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"Democracy, Development, Dignity, Discipline and Delivery"

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A. Welcome

Welcome to TT no. 3 of 2010, which features H.H. the Vice President's recent remarks at the Opening of a Conference on Local Government [B1] and the Hon. Minister for Presidential Administration and Public Affairs' Speech to the National Assembly Committee of Supply for 2010 [B2].

- Dr. Jeff Ramsay, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Media (28/2/10)

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## B. STATEMENTS

2009 State of the Nation address by H.E. the President available @ [http://www.gov.bw/cgi-bin/news.cgi?d=20091113&i=State of the Nation address by President Khama to the first session of the tenth Parliament](http://www.gov.bw/cgi-bin/news.cgi?d=20091113&i=State_of_the_Nation_address_by_President_Khama_to_the_first_session_of_the_tenth_Parliament)

B1) 22/2/10: Speech Marking the Official Opening of The Local Government Conference on 'Strengthening Local Government for Effective Service Delivery and Sustainable Development' by H.H. the Vice President Lt. Gen. Mompoti Sebogodi Merafhe, MP

[Salutations]...Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I cannot thank you enough for having given me the opportunity this morning, to be part of as distinguished a gathering as this one. Your conference comes at a time when the world economy has been slumped against the ropes for an uncomfortably long period of time. The resulting recession severely undercut our ability to deliver services to our people.

Director of Ceremonies,

2. The theme of this conference, "Strengthening Local Government for Effective Service Delivery and Sustainable Development," could not have been more appropriate. As governance structures that are closest to the people, Local Governments are expected to provide essential services to their respective communities. Local governments are, therefore, always in the public eye.

3. It is from the public that you will know whether you are delivering or whether the leadership vision is creating the desired impact. That necessarily means that you are under constant pressure to create opportunities for more qualitative life for the communities that you serve. This conference is therefore welcome as it is geared towards promoting debate on key local governance issues like policy-making, leadership, local government financing and economic empowerment strategies. It is my hope that this conference will provide an opportunity for robust sharing of ideas that will nurture the growth and sustenance of local governance.

Director of Ceremonies,

4. I appreciate the fact that Local Governments are at varying levels of development in different countries. In Botswana, Central Government is mandated to formulate policies while implementation occurs at the Local Government level through local

authorities and other local-level institutions. At Independence, the Botswana Government adopted a decentralisation approach designed to transfer authority and functions from the centre to Local Authorities and other institutions. This approach has worked well for us as a country in that both decision-making and service provision lie with Local Authorities and other decentralized sections of government. My Government will continue to support local government authorities in their endeavour to build their capacity to deliver services and make decisions at the local level. I am aware that other countries have different models of governance and a conference like this affords us all an opportunity to learn and borrow from each other's best practices.

Director of Ceremonies,

5. My Government has always subscribed to the principles of good governance, transparency and accountability at all levels. That has largely been made possible by making democracy the main tool of our statecraft. While we have scored major successes, there are still some challenges that have to be tackled. Some of those challenges relate to improving and strengthening our Local Government structures as well as providing for them in terms of finance and basic services.

6. Over the years the Government has almost wholly financed the activities of Local Authorities. Currently, Government provides 60% and 95% revenue support to urban and rural councils respectively for the recurrent budget. Unfortunately, this situation has led to a culture of dependence on Central Government and consequently, has impaired the ability of councils to generate their own finances. This state of affairs is not sustainable and imposes upon us the urgency of thinking up ways in which local authorities can be self-sustaining.

Director of Ceremonies,

7. My Government has committed itself to abiding by a number of protocols and guidelines that are meant to enhance the efficiency of Local Government. One such protocol is the "Freeport Declaration on Improving Local Government: The Commonwealth Vision." Its main objective is to build on and strengthen the outcomes of earlier frameworks such as the 2005 Aberdeen Agenda and 2007 Auckland Accord.

Director of Ceremonies,

8. In our quest to make Local Government more effective, we may have to review the roles, responsibilities and functions of our local political leadership. It may also be important to re-orient the working relationship between the centre and the local level machineries with a view to re-defining the concept of decentralization. I must also implore you to take the opportunity of this conference to deliberate on local economic development issues that can be used as a strategy to enhance local governance.

Director of Ceremonies,

9. In 2008, Government made a decision to create additional 19 sub-districts in addition to the existing 15. In an effort to bring services closer to the people, five districts have come together to establish a joint consultative forum. This forum will enable these districts to maximize use of resources for the benefit of residents, regardless of administrative boundaries. This is an excellent cooperation model and I would recommend it to other jurisdictions.

10. On a related matter, Botswana government enjoys partnerships with other development agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with whom we are exploring possibilities of developing a local economic development model. The same organization has been instrumental in the Millennium Development Goal project. I therefore challenge you to ensure that the gains made in the attainment of the MDGs are not reversed as we approach 2015.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. The Aberdeen Agenda stipulates that elected and appointed officials should have the required competencies to enable them to carry out their duties. Against this backdrop, my Government saw it fit to train Councillors on leadership skills when they assumed office after last year's General Elections. As political leaders we must take ownership of projects in our constituencies and drive service delivery.

12. As I conclude my remarks, let me draw your attention to the fact that His Excellency, the President of Botswana has made Delivery (with a capital 'D') one of the signposts of his roadmap. This should encourage the local political leadership to make service delivery a priority. With those few remarks, it is my singular honour and privilege to declare this conference officially opened.

B2) 23/2/10: Speech by the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Hon. Lesego E. Motsumi, Committee of Supply Ministry 0200

## INTRODUCTION

1. Madam Chairperson, it is my pleasure to present the 2010/2011 Recurrent and Development Budget for the Ministry of State President under Head 0200. 0201 – State House, 0202 – Office of the President, 0203 – Directorate of Public Service Management, 0206 – Office of the Former President Masire, 0211 - National Aids Coordinating Agency, 0213 - Office of the Former President Mogae, 0215 – Department of Information Services, 0216 Department of Broadcasting Services, 0217 – Government Printing and Publishing Services and 0218 – Government Strategy Development Office.

2. Madam Chairperson, I would like to start by highlighting our achievements, challenges as well as structural changes that have affected the ministry during the 2009/2010 financial year.

Public Service Reforms

3. Madam Chairperson, the second Public Service Customer Satisfaction survey was concluded in May 2009. The findings of the survey have been shared with Ministries and other stakeholders. Overall, a customer satisfaction rating of 27% has been achieved, which is an improvement of 2% from the first survey in 2005. Ministries have analysed the findings of the survey, and have incorporated their strategies for implementation into their Annual Performance Plans, starting with quick wins in 2009. These strategies will continue to be implemented and closely monitored during the course of NDP 10. It is expected that their implementation will bring about the desired change to service delivery leading to customer satisfaction. Further surveys will be undertaken in the subsequent years both at micro and macro levels to determine satisfaction levels, and to further strengthen a customer centric approach service delivery.

#### Executive Leadership Coaching and Mentoring

4. Madam Chairperson, The Executive Leadership Coaching and Mentoring project is on-going. The program is aimed at systemically developing Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries as transformational leaders through knowledge expansion; coaching and mentoring; and performance demonstration. These leaders are coached and mentored to create measurable results in their respective Ministries, thereby building capacity for sustained performance. Progress on this project is also satisfactory.

#### Motshwarateu

5. Madam Chairperson, since its establishment in May 2007, the Government Implementation Coordination Office (GICO) undertook to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to improve overall implementation of approved government policies, programmes and projects. To this effect, the development of a National Programme Implementation Coordination Project (commonly known as Motshwarateu Project) started in January 2009. The Project is currently being piloted at the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources and will be replicated throughout the Government Ministries/departments in the near future. In addition, GICO continues to facilitate workshops on Project Planning and Execution to improve Ministries/Departments project implementation capabilities as well as undertake on-site visits to project locations as part of its monitoring strategy.

#### Restructuring

6. Madam Chairperson, the recent rationalization of Government functions has resulted in the creation of the new Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security which was part of Office of the President. In addition, the Departments of Broadcasting Services, Information Services and Government Printing and Publishing Services have been transferred from the former Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology to Office of the President. In line with the restructuring, a board will be formed to deal with issues of programming and selection, procurement and general management issues. From the same Ministry, I have also welcomed Botswana

Government Communications and Information Services (BGCIS) back to Office of the President where it used to be. The rationalization Exercise has also resulted in the transfer of the Food and Poverty Policy Coordination Unit from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. However, I am still working with my counterpart at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning on the manpower and budget components to be transferred to my ministry. I have also established the new office for Coordinator of People with Disabilities. Another notable development is the merging of Public Service Reforms Unit and Government Implementation Coordination Office to form The National Strategy Office.

7. Madam Chairperson, These changes have brought about their own challenges to Office of the President, the major one being shortage of office accommodation. However, I am happy to inform the house that office space has been secured at Square Mart Building at the Central Business District (CBD). At the moment, a tender for the provision of data and telecommunication network is at an advanced stage. It is my hope that by April, some of Office of the President Departments and Divisions will move to the building.

#### Regional and International Participation

8. Madam Chairperson, our former Presidents – His Excellency Sir Ketumile Quett Masire and His Excellency Festus Gontebanye Mogae continue to be engaged by government to participate in regional and international fora to promote Good Governance, Democracy, fight against HIV/AIDS, Climate Change and Promotion of Peace and Conflict Resolution. For example, His Excellency Festus Mogae continues to chair the National AIDS Council meetings and is the Convener of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa. Their continued participation in these fora has impact on the limited budget allocated to their offices.

#### Assessment and Development Centres (AC/DC)

9. Madam Chairperson, the Directorate of Public Service Management continues to implement initiatives aimed at improving service delivery in Government. One such initiative is the establishment of Assessment and Development Centres in Ministries the purpose of which is to ensure that skilled and competent officers are recruited and retained in the Public Service. In this regard, Ministries are being clustered to form these centres in order to facilitate recruitment and development of the right people with the right skills and competencies especially at leadership level. DPSM will continue to build capacity for the management of Assessors and Administrators for the Centres as well as to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the overall initiative.

#### Vacancy Situation

10. Madam Chairperson, the number of vacancies in December 2009 was three thousand five hundred and seven (3507) posts or 5.25% of the manpower establishment compared to 3228 posts 5.2% of the manpower establishment in December 2008. This represents a 0.05% increase from the previous year rate. This

is despite DPSM's continuous effort to engage and consult with Ministries such as, in the management of vacancies, the implementation of Graduate Registration and Employment with particular focus on the C-band, as well as the engagement of external recruitment agencies for positions which cannot easily attract candidates locally.

#### Human Resource Management

11. Madam Chairperson, the new Public Service Act No. 30 of 2008 which was enacted by Parliament on the 11 December 2008 has merged all Acts governing employment in the Public Service. The Act has established a single Public Service Bargaining Structure i.e., the Public Service Bargaining Council to be operational during the course of the financial year 2010/2011. The establishment of the Public service Bargaining Council requires the restructuring of the Public Service Commission and work is in progress to this effect.

12. Madam Chairperson, in order to improve public service performance, progression of Public Officers will be based on competencies rather than on the number of years in service. In this regard, job effectiveness descriptions and competency based career paths are currently being developed by DPSM to facilitate ministries/departments to recruit and promote officers with the relevant skills and competencies required by the jobs. Having the right people performing the right jobs will improve service delivery and thus contribute meaningfully toward economic development.

13. Madam Chairperson, the transformation of the Botswana Institute of Administration and Commerce (BIAC) into the Botswana Public Service College (BPSC) is on-going and new training programmes are already running. In partnership with the Government of Singapore through the Singapore Civil Service College, substantial progress has been made.

14. Madam Chairperson, DPSM is continuing with the reengineering of Public Service business processes and the setting of performance standards to improve service delivery. DPSM is also streamlining the processes that have been reengineered in preparation for e- government.

#### RECURRENT BUDGET

15. Madam Chairperson, the recurrent budget for the Ministry of State President is Four Hundred and Sixty-Two Million Two Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Pula (P462,274,250) and increase of One Hundred and Twenty Nine Million Six Hundred and Three Thousand One Hundred and Sixty (P129,603,160) or 39% from the original budget solely due to the increase in number of new departments and units transferred to Office of the President. I have provided a table below to show how the Recurrent budget for the Ministry of State President Departments except NACA and National Strategy Office are affected by a negative growth for the coming 2010/2011 financial year as a result of global recession. The growth figures on the table compare the proposed 2010/2011 budget with the revised one after the 7% budget cuts that were approved by this Parliament during the November 2009 session.

Table1: Comparative Recurrent Estimates for 2009/10 and 2010/11

DEPARTMENT	2009/2010 Original Budget (P)	2009/2010 Revised Budget (P)	2010/2011 Budget (P)	2010/2011 Budget Growth (%)
State House	8,198,860	7,624,940	6,298,470	-17%
Office of the President*	138,660,500	127,566,340	102 410 740	-20%
DPSM	148,600,620	139,586,450	125,791,730	-10%
Office of Former President Masire	3,339,070	3,105,340	2,682,430	-14%
NACA	15,741,810	14,639,880	15,535,850	6%
Office of the Former President Mogae	4,513,020	4,197,110	3,670,420	-13%
Information Services	67,543,710	62,815,650	60,348,240	-4%
Broadcasting Services	123,921,110	115,246,630	114,307,700	-1%
Govt. Printing and Publishing Services	51,685,740	48,067,740	46,755,460	-3%
Government Strategy Development Office	13,617,210	12,664,000	13,189,200	4%

\* Please note that for the coming 2010/2011, the budget for Office of the President (OP) was split to create the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security Headquarters (MDJS – HQ).

16. Madam Chairperson, may I propose that I should not go into the details of the Recurrent Budget proposals Department by Department as they are contained in the Estimates of Expenditure Book which members already have.

#### DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

17. Madam Chairperson, I request the sum of Three Hundred and Thirty One Million and Twelve Thousand Pula (P331,012,000) for the Ministry of State President. Of the Three Hundred and Thirty One Million and Twelve Thousand Pula (P331,012,000) requested, the National Aids Coordinating Agency (NACA) takes Three Hundred Million Pula (P300,000,000) which is 90.6% of the allocated budget. The remaining 9.4% of the budget is shared among the rest of the Departments in

the Ministry and these are Office of the President, Directorate of Public Service Management, Botswana Government Printing and Publishing Services and Broadcasting Services as well as Office of the Auditor General. The budget for NACA represents a decrease of Nine Hundred and Ninety Seven Million, Two Hundred and Forty One Thousand, Two Hundred and Five Pula (P997,241,205) from the revised 2009/10 allocation due to the transfer of items of recurrent nature to the Recurrent Budget.

18. Madam Chairperson, it is worth noting that most of the projects/programmes earmarked for implementation during the 2010/2011 financial year under my Ministry had to be deferred due to the financial constraints arising from the Economic Recession. These have been listed under Annexure I.

19. Madam Chairperson, the budget requested will cover the following projects and programmes:-

#### DEPARTMENT 0202- OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Project 09121- Improvements to State House-Five Million, and Seventy Five Thousand Pula (P5,075,000)

20. Madam Chairperson, for this project, I request Five Million, and Seventy Five Thousand Pula (P5,075,000). Out of the P5,075,000 requested, P100,000 will be used for the settlement of the final account for the Upgrading of the State House project which was completed in August, 2009. The remaining balance will be used for the Conversion of the Old Serious Crime Squad Offices to provide accommodation for the BDF officers at the State House. This project should have been awarded for construction during the current financial year but due to the delays experienced, construction will only start in the 2010/2011 financial year.

Project 09122 –OP Computerisation- One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P1,500,000)

21. Madam Chairperson, the development of the Appeals Management System which commenced in April, 2008 was completed in September, 2009. The system is currently up and running and all the old files are being scanned into system. The new appeals are now being processed electronically. The development of the Disaster Management System which was planned for implementation during the 2009/2010 financial year has been deferred due to inadequacy of funding.

22. Madam Chairperson, for the 2010/2011 financial year, I request an amount of One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P1,500,000) for the procurement of computers for the new members of staff in the Office of the President and that of the Auditor General.

Project 09124- OP Consultancies-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy Nine Thousand Pula (P 3,979,000)

23. Madam Chairperson, an amount of Three Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy Nine Thousand Pula

(P 3,979,000) is requested under this project to continue initiatives that are meant to improve productivity in the Civil Service. Among the projects to be continued, is the Learning Organization (Systems Thinking) and Executive Leadership Coaching and Mentoring.

24. Madam Chairperson, as already indicated earlier, the Customer Satisfaction Survey which was planned for 2009/2010 financial year has been completed and the results have been communicated to the stakeholders. Regarding, the Restructuring of the Office of the Auditor General, a decision has been taken to do the project in-house and the Directorate of Public Service Management has been tasked to undertake the exercise.

#### DEPARTMENT 0203-DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Project 09127- Botswana Civil Service College (BCSC)- One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P1,500,000)

25. Madam Chairperson, The construction of the hostel, Kitchen and Dining Hall at the Botswana Institute of Administration and Commerce has been completed. However, the final account cannot be concluded during the 2009/2010 financial year because the certificate of making good defects cannot be issued due to some outstanding defects such as roof leakages. The contractor is still attending to the defects.

26. Madam Chairperson, the construction of the Auditorium, on the other hand, is now on-going after notice of termination was issued to the contractor by the implementing agency. The new contractor commenced the works in January, 2010 and is expected to complete the project by April, 2010. The procurement of furniture for the hostels has been completed.

27. Madam Chairperson, One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Pula (P1,500,000) is required to conclude the final account for the Auditorium and Hostel, Kitchen and Dining Hall.

Project 09138 -Development of DPSM- Four Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pula (P4,550,000)

28. Madam Chairperson, I request Four Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pula (P4,550,000) to continue the implementation of projects/programmes that are currently on-going. These projects include; the Establishment of Assessment and Development Centres (Succession Planning), Research and Labour Market Survey and the Part Time Employment Policy.

#### DEPARTMENT 0211: NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING AGENCY

Project 09134-HIV/AIDS Programme- Three Hundred Million Pula (P300,000,000)

29. Madam Chairperson, efforts to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic are continuing. The ARV Roll Out programme continues to make significant positive contributions to mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS. While every effort is being made to continue improving on the successes made within the ART and PMTCT programmes among others, other challenges continue to emerge.

30. Madam Chairperson, the number of lives that can be saved by the ART programme in future depends on current prevention efforts and the effect of such interventions on new infections. It is estimated that the number of new entrants into the ART programme will continue to increase for sometime before they begin to decline by 2016. The total number of those newly in need of ART in 2010 is estimated at 176 200 which is projected to increase to 220 500 by 2016. Additional resources will therefore be required to sustain current enrollees and new entrants. Given this scenario and the current global economic situation, the need to identify alternative and more sustainable sources of financing is now more urgent than ever before. We need to ensure that we utilize what we currently have optimally before looking to outside sources.

31. Madam Chairperson, it is in this connection that the Second Botswana National Strategic Framework For HIV and AIDS 2010-2016, which was launched on the 17th February 2010, identifies prevention of new HIV infections as top priority for the NDP 10 period. It is through prevention that the tap of new infections can eventually be closed off. The effects will, however, not be immediate meaning that the resource requirements will continue to increase for sometime before we register a decline. We need to maximize on cost efficiencies of all programmes. I therefore call upon the leadership at all levels to support prevention scale up to assist in turning the epidemic around.

32. Madam Chairperson, development funds will continue to be used for implementation of various national response programmes like home based care, orphan care, condom supplies, provision of Anti Retroviral Therapy, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission. Particular emphasis will be placed on scaling up prevention interventions to curb new infections. Issues of sustainability, allocative and technical efficiency of the various programmes will also be addressed.

33. Madam Chairperson, I therefore, request an amount of Three Hundred Million Pula (P300,000,000) to perform the above activities.

#### DEPARTMENT 0216- BROADCASTING SERVICES

Project 09642- Development of Department of Information and Broadcasting (DIB) - Fourteen Million, Three hundred Thousand Pula (P14,300,000)

34. Madam Chairperson, the Radio and Television terrestrial transmitter Expansion project is running far behind schedule. The delay was mainly attributed to completion of transmitter buildings and access roads to the sites that are on hill tops.

35. Madam Chairperson, to date, nine stations each consisting of Radio transmitters for RBI and RBII, and television transmitters have been installed and commissioned and are on air. These transmitters are in Mabule, Oliphant's Drift, Sojwe, Sesung, Gantsi, Tsootsha,

Ncojane, Werda, and Maun. However, Maun and Gantsi were upgraded to cover much wider areas.

36. Madam Chairperson, the installation at the remaining transmitter stations is in progress and it is planned that eighteen (18) transmitter sites will be operational by the end of this financial year. The overall project completion is about 91%. However, electrical power is expected to be available in New Xade and Matsitama through Rural Electrification project in May and June 2010 respectively and the two stations will only be switched on then.

37. Madam Chairperson, when completed, this project is expected to cover 95% of the population by both radio and television. In order to keep the transmitters On-Air all the time, new regional offices were established and engineers and technicians were posted to Tsabong, Gantsi, Maun, Kasane and Serowe. These were established to maintain the transmitters and ensure continuous service to the audience.

38. Madam Chairperson, I therefore request Fourteen Million, Three Hundred Thousand Pula (P14,300,000) to continue this project. Part of these funds will be used for procurement of furniture and equipment for the Lerala District Office which belongs to the Department of Broadcasting and Information Services.

#### DEPARTMENT 0217 - GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND PUBLISHING SERVICES

Project 09461-Printing Development - One Hundred and Eight Thousand Pula (P108,000)

39. Madam Chairperson, during the 2009/2010 financial year, the department of Government Printing and Publishing Services commissioned a Daily News Printing machine. The Department started printing 15 000 copies on the 1st April 2009. In July 2009, the number of copies printed was increased to 80 000.

40. Madam Chairperson, for the 2010/2011 financial year, I request One Hundred and Eight Thousand Pula (P108,000) to pay for the consultant who is on the ground training officers on the operation of the Daily News Printing Machine.

41. Madam Chairperson, this concludes my budget proposal for Head 0200 - State President. I therefore request that the sum of Four Hundred and Sixty-Two Million Two Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Pula (P462,274,250) for the Recurrent Budget and Three Hundred and Thirty One Million, and Twelve Thousand Pula (P331,012,000) for the Development budget be approved and stand part of the estimates for the 2010/2011 financial year. I move accordingly. Thank you.

B3) 22/2/10: Remarks by Minister, with further background, on today's seminar on Digital TV

Please find below the opening Remarks by the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, the Hon. Lesego Motsumi, which were delivered on her behalf by the (Permanent) Secretary for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Ms. Tick Pule, at today's seminar on Digital TV (as the Minister was required in Cabinet this morning)

The one day seminar has been co-sponsored by the Department of Broadcasting Services (DBS) and the Embassies of Japan and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

In addition to the Brazilian and Japanese Ambassadors, special guests who spoke at today's seminar included:

Mr. Mokgweetsi Masisi, Assistant Minister in the Office of the President, who in his remarks stressed the need for further global partnership in promoting research, development and technology transfer;

Mr. Shigeo Tani, Director-General of International Affairs in the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, who gave an overview of the advantages of Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting (ISDB-T) system adopted by Japan and Brazil;

Mr. Yshio Tachioka, Deputy Director General NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), who spoke on the technical features of ISDB-T;

Mr. Francelino Grando, the Secretary for Innovation, Brazilian Ministry of Development and Trade on Brazil's experience with ISDB-T; and

Mr. Ramaroka, Director of Department of ICT and media Services, Ministry of Education and Skills Development, who outlined the potential of digital television in enhancing interactive educational TV in the classroom.

The seminar was also attended by stakeholders drawn from the public and private sectors including BOCCIM, the National Broadcasting Board and Digital Migration Task Force, Botswana Telecommunications Authority, Office of the President and various Ministries as well as delegates from Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia and South African.

[Start of Minister's Remarks]

[Salutations]...Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. This gathering has been convened as a timely opportunity to explore possible modalities to prepare our country for the advent of global digital broadcasting.

2. The move to digital broadcasting has been described as its biggest transformation since the introduction of colour TV.

3. Digital broadcasting is the transmission of text, images, or sound via digital rather than analogue signals. This allows for much greater variety and flexibility in the forms of communication service a TV can perform.

4. Until recently watching television has been a passive experience for most consumers. But through digital technology TV can now provide such things as video on demand, interactive TV, over the air Internet access, and High Definition TV.

5. Elsewhere interactive TV already allows viewers to engage in such things as taking part in game and reality shows, ask their questions during talk or cooking shows, and call up purchase information regarding featured products.

6. Unlike analogue receivers, digital receivers can also easily operate in motion such as in a car or airplane.

7. In 1999, digital broadcast television was field tested around the world. Today many television programmes are already being created in digital format before being converted to analogue for transmission.

8. Digital broadcasting further allows between 5 and 6 television channels in the frequency spectrum space currently occupied by a single analogue channel.

9. Ladies and Gentlemen, various standards of digital broadcasting have been developed around the world. For purposes of coordination and cooperation, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) demarcated the world into three regions:

- Region One comprises Africa, Europe and the Middle East;
- Region Two is made of the Western Hemisphere or Americas; and
- Region Three consist of Asia and Oceania.

10. Currently digital video broadcasting standard being adopted in Region One is the Digital Video Broadcasting or "DVB" system, which has been developed through an alliance of manufacturers, broadcasters, government agencies, and research institutions, mostly in the European Union. It covers terrestrial (DVB-T), satellite (DBV-S), cable (DBV-C) and hand held (DVB-H) platforms. There are, however, other systems such as the Integrated Service Digital Broadcast System - ISDB-T - which is on this morning's agenda.

12. To ensure Botswana's compliance with emerging digital standards Government formed a Digital Migration Task Force whose terms of reference included exploring:

- Policy direction
- Licensing framework
- Local content development, and

- the Switch on date

13. Among the Task Force findings is that Botswana Television and Radio Botswana need to move forward on an urgent basis to ensure that their infrastructure is fully digitized and up to standard.

14. Here it may be noted that SADC region has set itself the goal of achieving digital compliance by 2013, while the Region One transition period for moving from analogue to digital broadcasting is 16th June 2015.

15. The end of the transition period means that transmitters operating on analogue frequencies would not be protected from interference of any kind, either from other broadcasting stations or other services unless there is mutual agreement between the two parties. International Telecommunication Union would not be in a position to intervene on member state's behalf.

16. It is in the context of this challenge the Government, through the Department of Broadcasting Services, has been exploring the possibility of establishing strategic partnerships to facilitate its acquisition the required infrastructure, which can be quite costly.

17. Today's workshop is a significant product of these ongoing efforts.

18. In this respect the Government of Botswana greatly appreciates the fact that the Governments of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Japan have here offered to share with us their own perspectives and expertise.

19. Let me here conclude by thanking the organizer of the important workshop, from the attendance I am sure your deliberations will be most fruitful.

B4) 17/2/10: Welcome Remarks by the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration Hon. Lesego Ethel Motsumi at the Launch of the Second National Strategic Framework For HIV & AIDS (NSFII) and the NACA Website

[Salutations]...Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. Good evening! Today marks yet another milestone in Botswana's fight against HIV and AIDS, as we launch its Second National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS for the period 2010-2016, or NSF II as we popularly refer to it, and the NACA website.

2. The new framework signals a new generation in public policy on HIV and AIDS, one that will take us further towards collectively addressing the key challenges of the epidemic well into the future. Aligned to the country's Vision 2016, and the tenth National Development Plan (NDP10), NSFII will serve as the country's roadmap for all stakeholders; that is be they national, regional or international. Such alignment to NDP 10 should be understood in the context of HIV and AIDS being treated as both a health and a developmental challenge and not just a health one.

3. This framework defines the nation's priority intervention areas. It is our rallying call for partners in the national response to align their efforts towards attainment of our ultimate goal - Zero New Infections by 2016. Leveraging on the experience accrued from the implementation of the first NSF, four priority intervention areas that will serve to focus and sharpen our response have emerged. This prioritization signals an important step in meeting the challenges of the epidemic through focussing resources and efforts in areas that are likely to yield maximum impact.

4. The process undertaken to arrive at these nationally agreed priority areas, is an example of how partnerships can mobilise national consensus on the key agenda for the response. And here it is important to reiterate our consensus, that prevention is our priority – that prevention is the first among equals. This is critical, particularly, in this era of scarce resources and unsustainably high infection rates. I, therefore, look forward to the implementation and evaluation of this framework.

5. Director of ceremony, we are all privy to the adage that knowledge is power, but knowledge must first be available, accessible and of quality. It is in this regard, that I am proud tonight that we are also launching the NACA website. Like all modern communication tools of today, we expect the website to be a reliable vehicle for communicating the national response to both the local and international communities. In today's world, websites are the face of organizations and thus we intend to use the site to brand, not only NACA, but also the national response, as guided by NSF II. I therefore encourage you to visit the site each time you open your computer. You will not be disappointed.

6. As I conclude my remarks, let me now take this moment to personally welcome a true friend of Botswana, the UNAIDS Executive Director, who is also the United Nations Under Secretary General, Mr Michel Sidibe. He is our guest of honour tonight. Sir, it is indeed an honour for us as a country to have you here to launch our roadmap for the next seven years. This launch will be remembered by all for a long time to come. This is history. We should all appreciate that the organisation that you head brings together the efforts and resources of all UN organisations under one joint programme - UNAIDS. My choice to have you launch this framework on behalf of all partners is therefore not accidental; it is strategic.

7. Sir, your presence here tonight epitomises the role of UNAIDS in support of our humble efforts in this fight. Indeed, I recall your predecessor, Peter Piot, visiting this country in 2003, and we can only be grateful that UNAIDS continues to appreciate that we are worthy their attention from time to time. Your presence especially during these difficult times of the global recession is appreciated.

8. Last but not least; I welcome all our partners tonight to this memorable event. I am proud that what we are launching is your product as partners. This is a product that speaks volumes on the functionality and the strength of our partnership. This is yet another sign of our solidarity, dedication and common purpose across the national response. Your selfless sacrifice to this cause cannot be underestimated. This is a partnership that must be nurtured to grow from strength to strength.

9. It is not my intention to speak longer than our Guest speaker, but as I conclude let me take this opportunity to thank and bid farewell to Mr Molomo, who will be retiring from Public Service at the end of this month. He joined Botswana Public Service some 32 years ago, but took the reins at NACA in October 2004 as its second National Coordinator. During his nearly five and half years at the helm of the National Response, Chris (as you affectionately call him) steered the ship, though sometimes the most turbulent times, when our people were perishing and the rise in new infections was not abating. As he retires, I believe he can look back with pride to the achievements we have made through his leadership. On behalf of Government, our valued partners and the people of Botswana, we wish him the best of luck in his new endeavours and hope that he will continue to provide his sterling guidance as and when he is called to do so.

10. I therefore warmly welcome all of us to this magnificent event – your evening. Please relax and enjoy. PULA!

B5) 22-24/2/10: Responses by the Hon. Minister for Presidential affairs and Public Administration to questions in Parliament

B5a) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 311 ASKED ON Wednesday 24th February 2010 BY Honourable T. G. Habano, MP (Ngami)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration;  
(i) how many senior public officers of "D" scale and above have been dismissed or made to retire from the Public Service in the year 2009; and  
(ii) what are the reasons for their dismissal and early retirements.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, (i) Thirty - Nine (39) Public officers at "D" scale and above were dismissed and retired from the Public Service in the year 2009.

Madam Speaker, (ii) The reasons for their dismissal and early retirements are as follows: 10 officers were dismissed on disciplinary grounds in accordance with Section 33 of the Public Service Act Cap: 26:01, whilst 29 were retired in line with section 15 (3) of the Public Service Act Cap 26:01 which gives the Appointing Authority the discretionary powers to retire an officer who has attained the age of 45 years, from the Public Service. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

B5b) QUESTION NO. 293 ASKED ON MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2010 BY HONOURABLE G. SALESHANDO MP (SELIBE PHIKWE WEST)

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

i. Whether research was carried out before the Public Service Management Directive No.2 of 2008 on Attraction and Retention Policy was implemented considering the mistakes that were made in the process of implementing the directive;

ii. The cost effectiveness of the exercise since implementation considering that new employees are registered as and when they are categorized as qualifying for the scarce skill allowance; iii. Whether Government has plans to carry out further research on the scarce skill in the country in order to determine if the skills initially categorized as scarce are still scarce; and iv. Whether Government had plans to implement other cost effective pay structures in the public service intended to benefit the entire public service and not just a few.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, before issuance and implementation of Public Service Management Directive No. 2 of 2008 on Attraction and Retention Policy, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) was engaged by Government in 2007 to conduct a study and advise Government on Attraction and Retention Policy. The recommendations from this study informed Public Service Management Directive No.2 of 2008 which introduced payment of scarce skills to identified cadres.

Madam Speaker, the exercise is cost effective because since implementation of the Directive there has been an overall decline in vacancy and attrition rate for posts that have been awarded scarce skills allowance.

Madam Speaker, Government has plans to undertake further research on the Scarce Skill to determine if the scarce skills initially categorized as scarce are still scarce.

Madam Speaker, Government has plans to implement other cost effective pay structures in the Public Service to benefit the entire public service. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

B5c) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 302 ASKED ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2010 BY MR A. S. KESUPILE, MP (KANYE SOUTH)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration if she is aware that people with severe and profound disabilities go through life with great difficulties placing a heavy burden of care on their families; if so what strategies are in place to assist their families and the disabled.

RESPONSE: Madam Speaker, I am aware that people with severe and profound disabilities go through life with great difficulties placing a heavy burden of care on their families. A number of programs are in place to assist people with disabilities and their families to cope. Amongst the key programs is the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Program administered by the Ministry of Local Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to promote integration and participation of people with disabilities in all social and economic spheres of their communities. There are other numerous programmes run by the various Ministries and Non-Governmental Organisations to assist people with disabilities in this regard. In my response to question 259 asked by the Honourable Member for Shoshong, I outlined the various programmes for the disabled in the different government ministries. I have attached the earlier response for your reference.

Madam Speaker, Government has found it necessary to establish the coordinating office for People with Disabilities under the Office of the President to improve the overall coordination of their programmes as well as provide strategic direction in the delivery of disability programmes. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

B5d) QUESTION NO. 303 ASKED ON Tuesday 23rd February 2010 BY Mr. B. Arone, MP. (Okavango)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration what the Government is doing about the Media Practitioners Act, which is receiving resistance from key stakeholders such as the media and the Law Society of Botswana.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, all Committees that are needed for the implementation of the Media Practitioners Act are in place save for the appointment of an appeals committee due to failure by the Law Society to recommend a Legal Practitioner to serve as the Committee's Chairperson as prescribed in the act. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

B6) 19/2/09: Statement by the Minister for Defence, Justice and Security at a Launch of Policing with the Community.

[Salutations]...Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It gives me great pleasure to be part of this important event in the history of our country's Community Policing programme. The launch of the Grand Palm "Policing with the Community" is an important milestone in the realization of the cluster policing concept which my Ministry introduced to curb crime in our communities.
2. Peermont's Grand Palm Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort in Gaborone has offered its support to the Government of Botswana's efforts to address challenges brought about by crime by donating two branded porta cabins for use in Blocks 5 and 6. The Porta cabins will help bring the services closer to the affected communities enabling the police to react effectively to calls for police assistance.
3. This initiative comes as an answer to my call for community assistance to the police in the fight against crime by forming policing clusters to deal directly with crime in the communities. The Porta Cabins, which will be manned by both members of the community and police officers, shall act as Satellite Police Stations to provide convenience in service delivery.
4. The Botswana Police Service will provide communication equipment and other office supplies and amenities. The Government sees this project as a value adding social responsibility venture aimed at contributing towards the upliftment of local communities within their surroundings. This is greatly appreciated.

5. The concept of community policing by cluster encourages local communities to identify crime that needs attention and together with the police develop efficient strategies to deal with them. Thank you to community leaders from Blocks 5 and 6 you have been very supportive of this project by securing land and other resources to ensure that it becomes a reality.

6. When I took office in April 2008 as the Minister for Defence, Justice and Security, I took it upon myself to pioneer policing concept called cluster policing. The idea was to re-enforce existing Community Policing efforts already pursued by the Botswana Police Service. I am glad to say the support by the business community has been humbling indeed. Our gathering this evening is a testimony of this support. For the police, this is in line with the organization's vision of providing a community style of policing that emphasizes community involvement as a central tenet. The project will empower local communities to play an active role in determining policing priorities in their areas.

7. We are delighted that Peermont's Grand Palm Hotel has responded generously to our call in the fight against crime, pioneering the number of businesses and other sections of the society which have answered the call for assistance. In this regard, I would like to express my sincere appreciation at the support rendered to my ministry by the Grand Palm Hotel.

8. My office would like to appeal to other members of the business community clusters, organizations associations and individuals to get involved in similar endeavours and support the drive towards building safer communities. We request all members of the communities especially the youth, to volunteer their time to serving in these community policing efforts at a given time of no less than six months.

9. We have been fund raising through our police officers on the roads, which money will be used for crime fighting in all its forms. We shall also be purchasing all our needs through the same fund to enable us to eradicate crime, like two way radios, torches to mention but a few. We shall also install solar lighting for powering these satellite police stations.

Ladies and gentlemen, the same fund will also cater for the remuneration of these volunteers I have already alluded to. I urge other business concerns to emulate the Grand Palm in joining hands with the community to eradicate crime amongst us, and in this way, create a better Botswana for all of us. Thank you.

B7) Responses by the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security to questions in Parliament 9-23/2/10

B7a) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 305 ASKED ON Tuesday 23rd February, 2010  
BY Mr. T. G. Habano MP (NGAMI)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security;

- i) How many people suspected of disrespecting the President by uttering words of insult have been charged;
- ii) How many were deported before or after being charged and convicted ; and
- iii) What were their nationalities

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, Since April 2008 to date, a total of thirteen (13) persons were charged for showing disrespect to His Excellency the President by uttering words of insult. Three (3) foreign nationals were deported.

Madam Speaker, The nationalities of the three (3) deported foreign nationals are one (1) Indian, one (1) Pakistani and one (1) South African. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

B7b) PARLIAMENTARY Question No. 228 asked on Thursday 11th February 2010 by Mr. E. J. Batshu, MP. (Nkange)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister for Defence, Justice and Security to inform this House on the following:

- i) The current approved establishment of Magistrates (approved posts) in Botswana; and
- ii) How many Magistrates are currently employed by Government and of that number, how many are expatriates.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker,

- i) The current approved establishment of magistrates' posts is sixty six (66).
- ii) The number of magistrates currently in post is forty nine (49). There are three (3) magistrates (all Botswana) who have accepted employment but are yet to report for duty. This will take the total number in post to fifty two (52). Out of the forty nine (49) magistrates in post fifteen (15) are expatriates.

B7c) QUESTION NO. 218 asked on Wednesday 10/2/10 by Mr. E.J Batshu (MP, Nkange)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister of Justice, Defence and Security to appraise the House on the number of cases held by the Botswana Police Service under the following categories:- The number of cattle which were smuggled into Zimbabwe in the Tutume policing area during the past 2 years; of the number at (i) above, how many were recovered, returned to Botswana and subsequently destroyed to curb the spread of foot and mouth disease; and how many cattle are currently held by the Zimbabwe authorities as exhibits and when, if known, the relevant cases will be completed so that the owners of these cattle can know the fate of their livestock

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, a total of sixty-one (61) cattle were smuggled into Zimbabwe in the Tutume policing area during the past two years. Thirty three (33) of the sixty –one (61) cattle smuggled were recovered and all were destroyed as a way of preventing the spread of foot and mouth disease. All the recovered stock was returned to Botswana and none are held as exhibits by the Zimbabwean authorities.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

B7d) QUESTION NO. 220 asked on Wednesday 10/2/10 by Mr. S. Tsogwane, MP. (Boteti North)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security whether Rakops Police Station is fully operational in terms of providing all the services intended; if not when will such services be provided.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, Rakops Police Station is fully operational and provides all policing services to people located in its policing area. There are units that are not insitu such as the anti stock theft unit and the CID unit. Stock theft unit services are performed by General Duty officers while CID services are sought from Orapa or Letlhakane. With time all units will be insitu with the improvement of the economic situation. I thank you Madam Speaker.

B7e) QUESTION NO. 217 asked on Tuesday 9/2/10 by Mr. E.J Batshu (MP, Nkange)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security to appraise the House on the number of cases held by the Botswana Police Service under the following categories:- Criminal and traffic offences pending of the number at (i) above, how many cases are pending before Magistrates Courts and how many are pending before Customary Courts.

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, as at 31st December 2009, a total of 57 217 and 50 434 criminal and traffic offences cases respectively were pending in our courts. Of the 57 217 criminal cases pending, 4 482 are registered before Magistrate Courts, whilst 1 025 are registered before the Customary Courts. Out of the 50 434 pending traffic offences cases, 1107 are registered before magistrate courts. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

B7f) QUESTION NO. 213 asked on Tuesday 9/2/10 by Mr. Edwin J. Batshu M.P (Nkange)

QUESTION: To ask the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security to state: The current establishment (approved posts) for Special Constables in the Botswana Police Service, the number of Special Constables currently employed by the Botswana Police Service, the number of Special Constables who have been absorbed into the Botswana Police Service since this constabulary was introduced in 2004 and whether there are Special Constables who have served for over 3 years; if so, when will they be absorbed into the Botswana Police Service (Permanent and Pensionable).

ANSWER: Madam Speaker, the current establishment (approved posts) for Special Constables in the Botswana Police Service is 2, 507. In addition, there is another group of 450 Special Constables employed under the Ipelegeng Programme , making a total of 2, 957 in the Special Constables Cadre. The number of Special Constables currently employed by the Botswana Police Service including those under Ipelegeng

Programme is 2, 957. However the figure fluctuates because of resignations and other factors. Since the introduction of Special Constables in 2004, a total of 658 Special Constables have been absorbed into the Botswana Police Service. Subject to availability of vacancies, Special Constables who possess the requisite qualifications will continue to be absorbed into the Botswana Police Service. There are Special Constables who have served for over 3 years in the Botswana Police Service. As already stated those that hold the requisite qualifications will, subject to the availability of posts, be enlisted into the regular membership of the Botswana Police Service. In the current enlistment exercise which started in January 2010, there are 170 Special Constables being processed for possible absorption into the Botswana Police Service. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

B8) 24/2/10: REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE FORMER PRESIDENT MR. FESTUS G. MOGAE AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT OF HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CARE WEBSITE

[Salutations]...Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening!

1. Allow me to start by thanking you for inviting me to launch such an important and modern facility with the intention of spreading information on HIV and AIDS, one of the greatest enemies of humankind.
2. You will all agree with me that the HIV/AIDS pandemic remains one of the greatest challenges the world has had to contend with. While we recognize that some inroads have been made toward ameliorating the human suffering brought by this scourge, we have to painfully accept that the cure for HIV and AIDS and its preventive vaccine are still remote. We are still faced with an epidemic that is claiming lives despite the wide availability of ARVs.
3. While health scientists are working around the clock to find a vaccine our efforts must, in the meantime, focus on the prevention of the spread of HIV and provision of support services for both the infected and affected. When I say our efforts I am not only referring to government but also to communities and individuals.
4. This is a challenge facing everybody and therefore calls for everybody to have concerted effort to reduce the spread HIV. We all have a crucial role to play and behaviour change is our greatest defense.
5. As you are all aware we have come a long way since the first HIV/AIDS case was diagnosed 25 years ago in Botswana in 1985. The Country, through committed leadership from all sectors, and support from international development partners, has made commendable strides in combating the epidemic through establishing programmes focusing on prevention and prolonging the life of people who would otherwise have succumbed to AIDS.

6. However, despite these strides we still face the major challenge of inadequate behaviour change. The irony of it all is that though there is high HIV/AIDS awareness in Botswana, behaviour change seems to be lagging behind. Some of the social ills identified as fueling the spread of HIV include Multiple Concurrent Sexual Partners, Sexual Abuse, Unsafe Sexual Practices and Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

7. These practices are a function of lack of individual responsibility, accountability and discipline. Individual responsibility, accountability and self-discipline are paramount in the prevention of this epidemic. This is the message that we must continue to preach to our people, particularly the youth who are the future of this nation.

8. Honourable Minister of Health and your staff, I commend you for the launching of the Department of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care website because this is a demonstration of the leadership that we need if we are to effectively spread information and knowledge about HIV and AIDS and the need for behaviour change.

9. The launching of your website provides us with the opportunity to inspire each other and to encourage meaningful participation and involvement of everybody including the general public. It also us of where we have come from, to think about and appreciate where we are, and to strategically plan as to where we are going.

10. One of the Pillars of our Vision 2016 is an Educated and Informed Nation, and the launching of this website is a contribution towards fulfilling this vision because you are empowering people with the necessary knowledge and information on available services using modern information and communication technologies.

11. The demonstration of the content of the various pages of the website reveals how relevant documents on HIV/AIDS can be accessed in the virtual library with ease by members of the public. It also engages people on issues that fuel the epidemic through discussion forums including giving information on services available to them and up-to-date HIV statistics.

12. What better way of dialoguing these issues head on but through a technology that can allow conversations to take place in real time; a technology that will tell a story of our people before the scourge and their courageous struggle; government commitment to save its nation from perishing; and partnerships involved in implementing various programs published in the website.

13. This highly interactive technology has unique features such as Face-book that engage the youth and provide a platform for conversations and feedback on current issues of national interest and is also linked to the HIV/AIDS call centre. The expectation is that as we are dialoguing on these issues, it will lead to better understanding of our epidemic and the need for behaviour change.

14. I am also informed that this website is hosted internationally for the purposes of high speed and accessibility even during times when our local networks are down.

15. Allow me to conclude by inviting everybody to visit this new website, [www.hiv.gov.bw](http://www.hiv.gov.bw), and join the information super highway at the click of a button.

16. Director of Ceremonies, with these few words I declare the Ministry of Health HIV/AIDS website officially launched. Enjoy the journey! I thank you for your attention.

## C. NOTICES & FORWARDING

### C1) 22/2/10: Press Release: Minister Seretse meets his counterpart in Zimbabwe

Gaborone, 22 February, 2010 – The Minister of Defence, Justice and Security Hon. Dikgakgamatso Ndelu Seretse is to lead Botswana delegation to the 26th Session of the Botswana/Zimbabwe Bilateral Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security scheduled for 22nd – 26th February 2010, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

The Honorable Minister's delegation comprises the Commander, Botswana Defence Force; Commissioner of Police; Director General, Directorate of Intelligence and Security and Senior Government officials.

The Joint Permanent Commission will discuss all matters relating to defence and security relations between the two countries.

Prior to the Commission meeting the Minister of Defence, Justice and Security Hon. Dikgakgamatso N. Seretse met his Zimbabwean counterparts, Hon. Emmerson Mnangagwa, Minister of Defence; Hon. P. Chinamasa, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs; Hon. S. Sekeremayi, Minister of National Security and the Minister of Home Affairs Hon. G. Mutsekwa and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency of Zimbabwe on the 18th February 2010 regarding the recent arrest and prosecution of three Botswana wildlife officers in Zimbabwe.

The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the smooth holding of the Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation (JPCC) on Defence and Security to be held in Victoria Falls from the 22nd to 26th February 2010. The Ministers felt obliged to clear the atmosphere and restore the relations between the two countries following the detention of three wildlife officers in Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe Ministers expressed their appreciation for the proactive approach to the issue taken by Minister Seretse, in calling for the meeting to discuss the issue and pave way for the upcoming JPCC. The Zimbabwe Ministers agreed that they will;

- reconsider the prohibited status imposed on the three wildlife officers;
- immediately release Botswana properties (vehicle and rifles) which the Zimbabwe authorities held as exhibits at the courts; and

- immediately withdraw the appeal against the three officers.

The meeting was held under a cordial atmosphere and the ministers agreed that the Joint Permanent Commission for Defence and Security should go ahead as planned to discuss all the matters affecting the relations between the two countries. The Ministers also pledged to revive the channels of communication that exist between the two countries for the smooth running of their affairs. Zimbabwe took the opportunity to raise concerns particularly with the relay station of Voice of America's Studio 7 in Botswana.

Honourable Seretse, was accompanied by the Ambassador of Botswana in Zimbabwe, H.E. Ms. Gladys Kokorwe and the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sasara C. George.

At the time of this Press Release the vehicle and rifles were back in Botswana.

#### C2) 19/2/10: PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The Permanent Secretary to the President, Mr. Eric Molale, is pleased to announce that:

1. Mrs. Festina Shale Bakwena has been appointed as the Director of the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM); and
2. Mr. Mabua Lesego Mabua has been promoted to become the new Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport and Communications.

#### C3) 17/2/10: PRESS RELEASE: PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM ON ROLE OF HUBS

A Public-Private sector Consultative Forum on the role of the Hubs in diversifying the economy was held on February 16 2010, at The Pavilion in Gaborone. The purpose of this forum was to formally introduce the six sectoral hubs that underpin the Botswana Excellence Strategy and forge their interaction with the private sector. These hubs are the Diamond hub, Innovation hub, Health hub, Agriculture hub, Transport hub and the Education hub. Amongst those present were, the President and CEO of BOCCIM respectively, Chairpersons of High Level Consultative Council (HLCC) private sector sectoral groups, Permanent Secretaries from relevant ministries, Hub Coordinators and other members of the private sector, with emphasis on financial institutions and asset managers. The Forum was arranged by the Business Division of the Government Implementation Coordination Office (GICO) in the Office of the President.

Director General of GICO, Mrs Grace Muzila gave the opening address, in which she highlighted issues raised and the bottlenecks identified at the previous forum. She also noted that at the previous forum held in October 2008, there was overwhelming interest expressed by the private sector to participate in project execution, but was hindered at that point as NDP 10 projects were still to be prioritised. Mrs Muzila went

on to explain that the Hubs have been established to promote economic diversification and sustainable growth in Botswana and that private sector participation in aiding the fulfilment of this mandate is paramount to their success. GICO would therefore facilitate this interaction between the two sectors, with the goal of building a relationship that would move both Botswana and the individual sectors forward.

Each hub made a presentation on its envisioned objectives, the progress and challenges experienced as well as the opportunities available for private sector participation. After each presentation there was a question and answer session in which private sector attendees were given the opportunity to seek clarification on various aspects of the presentations. Following the presentations, the private sectors' response was that they were pleased to have been alerted of opportunities to finance and invest in the various activities of these hubs. The overall response was very positive and the private sector showed interest in participating in the various hubs in different roles such as financing and project execution.

It was concluded that the forum will be held bi-annually during the months of February and August. In this respect GICO was to organise and host these forums. It was also decided that the individual Hubs would host their own sectoral presentations on a regular basis, in which they would liaise with private sector members within their specific sectors and provide them with updates.

In her closing remarks BOCCIM CEO Ms M. Machailo-Ellis called on the private sector to harness these opportunities presented by the various Hubs and also conceded that BOCCIM has a critical role to play in facilitating the interface between the private sector and government. Ms Machailo-Ellis further stressed the importance of private sector presence and participation, and urged it to show initiative.

#### C4) 12/2/10: Botswana disappointed in AFP report

With reference to the above, the Government of Botswana wishes to register its disappointment at your press agency's so-called news article of 11/2/10 entitled "President snubs Botswana bushmen: minority spokesman."

In this respect, we firstly wish to observe that although presented as an original piece of news coverage the content of the said article is in fact little more than a rewording of a 9/2/10 Press Release by a UK based advocacy group known as Survival International, which for some years now has been running its own media campaign against our country. As such both the tone and content your so-called news story makes a mockery of your agency's noble claim to provide accurate, balanced coverage in line with Article 2 of the AFP Fundamental Principles, as well as such other accepted instruments as the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) code.

We have further taken note of, and must dismiss with contempt, paragraph four of your so-called news article, which states: "A government spokesman could not be reached for comment."

Government information contacts for this and other issues have long been made available to you correspondents, and as has been the case on other occasion could have been reached had there been any good faith effort to do so.

In addition, prior to your publication, this Government issued its own press release on the matter, which was circulated to AFP among others. [Statement attached]

We also wish to note that this is not an isolated incident, but rather fits into a pattern of coverage by AFP on certain local issues.

In expressing our disappointment we are well aware and mindful of the AFP's generally renowned legacy and global reputation, which is sadly inconsistent with the lack of professional standards demonstrated in some, albeit not all, of the agency's reporting on our own country. We can only hope that this is not a reflection of the AFP allowing for the application of a less rigorous set of standards for its coverage of a relatively small African state than what would prevail elsewhere.

[Please find below copy of our previous 10/2/10 response on issue]

10/2/10: Press Statement: "New Xade meeting in keeping with Government's commitment to dialogue for delivery"

Below please find below Government's response to Press Release issued by Survival International (SI) yesterday entitled "'Bushmen angry at the president's empty meeting". We sadly note that the same SI press release was published verbatim as a news item in this morning's edition of the Mmegi newspaper without any attribution as to its source, much less good faith effort to seek appropriate comment and/or verification from ourselves as a concerned party. Unfortunately, this is not the first time that such a lapse has occurred.

[Start] Press Statement: "New Xade meeting in keeping with Government's commitment to dialogue for delivery"

Last Thursday (4/2/10) H.E. the President Seretse Khama Ian Khama met, listened and responded to the concerns of New Xade residents, who had assembled at their village Kgotla (traditional meeting place). Since assuming office President Khama, like his predecessors, has as a matter of routine convened and addressed many such gatherings around the country.

As individuals with even a passing knowledge of Botswana society and culture will know, Kgotla meetings are a key mechanism through which political leaders, government officials and other activists customarily consult with local communities on issues of public concern. A traditional hallmark of such gatherings is that any question may be asked and all opinions are welcome. Today this is true irrespective of an individual speaker's gender, class or ethnicity. The Kgotla is thus understood as an institutional expression of such indigenous core values as freedom of expression, mutual respect, and accountable leadership.

Given the above, it is unfortunate, if not surprising, that a certain London based organisation (Survival International), which presumptively claims to represent the interests of a segment of our multi-cultural society, has once more paraded its ignorance and contempt for local social norms, as well as the basic truth, in its latest concocted diatribe entitled "Bushmen angry at the president's empty meeting."

Insofar as Thursday's open meeting was covered by local journalists, interested citizens will already know that there was nothing exceptional about the gathering, in which residents including Mr. Roy Sesana of the First People of the Kalahari organisation, were given the opportunity to freely air their concerns.

According to a record of the discussions, Mr. Sesana's contribution included a plea to Government to assist members of his community with cattle fencing. Additional issues raised by Mr. Sesana and others at the meeting included worries about the effectiveness of local community development trust committees, delays in the implementation of community wildlife protection initiatives to better combat poaching, and the general need for more jobs especially among the village's educated youth, as well as call for greater security in the context of instances of vandalism against public property.

There were further calls for the local health public health clinic to be expanded and staffed with full-time, rather than rotating doctors, and the main gravel road linking the village to the national road network be bituminized.

At the New Xade meeting residents also commended Government for the ongoing upgrading of telecommunications services and village electrification.

In his responding remarks, H.E. the President thanked the community members for their varied contributions, assuring them that they would receive his administration's further attention. He also announced that the village would soon be assigned a full-time youth officer whose mandate would include seeking ways to generate employment opportunities.

A no time during the public meeting, however, was the issue of ongoing discussions between area representatives and Government over a final management plan for establishing community use zones in the adjacent Central Kgalagadi Game Reserve raised, much less cut-off as has been falsely alleged. What was communicated is that consultations in the matter with the affected communities are still ongoing and that the implementation of a final plan would require stakeholders in the affected communities to come together in administering the proposed community based resource trusts.

Organisations such as Survival International, who seem intent on tarnishing the good name of Botswana, shall not succeed in distracting this Government from focusing on its mandate to deliver quality services to our people in consultation with them.

C5) 11/2/10: UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibe, to Visit Botswana

Gaborone/Botswana, 12 February 2010 – UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibe will pay a two day official visit to Botswana February 17-18th.2010

The Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the UN Under Secretary General, Mr Michel Sidibe, will pay a two day official visit to Botswana February 17 – 18, 2010. This is his first visit since he became the head of UNAIDS in January 2009.

Mr Sidibe is coming to Botswana to gain better understanding and appreciation on the outstanding progress that Botswana has made in the response to HIV and AIDS and to explore areas for strengthened collaboration with the Government of Botswana and other partners. During the two day visit, he will meet with High Level Political Leaders, Senior Government Officials, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and the Media to exchange views on strategies to accelerate efforts to curb new HIV infections and mitigate the impacts of the epidemic as well as to ensure the sustainability of financing for the HIV response.

Highlights of the Executive Director's visit will include a tour of a Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Clinic and the Kgothatso House, a community based HIV programme based at Gaborone West Phase I.

Mr Sidibe, believes that for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support to be achieved, the following bold actions must taken:

- Reduce sexual transmission of HIV
- Prevent mothers from dying and babies from becoming infected with HIV
- Ensure that people living with HIV receive treatment
- Prevent people living with HIV from dying of tuberculosis
- Protect drug users from becoming infected with HIV
- Remove punitive laws, policies, practices, stigma and discrimination
- Stop violence against women and girls
- Empower young people to protect themselves from HIV
- Enhance Social Protection for people affected by HIV

The Executive Director is convinced that with acceleration of HIV prevention, Africa can enter a new era—where fewer people are becoming infected with HIV than going on treatment. "When this happens we will have broken the trajectory of the epidemic," he said in a recent speech.

Mr Sidibé has been at the helm of UNAIDS since 1 January 2009 Before joining UNAIDS, Mr Sidibé spent more than 25 years in public service. He began his career in global health and development when he became concerned with the health and welfare of the nomadic Tuareg people in the Timbuktu region of his native Mali..

In 1987, Mr Sidibé joined UNICEF in the Democratic Republic of Congo where he worked for 14 years at UNICEF overseeing programmes across ten francophone countries in Africa. He also served as UNICEF Country Representative in several African countries including Swaziland, Burundi, and Uganda. Mr Sidibé became the Director of Country and Regional support department for UNAIDS in 2001. In 2007,

he was appointed as UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director of Programmes and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mr Sidibé has two Post-Master's Diplomas in Social Planning, Demography and Development and Political Economy from the University of Clermont. He also holds a Master's degree in economics. In 2007, he was awarded an honorary professorship at Stellenbosch University of South Africa. Born in 1952, Mr Sidibé is a citizen of Mali. He is fluent in English and French. He also speaks several African languages including Bambara, Mandingo, and Dioula. He is married and has four children.

UNAIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, is the main advocate for global action on the epidemic. Started in 1996, it leads, strengthens and supports an expanded response aimed at preventing transmission of HIV, providing care and support, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV, and alleviating the impact of the epidemic.

C6) 8/2/10: Press Statement by the Director General of the Directorate of Intelligence and Security in Response to False Allegations in the Media

As an organ of Government existing within a democratic framework , whose operations are, moreover, strictly regulated and held accountable by an Act of Parliament, the Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) accepts, indeed welcomes the fact that our activities are not above criticism. We are, however, concerned, that certain misguided elements within our community seem to have made it a habit to slander our organisation with a constant stream of unsubstantiated allegations and innuendos. In this respect, the DIS has been repeatedly and falsely accused of such heinous activities as extra judicial killings, torture, and spying on political activists, e.g. most recently, carrying out surveillance on some Botswana Democratic Party members.

In the interest of accountability to the public we were established to serve, the DIS finds it appropriate to once more set the record straight. We are well and sadly aware of the "sources" of some of the innuendos and falsehoods that have been levelled against the Directorate. It is our perception that in many cases our accusers have been motivated by their own partisan or personal agendas. Such elements threaten to compromise the wider public stake in our activities for their own selfish interests.

We are especially disappointed that a section of the media has become the ever willing conduits of anonymous mischief-making through their readiness to routinely publish the unwarranted attacks of such individuals in the absence of even the most rudimentary efforts to establish their veracity or question their possible motives. To overcome this gap we have endeavoured to reach out to members of the media where we could with, unfortunately, heretofore, very little reciprocity.

As we have noted on prior occasions, in terms of section 5 of the Intelligence and Security Service Act, 2007, the Directorate was established for a purpose, which purpose the Directorate executes. From the mandate, the primary function of the

Directorate is to detect and identify any threat or potential threat to National Security, advising the President and the Government of any threat or potential threat to National Security as well as taking steps to protect the security interest of the country. The operations of the Directorate are focused at achieving this mandate. Our fellow citizens may be reassured that the Directorate has never been involved in extra judicial killings. We have, moreover, never abducted nor tortured any person for whatever reason.

We have not and shall not unlawfully intercept any telephone transmissions. We also take this opportunity to once more remind the public that according to Subsection (2) of section 5 of our Act the Directorate is legally barred from allowing itself to be influenced by considerations not relevant to the discharge of its mandate. The section also provides that in carrying out its duties, the Directorate shall not perform acts that could give rise to any reasonable suspicion that the Directorate is concerned with furthering among other things, interests of any political party or other organization or part thereof. In this the Directorate has followed and maintained the full letter of the law. The Directorate, in performing its functions has always maintained a professional apolitical position.

Further to the above we take this opportunity to specifically dismiss with contempt an article in the (4/2/10) edition of the Mmegi Newspaper headlined "Khama using DIS to purge BDP operatives?" As public servants we resent being dragged into other people's political point scoring. We further question the professional credibility of articles which themselves invariably begin with question marks, which clearly betray their authors and publishers own lack of certainty. We suspect that in the fullness of time, the general law-abiding citizens will come to share our weariness of unsubstantiated allegations emanating from anonymous misfits.

Some of these misfits are spreading these malicious and untrue statements to divert attention from their own undesirable activities. These individuals should realize that the course of justice cannot be sidetracked by such distractions. Finally the Directorate wishes to once more reiterate that we welcome and appreciate all forms of genuine criticism.

#### C7) Communiqué of SADC Summit Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation

1. Summit of the Troika of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was held in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho, from 21 to 22 February 2010.
2. Summit was chaired by His Excellency Armando Emílio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique and the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.
3. Summit was attended by the following Heads of State and Government or their representatives:

Mozambique - H E President Armando Emilío Guebuza  
Swaziland - His Majesty King Mswati III  
Zambia - Hon. Dr Kalombo Mwanza, Minister of Defence.

4. Summit was also attended by the Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Tomaz Augusto Salomão.

5. Summit paid courtesy calls to His Majesty King Letsie III, and the Right Honourable Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili.

6. Summit held consultations with the following stakeholders:

- (i) Independent Electoral Commission (IEC);
- (ii) Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL);
- (iii) The Opposition Political Parties; and
- (iv) The Government and the Ruling Party Representatives.

7. During these consultations, the Organ Summit Troika emphasized the need for the Basotho people themselves to come up with a lasting solution for the challenges faced by the country using the dialogue to overcome them, however difficult they may be, which requires tolerance and openness.

8. Summit Troika also emphasized that, in this process, peace and political stability have to prevail while addressing the challenges.

9. SADC and its institutions will be available to support the Basotho in finding a lasting solution to the problems they are facing.

10. Taking into consideration the time left from now up to the holding of the next general elections and what remains to be done, the way forward should be as follows:

10.1 SADC reiterates its support to the Christian Council of Lesotho in its role as the mediator in the post-electoral political dialogue;

10.2 SADC will appoint, with immediate effect, a Team of Facilitators to assist the Christian Council of Lesotho in this mediation to provide technical support and to facilitate the communication with the relevant SADC structures;

10.3 SADC will also assist in mobilizing financial resources to support the process.

11. The Christian Council of Lesotho, assisted by the SADC Team of Facilitators, will bring together the stakeholders to agree, through an all inclusive and participatory process, on a Roadmap comprising the following issues:

- (a) List of major contentious issues and how to handle them, including, among others, the allocation of responsibilities for what to be done among the different stakeholders;
- (b) Timeframe to review the Constitution; and
- (c) Timeframe to review the Electoral Law.

12. The Roadmap shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation by end of March 2010 and will form the basis for the monitoring of the progress achieved in the post-electoral political dialogue.

13. Summit Troika calls upon all stakeholders to the post-electoral political dialogue to ensure their availability and full participation in the process leading to finding a lasting solution to the challenges facing the country, placing the interests of the Basotho nation at heart.

14. Summit Troika will remain seized with the ongoing political dialogue in the country.

15. Summit Troika expressed gratitude to the people and the Government of Lesotho for the warm welcome and hospitality during its stay in the country. The Summit also thanked all the stakeholders for their cooperation in the process of consultations.

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 plain text format WITHOUT ANY ATTACHMENTS.