

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026

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

PRAYERS

(THE ACTING SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING SPEAKER

NON-ADVERSE REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE

PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL COMMITTEE

THE ACTING SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):

I have to inform the House that I have received a non-adverse report from the Parliamentary Legal Committee on the Climate Change Management Bill [H.B. 5A, 2025].

HON. DHANZI: Good afternoon Hon. Speaker Sir. I rise on a point of national interest, to place on record the profound appreciation of this august House for the bold and historic strides being taken by His Excellency Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, in championing the meaningful inclusion and elevation of women in the governance and leadership of our own great nation.

Mr. Speaker Sir, we have recently witnessed a defining moment in Zimbabwe's constitutional and judicial history with the appointment of Justice Elizabeth Gwaunza to the esteemed office of Chief Justice, which is a historic first that signals a fundamental transformation – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Hon. Mhangwa, this should be your last warning – alright, next time I will ask you to leave the House. The cameras must not deter us from our duty, please! Can Hon. Dhanzi be heard in silence?

HON. DHANZI: Mr. Speaker Sir, we have recently witnessed a defining moment in Zimbabwe's constitutional and judicial history, with the appointment of Justice Elizabeth Gwaunza to the esteemed office of Chief Justice, which is a historic first that signals a fundamental transformation in how this nation values the intellect, integrity and capability of women. I thank you.

HON. GUMEDE: Thank you so much Hon. Dhanzi. It is indeed a very pertinent issue that you brought up. There have been a lot of conventions and meetings towards the emancipation of women in society and it is very healthy and very encouraging to see our

President, His Excellency Comrade Emmerson Dambudzo

Mnangagwa taking that route by appointing women to take charge of such powerful and high institutions. So, definitely, we want to commend our President for that stance.

HON. GUMEDE: Afternoon Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise on a point of national interest regarding the ongoing validation and securitisation of title deeds being undertaken by the Department of Deeds, Companies and Intellectual Property through the Digital Land Administration platform.

The objective of strengthening property rights, improving the integrity of land records and protecting citizens from land fraud is both commendable and necessary. Thousands of Zimbabweans have invested their savings in acquiring homes and residential stands and any initiative that enhances confidence in property ownership deserves support.

However, Mr. Speaker Sir, there is growing public concern regarding the affordability, accessibility and practical implementation of this exercise.

Information currently available to the public indicates that property owners may be required to engage in exchange conveyances at a cost of approximately USD200. This excludes VAT and other associated administrative expenses.

However, Mr. Speaker Sir, for many families, USD200 represents several months of disposable income. For pensioners, civil servants, widows, informal traders and many low-income households, such costs are simply beyond reach. A programme intended to secure citizens' property rights should not inadvertently become a source of financial hardship, uncertainty or exclusion for the very people it seeks to protect.

Hon. Speaker, these concerns are further compounded by the implementation framework established under Statutory Instrument 76 of 2025. The regulations provided for a transitional period ending on 18 July 2027 after which citizens are expected to have validated and securitised their title deeds.

Whilst the objective of modernising and securing land records is commendable, there are legitimate concerns as to whether this exercise can realistically be completed within the available timeframe.

At present, the relevant services remain concentrated primarily in Harare and Bulawayo. Property owners from other provinces, particularly elderly citizens, pensioners and those residing in rural communities, may face significant travel, accommodation and administrative costs in accessing this process.

Without adequate decentralisation of services and robust public awareness programmes, there is a risk that many law-abiding property owners may struggle to comply with the requirements through no fault of their own. There is therefore an urgent need for clarity on several issues of public concern.

Firstly, whether participation in the validation and securitisation process is voluntary or mandatory.

Secondly, whether existing title deeds remain fully valid and legally enforceable pending validation.

Thirdly, what measures are being put in place to protect vulnerable groups from excessive costs associated with the process?

Fourth, whether the Government has considered subsidising, reducing or waiving fees for pensioners, low-income earners and other vulnerable citizens.

Fifth, whether the Government intends to decentralise the validation and securitisation process to all provinces to improve accessibility and reduce the burden on citizens.

Sixth, how rural communities, elderly citizens and persons residing far from conveyancing services will be accommodated and assisted.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, what safeguards exist to ensure that no citizen loses, compromises or is deprived of their property rights solely due to the inability to afford or access the validation process?

Hon. Speaker, land and home ownership are matters of dignity. They are matters of security, inheritance and economic empowerment. Any reform in this critical sector must therefore strike a balance between modernisation, affordability, inclusivity and social justice. If not carefully implemented, a well-intentioned programme risks placing an additional burden on ordinary citizens who are already facing significant economic challenges.

I therefore respectfully, Mr. Speaker Sir, request that the responsible Minister provide a comprehensive Ministerial Statement

to this House, clarifying the legal status of existing title deeds and the cost implications of the programme.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Order, order, Hon. Members, Hon. Gumedede, I think we have heard the jinx of your presentation. As we stand guided by the Standing Orders, please take your seat when I talk and switch off your microphone. The point of national interest is primarily supposed to be one-minute statements but because you are bringing up a very pertinent issue, I would indulge you but you seem now to want to go on and on and repetitively so to speak.

HON. GUMEDEDE: I was wrapping up, Mr. Speaker. I was on my last sentence.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Please, order. Take your seat, Hon. Gumedede. I think you are lucky because this Government is led by a listening President and ministers. All the concerns that you have put across today, which are concerns for every Zimbabwean on this issue are duly noted. The Minister is present and has been listening to you very carefully and I am sure the Minister will furnish the House with a Ministerial Statement to guide us accordingly on how this proceeds.

All in all, your prayers have been heard and they shall be duly answered.

HON. GUMEDE: Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Mr. Speaker, while I respect what you have said, that was not a point of national interest. Perhaps what she could have done was to ask a question or request the Committee because there are lots of technical details that are required.

Parliament in session here is not supposed to deal with the details that she was asking. Perhaps if she had asked the Clerk to organise so that you could summon the Permanent Secretary and the Chief Registrar, so that the Committee could be afforded an opportunity to ask and appreciate what is happening, that would help. If you want a Ministerial Statement, it would probably not do justice but if the relevant Committee interrogates that, it will allow Parliament to appreciate the process in a better way, I submit.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you very much Hon. Minister, for your prompt response and guidance. I hope Hon.

Gumede will be guided accordingly. As I said, it is a very important question and matter, so maybe if you could follow the direction given by the Hon. Minister, it will help the whole House because I am sure every Member of Parliament here has got the same issue happening in their constituencies and people are asking for answers. Let us follow the route given by the Hon. Minister so that we have a comprehensive response that we can give back to our people.

HON. MAONEKE: Good afternoon Mr. Speaker. I rise to share a point of national interest. Subject to the recognition of First Lady, Dr. A. Mnangagwa's visit to the National Sports Stadium for the football match between Scotland FC vs CAPS United FC – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-The First Lady's attendance highlights the importance of investing in sports. – [HON.

MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]- As a vehicle for community development and economic growth, increased visibility of sporting events can attract sponsorship and financial support benefiting local teams and our local athletes. Her presence stimulates and advocates for national cohesion. Sporting events bring together individuals from diverse

backgrounds, fostering a spirit of togetherness and unity. It boosts local tourism.

High-profile matches at the National Sports Stadium can enhance tourism, leading to increased business for local vendors and service providers. This is a step towards positioning Zimbabwe as a hub for international sporting events, further stimulating economic growth.

It is also a measure that addresses drug and substance abuse. By actively engaging in sports and public events, we send a clear message to the youth regarding the importance of healthy lifestyles and the dangers of drug abuse...

HON. MAKUMIRE: On a point of order!

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Hon. Makumire. I would prefer that you allow him to finish. Then if you have any objections, let us do that.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** Mr. Speaker, the law that is used stipulates that when a point of order has been raised, a Member should be allowed to raise the point of order. The second one is that the rules stipulate that until 2.35pm, Members are allowed to

participate on points of national interest. We may need to move to the business of the day.

***THE ACTING SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Makumire. You have demonstrated that you like reading the rules of this House. Keep on reading. You may proceed Hon. Maoneke.

HON. MAONEKE: The First Lady's commitment to attending this meeting reflects strong leadership and it sets a positive example for governance. It signals a proactive approach by Government representatives, to engage with citizens and inspire participation in communal activities. I therefore make a recommendation that Parliament should consider the implementation of policies that further promote sports investments, community involvement and strategies that combat drug and substance abuse, ensuring a healthier, more cohesive society. Parliamentarians should also follow suit. So, I submit.

HON. CHIGUMBU: Point of privilege!

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Chigumbu and how are you?

***HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you, I am fine. My point of privilege is that I want to thank Hon. Ministers for turning up in their numbers. Let me also say that every Wednesday, there is a question and answer segment. I thank Hon. Ministers for coming. Please come in your numbers Hon. Ministers, on Wednesday. I thank you.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: They have noted that. Thank you very much. They will keep on coming and they always come.

HON. G. HLATYWAYO: Thank you very much Hon. Speaker. I have indicated that I have a point of national interest. I would like to think that there was just an administrative mishap. I had indicated to our Chief Whips that I have a point of national interest and, if you can allow me to proceed. It will be very brief.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Please take your seat Hon. Hlatywayo and switch off your mic. Hon. Chief Whips, can you please make sure that you take Hon. Hlatywayo's name for the next day's point of order, without fail please!

HON. C. MOYO: Hon. Speaker, I indicated that to Hon. Pinduka, who is the Acting Chief Whip from ZANU PF and surely, I

think she is supposed to be afforded that time to raise her matter. I did that.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: We shall indulge you the next time Hon. Hlatywayo.

HON. G. HLATYWAYO: Point of order!

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Please switch off your mic. Unfortunately, I have made a ruling on that one and I am not going back.

[Hon. Chief Whips having approached the Chair.]

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Hon. Hlatywayo, the gods are with you today. We shall allow you to do that but please, like you said, it is going to be a short one.

HON. G. HLATYWAYO: Thank you so much Hon. Speaker for allowing me to speak to my point of national interest. I rise on a point of national interest in light of the World Menstrual Hygiene Day that is commemorated globally on the 28th of May every year. The 28th representing the average length of the menstrual cycle. It is a day set aside to recognise that menstruation is not just a women's issue but is a community issue that requires collective responsibility and action.

The theme was “Together for a Period - Friendly World” and seeks to break the silence surrounding menstrual health and hygiene, ending stigma and ensuring universal access to safe menstrual products and hygiene facilities.

What is the situation in our country Hon. Speaker? UNICEF estimates that 72% of menstruating school girls in Zimbabwe cannot afford sanitary products while 62% regularly miss school as a result. UNESCO also estimates that only two out of five schools globally provide menstrual health education. Every girl and woman deserves access to safe menstrual hygiene products, clean water, proper sanitation facilities and accurate information about menstrual health. Period poverty leads to a school attendance crisis. When a girl misses school every month, the issues compound in grades, in confidence and in opportunity.

Access to menstrual hygiene products, safe facilities and open education changes outcomes for girls and young women. That is the call to action that I am putting before the House. Communities, governments, schools, families and development partners must work together to ensure menstrual hygiene products are affordable and

accessible to all. We must break the silence, stigma and shame surrounding menstruation through encouraging open and inclusive conversations on this subject matter.

I thank this House for allocating a budget line for sanitary wear in the 2026 National Budget and for recognising the impact of period poverty on our young girls, especially from low-income families in high-density setups and in rural areas. However, I call for increased allocation for this vital budget line to reduce the appalling figures of period poverty and the attendant disastrous impacts as alluded to earlier. I am so happy that the Minister of Finance is in the House. Men and boys have a critical role to play too in supporting menstrual health and dignity. By promoting understanding, respect and support, they create safe and enabling environments where girls and women can thrive without discrimination and embarrassment.

I also applaud Parliament for its various charity initiatives and further call for a focus on donating menstrual hygiene products to keep girls in school with dignity, especially in high-density setups and in rural schools. I further call for increased support for local pad-making initiatives and women-led enterprises through incentives that

increase production and reduce costs to ensure availability and affordability of menstrual hygiene products. I also strongly believe that a period-friendly world is a world that recognises the challenges that some women and girls go through during menstruation, including severe period pains.

I, therefore, encourage this House and the Executive to adopt progressive employment policies such as menstrual leave to allow female workers to take paid time off when experiencing severe period symptoms. Zambia, just next door, has such a progressive policy. Menstrual health is a human right, health, education and gender equality issue. Menstrual hygiene must be a priority and a human right and not a class issue and a privilege for a select few. When we support menstrual dignity, we protect the future of girls and strengthen our communities. I so submit.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: It is also a very pertinent issue that you have raised and I hope all departments will be guided accordingly. I think going further, shall we try and conform to the requirements of the Standing Orders on these issues pertaining to national interests. We cannot have people going on and on for five

minutes and above on something that is prescribed in the Standing Orders. As I said before, I will repeat, I prefer a situation whereby you liaise with your Chief Whips so that you try and compress these matters of national interest. They are very important but they need to be compressed so that we stick to time.

FIRST READING

CONSTITUTION OF ZIMBABWE AMENDMENT (NO. 3) BILL

[H.B. 1, 2026]

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI) presented the Constitution of Zimbabwe, Amendment (No. 3) Bill [H.B.1, 2026].

Bill read the first time.

Second Reading: Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. TOGAREPI: I move that Orders of the Day, Numbers 1 to 25 on today's *Order Paper* be stood over until Order of the Day, Number 26 has been disposed of.

HON. C. MOYO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(ARDA) FOR THE YEAR 2023**

Twenty Sixth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audited Financial Statements for the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA) in the Auditor General's Report on State-Owned Enterprises for the Year ended 31st December 2023.

Question again proposed.

HON. MUTOKONYI: From the ARDA Report, a lot of issues were highlighted. We note that, in terms of the Financial Reporting Standards, the items were also flagged by the Auditor General. The Committee gave a lot of recommendations which we also think that if they are adhered to, they would bring the financial systems of ARDA into order. What is important is that, in all these structures in terms of

the structure of ARDA right from the accounting officer, the responsible authorities in terms of ensuring that the financials in terms of the reporting standards are aligned with IPSAS and international accounting reporting standards and that was highlighted in the report. The issues that were highlighted there in terms of reporting again on the assets and their valuations, this is an issue of the systems that have to be adhered to. Year in, year out, these issues are highlighted in various reports from the Auditor General's reports and again, it also adds to that the accounting officer, which is the responsible authority in the ARDA, also had to ensure that as we present these various recommendations from the observations that were made by the Local Authority, it is not expected that the same issues will be raised again next year, which would highlight the issue of performance because it then becomes a performance issue. I believe that in terms of performance, we have the employer, which is the Public Service Commission. I also want to think that they have to be served with the reports in terms of the recommendations so that the employer know what the employees are doing in terms of what they are asked to do and whether they are following that so that we do not expect to see

the same recommendations. The same issues are highlighted year in, year out but in terms of remedial actions, it then becomes very minimal.

Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA) is a very critical institution in terms of the agricultural development of this nation, and ensuring that commercial communities carry out contract farming. As such, all that they are doing is very important for this nation. We hope and trust that the recommendations that were made by the Committee should also be implemented so that as a nation, we move forward towards an upper-middle-income society towards Vision 2030. I so submit.

HON. MUKOMBERI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity. I also want to add my voice to the Public Accounts Committee report on ARDA, following the observation that was made by the Auditor General in terms of financial reporting...

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Order, order. Can we do our movements in silence Hon. Members! Order! Can Hon. Mukomberi please be heard in silence!

HON. MUKOMBERI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to add my voice to the Public Accounts Committee Report on ARDA's financial reporting following the Auditor General's report. According to the reports, the Auditor General's opinion was a qualified opinion issued to ARDA where specific items were indicated in terms of the shortcomings that were associated with their financial reporting. It was observed by the Auditor General that the authority did not review the residual values and useful lives of assets, as well as not carrying out an impairment assessment of such assets. This was indicative of a deficiency in terms of asset management and reporting and that was not moving in line with the requirements of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Parastatals are required to present their financials in a way that gives a clear and fair view of the financial position of an entity. To this end, failure to do such valuations of assets or revaluations means that the statement of financial position cannot reflect the financial position in terms of assets of the parastatal.

However, the Director indicated that following this observation by the Auditor General, the authority subsequently conduct a

valuation for the financial year ending 31st December 2023. This was indicative of the zeal of the parastatal to act upon the recommendations that were made or the observations that were made by the Auditor General.

It was recommended by the Committee that in the following financial years or the years of assessment, the parastatal should present the financial statements in a true and fair view that will give the consumers of such financial statements, a true view as to what the actual financial position is. They should constantly undertake the revaluation of assets so that the current residual values of assets will be presented in the financial statements, as well as the proper carrying out of impairment assessment as is required by IPSAS, be conducted accordingly. Thank you. I submit.

HON. MANGONDO: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. I rise to add my voice to the report from the Public Accounts Committee relating to ARDA's financial statements for the years 2021 and 2022, which were tabled on the Auditor General's report for the year ending 31st December, 2023. The report of the Auditor General highlighted two major...

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Hon. Mangondo, please raise your microphone so that you are audible.

HON. MANGONDO: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. The Auditor General highlighted two major issues, which were then interrogated by the Public Accounts Committee. The first issue has to do with the evaluation of property, plant and equipment in terms of IPSAS. The Auditor General observed that the management of ARDA had not revalued their assets for a period of time.

The management of ARDA, in response to the inquiry by the Public Accounts Committee, indicated that they had their assets revalued and verified in the year 2023 and that this should then appear in the 2024 Auditor General's report. To that extent, the Committee also interrogated the issue of the assets register after the report of the Auditor General had also indicated that they did not have a proper asset register framework. The Management of ARDA indicated the measures that had been taken to correct the discrepancies that had been observed by the Auditor General. To that extent, the Committee recommended that ARDA Management should provide the necessary

documentation and verification as well as the coding of those assets by 30 September, 2026.

Hon. Speaker, this was a very short audit report. It also highlights the fact that I think Management of ARDA had attended to the issues that had been raised. Therefore, Hon. Speaker, I will not waste your time. I would like to commend ARDA for taking appropriate measures to rectify the issues that have been raised by the Auditor General and indeed, by the Committee. Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I submit.

***HON. NKANI:** I want to add a few words on the Audit report on ARDA and how things are written differently in many Government departments. There are standards and procedures that are supposed to be followed and presented in those reports.

We face the challenge that most of these Government institutions do not understand the accounting procedures that must be followed. For example, the amount of property that the Government has and how it is presented. We are happy that most of the institutions are now getting training and are now following proper procedures that tally with the international procedures. Hence, I am encouraging all

Government departments that have something to do with Government finances to send their staff to accounting standards workshops, so that they learn from the first step to the last step, which talks about revaluations of assets. This will enable them to learn about these accounting standards and the management of properties of the Government like land and equipment. They will learn about where to combine or separate the assets. There are a lot of things that must be followed and there are a lot of mix-ups in terms of Government reporting.

It is very pertinent to ensure that everyone in the Government, especially in the accounting sector, learns the proper structures. Yes, ARDA was lagging behind but now the organisation has grown bigger and it is moving forward smoothly. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

***HON. MAPOSA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on the ARDA report from the AG's Office. They went on the ground to see how ARDA is operating. It does not mean ARDA is failing to execute its job but in terms of reporting, they are mixing things. Hence, when we see these things, it

is surprising to us to the extent of adding properties, assets and land on the same page and this becomes difficult for the auditors. The auditors are amazed that these people are failing to execute their job. This clearly indicates that the Government is being driven backwards. We are happy that the auditors told the ARDA staff to separate their properties, assets and land on their own.

I am happy that most of the things have already been alluded to by the previous speakers but ARDA is doing very well and is providing food security in the country. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

HON. MABURUTSE: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to debate on a report of the Public Accounts Committee on the audited financial statements of ARDA. The Committee undertook this inquiry following the issuance of a qualified audit opinion on ARDA's financial statements for the 2021 and 2022 financial years, which is a clear indication of the material weaknesses in financial reporting and the governance systems.

Hon. Speaker, the Committee's findings revealed serious deficiencies in asset management within ARDA. It was observed that the authority failed to review the residual values and useful lives of its

assets and did not carry out impairment assessment as required by applicable accounting standards.

Furthermore, some assets recorded in the asset register could not be physically verified, raising concern about the existence, safeguarding and proper accounting of public assets. These weaknesses point to significant lapses in internal controls and expose public resources to the risk of misappropriation and loss or misuse. In addition, Hon. Speaker, the Committee observed weaknesses in the disposal and verification of assets. Although the disposal of certain assets had been approved as far back as 2020, implementation was delayed partly due to external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and was only later regularised.

Mr. Speaker, the inability to verify some assets physically further underscores deficiencies in the record-keeping and the asset-tracking systems which are fundamental components of sound financial management. These findings have broader implications for governance, financial integrity and public trust. Inaccurate or incomplete asset records distort the true financial position of the

authority. Mr. Speaker, ARDA is doing a great job in our nation, of providing food security.

Most of the shortcomings were rectified and I think most of the facts have been said by other MPs who have already contributed, so I can safely say I submit Hon. Speaker.

HON. CHIDUWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me to debate the Public Accounts Committee report on the Auditor General (AG)'s report on the Agricultural and Rural Development (ARDA). While this report focuses on ARDA, it highlights a sobering reminder of the challenges we face in ensuring accountability and transparency across all of the State-owned enterprises. This report is not merely a technical report that is filled with accounting jargon. This is a report that speaks to the very heart of how we should manage our nation's strategic assets, how we should ensure food security and most importantly, how we uphold the trust bestowed in us by the people of Zimbabwe.

The Committee analysed ARDA's financial statements for the year 2021 and 2022 as already alluded to. The findings are quite frankly deeply concerning. The AG issued a qualified audit opinion

for the two years, pointing to a litany of lapses in asset management and financial reporting. ARDA failed to properly value its plants and equipment. For a massive organisation like ARDA with vast land holdings and extensive infrastructure, this is not a trivial omission. The failure to review the residual values and useful lives of assets, as well as the lack of impairment assessments, means that the figures in their financial statements were essentially guesswork. This is a clear breach of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and a serious red flag for anyone trying to understand the true financial health of ARDA.

ARDA by its very nature, is the cornerstone of our agricultural sector. It is a State-owned enterprise charged with the monumental task of driving rural development and spearheading agricultural activities. The assets under its management are the land, machinery and infrastructure; these are national assets. They are the tools for our prosperity. Therefore, when the AG issued a qualified audit opinion on ARDA's financial statements for the years 2021 and 2022, this House must take notice. A qualified opinion is a red flag. It is a sign

that in the professional judgement of the AG, the financial statements do not present a true and fair view in certain material respects.

The most glaring thing on this report is a systemic failure in asset management. The AG observed and our inquiry confirmed, that ARDA did not review the residual values and useful lives of its assets. Furthermore, ARDA failed to conduct necessary impairment assessments and perhaps most disturbingly, some assets listed in the register could not be physically verified. When an entity does not track the useful life of a machine, it cannot plan for its replacement. When it does not assess impairment, it may be overstating the value of its assets, masking a true picture of its financial health. Now, when it cannot be found on the listed assets, it raises a terrifying spectrum of poor control and the potential and misuse or worse, theft of public property.

Hon. Speaker, how can we as a nation plan our agriculture strategy when we do not know the true value or even the physical existence of the very assets needed to execute the strategy? This is not just bad accounting, it is a profound failure of stewardship. There is also the violation of statutory obligations and the best practices that

are expected of State-owned enterprises. The failure is not just an operational oversight but it is a direct violation of our legal and ethical frameworks. I will start with non-compliance of IPSAS. This is an issue that has been discussed already by other Hon. Members. I want to say that the inability to conduct these asset reviews is a direct contravention of the IPSAS. Zimbabwe as a country, we are modernising its financial reporting. We are telling the world that Zimbabwe is a good place to invest, where we adhere to global best practices. However, these standards are not optional. They are the benchmarks for transparency. A failure to comply is a failure to meet our international commitments as a country.

The other issue is non-compliance with the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA). This brings me to our own home-grown, legal champion of accountability, which is the Public Finance Management Act. The PFMA is the supreme law of financial control in this country. It places clear, unequivocal responsibilities in accounting officers to manage the financial affairs of their entities with prudence, care and diligence. The failure we have seen and unearthed as a Committee, the inability to account for assets, the lack

of valuation, the weaknesses in internal controls, are a direct affront to the spirit and letter of the Public Finance Management Act, Hon. Speaker. It clearly represents a dereliction of duty.

Then there is the issue of good governance. Hon. Speaker, good governance is built on the pillars of transparency, accountability and responsiveness. When a board approves the disposal of assets in the year 2020 and yet it is only ratified later, maybe because they cited that there was COVID-19, this again showed a multi-year excuse of delay. We may question the effectiveness and the responsiveness of that governance structure. So, if this was approved by the board and nothing was done, where was the oversight? Where was the pressure to execute? The lack of regular and timely asset verification is a symptom of a weak internal control environment. This is a governance breakdown that puts the entire organisation at risk.

So, these are the issues that I am raising Hon. Speaker, especially looking at the negatives that we can point to the board and management. I may also want to point out some positives with regards to progress that has been made by other management in

addressing some of the issues that were highlighted by the Public Accounts Committee.

The first issue is their response to the audit findings. Hon. Speaker, following the observations by the Auditor General regarding the lack of regular asset reviews, I am happy to say the management has taken a corrective measure to address those issues that were raised by the Auditor General. Then, there is also the issue of the 2023 Valuation Report. I would want to point out again that the 2023 Valuation Report was completed. The Director of Finance confirmed that the Authority subsequently conducted a full valuation of assets for the financial year ending 31 December 2023. This was as a result of the findings of the Auditor General, and I would want to applaud other management for taking a corrective step which was as a result of the findings that came from the Auditor General and some of the issues that were raised by the Public Accounts Committee.

As I conclude Hon. Speaker, the findings in this report are a serious wake-up call for the Public Accounts Committee as we do our oversight. We cannot and must not tolerate a culture of mediocrity in our State-owned enterprises. These are not private companies. These

are companies that are funded and they belong to the people of Zimbabwe. The Public Finance Management Act was not written to be ignored. IPSAS standards were not adopted to be symbolic. Good governance is not a buzzword. It is the absolute minimum requirement for running a national institution. Let this debate serve as a clear signal that this Parliament, through the Public Accounts Committee, will not relent. We will continue to shine a light on every corner of public finance. We will continue to hold the gatekeepers to account. Mr. Speaker, I so submit. Thank you.

HON. MATEWU: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker Sir, Just needless to say, as all the Hon. Members here who have debated this report by the Public Accounts Committee, I think it is imperative to note that there is a need for the full adoption of IPSAS by ARDA. I am glad the Minister of Agriculture is in the House because I have some recommendations which I want to repeat to the Minister. In 10 days' time, the Minister of Finance will need to produce Treasury Minutes to this effect in terms of the law. So, there were two recommendations that the Committee gave to Government and one was that the authority should institutionalise a formal set of

management framework that ensures regular review of residual assets, useful lives and impairment in accordance with IPSAS. It is worrying Mr. Speaker, to note that some assets listed in the register could not be physically verified and that obviously indicates the weak controls or potential risk of misuse. So, the Public Accounts Committee is concerned that the assets could not be verified...

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Sorry Hon. Matewu, perhaps we jumped the gun because the Minister of Agriculture is here in the House. So, he might have wanted to respond to this report. So maybe, shall we? Just hold on. Thank you. I am being guided here. It is supposed to be the Minister of Finance who will respond to this.

HON. MATEWU: On a point of order Mr. Speaker. In terms of the law, the Public Accounts Committee recommendations are responded within 10 working days in terms of Treasury Minutes, by the Minister of Finance. So, the Minister of Finance has 10 days to make an official response to this House.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Matewu, what is supposed to happen procedurally is that the Minister will respond

through the Treasury Minutes. So, therefore, do not move for the adoption of the report now until the Minister has responded. We can now just move for the adjournment of the debate.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have never seen a situation whereby the Minister responds to a Public Accounts Committee report. The Public Accounts Committee report is responded to only through Treasury Minutes. The Minister of Finance will be the chief coordinator to all MDAs to ensure that all reports made by Parliament are, especially the Public Accounts Committee, responded to through Treasury Minutes.

However, the Ministers can respond to any other business of other committees, which is not the Public Accounts Committee. I think they need to verify that one. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Hon. Madzivanyika, I think you are saying exactly what I just said. You are just saying it in a different tone and a different voice but I said exactly that. My tone is a bit cocky and yours is a bit hard. Hon. Acting Government Chief, please move for the adjournment of the debate.

HON. PINDUKA: Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON AIR ZIMBABWE'S 2020 AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2023

Twenty-Seventh Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Air Zimbabwe's 2020 Audited Accounts in the 2022 Auditor-General's Report for State-owned Enterprises for the Year Ended 31st December, 2023.

Question again proposed.

HON. MUKOMBERI: Thank you Hon. Speaker. In terms of Air Zimbabwe, the Auditor General noted that there were variances in the opening balances or the financial statements of the period under

review. According to the Auditor General's Report, there was a significant variance amounting to 92,480,450. This is a significant amount, which was identified between the closing balances of the previous financial year and the opening balances of the year under review.

So, this disagreement between the figures is actually indicative of lack of proper adjustment of events after reporting debt as per the requirement of IFRIS and IPSAS. However, the management noted that the discrepancy was a result of an adjusting entry, which was passed in 2020 to account for retrenchment costs that were incurred during the reconstruction period. To this end, Hon. Speaker, it was confirmed by the Auditor General that this issue was rectified, which is actually good news to hear.

It was then recommended by the Committee that management should always recognise all costs as and when they are incurred. This is actually in line with the requirements of the accruals accounting principle or accounting basis that is under International Public Sector Accounting Standards. So, the IPSAS require that accounting for all

transactions should be on an accrual basis rather than on a cash basis. Costs should be merged to the periods under which they are incurred rather than the periods under which they are paid.

Also, there was a complete violation of IAS2 in IFRIS, that is, for inventory evaluation. As per the requirement of IPSAS, the inventory evaluation was not done properly for the period under review as the Auditor General noted that there was an immense amount of representing inventory that had not been recognised in the financial statements without corresponding fiscal counting at the end of the year. Thus, violating the requirements of the accounting standards that there should be a proper accounting of the physical existence of inventory units that are actually sitting in the books of account rather than simply taking the closing balances in the ledger accounts, then recording them in the financial statements without fiscal accounting or stock count.

Management or airline officials, however, attributed this to COVID-19 due to lockdowns, since this period was affected by COVID-19 lockdowns that actually restricted physical stock count due to such lockdowns by the year end. It was reported by the

officials that inventory counts have been duly conducted in the years that followed and the resultant values have been actually verified and agreed upon by the auditors. This actually is indicative of the zeal by the officials to also act upon the observations and the recommendations made by the auditors.

There was also a key factor that affects transparency and proper accountability that was noted in terms of delayed financial statements reporting or submissions for auditing. It was discovered that the final statements for 2023 have not been submitted for audit as at 30th June 2025 and that actually is in violation of the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act. Specifically, section 28 (1) requires that there is a need for any public entity to meet the required annual audit date.

Also, Section 12 of the Public Entities Corporate Governance Act requires timely submission of financial statements for auditing. Section 12 (3) was also violated to this end. It was therefore recommended that Air Zimbabwe should submit all outstanding financial statements to the Auditor General by 31 August 2026. This was a recommendation that was made by the Committee since this is

a fundamental requirement to enhance accountability and transparency. This is because the Auditor General now acts as the only watchdog of the public to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements represent a true and fair view of what actually transpired in terms of financial position as well as financial performance. So, if they are not submitted in time, then the accountability and transparency question is not answered.

It was also recommended by the Committee that the Government should also take the timely submission of financial statements as part of performance contracts for accounting officers as a key initiative also to improve accountability and transparency. It was also discovered that the internal audit function had some loopholes, as it was discovered that the Air Zimbabwe internal controls were not subject to frequent reviews, which is a key fundamental to improve the internal checks and controls before actually conducting the external audits. So, it was actually discovered that this was due to the lack of the company's internal audit function and this actually also violated the requirements of the Public Entities and Corporate Governance Act that there should be a functioning

internal audit system that actually does the checks and balances before the external audits. Hon. Speaker Ma'am, I want to submit.

HON. MUTOKONYI: Thank you Madam Speaker. In terms of the statement of financial position, for decisions to be made, there has to be information, the statement of financial position informs in terms of the viability and status of the entity. So, the assets and the liabilities inform on the balance sheet. The issue of the inventory valuation was highlighted and there were no corresponding figures in terms of counting and rechecking, the assets as in the inventory report gives wrong information on the statement of financial position and thereby wrong decisions are also made.

However, in terms of the responses that came through, that has since been rectified. In terms of the Public Entity and Corporate Governance Act Madam Speaker, again the issues of the internal auditors, which was also picked by the auditor that the entity, I think took 18 months without internal audits. So, that also then gives the entity a challenge, particularly in terms of the systems, processes and procedures that should be or that are done in the entity, thereby giving

us information that might not be correct. The Committee actually recommended that the entity should ensure that they operate in line with the laws of the land, particularly in terms of the Public Entity, Corporate Governance Act and Public Finance Management Act.

Again, in the report, Madam Speaker, there was the issue of the aircraft of 30 million, which was not in an impairment test, which was not done in terms of the standards. In terms of the accounting standards, that would then give the wrong information in terms of the decisions, because when the statement of financial position is available, decisions are made based on those numbers.

Madam Speaker, the report highlighted the issues of staffing where key positions like the CEO where some of them were staffed but the Chief Financial Officer is still outstanding. That is a very key position which could be why we are getting these kinds of reports, particularly in terms of the process.

In terms of procedure, the quality of the statement of financial position would then lead to wrong decisions being made because of the wrong numbers or maybe not very fine numbers. The report also

alluded that a lot of other challenges were there but what we see as the biggest problem is that the entity still has to submit. When we engaged them, they were still to submit 2023 reports and we are now in 2026.

Madam Speaker, that also poses a challenge whereby recommendations, if that were to be done, should be done and implemented; otherwise right now, we are talking of the 2019 report in 2026 and there was COVID and so forth.

All other ministries also had the same situation but submitted the reports. It is very important to get the right people in the right jobs. Earlier on, I alluded that in all this, the employer should be available, the Public Service Commission should know but some of this also can then become performance issues, whether we have got the right people for the right job or not. As such, the employer should also be served with these recommendations so that they also advise from the employer's perspective. Otherwise, we anticipate improvement from the assurance that we got from the Chief Executive Officer in terms of all the other recommendations and challenges that they had.

There was an aircraft that is still parked right now in South Africa and we believe management should rectify that because this is a national asset that is outside the country and it might start to incur charges or other costs that may arise from that. Madam Speaker, I think much has been said about the report. I so submit.

HON. PINDUKA: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Tuesday, 3rd June, 2026.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. PINDUKA: I move that we revert to Order of the Day Number 28 on today's *Order Paper*.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

POLICY ON UNPAID CARE WORK

HON. O. SIBANDA: I move the motion standing in my name that this House;

COGNISANT that domestic and unpaid care work in Zimbabwe is a vital part of national development;

NOTING that unpaid care and domestic work are carried out mainly by women and girls, without recognition, reward or rest, thereby creating an imbalance that deprives them of time to learn, earn, lead and thrive, deepening gender inequality;

DISTURBED that unpaid domestic and caregivers remain unrecognised and uncompensated in many countries, including Zimbabwe, leading to significant social, financial and gender inequalities;

CONCERNED that, despite its vital contribution to socioeconomic stability and national development, unpaid domestic and care work is not adequately valued and recognised in national budgetary allocations and infrastructure development to cushion the women and girls who endure long hours of work without any rest;

NOW, THEREFORE, this House calls upon—

- a) the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to develop a comprehensive policy and legislation

on unpaid care work and commission a national survey to assess the economic worth of unpaid care and domestic work, including its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and

- b) the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion to prioritise and increase budget allocations for social protection programmes, infrastructure development and social services.

HON. P. ZHOU: I second.

HON. MAPOSA: Thank you so much for the opportunity that you have given me. I rise to support the motion moved by Hon. O. Sibanda and seconded by Hon. P. Zhou, on the urgent need for Zimbabwe to recognise the value and support unpaid domestic and care workers. Hon. Speaker, one of the greatest contradictions in modern economics is that the work which is sustained every single day is often the work least recognised by the economic system.

Before a teacher enters the classroom, a miner enters the shaft, a doctor enters the hospital, before this Parliament even convenes here,

there is invisible labour and it has already taken place somewhere in our homes.

Someone has cooked, cleaned and cared for children, attended to the sick, fetched water, gathered firewood and emotionally held family togetherness. Yet despite carrying the nation quietly on their backs, millions of women remain statistically invisible in national economic calculations.

If all women in Zimbabwe stopped being unpaid care workers for just one week, our economy would immediately experience a social and productivity crisis. Hospitals, schools, workplaces, communities and this House itself would feel it as well.

The strategy is that we only notice the unpaid care worker when it stops and not when it continues to sustain society. I submit that the unpaid care worker is not merely a woman's issue. It is an economic infrastructure issue. It is as important as roads, electricity and water systems because it supports the human capital upon which every economy depends.

Hon. Speaker, countries that fail to recognise clear economic eventual experience, reduction of female productivity, decline in

mental health, rising school dropouts, rapes among girls, weakened family structure and aggravated poverty. The modern economy is changing rapidly through artificial intelligence, automation and digital information, yet even the most advanced technologies cannot replace human care.

Emotional support in family nurturing, the machine may automate functions but it cannot raise children with compassionate care for elderly parents with dignity or maintain the social coherence in our communities. This means that care workers are not outdated labour; it is a strategic nation labour. The challenge before us therefore is: how can Zimbabwe build a 21st-century economy while continuing to ignore one of its largest labour sectors simply because it is unpaid?

I wish to introduce a fresh dimension to this debate. We often discuss infrastructure in terms of bridges and highways but there is also what economics now calls social infrastructure. Social infrastructure includes access to clean water, childcare facilities, rural clinics, safe public transport, electrification and digital connectivity. Why is this important in this debate, because poor infrastructure

includes the unpaid labour burden on our women? A woman near a water source may spend four hours fetching water daily. A girl without electricity studies less at night. A mother without affordable caretaker loses opportunity for education or entrepreneurship. A rural grandmother without a healthcare facility becomes an unpaid full time caretaker giver. Therefore, when we invest in infrastructure, we are not only building roads, we are reducing unpaid labour hours and restoring dignity and economic participation. Unpaid care worker also has major implications for national productivity and GDP growth around the world. Countries are now attempting to quantify the economic value of unpaid labour because economic increases recognise that traditional GDP. Measures undermine the women's contribution to the economy. Zimbabwe must move in the same direction.

I, therefore, strongly support the proposal for the national survey on unpaid care and domestic work. In fact, this survey should become institutionalised with our national statistics system so that future national budgets and economic blueprints are informed by the logistics of unpaid labour. I also propose that Parliament push for the

development of a care economic framework within our national development strategy. Such a framework should include tax incentives for employers, offering children's childcare support, community childcare centres, flexible work arrangements, expansion of rural water systems, digital inclusivity of women and targeted financial support for caregivers of persons with disabilities and the elderly.

There is another dimension we are discussing: the mental health burden carried by unpaid caregivers. Many women are single-experienced, exhausted, stressed and emotional yet out while society normalises endless sacrifice as part of womanhood. We must not build a society where resilience is expected only from women while systems fail to support them. A caring nation must also care for the caregivers. Therefore, I fully support this motion and urge this House to move beyond symbolic correct policy reform, budgetary commitments and institutional recognition of unpaid domestic workers. I so submit.

HON. KARENJI: Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me the opportunity to debate on this very important motion. I think this

motion touches the hearts of many Hon. Members, including myself, especially women. I rise to support this important motion that calls for the recognition and support of unpaid care and domestic work. Firstly, Madam Speaker, unpaid care work is the invisible backbone of our economy. Every day, women and girls spend countless hours cooking, cleaning, fetching water, caring for children, caring for the sick and the elderly. This work sustains families and communities, yet it is not accounted for in our national income, nor is it rewarded. Without it, our economy would simply not function.

Secondly, this burden falls on women and girls, creating deep gender inequality because they spend much of their time on unpaid work. Many girls are forced to drop out of school, while women are denied opportunities to earn income, participate in leadership and also to advance their careers. The situation becomes even more severe when we consider the various shocks that affect households. During the COVID pandemic, it was even worse because mothers were also doing double work to go to look for food for the family and also to look after the elderly.

During the economic shocks such as unemployment or inflation, families rely even more on unpaid care work to survive, increasing the burden on women, Madam Speaker. In times of health shocks such as illness or disease outbreak, women and girls are expected to provide additional care without any support, often at the expense of their own health and no one will even take care of them after they take care of other family members. Climate-related shocks such as droughts and water shortages also worsen the situation. Women and girls are forced to travel longer distances to fetch water and firewood, increasing physical strain and that will reduce time for education, income-generating activities and, similarly, social shocks, that is including family breakdowns or migration.

They also often leave women as primary caregivers without resources or without assistance. I can highlight the issue of shocks that expose women to financial vulnerabilities. Without this income or social protection, they may resort to prostitution, especially our young girls, to survive because they will need to look after their parents. There is no social safety during this crisis. It deepens the issue of poverty and reinforces cycles of inequalities across

generations. I would want to touch on what I think will help us as a nation to try by all means to reduce the vulnerability amongst our families.

This motion provides practical solutions. There is also a national survey to measure the economic value of unpaid care work that will also ensure it is recognised and included in the national planning.

That will increase the investments in social services and infrastructure such as health care, clean water and energy. It will reduce the burden on the issue of protecting women from these shocks. Some may argue that the Government cannot afford such measures. I can say that in reality, Zimbabwe cannot afford to ignore this issue. Investing in care infrastructure and social protection will also strengthen resilience against shock and promote inclusive economic growth.

I, therefore, urge the House to adopt this motion because it touches the rural women and the middle-class women. May I also go to the issue, which I think will help where I think if we share a household and caregiving responsibility equally amongst family members, it will also help. I propose that we must improve access to affordable child care and elderly care services in our nation. We must

promote flexible working hours that will promote work options and will also help our women, especially those who are looking after the elderly. We must recognise unpaid work in economic policies and strategies as a nation. We must provide social protection and support programmes for caregivers. We all know that we used to have the *mbuya utanos* in our rural communities that used to help our community, and I strongly feel that if you give remuneration to women who are doing this important work for our nation, it will help us grow and to unite as a nation.

I would want to urge our Members of Parliament to promote economic stability in our rural constituencies so that we give support. I know very well it is not going to be easy but the issue of counselling, these women and young girls need counselling. It is a trauma effect when it comes to the issue of looking after the elderly and looking after the sick because at the end of the day, *murwere anenge azoitawo kuwedzera umwe urwere pane anomuchengeta.*

I would also want to thank the mover of this motion because when I was reading, the plea will also help us as a Parliament, to make sure that we also take care of our beloved ones. When we talk

of women in Parliament, we must recognise these women who are also doing the work for our nation. We have women who are looking after children with disabilities. Those women take care of the children and they will spend the whole day without even going to work.

Obviously, others will be working but by the end of the day, they will lose their employment and end up looking after these young children who want to be assisted by their mothers. So, as a nation, if we have a budget for these people, it will help us to go a long way.

In conclusion, recognising unpaid care work is not just about fairness. It is about protecting vulnerable populations from economic health and environmental shocks while unlocking national development because it will also help our nation to grow and to support our women. I, therefore, urge this House to adopt this motion. I so submit.

HON. PINDUKA: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. MAPOSA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 3rd June, 2026.

On the motion of **THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI)**, *the*
House adjourned at Seventeen Minutes past Four o'clock p.m.