Government service delivery footpath

- EFFICIENCY
- EFFECTIVENESS
- FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

GABORONE - After Parliament released a total development budget of P12.93 billion for the 2015/2016 financial year, Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Kenneth Matambo, emphasised the need to continuously strive for a balance between economic and social investment decisions. Above all, he said, there was need to ensure value-for-money throughout project and programmes implementation process. Thus, Efficiency, effectiveness and financial discipline guiding principles in implementing programmes, projects for 2015/16 financial year.

The budget is intended to address key priority areas of human capital, fight against HIV/AIDS including elimination of Mother to Child Transmission, poverty eradication, provision of water and power, employment creation as well as maintenance of existing infrastructure.

The Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources (MMEWR) has been allocated the largest share of the development budget which is P3.32 billion or 25.7 per cent of the budget to allow government to continue to address the water and power issues facing the country by putting in place appropriate infrastructure.

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Ombudsman office extends access to services

GABORONE: Access to services the Office of the Ombudsman offers, has over the years been a challenge to many Batswana as the office is located only in Gaborone and Francistown.

That made it difficult for people in outer areas to visit it even when they had issues to complain about, which resulted in service delivery concerns undressed. Batswana will now enjoy services of the Office of the Ombudsman after refurbishment of the Maun branch office at a cost of P4.5 million allocated this financial year. The office was to establish two new offices in Maun and Tsabong, to expand access to its services to these areas. Recruitment of key positions for Maun and Tsabong offices is almost complete. However, the search for suitable office space in Tsabong is still ongoing with the hope that the office will be operational during this financial year. BOPA

Efforts are continuing to explore market accessibility for poverty eradication beneficiaries products both within government and private sector.

Poverty Eradication Programme has been allocated P160 million for its continuation this financial year. Funds will be used for initiatives such as implementation of alternative packages, training workshops, completion of the agro-processing and packaging plant and establishment of incubation centres for alternative packages as well as provision of decent housing for poor families.

As a continuous exercise, government will explore market accessibility for products from beneficiaries, both within government and the private sector. With a view to promoting marketability of products, government has established an Agro processing and packaging plant, in the Selebi-Phikwe region, under the auspices of the SPEDU programme.

Office of the President facilities will get P70.8 million out of which P70 million will refurbish Orapa House to make it suitable for use as office space while the remaining P800 000 will cover construction of airboat shelters for the National Disasters Management Office in Gaborone and Francistown.

The Directorate of Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) is to provide residential accommodation for staff at a cost of P6 million, upgrade the Case Management System at P500 000 and spend P1.9 million on technical works project.

Directorate of Intelligence and Security Services received over P244 million to undertake various development projects which include upgrading communications and security equipment, infrastructure and acquiring of vehicles critical for the department to effectively carry out its mandate.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities will provide government services online, develop an e-Government programme management to drive the e-Government programme and also develop the Government Integrated Data Centre (GIDC) to host all e-government systems and hardware for safe keeping of government data. This is intended to make delivery of services more efficient. BOPA
Ear tag system undergoes upgrade

Minister Mabeo projects this financially year. System (BAITS) as part of major Animal Identification and Traceability Back System (LITS) to the Botswana the Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS) as part of major projects this financially year.

MTC takes road network challenges head on

The ministry, which has been allocated over P1 billion under its development budget to complete ongoing projects this financial year, will also furnish the Plant Quarantine Laboratory structures at Sebele. The Department of Crop Production has been allocated P730 million for agricultural support programmes such as Integrated Support Programme for Arable Agricultural Development (ISPAAD), Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) as well as Agricultural Services Support Project (ASSP).

One of government initiatives is to help farmers breed smallstock.

MoA funds research programmes, staff houses

GABORONE - Ministry of Agriculture will spend P18 million to fund activities under the National Food Technology Research Centre (NFTRC) which include procurement of equipment and running costs for the projects. Part of the funds will be used to construct employees’ housing at various agricultural research ranches.

The ministry, however, is in the process of merging NFTRC, Department of Agricultural Research and the National Veterinary Laboratory. These will be hosted under one company, which has already been registered under the name National Agricultural Research and Development Institute (NARDI). Company directors are yet to be appointed.

Meanwhile, Department of Veterinary Services will use P13 million under the Animal Disease Emergency Control programme to construct and maintain cordon fences.

MTC takes road network challenges head on

The bulk of the P1.8 billion development budget for the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) will be spent on major roads projects this financial year to enhance traffic flow.

The road links the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Thebeopalwa Air Base west of Molepolole. The project is part of the ministry’s roads resalve maintenance programme.

The ministry will also spend P504 million on bitumen and trunk roads improvements. Through the resalve maintenance programme, the ministry is targeting to improve national road network maintenance and upkeep.

Other road resalve works under the resalve maintenance programme include Serule-Tonota, Sabina-Tutume and Khumaga-Motopi roads.

Sir Seretse Khama International Airport

Upgrading of Tonota/Francistown Road to dual carriageway will help improve movement of traffic along the A1 Road.
Government strengthens defence capability

GABORONE: The Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security has budgeted over P1 billion for the Botswana Defence Force ongoing projects and maintenance of infrastructure. The bulk of the budget will cover aircraft, vehicles, communications and defence equipment.

Botswana Police Service, which has been allocated P149 million will undertake development activities which will cover police facilities projects. The funds will go towards construction of staff houses, police posts and payment of final accounts for the Mahalapye and Palapye police stations.

An additional P45 million will fund upgrading of smart zone system, global surveillance and monitoring cellular system and introduction of incident management system.

Out of the P32 million allocated to the Department of Prisons and Rehabilitation, P10 million will fund prisons computerisation while the remaining P22 million will cover prisons facilities.

The funds will be used mainly for the completion of networking of prison facilities, roll out of Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) in prisons which will be interfaced with other security agencies and implementation of cellphone jammers at prisons and related procurement of supporting computers and software.

Construction of the border fence which entails border affirmation and marking of beacons on the remaining portions of the country’s borders with neighbouring countries will cost government P21 million.

The budget will cover aircraft, vehicles, communications and defence equipment.

The amount will also be utilised to complete development of an Automated End to End Solution for the Dukwi Refugee Management System. The system will capture demographic and biometric data which are necessary in the production of identity cards for refugees and asylum seekers, as well as management of refugees within the camp.

Legal Aid Botswana independent

GABORONE: The now independent Legal Aid Botswana has received a financial boost of P27.3 million to expand its capacity by buying new vehicles and paying staff salaries.

This will also enable the independent public entity to continue rendering services to its clients on various land matters and family law problems.

Of the 10 576 clients they had already assisted, 34 per cent was assisted in land matters while 32 per cent sought assistance in relation to family law issues among them divorce, maintenance, domestic violence and custody.

Legal Aid Botswana, a project under Attorney General’s Chambers, will this year spend over P27.3 million in expanding its capacity by, among others, buying new vehicles and paying staff salaries.

Following the adoption of the Legal Aid Act in January this year, Legal Aid Botswana immediately became independent.

The Doing Business Reform initiative will get a share of P1 million of the AG’s Chambers’ P33.3 million development budget to support the National Doing Business Committee activities in terms of legal reforms to facilitate ease of doing business in Botswana.

The Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) office in Gaborone will close accounts for infrastructural development at a cost of P5 million.

Government service delivery footprint

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Among major projects to be funded under MMER are: North-South Water Carrier II at P500 million; Kanye and Molepolole connection to the North-South Water Carrier at P150 million; Mahalapye and Palapye Water Network extension at P100 million and Maun Water and Sanitation at P89 million.

Projects aimed at improving the power situation include: Morupule A refurbishment at P100 million; electrification of villages at P100 million; North West Power Transmission Grid at P50 million; Rakola Power Substation at P50 million and ZIZABONA regional power project at P33 million.

Botswana Power Corporation has also been allocated P1.5 billion to cover tariff subsidy and some operational expenses. A total of P150 million has been allocated for construction of an Oil Storage facility at Tshele Hills in Kgatleng District to address various energy needs in the country.

Among projects to be implemented are high impact mega projects that include the Zambezi Integrated Agro-Commercial Development project and upgrading of ICT infrastructure to optic fibre. The projects are aimed at creating a conducive environment for private sector development, which is the source of growth and employment creation in the country. Other projects include poverty eradication under the Ministry of State President, construction of unified schools and additional houses for teachers by the Ministry of Education and Skills Development.

The Ministry of Health will construct staff houses for nurses. Maintenance of buildings is also ongoing as well as that of equipment including computers systems and vehicles in various ministries.

However, Minister Matambo indicated that despite the positive domestic economic outlook for this financial year, there was need to continue with prudent resource management given continued uncertainty over the recovery of the global economy.

He said expenditure management and control should remain a priority, if fiscal policy was to continue to be supportive of a stable macro-economic environment, which was necessary for growth and economic diversification.

He further said an improved budgetary situation was expected for this financial year owing to the positive domestic economic performance with a moderate surplus projected for the year.
MEWT makes efforts to mitigate livestock, property loss

Minister Khama

GABORONE: Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT) is making efforts to mitigate livestock and property losses due to wildlife.

The ministry will also establish a national assessment programme and develop an education and training strategic plan (ETSSP).

Overall, P844.6 million will be spent under the development budget this financial year on ongoing and new projects.

The ministry headquarters will spend P127.9 million on computer equipment, networking and developing an education information system. Part of the funds will also be used to expand fleet for brigades.

Ongoing projects which include development of credit and qualifications framework, curriculum review, development of post literacy skills programme, Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) alignment to BQA and Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) will also be covered under these funds.

The Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET) will refurbish brigades with P10 million.

Out of the amount, P5 million will finance completion of ongoing maintenance while the remaining P5 million will be used for new brigades maintenance projects.

Meanwhile, the Department of Secondary Education will use P706.7 million to fund ongoing projects which include construction of two Unified Secondary Schools at Tsabong and Mahupu. Funds will also cover construction of staff houses and maintenance of junior secondary schools.

BOPA

Kasane-Kazungula sewage construction ends this year

GABORONE: Construction of the Kasane-Kazungula sewage scheme which started in March 2012 is expected to be completed this financial year. The Department of Waste Management and Pollution Control will spend P208 million on programme implementation.

Funds will also cover the National Rural Sanitation programme which will require P200 million.

The department will also use P1 million on the Gaborone sewerage infrastructure project and P7 million on development of Waste Policy and Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Act as well as upgrading of air quality monitoring stations.

BOPA

MoESD, BQA develop culturally sensitive psychometric tests

Minister Dow

GABORONE: Ministry of Education and Skills Development through Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) will develop culturally sensitive psychometric tests to inform career choices for learners.

The ministry will also establish a national assessment programme and develop an education and training strategic plan (ETSSP).

Overall, P844.6 million will be spent under the development budget this financial year on ongoing and new projects.

The ministry’s development budget of P90.5 million will be forwarded to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks. Programmes to be funded under the allocations include the human wildlife co-existence projects which will cost P5 million.

Among its objectives, the project seeks to encourage communities to consider alternative means of income such as venturing into tourism. As such, Chobe, Seronga and Boteti communities have been trained in different tourism specialities.

That has resulted in permanent employment of 67 out of 103 trainees thus far.

The DWNP will also spend P4 million to construct staff houses at Sedudu, P2 million on management plans for protected areas and also P79.5 million on its law enforcement project.

BOPA

P8m for museum galleries and reception facilities

GABORONE: The Department of National Museum and Monuments is to spend P8 million on galleries and reception facilities project.

In addition, two visitor facilities are complete and were officially opened in Mogonye and Gcwihaba. Work is ongoing at Domboshaba and Kolobeng for new visitor facilities.

However, the second phase of the monuments projects starts this year.

Heritage trails have been completed for southern Botswana, Gaborone, Francistown, Makgadikgadi and south Sua. Work is ongoing on the KAZA and Ntwetwe trails. An ivory statue to be erected at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport is at final stage.

It will showcase wildlife resources that Botswana conserves for humanity as a whole.

BOPA

Students doing practical work

Minister Dow

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BOPA

Sewage Plant in Gaborone

Government is making concerted efforts to reduce human/wildlife conflict.
Health ministry projects take off

**GABORONE:** Ministry of Health projects will finally take off this financial year and an allocation of over P203.8 million caters for implementation.

Under its computerisation project, the ministry continues to roll out the Integrated Patient Management System (IPMS) to remaining hospitals which include Hukuntsi and Tsabong. P13.3 million has been allocated to the project to complete the roll-out this financial year. The system has already gone live at Sbrana Psychiatric, Sefhare, Letlhakane, Masunga, Tutume and Bamalete Lutheran hospitals. Networking and cabling of the targeted 110 clinics is complete. This year, IPMS will be rolled out to 20 clinics with networking and cabling of another 110 clinics.

The ministry will improve health facilities at a cost of P123.8 million. Rakops theatre construction is at 95 per cent, with few electrical fittings including associated mechanical works pending completion. Tender for construction of Shakawe hospital staff housing and advance civil engineering works has been awarded and a contractor was commissioned in January. Construction was expected to start in March this year with an estimated duration of one year.

The ministry is also looking into developing quality information management system to facilitate streamlining and management of all quality improvement and monitoring of compliance to health care standards.

**Gaborone IHS staff housing to be completed**

Gaborone IHS staff housing which was delayed in the past financial year pending resolution of disputed issues between the Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology and the contractor, will now be completed at a cost of P2 million.

A dispute adjudication board made final settlement in August last year. DBES is currently in consultation with PPADB to engage a contractor to complete the remaining works.

**Health facilities connect to national grid**

The Ministry of Health plans to get all facilities within the national grid connected this financial year.

All facilities in the southern part which fall within the national grid have been assessed for power connection and assessment is ongoing in other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, Kachikau clinic phase 2 construction started in April this year after evaluation of tenders.

Construction of staff houses in various districts had delayed owing to the ministry exploring implementation modalities within the industry. Thus, three local authorities have pledged their support in the construction of some staff houses.

**Lands ministry embarks on land servicing programme**

**GABORONE:** Servicing of land is expected to draw P428 million from government coffers this financial year.

The money will be spent on continuing infrastructure developments in Palapye Extension 11, Metsimothlabe Block 4 as well as in design and construction of a special economic zone in Gaborone.

About 3 330 plots are expected from Extension 11 in Palapye and land servicing should be complete by mid-2016.

Construction of Metsimothlabe Block 4 infrastructure which was estimated to produce 1 960 plots was halted on account of pending litigation. The matter has since been remitted to Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board for a decision to be made. Land servicing at Sowa infrastructure project, SHHA Block 3 together with upgrading of drainage system are expected to be complete by the end of this financial year.

Reticulation of high and low voltage power is expected to be completed this financial year in Gaborone Block 8, Tsholofelo Extension, Lobatse airstrip and plantations as well as in Mekoro in Selebi-Phikwe.

Low Income Housing Programme has been allocated P244.7 million for SHHA home improvement loans for about 500 beneficiaries, 1000 SHHA turnkey projects as well as implementation of four new poverty alleviation and housing projects.

Part of the funds will also be used for the housing scheme for public officers of D4 salary scale and below.

Government has also committed P400 million under the Public Debt Service Fund (PDSF) loan for Installment Purchase Scheme and Youth Housing implementation.

In all, the ministry has budgeted a total of P893 million for implementation of continuing infrastructure developments and low income housing programme.
More houses on cards for destitute people

The remaining 152 housing units are at different stages of construction countrywide. The houses are carryovers and were an allocation for the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years. The 242 houses allocated for construction in the 2014/15 financial year were at various stages of implementation. All houses, including backlogs, are expected to be completed during this financial year.

Efforts underway to clear primary schools backlog

In an effort to clear the primary schools backlog eradication programme, the ministry will undertake several projects amongst them, construction of 77 classrooms, 216 toilets and 101 teachers’ houses.

In addition, the ministry will continue implementing ongoing projects, which include construction of 77 classrooms, 456 toilet blocks and 316 teachers’ houses.

Government also continues to undertake pre-primary activities and currently reception classes are ongoing in 115 schools.

Infrastructure maintenance makes Gaborone clean city

About P15 million has been secured to turn Gaborone into a Diamond City by embarking on an aggressive project that will include maintenance of roads, traffic lights, streetlights and general cleanliness of the city this financial year.

Meanwhile, some ongoing projects that will be funded under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development are construction of Bobonong and Letlhakeng internal roads as well as construction of Molepolole bus rank.

The completed Palapye Bus and Taxi Rank got P13 million while under the Rural and Urban Sanitation Programme, Gamodubu regional landfill in Kweneng as well as construction of inner lining for Selebi-Phikwe landfill received P12.5 million.

The budget’s remaining P1.5 million will be shared by the Remote Area Development Programme, consultancies and customary courts programmes.

Ipelegeng programme cushions Batswana

Government through the Ipelegeng programme continues to complement other ministries’ efforts by undertaking minor construction and maintenance of infrastructure.

This programme, whose main objective is to cushion Batswana against the effects of unfavourable economic conditions has been allocated P635 million, the lion’s share of the ministry’s budget this financial year.

Under this programme, the ministry expects to create 62 191 short term employment opportunities on a monthly basis.

Minister Tsogwane

GABORONE – Government will build 400 houses at a cost of P45 million for destitute people during the 2015/16 financial year.

The houses are part of government’s effort to provide decent shelter for the less privileged.

The ministry will construct 200 houses for destitute people countrywide and another 200 in the seven remote area communities’ districts.

In the ministry’s continued efforts towards ensuring that the less privileged are provided with shelter, 287 houses were completed out of a backlog of 439 housing units under the countrywide destitute housing programme in the previous year.

BOPA
Funding for these projects will come from the over P3.316 billion development budget of the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources (MMEWR). The exercise to expand the number of villages connected with electricity is government’s effort to ensure that more Batswana have access to electricity so that they can improve their social and economic wellbeing.

By the end of the 2014/15 financial year, 378 out of 492 villages in Botswana had been connected to the electricity supply grid. The minister, Mr Kitso Mokaila, said the national access to electricity had risen from 63 per cent in December, 2011 to 70 per cent this year. Government’s target is for 80 per cent of Batswana to have access to electricity by 2016. To achieve this, government aims to carry out extension of electricity distribution networks in 24 villages already connected with electricity.

Some of these villages are Molepolole, Mogoditshane, Gakuto, and Lemotswele in Kweneng District, Palapye, Shoshong, Mmashoro, and Paje in the Central District.

Others are Bokaa, Modipane, Oodi, Rasesa, and Mochudi in the Kgotleng District, Nkhatlhile and Molapowabojang in the Southern District, as well as Ramotswa, Gungwe, Kang, Maun, Tati Sideng, Tlokweng, Borolong, Hukuntsi and Zwenshambe. Still under renewable energy and power development, which received P112 million, government will establish water and energy regulator as well as continue with Jatropha Research Project.

MIST prioritises rehabilitation of government buildings

The newly established Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI), which drives the mineral beneficiation programme, will receive P70 million for its research and development programmes.

The remaining share of P39 million was allocated to Atomic Energy Usage and Radiation Protection, Research, Science and Technology fleet expansion, MIST consultancies and computerisation projects. BOPA

North South Carrier II receives financial boost

Under the water planning and development programme, which received P838 million, the Ministry of Minerals Energy and Water Resources will undertake the second phase of the ongoing North-South Carrier II Pipeline project and also continue with implementation of the emergency water project. Other projects, which were transferred from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to MMEWR, will also be implemented. These include groundwater investigations, design and construction of Veoka Water Solutions in North West, Kweneng, Kgalagadi, Ghanzi and Central districts, water supply interconnection and Shakawe Rehabilitation Plant. The remaining funds will be spent on other ongoing projects, among them, water supply development in major villages of Kanye, Molepolole, Palapye, Mahalapye and sanitation and sewage projects in Kanye and Molepolole, as well as design review of Lethakane sanitation. The ministry has also budgeted P50 million for the advisory services by the dam as well as Coal Monatisation experts. P4 million will be spent on implementation of the National Integrated Geo-science Information system project. BOPA

GABORONE: Gakgatla and Mmatseta in the Kweneng District are among 10 villages that will have electricity connection this financial year. The other eight villages are Tewane, Sehunou, Kutamogoree, Lorolwane, Moremi, Botlhathlogo, Sexaxa and Semane.

GABORONE: Government Building Infrastructure and Related Services Rehabilitation Fund is to take the largest share of more than P287 million of the total development budget of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology (MIST). The ministry has been allocated more than P546 million for its development budget this financial year.

The fund is intended for rehabilitation of government buildings and also construction of the Science and Technology Park, as well as Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) initiatives geared towards development of innovation and technology support programmes, construction of a permanent structure for the disused radiation sources, research and development programmes.

The second largest share of P150 million goes to BIH, which has forged a partnership with the Department of Information Technology to build an integrated Government Data Centre within the park on turnkey basis.

The remaining share of P39 million was allocated to Atomic Energy Usage and Radiation Protection, Research, Science and Technology fleet expansion, MIST consultancies and computerisation projects. BOPA

Botswana constructs petroleum storage facility

MMEWR development budget will also cover construction of a P1.1 billion petroleum storage facility at Tshele Hills near Rasesa. Botswana uses around 1.2 billion litres of fuel every year. It is expected that the amount will increase hence the need to prepare for the future. The project entails construction of a 161 million litre storage facility for petrol, diesel and paraffin and a 14 kilometre access road from Malotswana, 4.2km of an access road and a 4.8km dual carriage (road over Rail Bridge).
Industrial Court procures court recording equipment

GABORONE: The Industrial Court, under the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, will procure recording equipment and inter-link rooms within and between its divisions. It has been allocated over P5.8 million part of which will also be used to procure ICT hardware and software, overhaul its network as well as automate the Balanced Scorecard. The Industrial Court will also close its building final account and establish a call centre.

Established 11 years ago, the Industrial Court continues to settle trade disputes. It has continued to ensure that good industrial relations are dispensed to all residents, regardless of their geographic location.

Trade ministry develops computer system, infrastructure

GABORONE: Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) has been allocated P21 million for the 2015/16 financial year to undertake its development projects. Funds will be spent as follows: P3 million for the ministry’s computerisation, P8 million for consultancies and P10 million for infrastructure facilities.

The 2014/15 development budget provision for the ministry, Minister Vincent Seretse said, was P33 million and was also allocated for the following projects: computerisation project, consultation and infrastructure facilities.

Passport, border control system rolls out

That is intended to address transport challenges to improve service delivery. Services include registration and issuance of identity cards (Omang), monitoring of women economic empowerment and income generating projects and labour inspections.

The ministry will also carry out consultancies at a cost of P3.9 million out of which P1.5 million will fund Gender Based Violence Prevention and Elimination initiatives. P2.4 million will be spent on European Development Fund 10 (EDF-10) project for the Empowerment of Non-State Actors (NSAs) in Botswana.

An allocation of P2.5 million will maintain Madirelo Training and Testing Centre and settle the final account for Gaborone District Labour Office.

Minister Seretse

SPEDU turns three dams into tourist attractions

GABORONE: Selebi-Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit (SPEDU) will complete construction of a processing plant for horticultural produce and emergency runway refurbishment works at Selebi-Phikwe during the 2015/16 financial year.

And, in line with tourism development, SPEDU has teamed up with Botswana Tourism Organisation to turn three dams in the region into areas of attraction - Letsibogo, Thune and Dikgatlhong. The Competition Authority also continues to monitor markets and enhance competition in the economy.

Since the beginning of this financial year, the authority has completed 20 mergers, two of which are expected to empower horticultural producers and facilitate entry of a small citizen owned enterprise in Cash in Transit and Alarm and Response market.

BITC partners with local producers

More aggressive efforts are being made to create global awareness about Botswana, and to realise this, Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) has partnered with local producers to air a series of television episodes on “Doing Business in Botswana.”
Youth internet access set to increase

GABORONE: Young people are set to have increased access of free internet, thanks to government’s decision to build outdoor sitting facilities in public libraries.

The project, under the National Library Services, has been allocated P4.6 million. Availability of outdoor sitting facilities will enable access of free Wi-fi internet from public libraries.

Users will not have to be always inside libraries to access the internet because Wi-fi is provided over a 100 metres radius.

The bandwidth will be increased to improve the speed of internet access. Thus far, internet access has been a life changer for most rural communities.

On the other hand, library services have grown and improved quality of services they offer.

The ministry is also exploring digitalisation of the National Archives and Records Services to improve its access which is currently declining.

Currently, access to these documents is only through visits to the premises. There was a general decline of 10 per cent in the level of usage of the archives, while the size of the collection increased by 20 per cent. BOPA

Government encourages well-functioning performing arts groups

GABORONE: Government has taken a decision to buy marimba and music instruments for all the 57 constituencies. This is to encourage the performing arts sector.

Provision of the music instruments is geared towards encouraging youth to form well-functioning performing arts groups.

Arts and culture provides an opportunity of creating employment for the youth hence the ministry’s aim to stimulate growth of the sector.

Currently, the ministry runs the President’s Day Competitions and Constituency Art Competitions. In addition, it offers the Arts and Culture Grant at a value of P11 million to promote growth of the arts.

The ministry is also looking into increasing the grant to further stimulate growth and commercialisation of the arts.

Interest in the arts sector is said to have increased since inception of the President’s Day competitions.

Participation in the President’s Day competitions has progressed from 3 274 artists in 2008 to 12 118 in 2014/15.

Participation in the constituency art competitions has grown from 6 952 in 2010 to a total of 24 447 in 2014/15. BOPA

MYSC fences community sport fields

GABORONE: Ministry of Youth Sport and Culture intends fencing some community sport fields during the 2015/16 financial year to promote sport for all or mass participation in sport programmes with a view to contributing to national fitness and wellness.

Currently, some stadia are not in good condition and require maintenance to bring them to acceptable condition for sporting activities.

The ministry has, therefore, been allocated P50 million for additional works required to complete the Francistown Stadium while the process to maintain Maun stadium has started.

Furthermore, the ministry will also use P50 million for Design and Build contract for construction of the National Performance Arena in Gaborone.

This financial year, a total development budget of P110 million has been allocated to the ministry to cater for development of the ministry’s IT infrastructure project, cultural development and performing arts, sport and recreation and national library service. BOPA
GABORONE: Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) will this financial year construct revenue offices and staff houses at Charles Hill, Hukuntsi and Shakawe at an estimated cost of P60 million. Still under the ministry’s infrastructure facilities budget of P76.6 million, government will construct staff houses at Machaneng at P6.6 million and design Financial Intelligence Agency office building at an estimated cost of P10 million.

E PROCUREMENT SYSTEM, ACTUAL BASIS ACCOUNTING TO EASE SERVICE DELIVERY

GABORONE: Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) will spend over P183 million on computerisation, consultancies and research as well as facilities. Computerisation projects include at Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board, migration from cash to actual basis of accounting and government e-procurement system at a cost of P31.5 million. Over P74.9 million will be used on ongoing consultancies and research projects which include agricultural census, census of enterprises and establishment, Botswana Core Welfare Indicator Survey, PPP Consultancy Project and Labour Force Survey. About P76.6 million will cater for on-going activities under the MFDP facilities project out of which P60 million will be used for construction of revenue offices and staff houses at Charles Hill, Hukuntsi and Shakawe, P6.6 million for construction of staff houses at Machaneng and P10 million for design of Financial Intelligence Agency office building. BOPA

FOREIGN AFFAIRS OPENS OFFICE IN ADDIS ABBABA

GABORONE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is to construct a chancery in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The project will cost P25 million. Funds will cover actual construction of the chancery shell and architectural services and project supervision. The ministry will also use P3 million to maintain the GABS operating system in Botswana missions following its completion in the past financial year. Allocation will also be used to upgrade the operating software as well as conduct tutorial workshops for system users on the new features which would have come with the upgrade. Funds are part of the over P38.6 million allocated to the ministry for its projects this financial year. A chancery in New York will also be renovated at a cost of P2.5 million. Allocation will be used to pay for various renovation works which were not part of the scope of work during major renovation of the chancery. The works are necessary for New York Municipal Authority to issue a Certificate of Occupancy for the chancery. An allocation of over P8.1 million has been forwarded to the ministry to maintain government property. Funds will carry out extensive renovations of government owned property at eight different missions in Washington DC, United States of America at a cost of P200 000, Windhoek, Namibia at P460 000, Johannesburg, South Africa at P2 million, Lusaka, Zambia at P1 million, Brussels, Belgium at P981 000, Harare, Zimbabwe at P1 million, London, United Kingdom at P2 million and Beijing, China at P500 000. Funds are to be used to undertake major maintenance works whose nature and magnitude goes beyond the normal minor maintenance budget allocation under the recurrent budget. BOPA

Minister Matambo

Ministry of Foreign Affairs building