



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

BY

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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

TO THE FIRST MEETING

OF THE SECOND SESSION

OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

09 NOVEMBER 2020

GABORONE

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INTRODUCTION

Mister Speaker, before I address this august House, I would like to request that we observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our citizens who have departed during the course of this year. AMEN. I therefore extend my deepest condolences to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones. Today's Address is being delivered against the backdrop of the Coronavirus pandemic which has negatively affected our lives and all productive sectors of our economy, including mining, manufacturing, the services industry and tourism. However, I wish to express Government's unwavering commitment to fighting this scourge as I will outline during this Address.

I want to assure you that, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, Government remains steadfast in its promises to create jobs particularly for our young people. Following the onset of COVID-19 we shall focus more sharply on promoting Botswana's digitisation, providing quality education and ensuring that our people have reliable electricity, water, roads, hospitals and schools.

Mister Speaker, I wish to express my profound gratitude to Honourable Members of Parliament for their support to Government in approving the extension of the State of Emergency which was meant to contain the spread and transmission of COVID-19. This is indeed a clear manifestation of political maturity and patriotism by all of us despite our political differences. We may have differed politically, but at the end of the day we have put Botswana first, and this is commendable. Similarly, let me thank the frontline workers, particularly, the medical doctors, health professionals, immigration officials, truck drivers and our law enforcement agencies, whose contribution to the containment of the pandemic remains outstanding and exemplary.

I also wish to recognise and appreciate the private sector, civil society, development partners and individuals alike for their continued support to

Government's efforts to fight the Coronavirus pandemic, including their contribution to the COVID-19 Relief Fund. To this end, allow me to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Batswana and residents for continuing to comply with the COVID-19 health protocols, a move that will significantly save many lives in our country.

Honourable Members, as you all know, we have embarked on an ambitious National Vision of transforming our country from an Upper Middle-Income Country to a High-Income Country by 2036. This Vision will be driven by a knowledge-based and inclusive economy underpinned by democracy, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

As Government, we will strive to attain a diversified and inclusive economy that will ensure a free, fair and prosperous Botswana guided by the principle of **"Leaving No One Behind"**. This being the first time that I report on our progress in the last twelve months, immediately after the adoption of the Mid-Term Review of the Eleventh National Development Plan (NDP 11) by Parliament, it is critical that we put in place measures that will ensure an effective implementation of our national transformation strategy.

Therefore, during the implementation of the remainder of NDP 11, we will be focusing on the following thematic areas which were agreed by Parliament:

- Economy and Employment;
- Social Upliftment;
- Sustainable Environment and;
- Governance, Peace and Security.

I urge Honourable Members of Parliament to continue supporting Government to take this country to greater heights. At this juncture, Mister Speaker, let me recognise my special guests who are in the public gallery for their sterling performance and contribution in the different sectors. They are;

- i. Mr Phenyo Shammah Bernard who is the winner of the 2019 President's Golden Star Award. The annual award is bestowed on the top achiever in the Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) final examinations. Phenyo scooped 8A*, 1A, and 2Bs.
- ii. Mr Otsile Moje, a successful young entrepreneur who through CEDA funding manufactures sanitary pads which he exports to Rwanda.
- iii. Mr Tiroyamodimo Semanga, a graduate of Food Science and Technology from the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, who participated in an eleven (11) month exchange programme in high tech farms in Israel. Alongside five other participants, they have since formed a company that offers agronomic services to farmers.
- iv. Mrs Babedi Rankoro, a Wits University law graduate who currently serves this great nation as a Magistrate. She has served at the specialized maintenance court in Extension 2 and is currently at the traffic court in Broadhurst. Her husband, Mr Rankoro, is an attorney in private practice.
- v. Professor Vasilis Koulolias is an ICT Presidential Advisor and has been kind enough to volunteer his services to the Government of Botswana without remuneration; and finally is,
- vi. Sergeant Baleseng Peloyakgomo with the Botswana Police Service, representing our patriotic frontline workers.

ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

Global Economic Outlook

1. **Mister Speaker**, according to the latest International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook update released in October 2020, the global economy is projected to contract by 4.4 percent this year. Projections indicate that all regions of the world will experience negative growth in 2020, with advanced economies recording the lowest growth of 5.8 percent. Economic activity in emerging markets and developing economies is projected to contract by 3.3 percent in 2020, while growth in sub-Saharan Africa is expected to register minus 3.0 percent. Hence, this is expected to be the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

2. The World Economic Outlook update, however, projects a gradual recovery in the coming year, with global growth forecast to strengthen to 5.2 percent in 2021, while the sub-Saharan region should attain growth of 3.1 percent. This is expected to have a positive effect on the performance of the domestic economy.

Domestic Economic Review and Outlook

3. In 2019, the domestic economy grew by 3 percent, as against a projected growth of 4.2 percent. The relatively low growth rate was mainly attributable to a contraction in mining output, as well as a deceleration in non-mining GDP growth. Mining output fell by 3.9 percent in 2019, mainly due to the weak performance of the diamond sub-sector, while non-mining GDP grew by 3.8 percent in 2019. The slower growth in the non-mining GDP was primarily due to slower growth in the manufacturing, construction, transport and communications, as well as the services sectors.

4. During 2020, the domestic economy is expected to contract by 8.9 percent. This is attributed to an expected sharp decline in major sectors such as mining, (minus 24.5 percent); trade, hotels and restaurants (minus 27.4 percent); construction (minus 6 percent); manufacturing (minus 3.9 percent); and transport and communications (minus 2.5 percent).

5. The economy is, however, expected to rebound during 2021, with overall growth projected at 7.7 percent. The anticipated recovery will be driven by a rebound in growth of some major sectors such as mining (14.4 percent), trade, hotels and restaurants (18.8 percent), and transport and communications (4.2 percent). The recovery will also be supported by the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan currently being implemented by Government.

6. It is critical to note that these projections are dependent on, among others, the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions. These containment measures have the effect of reducing spending by firms and households and causing supply-chain disruptions. Beyond this, the recovery phase will be influenced by confidence effects on households and businesses; sectoral transformation and changes in work patterns; as well as prospects for the recovery of global financial markets and commodity prices. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 there still remains the delicate balance of opening the economy whilst containing the disease burden.

Inflation

7. According to the latest data from Statistics Botswana, inflation fell significantly from 2.2 percent in September 2019 to 1.8 percent in September 2020, remaining below the lower bound of the Bank of Botswana's medium-term objective range of 3 to 6 percent. The significant decline in inflation mainly reflects the downward adjustment in fuel prices in June 2020. However, inflation may rise above the current forecasts if the international commodity prices increase beyond current projections and in the event of upward price pressures occasioned by supply constraints due to travel restrictions and lockdowns.

Exchange Rate Policy

8. The objective of exchange rate policy is to maintain a stable value for the Pula in real terms, that is, after adjusting for inflation. Stability in the real effective exchange rate (REER) aims to anchor the competitiveness of Botswana's producers in both domestic and export markets. In 2020, there was a need to respond to foreign exchange market instability resulting from COVID-19 in particular, the appreciation of

the Pula against the South African Rand, which caused challenges for Botswana's firms exporting to South Africa or competing with imports. As a result, the downward crawl of the Pula exchange rate was increased from 1.51 percent annually to 2.87 percent with effect from May 1, 2020. While the exchange rate plays a key role in supporting competitiveness, which should contribute to economic growth and employment creation, lasting competitiveness needs to be anchored on economy-wide productivity improvements, some of which are addressed by the envisaged transformation and policy reforms.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

9. During 2019, the foreign exchange reserves declined by 8.7 percent, from Seventy One Billion, Four Hundred Million Pula (P71.4 billion) in December 2018 to Sixty Five Billion, Three Hundred Million Pula (P65.3 billion) in December 2019. The reserves declined further this year, falling by 2.3 percent to Sixty Three Billion, Seven Hundred Million Pula (P63.7 billion) in July 2020. The decrease was mainly due to foreign exchange outflows associated with Government obligations and economy-wide import requirements. The level of reserves as at July 2020 was equivalent to 11.6 months of import cover of goods and services. Of the total amount of reserves, Thirteen Billion, Seven Hundred Million Pula (P13.7 billion) or 22 percent, was attributed to the Government Investment Account.

COVID-19 Response Plan

10. In April 2020, Government introduced an economic relief package to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 virus and keep economic activity and livelihoods afloat. To this end, more than Four Billion Pula (P4 billion) was spent on various components of the relief package. So far the funds have been utilised as follows;

- i. Wage subsidies for three months for employees in businesses adversely affected by COVID-19;
- ii. The provision for deferment of profit taxes payable by businesses;
- iii. Waiver of the Training Levy for six months;

- iv. Loan guarantee scheme to support access to bank credit by affected businesses;
- v. Increasing health and other expenditures directly related to COVID-19, such as treatment, testing, quarantine and contact tracing;
- vi. The provision of food baskets for eligible low-income households and;
- vii. Repayment holidays for bank loans for adversely affected borrowers.

11. In implementing some of these initiatives, several challenges were encountered, including shortages of supplies, limited implementation capacity, lack of data and limited revenues available to Government.

Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan

12. Following the adoption of the economic relief package, Government developed an Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP), which was approved by Parliament in September 2020. The ERTTP is an addendum to the Mid-Term Review of NDP 11 and it is aligned to the National Vision 2036. The Plan is expected to re-boot the economy and to cushion it from the unprecedented shock brought about by COVID-19.

13. Government has allocated Fourteen Billion, Five Hundred Million Pula (P14.5 billion) for the implementation of the ERTTP. The amount will be spread over the remaining years of NDP 11. Government is currently looking at several options to finance this additional expenditure, with a preference for domestic borrowing and additional revenue mobilisation. Where necessary, Government will consider other financing options to accommodate any outstanding needs.

14. Government has set up an Industry Support Fund to the amount of One Billion, Three Hundred million Pula (P1.3 billion) to support local businesses. Additionally, the National Development Bank (NDB) established a Fifty Million Pula (P50 million) Agri-Business Stimulus Fund to promote smart farming. It also supported SMMEs to supply essential goods and services during the pandemic. Furthermore,

NDB created a Twenty Million (P20 million) essential services fund to assist businesses with purchase orders financing.

Decent Work and Investment Promotion

15. **Mister Speaker,** employment creation remains Botswana's top priority, hence, the continued to exploration of opportunities to create sustainable and decent jobs for our people. Government is fully committed to the promotion of decent work as demonstrated through the signing of the Botswana Decent Work Country Programme for 2020 to 2024 by Government, employers' and workers' representatives, as well as the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in February, 2020. The programme is anchored on three pillars namely, Creation of Sustainable and Decent Employment, Enhanced Social Protection and Conditions of Work as well as Strong Labour Market Governance Institutions.

16. Tripartite consultations on the review of some labour laws will be finalized this financial year, paving way for the drafting of the Bills on the proposed changes to the laws, to align them with relevant international instruments. Some of the emerging labour issues that were occasioned by the COVID-19 are not adequately catered for in our labour laws. As you are aware, during the State of Emergency, regulations were introduced to prevent dismissals and industrial action.

Youth Employment

17. **Mister Speaker,** the Government of Botswana continues to implement initiatives and programmes that are geared towards empowering young people in businesses and skills development. During the 2019/20 financial year, a total of nine hundred and seventy five (975) businesses owned by young people were funded at a cost of Ninety Four Million, Six Hundred and Seventy One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight Pula (P94, 671, 778) and in the process, creating one thousand nine hundred and eighteen (1, 918) jobs.

18. Government also funded twenty four (24) Non-Governmental Organisations to implement character building and life skills development programs with focus on unemployed youth without formal training. In this regard, a total of one hundred and sixty thousand, nine hundred and sixty two (160, 962) youth were trained from April 2020 to date. In addition, funds amounting to One Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand Pula (P125, 000) were allocated for skills development in Gaborone, Francistown Kgatleng, Ghanzi, and Selibe Phikwe. As at July 2020 enrolment in volunteer programmes averaged sixteen thousand, three hundred and twenty six (16, 326). During the same period, the number of interns absorbed in formal employment was eight thousand, four hundred fifty seven (8, 457). A total of one thousand, nine hundred and fifty-four (1, 954) jobs were created through the Youth Development Fund from my last report to date.

Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency

19. **Mister Speaker**, during the 2019/20 financial year, the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), funded two thousand, one hundred and twenty seven (2, 127) businesses valued at Four Hundred and Fifty One Million Pula (P451 million). In addition, the Agency financed one thousand, four hundred and forty two (1, 442) businesses owned by women at a value of One Hundred and Thirty Four Million Pula (P134 million) and five hundred and sixty eight (568) youth led businesses at Twenty Seven Million Pula (P27 million). In terms of sector funding, the Services Sector was the most funded at 55 percent, followed by Agriculture at 28 percent, Property at 10 percent and Manufacturing at 7 percent. This translated in the creation of three thousand, eight hundred and eighty three (3, 883) jobs during the period under review.
20. The Revised CEDA Guidelines will play a facilitative role in the realization of broad-based citizen economic empowerment. These Guidelines offer concessionary lending terms and longer repayment periods. Government has identified Agro-processing, Construction, Technology and Innovation, Energy, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Tourism and Mining, as well as the Creative Industry as priority sectors.

21. CEDA launched the Letlhabile product to resuscitate the informal sector which was affected by COVID-19. The product has to date, assisted three thousand, eight hundred and seventy three (3, 873) micro businesses valued at Seventeen Million, Six Hundred Thousand Pula (P17.6 million) and protected four thousand and sixty six (4, 066) jobs. Moreover, the Agency created a COVID-19 Relief Fund, which has assisted sixty two (62) businesses at a cost of Thirty Five Million Pula (P35 million).

Botswana Development Corporation

22. During the 2019/20 financial year, the Botswana Development Corporation invested a total of One Billion and Thirty Nine Million Pula (P1.039 billion) in the Services, Property and Tourism sectors. The total Foreign Direct Investment stood at Five Hundred and Thirty Three Million, Six Hundred Thousand Pula (P533.6 million), while the total Domestic Investment was valued at Five Hundred and Six Million, Three Hundred Thousand Pula (P506.3 million). This comprised, new domestic investments valued at Three Hundred and Twenty Eight Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P328.5 million). Expansions on the other hand, were valued at One Hundred and Seventy Seven Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Pula (P177.8 million).
23. Among the BDC's project achievements during this period is the establishment of the Francistown Academic Hospital with a seventy five (75) bed capacity which offers Medical Training facilities. This project has created two hundred and seventy (270) jobs.

Botswana Investment and Trade Centre

24. **Mister Speaker**, the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) continues to implement a robust export promotion programme in line with the new National Export Strategy. Exporting companies which benefited from the BITC services realised Two Billion, Seven Hundred and Eighty Three Million Pula (P2, 783 billion) worth of export earnings between April 2019 and June 2020. Over

the same period, BITC realised cumulative Foreign Direct Investment inflows amounting to Three Billion and Seventy Nine Million Pula (P3, 079 billion) against the target of Two Billion, Four Hundred and Fifty Million Pula (P2, 450 billion).

25. Between April 2019 and June 2020, the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre's investment promotion drive resulted in the creation of four thousand, three hundred and eighty two (4, 382) jobs. The Services sector was the highest performer, followed by Manufacturing, Agriculture and the Agro-Processing sectors.

SPEDU

26. The construction of the SPEDU Industrial and Urban Agriculture Land Servicing project commenced in August 2020 and it is expected to be completed by June 2023. Once complete, the project is expected to create three thousand five hundred (3, 500) jobs with an investment value of One Billion, Two Hundred Million Pula (P1,2 billion).

Special Economic Zones Authority

27. **Mister Speaker**, the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) currently has fifteen (15) potential investors, with an estimated investment value exceeding Ten Billion Pula (P10 billion). The first company was licensed in June 2020 and will begin to operate as a brownfield investment company from Sir Seretse Khama International Airport (SSKIA). The company will expand its operations in Botswana. Three others are at licensing stage.
28. In addition, the detailed design and land servicing of the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport Special Economic Zone Phase 1, which measures approximately one hundred hectares (100ha) has commenced and it is planned to be completed in May 2021. Furthermore, the design and construction of twelve (12) steel grain silos with an overall storage capacity of sixty thousand

(60 000) metric tonnes is underway at the Pandamatenga Special Economic Zone and will be completed by August 2021.

Local Enterprise Authority

29. **Mister Speaker**, in its endeavour to promote entrepreneurship and Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) development, the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) is focusing on Agriculture and Manufacturing Sectors as key drivers for job creation.

30. LEA currently supports one thousand and seventy eight (1,078) SMMEs across the country, with fifty one (51) of them being accommodated in LEA incubators and factory shells. The combined contribution of these enterprises to GDP stood at Four Hundred Twenty Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pula (P 420.2 million) in revenue, from April 2019 to September 2020. Through LEA's market linkages facilitation, the supported SMMEs have managed to supply national retailers and parastatals to the value of Fifty Two Million, Four Hundred And Seventy Thousand Pula (P52.47 million) from April 2019 to September 2020, whilst the value of goods and services that contributed towards import substitution stood at Forty Seven Million, Two Hundred Thousand Pula (P47.2 million). In spite of the challenging trading environment, the assistance availed to SMMEs to improve quality and secure markets led to the creation of one thousand, three hundred and ninety one (1,391) new jobs.

31. LEA commenced an SMME registration exercise from April 2020. The registration will provide the necessary data to inform future enterprise development initiatives, as well as the ability to measure the impact of interventions in the form of SMME contribution to employment and the Gross Domestic Product.

Economic Inclusion and Empowerment

32. In an effort to promote citizen economic empowerment, Government is developing the Economic Inclusion Law, which seeks to strengthen the enforcement of citizen economic empowerment initiatives to ensure meaningful participation of citizens in the economy. The law is expected to be presented to Parliament before the end of this financial year.

33. Furthermore, Government's focus on transformation has necessitated the review of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal (PPAD) Act and the Local Authorities Procurement and Asset Disposal (LAPAD) Act with a view to aligning them to the transformation agenda. The reviews will help Government realise; empowerment of citizens through public procurement and reducing the country's import bill, especially for power supply, clothing apparel, leather products and food imports; promoting the domestic production base, thereby creating jobs for citizens; and growing the economy through targeted sectors such as agricultural and manufacturing. The new laws will also deter fronting and frivolous complaints. Government will also consider the review of the 30 percent reservation policy for citizen owned companies to a minimum 60 percent for major projects in this country.

Ease of Doing Business

34. **Mister Speaker**, the implementation of the Industrial and Trade Regulations Act commenced in June 2020. Under the Regulations, only ten (10) trade activities which have public health and safety requirements now need licensing, while the remaining thirty five (35) trade activities can start operations and register with Councils within thirty (30) days of operation. Furthermore, the new Act has abolished Trade Licensing Committees and introduced over the counter licensing.

35. The review of the Industrial Development Policy, which will be completed by December 2021, is ongoing. Its primary objective is to align it to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Industry. However, as part

of its efforts to implement the Industrial Development Policy, Government has over the years introduced Statutory Instruments including the recently imposed restrictions on the importation of bread and confectionery as well as face masks to support the local industry. The purpose of these instruments is to stimulate local economic growth and investment.

36. As a way of improving the business environment, Government will continue to review Immigration Policies and Acts to facilitate the ease of doing business in Botswana. Government is reviewing both the Immigration and Citizenship acts and is also in the process of finalizing a Migration Policy in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC). These processes will be completed by the end of March 2021. In an endeavour to make Botswana the country of choice for international tourists and investors, Government in 2019 introduced reforms which include the decentralisation of VISA applications to Botswana's Diplomatic Missions and the issuance of VISA at some ports of entry. In addition, a relaxation of the VISA requirements was introduced to make doing business in Botswana smooth and seamless. Ultimately, the intention is to provide the service digitally after seamless integration of systems.

Trade Facilitation

The African Continental Free Trade Area

37. **Mister Speaker**, following the postponement of the start of trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement which was set for 1st July, 2020 to 1st January 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Botswana has commenced preparations towards the agreed timelines. Together with the other fifty five (55) Member States of the African Union, Botswana is working towards completing work on Tariff Liberalisation, Rules of Origin and Services, the conclusion of which will provide market access for Botswana's goods and services to a larger African market of one billion, two hundred million (1.2 billion) people.

The Tripartite Free Trade Area

38. **Mister Speaker**, the ratification of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement was successfully concluded on 30 January, 2020. By ratifying the TFTA Agreement, Botswana has secured a duty free market for a variety of her products including breeding animals, beef, salt, vaccines for livestock, plastic pipes and tubes, pharmaceutical and copper products, semen and embryos and the entire value chain. The private sector will therefore, have access to new and dynamic markets for exports and new sources of inputs for domestic production processes, thereby enhancing intra-regional trade. The TFTA comprises twenty seven (27) countries from the three Regional Economic Communities, namely the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) with a combined population of nearly six hundred million (600 million) people.

African Growth and Opportunity Act

39. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is currently under a three month bi-annual review process due for completion by the end this month. To date, four local companies are exporting natural products such as Morula Oil, Organic Honey and Gourmet Gems following attainment of Fair Trade Certification. National capacity audits on the jewellery and semi-processed stones have been completed. The newly established Leather Entrepreneur Association with a membership of one hundred (100) players in the sector's value chains including abattoirs, collectors, exporters, traditional tanners, manufacturers and suppliers has developed a roadmap for capacity building and accessing the US market.

Agricultural Sector

Dairy

40. Mister Speaker, there are fifty nine (59) dairy farmers in Botswana who produce eight million, one hundred thousand (8.1 million) litres of milk annually which is only 12 percent of the national demand. The biggest challenges besieging the dairy industry is the shortage of production of dairy animal feeds locally. Through the

Economic Recovery Transformation Plan, Government will therefore develop fodder banks in strategic locations for the cattle industry.

41. Government through the Industry Facility Support Fund will assist smallholder dairy farmers to increase their production capacities by providing them with an accelerated business subsidy and an interest free loan which will be administered by National Development Bank (NDB). This intervention is expected to grow the dairy industry by at least 18 percent in the next twenty four (24) months. Clusters for fodder production in Molepolole, Lobatse, the North East and Ngamiland will be promoted. In addition, Government will renovate and upgrade existing milk pasteurizing centres in Tonota, Phitshane Molopo, Serowe and Sunnyside and outsource their management to farmers by March 2021.

Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development

42. Government is reviewing the Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agriculture Development (ISPAAD) with the intention of creating an efficient and sustainable programme. The new programme will be launched during the course of 2021. Among its key elements will be de-bushing, shifting the weighting of the subsidy towards more outputs and realignment of fields to enable critical infrastructure developments such as digitization, roads and water among others.

Beef Cluster Development

43. **Mister Speaker**, the beef industry has been besieged with challenges over time and this has affected the different stakeholders within the industry. Government is however, committed to revive the beef industry and to this end utilize the adopted Beef Cluster Model to ensure its competitiveness and sustainability. It is expected that through this model, cattle farmers will get the true market value of their product which will present an opportunity to improve the economic returns to Botswana farmers.

Bio Security

44. **Mister Speaker**, there was an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the Okavango region which was reported in October 2020 in the Nxamasere extension and Xhakao. All affected cattle were vaccinated. I therefore call upon Batswana around the Okavango region to continue taking the necessary measures to reduce the spread of the FMD. Government is currently working on relief measures as a matter of urgency to assist affected households in the Boteti and Ngamiland areas.
45. Between February and June, 2020 there was an invasion of locust in the Ngamiland, Boteti and Chobe districts which significantly damaged the grazing land and crops. In September 2020, Botswana swarms of the African Migratory Locust from neighbouring countries flocked to Chobe and to date over fifty three (53) swarms have been identified out of which forty eight (48) were controlled.

Smallstock Production

46. **Mister Speaker**, Government has secured a market to supply goat and sheep meat in the Middle East and Europe, and modalities are underway to meet market regulatory requirements in the targeted countries. In order to comply with the traceability requirements of the market, all goats and sheep will be registered under the Botswana Animal Traceability System (BAITS). Farmers will be required to tag their goats and sheep with electronic ear tags as part of compliance. Government has identified three export slaughter facilities for goats and sheep at the Botswana Meat Commission in Francistown, the Multi species Abattoir of Botswana in Gaborone, and the Meat Inspection Training Institute abattoir in Lobatse.
47. As part of improving small stock production at farm level, Government has rejuvenated Lobu Farm in the Kgalagadi District where stud and commercial stock of goats and sheep are bred and sold to farmers to improve genetics of their animals. The Lobu Farm concept is being replicated at Impala Rural Training Centre in Francistown to cater for farmers in the northern part of the

country. Other government farms will be readied for allocation to citizen smallstock farmers before the end of this Financial Year.

48. The National Policy on Agricultural Development is under review and will be tabled during this sitting of Parliament. The review of the policy seeks to address emerging challenges and create jobs especially for our young people and making agriculture more inclusive and attractive.
49. **Mister Speaker**, I have recently embarked on an initiative to promote smallstock production in the country and I have met people whose testimonies have motivated me to do even more to grow it and make it one of the key drivers of our economy. For instance, Kgosi Boitshwarelo Difemo of Lotlhakane West, appreciated the abundance of goats resulting from the success of the Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) programme. I also met, Emely Selabeka, a small stock farmer in Kudumatse in Mahalapye East who expressed gratitude to Government and promised to increase her herd in anticipation of the international market for smallstock. More than anything else, she appreciated the economic potential of serious smallstock farming with the aim of exporting- this she promised to do.

Mining, Minerals and Energy

Mining

50. **Mister Speaker**, COVID-19 has affected the sale of diamonds globally. However, the United States of America, China and Europe have started showing signs of recovery which gives us hope that by December 2020 the diamond market would have stabilized. As a means to stimulate diamond sales, Government granted short term permits to local diamond companies to conduct sales outside the country. The permits are valid until the end of December 2020.
51. In order to facilitate local participation in the downstream diamond industry, Government has developed a beneficiation strategy to facilitate citizen participation. To this extent, in the first half of 2020 the local diamond cutting

and polishing industry was supplied with approximately One Billion, Five Hundred Million Pula. (P1, 5 billion) worth of rough diamonds.

52. The mining industry is continuing with some of the strategic projects such as Jwaneng Mine Cut 9, Morupule open cast, Khoemacau mine development and Karowe underground diamond mine.
53. The development of Khoemacau mine is progressing well with planned commissioning during the first quarter of 2021. The mine will be highly mechanized using the latest automated mining technology, to improve productivity and safety. The mine currently employs two thousand one hundred and thirty one (2,131) of which one thousand nine hundred and fifty two (1,952) or 92 percent are citizens and has a comprehensive training programme to equip employees with requisite technical skills.
54. Morupule Coal Mine open pit and processing plant construction is well underway and it is anticipated to be commissioned in September 2021. The new expansion will produce an additional one million tons of washed coal to be sold locally and exported into the region. It currently employs three hundred and seventy six (376) people. At full operation, it is expected to create about four hundred (400) permanent jobs.
55. Jwaneng Mine Cut 9 project is also progressing well and currently the project employs five hundred and one (501) employees, 97 percent of which are citizens. The company is targeting to develop citizen suppliers in key areas of the value chain, including setting up an artisan training centre and component rebuild facility. Let me underscore the crucial importance of ensuring that Botswana significantly benefit from the Cut 9 project and other mining projects.
56. **Mister Speaker**, Botswana Ash is currently conducting a feasibility study to diversify its product through beneficiation of the Sua Pan brines. The project is expected to come on stream in 2024. It will produce a premium fertilizer,

Sulphate of Potash (SOP), among other products, whilst increasing its contribution to the industrial base of the country and food security.

57. As part of the Government of Botswana's commitment to promote mineral exploration, and in response to the increasing demand for technology metals, Botswana GeoScience Institute (BGI) started a consultancy project called Assessment of Mafic, Ultramafic and Granitic Complexes in June 2020. The project's primary objective is to identify mineral potential that includes Platinum Group Metals, base metals, and precious metals, as well as Rare Earth Metals and Battery metals which are currently being explored in the Semarule area around Molepolole and Shoshong in the Central District. The project will be completed in February 2023.

BCL Group Liquidation

58. **Mister Speaker** care and maintenance of BCL Group assets at the Selebi Phikwe, Phoenix and Selkirk sites continues in order to preserve them for potential investors. The Liquidators have received three indicative offers for the estate which are currently under evaluation. It is anticipated that by the end of December 2020, a preferred bidder would have been identified with the view to complete the transaction during the course of 2021 after detailed due diligence. Government is making efforts to promote and catalyse domestic cement production. The Botswana GeoScience Institute is currently involved in a project to identify raw materials for cement production in Botswana. So far, the Letlhakeng calcrete deposit in Kweneng West has the potential for a cement plant.

Electricity Generation

59. **Mister Speaker**, energy security is a national priority for Botswana. Key power generation and transmission initiatives are therefore being undertaken to ensure the realization of this goal. Government continues to carry out some major power infrastructure development projects, electrification of rural villages, network extension and reinforcement, as well as the refurbishment of the transmission and distribution network.

60. Government has developed an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the electricity sector development to drive the strategic objective of achieving reliable, safe and affordable electricity supply. The Integrated Resource Plan intends to achieve an energy generation mix of at least 15 percent renewable energy by 2030 from the current 2 percent. The Botswana Energy and Regulatory Authority (BERA) has issued three licenses for power generation to Independent Power Producers for the first time in November 2019, while one was for local generation, two were for electricity exports.
61. The refurbishment of the Morupule A 132 Megawatt Power Station was successfully completed in February 2020, while the Morupule B Power Station is undergoing comprehensive defects remedial works scheduled for completion by 2023. The remediation of the first unit, initially scheduled to be in operation in the first quarter of 2020 is at 90 percent completion and it is expected to be commissioned by June 2021.
62. Another noteworthy initiative is the North-West Transmission Grid Connection project (NWTGC) that seeks to connect the North-West and Gantsi districts is at 92 percent completion and it is scheduled for commissioning in December 2020. Upon completion this project will significantly reduce the power imports bill from cross-border supply and provide reliable grid power to mining operations in the region.
63. Government continues to electrify villages under the Rural Village Electrification Programme bringing the total of rural electrification progress to 88 percent with 435 out a total of 492 gazetted villages in the country electrified. The current national access to electricity stands at 64 percent. The electrification of fifteen (15) more villages, namely; Kedia, Sepako, Tsokootshaa, Xere, Madingwana, Sankuyo, Mababe, Kweneng, Tsetseng, Loologane, Jamataka, Kanye, Tsootsha/Kalfontein, Letlhakeng, Mabutsane, will be completed by December 2020, increasing the total number of villages electrified to 90 percent.

64. The Rural Electrification Programme is implemented fully by citizen consultants and contractors in accordance with Government's Citizen Economic Empowerment (CEE) and Economic Diversification Drive (EDD) policies. The total amount spent is over Two Billion Pula (P2 billion) on projects such as Rural Electrification Programme and the North West Transmission. BPC has incubated over 60 citizen owned companies for the construction and maintenance of distribution infrastructure.

Supply of Petroleum Products

65. **Mister Speaker**, the recent fuel shortages which occurred in Botswana as a result of supply chain challenges occasioned by COVID-19, have highlighted Botswana's overdependence on fuel imports on a single source of supply. In this regard, Government has identified alternative sources of supply which will significantly increase the security of fuel supply to the country.
66. Government is also exploring other options to improve fuel supply security by developing a Coal to Liquids (CTL) project which is at feasibility stage and is expected to be completed during the course of 2021. To further ensure national security of fuel supply, additional strategic fuel storage facilities are being developed through Botswana Oil Limited (BOL) in Ghanzi, Francistown and Tshele Hill in the Kgatleng district.

Tourism

67. **Mister Speaker**, Government has revised the Tourism Policy and it will be presented during this sitting of Parliament. The overall objective of the Policy is to facilitate product diversification, promote domestic tourism, increase citizen and local community participation in the development of the sector. In order to increase meaningful citizen participation in the growth and development of the tourism industry, Government has taken the decision to reserve five concessions in the Okavango Delta to be allocated to 100 percent citizen owned companies, consortia and joint-venture partnerships.

68. Government launched the Tourism Information Licensing System (TOLIS) in January 2020 for the licensing and revenue collection from licensed operations. The system offers a platform to apply for tourism licences, pay licence fees, penalties and the training levy fee online, thereby improving the ease of doing business. Government has restored the 80 year old Matlapana Bridge in Maun in recognition of local heritage. The community trust has taken over the management of the bridge for tourism activities.
69. The Kgalagadi Heritage Trail was also launched to highlight and celebrate over thirty (30) key cultural and natural heritage sites for tourism. Communities have been engaged to strengthen four mini-trails at Bora-Vast, Gakhibane, Tsamama and 4-Hooks. The ongoing management plan for the Qcwihaaba caves and wider NG-4 seeks to explore further developments in the area with the caves as the main tourist attraction. These and Tsodilo will be leased to Botswana and will commence operation by June 2021.
70. The above notwithstanding, COVID-19 pandemic has reversed the gains previously made in the tourism sector. By the end of April 2020, it was estimated that 90.7 percent of all tourism enterprises had closed with only 9.3 percent still open primarily for periodic quarantine purposes.
71. In response to these challenges, Government has made a decision to extend the wage subsidy support to all licensed tourism enterprises for a period of six months beginning July to December 2020, and to pay wage subsidies to freelance personnel in the tourism sector that were not covered in the initial Wage subsidy of April to June 2020. As at current, all tourism categories have been opened to conduct business.

Transport Sector

Roads

72. **Mister Speaker,** Botswana's twenty thousand kilometre (20 000 km) road network is worth about Fifty Billion Pula (P50 Billion). The development and

maintenance of our road network is pivotal to the socio economic development of our country as it creates networks for the movement of goods, services and people, as well as linking our country with others in the region. Government is therefore undertaking rapid road development projects across the country and continues to reserve maintenance works for 100 percent citizen owned companies.

73. Government is still committed to construct the following roads; Francistown-Nata- Maun- Sehitwa-Mohembo, some sections of the Nata-Kazungula road and the Palapye-Martin's Drift road. These roads link Botswana with Central Africa as we anticipate the increase in freight transport due to the completion of the Kazungula Bridge and the coming into effect of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement in January 2021.
74. Two major bridges are being constructed in the tourist areas of Ngamiland and Chobe districts. The Kazungula Bridge project that Government has completed in collaboration with the Republic of Zambia. The Bridge will improve the efficiency of transit traffic at the Kazungula border, enable regional connectivity of the North-South Corridor, as well as facilitate regional integration of the SADC economies. Furthermore, the bridges will provide connectivity to planned major road projects namely; Francistown-Nata, Nata-Maun, Nata-Kasane, Orapa-Maun and Maun-Shakawe.
75. The Okavango Bridge in Mohembo village which is under construction, will be completed by August 2021. Nearly five hundred (500) Batswana have been employed at this project. The project is fully funded by the Government of Botswana. Other on-going road projects include, Charleshill - Ncojane, Gaborone - Boatile, Dibete - Mookane - Machaneng, Mabeleapodi - Tshimoyapula – Serule, and the Mosu – Thalamabele.
76. Progress on the New Greater Gaborone Traffic Signaling System Modernization and Provision of a Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) project stands

at 30 percent against the planned 35 percent. To date, thirty one (31) out of one hundred and twenty-nine (129) intersections have been commissioned. Construction of the three Interchanges along the 'Western Bypass' road which started in December 2019 and is ongoing.

Rail Transport

77. **Mister Speaker**, in order to unlock the connectivity of our country, Botswana Railways is embarking on two key strategic rail infrastructure projects for Moseitse to Kazungula railway line and Mmamabula to Lephale. The Mmamabula - Lephale railway line will connect to the South African railway network, while the Moseitse- Kazungula railway line connects to the Zambian railway network. The feasibility studies for two projects are scheduled to commence before the end of the current Financial Year and are expected to be completed by September 2021.

Aviation

78. **Mister Speaker**, the aviation sector plays a key role in growing the economy of the country. However, due to the current restrictions on travel, it has not been performing as expected. Botswana is embarking on the development of the aviation infrastructure to ready herself for international travel. It is for this reason that an International Airport in Maun is being refurbished and will be completed during this financial year. So far, the new domestic and international arrival halls have been completed and handed over to the Civil Aviation Authority Botswana (CAAB) in July 2020.
79. The introduction of long-haul flights into Botswana including Qatar and Ethiopian airlines, as well as regional operators such as Namib Air, SA Express and SA Airlink, requires an urgent review of the aviation and airspace safety and security, as well as disaster preparedness. Another airline which has expressed interest to fly to Botswana is the Emirates Airlines. To this end, the improvement of surveillance coverage of Botswana's airspace has commenced and tender in this regard, will be awarded in May 2021.

Promoting Digitalization

89. **Mister Speaker**, as a result of our continued efforts, we have adopted the Smart Botswana Strategy, "SmartBots", that is now in the implementation stage. SmartBots adopting a whole of Government approach to transform the public sector, and thus enable us to efficiently provide services to citizens and businesses.

90. As I have stated before, our commitment to achieving the Fourth Industrial Revolution is demonstrated by, among others, our inclusion in the World Economic Forum's 2030 Vision Leaders Platform. The partnerships that we continue to form with global leaders and international high-tech companies will assist Botswana in her drive to achieve a digital economy and her transformational agenda. To this end, I have offered Botswana to partner with global leading companies and organizations so we become a living laboratory for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Maun Science Park could well be a part of this, if ongoing consultations are successful.

National Backbone Infrastructure

91. **Mister speaker**, our quest to upgrade the national backbone network to a state of the art infrastructure is in progress. To date, BoFiNet has a national fibre coverage in excess of ten thousand six hundred kilometres (10,600km) countrywide and it is in the process of connecting cities, major towns and villages, which will also reduce the digital divide in the country. In this regard, two hundred and six (206) out of three hundred and ninety nine (399) localities are connected to high-speed open access network infrastructure. One hundred and ninety three (193) villages, however, still require Open Access broadband backbone network connectivity.

92. More than twenty (20) villages across the country will be provided with broadband connectivity through optic fibres. These villages are; Kang, Tshane, Lehututu, Hukuntsi, Lokgwabe, Letlhakeng, Khudumelapye, Sorilatholo, Salajwe, Kaudwane, Takatokwane, Maake, Ngwatle, Monong, Ncaang, Ukwii, Ncojane,

Kole, Makunda and Charleshill. Of these, Kang, Tshane, Hukuntsi, and Lehututu have recently completed and launched, whereas Charles Hill, Monong, Ncaang and Ngwatle are at 98 percent progress and will be completed at the end of November 2020. Letlhakane to Kaudwane covering Sorilatholo and Letlhakeng are at 97 percent and will also be completed by the end of November 2020. In addition, all villages with a population of less than five thousand (5000) people will be connected using high capacity radios instead of optic fibre by the end of NDP11.

E-Services

93. Botswana aims to pursue a digitally inclusive nation through the implementation of the Digital Transformation Agenda. Thus the increase in demand for e-services over the past few years has demonstrated the centrality of digitisation and advanced technologies in our quest to transform and diversify the economy of our country. To this end, major initiatives have been introduced aimed at improving the delivery of quality services through digitisation in different sectors, as follows;

E - Minerals

94. The Botswana GeoScience Institute (BGI) has developed access to the mineral exploration borehole information system to facilitate the sharing of borehole data that covers water table, yield, depth and chemistry. This system will be availed to the public by the end of the current financial year.

E-Health

95. **Mister Speaker**, the health sector has successfully launched the e-Health Strategy for 2020 to 2024 in March 2020. The Strategy will improve access to healthcare; better patient outcomes; access to health information, as well as monitoring and evaluation. To this end, the development of a home grown Centralised Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system is in progress. It is envisaged that upon completion the system will replace the use of paper-based medical patient cards and assist in building an Electronic Health Record.

E-Learning

96. **Mister Speaker**, the need for digital platforms in teaching and learning has taken precedence in delivering the 21st Century learner and transitioning Botswana to a knowledge based economy. Government continues to partner with stakeholders to support school connectivity and the provision of ICT gadgets. Capacity building of teachers in ICT is ongoing. To date, more than three thousand three hundred (3300) teachers have been trained. The development of a content platform to facilitate access to digital education is ongoing and it will be completed by the end of the 2021/2022 Financial Year.

E-Commerce

97. **Mister Speaker**, Government is in the process of developing a National e-Commerce Strategy which will facilitate commerce across all sectors of the economy. The project commenced in 2019 and it is scheduled to be completed by March 2021. Our National Payments System Vision and Strategy (NPSS) 2020 – 2024 is designed to promote the use of digital payments platforms. The NPSS is expected to accelerate financial inclusion and support the growth of the digital economy.
98. The financial sector is also at the forefront of digitisation in our economy. Banks have continued to roll out digital products and services. To date, the number of transactions conducted through electronic funds transfer (EFT) has increased by 7 percent compared to the previous year, while the number of point of sale or swiping transactions increased by 13 percent. The use of cheques dropped by 33 percent over the same period.
99. Botswana Post has launched an online service, PosoMoney, to help achieve financial inclusion for the unbanked and the under-banked as well as generate an additional revenue stream to sustain itself. PosoMoney is a mobile money solution that allows customers to access a wide range of financial products and services. There are currently sixty six thousand (66,000) registered users on this platform.

100. During the current financial year, the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) commenced the project of upgrading a number of ports of entry into One Stop Border Posts. These include Ramokgwebana, Mamuno, Tlokweng and Pioneer Gate Border Post to improve clearance of cargo and facilitate the ease of doing business. The upgrading commenced in April 2020 and will be completed by March 2023.

Ports of Entry

101. The automation of the ports of entry will enhance compliance with the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and ensure efficient service delivery as well as validate the authenticity and integrity of e-passports of member states. To this end, Government is carrying out the installation of the Passport and Border Control System (PBCS) at the remaining six ports of entry, being, Two Rivers, Bokspits, Makopong, Paarshalt, Zanzibar and Mabolwe which be completed by end of March 2021. Government has also started the development of the VISA on-line application platform, which is expected to be completed by May 2021. In addition, Government will develop the platform for on-line application for the Botswana passport in the next financial year.

Broadcasting Services

102. **Mister Speaker**, as you are aware, Government has started live parliamentary debates in an endeavour to take Parliament closer to the people. In order to disseminate information to the youth, a channel, NOW TV, was launched in November, 2019 and is available online. Government continues to provide universal access to broadcast and print media services. A new transmitter has been installed to enable access to broadcast services to a total of eight thousand four hundred and forty three (8,443) people residing in Sojwe, ShadiShadi, Lephephe, Otse, Boatlaname, Kokonje and Leologane. Three transmitters will be commissioned at Salajwe, Takatokwane, and Malwelwe before the end of the current financial year, resulting in an additional eighteen thousand, six hundred

and fifty two (18,652) people in thirty three (33) villages with access to broadcast signals.

Gabz Free WIFI

103. As part of its efforts to expand access to the broadband internet services, Government and the private sector have started rolling out the Fibre-To-The-Business and Fibre-To-The-Home project in Gaborone. The GABZ FREE Wi-Fi initiative which was launched last month intends to provide free and daily Wi-Fi for one hour per user in some public areas in Gaborone. The first phase of this project entails the installation of Wi-Fi Hotspots in ten (10) public spaces in the city of Gaborone. These places were selected because they have already been provided with the requisite infrastructure in the form of fibre networks. This service will be extended to other parts of Botswana in due course.

Internet Protocol TV

104. We made a promise to nurture the creative economy to make it a source of economic growth, job creation, innovation and trade, as well as, to expose our arts and diverse cultures to international markets. Through BoFinet, Government has created a digital content platform that will showcase Botswana's storytelling and entertainment through an Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) service. The IPTV platform will be a significant contributor towards the commercialisation of the creative and arts industry, as outlined in our country's Creative Industry Strategy.

Research and Innovation

105. **Mister Speaker**, Government, through the Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI), has established a software development centre which will enhance Botswana's participation in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The centre develops core and backbone platforms across national economic sectors and accompanying application programming interfaces to allow seamless integration with applications from other developers.

SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT

Social Protection

106. **Mister Speaker**, the recently approved National Social Protection Framework (NDPF) will deliver a Single Registry System with the aim of consolidating and harmonising the existing twenty nine (29) Social Protection programmes across Government into five Life Course programmes. The consolidation will forge coherence and synergies between these programmes to assist Government in building a stronger, more responsive, efficient and resilient social protection system.

107. Government continues to provide care for the less privileged persons through social protection programmes including Old Age Pensioners (OAP), Destitute Persons, Orphans and Vulnerable children, Community Home Based Care patients, World War II (WWII) Veterans, People Living with Disabilities (PLWD) and needy students. As at September 2020 a total of two hundred and twenty-nine thousand, six hundred and twenty-two (229,622) beneficiaries were registered under various programmes.

108. The Ipelegeng programme will be re-engineered with focus on maintenance of public facilities, especially schools and implementation of development projects at the local level. The revamped Ipelegeng will empower beneficiaries through capacity building and development of technical skills for sustained livelihoods. Their training will be conducted in partnership with local institutions including, Madirelo Training and Testing Centre, Construction Industry Trust Fund (CITF) and Brigades.

Poverty Eradication

109. **Mister Speaker**, Poverty eradication is one of Government's key policy deliverables. In this context, we have broadened the scope of measurement of poverty to include the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which measures non-income deprivation levels of the poor in the areas of education, health and

living standards. Under the Poverty Eradication Programme, as at July 2020, thirty-nine thousand nine hundred and seventy one (39,971) projects were funded. Out of these, thirty one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine (31,829) or 80 percent are operational and employing thirty four thousand seven hundred and ninety-one (34,791) Batswana, while two thousand two hundred and eighty-six (2,286) projects were not successful, resulting in a 5.7 percent failure rate since inception of the programme. About five thousand, eight hundred and fifty six (5,856) projects are at different stages of implementation.

People Living with Disabilities

110. **Mister Speaker**, Government continues to mainstream disability in all its development programmes with the view to improve the lives of people living with disability, as well as to remove barriers and ensure their full participation in the socio-economic development of our country. Children living with disability are provided with diagnostic assessments through multi-disciplinary teams comprising educational psychologists, speech and language therapists and low vision specialists to guide in the appropriate placement for learners with special needs. The construction of a Centre for Severe and Multiple Disability in Maun to cater for learners with disabilities commenced in February 2020 and is scheduled for completion in February 2022.
111. As at March 2020, the Government Unemployed Graduate Database has registered a total of two hundred and ninety five (295) graduates with disability, of which one hundred and forty three (143) were placed at different Government departments, representing 48 percent placement. It is important to note that graduates with disabilities were given priority. Government has also revised the land policy to ensure that People Living with Disability are prioritised in the allocation of land.

Gender Equity

112. **Mister Speaker**, Gender equality and empowerment of women remains central to the socio-economic and cultural development of Botswana, as espoused in our National Vision 2036. Government has set up structures, such as the National

Gender Commission, the Technical Advisory Committee and District Gender Committees to bridge the gap on gender equality. The Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Programme which aims to strengthen the participation of women in the national economic activities is under review.

113. The prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV), especially violence against women and children, who are the most vulnerable to this crime, is of serious concern for all of us. Government has therefore prioritised drafting of a Sexual Offenders Bill to be tabled during this sitting of Parliament. The Bill will establish a Sex Offenders' Registry to record and publicize names and particulars of all persons convicted of sexual offences. To date, twelve (12) districts have set up the District Gender Committees in Chobe, Kweneng, Kgatleng, Kgalagadi, Maun, Serowe, Selebi-Phikwe, North-East, Bobirwa Sub-District, Mabutsane Sub-District, Goodhope Sub-District, and Mahalapye Sub-District. These committees will promote gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as address gender based violence.
114. I am delighted to announce that, subsequent to my address to the nation on Gender Based Violence in September 2020, the Botswana Police has taken swift action and introduced a Toll-Free number for reports on gender-based violence. The Police will also establish a Gender and Child Protection Unit by April 2021. Government is currently putting in place appropriate structures to strengthen its response towards GBV.

Rural Development

115. **Mister Speaker**, the Rural Development Council (RDC) has adopted a value chain approach as a tool to transform community projects into business entities. These community driven initiatives are anchored on the use of the natural resource base that predominantly exist in rural areas to create wealth for the rural economies. The RDC intends to replicate successful business initiatives in other parts of the country.

116. You will recall that I recently declared this year, 2020, a non-drought year following the annual drought and household food security vulnerability assessment, conducted in June 2020. However, there are pockets of the country that were affected by the drought and therefore need targeted relief measures. These measure include, an 85 percent seasonal loan pay-out to farmers in the seriously affected areas in the North East and North West Districts, Boteti and Bobirwa, Sub-Districts, the Tswapong areas in the Mahalapye and Palapye sub districts as well as Tutume and Tonota sub districts. Farmers in those areas obtained seasonal loans from the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) and the National Development Bank (NDB) through the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS) to supplement the complete crop failure as was determined at the time of the assessment.
117. Other interventions were a 20 percent livestock subsidy for the entire country, the continuation of supplementary feeding at primary schools and health facilities, provision of special food basket to underweight children residing in areas serviced by mobile health stops and continuation of the implementation of basic food relief packages to deserving residents in the affected districts.
118. These interventions have been effected and are to end on the 30 June 2021, save for the livestock feed subsidy which started on 1st September, 2020 and will end on 1st January 2021. The RDC will continue to monitor implementation of these relief measures to ensure their effectiveness.

Local Economic Development

119. The Local Economic Development (LED) strategy is an effective instrument to promote local investment, sustain economic growth and diversification, and enhance sustainable livelihoods across localities. Following the approval of the National LED framework Government has been focusing on assisting local authorities to develop their LED strategies. So far one of the five targeted districts has completed its strategy, while the remaining four are at various stages of development. It is anticipated that all the strategies will be completed by the end of this financial year.

Bogosi

120. **Mister Speaker,** the Bogosi institution plays a pivotal role in nation building. However, Bogosi succession disputes continue to negatively affect decision making and service delivery. Government is concerned with the increasing involvement of politicians in Bogosi and the use of this sacred institution for pursuing political agendas. I therefore urge our traditional leadership and Batswana alike, to jealously guard this important institution which has served us well over the years. Government, continues to engage with Dikgosi through various platforms to address these challenges going forward.

121. Government is also making concerted efforts to improve the state of Customary Courts and Kgotla offices. To this end, the refurbishment of eleven (11) Customary Courts were completed by September 2020. Furthermore, WiFi connection for fifty (50) Kgotla offices across the country is ongoing and is expected to be completed in March, 2021. This initiative will provide access to WiFi services to communities of these areas providing yet another opportunity for youth businesses to grow.

Adequate and Affordable Housing

122. **Mister Speaker,** Government remains committed to providing housing particularly targeting the low income strata of the society and first time buyers. Government is working with stakeholders, including the Botswana Housing Cooperation (BHC), to promote high density housing, especially in urban areas, where there is shortage of land. BHC continues to provide housing and has recently been able to deliver houses in Palapye, Tutume and Tatisiding. Since the beginning of NDP 11, one thousand, three hundred and thirty three (1,333) units out of the targeted one thousand, nine hundred and seventy two (1,972) have been completed. The construction of the remaining units is expected to be completed by the end of the Financial Year.

123. Government is reviewing the National Policy on Housing to improve housing delivery and promote home ownership. The review of this Policy is expected to be completed by end of the 2021/22 Financial Year. The revamping of the Integrated Poverty Alleviation and Housing Scheme (IPAHS) initiative which targets lower income groups is expected to be completed by the end of the 2021/22 financial year.

Land

124. **Mister Speaker,** land is an important resource that we must jealously guard, it is our heritage and selling it should be discouraged for the benefit of our future generations. My Government is worried by the disempowering effect where citizens sell tribal land. Government strives to empower Batswana by reforming our land tenure policies. The initiative undertaken by Government to promote mixed land use has helped our people to re-purpose their land for advantageous economic activities. Government has embarked on a Land Management Reform Agenda that aims at the transformation of the land sector with particular emphasis on speedy and efficient land allocation which will reduce the numbers on the waiting lists and the turnaround time for land allocation. The reform is expected to be completed by April 2021. .

125. **Mister Speaker,** Government continues to undertake Land Servicing projects to facilitate land allocation and development. In most of the layouts, plots have already been allocated and developed ahead of servicing. Projects that are being undertaken during this Financial Year include Lentsweletau, Lesoma/Kazungula, Metsimotlhabe, Mabutsane, Francistown (Gerald Block 1), Kalamare and Moshupa. These projects are expected to provide access to a total of nine thousand, seven hundred and twenty nine (9, 729) plots by March 2022.

126. However, owing to capacity constraints, Government is actively considering leveraging on the local private sector through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) to service land and significantly reduce the waiting lists for

land allocations, nationally. Furthermore, we are considering plot allocations on un-serviced or minimally serviced land.

Land Use Planning and Management

127. **Mister Speaker**, in the past year, Government adopted several planning initiatives such as the declaration of planning areas, namely the South East, Kgatleng and Chobe Districts, as well as the Palapye and Bobirwa Sub Districts. Government aims to declare all Districts as planning areas by March 2021. Government has also completed the development plans for Sowa, Serowe, Kanye and Molepolole; and the revitalization plans for Selebi-Phikwe, Kasane-Kazungula, Lobatse and Francistown.

128. The Land Administration Procedures Capacity and Systems (LAPCAS) project was to provide technological solutions for effective management of land. As part of the LAPCAS initiative, Government will establish a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) by 2023, which will allow for geo-spatial data sharing. The availability of the NSDI is expected to contribute to the Digital Government Transformation (SmartBots) and also enhance the implementation of the National Spatial Plan (NSP).

Water and Sanitation

129. **Mister Speaker**, it should be noted that the prevention of the spread and transmission of COVID-19 requires hygiene, consequently making the availability of water supply to all households critical. Government has instituted measures including the provision of additional capacity for supplementary bousing, to areas with critical water shortages and an additional forty one (41) un-gazetted settlements, the reconnection of all customers with outstanding bills and the suspension of water disconnections country-wide, all these done with a view to maintain a continuous supply of water throughout the country.

130. In the last two years, Government has been successful in efforts to provide water to the people. While short term water projects are being put in place, Government is at the same time implementing medium to long term projects like

the development of the Botswana Water Security Strategy for 2020 to 2040, to ensure reliability and consistency of water supply. The development of the strategy is expected to be completed by the end of this financial year.

131. Major investment in water and sanitation infrastructure which includes the design and construction of the Maun Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme is planned to be completed in 2022. The scheme is envisaged to provide potable water and sanitation networks to benefit the localities of Sexaxa, Matsaudi, Sekampane and Shorobe. In the Southern part of the country, we have commenced the construction of the Masama – Mmamashia 100 kilometer pipeline which will inject an additional sixty-four million cubic litres of water per day (64MI/day) into the Greater Gaborone, Lobatse, Kanye, Ramotswa, Molepolole and Borolong areas. The project is expected to be completed by May 2021.

132. Other significant water projects which are ongoing include the Mahalapye and Palapye Water Treatment Works scheduled for completion in December 2021. The Palapye Treatment Plant will benefit Palapye and Serowe. The Mahalapye Treatment Plant will benefit Mahalapye and the Shoshong Cluster covering Shoshong, Bonwapitse, Mmutlane and Kalamare, as well as twenty one (21) villages in the Tswapong South area. Tswapong South villages include Sefhare Cluster which covers Machaneng, Borotsi, Chadibe and Maifala, the Pilikwe Cluster covering Pilikwe and Mhalapitsa, the Mokobeng - Ngwapa Cluster covering Ramokgonami, Mokobeng, Ngwapa, Pilikwe, as well as the Matlhako - Letoreng Cluster.

133. Government is also constructing a Water Treatment Plant in Kasane. The project is scheduled to be completed in March 2023 and will benefit Kasane, Kazungula, Lesoma and Chobe Enclave villages. Projects under the World Bank supported programme include the North East / Tutume Water Supply project which entails upgrading and remedial works of schemes in fifty two (52) villages

in the two districts. The North East / Tutume Water Supply project is scheduled to be completed by August 2021.

134. Projects that were awarded in September 2020 include the next phase of North South Carrier project under the Mmamashia – Gaborone Pipeline and the Gaborone Water Master Plan, Moshupa Sanitation project, Lobatse Water Master Plan, the Connection of Tswapong South villages to the North South Carrier at Mahalapye and the Mmamashia Water Treatment Plant expansion.

135. **Mister Speaker**, this phase of the North South Carrier project involves the development of additional infrastructure to allow for the transmission of raw water, the upgrading of the existing Gaborone Water Supply Network as well as the connection of new developing areas of Gaborone North, Sebele, the Sir Seretse Khama International Airport development area and the Forest Hill Development. The project will benefit localities such as Oodi, Modipane and Matebele.

136. The Molepolole-Gamononyane – North South Carrier Connection and Goodhope Water Master Plan - Phase 2 are currently at procurement stage. The Gamononyane – Molepolole project will benefit Molepolole, Kopong, Mmanoko, Gamodubu and Thebephatwa Airbase. The Goodhope project involves the transmission and distribution systems covering thirty two (32) villages from Pitsane to Sekhutlane. Furthermore the Ramotswa Water Treatment Plant is scheduled to be completed in December 2020 and will benefit the Ramotswa Cluster villages. The connection of the Ramonnedi Wellfield to Mmathethe is ongoing and is expected to be completed by December 2020. The project will address the shortage of water for the village as a short term measure while awaiting the implementation of the Metlojane – Mmathethe World Bank Project.

137. The Gumare Water Treatment Plant is scheduled to be completed by January 2021 and it is designed to service the villages of Gumare, Tubu, Etsha 1 and Etsha 6. The Shakawe Water Treatment Plant is also ongoing and it is scheduled for completion in February 2021. The project entails rehabilitation of

the existing treatment plant to increase treated water capacity to meet the increase in demand for the villages of Shakawe, Nxamasere, Samochima, Mohembo West, Ukusi, Shaikarawe and Xhauga in the Okavango Sub District until 2035.

138. The rehabilitation of the Glen Valley Waste Water Treatment Plant is scheduled to be completed by December 2020. The project involves the upgrading of wastewater treatment processes and the rehabilitation and maintenance of existing wastewater facilities to improve plant efficiency and compliance to environmental discharge protocols which will also reduce odour. A Feasibility Study for the implementation of the Glen Valley Wastewater Reclamation project through a Public Private Partnership has also been concluded. The project involves the development of infrastructure for recycling wastewater for potable use.

Basic Education

Early Childhood Education

139. **Mister Speaker**, since the implementation of the Early Childhood Education Programme, the number of public primary schools offering the one year reception class programme has increased from five hundred and ninety (590) schools to six hundred and thirteen (613), as at March 2020. This programme will be extended to all the remaining one hundred and forty three (143) primary schools by 2022. The shortage of learning materials and infrastructure are the main challenges for the Early Childhood programme. To alleviate the challenges, Government provides grants to centres, playgroups and Day-care Centres owned by communities and Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) to assist children who are unable to benefit from the Government programme. In this context, Government partnered with thirty (30) centres during this financial year.

Outcome Based Education System at Senior Secondary Schools

140. In order to improve the quality of our education, Botswana has adopted an outcome-based approach to education to facilitate the introduction of multiple

pathways starting in 2021 at senior secondary schools to enable students to pursue subjects of their interest and capability. Over the last two years, there has been a rapid implementation of reform programmes under the Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP) with a view to promote a competence or skill based curriculum and as such, thirty eight (38) subjects have been reviewed and developed. So far, Maun Senior Secondary School has been selected for Tourism and Hospitality, while Moeng College was identified for Horticulture, Crop and Animal Production. The construction of facilities to prepare the schools for pathways has already commenced. Assessment programmes aligned to the new curriculum are being developed and are expected to be completed by 2023. Syllabus development will commence from October 2020 to March 2022 for junior schools and from November 2022 to April 2024 for primary schools while for pre-primary it will be November 2024 to April 2026.

141. In this context, a draft National Policy on Assessment for General Education as well as the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has been completed and will guide examinations and assessments in the context of outcome based education. The Botswana Teaching Professionals Council has been established to professionalise the teaching cadre and restore dignity of the profession.

Development Projects - Educational Facilities

142. **Mister Speaker**, provision of quality education cannot be realised without a conducive teaching and learning environment. In this regard, Government has recently made rigorous efforts which led to the completion of thirty (30) schools under cyclic maintenance, while twenty two (22) are ongoing at various stages of completion. Thirty one (31) projects are yet to commence and will be implemented in the remaining years of NDP 11. Under the expansion of junior secondary schools, four schools, namely Tsodilo, Maunatlala, Tshwaragano and Selolwe Junior Secondary Schools have been completed, while Mphuthe Junior Secondary School is at completion stage.

143. Government has also delivered one hundred and fifty six (156) out of one hundred and ninety one (191) targeted classrooms and thirty seven (37) out of fifty four (54) science labs. The remaining thirty five (35) classrooms and seventeen (17) science labs are ongoing and expected to be handed over by the end of November 2020. The expansion of Goldmine and Bonwatlou Junior Secondary Schools is expected to complete during this financial year whilst the plan for the expansion for Kalamare Junior Secondary School is at design stage. In terms of accommodation provision for teachers, four hundred and forty four (444) staff houses were constructed across the country, while another three hundred and one (301) units were procured from Botswana Housing Corporation. Tenders for the provision of four hundred and twelve (412) porta cabin classrooms across the country are still at evaluation stage.

Response to COVID-19 in Schools

144. **Mister Speaker**, the outbreak of COVID-19 has caused substantial disruptions within the education landscape of our country. The closure of schools and the interruption in curriculum delivery across learning institutions has demanded robust plans to ensure continuity in the delivery of teaching and learning, without compromising the quality of education and the safety of both learners and teachers.

145. Government has ramped up efforts to counter the spread and transmission of the virus in institutions of learning. Measures undertaken to contain the spread of COVID-19 at schools include the following;

- Reduction in class sizes to a maximum of thirty (30) learners and the introduction of shifts in schools, and;
- Engagement of three thousand (3,000) temporary teachers to accommodate the increase in the number of classes and the employment of Safety Health and Environment (SHE) officers to ensure compliance with safety protocols. Our commitment is to maintain the status quo.

146. To date, all public and private schools have adhered to the dictates of the COVID-19 safety protocols. The low numbers of actual COVID-19 cases across our schools is testament to the commitment by our educators to keep our schools and children safe. The Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) was delivered successfully. The Junior Certificate and Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCE) examinations have also begun and it is our hope that they will also be delivered successfully. I am delighted to indicate that today, all Government schools have hand wash basins, soaps, toilet papers, sanitizers, disposal bins and water tanks.

Tertiary Education

147. **Mister Speaker**, Government is currently developing a Labour Market Information System (LMIS) to facilitate disaggregation of education and employment statistics through linkages with other databases, including the Integrated System for Civil Registration, Migration and Citizenship, Labour Administration (ISCRS), National Employment Services System, as well as the Government Unemployed Graduate database.

148. Government is also committed to enhancing quality assurance in our education system and to this end, all institutions of higher learning in Botswana have been registered with the Botswana Qualification Authority. This was followed by a comprehensive review of Technical and Vocational Education and Training programmes in line with the National Human Resource Development Plan and the National Credit and Qualifications Framework.

Libraries

149. Government is committed to increasing literacy in the country. In this regard, we continue to collaborate with stakeholders, such as, the Robert & Sara Rothschild Family Foundation, which has completed the construction of seventeen (17) libraries in the country, which are now operational. The construction of the eighteenth library in Rakops started in August 2020 and is scheduled for completion by March 2021.

Provision of Quality Vocational Training

150. **Mister Speaker,** the maintenance of brigade institutions is on-going with four brigades funded and completed in the last Financial Year while maintenance for twelve (12) is ongoing. The procurement of modern workshop equipment for brigade institutions and certificate offering technical colleges is at an advanced stage. Tenders for various equipment have been floated and are at various stages of the procurement process.
151. As Government has promised to rapidly diversify our economy, Construction Industry Trust Fund (CITF) has commenced the development of learning programmes for roads maintenance, fence erection and maintenance, furniture making and alternative building solutions. The establishment of the Sojwe, Bokspits, Phitshane Molopo and Ncojane Rapid Skills Centres has commenced. The establishment of Shakawe and Khakhea centres will commence in the next Financial Year. The Senyawwe, Nkange and Naledi brigades were handed over to CITF in September 2020 and their accreditation has started, after which training will commence. These efforts are a true demonstration of this Government's commitment to economic diversification and our objective of improving the lives of our people especially the youth.

Sport and Culture Development

152. **Mister Speaker,** as I have repeatedly expressed, the creative industry holds great potential to improving the lives of our people and significantly contributing to employment creation and the development of this country. In recognition of this, a Bill to establish the National Arts Council for effective regulation and coordination of the Arts and Culture sector was passed in September 2020. The Council is expected to be in place by the beginning of the next Financial Year. To further optimize on the potential of the creative industry, the Cinematograph Act is being reviewed to strengthen the local film and television industry. The drafting of the Bill is expected to be completed by the end of this Financial Year. In addition, Government has developed the Creative Industries Strategy with the

view to promote creativity, nurture skills and talent for job and wealth creation, particularly for our young people.

153. The National Sport Commission Act is also being reviewed to facilitate sport to contribute to the economy through commercialization and professionalism, as well to improve the welfare and the rights of our sportspersons. The Youth Development Fund is currently being reviewed to assess impact and identify gaps in its implementation. The Botswana National Youth Policy is also being reviewed to incorporate emerging issues in the youth development space such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Both reviews are targeted for completion by March 2021.
154. To alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on sport and the creative industry, Government offered a financial relief programme for artists and athletes. By September 2020, a total of Nineteen Million, Four Hundred and Four Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty Pula (P 19,404,180.00) had been paid to youth, athletes and artists to help them cope with the effects of COVID-19. Three hundred and forty (340) youth received One Million, Five Hundred and Twenty Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pula (P1, 528 250), nine thousand and ninety (9,090). Artists received Fourteen Million, Three Hundred and Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Pula (P14, 308,500.00), while eight hundred and eighty nine (889) athletes received Three Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty Pula (P3, 567,430.00) of the relief package.
155. **Mister Speaker**, I note with sadness that many sport and cultural activities for 2020 were either postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19. These include, the Khawa Dune Challenge and Cultural festivals, the 1000km Kgalagadi Desert Race, the President's Day Competitions, Constituency Sport and Arts Competitions, and other sporting activities such as football leagues. I wish to indicate however that the postponements and cancellations were necessary for the protection our people.

Health and Wellness

156. **Mister Speaker**, let me emphasise this Government's unwavering commitment to ensuring the highest standards of health for our people. Thus, through the Revised National Health Policy, Government is pursuing the delivery of quality universal health care services with the objective of attaining "Health for All by 2036". The policy is also consistent with the commitment of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people of all ages, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3.

HIV/AIDS

157. **Mister Speaker**, Botswana has made tremendous efforts in tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the country. As such the country has surpassed the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets in 2019 and has now set new targets to 95-95-95. Currently, 92 percent of people living with HIV know their status, while 89 percent of them are on treatment with 96 percent being virally suppressed. To date, three hundred and eighty four thousand, one hundred and ten (384,110) people in Botswana are estimated to be living with HIV. However, HIV/AIDS related deaths have declined by 28 percent between the years 2010 and 2019.

158. It is also worth noting that the country is on the path of eliminating mother to child transmission. It currently stands at 1.9 percent, when compared to 2.5 percent in 2018. In December 2019, the Government in collaboration with PEPFAR adopted a policy on providing free HIV/AIDS services to non-citizens living in Botswana. To date there are over two thousand, nine hundred and sixty five (2,965) non-citizens accessing Antiretroviral Treatment services for free. In order to further reduce new HIV infections, Government has introduced Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to HIV Negative individuals who are 18 years and above and at risk of acquiring the infection. The PrEP is already being rolled out in phases to prioritised beneficiaries such as Adolescents Girls and Young Women (AGYW).

Malaria

159. **Mister Speaker**, in spite of the significant progress made towards achieving the elimination of malaria in the country, I wish to note with concern that, at the beginning of the malaria transmission season in October 2019, a total of nine hundred and thirty six (936) cases were registered, out of which eleven (11) led to deaths, surpassing the transmission rate of five hundred and eighty five (585) cases recorded in 2018 during the same period. Government, however, remains steadfast in efforts to eliminate Malaria.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

160. **Mister Speaker**, alcohol and substance abuse remain a matter of concern to our nation and there is an increasing need for treatment of those affected. To address the challenges, a Draft National Health Rehabilitation Policy is being developed. In addition, the design and review process to convert an existing facility to a specialised Health Rehabilitation Centre in Francistown is ongoing. The centre will treat individuals with trauma and neurological conditions.

Emergency Medical Service

161. In order to reduce deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) units were established to provide lifesaving out-of-hospital medical care and transportation of patients to definitive care. As part of the implementation of the EMS policy, the service deals with time sensitive health conditions. In the implementation of the EMS policy, Government has to date established nine (9) EMS centres at, Gaborone, Lobatse, Mochudi, Mahalapye, Palapye, Selibe Phikwe, Francistown, Maun and Kasane. Plans are underway to roll out the service to other areas, particularly, in Molepolole, Jwaneng, Kang and Ghanzi. As a long term strategy, Government will establish a centralized national EMS call centre, where all emergency calls and dispatches will be coordinated.

Botswana Public Health Institute

162. It is the intention of Government to establish the Botswana Public Health Institute. The Institute will help Botswana develop, strengthen and maintain her capabilities to detect, assess, notify and report events deemed to present public health risk and public health emergencies.

COVID-19 Pandemic

163. **Mister Speaker**, the index case of COVID-19 in the country was recorded on 31st March, 2020. As at 1st November 2020, a cumulative six thousand, four hundred and forty one (6, 441) Batswana had tested positive, with eight hundred and eighty (880) active cases while five thousand, five hundred and thirty four (5, 534) people had recovered from the virus. To date, Botswana has recorded twenty seven (27) COVID-19 related deaths. In order to contain the spread and transmission of the virus, a Presidential COVID-19 Task Force, which I chair, comprising, Cabinet, Dikgosi, scientists, health experts, the private sector and civil society, as well as communication specialists was established to work in collaboration with Government and other stakeholders to coordinate all COVID-19 related activities.
164. To date, a total of P2, 134, 557, 839 was contributed into the COVID-19 Relief Fund, of which P2, 000, 000, 000 was seed capital by Government and P134. 557, 839 as contributions from individuals, civil society organisations, the private sector and development partners. In addition to the financial contribution, Government receive donations in kind from individuals and companies, which implemented our efforts in fighting the pandemic. So far, of the P2.134 billion contributed into the Relief Fund an amount P1, 844, 677, 264 was disbursed as follows;
- i. wage subsidy, P831, 113, 202
 - ii. Food relief; P350, 870, 083
 - iii. Health supplies P 396, 710, 434

- iv. Education P58, 200, 748 was disbursed to the Ministry of Basic Education for the temporary employment of safety, health and environmental officers , as well as psychological support;
- v. Support for citizens in the diaspora P 11, 099, 679 was utilised for the evacuation and financial support to Batswana abroad;
- vi. BAMB strategic grain reserves P196, 680, 098.

165. The balance of the Fund is P289, 880, 575, of which P200, 000, 000 has been reserved for the wage subsidy for the tourism sector as approved by Government in the E RTP. In recognition of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic in the medium term, Government requested for a supplementary budget of 1 billion from Parliament at its last sitting which was approved. These funds are available to finance a whole range of health supplies required to fight the disease.

166. The key aspects of the control strategy for COVID-19 include, to influence behavioural change through public education; implementation of sanitary measures; enforcement of face coverings, as well as contact-tracing, quarantining and testing those exposed. In this connection, general movement restrictions were imposed on non-essential travel and gatherings. It is against this backdrop that the country has been demarcated into nine (9) COVID-19 zones. The extended State of Public Emergency which was recently approved by Parliament will strengthen our ability to effectively address the spread and transmission of the pandemic.

167. In an effort to address the COVID-19 challenges, porta cabins have been set up at six (6) ports of entry, being Mamuno, Martins Drift, Ramatlabama, Ramokgwebana, Kazungula and Pioneer Gate, to facilitate testing, sample storage and the temporary holding of suspected cases. Government has also procured and installed thermo scanners to facilitate screening at border gates in Ramatlabama, Martins Drift, Pioneer and Tlokweng. These have greatly contributed to the early detection and isolation of COVID-19 suspected cases and significantly reduced long queues. Government has further identified,

maintained or converted various facilities across the regions or zones into isolation centres to admit patients who have tested positive for COVID-19.

168. **Mister Speaker**, the availability of a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19 is a critical step towards the control of the pandemic. To date, over three hundred (300) vaccine candidates across the globe are at varying stages of development, twenty-five (25) of which have entered clinical trials, including nine that are in phase three and could achieve emergency use approval by first quarter of 2021. A COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility or the "COVAX Facility", was launched in April 2020 to accelerate the development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world.
169. As at the September 2020, a total of one hundred and fifty six (156) countries were reported to have joined the COVAX Facility across the globe and this includes 64 high income countries and 92 lower income economies, representing more than 64 percent of the world's population. Botswana is among the countries that have joined the COVAX Facility, therefore presenting an opportunity for us to access the COVID-19 vaccine once availed.
170. COVID-19 exposed the inadequacies in our health system to effectively deal with public health threats and emergencies. In order to deal with this challenge, the National Health Laboratory services capacity was improved to process five thousand (5000) tests per day against the previous five hundred (500). Improvements to build full capacity of ten thousands (10 000) tests per day are ongoing. Construction of the testing laboratories at Mamuno, Kasane and Maun are ongoing and planned for completion by the end of November 2020.
171. **Mister Speaker**, I am pleased to inform this august House that Government has lifted international travel restrictions starting from today in a phased manner covering the fourteen (14) ports of entry as follows;

- i. Starting from today air travel resumes at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone, Kasane International Airport and Maun International Airport.
 - ii. International air travel will resume on 1st December, 2020 at Phillip G. Matante International Airport in Francistown.
 - iii. On 1st December, 2020, ground crossing will resume at the commercial border points of Kazungula road, Kazungula ferry, Ngoma, Ramokgwebana, Martins Drift, Ramatlabama, Tlokweng, Mamuno, Pioneer and Mohembo.
 - iv. The remaining ports of entry are being considered, subject to disease burden and harmonization of protocols with neighbouring countries. We remain agile to the threat, while eager to open more borders soonest.
172. However, all arriving travellers will be expected to meet the following requirements;
- i. Present a valid 72 Hour negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) result from time of departure.
 - ii. Screened for COVID-19 symptoms upon entry.
 - iii. Symptomatic clients upon arrival will be required to undertake mandatory testing and possible isolation and or quarantine, as per section 76 (1) (2) and 80 of the Public Health Act of 2013.
 - iv. Travellers will be required to remain in contact with the local health authority for a period of 14 days doing self-monitoring.
 - v. Returning citizens and residents not meeting the requirement will undergo 14-day mandatory quarantine and testing at their own cost (as assessed by local authority).
 - vi. Non-citizen travellers not meeting the requirements will not be allowed entry into Botswana.
 - vii. Travellers exiting Botswana are expected to comply with travel regulations of the destination country at their own expense.

Health Infrastructure

173. **Mister Speaker**, the construction of seven (7) clinics and associated housing units, which commenced in the 2018/2019 financial year is still ongoing at Makgophana in Mochudi, Toteng, Ngarange, D'kar, Dibete, Sepopa and Kauxwi with progress ranging from 12 percent to 97 percent. Moreover, Government in collaboration with Development Partners and Donors has constructed and completed clinics in Kumakwane, Lotlhakane West and Magapatona in Tutume.
174. Regarding donor funded projects, progress stands as follows; Letlhakane maternity ward at 90 percent; Borotsi at 42 percent; Makalamabedi at 30 percent; Maboane 5 percent and Molalatau, 95 percent.
175. With regard to the provision of accommodation, to date, a total of seventy five (75) staff houses are complete in Kgalagadi, Greater Francistown, Tutume, Mabutsane, Bobirwa, Lobatse and Kweneng regions. Eighteen (18) staff houses in Maun, Shorobe and Makalamabedi are 92 percent complete while the eight (8) houses at Tsau and Sehithwa are still at tender stage. Other planned staff houses are at various stages of construction ranging from 20 percent to 95 percent. In addition, a total of fifty eight (58) houses were procured from the Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) through the Public Officers Housing Initiatives (POHI) to address an acute shortage of accommodation for health workers.
176. The construction of a seventy (70) bed capacity primary hospitals is progressing at 95 percent and 25 percent rate in Shakawe and Moshupa, respectively. Sixty-nine (69) staff housing units for Moshupa Hospital are also under construction at 15 percent progress rate, while the upgrading of Tutume and Gumare Primary Hospitals is still at the design stage. The refurbishment of three old hospitals in Mahalapye, Sefhare and Serowe (Sekgoma) is complete, while construction work is ongoing at the old Maun and Scottish Livingstone hospitals. These facilities will enhance service provision in the respective areas.

Sustainable Development

177. The year 2020 marks five years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the commencement of the Decade of Action' before the end date of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the ten years, the global community committed to mobilise accelerated sustainable solutions towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its underlying Sustainable Development Goals. However, COVID-19 proves to be the biggest setback likely to reverse the gains of the past five years. As such, my Government recognises the importance of SDGs to sustain Botswana's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks to their holistic nature.

178. In order to advance SDG implementation, Government, in partnership with United Nations family in Botswana, developed Planning Guidelines to effectively facilitate the integration of SDGs targets and indicators into sectoral strategies and plans, as well as their effective mainstreaming into the national budgeting processes. Currently, the guidelines are being piloted in six selected ministries. Plans are also underway to develop an SDG Financing Strategy, to help leverage domestic, international and private finance to support the realisation of national priorities, including SDGs.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

179. **Mister Speaker**, environmental sustainability is one of the key requirements for realising sustainable development. Streamlining environmental management in our development processes is therefore of crucial importance.

Environmental Assessment

180. The amended Environmental Assessment Act will facilitate the ease of doing business, reduce the categories of projects subjected to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and reduce the turnaround time for reviewing EIA project documents from six to three months.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

181. Government has completed a draft Climate Change and Response Policy, which aims to manage the effects of climate change and facilitate effective adaptation and mitigation plans. The implementation of climate change response measures will result in targeted subsidies for clean technologies, such as, renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate smart agriculture. The Draft Policy will be considered in the November Parliament sitting.

Renewable Energy

182. **Mister Speaker**, Government continues to undertake organizational reforms to align itself with the National Vision 2036 Pillar of Sustainable Environment to ensure that Botswana will be energy secure, with diversified, safe and clean energy sources, and a net energy exporter. Government has developed Solar Roof Top Guidelines to enable Botswana to generate electricity from the sun for their own use, while selling excess energy to the Botswana Power Corporation. This nationwide programme is being piloted in five areas in Gaborone areas, namely; the Okavango Diamond Company, Bank of Botswana, Airport Junction Mall, Diamond Trading Company Botswana and Botho College and is limited to system-wide aggregate capacity of 10 Megawatts for the first twelve (12) months of the program. Two Megawatts will be reserved for domestic consumers

while the rest for commercial use. These trials will provide Government with reliable data to inform policy direction.

Clean Energy Initiatives

183. In order to meet our national electricity demand in a cost effective and environmentally friendly manner, Government through the newly approved Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) will implement the following clean technology projects;

- i. 100 Megawatts Power Plant which is currently under procurement; the tender award to the successful bidder(s) is expected in the first quarter of 2021, and commercial operation is scheduled for third quarter of 2022. The power plants sites are located in Selebi Phikwe (50 Megawatts) and Jwaneng (50 Megawatts).
- ii. 12 Grid tied Solar Photovoltaic with a total of 35 Megawatts by 2022. Tender award is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2020, and commercial operation is scheduled for the first quarter of 2022. These projects will be at; Kasane, Molepolole, Tutume, Ghanzi, Tsabong, Maun, Serowe, Bobonong, Shakawe, Lobatse, Mamuno and Kang.
- iii. 10 Megawatts Coal Bed Methane (CBM) by the year 2025 which is currently undergoing procurement processes;
- iv. 200 Megawatts Concentrated Solar Plant (CSP) by the year 2026, procurement is scheduled to start in 2021;
- v. 50 Megawatts Wind by the year 2027, procurement to start in 2024; and
- vi. 100 Megawatts Solar Photovoltaic by the year 2027, procurement to start in 2025.

Waste Management

184. Converting waste into resourceful products will empower communities through job creation, poverty alleviation and conservation of biodiversity resources. During the 2019/2020 financial year, waste management projects created a total of thirteen thousand, two hundred and sixty-seven (13,267) jobs out of which six thousand, one hundred and twenty-nine (6,129) were youth,

five thousand, one hundred and thirty-one (5,131), females and one hundred and ninety-six (196), people with living with disabilities.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

185. **Mister Speaker,** Government is working to develop an Environmental Management Policy that promotes the protection, conservation and harmonised coordination of the environmental related programmes and projects. The policy which is due for completion by 2021.

Sustainable Management of Forests

186. **Mister Speaker,** Government is finalising the 2020 Forest and Range Resources Bill which will be submitted to Parliament in February 2021. The Bill harmonises Botswana's forest legislation with international frameworks for sustainable management of forest and veldt resources. The Bill will increase opportunities for Botswana in the sustainable use of range resources and open up forest reserves to communities through the establishment of ecotourism ventures.

Community Based Natural Resources Management

187. **Mister Speaker,** hunting for the 2020 season was postponed to 2021 due to COVID 19. In addition, the Government has received support from the Federal Republic of Germany to a tune of Sixty Five Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Pula (P65.8 million) through the Kavango Zambezi Trans frontier Conservation Area (KAZA) and Peace Parks Foundation to provide community livelihood as well as wage subsidy for the personnel employed within the Community Based Organisation and freelance professional guides, chefs, Mokoro Polers within the KAZA region of Botswana.

Wildlife Species Management

188. **Mister Speaker,** as part of economic diversification and citizen economic empowerment, Government intends to broaden citizen participation in agro tourism. To this end, Government is finalising guidelines to empower our people to keep game in their fields (masimo) which will be completed during this

Financial Year. Government has also identified 45 new campsites in Central Kgalagadi Game Reserve, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and Khutse Game Reserve for lease to individuals, citizen owned companies and consortia.

189. Poaching remains one of the greatest challenges in the sustainable management of our wildlife species. At least sixty three (63) Rhinos have been killed since 2019. As part of the interventions to combat poaching, rhinos in the Okavango Delta have been dehorned. Government also completed the construction of Kang Anti-Poaching Facility in August 2020. The facility will be used for training Wildlife officers responsible for anti-poaching. The National Anti-Poaching Strategy is being reviewed to strengthen measures against poaching and the illegal wildlife trafficking. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by March 2021.

190. **Mister Speaker,** Government received the first reports of elephant mortality in April 2020 occurring near Seronga village in the Ngamiland District. More cases were subsequently reported in May and June. A total of two hundred and eighty (280) elephants died. However, other species, including scavengers feeding on the elephant carcasses were not affected. Samples were sent to laboratories within the country, as well as to Zimbabwe, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for testing. Investigations revealed that the animals were killed by natural cyanobacteria toxins. Government is engaged in finding ways to develop the capacity of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks to ensure preparedness and tackle such outbreaks expeditiously. In addition, we have witnessed an increase in sightings of elephants outside of the normal elephant range. Elephants were cited as far the Kgalagadi area. This expansion is exacerbated by drought and climate change. In response, Government is finalising a National Elephant Action Plan, which will be completed during this financial year.

191. Human-wildlife conflict continues to pose a challenge to livelihoods of Batswana. The number of lives and injuries due to human-elephant conflict in particular are a cause for concern. The construction of the western Makgadikgadi

fence has commenced and is anticipated that it will be completed by March 2021. The fence is anticipated to reduce the impact of wildlife on community livelihoods and also to serve as a disease control barrier. The Elephant Management Plan which proposes a number of measures to mitigate conflict and address environmental impacts will be approved during the current financial year. The Compensation Guidelines are undergoing review and this process will be complete by December 2020.

GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

Constitutional Review

192. Mister Speaker, Government remains committed to the review of our Constitution and it will begin in earnest early next year. This is naturally a lengthy and sensitive process that will require all of us to approach it with maturity, objectivity and a good level of tolerance.

Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

193. **Mister Speaker**, my Government strives to attain clean and open government where people civil liberties and human rights are upheld as espoused in our Constitution. Botswana has established a Human Rights Office with a mandate to among others, provide strategic guidance in the promotion and protection of Human Rights, as well as to coordinate the implementation of recommendations by International and Regional Treaty Bodies. This is a significant milestone in honouring our reporting obligations to the United Nations.

194. To date, Botswana has deposited the Country Report on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) with the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies and the Country Report on the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in January and May 2020, respectively. Government is currently finalizing the Universal Peer Review Mid Term Report, which will be deposited with the Human Rights Council by the end of 2020. In addition, the amendment of the Ombudsman Act to convert the Office of the Ombudsman into a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) is nearing completion. This amendment Bill will empower the Office of the Ombudsman to address human rights issues.

Strengthening the Justice System

195. **Mister Speaker**, the strengthening and reforming the criminal justice sector is critical to enhancing access to justice and the rule of law. In this regard, the

Legal Practitioners Act is being amended to make the legal profession more responsive to the needs of the members of the public. The Legal Practitioners Bill of 2020 was tabled in the last Sitting of Parliament. The jurisdiction of Small Claims Courts which has hitherto, been limited to P10 000, was increased to P30 000. The Small Claims Court will be rolled out to Palapye, Jwaneng and Maun, in addition to those in Gaborone and Francistown.

Fight Against Corruption

196. **Mister Speaker**, fighting corruption is fundamental to the attainment of good governance and the rule of law, as well as sustainable socio economic development. According to the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of Transparency International, Botswana has remained constant at a score of 61 percent for the past three years. Although the country has been doing relatively well on indicators of this Index, we should not be complacent. We should all ensure that corruption in the country is effectively addressed. In February 2020, Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BOCONGO, that will help Botswana achieve its international and continental obligations under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

Strengthening Investigations, Asset Tracing and Recovery

197. **Mister Speaker**, the Grey-listing of Botswana by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Eastern and Southern African Anti Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) is a stain to Botswana's reputation with potential to hinder national economic growth and limit access to international lending institutions. The Grey-listing may also affect Government's ability to open Bank Accounts in foreign jurisdictions which are needed for both diplomatic and economic initiatives. As such, the fight against corruption needs to have real and immediate impact.

198. To this end, Government created the Anti-Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture Unit in 2019. Through investigations of suspected money laundering and application of the Profits and Instruments of Crimes Act (PICA), Botswana

may be strengthened in its deterrence and detection mechanisms of all forms of money laundering to meet the Financial Action Task Force standards. The passing of the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act in August 2019 for purposes of monitoring the interests, income, assets and liabilities of certain categories of persons will go a long way in preventing and detecting corruption, money laundering and the acquisition of property from proceeds of any other offence.

199. To address the challenge of money laundering and terrorism financing, Government developed several initiatives, which include, conducting a sector risk assessment, sensitisation of Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) and profiling them to guide decision making. A Strategy on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism was developed in May 2020 to strengthen the AML/CFT systems for NPOs.

Office of the Receiver

200. **Mister Speaker**, since its establishment, the Office of the Receiver has been served with twenty-seven (27) Court Orders of which twenty-one (21) are active whilst six (6) have been concluded. The total value of property under the management of the Receiver is One Hundred and Seventy-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty Pula and Sixty-Six Thebe (P177, 933,830.66) as at August 2020.

Public Safety and Security

213. **Mister Speaker**, on transnational crime of human trafficking, Botswana's 2019 international ratings remained at Tier 2 out of four (4) possible Tiers, as was the case in 2018. Botswana's achievement is commendable and is indicative of our nation's resolve to end this transnational crime, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations has reported that COVID-19 will most likely exacerbate incidents of human trafficking and human smuggling worldwide.

Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Radiological Weapons Management Authority

214. The threat of terrorism has increased and diversified worldwide and cannot be ignored. To this end, Botswana ratified the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in July 2020 to reaffirm her commitment towards global nuclear disarmament.

Botswana Defence Force

213. **Mister Speaker**, the Botswana Defence Force continues to play an important role in maintaining the country's security and national sovereignty and as Government we do not take their contribution for granted for they secure our nationhood upon which the peace dividend which we enjoy is premised. More importantly, we applaud their professionalism in executing their mandate.

Botswana Police Service

214. Government has deployed cutting-edge crime fighting technology geared towards enhancing police capabilities. In particular, the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance system deployed in Gaborone continues to show improvement in crime prevention and detection especially, with regard to smash and grab incidents which used to terrorise motorists around the city. The evidence retrieved from the surveillance system has proven to be effective in expediting police investigations and prosecutions. I am pleased that the installation of the cameras in Francistown is now at an advanced stage.

215. In order to attain public safety, Government has prioritized the reduction of violent and intrusive crimes such as robberies and break-ins as well as serious crimes like murder, rape and threats to kill. Strategies in place yielded positive results as the country saw a decline of 4.4 percent in violent and intrusive crimes from seven thousand, six hundred and twenty nine (7, 629) to seven thousand, two hundred and ninety five (7, 295) and a decline of 4.7 percent in serious crimes from five thousand, five hundred and sixty six (5, 566) to five thousand, three hundred and four (5, 304) reported cases in 2019 against 2018.

General Elections

216. **Mister Speaker**, Botswana takes democratic elections as a normative framework that enhances the credibility and the legitimacy of Government. In our conduct of elections we are guided by our Constitution and electoral law. We are also guided by the Revised SADC principles and Guidelines on elections of 2015 which entail conducting elections based on shared values and principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The SADC Election Observation Mission said the elections were conducted in a “peaceful, free, transparent and credible manner”.

217. Although there were petitions, we allowed the due process of the law to prevail. Thirteen of the National Assembly petitions were dismissed by the Court while one was withdrawn by the petitioner. Five of the Local Government petitions were dismissed by the Court while three progressed to trial but were subsequently dismissed. One was appealed and was unsuccessful.

International Relations

218. **Mister Speaker**, turning now to our international relations, I am pleased to note that Botswana is making progress in strengthening and deepening her relations with all her development partners across the globe, to advance her national development agenda. Botswana continues to cooperate with her neighbours, through various bilateral mechanisms, as well as her membership of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In this regard, Botswana hosted Zimbabwe for the 2nd Bi-National Commission (BNC), in Maun, in February, 2020.

219. Botswana is the current Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, a position we will hold until August 2021. During this time, Botswana will continue to contribute towards peace-building initiatives and consolidation of democracy whilst providing leadership on peace and security issues in the region. At the continental level, Botswana continues to play an active role in advancing the transformational agenda as envisioned in Agenda 2063, by advocating for a transparent and inclusive reform process of the African Union.

220. Botswana participated at the African Union Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February, 2020. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, Botswana as chair of the Organ, facilitated the process of virtual observation of the general election in the Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania.

221. On the multilateral front, our posture has been to ensure that Botswana as a good standing member of the international community, meets her international obligations and commitments and benefits from her strategic partnerships and membership of international bodies. To this end, Botswana has had the opportunity to participate in a number of international meetings to promote and advance our national interest. These include the 9th African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya, which resulted in the transformation of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group into the Organisation of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (OACP) and the SADC Virtual Ordinary Summit which took place in August, 2020.

222. **Mister Speaker,** Botswana also participated at the World Economic Forum in January 2020. This is part of ongoing efforts to secure multi-sectoral partnerships with a view to contribute towards economic diversification. On other international leadership roles, we have worked to enhance our representation in various regional and international organisations such as the, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Executive Board of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

223. In our determined efforts to advance a coordinated foreign policy in our engagement with the international community, I am pleased to pronounce that the process of developing a foreign policy document is at an advanced stage.

CONCLUSION

224. **Mister Speaker**, in a nutshell, as I stated from the beginning of this Address, the creation of sustainable jobs especially for our youth remains priority for this Government. I am pleased that over the past two years tremendous efforts have been made towards the provision of quality education, offering services through digitisation, as well as the provision of renewable energy which are pivotal to achieving Botswana's Transformation Agenda.

225. Mister Speaker, Botswana has a long standing tradition of democracy which is anchored on consultation, tolerance and *Botho*. The spirit of *Botho* has bound us together as a nation and we must ensure that no matter how we evolve as a people, we must safeguard this principle. I must hasten to add that the good name that one builds for themselves is a great legacy that cannot be diminished.

226. Last week, I went to Shakawe to commiserate with the family of the late Mr Vista Moruti who has been part of this august House. I also went to Kauxwi to offer condolences to the family of the late Mr Jairos Sekonekene Setoka. This was a man who built a great name for himself in his community. I was accompanied by among others, the Member of Parliament for Okavango, Honourable Mr Kenny Kapinga who despite having not met Mr Jairos, knew of his good deeds. Honourable Kapinga gave a testimony about his own mother, Mme Mshoba Kapinga whom he was proud to say, he has and still rides on the good name she left behind - *no wonder Kenny, you won the elections on your first attempt*.

227. In that regard, I urge Batswana, especially our young people to remember this in everything they do and say. "*Leina le a itirelwa*". Let us therefore, uphold the principle of *botho* in everything that we do, so that we continue to be a nation known for unity and respect for one another.

228. **Mister Speaker**, since this is the ploughing season, I urge all of us to take advantage of the rainy season to go out and plough. Please continue adhering

to the health protocols of social distancing, wearing masks appropriately in public, and washing your hands with soap or sanitising.

229.I thank you all for your attention.

A PULA E NAMAGADI E RE NELE!