

Telephone: (267) 3950800  
Telegrams: PULA  
Telex: (267) 3956364



Ministry for State President,  
Defence and Security  
Private Bag 001  
Gaborone

REF: BGCIS 9/9/2 II (16)

11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **UPDATE ON INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES PROGRAMME AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE POLICY**

The Government of Botswana wishes to update the public on the Indigenous Languages News Initiative, currently being implemented across Botswana Television (BTV) and Radio Botswana.

Launched in phases in 2025, the initiative promotes linguistics diversity, cultural inclusion and ensures equitable access to public information. Following the successful introduction of the first group of indigenous language news bulletins, Government has proceeded with the second phase, which involves the introduction of additional languages and the continued strengthening of translation, editorial and broadcast capacity.

As part of the process, based on assessments by independent linguistic experts, certain languages require further technical work, particularly in relation to orthography, standardisation, and the availability of trained language practitioners capable of producing broadcast-quality content.

In light of these findings, Government has taken the decision to temporarily pause the introduction of additional languages, to allow for further consultation with language experts, cultural leaders and concerned communities to ensure a linguistically and technically sound, and sustainable implementation. This decision does not signal any retreat from our commitment to indigenous languages. Rather, it reflects a responsible approach to ensuring credible, long-term multilingual broadcasting.

In parallel, Government has initiated development of a comprehensive National Language Policy, which will guide indigenous languages use across the public sector, including broadcasting, education and public communication. Lessons from this initiative will inform the broader policy framework.

Government remains committed to strengthening indigenous language broadcasting and ensuring that all communities are appropriately represented in national media platforms. Further updates will follow as the review and policy development progress.

Thank you.

**Tduetso Mokgosi**

DPS - Government Communications

Ministry for State President, Defence and Security

**Tel:** (+267) 3950800

**Email:** [op-pr-office@gov.bw](mailto:op-pr-office@gov.bw)