On 6 February 2017, Botswana’s Minister of Finance & Development Planning (the Minister), the Honorable O. K Matambo, presented the 2017 budget speech to Parliament.

This speech is the first of six budget presentations in the implementation of the 11th National Development Plan (NDP 11) whose theme is Inclusive Growth for Realisation of Employment Creation and Poverty Eradication.

NDP 11’s six priority areas are:

- Development of diversified sources of economic growth and revenue
- Human capital development
- Social development
- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Consolidation of good governance and strengthening of national security
- Monitoring and evaluation of government programs

The economy is forecasted to grow by an average of 4.4% per annum during NDP 11.
With respect to tax measures, the budget speech set forth the following proposals:

- Developing a *Tax Administration Act* to simplify the *Income Tax Act* and *Value Added Tax (VAT) Act*. The project is envisaged to be completed in the next financial year.

- Broadening the tax base (inter alia) by:
  - Introduction of Transfer Pricing Rules
  - Imposition of penalties for non-filers irrespective of whether there is tax to pay
  - Inclusion of sale of property by the Deputy Sheriff as a transaction subject to VAT

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