



Republic of Botswana

Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism



RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 590

The Ministry of Environment Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism (MENT) is working with the Northwest District council in the development of the Maun Planning Area Development Plan (2021-2041) of which the Thamalakane Riverfront is part of. The development plan is being developed through a consultancy which is currently on the second milestone being the Report of Survey stage.

As a development guide and control tool, the development plan will serve the following functions amongst others:

- To transform Maun into a world class green city inclined towards diversified tourism product.
- To provide projected land requirements for various land use categories in the planning area and identify zone land to meet the requirements.
- To provide Northwest District Council and stakeholders with a technical document which will inform development decisions; and

- To identify challenges and opportunities under the thematic sectors of: Urban Planning, Built Environment, Vulnerability, Energy, Transport, Manufacturing, Waste Management, Public Areas and Cultural Heritage to ensure that likely environmental impacts on policies, plans, programmes and proposals are evaluated such that mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented.

The Maun Redevelopment Plan which is scheduled to complete by mid-2022 will advise and guide on feasible interventions to develop the Thamalakane River Front into a tourism precinct as an important feature of the Maun Landscape.

My Ministry is also working with the relevant stakeholders to assist the Matlapana Development Trust to acquire and utilise land commonly known as 'THE BEACH IN MAUN' within the Thamalakane Riverfront. Once the Trust has acquired the land, they will be assisted through relevant district structures to

develop concrete management and operational plans for the site.

My Ministry is also facilitating through the Department of National Museum and Monuments, development and utilisation of the Old Matlapaneng Bridge which is listed as a national monument and protected under the Monument and Relics Act of 2001. Developments planned include: construction of a viewing deck, site office with toilet facilities for visitors, coffee shop and picnic areas structures with serviced litter bins. Proposed activities include boat cruises, mokoro rides, fishing and photo and video hiring services.

The intention is to link this site with the beach area and market the two sites as complimentary products. After completion, the usage rights

will be given to Matlapana Community through sub-lease by DNMM, this being one of the Ministry's community and citizen empowerment initiatives. Phase one of the Old Matlapana Bridge was completed at a budget of P2.25 Million funded through KAZA and was launched on 31st January 2020.

Lastly My Ministry facilitated the development of the Management Plan for the Maun Educational Park which has now been handed to the Community of Maun. The Community is currently mobilising to form a Trust which will manage the park. It is our hope that once done, the community will utilise the proposal from the Management Plan to realise the full potential of the park.

Thank you.

