



Republic of Botswana

**COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY SPEECH FOR ORGANISATION
0300 FOR BOTH RECURRENT AND DEVELOPMENT
EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES
2025/2026**

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Minister Of Finance**

Date: 4 March 2025



I. INTRODUCTION

1. **Mr. Chairman**, over the past eleven months, our nation has endured significant uncertainty and hardship, with limited progress to uplift our citizens. In my Budget Speech earlier this year, I underscored the imperative of collective responsibility in restoring confidence, building trust, and fostering hope as we navigate our economic recovery. In the spirit of Maya Angelou's enduring words in "Still I Rise", Botswana, too, shall rise, reigniting confidence and striving for even greater heights.
2. It is with this unwavering resolve to transcend our current challenges that I present to this Honourable House the Ministry of Finance's proposed Recurrent and Development Budget for the 2025/2026 financial year under Organisation 0300.

II. MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

3. **Mr. Chairman**, before I present the budget proposals, I wish to give an overview of some of the initiatives we are undertaking as a Ministry to deliver on our mandate.

Reorganising the Structure and Functions of the Ministry of Finance: A Strategic Imperative

4. **Mr. Chairman**, the Ministry of Finance plays a central role in formulating, coordinating, and implementing economic policies, while ensuring the sound management of public finances.

Additionally, the Ministry is mandated to develop and implement predictable, credible, and consistent fiscal policies to achieve macroeconomic and fiscal sustainability.

5. To effectively deliver its mandate, the Ministry of Finance, with support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is undertaking a comprehensive organizational review aimed at modernizing operations, strengthening institutional coordination, and advancing critical reforms. The new structure is set for implementation in the 2025/26 financial year.

Corruption Management Initiatives

6. **Mr Chairman**, the Ministry of Finance is strengthening anti-corruption measures within Public Finance Management (PFM) reforms to ensure a more transparent and accountable government.
7. A major focus is to strengthen oversight institutions such as the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, **revamping the procurement model** and adopting a multi-faceted approach to the comprehensive audits. This will be complemented by efforts to address organisational conflicts of interest by introducing a comprehensive Code of Ethics and Conduct to guide financial governance. To further combat corruption, the Ministry will implement a three-year Corruption Detection and Prevention Strategy starting in the 2025/2026 financial year across all Government institutions.

Enterprise Risk Management

8. **Mr. Chairman,** to enhance public finance management, an enterprise-risk management (ERM) initiative has been introduced in Botswana. This reform aims to strengthen financial management, improve efficiency, and combat corruption by integrating risk management into strategic planning, budgeting, and expenditure monitoring. The Ministry plans to conduct a risk management maturity assessment across Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to evaluate the integration of ERM into daily operations and decision-making in the 2025/26 financial year.

Enhancing Transparency in Government Procurement

9. The PPRA is leading capacity-building efforts to educate stakeholders on ethical and transparent procurement practices. Additionally, the PPRA has completed the ICT Digitization Strategy, aimed at improving oversight and service delivery through technology. The phased rollout of this strategy will begin in the 2025/2026 financial year.

III. MACROECONOMIC STABILITY AND RESILIENCE FISCAL REFORMS

Revenue Maximization

10. **Mr. Chairman,** our current revenue structure remains highly susceptible to external shocks, marked by volatility and uncertainty. Coupled with inefficiencies in the public sector, this has undermined our financial framework, resulted in substantial revenue losses, and compromised the delivery of essential services to Botswana.

To address these challenges, our revenue strategy prioritizes minimizing leakages and expanding the revenue base. Strengthening domestic resource mobilization is imperative, particularly in light of structural shifts affecting our two primary revenue streams (mineral revenues and SACU receipts).

11. **Mr. Chairman**, to address these issues, the government is launching the **Efficiency in Process Initiative** to improve revenue collection across Ministries, Departments, and Agencies. This will be supported by our deliberate efforts to facilitate the Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) to unlock revenue collection through reforms which include:

- **Digital Taxation:** Digital Taxation has the potential to boost BURS's revenue collection efficiency by 30 – 40 percent in the next five (5) years. In 2025/2026, BURS will implement a revenue mobilization strategy and introduce VAT on digital trade by September 2025 in order to align digital businesses with traditional tax regulations.
- **Electronic VAT Invoicing & Monitoring:** To enhance revenue collection and protect government income, new systems will be implemented, including an Electronic VAT Invoicing solution and a 'Track and Trace' monitoring system, both expected to be operational by September 2025. These technologies are aimed at optimizing digital tax collections.

- **VAT Gap Estimation Model:** This project aims to identify discrepancies between expected and actual Value Added Tax (VAT) revenues, shedding light on potential losses from tax evasion, fraud, or economic factors. By analysing these gaps, BURS can assess the effectiveness of current enforcement measures and strategically focus resources on sectors with significant VAT shortfalls.
 - **Revenue Forecasting Model:** This model is designed to provide accurate projections of tax revenues, aiding the government in informed decision-making and efficient fiscal planning.
12. **Mr. Chairman,** to sustain these reforms, BURS will expand taxpayer education programs in order to improve compliance and promote a culture of responsible tax contributions.

Public Spending Efficiency

13. **Mr. Chairman,** to ensure optimal value for money and achieve desired outcomes at minimal cost, the government will enforce cost-containment measures to ensure optimal value for each Pula expended. In the 2025/2026 financial year, tight budget controls and a more rigorous approval process will be introduced to manage expenditures effectively. This will be complemented by a strict approach to supplementary budgeting, addressing only emergencies and unforeseen circumstances. Additional funding must be balanced by cuts in other areas through a budget rationalization process. In addition, a strong adherence to public procurement regulations and procurement plans will be enforced to strengthen accountability and ensure compliance with proper procurement procedures.

14. **Mr Chairman**, the government is committed to advancing development projects aligned with the National Development agenda. To improve transparency and efficiency, the Ministry of Finance is upgrading the Development Projects Monitoring System (DPMS). The enhanced system will include dashboards to track key project aspects such as scope, risks, schedule, employment, progress, and budget. It will also support the smooth transition between phases of the National Development Plan (NDP) and strengthen project monitoring and evaluation. The upgraded DPMS is expected to be fully operational by the second quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year.

Sovereign Wealth Fund

15. **Mr. Chairman**, efforts are underway to strengthen financing models, with plans to establish a Sovereign Wealth Fund in the 2025/2026 financial year. This fund aims to transform resource wealth into financial assets by investing in diverse domestic and international industries. It will also serve as a financial buffer against crises and secure wealth for future generations.

National Fund of Funds

16. **Mr. Chairman**, this fund will facilitate the development of modern, high-impact investment models to ensure strategic resource allocation, prioritizing key sectors aligned with our national development goals. Guidelines for the National Fund of Funds will be formulated in the 2025/2026 financial year.

Financial Inclusion

17. **Mr. Chairman**, the new National Financial Inclusion Roadmap and Strategy (2024-2030) has been designed to align with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Strategy on Financial Inclusion and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Access to Finance. The strategy will be launched in the 2025/2026 financial year.

18. In addition, the Ministry of Finance, in partnership with the SADC Support Consortium, is currently conducting the FinScope Consumer Survey 2024 and the FinScope MSME Survey 2024. These studies provide valuable insights into how people earn, save, and manage their finances. The findings will play a pivotal role in shaping policies that enhance financial inclusion and empower MSMEs, the cornerstone of our economy. The results for the FinScope Consumer Survey 2024 indicate that financial inclusion stands at 94 percent. The results for the FinScope MSME Survey 2024 are expected to be released before the end of the current financial year.

19. **Mr. Chairman**, another key milestone in our financial inclusion agenda is the establishment and operationalization of the Collateral Registry in the 2025/26 financial year. This electronic platform will simplify access to credit for individuals and MSMEs by providing a transparent and efficient way to register security interests. This reform will make it easier for businesses to secure financing, negotiate better credit terms, and expand their operations.

Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

20. **Mr. Chairman,** Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are vital for advancing Botswana's infrastructure by harnessing private sector expertise, innovation, and financing to enhance efficiency and accelerate modernization. Given their complexity, a strong legal and governance framework is crucial to ensure seamless execution, investor confidence, and timely delivery. To this end, a dedicated PPP Bill is under stakeholder consultation, with finalization anticipated in the 2025/2026 financial year. Additionally, PPP manuals and guidelines will be developed to support effective project structuring and implementation.
21. In the 2024/2025 financial year, Botswana made notable strides in enhancing PPP capabilities, with 149 Government officials receiving foundational training through support from the Government of Botswana and the African Development Bank. Acknowledging the need for specialized expertise in risk management, financial structuring, and negotiation, capacity-building initiatives will continue into the 2025/2026 financial year to equip decision-makers with the requisite skills for the effective execution of PPP projects.
22. As part of preparations for National Development Plan 12, Botswana's existing pipeline of 16 PPP projects will undergo a comprehensive review and strategic realignment to enhance economic impact and ensure financial sustainability.

Anti-Money Laundering

23. **Mr. Chairman**, to enhance Botswana's fight against financial crimes, the Financial Intelligence (FI) Act, 2022, has been amended to align with international standards, particularly the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations and EGMONT Group of Financial Intelligence Units requirements. A key amendment grants the Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA) to operate independently, ensuring compliance with global best practices. Additionally, Botswana aims to improve its international financial standing by seeking a re-evaluation of seven (7) FATF recommendations currently rated as Partially or Non-Compliant, aligning with Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) standards.
24. **Mr. Chairman**, in April 2024, the FIA partnered with the University of Botswana to launch the Institute for Combatting Illicit Financial Flows, focusing on research and training in financial crime prevention. Since its June 2024 inauguration, it has hosted specialized training for judges, with future sessions planned for legal professionals.
25. Further reinforcing its commitment to financial integrity, the FIA launched the Botswana Public-Private Partnership Task Force (BPPP) in July 2024 to enhance collaboration between the Government and Private Sector in combating money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing. The Task Force has onboarded members, formed committees, and developed governance frameworks and an action plan, currently pending approval.

These initiatives underscore Botswana's steadfast commitment to strengthening its financial intelligence framework and aligning with global compliance standards.

Driving Botswana's Economic Growth Through Digitalisation

26. **Mr. Chairman**, the Bank of Botswana is enhancing the national payments system to promote economic growth and financial inclusion. Key initiatives include:

- **National Retail Payments Switch (NRPS)**

The Bank is leading the development of an interoperable NRPS to modernize retail payments. This infrastructure will operate 24/7, facilitating seamless transactions across various platforms, including Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), point-of-sale systems, internet banking, and mobile payments. A task force comprising representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Bankers Association of Botswana, Mobile Network Operators, Ministry of Communications and Innovation and Botswana Post is overseeing this project.

- **Cash Deposit Digitalization Project**

The Bank of Botswana is advancing a project to digitalize Government revenue collection, aiming to address challenges associated with cash handling and account reconciliation. This initiative is aligned with the National Digital Transformation Strategy and is expected to be completed by April 2025.

This effort is part of the broader National Payments System Vision and Strategy: 2020-2024 and underscore Botswana's commitment to digital transformation, financial inclusion, and economic growth.

27. **Mr. Chairman**, the Ministry of Finance has largely addressed challenges with the Government Accounting and Budgeting System (GABS) that began in August 2023. The system's slow performance was due to outdated hardware, which has been resolved by acquiring modern Oracle Supercluster servers. Since migrating GABS to these upgraded servers in December 2024, system stability and efficiency have significantly improved.
28. **Mr. Chairman**, the Government technical teams, in collaboration with Oracle specialists, continue to enhance system performance through updates, monitoring, and long-term improvements. A dedicated team is addressing technical issues to streamline financial transactions. In the 2025/26 financial year, the Ministry will review financial management systems to ensure a sustainable and modern digital infrastructure, including plans to upgrade Botswana's Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS) for better budgeting, procurement, and reporting. These efforts are aimed at restoring GABS to full functionality, ensuring uninterrupted financial transactions and improved service delivery.

IV. PERFORMANCE OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SoEs)

29. **Mr. Chairman**, allow me to further review planned activities of some of the Public Enterprises that fall under the Ministry of Finance.

Botswana Unified Revenue Services

30. **Mr. Chairman**, as part of our commitment to improving service delivery and facilitating trade, the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS) is leading efforts to refurbish the Mamuno Border Post and construct a state-of-the-art One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) at the Pioneer Border Gate. These critical infrastructure projects will modernize our Ports of Entry by integrating customs and immigration procedures into a single facility. This initiative will enhance revenue collection, streamline cross-border trade and travel, and significantly improve the movement of goods and people.

31. The project is being executed in two phases: Phase 1, which includes refurbishing staff housing at Mamuno Border, Old Mamuno, and Charleshill, is set for completion by April 2025. The second Phase, which focuses on upgrading Mamuno Border Post into a fully operational OSBP, is currently in the design phase. Meanwhile, the construction of the Pioneer One-Stop Border Post is progressing well and is expected to be completed by the end of April 2025.

Statistics Botswana

32. **Mr. Chairman**, in the 2024/2025 financial year, Statistics Botswana undertook three (3) key household surveys being the ICT Household Survey, Agricultural Census, and Botswana Multi-Topic Household Survey (BMTHS), to provide essential economic data on GDP, inflation, poverty, and inequality. Additionally, six (6) programs were implemented to enhance data quality within the National Statistical System.

33. The ICT Household Survey was successfully concluded in September 2024, providing a comprehensive assessment of ICT adoption and usage across households. Meanwhile, data collection for the Agricultural Census commenced in February 2025, with a focus on evaluating crop and livestock production. The Botswana Multi-Topic Household Survey (BMTHS), launched in November 2024, will run for a full year to analyze seasonal trends in expenditure, employment, and unemployment. Further, significant progress has been made in updating the base years for National Accounts and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to ensure they accurately reflect prevailing economic conditions.

National Development Bank (NDB)

34. **Mr. Chairman**, the National Development Bank (NDB) is transitioning into a fully-fledged Agri-Bank, with a completed contextual assessment currently under review by the Ministry of Finance. NDB will focus on renewable energy, green climate initiatives, and food security, in addition to agricultural finance. It is also applying for accreditation to access Green Climate funding through the Adaptation Fund.

35. In its commitment to diversifying Botswana's economy, the Government continues to provide sustainable funding for agriculture. To date, NDB has supported 1,613 farmers with the Horticulture Impact Accelerator Subsidy (IAS) fund amounting to P133 million, funded 55,313 farmers with P226.1 million through the Temo Letlotlo program, and provided P254 million in subsidies for farming implements, fencing, and tractors. NDB has also disbursed P172 million in 2023/2024 and P138 million in 2024/2025 for agricultural loans.

36. The Government's drive to accelerate NDB's reform will position the Bank as a key player in sustainable agricultural finance across the entire value chain.

Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE)

37. **Mr. Chairman**, the Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) has established itself as a hub for Sustainable Finance, facilitating capital raising through Sustainable Bonds. To date, P80 million has been raised, funding Affordable Housing and Renewable Energy, impacting 1,240 lives and creating 280 jobs while supporting SDGs on Economic Growth and Climate Action. Additionally, the Tshipidi Mentorship Program (TMP) has nurtured 79 companies over five (5) cohorts, fostering sustainable SMEs and entrepreneurs. One company is set for an IPO in 2025.

38. **Mr. Chairman**, in August 2024, BSE launched the Sustainability Disclosure Guidance in partnership with the Global Reporting Initiative, promoting stronger ESG disclosures to attract investors. This aligns with the Pension Fund Investment Rules 2023, Botswana's Green Transition Strategy, and the upcoming National ESG Strategy, reinforcing the country's commitment to sustainable investment.

Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA)

39. **Mr. Chairman**, despite global and domestic socio-economic challenges, our financial sector remains stable, well-capitalised, and resilient, thanks to the collective efforts of all stakeholders. Over the past year, the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) achieved significant milestones, including developing the Domestic Systemically

Important Institutions (D-SIFIs) Framework for insurance, evaluating Botswana's retirement funds industry, and establishing corporate governance rules while strengthening our approach to Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT&PF) through automation and technology.

40. NBFIRA also implemented key legal reforms, including the review of Retirement Funds Administrative Rules to align with the Retirement Funds Act of 2022, improving member protection, fund governance, and retirement benefits guidelines.

***Public Enterprises Evaluation and Privatisation Agency
(PEEPA)***

41. **Mr. Chairman**, it is high priority in our agenda to ensure value for every Pula allocated to SOEs by transforming them into high performance organizations that fully deliver on their mandates. Key actions include overhauling our power sector's legislative framework, to separate power generation from power transmission, and repurpose the Botswana Power Corporation in light of the changed ecosystem, re-imagining the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board, stabilizing and revitalize the Botswana Meat Commission and transforming the Botswana Vaccine Institute into a global mega company as well as merging the Botswana National Productivity Centre with the Botswana Public Service College. For 2024/2025, outsourcing projects include partnering with the Water Utilities Corporation to cut costs and improve services through outsourcing water distribution. Additionally, selected public schools will

be rationalized under a concession model, with a pilot phase covering 80 schools.

V. STRENGTHENING OF FINANCIAL SECTOR LAWS

42. **Mr. Chairman,** to foster a conducive environment for the financial sector's growth, several policies and legal frameworks will be introduced in the 2025/26 financial year. These initiatives aim to modernise and strengthen the sector, promote innovation, and align with global standards. These include:

- The promulgation of the **Non-Bank Lenders Act**: The Non-Bank Lenders Act is a sector-specific legislation designed to establish a unified regulatory framework for non-bank financial institutions, including microlenders, pawnshops, finance companies, and leasing firms.
- **A review of tax legislation**, aimed at simplify and modernising the Income Tax and VAT Acts, enhancing fiscal stability and revenue collection through a new Tax Administration Act.
- **The Medical Aid Funds Act**, set for presentation to Parliament in July 2025, aims to establish a robust regulatory framework for the medical aid sector. This legislation will enhance governance, financial stability, and consumer protection, ensuring that medical aid funds operate transparently and sustainably while safeguarding the interests of members.

- The **Insurance Industry Act (2015)** is currently under review to enhance regulatory effectiveness and strengthen policyholder protection. A key reform under consideration is the establishment of a **Policy Protection Fund**, designed to safeguard insurance payouts in the event of an insurer's insolvency, ensuring greater financial security and trust in the industry.
- The Health Insurance Act, to regulate and supervise the Health Insurance sector, covering licensing, governance, and financial requirements
- The **Public Finance Management Act** which is expected to harmonise compatibility with current reforms in the PFM sphere, align with International Standards and best practice, including Local Authorities, State Owned Entities and Parastatals to comply with the Public Finance Management Act principles, amongst others.
- The Bank of Botswana has commenced the development of a **National Payments System law** that will replace the National Clearance and Settlement Systems Act (NCSS). Among others, the law will provide for establishment of a regulatory sandbox. This is a supervised framework that allows financial technology companies and financial service providers to experiment with innovative products, services, business models, or delivery methods in a real-world setting under regulatory oversight. This approach aims to promote innovation while effectively managing potential risks to consumers and the financial system.

VI. BUDGET UTILISATION FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

43. **Mr. Chairman**, the revised Recurrent Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year is Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Seventeen Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Pula **(P2 817 978 660)**. Expenditure as at 28 February 2025 stood at Two Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety-Eight Pula **(P2 366 798 298)** or **84 percent**.
44. The largest share of the budget was allocated to Tertiary Education tuition Fees at One Billion, Five Hundred and Twenty Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-Three Pula **(P1 520 822 123)**, however, as of 28 February 2025, only One Billion, Two Hundred and Thirty-Nine Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Four Pula **(P1 239 329 704)** or **82 percent** of the allocated funds, had been utilized.
45. On the other hand, the Ministry total revenue collection as at 31 January 2025 stood at Sixty-Seven Billion and Seven Hundred and Sixty-Five Million, Eighty-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Two Pula **(P67 765 084 932)** or **90.52 percent**, against a target estimated revenue of Seventy-Four Billion, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Five Million, Thirty-Three Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty Pula **(P74 865 033 240)**.

46. **Mr. Chairman**, the level of expenditure for the Development Budget as at 28 February 2025 stood at Two Hundred and Twenty-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Two Hundred and Five Pula (**P226 933 205**) or **25 percent** of the revised budget of Nine Hundred and Thirteen Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three Thousand and Five Hundred and Ninety-Two Pula (**P913 853 592**). Slow spending resulted from an unspent budget of P619,004,096 (67.7 percent) due to government financial constraints. This is made up of P150 Million for the NDB Restructuring project that is still at an infancy stage, P219 Million for the Chema Chema project, and P300 Million for the Temo Letlotlo project under NDB, among others.

VII. PROPOSED MINISTRY BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

47. **Mr. Chairman**, the proposed budget allocation for the Ministry of Finance for the 2025/2026 financial year amounts to Three Billion, Nine Hundred and Twenty Million, Two Hundred and Forty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty Pula (**P3 920 242 980**), which represents an increase of One Hundred and Eighty Eight Million, Four Hundred and Ten Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twenty Eight Pula (**P188 410 728**) or **5 percent** against the 2024/2025 financial year revised budget of Three Billion, Seven Hundred and Thirty-One Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty-Two Pula (**P3 731 832 252**).

Recurrent Budget

48. **Mr. Chairman**, I request the Honourable Committee to approve a total Recurrent Budget of Three Billion and Fifty-Five Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixty Pula (**P3 055 755 260**) for the Financial Year 2025/2026. The budget provision represents an increase of Two Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Pula (**P237 776 600**) or **8.4 percent** as compared to warranted provision for the Financial Year 2024/2025 of Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Seventeen Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Pula (**P2 817 978 660**). The increase is mainly due to provisions for salary adjustments and additional funding of **P82,7 Million** for the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), which will transition into a weather-based insurance scheme.
49. **Mr. Chairman**, I wish to make the following proposals under the Ministry's Departments for the Recurrent Budget:
- a) **Ministry Headquarters - Organisation 0301**; I propose the sum of Two Billion, One Hundred and Ninety-Four Million, Six Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Pula (**P2 194 616 580**) or **71.8 percent** of the overall Recurrent Budget request. This amount represents a decrease of Fifty-Five Million, Nine Hundred and Forty Thousand Pula (**P55 940 000**) or 2.8 percent over the approved budget for 2024/2025 financial year.

The bulk of the Ministry Headquarters budget is made up of One Billion, Seven Hundred and Forty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ten Pula **(P1 746 782 910)** for Tuition Fees for the Department of Tertiary Education Financing (DTEF). The budget is also inclusive of Two Hundred and Fifty-Seven Million Four Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty Pula **(P257 424 240)**, as provision for subventions to 6 parastatals under the Ministry to cover part of their operation costs as follows:

- i. Statistics Botswana at One Hundred and Sixteen Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty Pula **(P116 549 760);**
- ii. Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) at Sixty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Pula **(P67 548 690);**
- iii. Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA) at Fourteen Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula **(P14 500 000);**
- iv. Botswana Accountancy Oversight Authority (BAOA) at Fifteen Million, Four Hundred Thousand Pula **(P15 400 000);**
- v. Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) at Five Million, Five Hundred and Ten Thousand Pula **(P5 510 000);**
- vi. Public Enterprises Evaluation Privatisation Agency (PEEPA) at Thirty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety Pula **(P37 915 790).**

b) **Office of the Accountant General – Organisation 0302;** under this department I propose the sum of Four Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety Pula (**P434 125 790**), which is **14.2 percent** of the Ministry's total recurrent budget proposal. This represents a net increase of Twenty-Four Million and Sixty-Three Thousand, Four Hundred Pula (**P24 063 400**) or **5.8 percent** over the approved budget for 2024/2025. This proposed amount also includes a provision for subvention to the Public Procurement Tribunal amounting to Fifteen Million, Five Hundred and Eleven Thousand, Four Hundred and Ten Pula (**P15 511 410**).

c) The remaining amount of Four Hundred and Twenty-Seven Million and Twelve Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety Pula (**P427 012 890**) will be distributed amongst four Departments:

- i. **Financial Intelligence Agency – Organisation 0308** at Forty-Six Million, Forty-Three Thousand, and Fifty Pula (**P46 043 050**),
- ii. **Internal Audit Department – Organisation 0309** at Fifty-Eight Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety Pula (**P58 237 490**),
- iii. **Budget Department - Organisation 0310** at Seventy-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand, Three Hundred Pula (**P74 773 300**), and

iv. **Macroeconomic and Financial Policy Department - Organisation 0311** at Two Hundred and Forty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand and Fifty Pula (**P247 959 050**).

50. **Mr. Chairman**, for the 2025/2026 financial year, Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) revenue target is set to the sum of P60.48 Billion. BURS is authorized to retain 2 percent of its revenue target to fund its Recurrent Budget and 1 percent to support its Development Budget.

Development Budget

51. **Mr. Chairman**, for financial year 2025/2026, I request the approval of Eight Hundred and Sixty-Four Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twenty Pula (**P864 487 720**) for the Development Budget. The proposed allocation represents a decrease of Forty-Nine Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two Pula (**P49 365 872**) or **5.4 percent** compared to the budget of Nine Hundred and Thirteen Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety-Two Pula (**P913 853 592**) for the 2024/2025 financial year.

52. **Mr. Chairman**, the proposed Development Budget will be allocated among the Ministry's programmes as follows:

i. **MOF ICT Development** at Eighty-Four Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand and Forty Pula (**P84 571 040**),

- ii. **Statistical Surveys and Studies** at One Hundred and Twenty-Five Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty Pula **(P125 286 680)**,
- iii. **Consultancies** to the tune of Eleven Million Five Hundred Thousand Pula **(P11 500 000)**,
- iv. **Infrastructure** totalling One Hundred and Forty-Three Million, One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Pula **(P143 130 000)**, and
- v. State Owned Enterprises Financing at Five Hundred Million Pula **(P500 000 000)**.

VIII. CONCLUSION

53. **Mr. Chairman**, this concludes my Ministry's presentation for the 2025/2026 Recurrent and Development Budget proposals. I now move that the 2025/2026 Recurrent Budget in the sum of Three Billion and Fifty-Five Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixty Pula **(P 3 055 755 260)** and that the Development Budget in the sum of Eight Hundred and Sixty-Four Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twenty Pula **(P864 487 720)** be approved and stand as part of the Estimates for Financial Year 2025/2026.

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