

Towards a policy advocacy framework for the co-production of anti-corruption reforms in Botswana

Public statements on the DALA (excluding some Hansard citations)

Actor	Statement
Member of Parliament (UDC)	"I believe that if one does not declare within a stipulated time, say perhaps it is 60 days, immediately after 60 days elapse or on the 61st day that person should be on the wrong side of the law for not declaring."
Member of Parliament (UDC)	<p>"Getting to the point mentioned that 60 per cent of Members of Parliament have declared, 40 per cent have not declared, I think the Minister did not do justice.</p> <p>"He did not explain why it is like that. The reasons submitted by Members of Parliament as to why they were unable to submit forms? You should have been in a position to explain to Parliament those grounds.</p> <p>"If not, he would have declared the names of those Members of Parliament and they should resign with immediate effect.</p> <p>"Instead, he presents an amendment Bill, that no longer says a person who has not declared should resign, but there will be issuance of notice. This is some soft cushion landing he is trying to do since he knows the names of people who have not submitted</p> <p>The law is secretive and this weakens its effectiveness. The law is meant to ensure transparency, accountability and oversight.</p> <p>Declarations need to be made public. How will citizens know that declarants have made true submissions? And does the EID have capacity to investigate or verify submissions?</p>
BCP Activist	"for the law on Declaration of Assets to thrive, it must be reinforced by independent oversight institutions: independent ombudsman (public protector), independent auditor, independent judiciary, DISS that's accountable to the legislature".
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>Botswana continues to intensify efforts to prevent and combat corruption through its Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC). In order to strengthen the anti-corruption legislation, my Government is at an advanced stage of finalising the draft Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Bill, which we believe will enhance integrity, transparency and accountability in Government. This Bill will complement the Whistle Blowing Act and the Proceeds and Instruments of Crime Act.</p> <p>Parliament has passed the law on the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities. To operationalise this law, the Ethics and Integrity Directorate is being established. In the same vein, I would like to reiterate that I am committed to the rule of law in this country, as that would enhance confidence and send message to all of us that the law must be abided or face consequences of non-compliance.</p>

	<p>"It aims to root out corruption and would improve investor confidence and enhance transparency and accountability,"</p> <p>"I support the minister, the bill is long overdue. It associate strongly with the attributes of Botswana. A bill I associate with, a bill that associate with Botswana's long term vision of Vision 2036, page 25 of the vision. It speaks about governance, peace and security. It is consistent in attaining some of the views as seen in the same pillar. This is our contribution, we acknowledge it is late but it is better to have it later than never to do it. We were driven by threats we were exposed to particularly when we were greylisted. It is a positive progressive step,</p> <p>"I cannot give a date; I cannot speculate as to when it will be tabled but the most important thing is that a bill will come,"</p> <p>"We will bring a bill to parliament that we think is going to enjoy support across the political divide and will genuinely address the problem,"</p> <p>Parliament has passed the law on the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities. To operationalise this law, the Ethics and Integrity Directorate is being established. In the same vein, I would like to reiterate that I am committed to the rule of law in this country, as that would enhance confidence and send message to all of us that the law must be abided or face consequences of non-compliance.</p> <p>"...We will not succeed in attracting the desired Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), nor will we succeed to grow our economy in any meaningful way if allow corruption to be part of our business culture. Let me assure all of you that my Government is determined to do all it takes to win this battle. In this regard, the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Bill will be tabled before Parliament during the winter session..."</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>"This Bill is not new and to pretend that it is now will be only mischevious. It goes back to the time of Joy Phumaphi and I would say this as BDP member and in good standing, mathata a rona ke go leba gore molao o tla ka semang mang, this is why this country has not gone very far. BDP, which I am part of has failed Batswana by not bringing this Bill earlier, that we must accept. However, such a law should not be hurried, because with that we might just make mistakes, one mme o maleba. Some of us want this Bill; we want to be able to declare so that people know what we have and even access to the dates as to how we got them, we have been victims of malicious propaganda peddled as a way of suggesting that some of the things we have, we got them through some ways that are illegal</p>

Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>The anticipated introduction of legislation on the declaration of assets and liabilities which will cover both the political leadership and the civil service is one of the instruments that will help in ending corruption. This legislation will unleash fury on corruption and will make easier for government to make strides in ending this problem.</p> <p>I support the law because it is important and timely. The law was brought about by the BDP led government I do not believe it is a secretive law. Whoever wants to access the register may follow the prescribed guidelines to do that.</p> <p>The risk is that people may use information for either the right or wrong reasons. The law allows anybody to access the register, but they need to follow the correct procedure.</p> <p>We like the law a lot and it should be passed immediately.</p> <p>It will be a sad day for this country if we do not pass this bill. It will attract a lot of investors as it will build confidence in them. It is a bill that we must all support.</p>
Member of Parliament (UDC)	<p>"Indeed ga re batla gore re dire effective tools, effective laws that will be seen to be effective in addressing corruption, let those laws be seen to be independent in the eyes of the people</p> <p>The Bill is important but it has been rushed. The Bill should be an effective tool to allow Batswana to scrutinize us as politicians and public officials.</p> <p>The ruling party passes bills that are rushed and not effective. There was no consultation of various stakeholders before the Bill was brought to Parliament. The independence of the DCEC is problematic.</p> <p>We need lifestyle audits, but the bill is silent about this.</p> <p>Let declarations be made public. Otherwise the law will not be effective.</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>"The recent adoption of the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Bill is commendable as a step to fighting corruption.</p>
Former Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>"We can tell party positions from the debates. UDC does not want this law to pass while AP is wishy-washy about it. Batswana can see that AP is better than UDC. We have to pass this law through parliament because too many people out there want it passed. Some of us are honest</p>

	<p>people, the BDP government is very honest. We worked hard for what we have, actually I can declare that I have a P2million debt with CEDA</p> <p>there was no need for a specific law as senior public officials were already declaring their assets to their constitutional principals.</p>
Member of Parliament (UDC)	<p>1. It also supports full independence of the judiciary, parliament, and oversight institutions such as the Ombudsman, DCEC, Auditor General, DPP and others.</p> <p>2. Declaration is made to the Office of President (OP) (DCEC is in OP, DG who holds the register is appointed and removed by the President). It is shameful that the Speaker declares to the minister. We want an independent office.</p> <p>3. Declaration remains a secret. We want it to be public or accessible. What's the point of declaring if it remains a secret?</p> <p>5. The law should include mechanisms of probing how assets were acquired, it is not enough that one can say "I bought this house", or "it's a gift", or "I inherited it" ...these statements would be inadequate without mechanism of ascertaining that the assets were obtained legitimately. How assets were acquired as provided by the Bill is inadequate.</p> <p>The law in its current form is pathetic, it is meant to push a narrative that someone is rooting out corruption, someone whose name keeps on cropping up in NPF and CMB criminal investigations and or court cases, someone whose PSP transferred DCEC officers who were investigating CMB...someone whose recent acquisitions are highly suspicious...someone who under his watch the infamous corruption cases at the DIS, BDC, BMC and Botswana Railways remain at DPP, not prosecuted because these cases involve some of his beloved ministers.</p> <p>All declarations should be made to the EID. The law alone is inadequate to fight corruption. It requires the CECA to be revised to ensure the DCEC is independent. There is also a need to introduce the Freedom of Information Act. Lifestyle audits are required.</p> <p>Senior officials like the President, VP and Ministers should not engage in business with government at all.</p>
Member of Parliament (AP)	<p>The introduction of this bill as is will not bring any change to Botswana. It will not cause our governance system to be cleaner. It will not discourage corruption</p>

	<p>At best, the proposed bill is tailored to be a wealth monitoring tool, but even so the DCEC which the bill identifies as the administrator of the bill is not independent enough from the Executive to provide rigorous and unbiased assessments of potential wealth anomalies.</p> <p>We do not see how the current DCEC would give a public report that is damaging to cabinet ministers. Besides the law does not provide for such reports, which is a gross omission.</p> <p>Moreover, the law does not provide for the publication of declarations, in any form by the administrator, and so there are serious doubts about how much more this law makes office bearers more accountable, or the system more transparent.</p> <p>The law is relatively silent or weak on sanctions. There law is silent in defining or providing content on what exactly constitutes conflicts of interest nor does it make reference to existence of related laws that deal with conflict of interest.</p> <p>Why is corruption, or this Bill (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Bill No 12 of 2019), of immense importance here and now, for this nation and in this generation? It is important because we have lost billions in recent years and I have proffered an estimation of tens of billions lost over the last 10 years due to nepotism, bad workmanship, fraud and outright theft.</p> <p>“office bearers should be at a minimum include Members of Parliament, Members of the Judiciary, councillors, CEOs and other executives of Parastatals, Permanent Secretaries and key officers involved in procurement,”</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	It is in our manifesto to make a delivery into reviewing the law. We will use our numbers to pass this law. I dare you (opposition MPs) to declare their assets. I can stand in this parliament to account for every asset I have.
Director General of a Law Enforcement Agency	The Act is part of the legal framework to facilitate the country's participation in the activities of international bodies to detect and prevent corruption, promote transparency, accountability, ethical conduct and integrity.
Member of Parliament (BDP)	“It is anticipated that the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Bill will be debated in Parliament and hopefully passed into law by the end of the coming financial year (2018),”
President of a Trade Union	"Government leaders should never profit at the expense of the public. Our members are not prepared to continue paying increased taxes just so that ministers can get paid for tenders awarded to them by the ministries they head
Member of Parliament (BCP)	“Since the publication of the draft bill, government has been conspicuously silent over the law that is long overdue. The consultative process to get the input of Batswana has not started. There is no

	<p>sign that the bill will be presented to parliament anytime soon. The bill has also not been included in the bills to be discussed in the current meeting of parliament. On the other hand, there are already some voices from Parliament expressing some discomfort that the bill may be used to stop them from engaging in private business ventures. The BCP strongly suspects that those inside cabinet who are against the bill are determined to kill it before it even reaches parliament,”</p> <p>the Bill would not serve its intended purpose if the declared assets were not made public. The public has to know what we owe and own.</p> <p>Need to align the Declaration of Assets and Liability Act with freedom of information and whistleblowing laws to promote transparency and protection of informants.</p> <p>We don't know if some laws (Whistleblowing Act) are still working Making disclosures public would build trust in the political leadership. There has been no public consultation regarding the law to find out what people think. Widespread consultation was required, not just discussions among ourselves as parliamentarians.</p> <p>The President is taken well care of so should not be involved in any business dealings with the state.</p>
Member of Parliament (UDC)	<p>“We advised for the amendments to be made on the clause anyone who will unlawfully disclose information on the declared assets and liabilities and found guilty will be sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of P500 000. How can the law guard against corruption when it is also instilling fear on people to report corruption with ridiculous penalties?</p> <p>I support the Bill because the opposition has called for such a law for a long time, but the ruling party has always rejected it.</p> <p>There should be an independent body to drive the implementation of the Act. What is being proposed by the ruling party is not a declaration of asset, but a register that merely indicates what you have. To declare means actively disclosing your assets to the public to enable them to compare what you had before coming into office and what you have accumulated since being in office.</p> <p>You cannot declare to a politician because there is a public perception that they are the most corrupt. There is no structure in the Office of the President to facilitate declarations.</p>

	<p>Declarations should be made to the Office of the PSP and not the Minister. Independent institutions like the Auditor General DCEC and DIS DG's should not declare to the President.</p> <p>The law is not whistleblower-friendly.</p> <p>The forms need to be simplified. Declarations also need to be made public.</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>There is no justification for a law on declaration of assets and liabilities. Tawana said that he does not see any reason why MP's should move to pass a bill that will fight a perception. He said that the bill on the declaration of assets and liabilities is more of an over regulation on the part of government.</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP and AP)	<p>law on disclosure of assets and liabilities should not only apply to MPs, cabinet ministers, heads of parastatals and top government officials, but should be extended to their spouses</p> <p>refused to support Saleshando's motion, saying that Presidential Affairs and Public Administration Minister Lesego Motsumi is better resourced to come up with a more resourced bill. He, however, went on to challenge Motsumi to formulate a comprehensive bill that will cover national leaders and their spouses.</p> <p>I support the proposed amendment. 37% of funds towards mega projects go to waste.</p> <p>Corruption is making the country poorer so there is a need to have laws that can address this.</p> <p>The problem is that it is a secretive law. The public should be allowed to freely gain access to the register to see what has been declared. How will people know whether people are living beyond their means since declarations are not made public?</p> <p>The penalties for unauthorized disclosures are excessively high, which indicates that some individuals do not want their assets to be publicized. This is a weakness of the law.</p> <p>The 24-month frequency period is commendable.</p> <p>The Director General of the DCEC should not report to the President, but rather to the DG of the EID.</p>
Member of Parliament (BCP)	<p>"I am proceeding with my private member's bill and I will continue lobbying for support from other MPs across the political divide as they are appreciative of the bill,"</p>

	<p>"their new bill or the old one for that matter will render my bill redundant. If that is true, I think it's purely a ploy to kill the debate on the disclosure of assets and liabilities."</p> <p>Saleshando said he has decided to table the bills because the Minister of Presidential Affairs Mokgweetsi Masisi seems reluctant to table them as he keeps on postponing their tabling. "After the latest postponements of the two bills, I think the only way to go now will be through presenting a private bill as I feel it is very important that the two bills are brought to Parliament and debated"</p> <p>the bills are important because they all seek to insure that there is transparency which is good for good governance. "Good governance is a very important aspect of a democratic society.</p> <p>Having leaders declare their assets and giving the public full access to the information it needs will go a long way in insuring this", he said. On why he thinks there is the delay in tabling the bills the Gaborone West legislator said that it could be that they are hiding something from the public.</p>
Botswana National Front	<p>introduce a register of assets which shall be completed by President, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, Councillors, Senior Civil Servants and other senior officials holding position of power in Local Authorities and Parastatal organisations.</p> <p>It shall be made compulsory for such people to declare their personal financial and business interests at the time of appointment. Such a register shall be updated bi-annually (every two years) to monitor the rate of wealth acquisition by each public office holder indicating nature and value of assets acquired. The register shall be accessible and available to the public for scrutiny on demand"</p>
A former Director General of a Law Enforcement Agency	there was need to come up with declaration of assets act and leadership code of conduct which would basically focus on the values and principles for managing public resources.
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>opposes the legislation, said he sees no need for a law requiring declaration and questioned how it will combat corruption.</p> <p>"Corruption is in the mind-set of people and exists even where the declaration of assets and liabilities is in place,"</p>
Former Member of Parliament (BDP)	supports the declaration of assets because politicians hold power and influence. His main concern is that it is contrary to Setswana culture for details of one's property to be placed in the public domain for all to see.
Member of Parliament (BDP)	argued that it will free leaders and decision-makers from false accusations.

Former Member of Parliament (BDP and BPF)	<p>The current Bill is that it does not talk about publishing of the declarations so that members of the public can have a look at the registers.</p> <p>“Where you talk about declaration of assets and the only person who will have access to that register is the Director of Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC), we are starting on a wrong footing.</p> <p>“We did say in Parliament that if there is non-disclosure of information in this bill, it does not serve any purpose,” Butale said. “Disclosure of information would allow scrutiny by both the public and media. The law is indeed anti-media.”</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>proposed law had to balance the public interest specification and the right to confidentiality and privacy of other individuals.</p> <p>“The media or the public remain free to apply to the Director General of the DCEC on the information they want to source; why they want it and they purpose from which they will use it for,” he stated.</p> <p>“Cabinet has already agreed on the amendments. It’s a done deal. We will now move these to the Committee stages,”</p> <p>When asked who specifically drafted the Bill which has been a subject of public scrutiny in the media, Molefhi said it is the Attorney General’s Chambers. “There is a drafting department at the office of the Attorney General. We just give the officers the parameters of the intended law. Then they draft it in the legal language, in Botswana’s style of drafting, in terms of language and vocabulary; and that sometimes the service is outsourced,</p> <p>“Of course discussions are still ongoing. MP’s are still debating the Bill. I am confident that bill will pass into law. There are really no key issues that can stop this.”</p> <p>“The law is not saying the information will not be accessible,” he said. “Transparency will be there but the law also protects personal data. What it is basically saying is that this information should not be used in a malicious way. The information will be public through the courts. It creates a balance between personal information and publication information.”</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>“It’s no longer relevant”</p> <p>“Those who have declared their assets will still buy property with other people’s names in it. Then the assets will be sold and money goes back to the hands of those who previously declared,”</p>

Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>there is need to expedite the drafting of declaration of assets and liabilities bill. "When do you think we will have it and it should not only be for politicians but also for people holding sensitive offices,"</p> <p>"The perception out there is that we (MPs) are corrupt, hence the need to enact this law to instil public confidence in us," he said. "I do not know what we are hiding."</p> <p>"It is in the interest of the MPs to adopt this law since it will assist them (MPs) gain public confidence,"</p> <p>"There is a lot of talk amongst the public about corruption. Recently, I found myself being what I would call a victim of circumstance. If we want to clear the air and regain public confidence, then we need a Declaration of Asset Bill. It would do us a world of good if the public had a trail of our assets".</p> <p>Those who hold senior office in the public service and parastatals should also declare assets to avoid any conflict of interest.</p>
Former Director General of Law Enforcement Agency	<p>Seretse disclosed that her organisation has since issued instructions to the Attorney General Chambers to draft the legislation. "We have identified countries where we can benchmark. The matter has progressed," she said. Seretse also expressed concern that since Botswana does not have a bilateral treaty with other countries on issues relating to corruption, some foreigners who were involved in corruption practices and have since fled to their countries of origin were making their investigations problematic.</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>applauded the Minister for tabling the bill, highlighting that it was long overdue and buttressed government efforts to root out corruption.</p> <p>The current regime was willing to root out corruption, particularly among senior government officials and politicians.</p> <p>The law should not be burdensome on those required to declare. Need for full capacitation of agencies assigned with the task of monitoring asset declarations.</p> <p>The amendment is intended to combat corruption. It will help to create a database to see how individuals have accumulated wealth.</p>

	<p>Declarations must be made to a central repository. Declarations should only be used for official purposes and should be protected. This will also ensure that declarants have confidence in the institutions and not worry about being victimized.</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>welcomed the amendments, but called for the declaration to be extended to business people who used political contacts to secure government procurement contracts often as a way of reciprocating favours or benefits</p> <p>It is good practice, in terms of good governance for senior government officials to declare their assets to the President. This will help to fight corruption.</p> <p>I support the proposed amendments of the Act.</p> <p>Confidentiality is an important aspect. Whoever has access to declarations has a responsibility to protect confidential information.</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>applauded government for introducing laws that required high ranking government officials and politicians to declare their assets and incomes before or after assuming public office.</p> <p>He said such measures would improve investor confidence and enhance transparency and accountability.</p> <p>It is important for declarations to be made public so that Batswana are aware of what our assets are before, during and after our tenure as parliamentarians.</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>backed the bill said it would restore confidence of Batswana as well as safeguard their interests especially against unscrupulous leaders in the political space and in the public service.</p> <p>I support the DALA. This law will help politicians to clear the perception that politicians are dishonest and corrupt.</p> <p>I support the idea of public disclosure. Whatever assets and liabilities we declare should be made public. This will ensure that generalisations are not made about those who are enriching themselves illegally. This will also increase confidence in us.</p> <p>I also support a 24-month period to submit declarations because it is not too short or long.</p>

	A lot of corruption occurs at procurement level. So important to ensure that all the relevant parties are included.
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>applauded the Bill, saying it would scrutinise each one of them as leaders and allow them to account for their assets. Dr Dow further said the Bill would promote accountability, good governance as well as promote trust and leadership</p> <p>“We know the bill is a catch for all, we see and know people who want this bill to fail. It will pass. Once it is put into a law, we will see different characters. When we look at your bank account, you will have to answer. I support the bill because it promotes good governance and transparency.”</p>
Member of Parliament (UDC)	<p>“We have said on countless times that the DCEC is not independent, the president makes appointments on who they want leading the DCEC and such persons make reports to him. Why must we then declare to such a person? The BDP better go back to the drawing board and offer Batswana better,”</p> <p>there is need for all persons in the country to have access to such declared information. “The declaration process as outlined by the ruling BDP is funny, we are to make declarations to a compromised institution called DCEC moreover we are to have the declared material concealed and unrevealed</p> <p>“It has been created in such a manner that it now protects these people from any further scrutiny and that anyone who dares to reveal that which has now become a secret from the public gets heavily punished,”</p> <p>There must be a duty of disclosure, of transparency from the most high of public offices. When you take the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Bill</p>
MISA Botswana	<p>“The Act also threatens any person who may share such information with third parties, which is oppressive and counterproductive,”</p> <p>“The Act is not made in the best interest of the public and transparency. There is a high risk of abuse by the powers that be against their rivals.”</p>
UB Academic	“I agree that it is going to cause problems for journalists and the media in the future. This law is certainly against public disclosure. The public needs full disclosure of these declarations. If not, corruption is likely to rise. It is slightly the same to a provision in the DCEC Act which speaks to

	disclosure of information for ongoing investigations. It could have a telling effect on the media in this country.”
Member of Parliament (BCP)	<p>The proposed amendment to the Declaration of Assets passed by Parliament proposes punishment for leak of information from the Registry of Assets as follows: 1) 500 000 pula fine or 10 years imprisonment or both for leakages by employees of the Directorate of Asset Registry 2) 1000 000 or 5 years imprisonment or both for third parties, including journalists.</p> <p>We tried to plead for reduction of sentences imposed by the law as they are outrageous, irrational and unreasonable in light of the intent of the law. The RULING PARTY SHOT DOWN THE AMENDMENT WE PROPOSED.</p> <p>I do not agree that individuals should be given notice when they fail to declare on time. Compliance will remain low because people will not feel the need to submit on time. Late declarations should be penalized.</p> <p>The secrecy shrouding the law needs to be removed to enable the public to scrutinize declarations. Failure to give taxpayers or media information about declarations should be an offence.</p>
Member of Parliament (UDC)	The declaration of assets law is nothing short of a sick joke in its form. Mister speaker either by design or outright ignorance, the declaration of assets bill in its current form falls far too short of international standards. The whole idea of a declaration of assets is not that you mister speaker and the president know our economic activity as legislators and indeed as senior civil servants. The idea is that the public be able to find out for themselves what assets and liabilities their leaders have. In the absence of that the law is useless. Mister speaker as things stand we can safely conclude that we lack the mechanism to deal with white collar among the country’s leadership. We must accept Mister Speaker that a declaration of assets act is central to curbing white collar crime. Coupled with other instruments like the freedom of information law, a declaration of assets law would go a long way in curtailing excesses by those in power. Mister Speaker we must be willing as leaders to be scrutinised by those we claim to lead.
Independent lawyer	the intended law was long overdue because there has not been political will from his predecessors and such a law was a welcome development in the promotion of democracy and good governance.
Independent lawyer	the envisaged law was a welcome development that was long overdue.

	He explained that the law would go a long way in dealing with corrupt officials as Batswana would be able to know what the officials had when they assumed office and what they acquired while in office.
Independent lawyer	"I fully understand and agree with the opposition's reasons for rejecting the Declaration of Assets Bill. The Bill is a massive fraud. Wool is being pulled over our eyes. It only legislates secrecy for the thieving ruling elite. In fact, the DCEC don't need it. They can look into any one's estate and search for information without a judicial order under their Section 7. They are already empowered. It's the media and the public that needs it and it must be written for them. As it is, it is written against accountability.
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>"When we speak of declaration of assets, we are not saying it is a free for all where people's assets are exposed for all to see because this would endanger their lives and properties. We are saying that whoever wants to access the declarations has to obtain a court order"</p> <p>"...Tautona mogo dipe tse a a ka tswang a di a di iphuthetse ga a tola molao gope.... ga ene ele gore Tautona Masisi o nale go ka hitlha sengwe o kabe rona le ba bangwe re sa dumalana ka declaration of assets...but ako o bone monna o eleng gore o dumela gore batho ha go molato gore ba itse gore gore tautona o nale eng! Jaanong Tautona yo eleng gore o baa dilo mo pontsheng gore, kena le nale se le se...ebo re re o corrupt, nyaa tlhe bakaulengwe.... boammaruri ke gore monna yo o transparent, o dumela mo transparencing, that's why re tsile ka declaration of assets bill,"</p>
BDP	In our manifesto, the BDP vows to implement a law on the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities, which will help promote honesty among parliamentarians. Under President Masisi's leadership, any transgressions will be severely dealt with.
Member of Parliament (UDC)	"The problem we have as the AP is that everything falls under the Office of the President. If you are a President with ill-intent, you could use the tool to oppress others"
Member of Parliament (BPC)	"Why has there been a delay in enacting the Bill after so many years? We also don't know if it will be well enforced after it has been enacted. I think it is just a ploy to appease to the citizens. It may even be shelved after the elections
Member of Parliament (BDP)	The Bill is long overdue. I take it that it will go through in this July sitting so that we can lead by example as leaders. There are high levels of corruption associated with ministers, politicians and government officials, so this tool will ensure accountability.
Former Member of Parliament (BDP)	The law is very important because it will give citizens confidence in their leaders, but I will not support it. I believe we should have taken the job away from DCEC, their core mandate of investigating will most likely suffer. We also know that all investigations undertaken by the DCEC end up being published in newspapers. We need to work around protecting the confidentiality of such information. Imagine a newspaper with a headline stated – "The Richest MP is so and so".

	Also, are you saying that a minister will declare to the Director General? No, I can't agree with how the law has been written. The issue here is that the law is being rushed.
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>The law is important and should be adopted.</p> <p>We need to review the section on private enterprises to determine the scale.</p> <p>There needs to be one office responsible for collecting declarations.</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>I support the amendments proposed by the Minister.</p> <p>It is a new law that came with a lot of uncertainty, but improvements are continuously being made.</p> <p>We need to ensure all those meant to declare, like procurement officers, do so. Corruption affecting service delivery.</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>This is a law that we have long been waiting for – as both the ruling party and opposition. It can bring about confidence in government and can promote governance.</p> <p>It is important to have a holistic declaration system</p>
Member of Parliament (BDP)	<p>I support the law because Batswana have been waiting for a long time for it. This will give Batswana confidence that we are managing resources appropriately</p> <p>The challenge is that Batswana do not know what is being declared. Let disclosures be made public so that citizens know what our assets are.</p> <p>Our declarations should not be a secret.</p>
Mephato Reatile (MP)	<p>I believe the proposed amendments could still be improved. How can we establish an office (EID) but not have confidence in it to receive declarations?</p> <p>The DGs of DCEC and EID should rather report to the PSP.</p> <p>Disclosures should be made public. A public register should be considered to allow the public to inspect.</p> <p>I support the law, but it needs to be further polished by whoever came up with it. As it is, the whole country is required to declare their assets. Maybe we should have said only senior civil servants should declare, not everyone recruited by DPSM.</p>

Member of Parliament (UDC)	<p>The law was initially rushed when it was first introduced. Batswana have been waiting for the law for a long time, but because it is secretive, what benefit is it to them? It is as good as not having the law in place.</p> <p>Why are there hefty penalties for unauthorized disclosures? Batswana want to know what their representatives owe and own. Let declarations be made public.</p> <p>The Director General of the EID should declare to the PSP, not the President.</p>
BFTU	<p>The law will help us gauge what assets they have before and after they leave office.</p> <p>The labour movement has been instrumental in the process of getting the Act developed. We haven't necessarily been involved in the enforcement of it. We also haven't seen how the Act has addressed corruption.</p> <p>Everyone has the right to privacy. The Act should not infringe any other law that supports privacy. Civil society can be assisted by these acts, but also ensuring that they are made public so that declarations can be monitored. This also allows civil society to actively play a role in influencing the acts or any amendments that need to happen.</p> <p>As the Federation, we have affiliates who disseminate certain information. Serious introspection is needed. The legislation should not be for the convenience of international expectations, but to actually serve the purpose for which it was developed.</p>
Journalist	<p>Access to declarations helps us as the media to expose corruption.</p> <p>We are concerned about the secret nature of the law. As it is right now, it is not good enough. There is no use to have the Act if the public cannot access declarations.</p> <p>We need to increase the scope of the Act by including more people.</p> <p>In the media we always say that as soon as you become a public figure, you should forget about privacy.</p> <p>A lot of the civic society organisations rely on government for funding. Awareness of the law is probably non-existent.</p>

Independent journalist	In my view, there is nothing at stake which could have compelled the BDP or H.E Dr. Masisi to take such a political risk by abdicating a principle as cardinal as consultation. Consultation, like all virtues, should not only be upheld when it is convenient to do so. They should be upheld at all times. So, even if H.E Dr. Masisi anticipated that some of the provisions in the Declaration of Assets & Liabilities Bill would face opposition, he should still have subjected it to public scrutiny.
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