land expropriation and the relocation of utilities and services. The Implementation Agreement between the two Governments is at an advanced stage, and once concluded, it will enable China to procure the contractor, while Botswana proceeds with designs for land acquisition and service relocation.

39. Despite the progress of the Mmopane- Gaborone Block 8, the implementation of the Legolo Road project has been adversely affected by the high costs associated with the relocation of utility services. Consequently, an alternative route has been proposed to the Government of the People's Republic of China, replacing the Legolo Road project with a new route from the A1 traffic lights to the Airport Roundabout.

Customary Courts (Dikgotla) Infrastructure

40. Mr Chairman, the Ministry was allocated a budget of **Ten million, seven hundred twenty-six thousand, five hundred fifty-one Pula and thirty Thebe (P10,726,551.30)** intended for the design and construction of Rural Administration Centres (RACs) in Tutume and Mogoditshane. These were to be implemented through the Development Manager Model which has been suspended. Other projects included expansion of Kgotla Offices, maintenance of Kgotla facilities, electrification of customary courts which are all on-going at various stages. Molepolole and Maun are at **98%** practical completion stage pending delivery of office equipment and furniture, while Mochudi is at **47%**, owing to initial court interdiction which delayed implementation.

Primary School Infrastructure

- 41. Mr. Chairman,** the Ministry remains committed to providing quality primary school infrastructure that supports a conducive learning environment. During the 2025/2026 financial year, construction continued on six fully fledged primary schools at an approved budget of P54 million, with projects structured into academic facilities and staff housing to promote local contractor participation.
- 42.** Commendable progress has been achieved, with Letlhakane School (100%) completed and operational since January 2026, Palapye at 98% pending furniture and equipment, Kanye (Mhiko) and Mabutsane (Sese) at 87% and 91% respectively due to contractor cash-flow challenges, and Maun (Senonori) and Shakawe (Rwee) at 84% and 63% affected by logistical and terrain constraints. The Ministry, working closely with Councils, is implementing targeted measures to fast-track completion of the remaining works.
- 43. Mr. Chairman,** during the 2025/2026 financial year, the Ministry had planned for construction of twenty (20) schools under the Development Manager Model, However, only four schools progressed with an allocated amount of P17.5 million. The funds were then transferred to the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure as the implementing agent.

To date, the two projects in Molepolole (Legonono and Lekgwapheng) have reached an average progress of 31%, while the Kopong project stands at 28%, and Kgwakgwe Primary School in Kanye is at mobilisation stage. The remaining sixteen (16) projects were suspended following the revocation of the Presidential Directives approving the Model and a directive to comprehensively reassess alternative implementation options aligned with Government priorities.

44. Furthermore, the Ministry continued implementing the primary school backlog eradication programme to address shortage of classrooms, teachers' houses, and waterborne toilets in primary schools, with an approved budget of P19.3 million across 31 Local Authorities, achieving 61% physical progress to date. Over the same period, maintenance and refurbishment works recorded an average progress of 57%, supported by a budget of P15,149,986.34 across all Local Authorities. While progress has been affected by fiscal constraints, contractor appeals, tender cancellations, and design delays, districts have submitted project recovery plans to ensure completion.

45. Beyond physical buildings, we are investing in the future by procuring reception class equipment, providing tablets for digital learning, and securing an all-terrain bus to ensure that geography is never a barrier to education. By funding these nine key projects, we are not just building classrooms; we are building a foundation of peace and opportunity for the next generation.

Primary Health Care Services

46. The total budgetary provision for Primary Health Care Services amounted to P155 million, directed primarily towards the expansion and upgrading of health infrastructure across the country. Currently, ten (10) major clinic construction projects are on-going in the following areas: Kauxwi and Ngarange in the Okavango District; Dibete in the Mahalapye area; Kedia in the Boteti District; Magapatona in the Tutume area; Lotlhakane East in Moshupa; Maruapula in Gaborone; Makgophana in the Kgatleng District; Matlhaku Lekganyane; and Kumakwane in the Mogoditshane-Thamaga District.

47. Overall, these projects have attained an average physical progress of approximately 83%, reflecting steady implementation. Upon completion, the facilities will enhance access to essential primary health care services, reduce patient congestion at referral hospitals, and improve response times for preventive, curative and maternal and child health services.

Waste Management Infrastructure

48. Mr. Chairman, given the foregoing, the Ministry has planned to advance a range of waste management initiatives in the upcoming fiscal year. These include the expansion of landfill cells in Jwaneng and Kweneng; the procurement of consulting services to develop comprehensive waste management plans for Gaborone and Francistown; Environmental Impact Assessments and design of integrated waste management facilities in Kgatleng and Palapye; and the refurbishment of landfill equipment at Kanye.

49. In support of these initiatives and in pursuit of the Ministry's vision, we will continue to collaborate with development partners, civil society, and communities to ensure inclusive participation and effective resource mobilisation.

Key among these efforts will be the development of a Clean-up Campaign Sustainability Framework to strengthen the National Clean-up Campaign initiative, alongside capacity-building programmes aimed at improving the management and operational efficiency of landfills across the country.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027 BUDGET PROPOSALS

Recurrent budget

50. **Mr. Chairman**, the proposed **2026/2027** Recurrent budget for the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs is **Twelve Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Ten Pula (P12, 985, 277, 310)**. This reflects an increase of **One Billion, Seven Hundred and Thirteen Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ten Pula (P1,713,837,710)** or **15%** over the approved budget of **Eleven Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy-One Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred Pula (P11,271,439,600)** for the financial year 2025/2026.

51. The largest share of the Ministry's recurrent budget at **Seven Billion, Six Hundred and Twenty Eight Million, Six Hundred and Ninety Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Pula (P7, 628, 690, 120)** or **59%** of the budget is allocated to the Department of Corporate Services. Inclusive in this amount, is the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to Local Authorities at **Seven Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty-Two Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy Pula (P7,362,492,670)** or 57% of the Ministry's recurrent budget. Personnel emoluments amounting to **One Billion, Six Hundred and Two Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Four Pula (P1,602,995,774)** and operational costs amounting to **One Hundred and Seventy-Seven Million (P177,000,000)** for Primary Health Care Services relocated to districts form part of the Revenue Support Grant.
52. The second largest share of the Ministry's recurrent budget is allocated to the Department of Social Development at **Four Billion, Two Hundred and One Million, Five Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty Pula (P4,201,588,440)** or **32%** of the budget.

Of this amount, Social Welfare Cash Allowances; Old Age Pensions, Disability Allowances, Destitute Cash Allowances and World War Veterans, constitute **Three Billion, Fourteen Million, Six Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand and Ten Pula (P3,014,628,010)**. Inclusive in this amount is **One Hundred and Eight Million, Four Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand (P108,468,000)** for Sanitary Ware for Mothers and Babies.

53. Mr Chairman, the allocation under the Department of Social Development also includes an amount of **Nine hundred and fifty million, four hundred and sixty thousand, seven hundred and ninety Pula (P950,460,790)** for the Supplementary feeding program catering for both Primary school feeding, children under 5, pregnant and lactating mothers.

54. The remaining **One Billion, One Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty** (P 1,154,998,750.00) is shared among the remaining eight departments. A detailed Budget allocation per Department is provided as **Appendix A.**

Development Budget

55. **Mr. Chairman**, guided by our ongoing commitment to inclusive development and improving the quality of life for all citizens, I present a proposed Development Budget of **Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifteen Pula** (P2,856,722,815) for the Financial Year 2026/2027, as outlined in **Appendix B**. This allocation reflects an 18% reduction from the approved budget for 2025/2026 due to the current financial challenges and is strategically focused on priority projects aimed at expanding fair and equitable access to critical infrastructure across the country.
56. The largest share of the proposed Development Budget, amounting to **One Billion, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, One Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Seven Hundred and Four Pula** (P1,973,142,704), representing 69.1%, is allocated to Social Welfare Programmes. Of this amount, **One Billion, Three Hundred and Thirty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Seven Hundred and Four Pula** (P1,339,142,704) is dedicated to sustaining the Ikageng Programme, while **Six Hundred and Ten Million Pula** (P610,000,000) is set aside for Constituency Community Projects.

The balance of the allocation will be directed towards priority interventions, including Countrywide Destitution Housing, Remote Area Development Programme community projects, Khoena Development, Early Childhood initiatives, broader Rural Development projects, and the refurbishment of Food Relief Services warehouses.

- 57.** The second-largest allocation under the proposed Development Budget amounts to **Four Hundred and Forty-Five Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Four Pula** (P445,129,494), representing 15.6%, and is earmarked for the Local Government Infrastructure Programme. Of this allocation, **Four Hundred and Four Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Four Pula** (P404,129,494) is dedicated to critical road infrastructure projects, including donor-supported roads, the Mmopane–Block 8 internal roads, construction of Mogoditshane internal roads, and the nationwide maintenance of internal road networks.
- 58.** Furthermore, an allocation of **Forty-One Million Pula** (P41,000,000) is proposed to strengthen Waste Management Infrastructure through landfill cell expansion, the formulation of Integrated Waste Management Plans, and the acquisition of critical landfill equipment.

- 59. Mr. Chairman,** a budget of **Two Hundred and Forty Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Three Hundred and Two Pula** (P240 950 302) representing 8.4% of the total Development Budget, is proposed for the Development of Primary Education Services. This allocation will directly support essential improvements, including the maintenance of existing schools, the provision of new educational facilities, the procurement of tablets for primary school pupils, and the provision of vital equipment for Reception Classes. These investments are crucial for ensuring a strong foundation for our children's education.
- 60. Mr. Chairman,** a budget of at **Fifty-Six Million, Six Hundred Thousand, Nine Hundred Pula (P56 600 900) or 1.9%** of the Development Budget, is proposed for Primary Health Care Services. These funds will enable critical improvements, including clinic upgrades (with and without maternity services), the design and refurbishment of clinics and health posts, and the electrification of healthcare facilities, thereby enhancing access to essential healthcare services.
- 61. Mr. Chairman,** an allocation of **Ninety Million, Nine Hundred Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifteen Pula** (P90,900,000), representing 3.2% of the Development Budget, is set aside for Tribal Administration Infrastructure Development.

This funding will facilitate the continued construction of main Kgotla offices in Mochudi, Molepolole, and Maun, the electrification and networking of Customary Courts, and the expansion of Type 2 Customary Court offices, thereby reinforcing and modernising our traditional governance institutions.

Conclusion

62. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my presentation. I now move that the **2026/2027 Recurrent budget in the sum of Twelve Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Ten Pula (P12,985,277,310)** and that the Development budget in the sum of **Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty Two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixteen Pula (P2 856 722 816)** for the Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs be approved and stand part of the Schedule of the **Appropriation Bill (2026/2027) Bill , 2025 (Bill No 1. of 2026)** for Organisation **0800**.

63. I thank you, **Mr. Chairman**

APPENDIX A

DEPARTMENTS		ALLOCATED BUDGET (P)	PERCENTAGE (%)
1.	Corporate Services	7,628,698,120	58.70
2.	Social Development	4,201,588,440	32.40
3.	Tribal Administration	781,795,200	6.00
4.	Primary Health Care	326,996,720	2.50
5.	Local Government Technical services	14,144,580	0.10
6.	Local Government & Development Planning	13,238,010	0.10
7.	Environmental Health	12,436,600	0.10
8.	Emergency Services	6,379,600	0.10
9.	Local Government Finance	20	0.00
10	Procurement & Project Management	20	0.00
MINISTRY TOTALS		12,985,277,310	100

APPENDIX B

DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PROPOSAL, PROGRAMME AND DEPARTMENT

i) DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PROPOSAL BY PROGRAMMES

CODE	PROGRAMME	2026/2027 ALLOCATED BUDGET (P)	PERCENTAGE
12144	Social Welfare Programmes	1 973 142 704	69.1
12142	Local Government Infrastructure	445 129 494	15.6
12141	Development of Primary Education Services	240 950 302	8.4
12145	Tribal Administration Infrastructure Development	90 900 000	3.2
12143	Primary Health Care Services	56 600 000	2.0
12149	Fire and Emergency Services	50 000 315	1.8
	PROGRAMMES TOTAL	2 856 722 815	100

ii) DEVELOPMENT BUDGET PROPOSAL BY DEPARTMENTS

CODE	DEPARTMENT	2025/2026 ALLOCATED BUDGET (P)	PERCENTAGE
0801	Headquarters (MLGTA)	5 500 000	0.19
0804	Department of Local Governance and Development Planning	1 000 000	0.04
0809	Department of Tribal Administration	90 900 000	3.18
0810	Department of Local Government Technical Services	627 579 797	21.97
0816	Department of Social Development	1 984 142 704	69.46
0817	Department of Environmental Health	41 000 000	1.44
0818	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	50 000 315	1.75
0819	Primary Health Care (Policy for Clinics)	56 600 000	1.98
	DEPARTMENTS TOTAL	2 856 722 815	100