MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (MR MOLEFHI): Ke a leboga, Motsamaisa Dipuisanyo tsa Palamente. Madam Speaker, I have the Honour to present the Botswana Postal Services Amendment Bill, Bill No. 20 of 2011. Madam Speaker, the object of the Bill is to amend the Botswana Postal Services Act CAP 7201. This Bill was necessitated by moving of the regulatory aspect of the postal sector to the Communication Regulatory Authority Bill which intends to establish a converged Communication Regulatory Authority with responsibilities for Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Postal Services.

The Bill has also been necessitated by the implementation of the merger of the Botswana Postal Service and Botswana Savings Bank, and the process of merging the two entities, it was realised we need to amend Botswana Postal Service Act to confer legal personality on the post in order to facilitate the transition of Botswana Postal Services into a company.

Madam Speaker, let me now take the Honourable Members to the most important changes to the current law as provided in this Bill. I shall endeavour to explain to this Honourable House the reasoning behind each of these changes.

Clause 1 of the Bill provide for the title of the Bill which is entitled Botswana Postal Service Amendment Act 2011 and covers other preliminary matters particularly those on interpretation on terminology used in the Bill.

Clause 2 provides for the amendment of Section 2 of Cap.72:01 by dealing certain definitions which have now been transferred to the Communications Regulatory (Authority) Bill.
Clause 3 of the bill amends the Act by substituting a new section for Section 3. The section
confers legal personality on the post in order to facilitate the transition of the post into a
company as per the provision of Companies Act.

As of now, Section 3 of the Botswana Postal Service Act defines the post as a commercial
organisation of government. This creates a problem in registering the post as a company because
the Companies Act does not have provision for converting commercial organisations into
companies. It only provides for converting body corporate into companies.

Clause 4 to 13 amend the bill to accommodate all the requisite provisions for converting
Botswana Postal Services into a body corporate and subsequently merging it with Botswana
Savings Bank. These amendments are necessary for enhancing good corporate governance
within Botswana Postal Services.

Madam Speaker, this concludes my presentation, and I hope Honourable Members will assist in
ensuring that this bill sees the light of day and make meaningful contributions to make it a
working document.

I therefore Madam Speaker move that Botswana Postal Services (Amendment) Bill, 2011 (No.20
of 2011) be read a Second Time. I thank you.