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The Electronic Press Circular of the Office of the President
“REAL LEADERSHIP FOR REAL DELIVERY”

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“As government, we are fully aware of our responsibility to develop this country and deliver services to Batswana. But, perhaps more importantly, we are also conscious of the fact that the resources at our disposal are by no means infinite. Therefore cost sharing, cost saving and recovery is needed to ensure that whatever we do is sustainable in the long term.” – H.E. the President [B1]

CONTENT –

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS – A SPECIAL RELTIONSHIP RENEWED

B. STATEMENTS BY -

His Excellency the President @ a

1. Joint Meeting of Cabinet and the South-East District Council.

His Honour the Vice President @ the

2. Opening of the New Mahalapye Police Station;

3. Launch of the Poverty Eradication Campaign and Guidelines; and

4. Africa Regional Conference on Doing Business.

The Honourable Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration @ the

5. Opening of DCEC/Commonwealth Investigators training Programme;

6. Opening of the Old Apostolic Church Hall in Mmangodi;

7. Gender Links BALA Award Ceremony; and @

8. Parliament in response to Members' Questions

C. PRESS RELEASES, NOTICES AND FORWARDING

1. PSP to hand over Computer Lab at Kang

2. Ms. Mehnooda Ebrahim-Carstens Re-elected to UN Tribunal

3. Upcoming Public Events involving H.H. the Vice President

4. BDF did not purchase Pandur APC from Khama Brothers

5. DCEC and DIS transferred to the Ministry of State President

6. Access to Information Legislation needs to be Carefully Balanced

7. Batswana Support Constituency Sports Leagues

8. Botswana/KAZA uphold ban on Rhino Horns

9. Botswana condemns Mali Coup

A. THE WEEKS THAT WERE: Yes to Youth Empowerment and local partnerships, No to Poverty, Crime, and Corruption

Dear Readers – Welcome to another edition of Tautona Times, your window into issues and events involving the Botswana Ministry of State Presidency.

H.E. the President

At a recent Kgotla meeting at Loologane in western Kweneng, His Excellency the President, Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, revealed that Government will soon launch an enhanced Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES). The scheme shall provide for expanded internship and training opportunities in the private and parastatal, as well as public, sectors. YES will thus build upon the existing internship programme, while taking onboard other initiatives such as the Youth Development and CEDA Young Farmer's Funds.

While in western Kweneng, the President also met with area civil servants. During these encounters he emphasized that in carrying out their duties, they should appreciate that their vocation was a national calling to serve the public, rather than just a job. At the same time he observed that Government was well aware that their salaries are lagging behind inflation and will thus need to be adjusted once the economy has sufficiently recovered.

Also featured in this edition is His Excellency's address to the South East District Council at the opening of a recent joint meeting between the Council and Cabinet. [B1] In his remarks, he reminded the gathering that the need for such periodic exchanges has been magnified in the context of resource constraints that can be best overcome through local initiatives that realize increased revenues and savings. In this respect, he urged councillors to explore options for cost saving in the provision of local services and the repair and maintenance of Council properties, while also supporting local businesses. He also reassured the audience of his administration's steadfast commitment to ensuring the social upliftment of Botswana through such programmes as ISPAAD, LIMID, Ipelegeng, Poverty Eradication and Youth Development, as well as its continued support to those in need and old age pensioners.

H.H. the Vice President

On Saturday H.H. the Vice President, Lt. General Mompoti Merafhe, was the keynote speaker at the Official opening of the new Mahalapye Police Station. [B2] In his remarks he noted that the decision to build the station, at the considerable cost of some P 141 million during a time of overall budget constraint, was motivated by the need for the Police Service to meet the increasing demands of the community. In this respect, he observed that station forms part of the South Central Police Division, which spreads from Ramotswa to Serule, accounting for over 50 percent of the country's overall annual crime statistics. In addition, the Mahalapye station ranks amongst the 10 busiest stations countrywide, also servicing surrounding communities and cattle posts.

Last Thursday Vice President Merafe also launched the Poverty Eradication Programme and Guidelines. [B3] In his Keynote remarks at yesterday's launch, the Vice President informed the audience that the rollout of projects under the Poverty Eradication Programme is now intensifying; confirming that already 319 backyard projects have been completed and another 592 are under construction in 30 constituencies. He also noted that 2894 Batswana have been identified for training on alternative packages, while P21 million has already been disbursed to set up projects for those who have been trained. In addition, he announced that some 7000 backyard gardens will be rolled out to cover all constituencies starting this month.

Another highlight of the weeks that were was the convening in Gaborone of the Regional Conference for Doing Business in Africa, which brought together senior public and private sector stakeholders from some 15 eastern and southern African countries to deliberate around the theme of "Doing Business Reform in Africa: A Peer-to-Peer Learning Experience." [B4] The Conference was opened by Vice President Merafhe, who observed that its theme clearly set out an agenda for a frank and open discussion on the existing impediments to doing business within the region along with potential benchmarks for moving forward. He also noted that consistent with his own Government's recognition that improving the business climate within Botswana remained an urgent priority, the President has appointed a six-member committee of Cabinet Ministers to guide the reform process.

Transfer of DCEC and DIS

Last Friday Government announced that the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) and the Directorate on Intelligence and Security have been transferred back to the Ministry of State President, where they had been located prior to 2009 establishment of Defence, Justice and Security as a separate Ministry. [C5]

The Minister responsible for the two Directorates, whose mandates are defined by statute, will now be the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, the Honourable Mokgweetsi Masisi. The status of the two Directorates under the Ministry but outside of the President's Office will thus be similar to that of such other statutory institutions as the Auditor General, Office of the Ombudsman, Independent Electoral Commission and National Assembly who are also serviced from the apex Ministry in line with best practice found elsewhere. Contrary to what has been alleged or suggested in some media reports, the operational autonomy of the two institutions as well as their relationship with the President is thus unaffected by the move.

Among other things, the transfer of the two Directorates is expected to enhance Government's overall efforts to combat the growth of corruption. In this context, on Tuesday Minister Masisi officially opened a Commonwealth Investigators Training Programme, which was hosted in Gaborone by the DCEC. [B5] The Minister welcomed the Commonwealth's support for the project, which aims to create an international network of anti-corruption professionals. He further noted that while corruption has an

adverse impact on all countries, its negative effects are especially felt in the developing nations in Africa and elsewhere. In this respect he observed that while it was gratifying that the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI) has over the past two decades consistently ranked Botswana as the least corrupt country in Africa this did not mean that the country had achieved its zero tolerance for corruption goals.

OP Staff handover house

OP staff brought Easter holiday joy when they handed over a new house to a visually impaired household head in Broadhurst, which had been constructed as part of his Ministry's Community Service Day commitment. Groundbreaking for the house took place back in November 2010 on the first Community Service Day, which had been led by the President and other members of Cabinet. Giving a vote of the area MP and Assistant Minister for Education and Skills development, the Hon. Keletso Rakhudu, who had himself contributed material to the house's construction, expressed his appreciation that the project had been completed through many such voluntary contributions of cash and kind. In addition to money raised by Ministry of State President staff, the project also benefitted from private sector and individual donations, including those by Barclays Bank, Dulux, Builders World, Haskins, Culture Spears Group, CTM, Senn Foods, Ghanzi Beef, and Pick N Pay Molapo Crossing.

Also in the News

In other news a good deal of international media interest was generated over the past week as a result of last Friday's medical evacuation of His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain, after he suffered a broken hip while vacationing in our country on a private visit. As the King was here for private recreation, rather than on an official visit, in keeping with protocol and the wishes of his entourage there was certainly no need for his presence to be made public prior to the incident. Government, including H.E. the President, were nonetheless both aware of presence and immediately informed of his injury, facilitating his early departure following the accident. We are pleased to note that the King is reported to be recovering well.

Government has also been obliged to respond to two false and seemingly malicious media reports. Just before the Easter Holiday the Timeslive website in South Africa caused considerable consternation with the false report that Botswana and other states in the region intended to market Rhino horn powder. The trade in all Rhino products remains strictly prohibited. [C9]

This week the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) dismissed as baseless a widely circulated report by the Botswana Guardian, echoed by its sister newspaper Mmegi, that Steyr Austria and its local agents had won a tender for Armoured Personnel Carriers under questionable circumstances. The company was, in fact, not awarded the said tender. [C5]

During the period, Government has also strongly condemned the recent coups in Mali and Guinea-Bissau.

- Dr. Jeff Ramsay, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Government Communications (18/4/12)

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B. STATEMENTS

B1) 27/3/12: REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT LT. GEN. SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA TO SOUTH EAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

[Salutations]...Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. This interaction is critical as it offers an opportunity for discussion of key issues between the national and local political leadership.
2. The need for Cabinet to interact with you as local leadership cannot be overemphasized because as a local authority, you provide an important link for delivery. It is therefore vital that from time to time we meet to discuss development, legislative and policy implementation challenges in our efforts to improve the lives of Batswana.
3. As government, we are fully aware of our responsibility to develop this country and deliver services to Batswana. But, perhaps more importantly, we are also conscious of the fact that the resources at our disposal are by no means infinite. Therefore cost sharing, cost saving and recovery is needed to ensure that whatever we do is sustainable in the long term.
4. I therefore challenge you to explore various alternatives for cost sharing and cost saving which are important in ensuring sustainability of service provision and assisting in resource mobilization for continued development, repair and maintenance of Council properties.
5. As Councillors, you should facilitate information flow to your constituents about the state of the economy in terms of its revenues and spending priorities. This is important especially that given the uncertain economic outlook, the government's ability to deliver projects programmes and services to Batswana in general and those specific to your district, will be limited.
6. However, my government will continue to implement programmes aimed at improving the livelihoods of Batswana. These include among others, LIMID, Ipelegeng, poverty eradication, ISPAAD, Youth Development Programme, support to destitute persons, orphans and old age pensioners and others.

7. Madam Chairperson, you will recall that over the years, government has put in place rural development policies that were aimed at revamping the economic and social development of our rural areas. The key focus was employment creation and poverty reduction. This is still the case and your district is no exception. I wish to commend the leadership of South East District for taking keen interest on government initiatives on poverty eradication. As you are aware, South East is one of the first districts to start the backyard gardens component of the poverty eradication programme. I can only urge you to continue your efforts as we start implementing alternative packages.

8. We need to anchor our efforts on poverty eradication around Bogosi because dikgosi have provided a solid foundation for nation building and community mobilization for development since independence. We need to engage dikgosi to assist us on issues of community mobilization because reliance on government is neither desirable nor sustainable.

9. Let me also remind you that, as a local authority, Council is a major procuring entity in the district, together with the District Commissioner's office. Therefore, the support for small and medium enterprises in the district to create employment opportunities and grow the local economy can only be enhanced through the purchasing power of your institutions.

10. The unprecedented growth of Gaborone has had negative effects in nearby peri urban villages like Tlokweng and Ramotswa. As a result, the settlement development patterns of these villages have changed drastically and this has brought other challenges related to orderly development of the villages, pressure for social services, crime, and other social ills.

11. These challenges are not easy to address, but they challenge you as a local authority to explore means and ways of addressing them, both in the short and medium term. Proper coordination and an integrated approach will be essential if you are to make the desired impact.

12. As South East District Council, you cannot address development challenges in isolation because some of them cut across to your neighbouring districts. You therefore need to forge strategic partnerships with nearby districts to mobilize resources for development. You need to adopt a regional approach to planning and service delivery to avoid duplication of efforts, reduce costs and promote efficiency.

13. Since last year, we have been hearing disturbing developments in Councils related to motions of no confidence in Chairpersons and Mayors of Councils. These developments are a cause for serious concern as they do not in any way promote local governance. I wish to remind all Councils in Botswana that the purpose of their existence is to provide services to Botswana and what is happening in some Councils is unacceptable. Both the Townships Act and the District Councils Act are very clear on elections of the political leadership of Councils and the period after which elections must

be held. I want to remind all Councils to focus on issues of developing their communities and desist from things that do not add value to their mandate.

14. In conclusion, let me indicate that as government, our allegiance and commitment must be anchored on people's aspirations and concerns. As a key service provider in the district, your existence as SEDC can only be justified by the quality of service you render to the district community and the impact of your strategies and interventions on the lives of Batswana.

15. I appreciate that you may be having some issues that you wish to raise with Cabinet Ministers and they shall respond accordingly. Where they do not have responses readily available, they shall revert to you in due course. I thank you for your attention.

B2) 14/4/12: KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS HONOUR LT. GENERAL MOMPATI S. MERAFHE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR MAHALAPYE WEST AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW MAHALAPYE POLICE STATION, MAHALAPYE

[Salutations]... Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am deeply gratified to be here this morning to officiate at this auspicious occasion marking the official opening of the new Mahalapye Police Station.

2. This is indeed a gratifying moment for me as both a Member of Parliament for the constituency in which this edifice structure is situated, and a former Police Officer. Your overwhelming turnout to witness this momentous occasion is therefore very humbling. The completion of this new facility is a welcome development in that it will relieve the old police station, which could no longer cope with the demands for service because of its size.

3. Director of Ceremonies, as the world economies become more globalised and criminals continue to take advantage of modern technology, we are more than ever before challenged to enhance the effectiveness of our law enforcement agencies. Developments like this one therefore, will go a long way in empowering the police to do their job much better within a conducive working environment.

4. I am informed that the first Police Station in this village was established as way back as the year of our Lord 1924 and was situated somewhere on top of the hill where we see Maeto Lodge today. The subsequent withdrawal of the South African Railways Police Services from the railway line between Ramokgwebana and Mahalapye in 1960 resulted in the assumption of policing duties by the then Bechuanaland Protectorate Police, who relocated to a new police station downhill, which is the current old Mahalapye Police station. The Botswana Police Service continued operating from that police station until a decision was taken to build this new one which consists of 84 offices, 64 housing units, 14 store rooms and 5 cells.

5. The total construction cost of these facilities which will include the refurbishment of the old police station stands at P 141 million.

6. The decision to build this police station was motivated by the inability of the Botswana Police Service to meet the demands of the community of Mahalapye and the surrounding areas from the old police station.

7. Director of Ceremonies, as one of the fastest growing villages in the country, Mahalapye presents many policing challenges. These challenges no doubt require effective and efficient means to deal with. The construction and completion of the new Mahalapye Police Station, and others across the country, is therefore crucial in our efforts to combat crime.

8. You will certainly agree with me that a properly resourced police service can deliver better service to its community, hence these developments. In this regard, my Government will continue to do its best to develop an effective Police Service by providing sufficient resources in spite of the serious economic challenges that our country is facing. However, the construction of police stations with housing components in other parts of the country have had to be deferred until the economy improves.

9. On the other hand, Mahalapye Police Station could not be deferred as the economic crunch hit the country when it was already at an advanced stage of implementation.

10. This station forms part of the South Central Division of the Botswana Police Service which spreads from Ramotswa to Serule and contributes over 50 percent of overall crime statistics annually. In addition, Mahalapye ranks amongst the 10 busiest stations countrywide.

11. Having said that, Director of Ceremonies, I would like to join the communities of Mahalapye, Pallaroad, Bonwapitse, Kalamare, Tewane, Taupye, Mokoswane, Setsile and the surrounding cattle posts and ranches in their expectations of better service delivery after the completion of this magnificent facility.

12. As most of you are no doubt aware, incidents of crime in this policing area, like elsewhere in Botswana, continue to increase. General crime figures have shown an upward trend for the past ten years. To be precise, the area has recorded an 11 percent increase in crime since 2002, hence the need to improve police resources in the area.

13. Bagaetsho, stock-theft in Botswana also continues to be a source of serious concern that has worried us as a nation for a long time. The Mahalapye policing area has not been spared the effects of this phenomenon. I would therefore like to challenge Mahalapye Police to work around the clock to ensure that this vice is reversed significantly so that the people of this area can continue to engage in profitable cattle farming without fear of losing their animals to criminals.

14. But of course we should understand that government can never provide enough resources because of the many competing demands from across our society. It is in this regard critical to develop community partnerships in order to augment government efforts.

15. I am informed that like other areas in Botswana, Mahalapye Police continues to build on the tradition of a strong police partnership with the community, to achieve a safer and more secure environment for all the residents. It is through this partnership that a total of twenty five (25) cluster committees have been established in the area. This partnership, I am told, is very solid here as witnessed by your station's recent triumph at the Annual Cluster Rewards Ceremony where you scooped a total of nine (9) awards.

16. Four (4) of these were under the Community Commitment Award Category and the other four (4) under the Best Practice Award. In addition, Mahalapye Police Station obtained second position after Serowe under the Best Station Community Policing Award Category. As if that was not enough, the District received the Minister's Award of Excellence in Community Policing in recognition of the immense contribution it is making in combating crime.

17. I am equally happy to note that my own Cluster, Flowertown, got consolation prize for best practice. May I therefore, take this opportunity to congratulate the station for these excellent achievements. Those clusters that did not make it to the Awards Ceremony, Mr Commissioner, need to be encouraged not to despair and to work even harder. These concerted efforts will in no small measure propel our country towards the attainment of the Vision 2016 Pillar of a Safe and Secure Nation.

18. Director of Ceremonies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, before I conclude my remarks let me re-state this Government's commitment to bring down crime in order to enhance our country's ability to attract the most sought after Foreign Direct Investment, and improve the quality of lives of our citizens. This is a calling that will require commitment and selflessness beyond the ordinary from the men and women who have chosen to serve in this capacity. I would therefore like to encourage Mahalapye Police to take full advantage of this new facility and its state-of-the-art equipment to improve service delivery. They should work hard to satisfy their customers and reduce complaints.

19. Having said that, Director of Ceremonies, it is now my singular honour and privilege to declare this magnificent Mahalapye Police Station officially open. I thank you for the courtesy of your kind attention. PULA!!!

B3) 12/4/12: KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT LT. GENERAL MOMPATI SEBOGODI MERAFAHE, NYB, MP AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME AND GUIDELINES

[Salutations]...Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is indeed a great pleasure to be here today to officiate at the launch of the Poverty Eradication Programme and Guidelines.

2. Distinguished Guests, the policy shift from poverty alleviation to poverty eradication was pronounced by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama in October 2009 in His Excellency's Inaugural Address of 2009. Owing to this policy shift, we have committed ourselves to taking on the challenge of poverty eradication head on. In essence, we will not rest until all (I mean all) Batswana are living dignified, sustainable lives out of poverty.

3. Owing to its importance, Poverty Eradication Programme is coordinated from the Office of the President, and I have been given the responsibility of driving it by His Excellency and I am ably assisted by Hon. Minister Mokgweetsi Masisi.

4. In October 2010, the beautiful village of Mahalapye was a hive of activity as His Excellency, the President officially launched "Pitso Ya Nyeletso Lehuma" where the roadmap for poverty eradication was presented, discussed, and approved with some modifications. At the Pitso in Mahalapye, I noted that poverty eradication was best addressed locally as each locality has its own positive characteristics which if harnessed can assist in developing robust localized programmes and projects that can aid in the eradication of poverty.

5. I have been informed that all districts have now held their Dipitso and are working hard to develop such localised plans. In this regard, I urge them to conclude their plans within the shortest possible time as this will ensure that Batswana in every part of the country start their journey out of poverty.

6. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am also happy to inform you that the rollout of the projects under the Poverty Eradication Programme is intensifying. Under Phase One, extended to 30 constituencies, three hundred and nineteen (319) backyard projects have been completed and five hundred and ninety two (592) are under construction.

7. Under Phase Two, seven thousand (7000) backyard gardens will be rolled out to cover all constituencies starting this month.

8. Out of these backyard gardens, many families will be able to put food on their tables on a daily basis. Many families will be able to generate income of about Two Thousand Pula (P2 000) to Five Thousand Pula (P5000) a month from selling their produce, depending on crops planted.

9. Of great significance is the fact that based on the current definition used by Central Statistics Office (CSO), which states that a family of four is said to be living below the poverty datum line if its monthly income is less than Eight Hundred and

Seventy Nine Pula (P879) per month, many Batswana would be able to step out of poverty.

10. The fact that the projects of all those who will be enrolled in any of the packages under the Poverty Eradication Programme have been validated to be viable and sustainable under normal circumstances should be a source of inspiration to all of us. Hitherto, two thousand eight hundred and ninety four (2894) Batswana have been identified for training on alternative packages and P21 million has already been disbursed to districts to set up projects for those who have been trained.

11. Distinguished Guests, against this backdrop, today's event marks a major milestone on our journey to eradicate poverty in Botswana. We are celebrating the rollout of the projects and we are witnesses to the bearing of fruits of the programme. All the produce displayed and sold here today comes from beneficiaries of the programme.

12. Again, today we are celebrating the rollout of the Poverty Eradication Guidelines. The guidelines are a synthesis of data collected from Dipitso, kgotla meetings, full council meetings and media talk shows. The objectives of launching the guidelines are to:

- aid all stakeholders to understand the underlying principles of the poverty eradication programme,
- ensure that there is a common platform for implementers across the country,
- provide valuable information to the beneficiaries for them to make informed decisions in selection and management of the projects,
- provide valuable knowledge transfer to the rest of the nation which they can use to kick-start their own projects at various scales and of course,
- ensure that the core principles of transparency and objectivity are in-built into the programme.

13. In essence, the guidelines provide a platform from which all stakeholders can operate and thus contribute efficiently, effectively and efficaciously in the eradication of poverty in Botswana. We have indeed taken on a major challenge. But there is no doubt that we will conquer owing to the fact that we are deliberate in our actions.

14. We are not shooting in the dark, and the import of the issue is great, as it is about lifting the lives of our fellow beings. Amongst the major milestones we intend to achieve in the current financial year are the following:

- Rollout projects to at least twelve thousand (1200) families thus aiding approximately forty eight thousand (4800) Batswana to step out of poverty,
- Permanent markets will be established in districts to enable the beneficiaries to access markets, An effective government purchasing programme will be put in place to enable purchases from beneficiaries,
- Poverty Eradication Policy will be completed which will harmonize current social development policies,

- Research will be undertaken to identify other advanced technologies for water harvesting and conservation.

29. Let me conclude my remarks by reiterating the commitment I made during the Pitso in Mahalapye in the Year of Our Lord 2010, that my office is open to anyone who wants to contribute to the eradication of poverty in our country. I thank you for the courtesy of your kind attention. Pula!

B4) 28/3/12: KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR MAHALAPYE WEST, LT GEN MOMPATI SEBOGODI MERAFFE, NYB, MP AT THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON DOING BUSINESS

[Salutations]...Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Today marks an important milestone in our continued efforts to promote regional economic integration. I am saying this, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, because we have come together as the two regional economic communities to deliberate on this very important subject of Doing Business as a regional bloc.

2. I must admit that the theme for this Conference: "Doing Business Reform in Africa: A Peer-to-Peer Learning Experience" is most appropriate looking at some of the challenges that we face as a business community. In essence, the theme for this Conference clearly sets the tone for a frank and open discussion on the elements that impede the ease of doing business within the region and efforts being made to remedy the situation. Against this backdrop, I have every reason to believe that this regional conference will help us to deliberate and find solutions to the challenges associated with the implementation of reform processes and the ease of doing business.

3. At this juncture, let me extend a special welcome to Honourable Ministers from the region and express my debt of gratitude to you, on behalf of the Government and the People of Botswana and indeed on my own behalf, for graciously accepting our invitation to this Conference.

4. Your Excellencies, you are warmly welcome to Botswana, Our Pride, Your Destination, and wish you a pleasant stay in your second home.

5. Let me also pay tribute to the World Bank for working closely with countries in the sub-region to ensure the success of this regional conference.

6. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am informed that the main objective of this Conference is to share experiences and lessons on improving the business environment in Eastern and Southern Africa. To this end, this regional conference could not have come at a more opportune time in view of our continued efforts to attract both foreign and cross border investments within Africa to improve the economic

performance of our respective countries. To succeed, we need to refine our reform initiatives and create a conducive and competitive global business climate.

7. According to the World Bank's Annual Doing Business reports, there is need to undertake certain reforms to improve our business environment. I must note that some countries like South Korea and Singapore who are at advanced stages in their reform processes can attest to the importance of having a monitoring framework. For your information, South Korean Customs Service's improvement of cargo processing times is reported to have generated a benefit of Two Billion Dollars annually while Singapore's switch to an online company registration is said to have saved the business community approximately Forty Two Million Dollars in 2010.

8. Distinguished delegates, as governments, we need to improve the business environment and strengthen dialogue with the private sector. At the heart of this resolution is the need to facilitate the creation of wealth and jobs by private enterprises through the market mechanism. Put differently, our efforts to create wealth will be in vain if we fail to create a conducive environment that allows entrepreneurs to thrive.

9. As governments, we can create that environment by developing regulations that do not stifle decision making by entrepreneurs. I therefore call upon our respective governments to make it possible for our citizens and indeed foreign and domestic investors to conduct business in our countries with ease. Most importantly, I urge all countries represented here today to promote openness and competitiveness.

10. You will agree with me that our major intervention should be in the form of promotion of policies that support innovation; job creation and increased productivity. Emerging economies like China and India have shown that countries can begin to grow by introducing reforms to simplify business start-up procedures and allow their citizens to exploit business opportunities in place.

11. Interestingly, we have amongst us distinguished delegates from Mauritius, South Africa and Rwanda, who have made significant strides in improving their rankings. We hope to draw lessons from their remarkable successes.

12. In Botswana, Government has identified the need to improve the climate for doing business as a priority initiative. In this regard, His Excellency, President Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama has appointed a six-member committee of Cabinet Ministers, to guide the reform process. As a result, Botswana is ready to seize the opportunity presented by this Conference to learn from those countries which have successfully implemented the reforms.

13. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am aware that many countries are at a critical stage that requires both the political will and decisive policy choices in the quest to improve the business climate. In the same vein, I must caution that those economies which fail to make the policy adjustments necessary to enhance economic freedom and economic growth, risk long term stagnation or worse still, a return to the recession.

14. At this juncture, I would like to advise our regional leadership to implement the reform agenda with speed, boldness and due diligence. This is simply because the consequences of inaction are too ghastly to contemplate for all of us especially job seekers and potential investors.

15. Before I conclude my remarks, Distinguished delegates, I wish to once again encourage you to have fruitful discussions and develop concrete ideas on improving our business climate. With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare the Regional Conference on Doing Business officially open. I thank you for the courtesy of your kind attention. PULA!

B5) 16/4/12: DIRECTORATE ON CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATORS TRAINING PROGRAMME, OPENING SESSION SPEECH BY THE MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, HON. MOKGWEETSI E. K. MASISI

Director of Ceremonies, Director DCEC, Mrs. Rose Seretse,
Course facilitator, Mr. Chua,
Members of the DCEC Senior Management Team,
Course participants, ladies and gentlemen.

1. It is an honour to have been invited to open this important training programme. I am pleased that my country has once again been invited by the Commonwealth to facilitate a gathering such as this. This programme follows our hosting of the 1st Commonwealth Africa Regional Conference for Heads of Anti Corruption Agencies that was held in May 2011.

2. The significance of this programme cannot be overemphasized. Its international nature bears testimony to the changing face of Africa in tackling common problems, in this instance Corruption. You are all involved in the fight against corruption and what better way to create a network of practitioners than to come together for training. This will afford an opportunity to learn from each other through mutual sharing of experiences.

3. While corruption continues to wreak havoc in all countries its adverse impact is especially felt in poor and developing nations. African countries require injections of investment for further growth and development. But, owing to high levels of corruption in much of the region, responsible investors have in many cases instead moved elsewhere. It is a fact that investors often demand certain conditions to be in place prior to entering into any agreement to invest in a country. Some of these conditions include good governance and proven commitment to combat corruption. Indeed corruption is one of the greatest challenges in our continent.

10. It is commendable that many countries have made great strides in combating corruption and indeed in the attainment of democracy and human rights. Nonetheless,

we still have a long way to go and cannot afford to be complacent. For that reason it is important that any information relating to our performance on any measure of Corruption is seriously taken heed of.

11. Regularly, Transparency International publishes its Corruption Perception Index (CPI) and I urge individual countries to take note of their position on the index against other countries. It is these measures by which investors gauge our performance in order to inject any form of investment into our countries. In short, our economic growth depends to a large extent on our real or perceived levels of corruption and we cannot afford to ignore these ratings.

12. Botswana has been rated the least corrupt country in Africa, while this is gratifying it does not however mean that there is no corruption in Botswana. Unfortunately, most countries in the African continent can be found in the bottom half of the index.

13. We face serious challenges and time is now for action against this scourge. Without change, economic growth will be difficult to achieve. It is important to work together in a concerted effort to fight this evil called corruption hence training programme like this that brings countries under one roof are a step in the right direction.

8. I am aware that you are a group made up mainly of investigators, who may not be much conversant with the preventative side of the fight against corruption. On the surface this might appear as essentially outside your official mandate: but can you really draw a distinctive line between your mandate which is purely investigative (and reactive) and the corresponding mandate that is advisory and educative (and therefore, proactive).

9. My message to you is that during your deliberations please try to address as many issues as possible and come up with holistic approaches to curbing the growth of this disease. Use your collective experience to develop our own home brewed solutions to our problems without forgetting the global nature of corruption.

10. I can go on and on about the subject of corruption but that is not my role today.

11. I wish to welcome you all to this programme but more importantly let me welcome to Botswana all the visiting participants. I trust that you will find us a hospitable and welcoming nation so your visit to this country makes us proud. You may not have the opportunity to visit places outside Gaborone but our capital city will provide a varied array of interesting places to visit, when you do have the time.

12. Your fellow local participants should be in a position to show you around and I am informed that a visit has been arranged for the class to visit Mokolodi Game Reserve on Saturday afternoon. You should be able to sample just a little of what Botswana can offer which should interest you enough to ensure that you return to Botswana in the near future with your families on a social visit to tour this country.

13. A special welcome goes to Mr. Chua. Thank you for availing your time to visit Botswana once again, to share your vast knowledge and experience of Corruption Investigation with us. We have in the past benefitted from your lectures and I trust that you will continue to accept our call whenever we require your services in training and developing our officers. We shall always be indebted to you for the invaluable service you have rendered this country.

14. To the participants I wish to say – You have an opportunity to imbibe from a fountain of knowledge. Take full advantage of this opportunity and learn from Mr. Chua who I regard as a veritable source of knowledge, a man with vast experience in the field of Anti Corruption. He has worked with a leading Anti Corruption agency in the world, ICAC of Hong Kong. This is your chance to grow as investigators.

15. You are facing a busy two weeks ahead of you. You will no doubt be different people at the end of the programme, ready to tackle the world with your new found knowledge. Let me, therefore, wish you all the best in the course.

16. A word of thanks to our donor partners, the Commonwealth Secretariat, for sponsoring this programme. Through their technical assistance the Commonwealth has contributed in no small measure to the development of our countries, particularly in organisational capacity building.

17. We appreciate the great work that this organisation does for this continent and trust that our collaboration will last long into the future. Special Thanks to Dr Roger Koranteng who has been instrumental in organizing this programme.

18. With these words I wish to declare this training programme officially open.
PULA!!!!

B6) 9/4/12: REMARKS BY THE MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, THE HON. MOKGWEETSI MASISI @ THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH HALLS – MMANKGODI

The Honourable Councillors, Our Dikgosi, Officers of The Old Apostolic Church, All invited guests, Church members, Ladies & Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, let me express my sincere appreciation for the honour I have been given to officiate the opening ceremony of the Mmankgodi OAC hall.

2. I would like to briefly reflect on what the church is. A church is a place where mankind can communicate with God in worship and prayer. It is a place of refuge; a place of spiritual development; a place where people can find comfort, etc. A church has been playing a role in unifying nations since time immemorial. The Church's role is also to help government and societies to fight the moral ills of mankind.

3. Mr Chairman, I am informed that The Old Apostolic Church was established in Africa in the 1880's by an Evangelist from Australia called Carl George Klibbe. The First Congregation was established in Southernwood, East London (South Africa) in 1892. Evangelist Klibbe was later ordained as an Apostle for Africa on 08.07.1893. The Church has since spread throughout South Africa.

4. In Botswana, the Church was established in the early 60's by Brothers who worked as migrant workers in the Republic of South Africa. The Church has since grown from strength to strength in Botswana. It is also been established in Zambia and Zimbabwe and is now penetrating through Central to North Africa. When the Church began in Botswana, the members used to gather for their services under shacks made out of card boxes. This continued for a long time, and later some schools offered classrooms for our services. The use of classrooms was enjoyed shortly as the councils gradually began to deny the Church the use of such facilities. Hence the Church began to embark on proper structural development in the late 1970s, as outlined under other physical developments below. Although there were such challenges that the Church was faced, this has also helped to engaged itself and developed a reliant spirit putting up structures or buildings for worship.

5. Mr Chairman, I am reliably informed that this Church has spread to most parts of the country from the major cities and towns to the most remote villages in the country. I am privileged to witness and officiate the official opening of yet another of magnificent building in Mmankgodi.

6. I am also informed that Membership is open to any person without regard to nationality, race or colour and is a privilege to those who have been baptized or taken up in the Church. Membership is also free. The Church has so far over 55,000 members distributed throughout the country

7. The Church is lead by a Conference of Apostles [COA] which is the supreme structure which ensures the spiritual and physical development of the entire Church. It has other structures followed by the Regional Finance Committee(RFC) which is responsible for the temporal affairs of the Church in the District (such as looking after the finances of the Church and the building of halls), then other Congregational Committees which are responsible for the day to day finances of the Church at a community level. There is therefore no one person deemed to be a leader of the Church apart from our Lord Jesus Christ.

8. Mr Chairman it also commendable to note that this Church has and out-reach programme where it makes some input in the development of the community it exists within. I heard that it has also assisted in contributing in the Disaster relief fund in Botswana, Home-based care and STD unit, has also once made a donation of sums of money towards the Mozambique floods relief through its supreme body, it has donated sums of money into the "Sponsor-A-Child-Fund, to help children with dreadful diseases in Botswana to find cure; it has contribute into the "The Masiela Trust Fund", has also

donated the sums of money towards the relief for the flood victims in the Okavango area.

9. The Church building at Mmankgodi has 192 sitters auditorium and a built-in ablution. The total cost for the construction of the above hall was P700,000.00 [Seven hundred thousand Pula only]

10. It is pleasing to note the commendable effort that this Church is making in providing magnificent halls of this nature in every district in Botswana. Currently you are having 58 halls built throughout the country. The first hall was built at Lobatse in 1978. And 2 new halls are concurrently being built in Metsimotlhabe and Mabutsane. Thank you

B7) 31/3/12: REMARKS BY THE MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, THE HONORABLE MOKGWEETSI MASISI AT THE GENDER LINKS BALA AWARDS CEREMONY

[Salutations]... Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is my pleasure to give the key note address at this unique Local Government and Gender Justice Summit and Awards Event – organized by Gender Links and Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA). I call this event unique, as in most cases awards are only linked and associated with events such as sporting, entertainment and other achievement events.

2. You all have presented your outstanding projects on a broad scope of gender violence and justice, under the categories of Prevention, Support, Local Economic Development, HIV/AIDS and Care work, Response, Leadership, Climate Change and Sustainable Development and Institutional Centre of Excellence through which you shared your valuable experiences. I am impressed by your initiative in all these areas which are of great concern to the government. I congratulate all of the 26 participants who presented their projects and as far as I am concerned you are all winners.

3. I have further been informed that the 8 winners of tonight will be sponsored to participate at the Regional Summit in Johannesburg where all the winners from the SADC countries will come together and share on a regional level. I wish the best of luck to you and encourage you to share best strategies we have in Botswana for addressing GBV. For those who are going to be awarded prizes today, I encourage you to continue implementation of those projects and for those who did not make it motivate you by saying that there is always another day - to me this summit and the awards presentations were not about competition but the sharing of best practices.

4. Director of Ceremonies, I have been informed that this initiative of having the national summit here in Botswana and presentation of awards was recommended by BALA during the Regional Gender Justice and local government in 2011 in Johannesburg. The Johannesburg summit brought together 231 participants from 11

Southern African countries, sharing best practices on fighting gender violence in their local communities.

5. Director of ceremonies, tonight's event preceded by the summit, comes at an appropriate time when the Gender Baseline Violence Indicators Study, conducted by the Women Affairs Department and Gender Links, was launched earlier this week - on the 29 March 2012 to be precise. The study revealed that of all women interviewed in the study - 67 % had experienced some form of gender based violence in their lifetime, while 44 % of all men said they perpetrated some form of violence. The most common form of gender violence experienced by women is violence by an intimate partner; with 62% women reporting experience in their lifetime and 47% of men disclosing perpetration.

6. Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to once again remind you that the theme for this year of 16 Days of Activism on GBV was "Connecting girls - inspiring the future", which means 'together we can stop violence and have happy families'. This is a critical message to us as Batswana , because up to date we still have women losing their lives at this rate due to GBV, rape being at increase , defilement and incest being experienced within families - this means we need to find better strategies of intensifying the campaign .

7. We also need to embark on in-depth research such as the one I have been informed by Gender Links on GBV indicators. I understand during this summit, for one and half days Councils and NGO's presented projects in the following categories such as Prevention, support, HIV/AIDS and Care work, all these are challenges to my government and your councils to ensure that we win the battle raising awareness to our rural community. Let me say I have confidence that we will achieve this as already your participation at this large number shows motivation and commitment.

8. Director of Ceremonies, I am so delighted to learn that the Councillors who have completed the Gender Justice and local government process have been issued with Centres of excellence certificate and motivational for other council to be continuing with the process. Let me take this opportunity to ensure that the support from our office, will whenever possible, always be available as needed.

9. Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen, before concluding I wish to commend the Council members who have worked tirelessly to raise awareness in the area of GBV culminating into this event tonight. Beyond this, we all bear a responsibility for our voices to be heard loud in condemning GBV or even creating awareness. This will in the long run impact on our fight against HIV/AIDS which research has proved to be linked to GBV. This is one fight we cannot afford to lose! Thank you,

B8) RESPONSES BY THE MINISTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, THE HON. MOKGWEETSI MASISI TO QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

B8a) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: 717 answered on Tuesday 27th March, 2012 by Hon. A. S. Kesupile, MP (Kanye South)

Question: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration:

- (i) How many of the 45, 000 Batswana in abject poverty are in the constituencies of Kanye North and Kanye South respectively;
- (ii) To state the number of males and females for each of the constituencies; and
- (iii) Why the poverty eradication scheme does not include deliberate improvement of the living environment of the very poor by assisting them with fencing their compounds, connecting electricity and running water.

Answer:

- i) Madam Speaker, the Botswana Core Welfare Indicators Survey (BCWIS) commonly known as the Poverty Survey indicates that there are 373, 888 persons living below the poverty datum line. The data is further disaggregated into districts. However, as of now, we do not have data per constituency.
- ii) Madam Speaker, based on the Department of Social Services under the Ministry of Local Government, there are currently 30,294 destitute in the country. Disaggregated data also shows that there are 839 registered destitute persons in the Kanye North constituency. Out of this number, there are 272 males and 567 females.
- iii) Kanye South constituency has a total number of 568 registered destitute persons. Out of this number, there are 166 males and 402 females.
- iv) Madam Speaker, it is the intention of this Government to eradicate poverty in all its forms. It is owing to this that Government is rolling out the Poverty Eradication Programme aimed at enabling those in abject poverty to step out of poverty by undertaking viable and sustainable projects with extensive mentoring, life skills training and support in access to markets.

Madam Speaker, those beneficiaries identified for backyard gardens are connected with water and their plots are fenced. It should, however, be noted that the aim of the Poverty Eradication Programme is to roll out projects which have proven viability and sustainability for the able bodied destitute thus moving them to sustainable livelihoods and empowering them to attain basic amenities for themselves. Knowledge is also shared with the rest of the society so that others may embark on similar projects.

With regard to the disabled destitute persons, Government will continue to provide all their basic needs where possible. However; due to limited resources, we make an effort to prioritise to ensure that as many as possible are assisted within the budget limitations. To that end we prioritise to ensure the disabled destitute persons live a

dignified life, have habitable shelter as well as food security and ensure that their children attend school. I thank you.

B8b) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No: 721 answered on Tuesday 27th March, 2012 by Mr. M. R. Reatile MP (Ngwaketse West)

Question: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration to explain the distinction between Section 51 (2) (a – l) of the Public Service Act versus Section 36 (4) (a – k) of the Trade Disputes Act, he should further state the rationale thereof.

Answer: Madam Speaker,

- 1) the Public Service Act, at Section 51 (2) (k) provides for thresholds for admission of trade union parties to the council whilst the Trade Disputes Act does not have such a provision;
- 2) the Trade Disputes Act, Section 36 (4) (k) provides for inclusion of any other matter into the council's constitution but there is no such provision in the Public Service Act; and
- 3) the Public Service Act has an additional provision at section 51 (2) (l) which links section 51 of the Public Service Act to section 36 of the Trade Disputes Act. I thank you.

B8c) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: 734 ASKED ON Wednesday 28th March, 2012 by Mr. M.R. Reatile, (MP Ngwaketse West)

QUESTION: To Ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration

- (i) why Government Senior Managers on E2 scale and above have not yet signed contracts of employment in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Public Service Act, 2008 (NO. 30 of 2008); and
- (ii) when Senior Managers should expect to sign the said contracts.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker,

- i) Since May 2010 new entrants into the Public Service at E2 scale and above have been appointed on contract in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Public Service Act, 2008. However, Senior Managers on E2 and above who are currently employed under permanent and pensionable terms have not yet signed contracts of employment in accordance with the Act because of the unanticipated technical hitches in the implementation of the Act.
- ii) Madam Speaker, Senior Managers will sign contracts as soon as the modalities to facilitate transition of Permanent and Pensionable employees to contract employment have been concluded and affected employees consulted. I thank you.

B8f) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No: 725 asked on Wednesday 28th March, 2012 by Mr. M. R. Reatile MP (Ngwaketse West)

Question: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration whether Section 51 (2) (k) of the Public Service Act was imported from the Labour Relations Act of South Africa; if so,

- i) was the importation appropriate and consistent with the configuration and spirit of Botswana's labour laws;
- ii) is the clause not amenable to abuse by existing parties to the Bargaining Council; and
- iii) how does he intend to protect the Public Service from such possible abuse.

Answer: Madam Speaker, Section 51 (2) (k) of the Public Service Act was not imported from the Labour Relations Act of South Africa. The provision was made in order to regulate admission into the Council as per the requirements of Section 48 (a) of the Trade Union and Employers Organisation Act, on recognition at industry level.

Madam Speaker, in view of the above, there is no need for me to respond to part (i), (ii) and (iii) of the question. I thank you.

B8g) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 747 asked on Thursday 29th March, 2012 by Mr. W.B. Mmolotsi (Francistown South)

Question: To ask the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration to state the number of:-

- i) Houses that were built for destitute in Francistown South through the Presidential Housing Appeal and Destitute Housing Scheme respectively;
- ii) Francistown South residents who have benefitted from backyard garden projects and alternative packages.

Answer:

i) Madam Speaker, one destitute person benefited from the Presidential Housing Appeal and four destitute persons benefited from the Destitute Housing Scheme in Francistown South. The main purpose of these schemes is to give destitute persons shelter to enable them to live dignified and empowered lives in an effort to eradicate abject poverty.

ii) Madam Speaker, In Francistown South, the number of beneficiaries assisted with backyard gardens are one hundred and twenty one (121) and seventy six (76) were assisted with different alternative packages under the Poverty Eradication Programme. I thank you.

B8h) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No: 770 asked on Monday 2nd April, 2012 by Mr. F. M. M. Molao, MP. (Tonota North)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration:

- i) To state the number of civil servants currently working and staying in the Tonota North Constituency;
- ii) Whether their conditions of work are satisfactory; if not, why and how are they expected to apply themselves optimally in their day to day duties; and
- iii) What strategy his Ministry is currently implementing to achieve good results from them.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, there are about eight hundred and twenty four (824) civil servants currently working in the Tonota North Constituency and I am not aware of any dissatisfaction regarding their conditions of work.

Madam Speaker, in the absence of any information regarding staff dissatisfaction in the Tonota North Constituency, it is not possible to put any specific interventions in place to address their concerns. I thank you.

B8i) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No: 765 asked on Monday 2 April, 2012 by Mr. K.P. Molatlhegi, MP. (Gaborone South)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration to state the names of all:-

- i) Trade Unions that are recognised under the Public Service Act and/or the Trade Unions and Employers Organisation Act and/or Trade Dispute Act; and
- ii) The Trade Unions that are recognised in the Public Service Bargaining Council.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker,

- i) The Trade Unions that are recognised under the Public Service Act /Trade Disputes Act are as follows:
 - a) Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU)
 - b) Botswana Land Boards, Local Authorities and Health Workers Union (BLLAHWU)
 - c) Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU)
 - d) Botswana Teachers Union (BTU)
 - e) National Amalgamated Local and Central Government and Parastatal Workers Union (NALCGPWU)
 - f) Trainers and Allied Workers Union (TAWU)

Madam Speaker,

ii) BOPEU, BLLAHWU, BOSETU, BTU and National Amalgamated Local and Central Government and Parastatal Workers Union (NALCGPWU) applied and were admitted jointly into the bargaining council as Botswana Federation of Public Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU), in accordance with Section 48 A of the Trade Unions and Employers Organisations Act. I thank you.

B8j) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 784 asked on Tuesday 3rd April, 2012 by Mr. K. P. Molatlhegi, MP. (Gaborone South)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration to state:-

- i) the date on which the Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) was registered;
- ii) why there has been no collective bargaining for Public Servants salaries despite the PSBC's existence;
- iii) whether the 3% annual increment was agreed with the Unions and how long this decision will be in force;
- vi) the difference between 3% annual increment and the normal notching progression; and
- v) whether the Government effected a 35% contract increment for any expatriate employees in 2011; if so, what was the rationale behind the increment, considering Government's budgetary constraints.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker,

i) The Public Service Bargaining Council (PSBC) was established and registered on the 16th August, 2011 through Government Notice No.372 of 2011, published in the Government Gazette Volume XLIX, No. 47 dated 19th August, 2011.

ii) There has been no Collective Bargaining for salaries owing to the fact that the economic situation has not yet significantly improved to warrant any salary increase for the Public Service. Government has to continue with belt tightening measures until such time that we can be assured of sustainable improvements.

Madam Speaker,

iii) At the end of the negotiations, the unions' position was that they were willing to accept the 3% salary increase offered by the employer only if they were allowed to distribute it across the pay structure in a pyramid form and the dismissed employees were re-instated unconditionally. There was therefore no agreement. The Government decision to award the 3% salary increase will be in force until another increment is negotiated and agreed upon.

iv) The difference between the 3% salary increase and the normal annual notching increment is that the 3% increase affects all employees while the normal annual

increment is performance based and only affects employees on grades that have more than one notch.

Madam Speaker,

v) There was no 35% contract increment effected for expatriate employees in 2011. I thank you.

B8k) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 787 asked on Tuesday 3rd April, 2012 by F.M.M. Molao, MP. (Tonota North)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration whether he will consider investigating the feasibility of coming up with a constituency development fund to be administered through Constituency Offices in order to bring services close to the people and make representation more meaningful to the electorates.

Answer: Madam Speaker, currently, activities and projects in various constituencies are funded from Government through the Domestic Development Fund (DDF). At the community level, there are Village Development Committees (VDCs) which are part of the developmental budgeting cycle. This ensures a bottom up approach which promotes community participation in all development matters. The current planning and budgeting system clearly follows well established procedures for allocating resources equitably and efficiently. These procedures have served us well over the years even in difficult times such as global financial crisis to the admiration of world financial bodies such as the IMF, World Bank, etc. Creating a standalone development fund, will necessitate additional cost for Government which is not in line with our current policy of rightsizing the public sector. Besides, at international level, experience has shown that countries like Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, to mention but a few, which established Constituency Development Funds encountered problems such as inadequate accountability and transparency leading to corruption, maximising political returns instead of the welfare of the electorate and project duplication. Based on the experiences I have enumerated above it would be inappropriate to establish Constituency Development Funds. I thank you.

B8l) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: 793 asked on FRIDAY 13TH APRIL, 2012 By MR P.M. MAELE, MP. (TSWAPONG NORTH)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration to state:

i. The total number of people in government payroll, including their designations, who did not get the three percent salary increment in September 2011; ii. The rationale for the action in (i) above; iii. Whether there was any consultation before the decision was taken; if not, why; and

iv. The total amount of money saved at the end of the 2011/2012 Financial Year as a percentage of the annual public service wage bill.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker,

A total of Two thousand four hundred and forty two (2 442) people in the Government payroll did not get the three percent salary increment in September 2011. These comprise Twenty six (26) members of Cabinet; Thirty four (34) members of Parliament; Twenty nine (29) members of Ntlo ya Dikgosi; Three (3) members of the Public Service Commission; Six hundred and three (603) Councillors; Three hundred and forty two (342) members of Land Boards; and One thousand four hundred and five (1405) pensioners.

Madam Speaker, the 3% salary increase was a decision taken by Government after the failed negotiations with unions for whom other categories of people in the government payroll are not members. In view of this, the matter is being reconsidered.

Madam Speaker, at the moment consolidation of Government expenditure for the year 2011/2012 has not yet been finalized and as such I am unable to state with certainty the total amount of unutilised budget as a percentage of the annual public service wage bill. I thank you Madam Speaker.

B8m) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: 831 asked on FRIDAY 13 APRIL 2012 by MR N.M. MODUBULE, MP (LOBATSE)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration:

(i) Why pensioners in the old Government pension Scheme have not been paid the 3% that was paid to all civil servants as has been the practice all the years.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, as I stated in my answer to Question No. 793, this matter is being reconsidered and a final decision will be made. I thank you Madam Speaker.

C. NOTICES & FORWARDING

C1) 18/4/12: MEDIA ADVISORY: HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF A COMPUTER LABORATORY AT KANG PRIMARY SCHOOL: FRIDAY MORNING 20TH APRIL 2012

Members of the public are hereby informed that the Permanent Secretary to the President (PSP) and Chairman of e-Gov. Board, Mr. Eric M. Molale, will be the Guest of Honour at a handing over ceremony of a Computer Laboratory at Kang Primary School. The Laboratory has been donated by the IT Sector in Honour of the late Mr. Joel Lebinatlou Motshelele Hiri. The event will take place on Friday morning, 20th April 2012, at the school starting from 0900 hours. Outline of Day's programme:

- Welcome remarks by the Kgosi

- Messages of Appreciation by the School Head, Education Representative and the family of Rre Hiri
- Message by the Sponsorship Coordinator
- PSP's message
- Vote of Thanks by Area MP

C2) 18/4/12: NOTICE: UN TRIBUNAL RE-ELECTS MS. MEHMOODA EBRAHIM-CARSTENS (BOTSWANA)

General Assembly held elections to fill three vacancies on the United Nations Dispute Tribunal.

Having received the required majority of the vote, Ms. Mehmooda Ebrahim-Carstens (Botswana) was re-appointed as full time judge for a seven- year term, beginning on 1 July 2012; Goolam Hoosen Kader Meeran (United Kingdom) was re-appointed as half – time judge for a seven year term beginning on 1 July 2012; and Alessandra Greceanu (Romania) was appointed ad-litem judge for a six month term, beginning on 16 April.

C3) 17/4/12: MEDIA ADVISORY: HIS HONOUR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC PROGRAMME FOR APRIL 2012

1. Monday April 23, 2012 @ 1430 hours. Official Opening of Railpark Mall. Venue: Marakanelo, Gaborone
2. Thursday April 26, 2012 @ 0730 hours. Official Opening of the 4th Botswana SMME Conference and Fair. Venue: Boipuso Hall, Gaborone
3. Friday April 27, 2012 @ 0900 hours and 1200 hours. Official handover of houses to the needy. Venue: Sirinane and Malwelwe Villages (Letlhakeng East)

C4) 16/4/12: BDF DID NOT PURCHASE PANDUR APCS FROM THE KHAMA BROTHERS

Please find attached and below a BDF press release in response to the front page Botswana Guardian article of 13/4/12, ("Khama brothers in P 426m dodgy arms deal"), which falsely alleged that the BDF had purchased the Pandur APC from Steyr Austria. For any further information please contact the BDF Director, Protocol and Public Affairs, Col. Paul Sharp, Tel. 267-366 2908, Fax 267- 393 2016, Email: psharp@gov.bw

[Start] From: Office of the Commander BDF 16th April 2012

PRESS RELEASE: BDF DID NOT PURCHASE PANDUR APCS FROM THE KHAMA BROTHERS

The Botswana Defence Force (BDF) wishes to inform the public that at no time did it ever purchase Pandur Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) from Steyr Austria, whose

local representative was the Seleka Springs Company with which the Messrs. Anthony and Tsheledi Khama are known to be shareholders.

Media reports that the BDF purchased the Pandur APC in preference to the Piranha APC or any other preferred alternative are therefore totally incorrect.

To put the record straight, the BDF has at no time purchased the Pandur APC and thus we do not have the said vehicle in our inventory.

What is in fact true, is that the BDF procured the Piranha APC from MOWAG Switzerland in 2003, following a procurement process that started at the beginning of 2001.

During the procurement process in 2001, a number of alternative APCs were assessed by the BDF Equipment Evaluation Committee. An assessment of five (5) APCs was carried out. This was after the BDF had approached those companies that were registered and security cleared by the BDF to bid on tenders. In this respect, the procurement procedures of the BDF are consistent with the international best practice standards of militaries around the world.

Out of the five, only three companies namely Cadillac Cage, Mowag and Steyr Austria were found to have vehicles that met the Terms of Reference of a Modern Infantry Combat Vehicle. The three companies were then asked to bring their vehicles to Botswana for trials, which took place.

It was as a result of this evaluation process that the BDF opted for the Piranha APC due to both its superior performance and lower price.

On the basis of the above facts, the BDF will like to unequivocally make clear to Batswana and other members of the public at large, that the Botswana Guardian article of 13/4/12 which alleged that the higher priced Pandur APC had been procured, in preference to the Piranha APC, is totally inaccurate, misleading and unfortunate.

To further set the record straight, the procurement process and supply of the Piranha was not done during President Seretse Khama Ian Khama's time as the Commander of the BDF.

At the time of this procurement the Commander of the BDF was, in fact, Lieutenant General Louis Fisher.

As is common knowledge, President Khama retired from the BDF in March 1998, while this procurement process started in 2001, i.e. three years after his departure. It is, therefore, unfair to implicate him as having swayed the procurement in favour of his brothers when they did not even win the tender.

Colonel Paul Sharp

For/COMMANDER, BOTSWANA DEFENCE FORCE

C5) 12/4/12: TRANSFER OF DCEC AND DIS TO MINISTRY OF STATE PRESIDENT

Members of the public are hereby informed that the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) and the Directorate on Intelligence and Security have been transferred from the Ministry of Defence Justice and Security to the Ministry of State President. As a result the minister responsible for the two Directorates shall now be the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration. The Transfer has been with immediate effect.

C6) 7/4/12: IN WEEKEND POST FOR - "ACCESS TO INFORMATION LEGISLATION NEEDS TO BE CAREFULLY BALANCED" BY DR. JEFF RAMSAY

Government supports the concept of enhanced access to information legislation. Besides being provided for in our Long Term Vision, such legislation is further envisaged within the framework of Government's own e-legislation programme. In its current draft the Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill now before Parliament is, however, in the Executive's view, impractical and unbalanced in its expectations, and archaic in its formulation. The following is a brief summary of but a few of our concerns.

In this era of new information technologies, responsible access to information legislation ought to be rooted in the legitimate need to protect data, as well as define what data may be readily released. In other words any right to know must be balanced against individual and collective rights to privacy, along with such associated concerns as ensuring due process, upholding security, and protecting intellectual property, including privileged commercial information, as well as wider national interests. There is also a clear need to protect commercial partnerships in which Government has a minority interest.

Besides being cornerstones of good governance, such safeguards are a prerequisite for creating an enabling environment for prosperity through innovation and domestic and foreign investment.

A critical feature of any access to information instrument is that it must clearly define the public's right to obtain official information in the context of exempted categories of data that the State or any other potentially affected entity is entitled to withhold. Exemptions should, among other things, clearly include data related to national security, international relations, the prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of offences and/or breaches of ethics of regulated professions, taxation matters, regulatory functions, private advice and such other information as may be deemed prejudicial to the protection of society and the rights and freedoms of others.

Any access to information legislation ought to not only clearly define what official data and information can and should be restricted, but also establish appropriate procedures for the handling of any ambiguity. Unfortunately, where the current Bill provides for such

exemptions in one clause, it effectively withdraws them in another. To cite some examples:

Section 27 (1), would empower public officers to use their own personnel discretion in releasing otherwise exempted information “if the public interest in the disclosure of the information outweighs the harm to the interest protected under the relevant exemption.”

Section 38 further affirms that: “Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a public body shall give access to exempt information, where, in the circumstances, giving access to the information is in the public interest...”

Although Section 29 of the Bill purports to protect information relative to the security and defence of Botswana, it effectively fails to do so by seeking to list the exempted defence and security information rather than simply incorporating a concise statement exempting information that would, or could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, or the defence of the nation.

Similar deficiencies can be found in Sections 30-31, which address international relations and legal proceedings.

Beyond its potential to compromise the wellbeing of individuals and the nation as whole, the Bill's weak provision for the exemption and protection of classified information in general, in the context of its emphasis on ambiguously defined public interest, would almost certainly encourage endless litigation.

The current Bill also provides inadequate protection for the right of privacy, which is already under threat around the world due to new, often intrusive communication technologies. In this context, there is growing global recognition that societies need to take a precautionary approach in releasing valuable and/or sensitive data.

The current scandals involving the UK press, in which it is alleged that major commercial media interests have corrupted officials and perverted the course of justice, while causing genuine harm by violating the privacy of thousands of individuals in Britain and elsewhere, is a clear warning of the inherent danger of assuming that the right to know should take precedence over the right to privacy on the basis of ill-defined “public interest”.

As it is, this Government is already progressing data protection legislation, as part of its ongoing e-legislation process that provides for an expansion of access to information instruments. Data protection legislation will, among other things, regulate the giving out of information in terms of what is relevant in meeting a legitimate information requests. This is consistent with the contemporary international trend to focus on access to data as opposed to traditionally defined information.

Unfortunately, the current FOI Bill also prescribes unrealistic expectations and timelines for its wholesale implementation, which would undoubtedly undermine the operational

capacity of public bodies by making round the clock information provision a major part of their daily operations. Section 6 of the Bill further mandates proactive disclosure, which would compel public bodies to publish additional unrequested information.

In conclusion, it is our view that the proposed legislation is characterized by unreasonable and unrealistic timelines and cumbersome mandates. It further fails to categorically exempt sensitive and privileged information from disclosure, while failing to uphold the fundamental Constitutional right to privacy.

C7) 31/3/12: IN WEEKEND POST – “BATSWANA SAY YES CONSTITUENCY SPORTS TOURNAMENTS” BY DR. JEFF RAMSAY

Tomorrow will mark the beginning of the Khama administration’s fifth year. With potentially six more years to go it would be premature at this point to speak of even an emerging legacy. One may, nonetheless, contemplate some of the qualities that have distinguished the Khama era so far.

Over the past four years a common accusation directed against the administration, and its incumbent, has been that its policies, programmes and initiatives are somehow “populist” in their content.

For this author the logic behind such an accusation has been something of a mystery. Growing up many of my past and present political heroes were also known to be “populists”, making it seem like a rather curious line of critique.

On further reflection it occurred to me that perhaps my understanding of the word was not the same as what prevailed for others in the language of Mmamosadinyana. I therefore decided to consult the lexicographers at Oxford, Cambridge and Macmillan on the subject, who it turned out all had pretty much of the same view.

According to Oxford, a populist is “a person who supports or seeks to appeal to the concerns of ordinary people”, while Cambridge and MacMillan further defined the term as “representing or connected with the interests, ideas and opinions of ordinary people”.

At this point it was at least clear that the critics were on target, for if there is one thing our President can be properly accused of it has been listening to and taking on board the interests of the ordinary Batswana he engages with in every corner of the country.

Of course, populist is also associated with the word “popular”. In this respect one supposedly populist initiative that has received its fair share of criticism has been the Constituency Sports Tournaments.

The popularity of the Tournaments for many Batswana has long been manifest in their high levels of participation. Last year over 44,180 individuals (33195 in foot ball, 6071 in

netball, 4914 in volleyball) playing for 2851 teams (1945 football, 515 netball, 355 volleyball) took part in the Cycle 6 Tournament.

But, according to a research report prepared by a Task Team that was mandated to provide Government with an independent impact assessment of the games, their populist appeal transcends mere participation. This is confirmed by the fact that, besides consulting a wide range of stakeholders, the Task Team carried out an opinion survey of the General Public.

According to the said Survey an overwhelming 93% of Batswana are aware of the tournaments, with 65% agreeing that the programme has been adequately publicised. In addition, 76% of the General Public respondents agreed that the programme was contributing to the development of sports in the country, while only 26% believed that it was a waste of public resources.

In the context of meeting some of the programme's social objectives, 68% believed that it helped keep youth away from excessive alcohol consumption, 71% that it empowers youth, while 80% agreed that it helped youth stay away from crime.

A full 90% of those who had actually played in the tournaments, who appear separately in the survey, agreed that they should be continued. Among participants 79% felt that the programme had made them more useful to the community and people around them.

Further evidence of the tournament's transformative effect is reflected in the finding that whereas 62% reported that their level of sporting activity had been low prior to their participation, 95% considered their level to be medium to high after taking part.

In addition to being populist, it can also be argued that the tournaments provide strong evidence for further accusing our current President of taking an innovative and holistic approach to addressing issues of social and economic development at a grassroots level.

Before April 2008 Government had made little effort to proactively incorporate sports as a recognised element in its broader strategies for promoting youth development, while curbing social indiscipline. In this respect targeted programmes to popularise and develop sports can be seen as being complementary to such core empowerment initiatives as the Youth Development and Young Farmers Funds, Exchange Programmes, Expositions and various training and internship programmes.

The administration's focus on sports is, moreover, reflected in additional initiatives such as its sponsorship of traditional games as an integral part of the District Sports Festival celebrations.

To further keep young people positively engaged, Government has also invested in the expansion of community youth recreation facilities across the country, as well as the

establishment of Centres of Sport Excellence in designated junior and senior secondary schools.

More generally Government previously had little in the way of programmes that directly addressed the social, as opposed to economic, challenges of out-of school-youth. Now sponsors arts and craft, as well as sports. Thousands of Batswana have thus also participated in the Constituency Art Competitions, as well as National Art, Basket and Crafts Categories of the President's Day Competitions and Awards.

C8) 30/3/12: BOTSWANA, KAZA UPHOLD BAN ON RHINO HORNS - TIMESLIVE REPORT MALICIOUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE

The Government of Botswana has noted with grave concern a false report being circulated by on m.timeslive.co.za, the mobile link of the www.timeslive.co.za website, in which a certain Vladimir Mzaca falsely alleges that:

“Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia and Angola are heading for a collision with rhino conservationists after it emerged that their governments had agreed to the sale of rhino horn powder in clinics and pharmacies. The governments of the five states that form the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (Kaza) met in Namibia last week and resolved to sell rhino horn powder in their fight for the survival of the species which is fast heading for extinction.”

For the record there has never been any such discussion much less agreement involving this Government. We can further state that no such discussion took place at the recent meeting of KAZA, which we attended.

The Government of Botswana strongly supports the continued ban on the sale of rhino horns in any and all forms.

The Timeslive article is, therefore, in our view not only baseless but also clearly malicious in its intent. In this respect we strongly condemn Timeslive and its publishers for their irresponsible and unethical mass circulation of such seriously misleading content.

C9) 27/3/12: BOTSWANA CONDEMNS MALI COUP

The Government of the Republic of Botswana joins the international community in strongly condemning the recent military coup against the democratically elected President Amadou Toumani Touré of Mali.

This illegal seizure of power by the military would undoubtedly, reverse the democratic gains which Mali has achieved over the years. In this regard, the Government of Botswana urges the perpetrators of the coup to restore the suspended Malian Constitution with immediate effect. We also call for the unconditional release of all the Government officials who have been detained.

Botswana further calls upon the international community to take the necessary punitive measures to compel the military to ensure the country returns to constitutional normalcy.

END NOTE - TAUTONA TIMES

Tautona Times was launched in May 2003 as a means to communicate to the media and other interested stakeholders. It is freely available to any who wish to receive it. But, we have no wish to SPAM. Requests for cancellation will be promptly acted on, as will any complaints about such things as double mailings. For ease of downloading all e-mailed copies of TT are sent in text format WITHOUT ANY ATTACHMENTS.