

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - PRESS RELEASE

Rollout of the Implementation of the Village and Ward Development Committee (VDC/WDC) Amendment Regulations of 2026

Gaborone, Botswana - The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs wishes to inform the public that the Village Development Committee/Ward Development Committee (VDC/WDC) Amendment Regulations of 2026 have been duly signed and approved by the Minister of Local Government and Traditional Affairs, Honourable Ketlhalefile F.C Motshegwa. The Regulations have also been gazetted and published by the Attorney General's Chambers, marking a significant milestone in strengthening local governance and community development structures.

The Village Development Committee/Ward Development Committee Regulations of 2014 were amended to address persistent governance, administrative, and operational weaknesses that had hindered effective local development. These challenges included poor governance practices, weak financial and project management systems, limited local economic development initiatives, siloed operations, rental arrears, and instances of conflict and misconduct. The amendments are intended to strengthen leadership and accountability, enhance financial and institutional capacity, promote local economic development, and ensure clear handover processes and continuity in alignment with national development priorities.

Following the gazetting of the Regulations, the Ministry, in collaboration with District Councils and other key stakeholders, has commenced a nationwide programme of consultations, dissemination, and stakeholder engagement from 3rd February to mid-February 2026. These engagements will be conducted through various leadership fora, media platforms, and community engagement structures to ensure broad-based awareness, coherence, and a shared understanding of the Amendment Regulations.

In addition, structured dissemination and capacity-building sessions will be undertaken to support effective implementation of the Regulations. These sessions will target Local Authorities, Council leadership, Dikgosi, District Commissioners, VDC/WDC task teams, and other relevant governance and community leadership structures.

District Councils will provide the necessary support and facilitation to ensure the smooth rollout, effective implementation, and full compliance with the provisions of the VDC/WDC Amendment Regulations of 2026. Upon completion of the dissemination and capacity-

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building processes, District Councils will commence preparatory activities and proceed with the conducting of elections for Village and Ward Development Committees within their respective jurisdictions.

The implementation of the Amendment Regulations is expected to enhance community participation, improve governance and accountability at the local level, and strengthen the role of VDCs and WDCs as key drivers of inclusive and sustainable development.

For additional information, please contact the Ministry's Communication Office at 3658423/8496, or via email to bathopele-pr@gov.bw.

Thank you.



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