

## **PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO 265**

**To be asked on:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010

**By:** Mr. Mr D. P. Makgalemele, M.P. (Shoshong)

### **Question:**

To ask the Minister of Infrastructure, Science and Technology to state the functions of the Innovation Hub and how it will benefit rural areas.

### **Answer:**

Madam Speaker, the specific functions of the Botswana Innovation Hub are:

- to attract both local and foreign businesses and organizations that are technology-driven and are growth and export oriented, in the areas of information and communications technology, biotechnology, mining technologies and sustainable energy. These sectors have been identified as having potential to diversify the economy and promote sustainable economic growth.
- to support local start-ups through incubation and business development services. These would be individuals or

companies with business ideas and with research results that can be developed into goods and services with potential for commercialization and export, and

- to promote technology development and support skills development through appropriate incentive schemes.

It is expected that these activities will contribute to the diversification of the economy and create employment for Botswana.

Madam Speaker, we anticipate that employment and skills development will be the major outcomes of the Botswana Innovation Hub that will benefit our people.

Madam Speaker, the tax income from the companies in the Botswana Innovation Hub as well as the tax collected from the employees in the Hub, is also a national resource that will benefit all Botswana including those in rural areas.

I thank you Madam Speaker.