

# PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

*Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2026*

*The Senate met at Half-past Two o'clock p.m.*

## PRAYERS

(THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE *in the Chair*)

**HON. SEN. GOTORA:** I rise on a point of national interest.

Thank you very much Mr. President for allowing me to give a point of national interest. Yesterday, Mr. President, when you opened the discussions in this House, I received a message from my grandson who is in Washington. The message was a twin message, which I would want to give to this House.

The point of national interest I have is a congratulatory message to His Excellency the President on our successful election to the Security Council of the United Nations. The other one is about the recognition given to Hon. Sen. Chief Charumbira by the rest of Africa. These congratulations go to all of us as a country but of course, this is as a result of the good leadership we get from His Excellency the President.

This is not a mere seat we have gained, but a recognition and respect of how Zimbabwe does things and relates to other countries. The policy of engagement and re-engagement, as well as a policy of friends to all and an enemy to none, has worked for this country. The responsibility given on this victory can easily be carried out, taking into account the leadership approach and style of His Excellency the President.

Mr. President, congratulations go to His Excellency for this electoral victory, taking into account the margin of the victory of 182 votes out of 191 countries that voted. This is a massive victory - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]- The nearest country got 105 votes from the 191 nations. I must also thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and his staff, including our ambassadors based in different countries all over the world. I must say job well done, congratulations. The world has noticed and appreciated the peace and stability in Zimbabwe, albeit the sanctions on our country from the West. Zimbabweans are very resilient people; the world has now known. This means all of us must celebrate this

honour bestowed on us despite our political differences as a country. That is what democracy is all about.

This is the third time we have secured this position as a non-permanent member of the Security Council since 1980. This means that our foreign policy has been very consistent and that dialogue, peaceful conflict resolution and inclusive global governance, hence our desire to have the United Nations Charter reformed.

Furthermore, I would also want to congratulate Hon. Sen. Chief Charumbira for the recognition that he got as an ex-president of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) yesterday. This is a resounding confidence in our country that we do things the right way.

We may err here or there but the recognition we got at the United Nations and the recognition we got after the job that Hon. Sen. Chief Charumbira was doing in PAP means that we are on the right path in terms of democracy and inclusive governance. Thank you Mr. President.

**THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Thank you Hon. Sen. Gatora for your very timely point of national interest. Indeed, we offer our congratulations to the nation of Zimbabwe and

the President of the Republic, His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, on this very important achievement. It is also our hope that the Ezulwini Consensus which was made in Eswatini, which is to say that Africa needs some permanent seats on the Security Council will come to fruition. The United Nations Charter was signed in 1945 or thereabout when none of the African countries, perhaps except Ethiopia and Liberia, existed as nations. So, we are being forced into an arrangement, which was made in 1945. It is unfair. The continent of Africa is made up of 1.59 billion people and small countries like France and others are permanent members. It is grossly unfair by any standard. Thank you for that point of national interest. Hon. Senators, yesterday, Hon. Sen. Zvidzai made a point about the challenges that we face as the Senate, and today we are supposed to have Ministers answering our questions as a way of oversight but we only have one Minister. This is a challenge that we still have to continuously attend to and exert ourselves.

If there is no objection, I am proposing that we go and deal with the Tourism Bill since the Minister is here. Otherwise, we will not have any meaningful Question and Answer session. Are we agreed? -

[HON MEMBERS: *Yes.*]- Thank you, Hon. Senators. Hon. Minister, the Members have given you their time, so please thank them when you start reading the Bill.

## **MOTION**

### **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

#### **THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**

**INDUSTRY (HON. RWODZI):** Thank you Mr. President. May I take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Senators for allowing the Tourism and Hospitality Bill debate to take place. Mr. President, I move that we defer Question and Answer time to Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, next week. I also move that notices of motions and Orders of the Day Numbers 1 to 19 on today's *Order Paper* be stood over until Order of the Day, Number 20 has been disposed of.

Motion put and agreed to.

#### **COMMITTEE STAGE:**

##### **TOURISM BILL [H.B. 7A, 2025]**

Twentieth Order read: Committee Stage: Tourism Bill [H.B. 7A, 2025].

House in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 put and agreed to.

On Clause 5:

**HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA:** I want to add a few things on Clause 5, on functions of authority, proposed amendment, to add - promote rural tourism, cultural tourism, domestic tourism and community-based tourism. The reason being, tourism in Zimbabwe is overly concentrated around a few destinations such as Victoria Falls and major national parks. Matabeleland South alone has Matobo heritage sites, cultural tourism, historical tourism, and rural tourism opportunities which deserve explicit promotion. I thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**

**INDUSTRY (HON. RWODZI):** Thank you Madam President. I would like to thank the Hon. Senator for her contribution. However, let me say that the type of tourism that she has put across, in our policy, is written as a policy. It is not applied in the law.

Internationally, tourism is known as international tourism, as you are referring to those who come from other countries overseas and in the region. Domestic tourism refers to local people who will be visiting around the country. However, since 2023, if Hon. Senators have been

following what we have been doing in the Ministry, we have clustered our tourism.

If you look at it, when we launched our policy, in our policy the best cluster tourism is written in there. With 12 clusters in there, there is rural tourism and there is culture and heritage. This is why our gastronomy tourism is now known internationally. Hence, we are promoting our culture by the example of a festival that we hosted together with our patron a few weeks ago, of the Mbira Festival. We are trying to put across internationally that Zimbabwe should be known as a cultural and heritage tourism country because we are following our President's strategy for being a heritage-based economy. We are a heritage-based tourism. It is more in the policy and the strategy and in the law, it does not appear. I thank you.

**HON. SEN. GOTORA:** I was going to say that if you go to Matobo Hills, you may not see one local person in Matobo National Park and the heritage site. You may not see one single Zimbabwean, but they will be full of foreigners touring the park as well as the Rhodes grave. If you go to Mana Pools, you will rarely see a Zimbabwean there, but the park is always full of foreigners. Some

will fly from Asia, like most Arabs. They fly straight to Mana Pools, and the blacks you will see there are the workers who work for national parks and tour operators.

I would want to think Minister, let us really look at what we are calling tourism, so that we include these important sites for them to be promoted and make more money. That is my approach to that point. If you go for instance, to Mt. Nyangani where a lot of people get lost, you hardly see a person from Nyanga in those mountains except foreigners who will climb that hill which they call the World Centre, where they can look at all of Africa from one hill in Nyanga. I think you need to re-look at that so that it becomes inclusive rather than exclusive. Yes, your approach to having clusters is commendable and we must promote that ourselves, but foreigners have already identified places of interest in this country, including the three that I have just mentioned. Thank you Madam President.

**HON. RWODZI:** Thank you Madam President, and let me thank Hon. Sen. Gotora for his contribution and to say, yes, it is true, internationals are found in our areas of attraction more than ourselves. This is why we are coming to Parliament with the amendment of the

Bill. It is not really about our law in terms of our locals visiting, but our law touches the pricing model. It is there in this amendment of the Bill. The pricing model that we have been using does not include the grading of these areas. If our domestic tourists, our locals, want to visit Matobo National Park, Mana Pools, Nyanga, yes, they can but they cannot afford to get in there, to eat in there and to sleep in there. Those are the issues that we are now coming to the Parliament that you help us to structure the pricing model that then tells the operators that when it is a local person, this is how much you charge them.

Otherwise currently, they are charging the same prices and it becomes too expensive for our people. This is addressed through grading of the facilities and it is in the law, in the amendment of this Bill, that we grade and it is mandatory that every facility be graded. Once we and even you see that, Madam President Ma'am, when you want to go to some restaurants, even here in Harare, without even travelling far, or some restaurants in Bulawayo, I am just giving an example, or to any other town or city, you cannot afford to get in there. You may just afford to go to Nando's or to go to ordinary places, but it is because the operators are charging the same price and

we do not have the law that mandates them to differentiate the pricing and to do that, it is about grading.

If your facility is a five-star facility, the client who wishes to get into this facility must be told that it is five-star; hence the food or the accommodation is expensive. If it is four-star, three-star, two-star and one-star, it must be a choice for a visitor or for a tourist to make, unlike when it is open-ended and someone gets in there and they think they can afford what is found there. Again, to say if it is a local person or locals, the prices must be like this and that this is what we are seeking in this Bill. I submit.

Clause 5 put and agreed to.

On Clause 6:

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Clause 6 (2) is where I have got some input to make and it is related to a need to improve corporate governance, accountability, reduce political patronage and align with modern governance. The executive has excessive power in this and I have a proposed amendment to that clause. Instead of the appointment being made by the Minister in consultation with the President, I propose as follows: that the appointment by the Minister be through a

transparent public nomination process and subject to the same approval of the august House of Parliament.

As I argued, to improve accountability, enhance investor confidence, reduce political patronage and be smart in terms of governance. Additionally, the mantra for this republic, the second republic, is that we must leave no one behind and no place behind. If you look at this board, it leaves a critical sector of our population. This country's population has up to 15 percent of people with disabilities. I propose that you insert Section G, which includes at least a person with disability. Thank you Madam President Ma'am.

### **THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**

**INDUSTRY (HON. RWODZI):** Let me say, Madam President Ma'am, it is standard in our Government and practice across all public entities, using the Public Entities and Corporate Governance Act. It is a Corporate Governance Act that is already in place, and is espoused in our Constitution, that all the ministries follow. It would be new to the Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality Industry only to apply what the Hon. Senator has just said. As well parastatals are part of the executive; therefore, the President appoints the boards of public

entities and he does so through the Minister. It applies to all the Cabinet ministries across the board. That is what we have followed.

Let me also answer where he said it is this board. This particular board is leaving persons with disability or is leaving another constituent of our country. It is already in the Act; we cannot put a board in place without that. We need to have an equal appointment for women and men. That is number one and then we have to involve, depending on the number of board members. We use ratios; we need to have youth also sitting on the boards, as well as persons with disability. If we do appoint a board without that, the corporate governance team comes to us and says your board is not yet constituted; you have to start again. Everyone follows that and every Minister follows that. Of course, with the approval of the President, when you take it to the President, he looks at that as well. Without that, the board cannot be appointed. I submit.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** I accede to what she has said, that this Ministry is not keen to explore new things but it could be the example of excellence. However, I rest that.

I go to G, my proposal for explicitly stating that the board shall consist of A, B, C, D, E, F, G, at least one person with disability. The Hon. Minister says, without that this cannot pass. However, I do not see it included here. Where can I find it? I would like to see the specific reference so that I can feel assured. In this particular section 6, I do not see any mention of including a person with a disability. I would appreciate it if you could direct me to that information so I can feel comfortable.

**HON. RWODZI:** Thank you Madam President Ma'am and my gratitude to the Hon. Senator. It is not written in this Act because it has its own Act. Every minister or every ministry follows the Corporate Governance Act when it comes to appointing boards.

This is why I say, if we appoint the board without what is espoused in the Corporate Governance Act, following it, you find it in the Corporate Governance Act, not in our Act. In addition, it applies to all Acts that exist in our country and as you said, it would be a good example to start doing it now in our own Ministry. It is also not allowed because it would take many changes in our laws.

Therefore, any appointment to a board must be made in accordance with the Corporate Governance Act which spells out who should be appointed. The only difference would be, if it is the Ministry of Transport. I am just giving an example, it is expertise that is needed, that is spelled out properly.

Tourism is also spelled out but there are mandatory persons that are needed there in terms of qualification as well as in terms of inclusivity. Then again, as we include everyone or address inclusivity issues, they have to be qualified in what is needed for the board. I submit.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** I do not get what the Hon. Minister has said.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (HON. SEN. A DUBE):** However, she has explained, Hon. Senator.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** I do not get what she is saying. You may have got it, I do not.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** No, she has explained very well.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** I need to; please do not shut me down.

I need to...

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** No, Hon. Senator, I am not shutting you out but what the Hon. Minister has said, can you listen to what she said? She cannot explain more than that.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** I wish she could explain more.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** You want her to explain again?

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Yes.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Again, the same thing, to repeat the same thing?

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Do not get angry; I have got a point.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** I am not angry, my colleague.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Let us just listen to each other. I have got a point. My heart knows that the tourism sector is a very important sector for the economy of this country. I want to contribute as much as I can to this. Please allow Parliament to debate and I am going to debate like this.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Senator, can you proceed if you have another question. Proceed.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Thank you. The Hon. Minister has said there is no need to specifically state that a person with disability should be included here because it is provided for already in the Corporate Governance Act. If that is the case, I propose that in terms of drafting and for brevity purposes, why not simply say the board shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Corporate Governance Act.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you Hon. Senator for your contribution.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Point of order.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, proceed.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** I honestly think that we are not allowing a full debate. I have a proposal here to include or to expunge all this and just replace it with a provision that the board will be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Act. What are we saying? How can we just pass without making a proper - you can make a judgment and say right, Senator, what you are saying is silly;

we will not take it up but I would like to know whether this is a plausible contribution. You must make a pronouncement as to whether this is a contribution or not.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Senator, I thought you were advising and commenting. I thought the Hon. Minister had taken note of it.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** The Hon. Minister must say, yes, I have taken that on board.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** It is alright but for me, I thought she had advised, so I thought she had taken note of it.

**HON. RWODZI:** Yes, I take note.

Clause 6 put and agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 8 put and agreed to.

On Clause 9:

**+HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA:** Thank you Madam Chair. On Clause 9, without safeguards, ministerial directives often undermine the authority's independence. I thank you Madam Chair.

**HON. RWODZI:** Thank you Madam President and my gratitude to the Hon. Senator. It is again according to the Corporate

Governance Act. The President gives policy through the Minister. Parliament has its duties for oversight. When a policy is put in place, it is also taken to Parliament through the committees and Parliament provides oversight. So, it will be new again for this Ministry to have to put out the policy direction every time, putting out their policy direction for the institution, then waiting 30 days for Parliament to approve.

If Parliament is working well in their committee and with their Ministry, the meetings that are always called in Parliament are those that give Parliament the updates of what is intended to do and what is intended to be delivered. Parliament gives direction through activities, programmes and projects. Parliament always exercises oversight and approval of the budget, and it is within that context that Parliament has to give its own direction to the Ministry and take it to the institution. Otherwise, what the Minister gives as policy is what comes from the Parliament itself and what would have been approved by Parliament. I submit.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** I have a debate. Just joining my colleague regarding this particular clause. This provision undermines

the authority's autonomy. Although the clause, in my opinion, seeks to limit abuse, it still gives the Hon. Minister enormous influence over operational decisions. It is not necessary.

The Hon. Minister should not delve into operational issues. She must dwell happily and comfortably in issues related to policy formulation. A future minister and this is the mistake we always make, the current Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry is a great person. She is a very nice person and is very good at what she does but a future Minister could effectively run the authority from the Ministry because of this provision.

I therefore, propose the following: that any policy direction issued under the section shall be laid before Parliament within 14 days and shall be subject to review by the relevant Parliamentary Portfolio Committee. *Timbo bhalanza bhalanza zvinhu*, let us not leave too much power in the hands of nice people. Let us not legislate for nice people. Let us legislate for a devil who is walking about in the eaves. Thank you.

**HON. RWODZI:** Madam President, thank you very much and thank you to Hon. Senator. There is absolutely no need to publish in the *Gazette* anything that has to do with policymaking. The institution, the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, is not a policymaker but an implementer. The Parliament knows what they are supposed to do with the Minister or with the Ministry and they give direction. So, I insist that the authority is not a policymaker. The authority is an executor and the Minister must give policy direction; that policy direction must come from Parliament to the institution as well as from the Cabinet. I submit.

Clause 9 put and agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 22 put and agreed to.

On Clause 23:

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Thank you Madam President. I want you to know that I thoroughly reviewed this and I do not want to appear like a nuisance. The clause says, 'The authority may shut down all unregistered facilities offering tourism services.' Fine, but I

have an argument. This power is too broad and is potentially very dangerous. It can be very easily abused.

Many community-based tourism operators and rural enterprises may initially fail to comply due to a lack of resources or even awareness. Immediate closure, Madam President, could destroy livelihoods. It could discourage entrepreneurship. So, I have a proposal, Madam President, in the first instance, when the authority identifies a lack of compliance, it shall issue a compliance notice at least 90 days before ordering the closure of any facility except where public health or safety is at immense risk.

What do we want to do here? We want to give people a chance. We want to give the poor a chance. Furthermore, we want to encourage entrepreneurship. We do not want to punish for compliance, but we must encourage compliance. We must support emerging business people Madam President. This clause as it is, does not do that. It decapitates a person who is not compliant, not necessarily because they do not want to be compliant Madam President. I think you have heard my proposal and I would like to know whether that is takeable...

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you Hon.

Senator. – [HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI: *Madam President, I have not finished my debate...*] – Thank you Honourable for your contribution.

– [HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI: *I have not finished my debate. Ko muri kumbomhanyirepi handiti tiri pabasa here?*] – Continue Honourable, you may proceed.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** So, Madam President, I am very worried. I am concerned about how we, ourselves, demean this House by not taking it seriously. Madam President, when ministers say, 'I have taken note,' they are simply telling you diplomatically that they are not doing anything about it. I would like to know whether this proposal is sound or not, not just saying 'taken note', I would like to know because at the end of the day, you will go and report to His Excellency the President, I am presenting this without an amendment, yet we are proposing these amendments. We pass through without knowing whether this is an amendment or not...

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Senator, take your seat. Standing Rules and Order Number 148 (1) says, 'Senators who wish to propose amendments to Bills must submit such

amendments in writing and in proper form to the Clerk during the business hours of Parliament for that day, on the day or before that on which they are to appear’.

**HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA:** I think my question would be, for a layman Senator, why are we doing this exercise if this is supposed to be done in writing? Why are we here?

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** You must submit notice of motion of amendments.

**HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA:** No, my question is, why are we here then? If we cannot influence any reasonable amendment, then why are we here? This Bill can just go back to the House without amendment; it just passed through the Senate. It can go back to the Senate.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** That is what the Standing Rule says.

**HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA:** So, what does the Standing Rules and Orders say about this process now?

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Number 148 (2), ‘amendments may be handed to the Clerk at any time after the first

reading of a Bill, but must not be placed on the *Order Paper* until after the Bill to which they relate has been read for a second time’.

Thank you.

Clause 24 put and agreed to.

On Clause 25:

**HON. SEN. NCUBE:** Thank you Madam President. I want to seek some clarification from the Minister on this particular Clause, particularly (25) (2). Any person who intends to construct a tourist facility shall first submit their building plans to the authority for approval. There is a problem there, Minister, in that most building plans are also submitted to the local authority. So, which comes first in this case? They all attract fees. If submitted to the authority, would that mean it is no longer necessary to submit to the local authority according to bylaws and standing building plan approvals? Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**

**INDUSTRY (HON. RWODZI):** Thank you Madam President.

Thank you Hon. Senator, for seeking clarification. We are currently facing a significant challenge as the regulatory authority for tourism

facilities and infrastructure. Under the existing law, operators submit their construction plans to the city council or rural district council for approval. Once the facility is built, they then approach us, the tourism regulator for licencing. However, we cannot issue licences if the facilities do not meet tourism standards. We have seen numerous incidents where individuals, including children, have suffered injuries, such as falls in bathrooms. These issues arise because the city council may have approved designs that are not suitable for tourism.

Often, toilets are improperly located, as facilities may have been constructed without adhering to tourism-specific guidelines. To mitigate these risks, we have been in discussions with the local government and the Public Service Commission (PSC). Following Cabinet approval, our officers are now stationed within city councils and rural district councils to help address these issues proactively.

As highlighted by another senator, many operators struggle to enter the market because when we find that a facility does not meet standards, we must order its closure. This is a challenging situation, especially when we receive numerous complaints from tourists regarding inadequate infrastructure.

In response to concerns about fees, the President, through Cabinet, has enacted reductions in all fees and eliminated duplicative charges. Now, licencing fees are paid directly to the authority rather than to city or rural district councils. Additionally, we have removed registration fees for facilities. These are now handled by the City Council. Our focus is solely on licencing which adheres to specific statutes.

When a facility is not constructed according to standards, revoking a licence becomes a complex issue. If we grant a licence and a guest encounters problems, they often turn to us for accountability, suing both the operator and the regulator. This highlights the importance of our role in ensuring compliance from the outset. This is the critical issue we are working to address. Thank you Madam President.

**HON. SEN. GOTORA:** Hon. Minister, this then calls for the amendment of the Urban Councils Act and the Rural District Councils Act. It is a legal thing for the local authorities to do what they are doing. So, you may need to propose to your counterpart to amend those two Acts. If anything, those two Acts are almost redundant now.

They need to be redone. So, you may take that opportunity but as we stand here, the local authorities have the power and the right to do what they are doing because it is legislated.

**HON. RWODZI:** Thank you Madam President. We are not requesting amendments to existing laws; rather, we seek to be included in the operational processes of the relevant offices. While we respect their mandates, we must address certain technical aspects essential for tourism facilities.

Investors have approached us with concerns about licencing delays, despite the City Council confirming that their buildings meet the necessary standards. We propose a collaborative approach: before any plans are submitted to the City Council for approval, we request the opportunity to review those plans. This will help prevent redundancy and ensure that we do not discourage investment in our country.

Currently, we have numerous facilities that are not operational, which poses risks to guests. For instance, if a bathroom is improperly designed and water flows into a lounge area, it indicates a failure in proper placement, yet the City Council may have approved it. This

situation arises from a lack of coordination between the City Council and our regulatory body.

We are not asking for changes to the law; instead, we request that our officers be integrated into their offices, similar to how environmental officers from the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) operate within city councils and rural district councils. Our goal is to collaborate, ensuring that investments are safeguarded and guest safety is prioritised.

We have previously encountered serious incidents, such as a case last year where a guest was injured by a gas leak at a Bed and Breakfast accommodation (B & B). The ensuing legal action involves both the authority and the operator, yet the city council which approved the infrastructure has not been held accountable.

To prevent such occurrences in the future, we emphasise the importance of working together. Thank you.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Thank you Madam President. I hear what the Minister is saying but I do not think it is smart for investors to chase after signatures. Investors should be in the business of investing and doing things rather than chasing signatures, go to the

authority, chase for a signature, go to the local authority, chase for another signature and go to the youth council, chase for another signature. Why do we not comprehensively work together as Government? As you rightly say, we should work together by putting it in writing that we have preloaded the standards in the local authorities so that the local authority does not even pass the item if it does not meet the standards that you, as the Tourism Authority Tourism set. You set the standards and agree with the local authority. An investor just goes to the local authority, who then passes in accordance with the standards of the local authority and the Tourism Authority so that it is comprehensive, not 25.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Minister, I think you heard what he said.

**HON. RWODZI:** Yes, I did. That is what I explained. We are together with the Hon. Senator.

Clause 24 put and agreed to.

Clauses 25 to 45 put and agreed to.

On Clause 46:

**HON. ZVIDZAI:** Madam Chair, this particular clause provides that the Minister may impose levies on tourist facilities and it provides no limitation nor cap. Zimbabwe is already perceived as an expensive destination. Unlimited levies, levies without limit, the Minister can wake up and say 20%, 30%, 50% depending on which side of the bed she woke up from. There is need to put limits. People will always be people. I will not propose an amendment but I would just like for future purposes, for the Minister to think about the need for limitation of powers. The availability of excess power, as the Attorney says, 'power corrupts,' and absolute power corrupts. We need to always be alive when we legislate to make sure that we do not give people so much power. It is just for purposes of thought because we must limit. We have to say 2%, 3% or something like that. Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**

**INDUSTRY (HON. RWODZI):** Thank you Madam President. The issue of tourism levy is already in existence. Tourism levy is charged on the tourists, not the operators. Just so, the senators know. It is 2% and it is prescribed by the Ministry of Finance in the Finance Act. I

am not too sure if we are together with the Senator, if he is talking about the responsibility of the Minister of Finance or the responsibility of the Minister in this case. Otherwise, the Minister is guided by the Minister of Finance in terms of levies, like any other levies. We have AIDS levies, roads levies and all that. It is guided by our Treasury and it is in the Finance Management Act.

It is not just about the Minister waking up from another side of the bed and imposing levies. No, it is residing in our Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion where it is known that the Tourism Levy is 2%. Let me hasten to say as well, when the President, through his Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion was reducing the licence registration and levies for tourism in consultation with their operators, because it is not the operators who pay this money, there has been a misconception that it is tourists who are paying this money to ensure that there is development for tourism in our country and also marketing and promotion of the destination.

As a Ministry, we had asked to reduce this levy to 1.5% but the operators are the ones who advocated to leave it at 2% as they have a

lot of development that they need to help them promote their businesses. It was left at 2%. It is residing in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion and in the Public Financial Management Act. I submit.

Clause 46 put and agreed to.

Clauses 47 to 49 put and agreed to.

On Clause 50:

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Madam President, I object that this clause goes as it is. The provisions are just so woolly. There is nothing in there that compels authorities to mainstream. I would like to see at least a determined percentage of resources from the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) support community-based tourism, youths, persons with disabilities and the community. However, because I have not preloaded that as the requirements of the Standing Orders, I seek your indulgence that this be changed so that I can put in my notice for amendments.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Senator, it has been on the *Order Paper* for many weeks, about four weeks.

**\*HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** I am kindly asking for your indulgence. If you do not want, just say it.

**THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:** Can you respond Hon. Minister?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY (HON. RWODZI):** Thank you Madam President. I would like to thank Hon. Sen. Zvidzai and probably to say, the clause is saying mainstreaming gender equality, disability inclusion and indigenous rights to tourism. The authority shall ensure that tourism development, regulation and promotion are inclusive and equitable mainstreaming to the list that has been put. It is exactly one of the issues that he raised earlier on about the distribution of equality that is being addressed in this particular clause.

When it comes to development, it has to include the written or the listed mainstreaming sectors. When it comes to promotion, growth and everything, it is with that we are following our President's mantra and vision of leaving no one and no place behind. He is the one who mentioned it earlier. I did not respond much because I knew in Clause 50 what he was talking about was going to be addressed. So, I was

smiling to think my Hon. Senator is now getting where he was looking for.

It is not just about the money or the development but about even the growth of tourism that has to be inclusive according to what has been listed. It is exactly what he is saying that is written. So, I am not too sure what exactly that he wants. I submit.

Clause 50 put and agreed to.

Clauses 51 to 54 put and agreed to.

First, Second and Third Schedules put and agreed to.

House resumed.

Bill reported without amendments.

Third Reading: With leave, forthwith.

### **THIRD READING**

**TOURISM BILL [H.B. 7A, 2025]**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**

**INDUSTRY (HON. RWODZI):** Mr. President, I move that the Bill be read the third time.

Motion put and agreed to.

Bill read the third time.

*On the motion of* **THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND  
HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY (HON. RWODZI)**, *the Senate  
adjourned at Five Minutes to Four o`clock p.m. until Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup>  
June, 2026.*