

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Wednesday, 13th May, 2026

The National Assembly met at a Quarter-past Two o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS

(THE HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. SPEAKER

APPOINTMENT TO SPEAKER'S PANEL

THE HON. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that Hon. Mercy Mugomo has been appointed to the Speaker's Panel following the appointment of Hon. Tsitsi Zhou as Deputy Minister of Lands and Rural Development. Where is the good lady?

HON. MUGOMO: Here Mr. Speaker!

THE HON. SPEAKER: Join the panel. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

HON. MUGOMO: Good afternoon Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank you for appointing me to the Speaker's Panel. I truly appreciate the appointment. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear*] -

THE HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please come forward. When you stood up, I thought you were going to decline. -
[HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

VISITORS IN THE SPEAKER'S GALLERY

THE HON. SPEAKER: I wish to recognise the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of the graduates from the Youth Service of Zimbabwe. You are all welcome. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM MINISTERS

THE HON. SPEAKER: I have received the following apologies from the Executive: Hon. General Rtd. Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga, Vice President. I think he is in Uganda; Hon. Col. Rtd. K. C. D. Mohadi, Vice President; Hon. Prof. M. Ncube, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion; Hon. E. Ndlovu, Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife; Hon. M. Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women's Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development; Hon. Prof. A. Murwira, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Hon. Dr. Z. Soda, Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services; Hon. V. Haritatos, Minister of Lands and

Rural Development; Hon. B. Kabikira, Deputy Minister of Local Government and Public Works; Hon. S. Chikomo; Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The Hon. Leader of Government Business is tied up on national duty. I am appointing Hon. Minister Mhona, Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development, to act as Leader of Government Business.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

***HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** My question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Order Hon Member, you are free to speak in your mother language in this House. Please do not mix languages.

***HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** Hon. Mhona, you are doing a very good job in fulfilling the standard initiative goals for development, especially in standardising driver's licences, roads and other initiatives. Hon. Minister, there is an area that is lagging. These days, when you import a vehicle from other countries, it comes with built-in reflectors, but when you drive that vehicle with built-in reflectors, you are arrested

for not complying with Zimbabwean laws. Owners of such vehicles are requested to put another set of reflectors on top of these. What is Government's policy on cars that have built-in reflectors?

***THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):** I want to thank the Hon. Member for raising a pertinent question. Yes, it is true. There was a problem that was happening in this country, wherein some people were disturbed about this issue. Some cars are imported with built-in reflectors, while others are imported without those built-in reflectors. I am happy to say that it is something that people need to know what is really happening. The manufacturing of these cars is being done in different ways. We are working together with the Ministry of Home Affairs. If there are queries with the cars that are there in terms of reflectors, we must notify each other so that there is a clear policy on what is expected of motorists, because these reflectors are mounted on the front and rear of the vehicle and at night, because those vehicles following behind can be alerted that there is another vehicle in front. However, when we have imported cars with built-in reflectors,

authorities must be notified. We must notify each other so that there is proper communication.

***HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** My supplementary question is focusing on all cars. Most vehicles imported from South Africa come with built-in reflectors. The reflectors will be inside. So, when these cars are driven in this country, the owners are arrested for not having these reflectors. You would find out that most of the people sell these reflectors at the border. Why are we arresting people with cars from South Africa with built-in reflectors? In line with SADC standards, the Minister said everything must be aligned to SADC standards and regulations. I just want to know why people with imported cars from South Africa are being arrested for not having these reflectors.

***HON. MHONA:** Like what I have already alluded to, we need to notify each other because some may not know about these cars with built-in reflectors. As SADC countries, we agreed to adhere to standard procedures and regulations to minimise arrests. So, Hon. Zhou, if something like this is happening, we are going to sit down with my

fellow Minister of Home Affairs that Zimbabweans whose cars have built-in reflectors should not be arrested. I thank you.

***HON. HAMAUSWA:** My supplementary question is, is it not the right time for the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development to revisit the laws which have something to do with the reflectors so that they can be approved and amended and that we have a law that accepts both the built-in and traditional reflectors to avoid this confusion where the police are arresting those with built-in reflectors.

***HON. MHONA:** I also want to thank Hon. Hamauswa because he has raised a very pertinent question and I am going to take this opportunity to notify this august House that some laws, like motor registration and licencing which are archaic are going to be amended. We are going to come up with a Bill which is going to repeal all the archaic laws. Through this Bill, we are going to mention how these things are going to operate from the traditional reflectors to the modern reflectors because some of the laws are no longer applicable in terms of innovation, which is happening in the manufacturing of cars. So, we are

going to work together with the Attorney General's Office so that all the laws related to transport match the infrastructure.

***HON. MHETU:** My follow-up question is that there are some motorists who are being arrested for not having a spare wheel, but when these cars are being imported from other countries, they have no space for a spare wheel. So, what is Government's policy on cars that are being imported without a space to put a spare wheel? What is being done by Government to make sure that those cars are not arrested?

THE HON. SPEAKER: We have an array of Hon. Ministers, including our Minister of Defence (Hon. Muchinguri). The Leader of Government Business is now here but Hon. Mhona will only be dethroned when I say so.

Sipeya wiri, chiii ichocho

HON. MHETU: *Sipeya wiri kana kuti kumota dzinofamba nemavhiri mana, vhiri reshanhu.*

THE HON. SPEAKER: *Wagona.*

***THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):** Thank

you Hon. Speaker. I also want to thank Hon. Mhetu. He raised a very pertinent question, which helps us take the opportunity to notify the people of Zimbabwe that the spare wheel really helps when we face a tyre puncture, we will have a spare wheel to replace it.

Sometimes this law is very important for us, the road users, when we face a challenge with the wheel, maybe due to low pressure, we use the spare wheel to alleviate the problem. So, for the latest cars being imported without space to put a spare wheel, I really encourage drivers to have a place to put that wheel, because it is very important when they are travelling. If we say the spare wheel is not important, we will face challenges when there is a tyre puncture and you end up sleeping on the road or being robbed.

So, everyone needs to find a place to put that spare wheel. Most people are saying that on some cars, there is no place to put the spare wheel but I am encouraging every Zimbabwean to find a place to put that spare wheel because it is important. I thank you.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: The Hon. Minister took it as if it merely electing not to have a spare wheel. The design of these new cars

is that they run on what is called run-flat tyres, which gives you 100km after a tyre puncture. So, it is not a design deficiency, it is the default design for the car. So, forcing such cars to have a spare wheel, would we not be fighting technological advancement?

HON. MHONA: Let me also thank Hon. Eng. Mhangwa for that very pertinent question. Hon. Speaker Sir, we are talking of safety. You can only talk of a flat tyre when it is the normal course of business. If it ruptures, you need to replace it. Therefore, you cannot talk of technology. There are so many eventualities that can happen when you are driving. This is for your own safety. We are saying to the people of Zimbabwe, you need to carry this in the event that the other tyre is ruptured, then you can actually replace it with a spare wheel.

Like he is saying, it gives that safety cover that, in the event that it deflates, it can allow you to drive for a certain range of kilometres. We are talking of a scenario where the tyre is no longer manageable for you, it will not allow you to continue driving. Therefore, you need to replace it. However, we continue again, educating our masses that this is not for the police, it is for us. Yes, if you are given ten kilometres to drive, you

can still have your spare wheel regardless of the fact that it is flat. Thank you.

***THE HON. SPEAKER:** Please note that there are several Ministers and Deputy Ministers here. Do not abuse one Ministry. Spread your question accordingly.

***HON. MURAMBIWA:** Thank you very much Hon. Speaker. Let me start by thanking the President, His Excellency Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, for his vision for better livelihoods for the Zimbabwean people by 2030. Because of that vision, the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education came up with the heritage-based curriculum, which fulfils the President's vision. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare.

The question is that many schools are complaining that there are few teachers, yet we want the heritage-based education to succeed. So, what plans does the Ministry have in terms of staffing for both primary and secondary education? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. E. MOYO): Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir

and I want to thank Hon. Murambiwa for the pertinent question. Yes, it is the Government's desire to have all schools adequately staffed.

However, I know that there are many vacant posts that have not been filled. Basically, our wish is that we could fill all of them.

Now, the issue here is that every post that must be filled must receive adequate concurrence and funding from the Ministry of Finance. Every year, an allocation is given, depending on fiscal space, to say you employ so many teachers, nurses, or other civil servants in the country, depending on the availability of resources to manage that staff increase. This year, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education was asked to employ about 2000 additional teachers. I am sure the recruitment is currently ongoing and that may not be enough, but that is what Treasury has provided for. I thank you.

***HON. MURAMBIWA.** My supplementary question is that, Hon. Minister among the teachers that you have approved, do we have teachers who are specialising in Mathematics and Science subjects, since in most secondary schools there are no science teachers and maths teachers. I thank you.

HON. E. MOYO: Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. On the question of specialisation of teachers, it largely depends on the recruiting district. They have their priorities to say these are the teachers that we want. We know that there are several teachers who are qualified and not employed. So, they need to prioritise subject areas or specialisations that they require. So, in whatever numbers they have been given, we expect that they look at those specialities or rare specialities that they need in their schools. It is really a matter of prioritisation by the respective districts. I thank you.

HON. DR. SAGANDIRA: Thank you so much Hon. Speaker. My supplementary question is about the answer that has been given by the Minister of Social Welfare. Does it necessarily mean that there is policy inconsistency as far as this issue is concerned, considering that the Government has actually adopted the whole-of-government approach where ministries complement each other but I can see that when the Ministry is about to recruit, that is when we hear that the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion has said it cannot go ahead. Where is the problem there?

HON. E. MOYO: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker Sir. The questioner is talking about whether there is an inconsistency in Government or not. There is absolute consistency and the consistency is that for every additional post in Government, the policy says you need to have Treasury concurrence. That is consistent across all ministries, departments, and agencies. Ministries complement each other and there are bids made by different ministries on staffing issues and those have to be assessed against the availability of resources. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion has the responsibility to say, yes, you may proceed with that, with the capacity to pay or not. Our demands are so much but our budget availability is so much, so there is absolute consistency. Thank you.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My follow-up question to the Hon. Speaker goes on to say that last year, 10 schools had a 0% pass rate for Ordinary Level examinations. Does the Government accept the blame for failure to ensure that teachers are provided on time or does Government take the blame for this horrendous performance?

THE HON. SPEAKER: I am not sure whether it is the blame or it takes responsibility. Anyway, the Hon. Minister.

HON. E. MOYO: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think that question is beyond my mandate. I think it is a question to be dealt with by the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. My boundary would go as far as the provision of manpower in the civil service and perhaps performance by ministries or by their schools is something to do with the relevant ministry. I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member stood and gave statistics of 10 schools that had 0% pass rate. He then went on without providing evidence to apportion blame. I believe that several factors come into play and that analysis is so fertile that it does not deserve to be responded to because it did not provide facts that warrant any response. I thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Madzivanyika, I have not responded. What the Leader of Government business is simply saying is that the moment you step into the statistical world, you need evidence

and that evidence also must be provided by the respondent, who is the Minister responsible. Your question, in fact, is a good question, but it is better treated under a written question so that the Hon. Minister can respond accordingly after doing his research. You can proceed for next week under written questions, please.

HON. MAONEKE: My supplementary question is that the Minister said they can only recruit just maybe about a thousand, which is about a fraction of those who have completed their teacher's training programme. My worry is, some teachers completed their training around 2019/2020 and they are yet to be employed. The curriculum is constantly changing. Are there any measures in place to ensure that you recruit people with the correct skills to cope with the new changes that have taken place now that the curriculum has changed? Thank you.

HON. E. MOYO: Thank you to Hon. Maoneke for the supplementary question. Yes, admittedly, some teachers completed around 2018/2019 who still have not been employed, and this question of when one gets employed is a question of demand and supply. In some cases, there is an oversupply of teachers for particular specialisations.

Those teachers are likely to take longer to get employed. It carries with it the question that was asked earlier: to say we have a shortage of these teachers. We found that teachers in mathematics, sciences and so on, do not stay as long as some teachers do, because their skills are required and they are in short supply. The turnaround is faster for those teachers who have rare skills than for those who have skills in abundance. It is a question of demand and supply. Thank you.

HON. GUMBO: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir...

THE HON. SPEAKER: Just a second, Hon. Mavhunga, Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle. If you may approach the Chair, please. Please proceed Hon. Gumbo.

HON. GUMBO: My question is directed to the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. The question co-joins the Minister of Home Affairs. What policy measures and/or policy reform proposals is Government currently implementing to ensure that classes of persons such as refugees, asylum seekers and immigration detainees are not subjected to or held in our remand prisons together with criminal offenders given that our remand prisons are already congested, those are

the obligations that Zimbabwe has undertaken under the Refugees Convention of 1951. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank Hon. Gumbo for the good question. Our position currently is, while the Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage is working out the budgetary requirements and moving towards the creation of their own boarding or holding houses, we do not have any other place where we can keep them safely and secure, where we can have comfort that we can put them besides our correctional facilities. It is not the ideal system to be in place, but we believe that progressively with Treasury support. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage can have their own holding facilities so that we will not be seen as violating the conventions that he mentioned. It is actually a good question, which we are progressively working with the relevant authorities to see how we can progressively realise that position. I thank you.

HON. GUMBO: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question would be why our Government does not consider non-custodial approaches, given that refugees and asylum seekers are being kept by the Government in detention, which is purely administrative. Why can we not consider other measures? We have the transit camp in Waterfalls and we have Tongogara Refugee camp. Why can we not put other mechanisms that do not necessarily keep these persons in our already overburdened prisons? Let us keep them in Tongogara, we keep them in the transit centre and then the Commissioner for Refugees can also then support in providing those administrative mechanisms.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Once again, I want to thank the Hon. Member for the follow-up question. We do not hold refugees in our correctional facilities but those individuals who we would not have finished the processes of vetting and trying to establish their status, we cannot put them in refugee holding camps. We need to be fully sure that these are indeed refugees. This is just a security measure. Again, those who are awaiting deportation, once somebody knows that an order for deportation has been given. It is not ideal to put

them in a refugee camp because the chances of escaping will be very high.

Our choices are very limited. So under the current circumstances, the ideal place to have them would be in our correctional facilities because one will know that we can do all the necessary security checks for us to release those who would have been cleared to go to holding cells. Secondly, we know that for those who are awaiting deportation, the order would be executed appropriately. I so submit, Mr. Speaker Sir.

***HON. HAMAUSWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question is that with what is happening in South Africa, the current xenophobia attacks, is there anything that our Government can lead by example, explaining, helping and guiding our colleagues in South Africa to understand or something that they can copy from Zimbabwe, particularly looking at the refugee camps that we have in Zimbabwe. Thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Hon. Speaker Sir, if you are a neighbour, you remain a neighbour. You cannot go to their home and teach them what to do. You remain a good neighbour. I thank you.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. My question is directed at the Minister of Mines and Mining Development. Let me start by thanking the Hon. Minister for a good programme, the programme which pertains to the processing of minerals locally before being exported, which is creating employment through value addition. My question is whether there are minerals like coal that are in demand because of the proliferation of industries here. This is a mineral that is treated differently from gold and other minerals. When gold is being processed, there is the flora and fauna policy and looking at how it is processed and whether it is being taken to Fidelity. In the extraction of coal, those who extract coal, mine and sell without any gatekeeping. Some are friends of those who consume or use coal. What is Government policy and what is the Government doing in terms of ensuring that what they declare at the end of the day or at the end of the month is what they have mined because we might be left with open pits without benefiting. I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING
DEVELOPMENT (HON. KAMBAMURA):** Thank you Hon.

Speaker. I also want to thank Hon. Tshuma for that pertinent question pertaining to the mining of coal. Let me say that when we deploy police officers to monitor minerals, we look at the value of minerals. For example, mining gold and diamonds. A tonne of diamonds is quite pricey. That of coal in terms of tonnage is a bit lower. As Government, the monitoring of the mining of coal is happening through the mining. The MMCZ and even at Hwange, we monitor that. We also have ministry employees who patrol and inspect what is happening in coal mining at Hwange. Our inspectors work with the miners, looking at whether they are mining legally, whether they are following procedures, environmental laws and whether they are declaring what they are mining. Let me also add that despite all that, some might be mining illegally and I request that if Hon. Tshuma has noted some areas of concern, may the Hon. Member inform the ministry so that we carry out investigations and as the Government, our role is to ensure that mining is being done legally, that minerals are exported legally and that Government taxes are paid. I thank you.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Ma'am. My supplementary question is that the price of coal might be a bit low but the quantities that are extracted and exported might be quite exorbitant. I believe there is a need for the ministry to look at what they are doing in mining. The Rural District Councils also expect to benefit from this mining, which is why you would find out that sometimes what they declare to their councils does not tally with what they are mining. They under-declare whatever they have mined. Looking at what has been mined, you find that sometimes they under-declare. That has prompted us to ask the Minister so that inspections and investigations are done. I believe that there are several ways that can be done despite the money that is generated through the mining of coal, because we come from these areas where mining is happening. I thank you.

***HON. KAMBAMURA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I also thank Hon. Tshuma for the supplementary question. During the previous Cabinet, the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, Prof. Mthuli Ncube, started the programme that money which is being taken by the RDC must be looked into. We also

talked about the issue of RDCs that they must work together with the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development to monitor the output from the mines in their respective areas, because they have a certain percentage of the proceeds that they are getting from those mines. As I had already alluded to, we have those who are monitoring. Like Hon. Tshuma has alluded to, that where he comes from, there are a lot of things that are happening. May he please come to my office, we sit down and discuss so that we can be able to give a meaningful response to what is really happening in his area. I thank you.

***HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker Ma'am, I am pleading that the question that is being asked by Hon. Tshuma, may the Minister come to this august House with a Ministerial Statement concerning these issues because the Ministerial Statement must explain to us what types of minerals we are getting. Are they monitoring every mineral so that the country can benefit from it? Are we benefiting the correct amounts?

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Government Chief Whip, I believe that the Hon. Minister has listened and he is going to do that. May you respond Hon. Minister?

HON. KAMBAMURA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I am going to bring the Ministerial Statement explaining to this House what the Government is getting from every mineral and what ways are being used by the ministry to protect our minerals, and also to make sure that everything is accounted for and mined according to government policies and procedures as alluded to by the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Togarepi.

HON. KAITANO: Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion. With regards to the Government policy on the legacy debt, we have seen how the legacy debt has been a burden to some State-owned enterprises, especially those in the aviation industry. We have also seen that the Government, in the past, has taken over some debt from other State-owned enterprises, especially in telecommunications. I want to appreciate the position of the Government with regards to taking over all or some of the debt, especially that which has become burdensome to State-owned enterprises in the aviation sector. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question. My response is that our Ministry of Finance is fully aware of the debts that we have and in some instances, we are engaged in debt restructuring. In others, we are in negotiation to see how we can extinguish our debt and we are very happy with the progress that the Minister of Finance has been making so far. However, should there be anything, the parties can approach the Government for an amicable solution if there is anything outside what the Government is already doing. I thank you.

HON. T. NYATHI: Thank you Madam Speaker. My question goes to the Minister of Transport. Regarding the Government policy on urban transport, what is the Government doing to alleviate the troubles being faced by urban commuters in cities like Bulawayo, Harare and Gweru, where we see that there are virtually no ZUPCO buses still ferrying people from town, industrial sites or to where they reside? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. The transport sector in Zimbabwe was liberalised. However, the Government was also a player in the transport industry and we believe that progressively, those players that are in the industry should be able to meet the demand for transporting our commuters. Currently, I do not believe that we have a very significant crisis in terms of transportation in the country. I submit.

HON. NYATHI: Thank you Madam Speaker, I am not sure where the Minister resides, where he does not see these problems. We see these problems every day. We see that there is now an influx of Honda Fit cars, that are used as *mushika-shika* ferrying people from where they reside to town and to industrial sites. This is because there is a crisis. He cannot deny that there is a crisis; we know that the crisis is there. We want to know what the Government is doing to alleviate that problem because it is there and he knows that it is there. He cannot deny it. I thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Madam Speaker. The Hon. Member has noticed an opportunity, which Government has created in the transport industry. We liberalised the transport sector. I am not sure why the Hon. Member believes that in monopolising the transport sector, it will alleviate the crisis. We believe there is an opportunity that is there within the transport sector for those among us who want to invest there, like what he is indicating that there are *mushika-shikas*. He can also invest in the transport sector. That is what we are encouraging.

HON. KARENYI: Thank you Madam Speaker and I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for his response. What is the Government policy on the issue of alleviating the transport crisis by using the railway line? We used to have workers from, for example, Mabvuku to town using trains. What is the Government policy on that? Thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to thank Hon. Karenyi for the good question. What is happening is that our National Railways of Zimbabwe is now under Mutapa and we are now trying to leverage our assets so that we can get an investor or a loan to ensure that we resuscitate our National Railways. That is work in

progress and indeed, we believe that it will also ease pressure on our road network if we can increase the usage of our rail network.

I think the Public Accounts Committee was visiting some of the assets of Mutapa. They visited the National Railways and they were able to get an explanation on the processes that are being done to ensure that we alleviate the pressure that is on our roads, which has also resulted in massive damage to our Victoria Falls-Bulawayo Road because of a lack of rail infrastructure to carry some of the coal and other mineral products from that area. It is a good question, which is being handled by one of our investment companies which is Mutapa. I thank you.

***HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is that the confusion which has led to transport problems is because of rank marshals who are found in urban areas, which has led to chaos in most areas where people board commuter omnibuses. There are rumors that there are cartels that control loading points. What does Government plan to do in terms of controlling the transport sector so that pirate taxis are eliminated and that people do not hide behind politics. For example, we now hear people saying that there

are *hwindis* for E. D. What does Government plan to do to bring sanity to the transport sector?

*** HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for that good question. I believe we need to correct some things and I agree with the Hon. Member that there should be order on our roads. Before responding and before continuing with my response, I want to say that it is not bad to have rank marshals or *hwindis* if they follow the law. We can have rank marshals but they must follow and adhere to the law. If you are a *hwindi* or a conductor, you must follow the Road Traffic Act and other laws. The Ministry of Home Affairs, together with the Police and Judiciary, now have monitoring mechanisms through cameras. The CVR is taking action when you are caught through the cameras violating different laws, they are going to be prosecuting such. For those who try to beat traffic lights or toll gates, the law will take its course. Let us educate each other. In urban areas, there are cameras, so some would be caught upon paying their road licences.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: On a point of order Madam Speaker.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Madam Chair. My point of order relates to the response by the Hon. Minister. He mentioned that it is not bad for one to be a tout. In Shona, to be a *hwindi*. According to our current law, are touts legal? My understanding is that they are illegal. That is my point of order that the Hon. Minister may need to be rephrase his response because touts are illegal. I thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** That is what he is saying. I call the conductor for a kombi a *hwindi*. According to my knowledge, the conductor is not being arrested. I mentioned the conductors. I did not mention the touts.

***HON. MATIZA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. What is the Government policy concerning our children who are in South Africa, who are being attacked and killed like chickens and being humiliated because of xenophobia? What is the Government policy concerning Zimbabwean citizens who are being harassed in South Africa? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** I want to

thank the Hon. Member for asking that pertinent question. He said he is hearing and he is also seeing on social media, but as the Government, we work together with the Government of South Africa and we are doing everything according to law. So, if there are people who have done something that is outside the law in South Africa, it is the duty of the police officers in South Africa to apprehend them and make sure that each and every individual is following the law.

However, we are working with the embassies through the diplomatic channels that we have for our Zimbabweans facing difficulties or humiliation or any other illegal activities that are not good. As for now, we have not heard anything through the embassies that there is a lot of beating and killing that is happening in South Africa, but what we heard is that there are people who went on the streets to demonstrate and the Government of South Africa did not support it.

From our diplomatic relations with South Africa, we also encourage each other, even here in Zimbabwe; if someone comes and is found on the wrong side of the law, that person is apprehended because he or she is forced to follow our laws. Even those police officers in

South Africa are supposed to follow the South African laws and anyone found on the wrong side of the law is apprehended. Thank you Madam Speaker.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** I believe, Madam Speaker, that most Zimbabweans who went to South Africa were facing economic challenges, such as a lack of jobs, among other problems. My supplementary question is, what is the Government policy to make sure that millions of Zimbabweans who are in South Africa can come back here and find jobs? Thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** What I have heard is that the Hon. Member has done some research and said people went to South Africa in search of jobs and also speaks of his wishes for all Zimbabweans to come back and get jobs here in Zimbabwe. I am pleading with the Minister of Labour that he states the statistics of jobs that have been created by His Excellency since he started in 2018, when those people were going to South Africa, while people in Zimbabwe were enjoying milk and honey.

***HON. CHINODAKUFA:** My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I want to applaud him for we are noticing that on our roads

there are some cameras which are being erected. I wanted to explain it this way. When we are erecting these cameras, the cars that we sell to each other cannot have a change of ownership because we only have the agreement of sale. So, when crimes are committed using these cars, a lot of people are going to be arrested. What is the Government initiative pertaining to that so that people will be able to pay for these cars? Thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of Government Business, you can respond.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** I have noticed that the Deputy Minister of Transport is present, but I will respond. The owner of the vehicle is the one who will be arrested. In this whole world, if you have a car and your child uses the car, he/she commits a crime, the crime will be recorded in your name. You are the one who is to be arrested. This system is very good, we do not have issues. If you do not pay for the tickets, you are held accountable when you want to pay for your insurance and if police officers realise that you did not pay for your

insurance, they will arrest you. This is a very commendable thing because all criminals are going to be held accountable.

HON. CHIGUMBU: The original question that has been asked is that the challenge that is there is that it is difficult for people to easily carry out the change of ownership process because the current process is cumbersome. We have seen other countries like UK and Estonia, all you need if you are selling your car, you go on sort of an online platform, enter certain digits of your vehicle and the details of the person who is buying the vehicle and it becomes instantaneous to change that ownership.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ask your question Hon. Chigumbu.

HON. CHIGUMBU: I am getting there Madam Speaker. I want to lay the foundation so that the Minister can answer properly. So, the question now is, do we have any mechanism that the Government is putting in place to make sure that it becomes easy for people to change ownership so that when crimes are committed, it also helps the Government to pinpoint the current owner of that particular vehicle.

Currently, yes, we are seeing people changing ownership but it is difficult. Do we have any provision that is being put in place by the Government so that people can easily change the vehicle ownership when they would have sold their cars?

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Madam Speaker, what is interesting is, I come from the department where the police officers are saying they are very happy with the system of identifying the culprits. The Hon. Member is saying it is very difficult to identify the culprit. So, I do not know which department he is representing. Secondly, it is very easy now to change ownership. All you need is to visit ZIMRA, pay the ZIMRA dues and CVR will immediately change ownership, same day. I did it two days ago. I want to encourage him to just visit ZIMRA, they will do the assessment and before you know it, within 48 hours or under 48 hours, your car will be changed. Let me allay the fears, the police and the authorities are very happy with the cameras. They are very happy that now we do not have to hunt for culprits but they will come in person and they will arrest them.

***HON. MARASHE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. My question is directed to the Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities. What initiatives does the Government have in place regarding the provision of housing or residential stands to individuals at affordable prices? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL HOUSING AND SOCIAL AMENITIES (HON. MUSA NCUBE): Thank you Madam Speaker. Allow me to convey to this esteemed House that the Ministry is committed to providing affordable housing for all citizens in accordance with our policies.

However Madam Speaker, we are currently facing budgetary constraints. Our policy stipulates that we should offer affordable housing to our citizens and I would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, for his mantra of leaving no one and no place behind, recognising that some individuals cannot afford decent accommodation.

His Excellency has taken measures to assist those in need. For instance, he has constructed the Dzivarasekwa Flats, a 64-unit complex

for flood victims and low-income earners. Additionally, His Excellency has provided loans to junior civil servants to enable them to acquire and build their own homes. Madam Speaker, we are all aware that our economy is predominantly privately owned, with various stakeholders providing accommodation. Unfortunately, this accommodation is often prohibitively expensive for low-income earners.

In terms of social housing, we are undertaking several projects within the Ministry. We have engaged with the local authorities to secure land, as well as with the Ministry of Local Government to obtain State land for the construction of houses for low-income earners and vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, women, youth, and war veterans. I thank you.

⁺HON. MANANZVA: Thank you Madam Speaker. Firstly, I would like to commend the Hon. President for launching the Munhumutapa Housing Scheme, which is benefiting many youths across Zimbabwe. I applaud the President's vision that by 2030, the youth will have access to decent accommodation.

Secondly, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities. Are they monitoring the land developers assigned by the Munhumutapa Housing Scheme to ensure that they are fulfilling the President's commitment that everyone should have decent accommodation by 2030?

HON. MUSA NCUBE: Thank you Hon. Mananzva. I appreciate your genuine concern for the youth. You once visited my office to gain a better understanding of how we can assist our young people through this programme.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to echo Hon. Mananzva's gratitude to His Excellency for providing our younger generation with stands, enabling them to have their own homes under our home ownership programme. We are actively collaborating with the youth. Through a whole-of-Government approach, we are ensuring that all land developers participating in this initiative comply with the relevant laws and policies guiding its implementation.

⁺HON. M. C. SIBANDA: Thank you Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to pose my question. I would also like to commend the

Government for its efforts in providing housing to accommodate citizens.

Could the Hon. Minister inform the House of the measures being taken by the Government to facilitate the issuance and acquisition of title deeds for beneficiaries of the housing schemes that have been provided?

+HON. MUSA NCUBE: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to once again thank His Excellency for the programme he initiated in 2022, the Presidential Title Deeds Programme. We have witnessed that His Excellency officially opened this programme in Epworth where the residents in Epworth received these title deeds, which amount to 663.

Madam Speaker, as the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities, we are also pushing this programme. We are very much involved in it. I am also promising Hon. Sibanda that this programme is not only targeting residents in the urban areas. Since we are a Ministry that oversees the issue of accommodation, of housing, we are going to be working hand in glove with the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs so that we can give title deeds to 22 000 people

who have accommodation, which is under the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities.

We have sent the offer letters to the residents of these houses. These documents show whether they are interested in buying these houses. After buying the houses, we process the title deeds for them. We have received the responses. Almost every resident in these houses has shown interest in buying these houses. After they buy the houses, we will then award them with the title deeds.

In addition, Madam Speaker, there is a programme of regularisation which is being led by the policy on women's settlement. We are looking into areas where people have unlawfully randomly settled without the land being serviced, for example, with water, a proper sewer system and electricity. Again, we thank the President. We are trying to expedite this process by making sure that people residing in such areas go through the process of regularisation and we have services done to the land. We want to have proper roads, safe water and a proper sewer system.

If you look at small towns, especially like Mbundane in Bulawayo, people use blair toilets which is against our policy. Where they construct blair toilets is where they sink their boreholes for drinking water. This is another programme that we are looking into, Madam Speaker. We are looking into that so that when we get to 2030, we will have achieved the vision of His Excellency by making sure that no one is still using blair toilets while residing in urban areas. We are making sure that there are proper roads to use when travelling and social amenities, especially entertainment areas and clinics. All these are supposed to be looked into before 2030.

I would also like to thank the Hon. Members of Parliament who took part in making sure that in their areas of jurisdiction, there is the development of classroom blocks and the construction of classrooms. I want to thank all the Hon. Members of Parliament from different constituencies for making this possible. This is an appreciation that is coming from the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities. These social amenities include clinics, classrooms and community halls. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: Thank you Madam Speaker and I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for her responses. While the Hon. Minister has outlined the general measures that she explained, I would like to find out if she can elaborate more on the dedicated interventions that are being implemented to ensure that women, particularly widows, single mothers and female-headed households gain equitable access to affordable housing. In particular, if she can go deeper on how the Government will dismantle barriers such as unequal land rights, lack of collateral for loans, as well as vulnerability to eviction, which disproportionately affects women. I so submit.

HON. MUSA NCUBE: I would like to thank Hon. Murombezi for the pertinent question, which shows that she is more concerned about women and widows. Madam Speaker, I would like to assure Hon. Murombezi that our policy provides or guides us to consider women, youth, war veterans and people with disabilities or let me say, the minority groups. In all our programmes, as the Minister for National Housing and Social Amenities, there is a certain percentage, which we are supposed to allocate to each of these four categories, which I have

mentioned. It is 10%. When we have social houses, on allocating those houses, we are supposed to give 10% to each of the four. That includes the widows.

Then, on the issue of collateral, I am not really sure Madam Speaker, on what exactly she is talking about because we do not give loans to widows. We only give loans to junior civil servants. Those are people who are serving within the Government. There is no collateral, which is required for one to apply for the loans. The process is that all the ministries submit their list of names for those who are supposed to get the loans and we disburse the loans according to the requirements.

For the eviction of widows, with your indulgence Madam Speaker, I would request the Hon. Member to put it in writing so that I can carry out proper research and see whether those widows who are evicted from the houses are evicted from the houses which belong to the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities or other sectors and bring back a detailed report. I submit Madam Speaker.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Deputy Minister. I am sure Hon. Murombedzi has taken note of that.

***HON. MAPIKI:** My question is directed to the Minister of ICT. What initiative does the Ministry have pertaining to the resuscitation of the ZimPost department because we have seen that there are some people who have taken that job? Some motorbikes are doing that job. In the rural areas, we are supposed to have digital centres that will be working with ZimPost. What initiative does the Ministry have so that this department is resuscitated? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, POSTAL AND
COURIER SERVICES (HON. DR. MAVETERA):** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I also want to thank Hon. Mapiki for his pertinent question. Yesterday, Madam Speaker, ZIMPOST made presentations before the Committee on ICT in this Hon. House. I want to applaud Hon. Mapiki, who asked a plethora of questions on that. Since he asked the question here, let me proceed and respond to his questions.

Regarding ZIMPOST, our mandate as ICT on the network is being led by the Department of Pan-African Postal (PAP). When we are overseas, globally we will be led by the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

We agreed that we must now have a mandate for the post office to improve its operations so it can engage in various activities in sync with digitalisation. So, we agreed that our post offices must now be smart. I want to applaud ZIMPOST. When they were given this mandate, they said they wanted to create a smart post office by 2030. I want to say that it is true they talked with the digital centres, we are improving them. I want to applaud that three weeks ago, we agreed with Econet AI that they would do Google acceleration in every ZIMPOST digitalisation. This will help us because we will be doing artificial intelligence and rating digital acceleration.

They also talked about courier services. What we were doing together with POTRAZ was giving them lower prices so we could know them and register them. We told all those, the *malayichas* and everyone, to come and register using very low prices. The issue is that, as Government, there are some who have stopped the *malayichas* but we also have to regulate them so that they work according to what is required. What we did was to invite the *malayichas* to come so that they

would be registered at very low prices. After that, we have another initiative that all those who are not registered must be arrested.

We were working hand in glove with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, so those people must be accountable if they are doing that without paying. We gave them different packages. So, we are urging them all to come and register so that they know what is expected of them and the charges they are supposed to pay, so that we formalise this, that is the initiative we are currently doing. ZIMPOST is currently working in conjunction with CAAZ and they have registered that they must buy some drones so they can transport the courier goods they have.

In the last three weeks, while we were at ZITF, ZIMPOST launched what we call a smart post. They said they would be able to track parcels, use that to send them and be able to communicate with people on WhatsApp, that is what ZIMPOST is doing.

However, I want to say to this august House that, on the issue that was before the House yesterday regarding ZIMPOST, they say they are finalising the board issue. ZIMPOST is launching new initiatives to prevent its extinction. Thank you.

HON. ENGR. MHANGWA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am.

When the Hon. Minister was talking about courier service companies, lumping together both the privately owned and the public-owned, which is ZIMPOST. Is there any deliberate move, for instance, to compel Government-owned enterprises, parastatals or State-owned enterprises to take ZIMPOST as their preferred courier? Is it part of the policy so that they give them a market advantage?

HON. DR. MAVETERA: Thank you very much Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let me thank Hon. Mhangwa for that question. Yes, that is a very noble idea and I think we need to make sure we pursue such an initiative.

We have also tried to do that, even with our software developers, where we want to continuously engage Government and see if they can be given preferential treatment for the various initiatives they have. So, I think that is a very good idea. We will pursue it. We thank you for offering such. We will be able to work on it. It is not yet policy, but we are also considering doing this so we can continue to give business to ZIMPOST. Thank you.

HON. GUMBO: Thank you Madam Speaker. I do not believe that ZIMPOST's inadequacies are due to lack of innovation. We know of the legacy debt that ZIMPOST carries from the unbundling of Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (PTC) and so on. Even at the very current moment, ZIMPOST is struggling to pay its own employees...

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the question?

HON. GUMBO: That is what I was now getting into. What is the Government doing insofar as assisting ZIMPOST in dealing with its legacy debt so that it can be capacitated for purposes of funding future innovations? So, you see now, it is a giant. It must be the leader in that industry, but it is being held back by debt. What is the Government doing to bail it out? Thank you.

HON. DR. MAVETERA: Thank you very much Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let me thank Hon. Gumbo for that pertinent question. Yes, as Government we are happy that ZIMPOST has managed to provide for its audited results and now it is up-to-date, they are only left with about two years. This is something that they managed to do over the last four years.

We have also tried to negotiate and continuously engage with the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion and find ways that we can work towards this legacy debt. Ultimately, what needs to be done for ZIMPOST is, they need recapitalisation, this is the ultimate goal. It is not only ZIMPOST within the ICT sector; but we are looking at TelOne and even NetOne. This is a conversation that is already underway. We are glad that for the other SOEs that we have, that is NetOne and TelOne, Mutapa is seized with such a matter. As for ZIMPOST, this is a continuous engagement that we are having together with the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, so that we recapitalise, that is the only way to go. If we are recapitalising ZIMPOST, that means definitely these prospects of even doing better can then be achieved.

I will tell you, ZIMPOST had a proposal for them to even be able to add up its logistical fleet, but to date, they have not been capacitated. So, if we get capacity definitely, there is never a time we will get ZIMPOST not to be profitable. So, we think more money needs to be put

into ZIMPOST and I am sure that will be a thing of the past to say ZIMPOST is not profitable.

***HON. NYABANI:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My supplementary question is, what initiatives are there that the employees at ZimPost will be able to fund their families? At the moment, they are not getting remuneration. What is the Government's initiative that is there for them to get money to send their children to school and put food on the table? I thank you.

***HON. DR. MAVETERA:** Thank you Madam Speaker and I want to thank Hon. Nyabani for the pertinent question. It is true, I want to repeat what was said by ZimPost yesterday. Operational issues are handled by ZimPost. I listened to their response to you and they promised that they will be able to pay all the money that they owe. These are some words I have that we are encouraging ZimPost to pay those workers the money they owe in the shortest possible time. I thank you.

HON. JAMES: Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is to the Hon. Minister of Local Government and Public Works. Clarity is

urgently needed regarding the proposed housing development on the Ramsar-protected Monavale wetland. As this is State land, the development must have been signed off by your office. Can we have clarity on the situation and would you be in a position to rectify the situation as fresh pegging took place almost immediately after the firm's Secretary of the Office of the President and Cabinet, spoke on site on the 5th of May? Thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. James, I advise you to put your question in writing because it is a specific question.

HON. JAMES: Madam Speaker, I brought it up as a point of privilege on Tuesday and the then Speaker of the House suggested I ask a question on a Wednesday. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Madam Speaker. The question is about a specific area that is being developed and the Minister of Local Government and Public Works will gladly come here and answer that question, I submit.

HON. JAMES: Madam Speaker, it is unacceptable. This is a...

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. James, I advise you to put your question in writing so that the responsible Minister will make some investigations and bring the answer to this Parliament. Thank you.

HON. JAMES: Madam Speaker, I was asked to present the question here.

HON. TOGAREPI: I think it is time that he is dismissed from the House. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: On a point of order, Madam Speaker. When we are in the House, we should take the proceedings of this House seriously. I think the Government Chief Whip must lead by example. This business of just speaking without your indulgence does not give a good picture in terms of respect for your office and respect for this House. He should lead by example. Thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order overruled.

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: Madam Speaker, you did not give reasons for your ruling.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please, may you allow this House to proceed?

⁺HON. NYONI: Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs. People in our constituencies are asking about the current position of those who were vetted in 2022. Is it possible for the Minister to give us a detailed update on the current position concerning the promises that were given by the Government? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF VETERANS OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE AFFAIRS (HON. SEN. MAVHUNGA): Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me again thank Hon. Nyoni for that pertinent question. It is true, Hon. Speaker, that in 2022 and 2024, we held a vetting programme that involved the non-combatants and the war collaborators. We have already compared their names. The names are ready for gazetting, but for them to be gazetted, there is need for Treasury concurrence and we are at an advanced stage with our consultations. I thank you.

HON. MAPIKI: On a point of order! Is it not possible for the Minister to come and file a Ministerial Statement? That is my thinking

that she must produce a Ministerial Statement so that we have our responses.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you are requested to bring a Ministerial Statement.

HON. SEN. MAVHUNGA: Noted ma'am. I thank you.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Supplementary question...

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your supplementary question? Is it in relation to the question that was asked? You will ask your questions when the Ministerial Statement is brought to the House.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Madam Speaker, I am arising on a supplementary question that was raised by the Minister. My question does not have anything to do with Hon. Mapiki's question.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you refusing?

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: I am allowed to give a supplementary question Madam Speaker Ma'am.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not be influenced by Hon. Makumire.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: My supplementary question is, our war veterans at the moment are being given USD150 which is way below the poverty line. What is the Government's initiative to ensure that our war veterans are given good treatment? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF VETERANS OF THE LIBERATION STUGGLE AFFAIRS (HON. SEN. MAVHUNGA):** I want to thank Hon. Member for the supplementary question though it is not in sync with the first question because his first question pertained to those who were evicted later on, whose names were supposed to be advertised. On this question, what is the Government's initiative to give war veterans a salary increase? I believe that when every civil servant was given a pay hike, the same should also be done to the war veterans. It is my wish that they be able to have a decent livelihood and they are being assisted so that they will be able to be in the arenas of the wealth, in the farms and in tourism so that they are self-sufficient or self-reliant. This is the Government's initiative that they will be given a decent livelihood. Thank you.

***HON. CHIDUWA:** My supplementary is that when the vetting was initially done, there were some people who were left behind. I think it was said that, since gazetting is now near, what about those who were not vetted? What are you going to do with them?

***HON. SEN. MAVHUNGA:** Thank you Madam Speaker
Ma'am. I want to thank Hon. Chiduwa for his good question. Vetting is an ongoing thing. We have done the vetting in many areas. Those who were not vetted must go to their district, provincial or even at national offices. If there are war collaborators, they are supposed to be vetted by the commanders who were in the places where they were working. Meaning to say that if we know the number, we will send our people to go there and assist them. If it is possible, we will make them gather at one place and those people we are commanding at different places will also go there to verify if they are the ones.

Those who are gazetting will then follow up and put them in our register. Those are the ones who were vetted later on. This is also done to those who were vetted in 1997 who are war veterans. Up to now, we

are having those who were not vetted, who were in very remote areas, are being assisted and are being put in the registers. Thank you.

Questions Without Notice were interrupted by **THE HON.**

DEPUTY SPEAKER *in terms of Standing Order Number 68.*

HON. HAMAUSWA: May we extend the time for Questions Without Notice by 10 minutes?

HON. PINDUKA: I object.

Motion put and negatived.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a rejection.

***HON. HAMAUSWA:** May you guide us on the procedure? Someone is already saying I reject. I rose and it was rejected without me finishing what I was saying.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question time has already exceeded by 3 minutes.

***HON. HAMAUSWA:** This House is a House of laws and order. It must not be a House where one can do willy-nilly.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat, Hon. Hamauswa.

HON. CHIGUMBU: Hon. Chair, before you took the seat, there was a request by Hon. Hamauswa that a procedure should be followed. When a request to extend time was made, the Speaker did not ask for anyone to second but only heard Hon. Pinduka rejecting. What is he rejecting? We want to continue to ask about this issue that regards war veterans. May you conclude this procedure that was not concluded?

THE TEMPORARY. SPEAKER (HON. TSHUMA): Hon. Chigumbu, what happens is that when somebody asks for an extension of time, yes, procedurally, someone must then second it. The moment there is a voice of objection, it overrules everything. Unfortunately, that has been done. The voice of objection supersedes everything else. Sorry about that - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

THE TEMPORARY. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I am not going to indulge you further.

HON. CHIGUMBU: No, no, point of clarity. I want you to clarify something Hon. Speaker. The procedure is that you are supposed to object to something that has been seconded. Are you saying you are

changing the rules or what? Can you clarify on this? What is the rule? Is it supposed to be seconded and then rejected or accepted?

THE TEMPORARY. SPEAKER: Hon. Chigumbu, please take your seat while I am talking. I thought I took my time to explain to you the procedures. Then also highlighted that unfortunately, a voice of objection came out loud and clear. Which then stops the whole process. The Speaker can no longer ask for any seconder because there is already a serious intention of rejection of that request. Please, let us play with each other that way. You know, we always have many questions that remain unanswered. Ministers come here to respond to your questions but then you want to take time again dwelling on things that do not change. Honestly, do you not think you are being unfair to yourselves? Let us allow the House to proceed so that these ministers that are here can respond to these questions. You are the same people that write these questions. So, do you not want them to respond to your questions?

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

THE TEMPORARY. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, with your indulgence, may I kindly ask us to stand over all questions from Number

1 up to 136 so that we deal with questions Number 137 and 138 under the Minister of Defence. Deputy Chief Whip, please may you approach the chair?

The Deputy Chief Whip, having approached the Chair

THE TEMPORARY. SPEAKER: Order! We shall proceed.

**IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN BINGA
DISTRICT**

1. **HON. CUMANZALA** asked the Minister of Health and Child Care to inform the House on the following: -

(a) What measures are being taken to improve healthcare services in Binga District, particularly in rural areas?

(b) What measures are being implemented to reduce the incidence of malaria and waterborne diseases in the Zambezi Valley?

(c) Whether there are any plans to upgrade and expand healthcare facilities in Binga District in light of population growth and increased economic activity.

THE HON. DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. KWIDINI): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to

thank the Hon. Member for the question. It is in two parts. First part, the answer is to ensure an adequate health workforce, the Ministry of Health and Child Care is planning to double the number of health workers by 2030. In this regard, there has been an increase in the number of primary care nurses deployed across all rural health centres in Binga to strengthen primary health care services. For the hard-to-reach communities, we have managed to sustain outreach services, especially for the immunisation of children under five years. Outreach services mean our health teams will bring health services directly into communities to cater for the elderly and young ones, thus reducing travel distance to health facilities where services could be offered.

With the help of the head office, the district has managed to put neglected tropical diseases, that is NTDs such as bilharzia under control through mass drug administration working together with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. The Ministry of Health and Child Care has also embarked on promoting upskilling of health care workers through basic obstetric emergency care training, mentorship visits by specialists of obstetricians and paediatricians to the district hospitals. On

the equipment side, the Ministry of Health and Child Care availed various pieces of equipment for capacitation of Binga District Hospital through result-based financing, that is, RBF funds, availing anesthetic machines and resuscitation machines, among others.

The second part, measures to reduce malaria incidence in the Zambezi Valley. There is one vector control, the primary vector control measures deployed, including indoor residual spraying and net distribution. High-beds in wards are sprayed and communities in wards with moderate incidence receive nets. The Ministry of Health and Child Care also distributes nets to cover outside sleeping spaces if declared, including farmers, tobacco curing, garden clubs, crops, artisanal miners and coal production. Then larviciding is used as a complementary method. The challenge is that the country has limited stocks because the Ministry of Health and Child Care is awaiting the release of the budget to procure larvicides.

Case management:

The Ministry has trained village health workers to offer treatment and services at the community level, thus improving access to care.

Health workers continue to receive training and medical supplies to ensure the continued treatment of cases and reduce parasite density. Social behaviour change engagement of communities on the importance of malaria prevention and early treatment is ongoing. Support is received from local leadership to reach all communities during the deployment of interventions.

The cross-border engagement. Zambia and Zimbabwe have an MOU, Mashonaland West and Matebeleland North hold collaborative meetings with Zambian provinces, districts, learning visits and find ways to harmonise interventions in response to the communities, including more migrant populations. The Ministry's response is supported by surveillance systems at all levels, allowing transition of appropriate interventions.

The challenge is the uptake of health interventions by artisanal miners, which remains very low as it is usually difficult to reach them and poor risk perception. We request policies to support the engagement of the special group given their contribution to economic growth through mining activities. Population migration patterns in some areas are

increasing the burden in low malaria endemic areas. As efforts are made to reach populations who spend nights outside, the Ministry is not able to reach all and some cannot use nets because of the nature of their activities, leaving them at risk.

We request continued support in communicating malaria messages and the appropriate measures for them. Meanwhile, on measures being taken to reduce waterborne diseases, the Ministry of Health and Child Care has employed the following strategies.

Upgrading and protection of wells. The Ministry of Health and Child Care gives annual targets to improve safe water supply coverage. Provision of aqua-tapes to treat water from unprotected sources. Regular sanitary inspection and the repair of well-water resources. Collecting and analysing water samples. The collected water samples are sent to the Government analysis laboratories in Harare for quality control.

Establishing and training water point communities. Community health promotions on maintenance of water points and the prevention of waterborne diseases.

The third part. Binga, as the district hospital, as the district's main referral health facility, is undergoing renovation and the maternity ward is almost done following assistance we got from the Zimbabwean Defence Forces, which provided artisans. The maternity mother's waiting room was also refurbished with help from partners like International Medical Corps. The Ministry of Health and Child Care also aims to open four more clinics this year that are at advanced stages of completion. That is Manyanda, Mabobolo, Siachilaba and Zambezi clinics. When funding is available, the Ministry will construct more health facilities in the district to cater to the growing population.

HON. CUMANZALA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for the detailed response provided by the Ministry of Health on issues affecting the residents of Binga. My supplementary question is, considering that the distance from Mujele to Binga Centre and from Binga Centre to Chisiya is approximately 200 kilometers, would it not be prudent for referral centres such as Kalingwizi and Siabuwa to be equipped with ambulances to enable urgent medical assistance for patients, given the long distance to Binga Centre?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE

(HON. KWIDINI): Thank you so much Mr. Speaker Sir and I want to thank the Hon. Member for the additional question. Yes, it is unfortunate our translation was not working, but I could pick one or two words or sentences to say why some other ambulances, which are at Binga, are not being deployed to Siyabuwa and I believe there is some distance from the district hospital to other sites, maybe about 200 kilometres.

In response to that, what we usually do since we want to make sure every district in Zimbabwe is covered with the ambulances as of now, I believe at Binga District Hospital, if I am not mistaken, they have got four ambulances which are covering all clinics and sites which are feeders to Binga District Hospital. Also it is not maybe adequate or prudent for now for us to deploy ambulances not only at the district hospital because they are not yet enough, but our target is to do so, to make sure that we have ambulances at a mini rural health centres like Siyabuwa, but as of now, we deploy them at a district hospital so that they can cover all sites which are feeders to that particular district hospital. I thank you.

NUMBER OF HEALTH CENTRES THAT ADMINISTER
OXYTOCIN FOR MATERNAL HEALTH

2. **HON. MUROMBEDZI** asked the Minister of Health and Child Care to inform the House the number of health centres that can administer oxytocin for maternal health, province by province.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA) Before the Minister responds, Hon. Members, I am thinking that to be fair, with your indulgence, may I pick at least two questions per every ministry that is represented here so that at least all the ministers that are here can respond to some of the questions that are on today's *Order Paper*. The Minister of Health has already answered one, so this will be the second one. Then we will move to other ministers who are present here, so that we try and equate the responses. Are we okay with that? Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. KWIDINI): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and I want to thank Hon. Murombezi for the question. The number of health centres that can administer oxytocin for maternal health in total is 1 678. As you said, by

province, Masvingo has 220, Mashonaland Central has 163, Harare Metropolitan has 15, Midlands has 266, Matabeleland South has 148, Manicaland has 285, Mashonaland East has 241, Mashonaland West has 205, Bulawayo Metropolitan has 5 and Matabeleland North has 130. To make up a total of 1 678. I so submit.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: Thank you so much Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for that response. My supplementary question would be, I want to find out from the Ministry whether the availability of oxytocin at these health centres is matched by trained personnel and functional cold chain systems, particularly in most of our rural provinces where maternal mortality is at its highest and if we have accountability mechanisms that exist to monitor the stock-outs and prevent avoidable maternal death. I so submit.

HON. KWIDINI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and I want to thank Hon. Murombezi for the supplementary question. The fact is oxytocin is administered by qualified personnel who are midwives or trained people to do deliveries. The moment when these medicines are taken to these sites where deliveries are done, it automatically means that every site

that I have read out here has trained personnel. It can be a registered general nurse who is a midwife or a primary care nurse who is upskilled to do deliveries.

In terms of cold chain, that is why we have seen the Ministry has gone on the solar-powered break-up systems on all our rural health centres to make sure that all these vaccines which are delivered or deployed to these sites, not only oxytocin, but all vaccines which needs the cold chain maintenance, we have put up solar systems to make sure that in case of power failure, there is solar. In some areas, they also have some gas fridges, which are used as a backup to make sure that these cold chains are maintained every time. The quality controls are being done time and again to make sure the importance of the vaccines or this oxytocin is still viable and to make sure that we do not use drugs that are not potent enough, especially on cold chain issues. The nation is assured that most of our rural health centres are now solar-powered to maintain this, to make sure that we do not have a challenge, especially on cold chain maintenance. I thank you.

ALLOCATION OF BEAM TO BAOBAB PRIMARY SCHOOL

11. **HON. V. MOYO** asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to inform the House when Baobab Primary School will receive their BEAM allocation, considering that they last received the allocation in 2013.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. DINHA): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank Hon. Moyo for the question. The issue at Baobab Primary School in your constituency has been noted and investigated. We have discovered that the school was not submitting their BEAM allocation forms to the BEAM Management Unit, hence no payment was made. My Ministry has now reached out directly to them and provided guidance to ensure they rectify this anomaly. Once we receive the application forms, payments shall be effected and arrears cleared along with other schools. Importantly, we are developing a BEAM Management Information System that will be made available to all schools. This system will streamline the BEAM allocation process and reduce the administrative burden of submitting physical forms directly to BEAM Management Units. We are committed to improving the BEAM

programme efficiency and ensuring all eligible schools receive their allocations promptly. The new BEAM MIS system will be a key part of achieving this goal. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

INSTALLATION OF STARLINK INTERNET AT WARREN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

8. **HON. HAMAUSWA** asked the Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services, to inform the House when the Starlink internet installation will be carried out at Warren Park High School, the only public secondary education institution serving Warren Park 1 and 2, Warren Park D, Westlea, Cold Comfort, Parkview, Dawnview, Belvedere West and other nearby communities.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION,
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, POSTAL AND COURIER
SERVICES (HON. PHUTI):** The Government recognises the critical role of internet connectivity in enhancing access to education, particularly in public institutions such as Warren Park High School. The deployment of satellite broadband solutions, including those provided by

Starlink, is part of the broader digitalisation process programme aimed at connecting schools, clinics and other public institutions. With respect to Warren Park High School, the school has been identified as a priority institution under the ICT Lab per the School Programme run by the Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services. The school has been connected and the project was completed on Wednesday, 18th March 2026. I have the liberty to share visuals of the connected schools with my colleague Hon. Member. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just want to thank Hon. Minister. Indeed, they connected the school. It is only that maybe the question remained on the *Order Paper* for a long time. However, I also encourage Government ministries that whenever they are also implementing such projects, it would be good to just give a courtesy call to Hon. Members so that we are also able to witness the installation of such projects for us to also appreciate the developments that will be taking place in our constituencies. Thank you.

RECLAMATION OF DATA THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN PAID
FOR

9. **HON. MAMBIPIRI** asked the Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services to explain to the House why our data expires and why telecommunications companies are reclaiming data that has already paid for.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, POSTAL AND COURIER
SERVICES (HON. PHUTI):** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to thank Hon. Mambipiri for a very important question that he raised. The issue of data expiry and reclamation of unused data by telecommunications companies is governed by regulatory frameworks and commercial policies approved by the regulator. In this case, the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ). The current position is as follows:

Nature of bundles, data purchased by consumers is typically offered as a time-bound service, not a perpetual entitlement. This means

that data is valid for a specified period as communicated at the point of purchase.

Cost of structures, telecommunications operators design data packages based on framework capacity, operational costs and sustainability considerations. Time limits help manage network demands and ensure service quality.

Regulatory oversight, POTRAZ ensures that operators clearly disclose terms and conditions related to data usage, including expiry periods to protect consumers from unfair practices.

That said, Government is aware of concerns raised by consumers regarding the data expiry. To this end, the Ministry of ICT, Postal and Courier Services is engaging POTRAZ and mobile network operators to explore more consumer-friendly data policies, including the possibility of extending validity periods or introducing rollover options. Another option is an ongoing regulatory review that aims to strike a balance between consumer protection and sector viability. I submit Mr. Speaker.

***HON. MAMBIPIRI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The issue of data expiring touches on people who use cell phones and laptops. What we

are saying is that if a person buys data for \$1 in the morning, then tomorrow they wake up seeing the data has expired when you know that we are having challenges in network connection. You know that the people who sell data are the very people who own the companies. I think there is corruption that is happening which is being caused by network providers because people are buying data which they are not using.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):** Hon. Mambipiri, when we are asking supplementary questions, I think we should make them short so that we can accommodate more questions. That applies to all Hon. Members who would want to ask supplementary questions. Also, please, if it is not really necessary, do not ask supplementary questions so that we can try and go over these questions because there are too many now. May you also indulge me Hon. Members, as House courtesy, I will only allow one supplementary question per question so that we move with speed. Are we agreeable to that – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Mr. Speaker, can you indulge us when we have important questions like these?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I think let us just move with what we have agreed on so that we respond to more questions.

***HON. PHUTHI:** This is a very important issue, which has been brought by Hon. Mambipiri. When people buy data, how do they use it? Network companies that sell data, where do they come in when it comes to the stealing? As Government, we are on the side of the people and we are there to prevent the challenges that people are facing. I think from my response, I touched on the issue of POTRAZ who is the regulator in that sector. POTRAZ should work together with consumers so that we can solve this issue. Yes, I have heard complaints from people that they are not happy with the way that their data is used up because we have intermittent network challenges but data is still used up. I want to promise you Hon. Mambipiri, that I will take this issue to POTRAZ so that they sit down with mobile operators that fall under their jurisdiction so that we do not have a recurrence of issues like this. I think this issue was once brought into this House and it was rectified but it is cropping up, which means that we need to look at it from time to time. So, give me time so that I sit with them and we try to rectify. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I am impressed with your response, fluent in Shona, with you coming from Matabeleland. That is a very good example of an exemplary leader. Now, I want to hear the Mashonaland Ministers responding in fluent Ndebele; that will be a very good day indeed. Thank you Hon. Minister, well done indeed.

PAYMENT OF ELECTRICITY BILLS AT NON-COMMERCIAL RATES

54. **HON. KUKA** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to inform the House of the Government's plan on local authorities purchasing or paying bills at non-commercial rates, considering that these organisations are non-profit making

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER
DEVELOPMENT (HON. SIMBANEGAVI):** It is true that local authorities are non-profit-making organisations and often find it difficult to collect money for services rendered to the citizens, leaving them struggling with liquidity challenges. While this is the case, it has to be noted that these utilities are also in recovery mode, where they were

recently supported with a cost-reflective tariff after more than a decade of a non-cost-reflective tariff.

Currently, ZETDC does not have the financial capacity to charge local authorities' tariffs that are below cost-reflective levels, as there is a need to cover the full cost of supplying energy. The approved tariff methodology used by the utility requires that tariffs be set at cost-reflective levels. That is based on the actual cost of supplying electricity to each customer category.

Providing an electricity subsidy to local authorities poses a direct threat to national energy security and increases the secular debt crisis that already sees councils owing millions of US dollars to ZETDC. Forcing the utility to provide power below the cost of production without a guaranteed threshold bailout would result in operational insolvency, stripping ZETDC of the liquidity needed for decent operations.

This will bring back the era of load shedding that the utility is working tirelessly to avert. Furthermore, such a subsidy creates a moral hazard by masking municipal failures, effectively subsidising the

massive energy waste associated with non-revenue water, where councils lose over 50% of the treated supply to preventable leaks. Any reduction in the tariff to local authorities will create a revenue gap that must be covered by alternative funding source to ensure the utility continues to be capacitated to deliver adequate power.

During the Urban Council Association of Zimbabwe meeting held in Kadoma recently, the ZETDC extended the offer to local authorities to participate in utility-driven advanced net metering, which would qualify the pumping stations for up to 12% tariff incentives. Under the programme, local authorities provide way leaves, which is in the form of land, for the utility to set up solar system plants at the pumping stations and benefit from the tariff incentives.

Sadly, most of the local authority bills are high due to energy inefficiencies. The utility offered free demand-side management services in energy efficiency audits and is awaiting invites from the local authorities. The demand side management service and energy efficiency could see council saving up to 40%. If the local authorities take advantage of the above offers by the utility, a significant reduction in

energy savings will be realised, resulting in a sustainable decrease in their electricity cost.

The utility is also in discussion with various local authorities in ways of cooperating on public lighting and revenue collection. This will further reduce the electricity cost burden and improve the local authority's liquidity. It is also proposed that the Minister of Local Government and Public Works, as the parent ministry, comes to cushion local authorities, where an arrangement can be made with local authorities so that Government, through the Minister of Local Government meets 50% or the agreed percentage of the bill while the local authorities meet the balance. However, ZETDC continues to charge local authorities at cost-reflective tariffs. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Considering that in tariff setting, precedence has been set that chrome producers have been subsidised before, the fact that subsidising does not necessarily result in Treasury giving, there may be options of cross-subsidisation. Can we not have that as an option, cross-subsidisation, or the same that they did with chrome miners where they subsidised?

HON. SIMBANEGAVI: Thank you Mr Speaker. I would also like to appreciate the Hon. Member for raising the question regarding the subsidisation of local authorities. As I mentioned earlier, Hon. Member, ZETDC is not in a position to subsidise local authorities as doing so would further strain its liquidity position.

Government, as I indicated, may wish to consider whether local authorities could instead be subsidised through the Ministry of Local Government, should that be feasible. While we cannot speak on behalf of the Ministry, arrangements could be made for part of the local authorities' electricity payments to be subsidised through that channel.

However, the ideal situation would be for local authorities to be able to meet their electricity obligations independently. They should be adequately capacitated to collect sufficient revenue so that they are able to pay for electricity without the need for cross-subsidisation or similar measures.

Our preference would therefore be to see local authorities strengthening their revenue generation through rates and payments for other services rendered to the public. With improved revenue collection,

they would then be in a position to set aside adequate funds to pay for the services they require from the government. I thank you.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: For the benefit of the Minister, cross-subsidisation simply means one tariff class pays on behalf of the other tariff costs. So, ZETDC does not incur any additional costs by cross-subsidisation. They can choose to change the time of use, *etcetera*, but there is no prejudice in terms of costs.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you very much Hon. Member. That information that you carry is vital, and I would invite you and encourage you to visit their office and offer that intelligence. Thank you.

TOTAL DISTANCE OF ROADS REQUIRING RESURFACING

89. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to appraise the House of the total distance in kilometres of all roads that require resurfacing in our urban centres across the country, and the distance that has been resurfaced to date.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO):** Thank
you Mr. Speaker Sir. Allow me to respond to the question raised by
Hon. Madzivanyika.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the distances in kilometres requiring resurfacing
as well as those already resurfaced to date, as referred to by the Hon.
Member of Parliament in the country's ten provinces, are as follows:

In Bulawayo Province, there are 1 500 kilometres that require
resurfacing and to date, we have resurfaced 661 kilometres. In Harare
Province, the total kilometres required for resurfacing are 3 772, of
which 316 kilometres have been resurfaced to date. In Manicaland, we
have 183.4 kilometres requiring resurfacing, with 31.9 kilometres
resurfaced to date. In Mashonaland East, there are 288 kilometres, of
which 30 kilometres have been resurfaced to date. In Mashonaland
West, we have 143 kilometres, of which 43.7 kilometres have been
resurfaced.

In Masvingo, there are 139 kilometres, but there seems to be an
error as 200 kilometres have been reported as resurfaced. In

Matabeleland North, we have 1 041 kilometres, with 447 kilometres resurfaced. Meanwhile, in Matabeleland South, there are 483 kilometres, of which 21 kilometres have been resurfaced.

The total number of kilometres requiring resurfacing is 2 145, while 700 kilometres have been resurfaced.

Mr. Speaker, whilst the number of kilometres surfaced is not sufficient, the Ministry has embarked on the capacitation of all road authorities in Zimbabwe to enable timeous maintenance of road infrastructure. This will greatly preserve the road infrastructure and lower the costs of road rehabilitation.

It is in that regard that the Ministry aims to attend to all the roads that require rehabilitation as prescribed in the National Development Strategy. I so submit Mr Speaker.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you very much Hon. Minister. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for his response. However, it appears that according to the information received from the provinces, it appears that other provinces are receiving more attention than others in terms of road resurfacing. Does the Hon. Minister have a policy to

ensure that there is equality or fairness in the manner in which rehabilitation or resurfacing is taking place? I thank you.

HON. SACCO: Thank you Hon. Madzivanyika for your very important question. It is Government policy driven by His Excellency Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa's mantra that no place should be left behind. Therefore, it is our responsibility to ensure that the development or resurfacing of these roads is done across the country. However, as you may be aware, certain provinces like Masvingo for example, have a road that comes from Beitbridge to Masvingo, the South North Corridor, of which we have 139 kilometres that have been surfaced to date. If you look at the Bulawayo to Victoria Falls Road as well, that will add to the distance being surfaced, for example, in Matabeleland North.

So, some provinces have what we call major highways or corridors that feed the region, and these obviously will get preference over other smaller roads. However, having said that, it is our role as a Ministry to work on all roads across the country and resources permitting, leave no one and no place behind. I thank you.

HON. KAPOIKILU: Supplementary question.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Unfortunately, we are allowed one supplementary per question.

HON. KAPOIKILU: With your indulgence, Hon. Speaker. You spoke about our province, which is Bulawayo. Yes. I am concerned about that figure.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: It does not matter. What you can do is come up with your own specific question about Bulawayo because it is definitely pertinent. It is a very important issue, so ring-fence it to Bulawayo Province. Thank you.

HON. KAPOIKILU: You know what I was asking for, Hon. Speaker. If the Hon. Minister could come back with a breakdown of the roads that add up to 600 kilometres when he comes next.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: As I said, please put that in writing, and demand to find out which roads those are, as a separate and standing-alone question so that it is properly addressed.

RETENTION OF VEHICLE LICENCING BY LOCAL COUNCILS

90. HON. MADZIVANYIKA- asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to consider allowing councils to retain

the vehicle licencing function in light of the fast-deteriorating road infrastructure of our urban roads.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO) Mr.**

Speaker Sir, vehicle licencing is a road user fee which is collected by the Zimbabwe National Road Administration as spelt out in the Roads Act, [*Chapter 13:18*], as read with the Vehicle Licencing Act, [*Chapter 13:14*].

The central collection by ZINARA is meant to ensure equitable distribution of funds to all parts of Zimbabwe under the mantra, leaving no one and no place behind. Vehicles may be licenced in a certain area, yet they use all national roads in doing business. For example, a haulage truck resident in Bulawayo contributes to the wear and tear of roads as well as accidents in Manicaland, where it transports timber from Nyanga to Bulawayo, for example. Hence, the need to put all licencing funds in a single fund and then allocate according to the state of roads in different urban centres.

ZINARA disburses funds to urban councils on an acquittal basis, meaning if a road authority fails to acquit on the usage of funds, the road authority will not receive subsequent disbursements. Many urban councils have been failing to account for funds disbursed by ZINARA over the years, hence the poor state of roads in those urban councils.

Given persistent capacity issues within urban councils, the Government extended ERRP2 to December 2026, with a focus this year on rehabilitating bus routes in urban areas. This will go a long way in improving roads in the urban areas. However, ZINARA funds do not fund ungazetted roads, which have increased over the years, with the mushrooming of improperly planned settlements in our urban areas. I so submit Mr Speaker.

HON. O. SIBANDA: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I propose that questions with notice be extended by 20 minutes.

HON. O. NCUBE: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for his response. However, the citizens of these towns are

comparing the state of the roads when road transport tax was still under the custody of councils, as compared to now when it is under ZINARA.

The residents are complaining that the deterioration has accelerated at a higher pace than before. How best can you try, Hon. Minister, to ensure that there is improved efficiency? Now that most councils have failed to acquit the road funds, do you have any policy to safeguard against abuse of those funds? I thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA): Next time, address me and not the Minister directly.

HON. SACCO: In response, I would like to refer to the need for capacity building of staff employed by our councils across the country. In many cases, it boils down to the need for capacity building of those involved in procurement so that they follow the required recommendations or regulations where procurement is concerned but there is also need to employ substantive procurement officers who make sure that funds received by ZINARA are not used for other purposes which is a trend amongst many of our councils who, when they receive

funds for road development, end up using them for other overheads like salaries, payment of utilities and otherwise.

So, there is a need to improve the staff involved in procurement. Also, political decisions that are made in our urban councils should be made where funds that are received from ZINARA should be used for the appropriate purpose and should not be diverted to any other use.

In terms of safeguarding, I believe that the safeguard that ZINARA has is that when acquittals are not done appropriately, no further funding is released. I believe that safeguard has been working. What we need to do is improve the capacity of the councils that we are dealing with. I so submit.

UTILISATION OF MINING ASSETS IN ZVISHAVANE AND MASHAVA

136. **HON. MACHANGU** asked the Minister of Mines and Mining Development to inform the House what alternative plans the Government is considering, in light of the declining global demand for asbestos to ensure the economic utilisation of the assets and the sustainability of the mining communities in Zvishavane and Mashava.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING
DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR OIL AND GAS
RESEARCH AND OTHER STRATEGIC MINERALS
EXPLORATION (HON. DR. MAKWIRANZOU):** Thank you Mr.

Speaker. Mr. Speaker Sir, Shabani-Mashava Mines (SMM) remains under judicial management through the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, with the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development working closely with the Administrator. A new Administrator, Mr. Munashe Shava, has just been appointed and he brings a lot of experience to this project.

The Administrator's job will be to unlock the economic potential of the assets. However, SMM currently holds a chrome mining lease. In fact, there are three to four active chrome wash plants that are in operation as we speak. This is a signal that a successful transition from asbestos to viable minerals is in progress. The Ministry is committed to working with the Administrator to expand these chrome operations and to also conduct a broader assessment of further economic uses of the SMM asset base, with the ultimate goal Mr. Speaker Sir, of protecting

the livelihoods and the long-term economic sustainability of the communities in Zvishavane and Mashava. So, I submit Mr. Speaker Sir.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Minister. Order! Hon. Deputy Minister Gata, did you have your responses for question numbers 109, 110, 111, 112, 113 up to 114?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. GATA): Yes, I do, up until 110 to 113, yes and then 115 to 118.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: No, no, I just wanted up to 114. You have got those?

HON. GATA: I do have to 113, yes.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: So please, you may submit your written responses on question numbers 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, and 114. Then the rest, we defer them.

HON. GATA: Thank you.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Sorry Mr. Speaker?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Yes?

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: You asked the Hon. Minister to submit Question 110. I am around. So, maybe she might submit only 109 and the others. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Oh, yes, yes, sorry. Hon. Minister, Question Number 110, we defer it because of the agreement that we had to ask for two questions per ministry. So, do not submit Question Number 110, we will defer it to next week.

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE
ASSISTANCE TO CHISUMBANJE RESIDENTS WHO LOST THEIR
LAND TO MACDOM**

10. **HON. C. HLATYWAYO** asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare about the Government's preparedness to assist residents of Chisumbanje, Chinyamukwakwa, Machona, Mutumburi, Vheneka, Mukukuzi, Chitepo, Mutandahwe and Chikonwe in Chipinge South, whose land was taken in 2009 by Macdom for sugarcane farming and who are in constant need of Government support.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. E. MOYO): My Ministry has set aside allocations

of grain to respond to case-by-case distress calls across the country.

Upon request from the districts, the Ministry is ready to support families that are in need of food assistance. Chipinge District can also benefit from this arrangement upon submitting their request and they will continue to receive support from various social programmes including Public Assistance.

PAYMENT OF ELECTRICITY BILLS AT NON-COMMERCIAL RATES

55. **HON. CHIDZIYA** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to update the House on the Progress made in rolling out solar energy solutions to Glenview North, including details on transparency and equitable community access.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER DEVELOPMENT (HON. J. MOYO): The Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) conducted comprehensive grid impact studies in Glenview to facilitate the

contractor's installation works. The findings confirmed that up to 1MW can be securely integrated into the national grid without compromising system stability.

To date, the contractor has successfully commissioned two net-metering points in full compliance with technical and safety standards. The utility now awaits completion of the remaining installations to proceed with commissioning the outstanding connection points.

Note: The selection of the household for the installation of the Solar System is done by the IPP and ZETDC and the Ministry do not participate in the process.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE INTERBANK POLICY RATE

62. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion to update the house on Government policy regarding the adjustment of the interbank policy to ensure it aligns effectively to maintain a single- digit inflation.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION (HON. M. NCUBE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I expect the Hon. Members of this august

House to applaud the Government's efforts to stabilise the exchange rate and inflation we are seeing today. This did not happen overnight, but it has been a long journey, arising from reform measures implemented by the Government working closely with the Central Bank. These reforms include fiscal consolidation and tight monetary policy with the sole objective of restoring macroeconomic stability.

On its part, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe hiked the Bank rate to 35% and the reserve requirements to 30% for both local currency and foreign currency in September 2024 to curb excess liquidity in the economy, and anchor inflation expectations, as well to reduce speculative activities. As a result, the exchange rate has been stable since October 2024, while inflation was on a downward trend to the current levels of single-digit of 4.1% in 2025.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, we fully acknowledge that the policy rate is high given the current levels of inflation and we understand why that decision was taken in the first place. Empirical evidence points to the fact that early loosening of the monetary policy could result in inflation

resurgence, hence the Monetary Policy Committee is exercising caution not to loosen monetary policy prematurely.

With the current low inflation, we expect the MPC to begin easing the policy rate gradually, while monitoring market developments. This measured approach is intended to support economic growth while at the same time safeguarding price stability. Importantly, this has to be done without reigniting inflationary pressures, ensuring that inflation remains within the single-digit levels.

These are not easy decisions, Hon. Speaker. They are tough, but they are necessary. Without stability, there can be no sustainable economic growth. Stability gives us the space to support recovery and move towards long-term economic growth in a disciplined and orderly manner.

That, Hon. Speaker Sir/Ma'am, is the context within which these measures should be understood. I thank you.

ASSISTANCE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN CHIPINGE SOUTH

107. **HON. C. HLATYWAYO** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to brief the House on government plans to assist

children in Chipinge South who face challenges with school fees, including those covered by the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM), which is currently facing nationwide challenges.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. GATA): Thank you Hon. C. Hlatywayo, for bringing this important matter to the attention of the House. The Minister of Primary and Secondary Education duly acknowledged the concerns raised regarding the difficulties confronting learners in Chipinge South, particularly those benefitting from the BEAM programme.

The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that no child is denied access to education due to financial constraints. To this end, we have implemented a range of initiatives designed to support vulnerable learners across the country, including those in Chipinge South:

Firstly, the Ministry is working collaboratively with the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, as well as the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, to

undertake a comprehensive review of BEAM funding mechanisms. The objective is to ensure the timely disbursement of funds and adequate coverage for all eligible learners, thereby alleviating the pressures currently being experienced.

Secondly, in a concerted effort to address the holistic needs of learners, the Ministry has made school feeding programmes mandatory in all schools. This initiative is aimed at supporting learners from vulnerable households, enhancing both school attendance and educational outcomes.

Furthermore, in direct response to the specific challenges in Chipinge South, the Ministry has engaged strategic partners, including CAMFED and Plan International, among others. These organisations are working closely with our district offices to identify learners in need and provide targeted support, including fee payment and material assistance.

We appreciate the Honourable Member's concern and commitment to the welfare of learners in Chipinge South. The House is assured of this Ministry's unwavering dedication to addressing these challenges and

ensuring equitable access to quality education for all Zimbabwean children.

ADDRESSING OF SCHOOL DROP OUTS IN CHIPINGE SOUTH

108. **HON. C. HLATYWAYO** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to outline the Government's plans to address the high rate of school dropouts attributed to early child marriages and pregnancies among children under 17 years, particularly in the border areas of Chipinge South, including schools such as Chinyamukwakwa, Marega, Makoho, Chisuma, Mashubi and Mahenye

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. GATA): Thank you Hon. Hlatywayo, for raising this matter of profound national importance. The issue of school dropouts, especially among girl children who become pregnant or enter into marriage below the legal age of majority of 18 years, is indeed a national challenge that this Ministry is addressing with the utmost seriousness. It must be emphasised that this is not solely an educational matter but a societal concern, which we should constantly involve the Zimbabwe Republic Police, as marriages involving

individuals under the age of 18 constitute statutory rape in terms of our laws.

The Ministry has instituted a comprehensive suite of programmes to combat school dropouts:

1. Integrated Community Service Fairs: The Ministry conducts annual Integrated Community Service Fairs across all provinces and districts. These fairs bring together multiple government departments, including the Registrar General's Office for birth registration, the Zimbabwe Republic Police for awareness campaigns on sexual abuse, and the Department of Social Welfare for the protection of vulnerable children. Our Ministry uses this platform to sensitise communities on the critical importance of returning to school for all dropouts, including pregnant girls and young mothers.

2. Early Warning System (EWS): The Ministry has adopted an Early Warning System which mandates all school authorities to identify learners who are absent from school at the earliest possible stage. Upon identification, schools are required to conduct follow-up visits to the learners' homes or communities to facilitate their timely return to school.

3. School-Based Protection and Support Structures: All schools are required to establish Child Protection Committees (CPCS) and Guidance and Counselling Committees. These bodies ensure continuous liaison between school administration, parents, and guardians on matters affecting children's safety and school attendance, including absenteeism resulting from early marriages and pregnancies. These committees work closely with Social Workers and the Zimbabwe Republic Police's Victim-Friendly Unit in cases of rape or illegal underage marriages, with the primary objective of retaining affected children in school.

4. Policy Framework for Pregnant Girls and Young Mothers: The Ministry's policy is clear that schools must remain open, accessible, and friendly environments for all children, including those who become pregnant or marry while enrolled. Circular Number 18 of 2024 provides detailed guidance on the processes for continuing education for pregnant girls and teenage mothers, including provisions for flexible conditions to enable nursing young mothers to breastfeed their babies while continuing with their academic programmes. Guidance and Counselling Committees

are mandated to conduct regular counselling sessions for these learners and their peers to protect them from negative stereotyping.

5. The Ministry, through its Department of Learner Welfare, Special Needs and Psychological Services (LEPS), is working with partners including the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED), FAWEZI, Education Development Trust (EDT), and UNICEF, These partnerships support community awareness campaigns through the 'Not in My School' programme, targeting dropout hotspots and promoting the benefits of returning to school. In November 2024, the Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Honourable Angeline Gata, personally toured schools in Chipinge South to encourage pregnant girls and young mothers to return to school. Further, 'Not in My School' programmes are scheduled for this year after having been launched by the Deputy Minister last week. Partners such as CAMFED are providing tangible support through fee payment and funding school-based income-generating projects for young mothers, while also promoting menstrual health through the distribution of sanitary wear.

6. Cross-Border Considerations: The Honourable Member will appreciate the unique challenges posed by schools along the Mozambican border, where a significant number of learners originate from Mozambique. While Child Protection Committees may facilitate cross-border liaison through traditional leaders, given the close familial ties between communities on both sides of the border, the Ministry's jurisdiction is necessarily limited, as we cannot exercise authority beyond Zimbabwe's borders. It is worth noting that Tongogara Refugee School, which caters for primary and secondary pupils from neighbouring countries, has established similar child protection and guidance and counselling structures to support pregnant girls and young mothers. We assure the House of our continued commitment to working with the Chipinge South community to reduce school dropouts. The Hon. Member is encouraged to complement these efforts by engaging community leaders, including chiefs and village heads, in identifying pregnant girls and young mothers and encouraging their return to school. As our efforts are sometimes impeded by cultural barriers.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CLASSROOM BLOCKS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN CHINHOYI

109. **HON. ENG. MHANGWA** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to update the House on the plans in place to construct new classroom blocks at Chikonohono and Chirorodziva Primary Schools in Chinhoyi, in view of the current congestion caused by the three-session system-morning, afternoon, and learners attending from sports fields-a situation which during the rainy season hampers effective teaching and learning for students attending classes outdoors.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): Thank you Hon. Mhangwa for raising this important infrastructure matter. I wish to provide clarity on the situation at the two schools in question. Regarding Chirorodziva Primary School, I am pleased to inform the House that there is no classroom shortage at this institution. The school is equipped with a total of 26 classrooms, and operates a two-session system. The morning session commences at 0730 hours and concludes at 1100 hours, while the afternoon session runs from 1115 hours to 1545 hours. All learners

are accommodated within existing classrooms, and no classes are conducted outdoors. With respect to Chikonohono Primary School, the Hon. Member's concerns are well-founded. The school currently operates a three-session rotational system due to classroom shortages. Two sessions-morning and afternoon-share classrooms, while the third session conducts lessons outdoors. All three sessions rotate use of the available classrooms on a weekly basis.

To address this situation decisively, I am pleased to inform the House that the school administration at Chikonohono Primary School is constructing ten (10) prefabricated classrooms during the current term. The Ministry has approved the requisite budgets, and procurement processes have been successfully completed. Construction is underway, and upon completion, these additional classrooms will significantly alleviate congestion and eliminate the need for outdoor classes.

The Ministry remains committed to providing decent and adequate learning facilities for all Zimbabwean learners, and we assure the Hon. Member that we will continue to monitor the situation at Chikonohono

Primary School to ensure timely completion of these infrastructure developments.

**POLICY REGARDING GOVERNMENT AND COUNCIL SCHOOLS
IN ENGAGING DEBT COLLECTORS**

110. HON. MADZIVANYIKA: To ask the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to inform the House of the government policy regarding Government and Council schools engaging debt collectors to recover outstanding school fees and other levies, and the practice of threatening parents with the attachment of property.

**THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION (HON. GATA):** Thank you Hon. Madzivanyika, for seeking clarification on this important matter affecting the relationship between schools and parents. The Ministry's policy is unequivocal: school authorities shall not send learners back home for non-payment of school fees and levies. Every child's right to education must be protected, regardless of their parents' or guardians' financial circumstances. However, it must be acknowledged that the responsibility for paying fees and levies rests with parents and guardians. Schools

require resources to function effectively and deliver quality education to all learners. The Ministry, therefore, encourages school heads and authorities to adopt constructive and non-confrontational approaches to fee collection, including:

- Negotiating flexible payment plans with parents based on their individual circumstances;
- Maintaining regular, open, and transparent communication with parents regarding fees and payment expectations;
- Guiding parents towards available safety nets, such as the BEAM programme, for which they may be eligible. These alternative methods are consistently more effective and preserve cordial relationships, which are essential between the parent body and the school authorities. Nevertheless, it is recognised that there may be circumstances where, despite all reasonable efforts and remedies having been exhausted, significant arrears remain outstanding. In such limited instances, schools may, as a last resort, engage debt collectors or formal recovery mechanisms to recover monies lawfully owed to the institution. Critically, such engagement must occur without sending learners home.

The attachment of property would only be considered in accordance with due process of law and as an absolute final measure.

The Ministry's position balances the imperative of protecting learners' access to education, with the legitimate financial needs of schools, always prioritising dialogue and mutual understanding.

IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN BINGA DISTRICT

111. **HON. CUMANZALA** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to explain to the House the following:

(a) What steps are being taken to improve access to education in remote areas of Binga District;

(b) What measures are in place to ensure the adequate deployment and retention of qualified teachers in rural schools within Binga District.

**THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO):** Thank you Hon. Cumanzala, for your interest in the educational welfare of learners in Binga District.

(a) Steps Being Taken to Improve Access to Education in Remote Areas of Binga District

Binga District currently serves a total learner population of 58,032, comprising 46,229 primary learners and 11,803 secondary learners. The infrastructure to support these learners comprises:

Primary Education: 60 registered primary schools and 68 satellite schools.

Secondary Education: 21 registered secondary schools and 29 satellite schools.

The Ministry, in partnership with the local community, has pursued a deliberate policy of establishing satellite schools in virtually all communities within the district. This strategy is specifically designed to reduce the distances learners must travel to access education from Early Childhood Development (ECD) through to the upper secondary level.

I am pleased to report that forty (40) of these satellite schools have now met the minimum infrastructure requirements for full registration, including standard classrooms, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, standard staff houses, and portable water sources.

Additionally, communities in Binga have established village-based ECD

centres, ensuring that even the youngest learners can access education at the appropriate age without traveling long distances.

Regarding support for vulnerable learners, the Ministry has ensured that orphans and other vulnerable children receive necessary assistance through various safety nets, specifically:

372 girls are currently receiving comprehensive support from CAMFED, including fee payment and provision of sanitary wear and educational materials

The BEAM programme is supporting 7,000 learners across both primary and secondary levels in the district

(b) Measures to Ensure Adequate Deployment and Retention of Qualified Teachers

The Ministry acknowledges that teacher deployment and retention in rural areas, including Binga District, presents ongoing challenges. Recruitment and deployment of qualified personnel is continuous, though the Ministry observes that many officers request transfers to their home districts to rejoin their families.

In response to this challenge, the Ministry has adopted several measures:

Community Participation: Communities in Binga are making commendable contributions by constructing decent staff houses and providing portable water sources, which are critical factors in teacher retention. The Ministry acknowledges that while significant progress has been made, further efforts are required across many schools.

Local Recruitment Strategy: The Ministry has recommended and implementing a policy of recruiting and deploying more teachers originate from the local area, as this has proven to be an effective retention mechanism. Teachers serving in their home communities demonstrate greater stability and longer tenure.

Continuous Infrastructure Development: The Ministry continues to prioritize infrastructure development in Binga District, recognising that improved living and working conditions contribute significantly to teacher retention.

The Ministry remains committed to ensuring that every learner in Binga District, regardless of how remote their community, has access to

quality education delivered by qualified teachers. We thank the Honourable Member for his continued interest in this important district and assure him of our dedication to addressing these challenges.

NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN CHITUNGWIZA

112. **HON. TSVANGIRAYI** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to apprise the House on the number of government schools in Chitungwiza District that offer education to children with special needs, and to elaborate whether Government has any plans to provide incentives or support to private schools that offer education to learners with special needs.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. GATA): Thank you Hon. Tsvangirayi for raising this important question. Learners with special needs could be living with different kinds of impairment which varies from autism, dyslexia, intellectual disabilities as well as speech and language impairment. As a Ministry, we have a division composed of specialists referred to as the Learner Welfare Special Needs and Psychological Service (LEPS) Division which falls under the

Department of Primary, Secondary and Learner Welfare (PSLW). LEPS had decentralized units at provincial and district levels which are responsible for assessing and profiling before recommending appropriate educational interventions or referring serious or severe cases to Resource Units or Special.

Generally, in the spirit of inclusive education; all schools are expected to provide teaching and learning services to learners with minimal to mild cases, after assessment and profiling by educational psychologists. However, the Ministry has established Resource Units or Special Schools which provide dedicated education services to learners with different special needs. In Chitungwiza District of Harare Province; we have the following public schools that offer special education services:

Intellectually Challenged Resource Unit Primary Schools

1. Seke 6 Primary School
2. Seke 11 Primary School
3. St Aidans Primary School
4. Dudzai Primary School

5. Zengeza 4 Primary School

6. Chaminuka Primary School

Hearing Impairment Resource Primary Unit Schools

1. Shingai Primary School

2. Seke 11 Primary School

3. Zengeza 8 Primary School (temporarily closed as Ministry is seeking to replace teachers who left service)

4. Seke 8 Primary School (temporarily closed as Ministry is seeking to replace teachers who left service)

In addition, Chitungwiza District also has special classes for slow learners in the following primary schools:

1. Dudzai Primary School

2. Seke 11 Primary School

3. Tamuka Primary School

4. Seke 5 Primary School

5. Zengeza 4 Primary School

6. Chaminuka Primary School

7. Seke 6 Primary School

8. St Aidans Primary School (temporarily closed as Ministry is seeking to replace teachers who left service). Resource Unit for Intellectually Challenged Learners at Secondary Level

1. Zengeza 1 High School

2. St Mary's High School

Resource Unit for Learners with Hearing Impairment at Secondary Level

1. St Mary's High School

In summary, Chitungwiza District has 6 Resource Unit primary schools dealing with learners that are intellectually challenges; 4 Resource Unit Primary schools for learners with hearing impairment; 6 primary schools with special classes; 2 Resource Unit Secondary Schools for learners who are intellectually challenged and 1 Resource Unit Secondary School for learners with hearing impairment.

On the second part of your question, Government does not provide financial support for private schools offering special needs education. The general understanding is that private schools operate for profit; and can therefore charge fees and levies consummate with their operational

costs. Government, through the Learner Welfare, Special Needs and Psychological Service Division can offer guidance to private investors who like to establish schools for learners with special needs. They may contact our office in Mount Pleasant, or visit and provincial office for guidance.

For public schools, the Learner Welfare, Special Needs and Psychological Service Division provides assistive devices such as braille machines purchase and repairs, braille textbooks and hearing devices amongst other through Basic Education Assistance Model (BEAM).

LEGALITY OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ENGAGING DEBT COLLECTORS

113. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to inform the House of the government's position regarding the legality and morality of government schools engaging debt collectors and attaching property from parents who fail to pay school fees on time.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. GATA): Thank you Honourable Madzivanyika for the question which I realise is a follow up to a question you once asked relating to the same issue of debt collectors.

Legal Position

At law every school in the country is run through a School Development Association (SDA). School Development Associations (SDAs) are legally constituted bodies with the capacity to enter into contracts, manage funds and where necessary, enforce their rights through lawful means. In this regard, it is legally permissible for such entities to pursue the recovery of outstanding school fees and levies from parents or guardians who are in default, including through the engagement of registered and legally recognised debt collectors.

Where such actions are undertaken, they must strictly comply with the laws of Zimbabwe governing debt recovery, contractual obligations and the protection of citizens' rights. The attachment of property can only occur following due legal process and in accordance with

applicable court procedures. It should also be noted that, while the Government continues to work towards the progressive realisation of fully state-funded basic education, this has not yet been fully achieved. Consequently, in most Government schools, parents and guardians are still required to contribute towards the education of their children through the payment of approved fees and levies administered by SDAs.

Moral Considerations

From a moral standpoint, it is generally expected that parents and guardians take responsibility for supporting their children's education, including honouring agreed school fees and levy obligations. This responsibility extends to adhering to payment plans that may be mutually agreed upon with schools. At the same time, schools and their governing bodies are encouraged to exercise fairness, reasonableness and sensitivity in handling cases of non-payment, taking into account the socio-economic circumstances of families and promoting dialogue and flexible arrangements where possible.

Therefore, Hon. Madzivanyika, while the engagement of lawful debt recovery mechanisms is legally permissible, all parties are

encouraged to act in good faith, balancing accountability with compassion in the interest of ensuring that no child is unduly disadvantaged in accessing education.

NEUTRALITY OF DEFENCE FORCES IN POLITICAL PROCESSES

137. **HON. CHIDZIVA** asked the Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle to inform the House the safeguards in place to ensure the neutrality of the Defence Forces in political processes, particularly during election periods, and how such safeguards are enforced.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the safeguards to ensure the neutrality of the Defence Forces in political processes, particularly during election periods are typically grounded in constitutional provisions and statutory framework. These safeguards operate both preventively and punitively.

The political neutrality of the military is entrenched in Section 208 of our national 2013 constitution which reads (Annexure 1):

1. Members of the security services must act in accordance with this Constitution and the Law.

2. Neither the security services nor any of their members may, in the exercise of their functions -

- a) act in a partisan manner;
- b) further the interest of any political party or cause; or
- c) prejudice the lawful interest of any political party or cause;

3. Members of the security forces must not be active members or office bearers of any political party or organisation

Mr. Speaker Sir, the above provision obliges security services to be non-partisan and prohibits members of the defence forces from engaging in partisan political activities. This is the first safeguard in place to ensure neutrality of the Defence Forces as provided by the supreme law of the nation.

To cement the provisions of the Constitution) ZDF has Statutory Instrument 172 of 1989 which further prohibit members of the ZDF from joining political parties, assisting organisations of a political character, wearing or displaying political symbols, publishing views of political character among other things (Annexure 2),

In terms of enforcement, paragraph 14 of the First Schedule of Defence Act 11:02 criminalises the participation in political processes (Annexure 3). Any errant person is subjected to the Military Justice System and may be liable to imprisonment for not more than two years. Additionally, citizens have a leeway to report any errant persons to the Independent Commission for further management. I so submit Mr. Speaker Sir.

THE POST-SERVICE WELFARE OF DEFENCE PERSONNEL

138. **HON. CHIDZIVA** asked the Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle to inform the House the measures being taken to address the welfare, mental health, and post-service reintegration of defence personnel, especially those exposed to high-stress operations.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (HON. MUCHINGURI-KASHIRI): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Safeguarding the mental health of our forces remains critical to our organisation, particularly those members who are at times exposed to high stress during operations. The ZDF has in its structures the Health Services (HS) and Social Welfare Departments, which provide support services to its members. Regarding

measures being employed by ZDF, in addressing the welfare, mental health and post-service reintegration of ZDF personnel, especially those exposed to high-stress operations, ZDF offers the following:

a. Pre-deployment and Deployment Counselling

The Directorate of Army Social Services conducts pre-deployment counselling before deployment and during operations to physically and mentally prepare deployees. These services are offered to all members of the service regardless of rank. In addition, medics are an integral part of our teams deployed during both recruitment and training operations to offer medical services.

b. Regarding Post Deployment Counselling

Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to state that after every deployment, there is a prerequisite that the Directorate of Army Social Services conducts post-deployment counselling to a group of members who experience the same challenges. This approach was effectively applied to ZNA members who were held under siege at Ikela DRC, during Operation Sovereign Legitimacy and many other places e.g. Mozambique. Those diagnosed with medical and mental problems

are always treated accordingly. It is the responsibility of our Government and the Ministry of Defence to ensure that financial provision for their treatment is available at all times. Lastly, concerning:

c. Institutional Rehabilitation

The Zimbabwe Defence Forces has in its establishments military rehabilitation centres, for example, Tsanga Lodge in Nyanga. At these centres, the Directorates of Social Services and Medical Health Services jointly provide rehabilitation services to the affected members before they are reunited with their families or redeployed in other less demanding areas.

INCLUSION OF NEWLY VETTED VETERANS OF THE
LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN THE COMPENSATION SCHEME

141. **HON BAJILA:** asked the Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs to inform the House of the Government's plan to include newly vetted Veterans of the Liberation Struggle into the Existing Compensation Scheme.

THE MINISTER OF VETERANS OF THE LIBERATION

STRUGGLE AFFAIRS (HON. SEN. MAVHUNGA): The Ministry of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs undertook a comprehensive vetting exercise for War Collaborators and Non-Combatant Cadres in 2022, followed by a mop-up vetting programme in 2024, in order to ensure that all eligible veterans are duly recognised and considered for support under Government programmes.

The Ministry continues to attend to outstanding cases requiring vetting so as to ensure inclusivity and fairness. With regard to the inclusion of newly vetted veterans into the existing compensation scheme, the Ministry is currently engaging Treasury with a view to developing a compensation package. This package will be crafted in line with comprehensive the National Budget and guided by the economic blueprint, National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2), as well as the provisions of the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Act.

In the interim, Government remains committed to supporting these veterans through a range of non-monetary benefits. These include access

to social services, training opportunities, and participation in empowerment initiatives.

Furthermore, the Ministry is actively ensuring that War Collaborators and Non-Combatant Cadres benefit from ongoing economic empowerment programmes. These initiatives are aimed at enhancing livelihoods and promoting sustainable socio-economic inclusion of all categories of veterans.

The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to improving the welfare of all veterans of the liberation struggle and will continue to engage relevant stakeholders to expedite the finalisation of the compensation arrangements. I thank you.

POLICY REGARDING COMMUNITIES' PROXIMITY TO POLICE STATIONS

143. **HON. MUJEYI** asked the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage to explain to the House government policy regarding communities' proximity to police stations, specifically the kilometres citizens should walk to reach the nearest police station, and to further

inform the House in detail on the establishment of a police station in Cowdray Park, Bulawayo.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (HON. KASEMBE): I wish to acknowledge and thank the Hon. Member for the important inquiry. Allow me to start off by elaborating on the factors that influence the placement and proximity of police stations within our communities. While this Ministry is fully committed to expanding policing infrastructure, several practical variables must be considered.

Population distribution, density, and growth patterns directly determine where police stations are most needed. Urban areas with high population density may require multiple stations within short distances. Furthermore, rapid urbanisation or the emergence of new settlements often outpaces the Ministry's ability to erect permanent structures, leaving temporary gaps in coverage.

The nature and location of economic influence both demand for policing and the feasibility of station placement. Police station placement must therefore respond to empirical crime data. High-crime

areas logically receive priority for new stations or satellite posts. While very low-crime areas may not meet the threshold for a full station, instead being served by mobile patrols or bases. Balancing equitable access with crime-driven demand remains a complex operational challenge. Competing national priorities mean that not every community can have a station within walking distance. Hence, the Ministry relies on a phased approach, prioritising areas where the need is most acute, and supplementing with lower-cost options such as police posts or bases.

Hon. Members, while community policing initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch Committees, Business Against Crime Forums and Crime Liaison Committees help bridge gaps in access, they cannot replace the physical presence of well-resourced police stations. It is therefore this August House's responsibility to enact legislative frameworks that ensure dedicated, ring-fenced and predictable funding for law enforcement infrastructure and human resources. Only through such collaboration can we bring police services closer to every citizen, regardless of where they live.

Now turning to Cowdray Park Police Station, I wish to inform the House that the station was established in July 2021. It is headed by an Inspector and has current manpower strength of 79 police officers. The station also runs one police base.

*On the motion of **HON. TOGAREPI**, seconded by **HON. NYANDORO**, the House adjourned at Twenty-Eight Minutes to Six o'clock p.m.*