GABORONE, 22th MAY 2020 - In April 2020, the Government of Botswana developed an economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a view to:

i. Supporting workers through a wage subsidy scheme;

ii. Stabilising businesses;

iii. Ensuring availability of strategic reserves; and

iv. Promoting opportunities for economic diversification

The Botswana Unified Revenue Service (BURS) was given the responsibility of wage subsidy disbursements. This Release is intended to apprise members of the public and all stakeholders on the implementation status of the subsidy scheme thus far:

**April 2020 claims**

1. 74% of claims made by the 20th April 2020 were paid by the 28th April 2020.

2. The remaining claims made by the 20th April 2020 have been processed but delays were experienced and in some cases continue to be experienced in paying these amounts due to several reasons, including:
   a. Incorrect bank account details of claimants
   b. Inoperational (dormant or closed) bank accounts of claimants;
   c. Duplication of employees; and
   d. Teething problems in the application of the automated application and claim system.

3. Processing of outstanding claims for April 2020 is ongoing and BURS remains forthright in its endeavours to resolve all outstanding payments for April 2020 in the shortest time possible

**May 2020 claims**

1. Claims for the month of May 2020 that were uploaded on or before the 15th May 2020 will be made on the 29th May and not 25th May 2020 as initially stated. This is due to technical challenges that BURS started to experience around the 14th May 2020 and continues to experience in transitioning to a new tax and revenue management system, Lekgetho Live.

2. Claims submitted after 15th May 2020 will be processed and paid in June 2020. BURS will endeavour to make payment of these amounts as early as possible during June 2020.

Claimants are advised that the commitment to make payment on the dates highlighted above is subject to the claims, including banking details, being correct.

For further information please send email to: wagesubsidy@burs.org.bw