

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA



GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

EXTRAORDINARY

Vol. XVIII, No. 10	GABORONE	26th February, 1980
	CONTENTS	
		Page
The	following Supplements are published with this issue of th	ne Gazette –
Supplement B - Bot	tswana Telecommunications Corporation Bill, 1980 –	
	Bill No. 7 of 1980	B.19-32
Tri	ibal Land (Amendment) Bill, 1980 - Bill No. 8 of 1980	B.33
Vet	terinary Surgeons (Amendment) Bill, 1980 - Bill No. 9 o	of 1980 B.35
Supplement C - Foo	ot and Mouth Disease Control Order, 1980 - S.I. No. 24	of 1980 C.81

Bill No. 7 of 1980

BOTSWANA TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION BILL, 1980

(Published on 26th February, 1980)

MEMORANDUM

A draft of the above Bill, which it is proposed to present to the National Assembly, is set out below.

- 2. The object of the Bill is to establish a Telecommunications Corporation which will be independent of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications. Consequently, the functions of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications relating to the provision of telecommunications services are to be transferred to the Corporation which will be solely responsible for providing both the national and international public telecommunications services for Botswana. These services include, *inter alia*, the provision and maintenance of telephone, telex and telegraph services.
- 3. Part I of the Bill contains provisions relating to preliminary matters such as title and the definition of certain words or expressions used in the Bill.
- 4. Part II provides for the establishment of the Corporation, its constitution and the composition of the membership.
 - 5. Part III deals with meetings and proceedings of the Corporation.
- 6. Part IV contains provisions relating to the appointment of officers, employees and agents of the Corporation.
 - 7. Part V specifies the functions, powers and duties of the Corporation.
 - 8. Part VI deals with the finances of the Corporation.
- 9. Part VII contains general provisions, such as the annual report to be submitted to the Minister, the mode of acquiring land for the Corporation and transitional provisions.

P.S. MMUSI,
Minister of Works and Communications.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

PART I Preliminary

- 1. Short title
- 2. Interpretation

PART II Establishment, Constitution and Membership of Corporation

- 3. Establishment of Corporation
- 4. Composition of Corporation
- 5. Resignation and removal from office
- 6. Tenure of office
- 7. Payment of members

PART III Meetings and Proceedings of Board

- 8. Meetings
- 9. Signification of documents

PART IV Officers, Employees and Agents of Corporation

- 10. Appointment of officers and employees
- 11. Delegation to committee

PART V Functions, Powers and Duties of Corporation

- 12. Functions and powers
- 13. Exclusive privilege of Corporation
- 14. Co-operation with authorities
- 15. Research and records
- 16. Power of Minister to give directions

PART VI Finances

- 17. Principles of financial operations
- 18. Fixing of tariffs
- 19. Borrowing powers
- 20. Vesting of property in Corporation
- 21. Liability to pay tax, etc.
- 22. Accounts and audit

PART VII General

- 23. Annual report
- 24. Compulsory acquisition of land
- 25. Resettlement measures
- 26. Compensation for loss or damage
- 27. Power to call for information
- 28. Power to make bye-laws
- 29. Protection from personal liability
- 30. Power to make regulations
- 31. Transitional provisions
- 32. Repeal

A RILL

entitled

An Act to provide for the establishment of a Corporation to be known as the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation for the provision, development, operation and management of Botswana's National and International Public Telecommunications Services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

Date of Assent:

Date of Commencement:

ENACTED by the Parliament of Botswana

PART I Preliminary

- 1. This Act may be cited as the Botswana Telecommunications Short title Corporation Act, 1980.
- 2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Corporation" means the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation
- established by section 3; "financial year" means the year ending on 31st March in each
- "prescribed" means prescribed by regulations made under section 30;
- "telecommunications services" includes telephone, telex, telegraph, data facsimile and leased circuit services, together with appropriate terminal equipment;
- "telephone lines" means all cables and overhead lines, whether constructed or due to be constructed, for the connexion of subscribers or the interconnexion of exchanges, together with any junctions or other equipment necessary to effect these connexions;
- "undertaking" means any business for the provision of telecommunications services.

PART II Establishment, Constitution and Membership of Corporation

- 3. (1) There is hereby established a corporation to be known as Establishment the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation.
- (2) The Corporation shall be a body corporate capable of suing and of being sued in the name of the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation and, subject to the provisions of this Act, of performing such acts as bodies corporate may by law perform.
- 4. (1) The governing body of the Corporation shall be a Board Composition consisting of the following members appointed by the Minister –
 - (a) the Chairman;
 - (b) the Chief Executive of the Corporation appointed under section 10, ex officio; and
 - (c) not less than 5 or more than 7 other persons who in the opinion of the Minister have knowledge and experience likely to contribute to the successful management of the Corporation.

of Corpo-

Interpretation

- (2) A person shall not be competent to be appointed or to act as a member of the Board if
 - (a) he is a member of the National Assembly;
 - (b) he is an employee of the Corporation; or
 - (c) he has been declared insolvent or bankrupt under any law in any country and has not been discharged, or has made a composition with his creditors and has not paid his debts in full.

Resignation and removal from office

- 5. (1) Any member of the Board other than the Chief Executive may resign his membership of the Board by notice in writing addressed to the Minister.
- (2) A member of the Board may be removed from membership thereof if he
 - (a) ceases to hold the office by virtue of which he was appointed;
 - (b) becomes of unsound mind;
 - (c) is declared insolvent or bankrupt under any law in force in any country;
 - (d) suspends payment of his debts or compounds with his creditors:
 - (e) is absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the Board without such reason as appears to the Minister to be sufficient;
 - (f) is sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine or is convicted of an offence involving dishonesty;
 - (g) is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his duties as Chairman or member of the Board; or
 - (h) in the case of a person possessed of professional qualifications, is disqualified or suspended, otherwise than at his own request, from practising his profession in Botswana or in any other country by order of any competent authority made in respect of him personally.

Tenure of office

6. (1) A member of the Board, other than the Chairman and the Chief Executive, shall hold office for such period, not exceeding 4 years, as may be specified in the notice appointing him, and on the expiration of such period shall be eligible for reappointment:

Provided that in appointing members of the Board the Minister shall specify such periods of appointment that the periods of appointment of not more than one-third of the members shall expire in any one year.

- (2) The Chairman of the Board shall hold office as Chairman for a period of 3 years, and may be reappointed for any further period of 3 years.
- (3) The Board shall once in every year elect from among its members (other than the *ex officio* member) a Vice-chairman who shall hold office as Vice-chairman for a period of one year.

- (4) Subject to the provisions of this Act, where any member of the Board is incapacitated by absence from Botswana, or illness or any other sufficient cause, from performing the duties of his office, the Minister shall appoint another person to hold office in his place until the incapacity of that person has terminated or until the term of office of such member expires, whichever first occurs.
- 7. The Board shall pay to the members thereof such remuneration, fees and allowances for expenses as may be approved by members the Minister.

PART III Meetings and Proceedings of Board

- 8. (1) The Board shall meet for the discharge of its functions at Meetings such times and places as the Chairman may appoint, so however that the Board shall meet at intervals not exceeding 6 months.
- (2) The Chairman or in his absence the Vice-chairman may, and shall on the request in writing of not less than 2 members of the Board, call an extraordinary meeting of the Board at such time and place as he may determine.
- (3) The Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Board.
- (4) In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vicechairman, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.
- (5) The quorum at any meeting of the Board shall be not less than one-half of the members of the Board.
- (6) All questions proposed at a meeting of the Board shall be determined by a majority of the members present and voting, and, where the votes are equal, the Chairman or the person presiding shall have a second or a casting vote.
- (7) Any member of the Board who has an interest, or whose spouse has an interest, in any company or undertaking with which the Board proposes to make a contract or, has an interest in any contract which the Board proposes to make, shall disclose the nature of his interest, and shall not vote or take any part in the proceedings of the Board relating to such contract.
- (8) The Board may, and shall if the Minister thinks fit, request the attendance of any person to act as adviser at any meeting of the Board, and that person while so attending shall have all the powers of a member except that he shall not vote on any question and his presence at the meeting shall not count towards the constitution of a quorum.
- (9) The validity of any act or proceedings of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy among its members or by any defect in the appointment of a member thereof.

- (10) The Board may from time to time make standing orders providing for the regulation of
 - (a) the meetings of the Board;
 - (b) the conduct of its business and other operations in carrying out its functions; and
 - (c) the duties of its officers, employees and agents.

Signification of documents

9. All documents made by, and all decisions of, the Board may be signified under the hand of the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive or any member or senior officer of the Corporation generally or specially authorized in that behalf.

PART IV Officers, Employees and Agents of Corporation

Appointment of officers and employees

- 10. (1) The Corporation shall have a Chief Executive who shall be appointed by the Minister upon such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Corporation.
- (2) No person shall be appointed as the Chief Executive of the Corporation unless he is qualified by experience and training and has demonstrated that he is competent to manage and operate the undertakings of the Corporation.
- (3) The Chief Executive of the Corporation shall, subject to such directions on matters of general policy as may be given by the Corporation, be charged with the direction of the business of the Corporation and of its administration and organization, and the control of the employees of the Corporation.
- (4) The Chief Executive may resign from office by notice in writing addressed to the Minister, and may be removed from office by the Minister.
- (5) The Chief Executive may delegate to any senior officer of the Corporation the exercise of any powers which he is authorized to exercise under this Act.
- (6) (a) The Board shall, on consideration of the recommendations of the Chief Executive, from time to time determine the staff deemed necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the Corporation and the terms and conditions of employment.
- (b) The appointment and dismissal of all persons to or from positions designated by the Corporation as held by senior officers shall be made by the Board on consideration of recommendations of the Chief Executive.
- (c) The appointment and dismissal of all other staff shall be made by the Chief Executive or such senior officer as he may delegate to perform this function.
 - (7) The Corporation may –
 - (a) grant pensions, gratuities or retiring allowances to any officer or employee and may require such officer or employee to contribute to any pension or contributory scheme;

- (b) for the benefit of its officers and employees, establish and make contributions to any pension or superannuation fund or medical fund; and
- (c) from time to time appoint and employ upon such terms and conditions as it may think fit such agents and contractors as it may deem necessary.
- (8) Public officers may be transferred or seconded to the Corporation or may otherwise give assistance thereto.
- 11. The Board may, by resolution, delegate to any committee Delegation of the Corporation the exercise of any of the powers which the to committee Corporation is authorized by this Act to exercise either generally or in any particular case.

PART V Functions, Powers and Duties of Corporation

12. (1) The functions of the Corporation shall be the provision Functions of all public telecommunications services, both national and and powers international, for Botswana, together with such other activities as may appear to the Corporation to be conducive or incidental to the attainment of all or any of its objectives under this Act or under any other law.

- (2) The Corporation shall have all powers necessary or convenient for the performance of its functions and duties and, without prejudice to the generality thereof, shall have the power
 - (a) acquire, construct, install, assemble, repair, maintain, operate or remove telephone exchanges, radio stations, telephone lines, masts, towers, all types of telecommunications apparatus, fittings and installations;
 - (b) acquire and use any kind of property, undertaking, right or privilege and dispose of the same to the Government, or to any person other than a member, officer or employee of the Corporation, or any agent or contractor, appointed or employed by the Corporation.
 - (c) use or acquire telecommunications apparatus or services;
 - (d) enter into agreements in connexion with the operation of telecommunications services;
 - (e) supply or sell telecommunications services to all persons desiring such services;
 - (f) enter into such contracts as may be necessary for the performance of its functions and duties;
 - (g) construct or cause to be constructed such works, houses, offices and other buildings and structures as it may deem necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions and duties;
 - (h) purchase, take on lease or otherwise acquire or construct or cause to be constructed such tools, appliances, machinery, plant and equipment as it may deem necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions and duties;

- (i) sell, exchange, lease, dispose of, turn to account or otherwise deal with any of its assets or any part thereof, whether movable or immovable, not required for its purposes, provided that the Corporation may not sell any of its immovable property without the approval in writing of the Minister for the time being responsible for finance;
- (j) invest from time to time, in such manner as it may deem fit, such moneys held by it as may be surplus to its immediate requirements, subject to the approval in writing of the Minister for the time being responsible for finance;
- (k) insure with any company or person against any losses, damages, risks or liabilities which the Corporation may incur;
- (1) purchase or sell any materials and stores used in the performance of its functions;
- (m) sell, hire or otherwise dispose of telecommunications apparatus or services;
- (n) carry on any activity which is reasonably requisite or convenient for or in connexion with the discharge of its functions under this Act.

Exclusive privilege of Corporation

- 13. (1) The Corporation shall have the exclusive privilege of constructions and maintaining public telecommunications services, both national and international, for Botswana.
- (2) The Corporation may grant a licence on such conditions as it thinks fit to any person to construct and maintain a telecommunications service for the purpose of his private or business affairs.
- (3) No person shall establish or use any station for telecommunications except under and in accordance with a licence granted under this section (in this Act referred to as a "telecommunications licence").
- (4) Regulations may provide for the issue, conditions and duration of a telecommunications licence, and for the fee payable for the grant of such a licence.

Co-operation with authorities

14. In the discharge of its functions the Corporation shall cooperate with local and other public authorities, including departments and agencies of the Government, and shall consult with local authorities in matters of concern to the Corporation which affect their interests.

Research and records 15. With a view to facilitating present or future research or planning the Corporation shall keep full and accurate records of all its operations and shall have power to engage in research and to assist others to engage in research in respect of any matter relating to its functions, and to publish such records and the results of any such research.

16. The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, give Power of to the Corporation such directions of a general of specific Minister character as to the exercise and performance of its powers in directions fulfilling its functions as are necessary as a matter of public policy and as are not inconsistent with this Act or with the contractual or other legal obligations of the Corporation, and the Corporation shall give effect to any such direction.

PART VI Finances

17. (1) It shall be the duty of the Corporation to conduct its Principles affairs on sound commercial lines and, in particular, so to carry of financial out its functions under this Act and so prescribe the charges payable in respect of the provision by the Corporation of telecommunications services as to ensure that its revenues are sufficient to produce on the fair value of its assets a reasonable return measured by taking its net operating income as a percentage of the fair value of its fixed assets in operation plus an appropriate allowance for its working capital.

(2) For the purposes of this section "net operating income" means the amount of income remaining after subtracting from total operating revenues all charges which in accordance with generally acceptable accounting principles are chargeable to revenue accounts, including appropriate provisions for depreciation of assets, adequate maintenance and taxes, but before deducting interest and other charges on borrowing or taking into account non-operating income and expenditure.

(3) In determining what constitutes a reasonable return, all pertinent economic and financial considerations shall be taken into account, which shall include but not be limited to the need for net operating income in an amount sufficient —

(a) to meet interest payments on borrowings;

(b) to provide for repayments to be made each year in respect of loans incurred by the Corporation to the extent to which such repayments exceed the year's provision for depreciation charged to revenue accounts;

(c) to provide a reasonable proportion of the funds needed for expanding the Corporation's activities and improving its

services:

(d) to provide reserves for replacement, expansion or other purposes if and to the extent to which the Corporation

deems it necessary to establish such reserves; and

(e) to make dividend payments to the Government in respect of its equity interest in the Corporation if and to the extent deemed appropriate by the Corporation, after consultation with the Minister and the Minister for the time being responsible for finance and having regard to the future financial requirements of the Corporation.

Fixing of tariffs

- 18. (1) The Corporation shall, with the approval of the Minister, which approval shall not unreasonably be withheld, prescribe the tariffs at which it provides telecommunications services so as to ensure that it is able to comply with the provisions of section 17.
- (2) The Corporation may prescribe different tariffs or methods of charge for different classes or categories of service and for different areas or places.

Borrowing powers

- 19. (1) In order to enable the Corporation to discharge its functions under this Act and to meet its obligations it may borrow, on such terms and in such currencies as may be agreed between it and any lender, such sums as it may require, subject to the approval of the Minister for the time being responsible for finance.
- (2) The Corporation may charge its assets, undertakings and revenues with the repayment of any money borrowed together with interest thereon and may issue debentures, bonds or other securities in order to secure the repayment of any money borrowed together with interest thereon and may do all other things necessary in connexion with or incidental to such borrowings as are authorized by this section, subject to the approval of the Minister for the time being responsible for finance.

Vesting of property in Corporation 20. (1) Any properties, assets, rights, debts, liabilities and obligations of the Government and the benefit and burden of all contracts made by or on behalf of the Government which are part of or concern or relate to the telecommunications division of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications may, with the consent of the Corporation, be transferred to and vest in the Corporation as hereinafter provided on terms and conditions agreed to by the Corporation.

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- (2) The Minister may from time to time, by notice published in the Gazette, designate for the purposes of this section properties, assets, rights, debts, liabilities and obligations of the Government and contracts made by or on behalf of the Government which are part of, concern or relate to the telecommunications division of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications, and as from the date specified in any such designation the properties, assets, rights, debts, liabilities and obligations and the benefit and burden of the contracts so designated shall vest in the Corporation.
- (3) (a) For the purposes of this subsection "the appropriate date" means, in respect of any loan agreement made between the Government and any person whereby money was or is to be borrowed by the Government and used for or in connexion with the telecommunications division of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications, the date of the vesting of such loan agreement in the Corporation by virtue of the foregoing provisions of this section.

(b) The Corporation shall pay to the Government, in such manner and on such date or dates as the Minister may, with the concurrence of the Corporation and the Minister for the time being responsible for finance, from time to time specify, any amount expended or advanced by the Government on or in connexion with the telecommunications division of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications comprising —

> (i) all amounts repaid in respect of capital or interest by the Government to any person before the appropriate date under any loan agreement to which paragraph (a)

applies;

(ii) all amounts disbursed or to be disbursed by the Government in repayment of any other loan raised or to be raised by the Government and interest thereon to the extent to which such loan has been or will be applied to the telecommunications division of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications which, before the date specified in a designation pursuant to subsection (2), had not been off-set by an amount or amounts credited to the Consolidated Fund for that purpose;

(iii) amounts equal to the outstanding debit balance of any advances made by the Government and all costs incurred by the Government as a result of making

such advances;

(iv) any other amounts paid or to be paid by the Government which, before the date specified in a designation pursuant to subsection (2), had not been off-set by an amount or amounts credited to the Consolidated Fund for that purpose. •

- (4) If, within one month from the date specified by the Minister under subsection (3) (b) for the payment of any amount payable by the Corporation to the Government under that subsection, the Corporation fails to pay such amount, it shall pay interest thereon as from the date specified as aforesaid at such rate or rates as the Minister may, with the concurrence of the Minister for the time being responsible for finance, from time to time
- 21. Nothing in this Act shall exempt the Corporation from any Liability to tax, duty, rate, levy or other charge whatsoever, whether general pay tax, etc. or local.

22. (1) The Corporation shall keep proper accounts and other Accounts records in relation thereto, and shall prepare in respect of each and audit financial year a statement of accounts showing in detail the assets and liabilities (real and contingent) and income and expenditure of the Corporation, in a form which shall conform with the best commercial accounting standards applicable to the provision of telecommunications services.

Cap. 42:01

(2) The accounts of the Corporation in respect of each financial year shall within 4 months after the end thereof be audited by auditors to be appointed by the Corporation with the approval of the Minister:

Provided that no person shall be qualified to be so appointed if he is a member, officer or servant of the Corporation or unless he holds one or more of the qualifications referred to in section 124 (1) of the Companies Act.

(3) The auditors shall report in respect of the accounts for each financial year, in addition to any other matter on which they deem it pertinent to comment, whether or not -

- (a) they have received all the information and explanations which, to the best of their knowledge and belief, were necessary for the performance of their duties as auditors;
- (b) the accounts and related records of the Corporation have been properly kept;
- (c) the Corporation has complied with all the financial provisions of this Act with which it is the duty of the Corporation to comply; and
- (d) the statement of accounts prepared by the Corporation was prepared on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year and represents a true and fair view of the transactions and financial affairs of the Corporation.
- (4) The Corporation shall, within 30 days of receiving the report of the auditors, send such report and a copy of the audited accounts to the Minister.
- (5) The Minister shall, within 30 days of receiving the report and a copy of the audited accounts, lay such report and accounts before the National Assembly.

PART VII General

Annual report

- 23. (1) The Corporation shall, within a period of 6 months after the end of the financial year or within such longer period as the Minister may approve, submit to the Minister a comprehensive report on its operations during such year together with the auditors' report and the audited accounts as provided for in section 22, and the Corporation shall publish them in such manner as the Minister may specify.
- (2) The Minister shall, within 30 days of his receiving the Corporation's report, lay such report before the National Assembly.

24. For the purposes of any written law for the time being in Compulsory acquisition force relating to the compulsory acquisition of land for public of land

purposes, the functions and operations of the Corporation shall be deemed to be public purposes.

Resettlement measures

25. If the operations of the Corporation make necessary the resettlement of any person dwelling upon any communally owned land, the terms of such resettlement shall be subject to the agreement of the Government and of the local authority of the area concerned.

26. (1) In the exercise of its powers under this Act in relation to Compensation the execution of works or interference with property the Corporation shall cause as little detriment and inconvenience and do as little damage as possible, and shall make full compensation to all local and other authorities and other persons who have sustained loss or damage for all loss or damage sustained by them by reason or in consequence of the exercise of such powers and, in default of agreement between the parties, the amount and application of such compensation shall be determined by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration Act.

for loss or damage

Cap. 06:01

(2) For the purpose of such arbitration the parties shall be deemed to be parties to a submission in which the reference is to 2 arbitrators.

27. The Minister may, for purposes associated with the Power to administration of this Act, require the Corporation to provide call for him with estimates of the Corporation's future revenue and expenditure, and with such other information relating to its activities and operations, including books of accounts, records, documents and agreements relating to the purchase or sale of telecommunications apparatus or services.

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28. The Corporation may make bye-laws for any purpose Power to connected with its powers, functions and duties under this Act make byeand may impose penalties for breach of any such bye-laws.

29. No matter or thing done by any member of the Corporation Protection or by any officer or employee of the Corporation shall, if the from matter or thing is done bona fide for the purpose of executing liability any provision of this Act, render such person or any person acting by his direction personally liable to any action, claim or demand whatsoever.

30. The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, make Power to regulations providing for any matter which under this Act is to be make provided for by regulation or which otherwise relates to the administration of the Corporation.

31. (1) Unless the contrary intention is indicated by the Board, Transitional every member of the staff of the telecommunications division of provisions the Department of Posts and Telecommunications shall be deemed to have been duly appointed under this Act.

- (2) Nothing in this Act shall be taken to effect any alteration in the terms of a contract subsisting immediately before the commencement of this Act or to authorize the making of any such alteration without the consent in writing of all parties bound by the contract.
- 32. (1) The provisions of the Post Office Act relating to the Repeal telecommunications division of the Department of Posts and Cap. 72:01 Telecommunications are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), every licence granted under the provisions of the Post Office Act relating to the telecommunications division of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue in force as if made or granted under the corresponding provision of this Act.

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Bill No. 8 of 1980

TRIBAL LAND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1980

(Published on 26th February, 1980)

MEMORANDUM

A draft of the above Bill, which it is proposed to present to the National Assembly is set out below.

2. The object of the Bill is to amend section 3 of the Tribal Land Act (Cap. 32:02) in order to give the Minister of Local Government and Lands the power, by order published in the Gazette, to amend the First Schedule to the Act in order to vary the membership of any land board.

L.M. SERETSE,

Minister of Local Government and Lands.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1

- 1. Short title
- 2. Amendment of section 3 of Cap. 32:02

A BILL

entitled

An Act to amend the Tribal Land Act

Date of Assent:

Date of Commencement:

ENACTED by the Parliament of Botswana

- 1. This Act may be cited as the Tribal Land (Amendment) Act, Short title 1980.
- 2. Section 3 of the Tribal Land Act is amended by adding Amendment thereto, immediately after subsection (5), the following new $^{\text{of section}}_{3 \text{ of Cap. } 32:02}$ subsection —
- "(6) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, amend the entries set out in the third column of the First Schedule in order to vary the membership of any land board.".

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Bill No. 9 of 1980

VETERINARY SURGEONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1980

(Published on 26th February, 1980)

MEMORANDUM

A draft of the above Bill, which it is proposed to present to the National Assembly, is set out below.

2. This Bill amends the Veterinary Surgeons Act (Cap. 61:04) by inserting a new section -12. A new section 12 was substituted for the original section 12 in 1978 but was deleted by error in 1979. The Bill substantially restores the section substituted in 1978 but using a clearer form of words.

W. MESWELE, Minister of Agriculture.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

- 1. Short title
- 2. Insertion of new section 12 in Cap. 61:04

A BILL

entitled

An Act to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Act

Date of Assent:

Date of Commencement:

ENACTED by the Parliament of Botswana

- 1. This Act may be cited as the Veterinary Surgeons (Amend- Short title ment) Act, 1980.
- 2. The Veterinary Surgeons Act is amended by inserting Insertion therein, immediately after section 11, the following new section —

"Proof of registration

12. A certificate purporting to be signed by the in Cap. 61:04 Chairman that a person is or is not registered as a veterinary surgeon shall, in proceedings before any court, be admissible in evidence without further proof thereof and the court shall presume that the facts stated therein are true unless the contrary is proved.".

L2/4/317 I