

# PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

*Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026*

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

## PRAYERS

(THE HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

## SECOND READING

### CONSTITUTION OF ZIMBABWE AMENDMENT (NO. 3) BILL

[H. B. 1, 2026]

First Order read: Second Reading: Constitution of Zimbabwe  
Amendment (No. 3) Bill [H. B. 1, 2026].

Question again proposed.

**HON. S. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. I rise to add my voice in support of the Constitutional Amendment Bill (No. 3). At the outset, let me emphasise that constitutions are living instruments. They are not static documents frozen in time. Every nation has the sovereign right and responsibility to periodically review its constitutional framework so that it responds to prevailing realities, developmental aspirations and governance needs of its people. The amendment before us seeks to strengthen governance institutions,

promote policy continuity, enhance administrative efficiency, and deepen democratic accountability within Zimbabwe's constitutional architecture.

Firstly, I wish to address the proposal to extend the term of office of the President, Parliament and local authorities from five years to seven years. Mr Speaker Sir, - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – governance and development require stability. Many national development projects, infrastructure programmes, industrialisation initiatives and social transformation agendas take several years to implement and yield measurable outcomes. Frequent election cycles often result in Governments spending substantial periods preparing for elections rather than focusing on implementation.

There are numerous countries whose constitutional arrangements provide for longer terms of office than Zimbabwe's current five-year cycle. For example, the President in Mexico carries a six-year term, while some countries provide extended mandates for institutions to ensure policy continuity and long-term planning. Longer electoral cycles reduce election-related expenditure and allow governments sufficient time to implement their programmes and be

judged on tangible results. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – The proposed seven-year term therefore provides greater policy certainty, enhances developmental planning and reduces the frequency of costly national elections.

Secondly, Hon. Speaker Sir, I support the proposal that the President be elected by Parliament sitting jointly as the National Assembly and Senate. Parliamentary elections of the Head of State are a well-established democratic practise in many successful nations. Countries such as Germany, Italy, India, South Africa and several other Parliamentary democracies elect their Presidents through Parliamentary or electoral college mechanisms rather than direct popular vote. Such systems emphasise consensus building, national unity and institutional accountability. A president elected through Parliament derives legitimacy from representatives chosen by the people themselves. This approach encourages political dialogue, coalition building and national cohesion while reducing the polarisation that often accompanies direct presidential contests. The essence of democracy is not merely the method of voting but the

legitimacy, accountability and effectiveness of institutions created by the people through their representatives.

Thirdly, I support the establishment of a dedicated Zimbabwe Electoral Delimitation Commission to assume responsibility for electoral boundary delimitation. Delimitation is a highly specialised technical exercise requiring demographic expertise, geographical analysis, statistical modelling and continuous review of population movements. By establishing a specialised commission dedicated exclusively to this function, Zimbabwe will strengthen professionalism, technical competence and institutional focus in electoral boundary management. Many mature democracies separate the electoral administration from the boundary delimitation function. For example, countries such as Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom utilise specialised boundary commissions or independent bodies specifically tasked with constituency delimitation.

*An Hon. Member having required emergency medical assistance.*

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Order! Sergeant-at-Arms, can you rush and call the doctor quickly? Rush and call the doctor quickly to

attend to the Hon. Member. Can we have fewer Hon. Members around the patient please?

**HON. S. ZIYAMBI:** The proposed reform therefore aligns Zimbabwe with international best practices that recognise the technical and specialised nature of electoral boundary delimitation.

Fourthly, I support the transfer of voter registration and maintenance of the voter's roll to the Registrar General's Office. In many jurisdictions across the world, civil registration systems and voter registration databases are closely integrated. Countries such as Germany and several Nordic states utilise population registration systems that facilitate the maintenance of accurate electoral registers. Consolidating registration functions within an institution already responsible for civil records can improve administrative efficiency, reduce duplication, strengthen data integrity, and ensure continuous updating of voter information.

This reform allows the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to concentrate on its core mandate of conducting elections, voter education, and election management while the Registrar General focuses on registration and record maintenance.

Finally, Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to address the proposed judicial appointment framework. The amendment proposes that judges be appointed by the President in consultation with the Judicial Service Commission. This model is neither unusual nor unprecedented. Across the world, judicial appointments involve varying degrees of executive participation balanced by institutional consultation. In South Africa, judicial appointments involve the Judicial Service Commission and presidential appointments. In Germany, judges of higher courts are appointed through processes involving political institutions and judicial bodies. In France and many other jurisdictions, executive authorities play significant roles within constitutionally prescribed safeguards. What is critical is not necessarily whether public interviews are conducted but whether the process preserves judicial competence, independence, integrity, and constitutional accountability.

The involvement of the Judicial Service Commission ensures that professional expertise and institutional oversight remain integral to the appointment process while preserving constitutional checks and balances. Constitutions must evolve to meet national circumstances.

The amendments before us seek to promote stability, efficiency, policy continuity, institutional specialisation and effective governance. They draw upon constitutional practices found in various democratic nations while reflecting Zimbabwe's sovereign right to design institutions that best serve its people. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill and urge this august House to pass it. I submit.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Can we be restrictive in the use of our cell phones so that we can listen to the debate. Having listened to the debate, when your turn is due to speak, you do not violate Standing Order Number 111.

**\*HON. SHONGEDZA:** Thank you so much Mr. Speaker Sir. Let me start by applauding Hon. Z. Ziyambi, who brought forward this Bill and was supported by the Chairperson of the Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee. The people of Mt. Darwin and Rushinga tasked us to say that everyone is in support of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

They are supporting that because of the progress, which has been done so far by the Second Republic. We now have spaghetti

roads, bridges, clinics and many more, which were a result of the Second Republic. So, we are simply saying that rather than adding two more years, it is better to add 10 years. It allows these big projects to be concluded.

We have other projects from my constituency which are outstanding, for the example, Ndoda Road and Semwa Dam. So, if the term is extended to 10 years, we could conclude these outstanding projects.

Then we go on to the issue which was suggested that the President be elected by Members of Parliament because the majority would have voted for the Members of Parliament and councillors of their choice So, these Members of Parliament, after being elected, would then come into this Parliament and then elect the President of the country. So those were some of the things which they have tasked me to come and debate in this House because they are witnessing some developments which have happened so far.

Let me speak to the issue of the Gender Commission; for me to be standing where I am today, it is because of the Gender Commission. I could not stand in front of the public because I joined

the liberation struggle when I was very young, that is, in 1974. When I came back, I started working in different jobs up until I was elected to become a Member of Parliament in 2013.

The Gender Commission is good because it teaches us to be confident, stand in front of people and encourages fellow women to take on projects. In this august House, I observed one Hon. Member who was speaking about the (CAB3) was booed after speaking in support of the (CAB3). By so doing, that is why I am saying the Gender Commission should stand. It will then mentor and teach those Hon. Members because we know that women and youths are the most vulnerable in terms of violations. I thank you. – [AN HON.

MEMBER: *Inaudible interjections*] -

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Can you avoid such statements? Let us respect each other's contribution. If you do not agree, when your turn comes, you may argue against what you think is not proper in terms of the debate on the motion.

**HON. MASVINGISE:** Good afternoon Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Constitution Amendment...

**HON. C. MOYO:** On a point of Order. Thank you Hon.

Speaker, Sir. According to the list that you have, it is supposed to be Hon. Matinenga and according to the ratios that guide us in this House. I so submit.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** You have a list there?

**HON. C. MOYO:** Yes, Hon. Speaker Sir.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Can I have a look at it?

*The Hon. Speaker having had sight of the list*

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** The Chief Whip from my left is correct. We are on number three. It should be Hon. Matinenga. My apologies.

**HON. MATINENGA:** Thank you Mr Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity to debate about CAB 3. In the interest of time, I rise to add my voice mainly on two clauses. The first one is very close to my heart and this is regarding the Zimbabwe Gender Commission. I am against the transfer of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. I buttress the point that the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, since its formation, played a pivotal

role in advancing Zimbabwe's gender equity through various interventions.

Zimbabwe Gender Commission has also played a pivotal role in ensuring the reduction of gender-based violence and protecting abused children. As women MPs, we have been empowered and received training, such as in budgeting. This is very important, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Furthermore, the Zimbabwe Gender Commission has been monitoring the implementation of the gender responsive policies and programmes.

Hon. Members are aware that there are gender desks at ministries. Through disaggregated data, ministries are encouraged not only to ensure they employ and promote both men and women, but the Gender Commission is for us all, for all genders, men and women. It also continues to educate communities on the side effects of child marriages. The list of achievements is endless. It still has a mammoth task to undertake. In Zimbabwe, we still have a long journey to achieve true gender equality in all sectors, Private and Government.

In the political arena, we still have a long way. Just look around, Mr. Speaker Sir: in this House, women are fewer than a third, and yet

the Southern African Development Community (SADC) recommends a 50-50 scenario. Let the Zimbabwe Gender Commission be stand-alone and allow it to advance the very reason for its formation.

Zimbabwe aligns itself with global standards that recognise that gender equality cannot be achieved through a generalised approach, but requires a central, specialised oversight body such as the Zimbabwe Gender Commission. The establishment of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission in 2023 was a landmark achievement. It was well thought out and need not be reversed without fully achieving its mandate. Let us support the Joint Committee recommendation and let the Zimbabwe Gender Commission be a stand-alone institution.

My second major concern on Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill (CAB 3) is in regard to traditional leaders. Traditional leaders should not be involved in politics. The reasons were well presented by Hon. Members who spoke before me. Furthermore, they are prohibited by various clauses in the Constitution. They will not be able to effectively undertake their judicial roles if they are involved in politics.

In conclusion, I appeal to this House to accept that some clauses in CAB 3 have contestations. Debates and presentations submitted testify to this effect. It is in the public domain and well documented and this was well articulated by Members who spoke before me, Hon. Gumbo, Hon. Mushoriwa and Hon. Mhangwa. They all have raised contestations in respect of some clauses in CAB 3. So, we need to handle it with care and diligence.

This issue should not be thrown under the carpet. It is my humble submission that when everything has been said and done, we all make an effort to respect each other. We must make an effort to communicate in good faith, collaborate and implement programmes with the interests of the nation at heart, protecting the vulnerable and any sensible minority views. Zimbabwe is for us all Mr. Speaker Sir. If we all have unity of purpose and respect for each other, God will bless us. It is disheartening to hear daily cries by women for God to intervene and protect the nation from any laws that inhibit equality and enjoyment of resources.

After all these deliberations, the focus should be on development and creating jobs for our children. Let us respect the interests of everyone, including the minority. I so submit.

**HON. MASVINGISE:** Thank you so much Mr. Speaker Sir. Good afternoon once again. I rise to support the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026. In 1816, Jefferson, one of the principal architects of American Constitutional Democracy, cautioned against treating constitutions as immutable documents. In a letter to Samuel Kesselville, he observed, “Some men look at constitutions with sanctimonious reverence and deem them like the Ark of the Covenant, too sacred to be touched. They ascribe to the men of the preceding age, a wisdom more than human and suppose what they did to be beyond amendment.”

Jefferson went on to argue that laws and institutions must evolve with the progress of society, famously warning that requiring one generation to be governed permanently by the arrangements of a previous generation is akin to requiring a grown man to continue wearing the coat that fitted him when he was a boy. Mr. Speaker Sir, this observation remains as relevant today as it was over two centuries

ago. Constitutional democracy is not preserved through rigidity, but through the ability of institutions to adapt to changing circumstances while remaining faithful to the fundamental democratic principles. It is therefore important to appreciate that this amendment process is not a habitual exercise in constitutional engineering.

Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill (CAB 3) has been carried out from its inception as a citizen-centred constitutional reform process, grounded in public participation and conducted through lawful constitutional procedures. The Bill represents an important step in the continued evolution of our constitutional and governance framework. It seeks to strengthen constitutional governance, improve institutional efficiency, enhance accountability and promote political stability.

Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to emphasise this part to promote political stability and align Zimbabwe's constitutional architecture with the tested and successful practices found in other jurisdictions. These amendments modernise and streamline aspects of our constitutional order while preserving the values, rights and democratic principles embodied in the 2015 Constitution. I wish to begin with

Clause 3, which proposes the election of the President by Parliament sitting jointly as the National Assembly and Senate. While this proposal has attracted considerable debate, it is important to recognise that democracy is not defined solely by the direct election of a Head of State. Many respected democracies elect their executive leadership through representative institutions.

One of the largest democracies in the world, India, selects its Head of Government through parliamentary processes, while closer home, South Africa elects its President through the National Assembly. In such systems, democratic legitimacy remains intact because Members of Parliament are themselves directly elected by the people. The people therefore exercise their sovereign authority through their elected representative, who in turn elects the President.

I now turn to Clauses 4, 9 and 10, which propose lengthening the term of office of the President, Parliament and councillors from five years to seven years. The memorandum to the Bill states that this amendment seeks to eliminate election mode toxicity, provide sufficient time for project implementation and promote stability. A seven-year term would provide a more realistic timeframe for

Government to execute programmes and for citizens to then evaluate the results. It would reduce the frequency of costly elections and create a more stable environment for investment and economic planning. Investors and development partners value certainty, while national development programmes thrive where there is continuity of policies and legislative frameworks. I also support Clauses 11, 12 and 18, which establish the Zimbabwe Electoral Delimitation Commission and transfer delimitation functions from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to this specialised institution.

Delimitation is a highly technical exercise, requiring expertise in demography and population analysis. The proposed commission brings together professionals with requisite skills, thereby enhancing credibility, accuracy and transparency of the processes. Separating delimitation from election administration strengthens institutional integrity and promotes public confidence. I will turn to Clause 2, which transfers responsibility of voter registration, voter rolls and voter registers from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission.

**HON. TSVANGIRAI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I seek your guidance. There seems to be an unnecessary repetition of argument

that has already been made. In the interest of time, Hon. Speaker, may we...

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Are you suggesting that we stop debating so that we assume CAB 3 has been accepted by all of us? If that is your wish, you will save the taxpayers' money. It is the angle that the Chair considers in terms of how the Hon. Member debating is tackling the subject matter. Even if the subject matter is the same, it is the angle that is being taken by the Hon. Member speaking. So, Hon. Masvingise is taking the former President Jefferson's angle and it is permissible to do so. Hon. Member, please proceed.

**HON. MASVINGISE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Integrating voter registration with the National Civil Registration System will reduce duplication of functions, improve data integrity, facilitate continuous updating of records and enhance administrative efficiency. It also creates a single authoritative source of demographic information, thereby improving the overall quality and accuracy of the voter registration process.

Let me now turn to Clause 14, which I would want to believe that Hon. Tsvangirai would appreciate the in-depth scrutiny and effort

that was actually put into this Clause. I also wish to express support of Clause 14 of the Bill, which seeks to expand the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court by empowering it, upon granting leave to appeal...

**HON. TSVANGIRAI:** Hon. Speaker, I just want to put this on record that I do not appreciate whatever the Hon. Member is saying. Thank you.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** You want to do what? Switch on your mic, please.

**HON. TSVANGIRAI:** The Hon. Member who was speaking, mentioned my name and he said that I might appreciate whatever he is going to say. I just want to put it on record that I do not appreciate or support whatever that Hon. Member is saying.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, can you desist from points of order that are irrelevant? Hon. Masvingise, proceed.

**HON. MASVINGISE:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I also wish to express my support for Clause 14 of the Bill, which seeks to expand the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court by empowering it, upon granting leave to appeal, to determine matters that raise an arguable

point of law of general public importance. These amendments are both necessary and progressive, as it strengthens the role of the Constitutional Court as the apex court in our judicial system. Under the current constitutional framework, there have been instances where matters of immense national importance could not be conclusively determined by the Constitutional Court simply because they did not arise as constitutional disputes.

The result has often been fragmented litigation, procedural delays, and uncertainty in the development of our jurisprudence. Clause 14 addresses this challenge by creating a clear and transparent mechanism through which matters of significant public importance may be heard by the highest court in the land. This amendment does not confer unlimited access to the Constitutional Court, as some critics suggest. Access to the court will remain subject to stringent leave to appeal requirements. A litigant must satisfy the court that the matter raises an arguable point of law of general public importance that warrants the court's attention. This threshold ensures that only deserving cases reach the Constitutional Court and preserves its status as a specialised apex court rather than a general court of appeal.

The amendment also promotes judicial efficiency and legal certainty. It resolves jurisdictional challenges that have arisen between the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court and enables important disputes to be determined more expeditiously. Furthermore, Zimbabwe will not be venturing into uncharted territory. Comparable jurisdictions such as South Africa have already expanded the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Courts to hear non-constitutional matters where issues of general public importance arise. I will cite the South African 17<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment, which expanded the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court of that country beyond purely constitutional matters to include appeals or non-constitutional matters where leave to appeal is granted.

The Constitutional Court of South Africa has since developed clear principles governing leave to appeal in such matters. Clause 14 strengthens access to justice, promotes consistency in the development of the law and ensures that matters of exceptional public significance can be authoritatively resolved by the Constitutional Court. For these reasons, I fully support the amendment. While the concern raised in relation to Clause 14 on whether the amendment

affects the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is answered by the existing law. Section 169 of the Constitution preserves the Supreme Court as the final court of appeal except in constitutional matters over which the Constitutional Court has jurisdiction. The proposed amendment, Section 167, (6), simply extends the category of matters over which the Constitutional Court may exercise jurisdiction. It does not abolish the Supreme Court. It is prudent to put the matter beyond doubt. The main source of ambiguity is the interaction between the proposed new Section 167 (6) and the existing language of Section 169 of our Constitution. As such, I am proposing an additional amendment to Section 169 by repealing (1) and amending it so that it gives reference to Section 167. I will exchange and share the notes with the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs regarding the additional and targeted amendment.

This additional amendment removes any ambiguity regarding the scope of the Supreme Court's jurisdiction as a final court of appeal. For completeness, Mr. Speaker, would I be allowed to read out my proposal for that additional targeted amendment. Maybe we will delve into detail during the Committee Stage...

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Order! The suggested amendments will be dealt with during Committee Stage. So, you can indicate in advance so that the Hon. Minister is aware of the suggested amendments.

**HON. MASVINGISE:** Thank you so much for your guidance. This additional amendment removes any ambiguity regarding the scope of the Supreme Court's jurisdiction as a final court of appeal. It ensures full continuity with the extended jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court in terms of Clause 14. It does not diminish the Supreme Court's authority. It merely aligns Section 169 with the constitutional reality that already obtains in respect of Section 167.

Mr. Speaker, as legislators, our responsibility is not only to preserve constitutional democracy but also to ensure that our constitutional order remains responsive to the evolving needs of our nation. Constitutional systems are living instruments that must adapt to changing realities while remaining faithful to the principles of democratic governments. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I rise in full support of CAB3. I thank you.

**\*HON. NHARI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, for granting me this opportunity to add my voice to this Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill (CAB3), which was brought forward by Hon. Ziyambi, who is one of our learned *gurus*. I stand here; I come from the Midlands. The citizens from the Midlands Province were in total support of this CAB3. They came in numbers to support, they were happy to say this CAB3 is good for them and it is also good for us all here. They were more triggered into happiness on the issue of extension of the term of office for the President and Members of Parliament. The people from my constituency were very happy, and emphasised that they were in full support of CAB3.

I support the proposal on chiefs' role in politics. If the chiefs are allowed to go into the ballot box and cast their votes for whoever they want in that ballot box secretly, what stops them from participating in politics? Also, these chiefs are the ones who actually started politics. When freedom fighters were looking for shelter, guidance, they were accommodated and embraced by the chiefs. These chiefs have been in politics from way back; that is why we are here today.

Let me go on to the issue of the President electing an additional 10 Senators. This is a very positive idea. It is good for the President because when we came into this august House, we were elected by the people, but these people were not looking at our academic qualifications. They could love us with their heart and with what we do for them. However, when the President is selecting 10 more Senators, he will look for those who are capable of assisting him and who will also join the Cabinet, those with vast knowledge in developing this country.

On the Gender Commission, I do not support the disbandment of the Commission. The Gender Commission has its roles and functions which are actually different from the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission says toilets and clean water are essential and they should be maintained properly while the Gender Commission speaks to those toilets: are they accessible for those women who have disabilities or pregnant women? That is their role. The Gender Commission is like a mother and local leadership who is responsible for casting and imparting knowledge to the citizens. If a father says to his sister-in-law, "Let us

now move and stay with your younger sister so that their respect will diminish, and their empowerment will be reduced," he implies that by stating these roles, he is stripping them of their power. This situation highlights how we are mismanaging some of the critical responsibilities that should be upheld by the Gender Commission in Zimbabwe and the Human Rights Commission. We are simply advocating for the acceptance of existing structures. The Gender Commission and the Human Rights Commission should function as intended. Let us do our utmost to strengthen the Zimbabwe Gender Commission as they are present in both rural and urban areas. They reach grassroots communities and empower individuals, even in hard-to-reach locations. I firmly believe that the Gender Commission should remain steadfast and continue its work until 2030. Personally, I support CAB3 and advocate for its continuation until we all benefit from it. Thank you.

**HON. MARIKANO:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill because it promotes continuity, stability and the completion of national development programmes that are already benefiting Zimbabweans.

Under the leadership of His Excellency, President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe has recorded notable achievements in infrastructure, energy, agriculture and healthcare. In the energy sector, the successful completion of the Hwange Power Station Units 7 and 8 has significantly increased electricity generation, reducing power shortages and supporting industrial growth.

In agriculture and water development, the Government has completed and advanced several dam projects, including Gwayi-Shangani Dam, Marovanyati Dam and Keziway Dam upgrades, which are helping to improve irrigation, food security and water supply.

In the health sector, major improvements have been made under the Presidential Scheme at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals, Sally Mugabe Central Hospital, Mpilo Central Hospital and United Bulawayo Hospital. Mr. Speaker Sir, new clinics and health facilities have also been constructed and refurbished under Government programmes, improving access to healthcare for many communities. We have also witnessed the rehabilitation and construction of major roads, the upgrading of highways and the construction of modern

interchanges and roundabouts, which have improved traffic flow and economic activity. These projects are long-term investments that require policy consistency and stable leadership.

Development does not happen overnight; it requires continuity.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I therefore support the extension of the term because it allows ongoing projects to be completed and ensures the nation fully benefits from investments already made – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - Changing leadership in the middle of major programmes can disrupt implementation and delay progress.

Furthermore, I support the proposal for the President to be elected through Parliament. Members of Parliament are elected by the people and represent every constituency in Zimbabwe. A parliamentary election of the President can promote national consensus, reduce political tensions and ensure leadership is chosen through representatives of the people.

Frequent elections also come with challenges. Elections are expensive and consume significant national resources. Elections can lead to political violence and intimidation. Elections may divide communities and families along political lines. Business activity and

investment may slow during election periods because of uncertainty. Public resources that could be directed to hospitals, schools, roads and dams are often spent on election processes. Campaign periods can distract leaders from focusing on development programmes. For these reasons, continuity of leadership can help maintain peace, stability and focus on national development.

The success achieved in dam construction and power generation through Hwange Units 7 and 8, road rehabilitation, health sector improvements, agriculture development and infrastructure modernisation demonstrates that Zimbabwe is on a development path. To preserve this momentum and ensure the completion of ongoing projects, I fully support the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. I thank you.

**HON. KAITANO:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for the opportunity to debate the Bill. During the public consultation, I had the opportunity to traverse the length and breadth of Mashonaland East Province and I realised that Zimbabweans are religious. On every clause, they had a passage of scripture from the Bible to support that clause.

Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to go straight to the gist of the Bill. Several participants continuously talked of a certain number in the Bible. From one district to the next, they continued to talk about the number 7. I did not know, until they said the number 7 talks of purity and perfection.

One man in his late 70s told a story that is in 2 Kings of a Syrian army chief who visited a certain land because of leprosy. He was asked to dip himself in a river seven times and the Bible says that after he had dipped himself seven times, he was healed of leprosy. He was perfect. He was pure and the Bible says his skin was as good as that of a child. In other words, the skin no longer had wrinkles. The skin was now a *tsepete*, *tsepete* kind of skin. I learnt that an increase from five to seven can bring a lot of *tsepete*, *tsepete* roads.

Mr. Speaker Sir, you spoke of a different angle. I have another one. The story of Naaman talks of restoration. Seven years made the army chief restored but he was not just restored to his original state; he was even better. The people of Zimbabwe are talking of increasing the Presidential to seven years. It has a deeper meaning just beyond the number 7. A certain people entered a particular land and the land

was fortified. They were asked to circle that land seven times and on the seventh time, Mr. Speaker Sir, they received their victory.

It makes me think about the power of the number 7. It restores and it brings victory. The number 7 is not a number to play with, Mr. Speaker Sir. Even in Genesis 41, we hear of seven years of plenty.

One young man interpreted a dream that spoke about seven years of plenty. This number 7 also does not represent restoration and victory; it also represents great abundance.

As I pondered over these submissions from the people of Zimbabwe, I then asked myself, just before we started debating this Bill, the Hon. Minister, who is the Leader of Government Business in Parliament, asked for an extension or a removal of the automatic adjournment of Parliament at 6.45 p.m. He asked for a little extension over and above that, so that we can finish the critical business of Parliament happening here.

When we debate the National Budget, we always see the Leader of Government Business asking us to extend. Sometimes we finish at 10:00 p.m., sometimes we finish at midnight on a Thursday. Even if we finish at midnight or even 2 a.m. Friday morning, the record

would still say we had Parliament on Thursday. It does not mention Friday. We do not even get the coupons for Friday. We get them for Thursday only. It is not an extra day. It is just an extension because there is serious business of building the country that is being done and it is necessary.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I looked at one of the oldest democracies in the world. The United States democratic regime started in 1789.

Inasmuch as they limited the number of years to four years, they removed the limit on how many terms one President could serve.

They balanced it off. Four years, yes but you can serve as many years as you want.

I pondered over the wisdom of doing that. Four years is very short but I then pondered, why did they not say four years for two terms because they realised they needed to build their country? So, if somebody can do so much for four years, that is not a problem. They left it like that but here we are saying seven years, but two terms. We have extended from five to seven but we are limiting the number of these seven-year terms, which strikes a balance, Mr. Speaker Sir. The wisdom of doing this is to then allow policy continuity as fellow Hon.

Members have said. For over 162 years, this is how the number one, the premier democratic state in the world, was conducting its governance business.

The seven years will help this country to develop. One contributor said, "You Hon. Members, we are telling you, do not copy the American or the Western world democracy of short-term limits - four years, five years". Do not copy them because they have already established the necessary infrastructure. We cannot compare ourselves to the US because their rail system is already established. Their road network is already established. We cannot compare ourselves with them. We need longer periods of time to establish infrastructure.

Large projects are neither in the short term, nor are they in the mid-term. They are always in the long term. Highways are always in the long term. Power stations are always in the long term. Construction of dams is always in the long term. They are never in the short term. They are never in the mid-term.

We talk about Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Macroeconomic stability in any country affects investment, whether it is from the

domestic players or from the foreign investors. Whenever, the world over, when honourable ministers are appointed, many investors' ears listen to who is going to be the Minister of Finance because it spells the potential stability to the macroeconomic environment of that country. Zimbabwe has been doing well on that policy front, more so on our foreign policy. This has been attested by the recent appointments to regional and international bodies.

Last year, we were Chairpersons of SADC. I am made to understand that very soon we are going to be the Chairpersons of COMESA, at the same time sitting in the UN Security Council. That foreign policy continuity deserves more years. Now, inasmuch as we must learn from other countries, inasmuch as we can copy from what other democracies have done; what stops us from being the genesis of something new in the world? What stops us from being the initiators of something new in the world? Yes, we want to learn from others, but we can start something of our own. Yes, we can learn. Finland has seven years and Rwanda too but we can even start from whatever we want. We choose for ourselves what we want so that other countries can reference Zimbabwe and say Zimbabwe has done this. We will

also be at the forefront of initiating things. Whatever we do, whether it exists in the world now, for me it is neither here nor there. Let us initiate our own things and we do it.

As I conclude, the people of Mudzi believe that if we move from five to seven years, we will have more solarised boreholes in Mudzi District. They also believe that we will have both small and big dams if the longevity of the term increases from five to seven years. They believe this because they have seen it happening on the ground. They have been appetised and are now looking forward to it. Their ears are listening to hear who is coming to do what in our district. They have sent me here to speak on their behalf that indeed, let us move it from five to seven years because we want more development. They were left behind but now we are being included – leaving no one and no Mudzi is left behind now – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

The question before us today is, does longevity from five to seven years imply lack of democracy? Does it mean that if we shift from five to seven years we are now less democratic? Does it mean that we no longer respect human rights by moving from five to seven

years? It simply means a longer time has been afforded for the development of this country – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

I will conclude by a passage of scripture, 1 Timothy 2 v 1-4; Therefore, I exalt first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all men. For kings and all those in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

*Hon. Matewu having stood on a point of order.*

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** The Hon. Member has concluded his debate so the point of order does not arise – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]. I do not understand this.

**HON. KAITANO:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I still had one explanation.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** No, your time is up – [HON. KAITANO: *Thank you Mr. Speaker.*] – I understand now the meaning of seven. I do not know what I will explain to myself because since 1980, I am now the seventh Speaker of Parliament. I do not know what it means.

**HON. MURECHU:** Good afternoon Mr. Speaker. My name is Hon. F Murechu representing Nkulumane Constituency, Bulawayo. I rise to share my views in support of the proposed Amendment Bill, which was tabled by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi, popularly known as CAB 3. I do not know Mr. Speaker whether it will make sense but I think it will make sense.

Constitutional amendments like this do not start with us and do not even end with us. We once said an Amendment Number 19, which means that the Constitution was amended 19 times and now that we are on Amendment Number 3, it simply shows that this Constitution has also been amended twice, meaning to say this is the third amendment. So, I will not be repetitive in my submission because quite a number of my colleagues, both from the left and the right, have done justice to a lot of clauses in support of this Bill. So, I will do a match on a few clauses, which are Clauses 2, 3, 7 and 8. So, I will start with Clauses 3, 7 and 8, which talk about lengthening the term from 5 to 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, as a development practitioner myself, I understand how development works. Development itself is not an event; it cannot happen overnight. It is a process and the development itself is a formula and a pattern. According to Rostow, an American economist, he prescribes five stages of development that every country should follow. He spoke about the first stage, which is the traditional society; the precondition for take-off, which is the second, the take-off which is the drive to maturity and finally, the age of high mass consumption. Put simply Mr. Speaker, let me explain this through an aeroplane analogy. An aeroplane turns its engine, prepares to take-off, the plane takes off, it reaches a certain altitude and then stabilises until it descends to its destination.

I believe Zimbabwe in the Second Republic under the stewardship of His Excellency the President, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, has followed just that. Mr. Speaker Sir, first it was the TSP, which was the preparation for take-off, followed by the NDS 1 and NDS 2 where our development plane takes off. In the year 2030, our development plane will be cruising nicely – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – It will be cruising nicely at an altitude of about 23 000 feet where all

passengers can now start enjoying their meals. These stages may also be called business cycles. Any disturbance at any point of this stage will force the plane to land or crash land.

So, imagine conducting an election before an economy reaches its peak. This causes standard growth or a recession but this recession is called a political business cycle because it is a reaction of a political environment, which in our case always is very volatile. Vision 2030 and other lengthy development plans also follow almost the same development stages by Rostow. Development in its nature is very timid. It does not thrive when there is havoc. It is ready to jump ship from any threats, whether perceived or real. I believe this Bill seeks to create a more stable environment that is conducive for development. Lengthy terms of seven years Madam Speaker is also a major contributing factor to Rwanda's development journey that we highly speak of.

Madam Speaker, let me also jump into Clause 2 of the proposed amendment Bill that seeks to shift the election of the President from a direct vote to a parliamentary vote in a joint session, like what other countries are doing, like South Africa, Botswana and also the United

States of America. This move removes the blame game that has characterised our country's whole-body policy. In the current situation, any problem or all the problems that our country faces, the blame is wholly put on the President. Even some small issues that require Parliamentarians to account to their constituencies or local councillor's failure to deliver services, they blame the President. This blame game has become so mean to an extent that even one beaten by his wife blames the President. The election of the President by Parliament creates a shared responsibility and accountability to our people on all issues that are bedeviling our motherland.

Madam Speaker, before I became a member of this august House, I was a leader of the biggest youth organisation in Zimbabwe, the ZANU-PF Youth League. Hence, I would not have done justice if I did not pass the submissions that came from the youth, through the students, other youth organisations, affiliate organisations, children of war veterans, *ama2k*, NYS, to name but a few. They welcome the move, arguing that it reduces cases of political violence.

The youth are the ones who bear the brunt when it comes to political violence. During presidential elections, it is the youths who

are used as merchants of violence. Before being unleashed to the streets to distribute pain equitably to political opponents, they are first drugged. They are given *umtoriro*. Yes, that is true by some political players who in their nature are very evil and self-seeking. After that, the youth get arrested. After they are arrested, they face the full wrath of the law. It is only family members who are then made to take care of the bail and so forth and take care of remaining dependents of those youths.

Elections of the President by Parliament also reduce litigation which we always see on presidential results. Most of the court cases we have witnessed in Zimbabwe over electoral fraud are on presidential elections. Moving the election of the President to Parliament will eradicate this. When issues of national importance that seek to address the future of this country, the youth's voices must be heard the loudest because the future is indeed very young.

Let us not only wait for the next election to start telling the youth that the future of this country is in their hands, only because we want their hands to cast their votes. Let us start showing it now. We show it by passing this Bill. A Bill that will remove our country from

election perpetuity, a Bill that will ensure political stability, a Bill that will promote continuity. In a nutshell, Madam Speaker, I so submit.

Thank you.

**HON. JAMES:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me the privilege of addressing this House at this critical time. I rise today to oppose CAB3 in its entirety. This is not merely a legislative matter. It is a question of democracy, constitutionalism and the rights of the people of Zimbabwe. To begin with, it is fundamentally undemocratic to expect Members of Parliament and senators to approve legislation that would deny their constituents the opportunity to vote for their ...

**HON. MUDUMI:** Point of order, Madam Speaker.

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

**HON. MUDUMI:** May the Hon. Member who is debating increase the volume. We are not hearing him. It seems he is talking to himself. We want to hear what he is debating.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. James, please, may you raise your voice a bit. You may proceed.

**HON. JAMES:** Certainly, Madam Speaker. I do want everyone to hear. To begin with, it is fundamentally undemocratic to expect Members of Parliament and senators to approve legislation that would deny their constituents the opportunity to vote for their national leaders at a constitutionally prescribed time. We were indeed elected by the people to represent the people and not to substitute our judgment for theirs. Sovereignty resides in the citizens of Zimbabwe and leadership renewal must come through elections, not through arithmetic in this House.

Furthermore, this proposal increases the influence of unelected individuals in government, with presidentially appointed senators and unelected ministers already playing a significant role. CAB 3 moves us further away from the principle that power should derive from the ballot box. It must be noted that the architect of CAB 3 is in fact, an unelected Member of the Cabinet. Madam Speaker, much has been said about election toxicity. While our elections have often been polarising, postponing or avoiding elections would not solve that problem. The answer lies in strengthening democratic institutions, respecting the rule of law, and ensuring free and fair electoral

processes. Delaying elections treats the symptoms while ignoring the cause. The argument that more time is required to complete developmental projects is equally unconvincing.

**HON. NYABANI:** Point of order Madam Speaker. May the Hon. Member not read? The speech that has been written on his behalf, may he debate from his head?

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nyabani, let it be the last time. You may proceed Hon. James.

**HON. JAMES:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I did in fact write this myself. The argument that more time is required to complete developmental projects is equally unconvincing. Effective projects should be supported by capable institutions and professional administration, not by extending political terms. Good governance, no longer tenure, is what ensures continuity and success.

Madam Speaker, CAB 3 risks deepening public frustration and political apathy. Many Zimbabweans already struggle with unemployment, poverty, inflation and poor delivery of services. When citizens see constitutional law altered without their direct consent,

confidence in the democratic process is weakened. Investors too, value predictability, transparency and respect for the constitutional norms. Weakening those norms sends the wrong message about Zimbabwe's future. Our youth who make up the majority of our population may be particularly affected. They seek opportunity, participation and hope. If they come to believe that democratic processes can be postponed or altered without their voice being heard, cynicism and disengagement will only increase.

Madam Speaker, we must also reflect on the values of the liberation struggle. That struggle was fought for majority rule, self-determination and the right of Zimbabweans to shape their own destiny. Power was intended to flow from the people. Any attempt to weaken the people's right to choose their leaders undermines the very principles for which our liberation heroes and heroines sacrificed.

Rather than extending terms and weakening democratic accountability, we should focus on meaningful electoral reforms. We should also strengthen the independence and capacity of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, ensure fair access to the media for all political parties, improve transparency in voter registration and

electoral administration and encourage peaceful political competition through enforceable codes of conduct.

Madam Speaker, even the consultative process surrounding CAB3 has raised concerns. Reports acknowledge shortcomings in public consultations, including overcrowded venues and barriers to participation. Such concerns should be addressed before constitutional changes are advanced, not postponed for future consideration.

In conclusion, each of us will return to our constituencies and explain the decisions we make here today. I would rather defend the people's right to vote than explain why I helped deny them that right. The right of Zimbabweans to choose their representatives is fundamental. It cannot be delayed, diminished or delegated. I therefore call upon this House to reject CAB 3 and instead commit itself to reforms that strengthen democracy, honour the values of the liberation struggle and secure a better future for all Zimbabweans. Do we honestly need an extra two years to balance the budget? Do we need another two years to close our porous borders to rogue exporters of our natural and manufactured assets?

In addition, do we need another two years to pay our civil servants' liveable salaries so that they do not forage from our unsuspecting public to make their own financial ends meet? Do we need another two years to protect our environment from devastation by predatory investors and developers who believe they are above the law and rely on political favour? Finally, do we need another two years to respect diverse political opinions? All these issues and more can be done within the existing constitution and parliamentary timeframe. These proposed amendments are merely a cover-up for failure and an attempt to smother oversight mechanisms and to further the interests of a one-party State. Madam Speaker, I will not be part of this travesty. I respectfully submit. Thank you.

**HON. JERE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Before I get deep into this debate, there is a certain notion, which I need to correct on the success of a nation or an organisation. I have heard various debaters say, you know, why are you not crediting the success of this country to a State? Success is not a structural issue. It is all about the head of an organisation or who will be leading it. I come from the corporate governance side of the issue and the scholars have agreed

that 99% of the organisations that we have gone under it was because of bad leadership. Also, 99% of the organisations that are lying in the corporate graveyards it was because of bad management.

I would like to quote what was said by the CEO of Nokia when it went down...

**HON. MAKUMIRE:** On a point of Order. My point of Order is coming from the position taken by Hon. Jere to say the success and failure of organisations lies with the leader. Does this mean that the poor healthcare system we are facing, the poor education we are seeing, is the result of the leader?

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are out of order. Please take your seat. No, Hon. Makumire, if you continue with that behaviour, I will send you out. I am giving you a warning

**HON. JERE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. The CEO of Nokia had this to say: "I thought we did everything right." It was a clear admission that Apple and Samsung, were coming in because they accepted innovation and changes which were taking place around them. The success which we are enjoying today in this country, which we are seeing, our health sector is not spared. We are seeing cancer

machines coming into the country. It is because of the leadership of Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa. This is why everything that happens in this country is credited to the Head of State, who is our President. It is not a structural issue. It is the Presidential issue.

This is actually what made us sit down and say, with this success which we are seeing, what can we do to our governance issue as far as the electoral cycle is concerned? We said, let us come up with seven years because we have found our footing in terms of development. We need a visionary leader for us to have success in our country.

I rise this afternoon in support of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill and concur with the broad constitutional and development logic advanced therein. The second reading was persuasive in its central proposition that constitutional arrangements must save national progress. It must promote institutional stability and practical governance rather than perceive a rigid for its own sake. We need to have time for this. I am going to debate based on the background and the experience which I have had in business.

Every time I travel to do business deals, the first thing they ask you is, when is your next election? Two years before we get into the next election, they start developing a wait-and-see attitude. So, seven years is befitting to have this country transformed and move forward to where we expect it to go. Many business deals were stopped on the table because of the electoral cycle, because investors have got confidence. If a leader is elected into office, the first thing a leader does is spell out his vision. This is the vision which I have and that is going to inform what programmes are going to be done within the country and they follow those ones. If you want to come with any programme, which is outside the vision of the President, they hesitate to take it up. They cannot be accepted by the powers that be.

So, I rise in full support of the seven-year term electoral cycle. It is going to help us in developing our country and take it to another level. We should accept that Zimbabwe is a developing nation; we are not a developed nation, where economies are run on autopilot. We need to develop. You cannot build long-term projects on a five-year term. It is not enough. We need more time. I am very happy with the proposition that we push the electoral period to seven years.

Let me also speak to the microeconomic stability, which we are having in this country and the results, which we are all celebrating in terms of single-digit inflation. All this started in 2018, when the Minister of Finance came up with the TSP, which transitioned to NDS1 and NDS2. We are seeing the results now. It is a process, not an event. Through that, we are here celebrating our country, that we have stability.

If you walk into a shop today, if you want to do a transaction, they ask you, do you want to pay in US dollar or do you want to pay in ZiG? It is up to you to decide whatever you want. It is because of the period that has been taken for us to be where we are. These are the results; that is why as a country, we found our footing for development. Why can we not take this to put it to seven years? This is what we have learnt that we need more time for us to get the desired results for our economy to go where we want it to go. Madam Speaker, let me also speak about the chiefs. I agree with the proposed amendments that we have our chiefs involved in political activities. However, it is my observation that we need to look at it and come up with some level of involvement of our chiefs in political issues. This

is because I am looking at a picture where my chief whom I go to when I want to get onto his land to seek his blessing for me to campaign to become a Member of Parliament (MP) and he also wants to become a Member of Parliament.

We are dragging our chiefs into a pig fight. All the insults which are hurled at the MPs during campaigns, can you imagine a chief going through that? The current status quo needs to be adjusted because appointing them is respecting the spirituality which is associated with the chiefs. I can imagine myself getting into a ballot box with Chief Mangwende also trying to be a Member of Parliament. It drags him into disrepute. So, we need to strike a balance whereby our chiefs do not face litigation when they are involved in politics and when they are associated with the party which they so love.

At the same time, we do not want them to be meddled in these fights which some of us know. If development fails to come and a chief is a Member of Parliament, it will create a big problem with the integrity and the respect which we give to our chiefs. This is how I am looking at it although I totally agree. Appointing them like they are in the Senate where they deal with Thematic Committees, I think it is

much better. We are respecting the spirituality aspect of it. This is because our chiefs were involved spiritually.

If you look at Chief Rekayi Tangwena during the liberation struggle, they were giving a spiritual direction on how the wards were supposed to be run. That is where my concern is. I think we need to coin it in such a way that we do not have their integrity soiled in the election fights and the hate speech, which we endure during electoral campaigns.

The chiefs are the custodians of our heritage, history and collective identity. The sacred position must be preserved. This is the way I look at the role of the chiefs: by appointing someone who has such an honour in the community. I think it is befitting for the chiefs to appoint them. We want you to be in this position, but you will not be allowed to do sloganeering. These are the things which I am suggesting we might need to look at and protect them from unnecessary litigation which will be coming from the other side. I so submit. Thank you.

**HON. NYELELE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Allow me to begin by commending the Joint Portfolio Committees for undertaking

extensive public consultations and presenting a comprehensive report on the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Z. Ziyambi, for bringing before this House, a Bill that seeks to strengthen the institutions that underpin our democracy and governance system.

As a young Member of Parliament representing Matabeleland North Province, I rise to support both the report and the Bill because I believe these reforms represent an opportunity to improve institutional efficiency, strengthen accountability and create governance structures that are responsible for Zimbabwe. They are responsible for the needs of our people.

I support the proposal to transfer voter registration and the management of the voters' roll to the Registrar General. The Registrar General is already the custodian of vital civil records including birth, death and national identity records. Consolidating these functions under one institution will improve administrative efficiency, strengthen record management and contribute towards maintaining a more accurate and up-to-date voters' roll.

This reform allows the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to focus more effectively on its core constitutional responsibilities of election management and voter education. In an era where governance increasingly depends on reliable data and efficient public administration, such institutional alignment is both practical and necessary.

Madam Speaker, I also welcome the proposal establishing a dedicated Delimitation Commission. As a representative of the people, I have encountered situations where constitutional boundaries and traditional leaders' jurisdictions do not always align, creating confusion among the communities. In some instances, residents may find themselves voting in one constituency while remaining under the authority of a traditional leader whose jurisdiction extends into another constituency. Such anomalies have often complicated community representation, development, planning, and citizen engagement processes. The establishment of a specialised Delimitation Commission will allow greater attention to be paid to these issues and provide an opportunity for more coherent and logical boundary management.

I equally support the proposal for the President to be elected by Parliament and the extension of the electoral cycle from five to seven years. The Committee correctly observed that the major development programmes require longer implementation horizons to produce meaningful and sustainable outcomes. Long-term investment in infrastructure, energy, education and public services demand policy consistency and institutional stability and these reforms provide the necessary environment for that continuity. Madam Speaker Ma'am, nations are not transformed in a single election cycle, nor are stronger institutions built overnight. They are built through deliberate decisions, sustained commitment and the courage to make reforms that serve both present and future generations. As a young representative of Matebeleland North Province, I believe the Bill before us is an opportunity to strengthen the foundation upon which future generations of Zimbabwe will build. It is an opportunity to leave our institutions stronger than we found them. For those reasons, and on behalf of the people of Matebeleland North Province, I wholeheartedly support the CAB 3. Thank you.

**+HON. MAHLANGU:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I want to start by adding my voice on the Gender Commission. I want to implore this august House that the Gender Commission should not be touched; it must not be moved because the Gender Commission has been doing a very good job. As women, we are empowered; we can now participate in the budgeting process, we know our rights and how to protect ourselves as women.

On the issue of Parliament electing the President, I believe that everyone should participate in the process and he should be elected proportionally. However, I want to support the proposal that Parliament should elect the President. Moving forward, we need to consider that Members of Parliament should also be elected proportionally, like what is happening in South Africa.

Then, coming to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), it did not do well in the past election. I will give one or two examples. During the election days, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission delayed, the ballot boxes.. This shows that ZEC is not valuing the electoral process, so I agree that ZEC should stop forthwith and another entity should be responsible for elections. There should be an

independent electoral commission because, looking at delimitation, there was a lot of activity when people were reviewing boundaries and how things were going to be done. I want to end by saying that since the Bill is before the House, let us debate with this in mind that the Bill is not focused on an individual but it is for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe because, looking at elections, the funds that will be allocated to elections should benefit the people of Zimbabwe, roads, schools and different projects.

As someone who comes from Matebeleland, the extension of the term and the stopping of the 2028 elections should culminate in a process where development will be found in all provinces and as Members of Parliament, the people should trust us because we will be doing a good job and catering for everyone. Looking at pensioners, the Hon. Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, during the layout of the Bill, emphasised that this bill is meant to benefit the people of Zimbabwe. As we go to the forthcoming elections or the next elections, we need to take this into cognisance, bearing in mind that CAB 3 is going to benefit the people of Zimbabwe. Thank you.

**HO. MASUKU:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I rise today to support the Constitutional Amendment Bill (No. 3). From the outset, I must emphasise that clearly, the people of Zimbabwe want change. They want efficiency, stability and to end the toxic cycle of endless elections. We are constantly in election mood and as they noted, this has affected the pace of development. More importantly, it is quite clear that this was indeed an expression of their trust in the presidency of His Excellency Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa. Firstly, I want to express my firm support in Clause 2, which transfers voter registration from ZEC to the Registrar General.

For years, we have been haunted by the same ghosts of deceased people remaining on the voters' roll. This erodes public trust in the electoral system.

That is why the statistics of the hearings note that the majority of submissions supported this move. Why? Simply because the Registrar General already holds the master data that includes birth, national identities and death certificates. Therefore, by centralising this function, we are essentially creating room for ZEC to focus on running elections, not double-checking civil records. Additionally, we

align ourselves with international best practices where civil registrars fit directly into the electoral system. Secondly, I also want to add my voice to Clause 3, which is the most debated clause on ending the direct public vote for the President. Opponents call this a step back. This is not how I see it myself. I call it a step forward for democracy and fiscal sanity. The public told us that direct presidential elections have become synonymous with violence, tension and staggering financial waste. Look at South Africa and Botswana, for example, their Presidents are elected by Parliament. Why not us, Zimbabwe? Their democracies are stable. Here at home, we are already electing mayors *via* councillors. This is not new to us.

Furthermore, logic dictates that if Section 97 of the Constitution gives Parliament the power to impeach the President, why should Parliament not have the power to elect the President? The public and I myself, Matabeleland North Province, where I come from, support that this Parliament must elect the President. Madam Speaker Ma'am, I would like to add my voice to Clauses 4, 9 and 10...

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

**HON. NGADZIORE:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. The Hon. Member seems to have violated Order No. 65 by saying something that is not true. The South African Parliament has a proportional representation system by which you elect a political party. In contrast, Zimbabwe has a first-past-the-post system. You cannot at all say they are the same systems in terms of electing the President. I wish that should be corrected. May the Hon. Member withdraw?

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your point of order has been noted.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Madam Speaker, if you note it without making a ruling that is out of order, then we will not proceed accordingly. There were a lot of lies that were peddled yesterday. We kept quiet because the norm is that we debate. In South Africa, when Members of Parliament are elected, they go into the Chamber and elect in the same manner that we are proposing. It is out of order.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** On a point of order Madam Speaker. On a point of order Madam Speaker.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are out of order, Hon. Molokela. I am yet to give a ruling. Why are you standing? Hon. Member, I think you have your time to debate and put that straight.

**HON. NGADZIORE:** The Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Madam Speaker, is saying that people were debating and they chose not to respond with facts.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, we are not here to mark each other's debate.

**HON. NGADZIORE:** We are here to say the truth of what happens in South Africa...

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, take your seat. You have your time to debate and you say whatever you know is right.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** On a point of order.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please take your seat. I am not going to allow you to do that, Hon. Molokela. Please take...

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** To my own point of order. You cannot take away that right again. Last time it happened, we cannot repeat this *jambanja pahotera*. On a point of order Madam Speaker.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Molokela, I have not acknowledged you. Please take your seat. Hon. Masuku, please may you proceed.

**HON. MASUKU:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am.

Thirdly, I will also add my voice to Clauses 4, 9 and 10 on the extension of the electoral cycle from five years to seven years. It is fundamentally true that development does not happen in five years. Major infrastructure, economic recovery and policy implementation die the moment the election season begins. We, as I have mentioned countless times, are in a perpetual campaign mode; the public understands this very well. That is why they said it loudly that elections paralyse the nation.

Therefore, in adding just two years, we give the Government a realistic horizon to finish projects without the constant drumbeat of politics. Moreover, His Excellency Dr. Emmerson Mnangagwa has constantly said that Zimbabwe is open for business. We have seen the

results of this mantra. By adding just two more years, we tell investors that Zimbabwe's investment environment will not be threatened every five years and that Zimbabwe is a safe investment destination.

Madam Speaker Ma'am, I was in Bulawayo, Nkayi, Bubi and Umguza. People supported the Bill, especially in Bulawayo...

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Masuku. Hon. Hamauswa...

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** My apologies, Madam Speaker.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If you repeat that, I will send you out. You may proceed.

**HON. MASUKU:** Thank you Madam Speaker. They supported the Bill, especially in Bulawayo. The voice of the people is the voice of God. Let us do what people want.

On the Gender Commission, women are saying we want the Gender Commission to remain. I will conclude by asking this House to pass this Bill, including those who do not understand it very well.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** On a point of order Madam Speaker.

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

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** The Hon. Member must withdraw the last statement where he said, including those who do not understand. We have a right to understand things differently in this House. Not everyone should be confused.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Did she mention any names?

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** No, no, it is not Parliamentary language, it is divisive and demeaning. If I repeat that, next time I will not have a point of order because I will do it next time - including those who do not understand. If a point of order is not understood, it will show that the Hon. Speaker is biased.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are out of order, Hon. Member.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** I will repeat it next time.

**\*HON. THOMPSON:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on this issue. I support the extension of the President's term by two years to rule. This will enable

the completion of projects and it will end violence, which is harmful to women and children and the funds will be directed to development and not to elections.

Madam Speaker, I do not support the abolition of the Gender Commission because this Commission is still helping women and the girl child when it comes to violence in homes and workplaces.

Through this Commission, we have seen women rising, which shows us that a home is made stable because of a woman. This Commission should be well-funded and given more powers so that it continues to help with the empowerment of women and the nation.

I support the election of the President by Parliament. Being a representative in Parliament shows that people have faith and trust in us. It also shows that what they want is what their representatives will do. So, Parliament should be given the powers to choose the President. Thank you.

**HON. KUKA:** Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to add my voice to this important debate on the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill I rise representing the good people of Mkoba in Gweru, Midlands Province. I wish to register my

concern that quite a number of citizens from my constituency did not get an opportunity to air their views during public consultations due to the venues that were located far from their areas.

**HON. E. NCUBE:** Point of order, Madam Speaker.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Kuka!

**\*HON. E. NCUBE:** Madam Speaker, Hon. Kuka is saying that he is representing Mkoba. Which Mkoba Constituency because I stand for Mkoba North Constituency?

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kuka, can you point out the Mkoba which you represent?

**HON. KUKA:** Madam Speaker, I know that Mkoba is one; however...

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kuka...

**HON. MATIZA:** Point of order, Madam Speaker.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** May we have order in the House! Hon. Member, which Mkoba Constituency are you referring to?

**HON. E. NCUBE:** Madam Speaker, I come from Mkoba North Constituency. He did not engage the people from Mkoba North.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Kuka, you should state which Mkoba you come from.

**HON. KUKA:** I come from Mkoba South Constituency. They have sent me as their representative to stand in for them. I will therefore proceed straight to my opposition to Clause 3 of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill which seeks to change the election of the President from a direct vote by the people of Zimbabwe to an election by Parliament.

The Joint Committee states that electing the President through Parliament will reduce the significant financial costs associated with conducting nationwide Presidential elections. While cost efficiency is important, democracy should never be measured solely by financial considerations. The right of citizens to directly elect their Head of State is a fundamental democratic principle that cannot be sacrificed merely to reduce electoral expenditure.

A direct Presidential election gives every citizen an equal opportunity to determine who leads the nation. It compels Presidential candidates to engage directly with the people, present their policies, explain their vision for the country and seek a mandate from the

electorate. Citizens are therefore able to make informed decisions based on the programmes and promises presented before them.

Furthermore, direct elections promote accountability. A President who receives a mandate directly from the people knows that his or her continued tenure depends on delivering promises made to the electorate. If citizens are dissatisfied with the performance of a President, they have the constitutional right at the next election to choose another candidate. This strengthens democratic accountability and is responsive to public needs.

In contrast, electing a President through Parliament would significantly weaken the direct relationship between the President and the people. Such a system risks reducing the Office of the President to one chosen by a relatively small group of individuals rather than by millions of citizens. In practical terms, election by Parliament closely resembles appointment by Parliament. The President would derive legitimacy primarily from Members of Parliament rather than from the people themselves.

The Committee's report further states that previous Presidential elections have been characterised by violence and disputes over

election results. However, political violence and electoral disputes have not been confined to presidential elections alone. Similar challenges have been witnessed in parliamentary and local authority elections. Therefore, changing the method of electing the President does not address the root causes of electoral violence.

The real solution lies in strengthening institutions, enforcing the law impartially and ensuring that law enforcement agencies are allowed to perform their duties without political interference. Those responsible for violence should be held accountable regardless of their political status. Once perpetrators face justice, citizens will be free to exercise their democratic rights peacefully and without intimidation.

This proposal is also retrogressive. It threatens to reverse important democratic gains achieved since Independence. It undermines the constitutional principle of one-man one-vote, which ensures that every citizen's voice carries equal weight in determining the leadership of the nation. It is important to distinguish between the office of the Speaker of Parliament and that of the President. The Speaker is elected by Members of Parliament because the Speaker's primary responsibility is to preside over and manage the affairs of

Parliament. The Speaker serves the House and is therefore, appropriately chosen by the Members who constitute that House.

The President, however, is the Head of State and Government for all Zimbabweans. The President exercises authority over national affairs affecting every citizen in every Province, District, Ward and village across the country. Such a mandate should not be conferred by a few Members of Parliament alone. It should come directly from the people through the ballot box.

**\*HON. MATIZA:** Hon. Hamauswa and the other Hon. Member are forcing Hon. Kuka to debate.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, you are out of order. May you proceed Hon. Kuka.

**HON. KUKA:** A handful of Members of Parliament cannot substitute the collective will of millions of Zimbabwean citizens. Parliament, important as it is, represents only a fraction of the national electorate. The sovereign authority of the people must remain supreme in the selection of the President. For these reasons, I respectfully submit that Clause 3 should be rejected as it diminishes popular sovereignty, weakens democratic accountability, undermines

the principle of one-man one-vote and reduces citizens' direct participation in choosing their national leader.

I now turn to Clause 21: Amendment of Section 281. I oppose any proposal to allow traditional leaders, particularly chiefs, to participate in partisan politics. Sections 280 and 281 (2) of the Constitution are clear. Chiefs are not ordinary public office holders. Their authority is hereditary, derived from custom and tradition, not elections. They must not be members of any political party, participate in partisan politics or act in a partisan manner. Chiefs serve all people within their jurisdictions, regardless of political affiliation. Once a chief becomes politically aligned, community members from opposing parties will lose confidence in his or her ability to act fairly and impartially.

Section 282 assigns chiefs critical constitutional functions - custodians of culture and heritage, administrators of communal land, protectors of the environment and mediators of disputes through customary law. These roles demand independence and neutrality. A chief who openly supports a political party cannot effectively mediate disputes between opposing supporters. Like judges who must remain

impartial, chiefs exercise judicial functions that require fairness and public trust. Political affiliation compromises that trust.

Furthermore, chiefs play a central role in distributing food aid, agricultural inputs and community development programmes. Partisan involvement risks creating the perception that resources are distributed on political grounds rather than need. Traditional leaders unite communities; political leaders compete for support. These two sources of authority serve different constitutional purposes and must remain separate. For these reasons, I submit that chiefs must remain non-partisan and continue to serve as unifying figures for all Zimbabweans.

I now turn to the proposed repeal of Section 246, Zimbabwe Gender Commission. I oppose the merger of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. Section 246 establishes the Gender Commission with a specialised gender-focused mandate that requires dedicated expertise. Merging the two risks diluting that mandate and weakening gender mainstreaming across sectors, sensitive complaints involving gender-based violence,

intimidation and stigma require an institution where survivors feel understood and protected.

The Gender Commission's advocacy led to current consultations by the Ministry of Justice on establishing a national sex offenders' register. Its 2022, national inquiry on child marriages produced strategic interventions to protect girls from abuse and sexual exploitation. A merged commission will face resource competition between general human rights issues and these specialised gender priorities, jeopardising accountability mechanisms like the sex offenders register. The Constitution deliberately created a standalone Gender Commission. We must not abandon that institutional mechanism for future legal reform and constitutional alignment on gender equality.

Madam Speaker, I, therefore, humbly urge this august House to uphold constitutional principles, protect democratic gains and reject this Bill in defence of the people of Zimbabwe. I so submit.

**\*HON. MUTOKONYI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand to support the CAB 3. Each country has its own history and we have our own as a country. We are in the midst of making up another history in

the amendment of our Constitution. Other Members who spoke before me stated that this Constitution is a live document because it speaks in real time. We are the only ones who can amend the law because it is the people who amend the law. As we stand in this House, we are representing the generality of Zimbabweans. We are speaking on behalf of all Zimbabweans.

The amendment seeks to extend the election cycle from five to seven years because it was seen that elections consume a lot of time and wealth for them to be executed. If we extend the cycle by two years, we would have reduced the amount spent on elections. Before this, we have used more than USD160 million on elections. I support that we extend the cycle so that we make a saving on our wealth as a country.

The Second Republic, since 2018, has spearheaded development and if we want to go further, we need more time in order to develop and complete projects, and I agree to that. Madam Speaker, it was also seen that when we hold our elections, they take a lot of time because there are complaints of rigging but when we do the elections here together with the Senate, we will be few and the process will be

transparent. The one who wins will just win and no one will complain and talk about rigging. So, that is very good that this Parliament should have powers to choose the President and I support that amendment.

In addition, Madam Speaker, even though other Members have spoken about it, I am going to repeat because it is very important. If we are able to vote for the President, the Constitution says that if we want to remove the President, it is this same House that will remove the President. So, if we have been given those powers to elect the President, we are also being given powers to remove the President. So, I support that amendment.

Madam Speaker, the amendment of Constitution proposes that the judges should be chosen by the President and I agree with that because the President should be present together with the Judicial Services Commission. It is very important because it is not only happening here in Zimbabwe; we are not the first country but a lot of countries are doing that when they are choosing the judges, that it is done with the blessing of the President. I support that because what it means is that the President is the one who will be at the front. So, it is

very important that he should know the judges who are there and their status, particularly when we are looking at developing our country.

Also, Madam Speaker, the Constitution Amendment Number 3 says that ZEC should be abandoned and the Registrar General's Office takes control of the voters' roll. So, I think it will be too much for the Electoral Commission because they are supposed to run the elections and do voter education. There are many things that happen during elections. So, that part of voter registration, the custodian should be taken over by the Registrar General's Office. This will make our elections move smoothly, transparently and also it is a question of accountability. Yesterday I listened to Hon. Matsunga as she debated that her departed relatives are still in the voters' roll. So, if it is taken over by the Registrar General, that will be taken care of because they are the ones who issue birth and death certificates.

Constitution Amendment Number 3 also talks about the chiefs. As we grew up, we knew that our chiefs were the ones who were ruling, who were presiding over the land before the colonisers, meaning that they were involved in politics. They are people like us, so they should be free to choose a party that they want to join. So, I

agree with that amendment that our chiefs be given the freedom to participate in politics.

Madam Speaker, I represent the people from Svosve who said that I should also speak on the Gender Commission. They first asked me why the Gender Commission is being removed. I told them that it is a proposed amendment and that the suggestion is to join it together with the Human Rights Commission. The people said they were not in agreement with the proposal and wanted the Gender Commission to stand on its own. Their reasons were that it was put in place because, at times, we might not know why it was put in place in the first place. We responded that it was put in place so that we bring gender parity and gender equality but it was seen that it is really helping the women when it comes to violence and also empowerment of women in the rural areas. So, it is very important. So, the people in Svosve said that the Gender Commission should be left like that and let it remain as a standalone entity.

Madam Speaker, the amendment of the Constitution is done by us and a Commission to deal with delimitation should be put in place because the workers in that Commission should be professionals well-

versed in that area. So, there should be a Commission looking at boundaries that change from time to time because of the demographics of people. So, I support that amendment.

In conclusion, CAB 3 wants to increase the number of Senators from 80 to 90. Those 10 senators should be selected by the President. So, I agree with that amendment because it is important that when the President is leading the country, he should do it with people who are wise and knowledgeable in various areas. So, for development, the President should be able to choose 10 senators whom he thinks will be needed when it comes to discussions that are supposed to be made in the Senate. So, I support that amendment. As I speak, I am representing the people of Svosve and when the team visited Marondera, the people submitted their submissions and they are included in this. Thank you.

**HON. P. NDUDZO:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to support the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill because of its progressive nature for developmental programmes. If you look at some projects that the Government embarks on, they cannot be done over a short period of time like five years. It is therefore critical that

any programmes embarked on should be done over a long period, the seven years proposed. It boosts investors' confidence and policy stability, which is an essential ingredient for development. It also helps to ensure that any fears relating to policy changes before the completion of projects are allayed if the period is longer. This is basically what CAB3 should do.

People vote for MPs into office to represent them, so indirectly the MPs are the people's voice. Whatever the MP says is the voice of the people. When the MPs vote for the President, it is the people who will vote. It is much easier for the MPs to liaise with the Office of the President at any time than for crowds of people who may not even have the opportunity to speak out their concerns and be heard at the same time. Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill makes it possible for MPs to articulate challenges that matter to citizens whenever they have access to the Executive. This is possible when the same MPs directly vote for the President in Parliament.

Madam Speaker, the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill strongly emphasises strengthening of constitutional governance. It gives the Government time to plan and complete programmes and

projects like hospitals, road infrastructure and resource mobilisation, among others. Such a scenario allows for real governance in seven years compared to five years. This is an adequately tangible fruition to be realised. Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill allows policy continuity because elections disrupt programme sustenance. This goes a long way in consolidating the development strategy.

CAB3 will create more peace and less division among parties and citizens at large. It also encourages the development of the nation. It also brings efficiency in the allocation and disbursement of our resources, something that has over the years been affected by elections in a five-year cycle, where in most cases there has been policy paralysis. By this I mean, whenever there are elections, the country goes into an election mood and policy implementation suffers. The proposal to have the President elected by Parliament will go a long way in ensuring faster results as these will be decided the same day.

Madam Speaker, I also support the appointment of an extra ten senators with professional skills, which will be an added advantage to our democracy.

In conclusion, the seven-year term proposed in CAB3 has already been adopted by other countries as a yardstick and our own proposal will definitely align with African practice. The people from Matabeleland South and I fully support this Amendment Bill. I thank you.

**HON. L. NCUBE:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to add my voice on this pertinent debate about the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill. The proposed amendment seeks to align governance with NDS2, which aims to achieve and align governance timelines, strengthening institutional efficiency and create space to complete critical national projects. These projects are full road rehabilitation, rural electrification, Gwayi-Shangani Dam, health facility upgrades, total railway resuscitation infrastructure upgrades and ICT infrastructure require time and policy continuity to succeed.

Madam Speaker, my rural home is in Matabeleland South Province at a village called Gokhowal in Matopo District. My experience over three decades as a development worker in the NGO sector in Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Midlands

doing entrepreneurial projects, harnessing water through sand abstraction means in rivers to promote irrigation of small-scale income-generating garden projects , which we now term business units, has made me understand the levels of poverty in their respective homes. Being a legislator has given me knowledge about societal issues associated with rural and urban women in their respective homes..

In Parliament, I represent women in Bulawayo Metropolitan Province. Madam Speaker, Clause 4, which proposes the extension of the Presidential term limit from five years is a welcome change that these villagers envisage and they term it salvation from their plight.

Clauses 9 to 10 also speak of aligning the presidential cycle and calendar to match the term of the presidential extension. These villagers also see it as an idea that the parliamentarians have a great mandate to vote for the President since they represent the masses. Our neighbours are already accustomed to that practice in South Africa and there is prosperity in their countries.

Having spoken about Matabeleland regions' fate of being in regions 4 and 5 where most communal areas are prone to drought, villagers feel the effect of climate change is worsening their situation. Therefore, their sentiments hope that projects like Gwayi-Shangani Dam, full road rehabilitation, rural electrification, health facility upgrades, total resuscitation infrastructure upgrades, railway and ICT infrastructure that are in line with NDS2 will be a dream come true. These projects require time and policy continuity to succeed. Alignment of elections may save the country billions of dollars, so they say and they can be channelled to long-term development projects like building rehabilitation centres province by province to assist our youth who need to recuperate from the scourge of drugs and substance abuse.

I will touch on the Gender Commission issue. Clauses 17 and 18 seek to dissolve the Gender Commission (ZGC) and absorb its legal mandate into the Human Rights Commission (ZHRC). Madam Speaker, in my view, the independence vested in the ZGC should be respected as a stand-alone for the Gender Commission to carry out its mandate accordingly. For utmost privacy, for example, gender-based

violence, discrimination at workplaces, unfair policies in private companies, and political party dimensions, without independence, there is a risk it can only target easy cases, avoiding sensitive cases involving powerful actors and might undermine NDS2's goals of inclusive development.

Protection of vulnerable groups like women girls, and persons with disabilities needs a direct watchdog that will not be silenced when issues are controversial. Its independence also speaks about child marriages and political violence without approval from the executives. Therefore, I advocate for it to remain functional and carry out its mandate. We need to strengthen it in this august House, in my view. However, having spoken about the people I have been working with and who I represent, the people of Bulawayo have this message that comes with conditions.

1. Robust public consultations. The buy-in challenge must be addressed properly. Parliament should conduct transparent consultations to allow citizens to understand and own this amendment. No amendment of this magnitude should move forward without the people's voice.

2. Strong safeguards. If term continuity is granted, it must be ring-fenced. The amendment should include clear limits, oversight mechanisms and clauses that prevent future abuse. It needs to be protected, Zimbabwe's democratic principles and term-limited culture for all future leaders.

3. Institutional strengthening. Continuity should not replace accountability. Parallel reforms are needed to strengthen Parliament, the judiciary and anti-corruption bodies so that executive power is always balanced.

If these conditions are met, then the people of Bulawayo are saying constitutional amendment can be a tool for delivery without compromising democracy. Development and constitutionalism must advance together. Zimbabwe deserves both. Madam Speaker, they further say they support the goals of the Bill, but only if Parliament ensures it is done right with the full consent of the citizenry. I so submit.

**HON. ZIKI:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice and the debate which was brought

forward by the Hon. Minister Ziyambi. Let me start by thanking the explanation which was brought forward and some proposals which were brought forward by Hon. Ziyambi. He explained everything clearly and did not miss anything. Everything was quite clear. As I stand here, I represent not only Hurungwe Constituency but I am representing five constituencies. Those are the constituencies that I am in charge of.

I am the DCC Chairperson. Every structure of our political party - [HON MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**HON. GUMBO:** On a point of order. Hon. Speaker, when we come here, we do not come to declare our positions in our respective parties. We are Hon. Members here. The debate must not focus on him being a DCC member or his cells or structures in ZANU-PF. He must debate as a Member of Parliament and his expressions must reflect the generality of the constituency that he represents, not ZANU-PF structures. Madam Speaker, you must stand guided.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Ziki, may you proceed, but do not speak to your positions within your political

parties and your area. I thank you - [HON MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**HON. ZIKI:** Madam Speaker, I wanted to express the number of those citizens who have agreed to support. I did that through those five constituencies.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Ziki, speak representing your own constituency only.

**\*HON. ZIKI:** On top of other constituencies that I represent, my constituency, which is Hurungwe Central, I was tasked to come here and support the section that speaks to the extension of the Presidential term in office from five years to two years- to seven years. It is very good.

- [HON MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do you want to correct him on what he said from five years to two years? It is a slip of the tongue. Let us continue, let us proceed with House duties. – [HON. TSVANGIRAI: *We would like people to debate what is in the Bill*] -.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are out of order, Hon. Tsvangirai.

**\*HON. ZIKI:** Madam Speaker, this also includes the term extension for Members of Parliament and councillors. All this is good for them, as it increases their period in doing their business. So I was looking at the previous time when we used to have those five-year term elections. The first two years after the elections, we would see people campaigning and then in the third year, they would be campaigning again, meaning that they did not have enough time to make progress. So I will not speak much because most of the things were tackled before.

The other issue that speaks to the Presidential election period, which is now being taken to this august House, they were all in support of that because if we look backward, we were observing that a lot of people *ana pombi yadonha* were vying for the post of the presidency. So right now, this will save the nation's resources and have the President alone. So they only wanted the word President to be given to one person and it is another story. This august House is the one responsible for having the power to remove or to elect the President. So that responsibility should be given to this august House.

Let me speak to the issue of the voter registration being transferred to the Registrar General's office. Those people who used to call it Mudede's office. This is actually good for us because there are a lot of explanations about where birth certificates are processed; they are the ones who write on birth records and are responsible for death records. Even the issue of those ghost voters, we will never experience such simply because everything will then be rectified by the Registrar General's Office.

After that, let me move on to the chief's involvement in politics. They need security so that they cannot be abused and taken to court to say they are involved in issues related to politics. If you look back, just like what was said by others before, the chiefs fought this war, this liberation struggle and were responsible for providing food and clothes for all these freedom fighters. Even knowledge of how to go about it, some were assisting others in crossing borders, which was being said by the whites who were not happy about it.

Let me go on to the issue of Senators. The issue of the President being given power to select 10 more Senators, I agree with that because as we come to this place, we come from different places with

different knowledge levels. We have other people who are more intelligent than others and depending on the area where they come from, we will then be asked to come and work hand in glove with the President. So, that gives him, as the President, the opportunity to look and see to it and we are in total support of that.

In short, I am saying that the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill, we are supporting it very much from the whole of Hurungwe. There is no way people are disputing supporting this, so Hurungwe is in support.

Before I conclude, Madam Speaker, Ma'am, I have got information from my constituency, which says that everything is just equal. Why can we not just conclude then because people have all agreed to support this Amendment Bill? I thank you.

**^^HON. NDOU:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for this opportunity that you have given me to debate. Firstly, I would like to thank the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Z. Ziyambi, for coming to this House explaining in detail this Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

He read clearly and explained the benefits that are brought to the citizens of Zimbabwe by the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill. I think that we have noticed that when this Bill is passed, this amendment would bring peace, development in terms of the economy and unity in the entire country. The economy will never grow or develop if we have a lot of disagreements and conflicts within the State.

I would like to dwell much on Clause 2, which mentions that if the Constitution Amendment Bill is passed, Parliament will have the powers to elect the Head of State, the President of the country and this will be done from this House. Who will elect the President? The Hon. Members who have been elected by the people from the various constituencies. The Members of Parliament are elected by the people from the constituencies. People from the constituencies then give the Hon. Members the powers to come and elect the President, which is something that is noble and I concur with this.

This amendment is not being done only in Zimbabwe; it has been done in other countries. For example, in Botswana and in South Africa, they also amended their constitutions. They saw it befitting

that their constitutions be amended. We saw it befitting even in this country; why are we not amending our Constitution?

**HON. GUMBO:** Point of order, Madam President.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order, Hon. Gumbo?

**HON. GUMBO:** We are kindly asking that the Hon. Member not to mislead the House. If he says other countries are doing the same as what is happening here in Zimbabwe, he should not mention issues about Botswana or say that they did the same thing that we are doing in this country. Nothing like that happened in Botswana. The Hon. Member is misleading the House; he should put the correct facts when he is debating.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. You mentioned what you feel is correct, but when your time comes, that is when you can talk. You can continue Hon. Ndou.

**HON. NDOU:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would say that the one who is saying that I am misleading the House is not good at Venda. That is not what I have said. I have been sent by the Chithaudze and the Mathibe Clan from Beitbridge. They even

fulfilled written submissions which were forwarded to Parliament and we made sure that we delivered these written submissions. We are in support of the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill. We carried a large number of written submissions and we brought them here to Parliament. I am saying to this family that they have sent me the Chithaudze and Mathibe Clan from the meeting that we conducted at Lutumba Hall.

In my view, this Constitution Amendment Bill that is being proposed today will do what they have sent me to do and will say what the clans have sent me to say.

I will look at Clause 2, about the way how people are going to vote. Changing of direct voting to parliamentary vote and I support it. I applaud the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (Hon. Z. Ziyambi) saying that continue in that direction. On Clause 9 which speaks of the Zimbabwe Electoral Delimitation Commission. Where I come from, we are talking of the boundaries. Let me mention something that is existing which is part of the Beitbridge districts were taken to Gwanda. Some of the names that were supposed to vote for in Beitbridge constituency are now in Gwanda. This has left a lot

of confusion within the areas. These are some of the issues that need to be rectified.

If ZEC surrenders this duty to other commission, it will bring about peace to the commission that is going to be established. Currently we found out that for example, people are going for elections. You find that a lot of people do not appear in the voter's roll. Some of the people are now deceased and some names do not appear. There is chaos within the voter's roll. If we have a commission that is tasked to look into that and make sure that the names appear on the voter's roll, it will be quite noble because it will be addressing the concerns that are appearing.

I am saying that the Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 3 is late, it should have been done and expedited. People from Tshittaudzi and Matibe, we thank you a lot they also participated in the written submissions that were brought before Parliament which were almost half a million. This amendment is something that will come to pass.

Coming to the issue of electing the Head of State, we applaud the amendment of extending the cycle term from 5 to 7 years. This gives the President of the State time to accomplish the projects that he

would have started for example at Tshittaudzi and Matibe we have structures like the Zimbabwe boarder which is one of the best boarder centres which is the Beitbridge boarder post. That project is not something that can be completed in 5 years. It needs a lot of time to be completed. I am saying that if the Head of State is given time from 5 to 7 years, it is very noble because it will give the Head of State time to accomplish his projects. If you look at the Beitbridge- Harare highway, there are just a few detours that are left. We cannot accomplish that in 5 years. It needs time to be accomplished.

I conclude my debate by applauding the Hon. Minister, continues in that wavelength. We thank you for this and we want to see this project that he has started excelling. Thank you.

**HON. T. ZHOU:** On a point of privilege!

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes

**HON. T. ZHOU:** Thank you Madam Speaker. It is my observation that I have done in all these debates which are this good. Since he was tasked by his Constituency who speaks Venda, it was very important for his debate to be captured well in Venda such that

when Hansard will be taken to those Constituency, they will read and understand everything in that language. I thank you.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for your observation. It is my view that they can do such arrangements with those people from Hansard.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose vehemently. I will debate about 5 or 6 issues in the interest of time and also that the bulk of my presentation has been presented by other colleagues, so I do not want to regurgitate.

So, first of all, the right to govern is derived from the people. Section 2(f) of our national Constitution provides the founding values to say that the governing founding values should bind all the state, it should bind all institutions, it must bind all agents of government at every level. So, one of the fundamental values is to respect the people of Zimbabwe upon which the right to govern is derived from. Madam Speaker, how do we respect the people of Zimbabwe? We respect them by consulting them on matters which are fundamentally important. Let me make this a very important point. Whenever constitutional amendments fundamentally alter the relationship

between the governed and the politicians, when that happens, therefore it is very vital to consider a referendum to consult the people, to take ...

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** On a point of order!

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes.

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** This Constitution guides us on what we do when we are amending, so members should not lie or pretend not to know when they sit in this august House. There is very clear on when a referendum is required, so the member must stick to what the constitution says, I submit.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Hon. Leader of Government Business. I am sure, Hon. Madzivanyika, you have taken note of that.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I am coming there, the amendment of the Constitution, there is a very important Section 328 is so fundamental in what we call the Constitutional Bill, which deals with amending our national constitution. Section 328 (6) provides that

whenever you amend a Chapter 4 and chapter 16, you have to go for a referendum. Chapter 4 of our national Constitution talks about the Bill of Rights, and when we are interpreting the constitution, we should also interpret on the text and the speed.

Section 67 (3) and I want to quote, it says, “*subject to this Constitution, every Zimbabwean citizen who is of or over 18 years of age, has the right to participate or to vote in all elections and referendums*”, and I want to underline, in all elections and referendums, to which this Constitution and other laws apply. This is the Bill of Rights. Right now, this amendment is saying let us change the election of the President from the general public to Parliament. It actually says it is *ultra vires*, which is the Bill of Rights.

**HON. MALINGANISO:** Point of order. We should not seek to mislead the House. If you say every election we elect the Speaker of Parliament here, it is not everyone who is over 18 who comes to elect the Speaker of Parliament here. So, I think the Hon. Member must be pointed and guided not to over-generalise constitutional provisions in his debate.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am sure Hon.

Madzivanyika, you have taken note of that.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Madam Speaker, this amendment is now saying that every Zimbabwean can participate in all elections except the election of the President. That is what it is saying. It is *ultra vires* this section. Therefore, a referendum on this clause matters.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Point of order. Section 328 is very clear. You must wait for the Speaker to rule when voting is happening on the next process. When is he pre-empting? In the Bill, it does not speak about a referendum. It speaks about what needs to be amended. The Constitution is very clear on who decides after a vote. So, why is he debating things that are not there? You must rule on that. The procedure is that when we get to voting, the Speaker will indicate if a referendum is needed and then will act accordingly. So, why is he pre-empting things?

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Madzivanyika, I am sure you have heard what the Hon. Minister has said.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Madam Speaker, the people of Zimbabwe voted in the Presidential election of 2008. The people of Zimbabwe voted in the presidential elections in 2013, 2018 and 2023. The people of Zimbabwe have a legitimate expectation to vote again in 2028. We cannot change. After all that voting, we cannot come in and say all of a sudden, we are changing without their consent. So, I am not against the amending of the Constitution. I am against doing so without the consent of the very important stakeholders, who are the people of Zimbabwe. Let us be very careful of amending Section 91 in this case. Section 91 allows one to be .....

**\*HON. T. ZHOU:** Point of order. Let the Member say everything clearly in the consultation that we do as Parliament. Are they not consultations from all the citizens? I thank you.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think he heard that consultations were done.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** One is eligible for election as President if he is over 40 years of age, if he is an ordinary resident of Zimbabwe and if he is a registered voter. Those are the requirements. This is a dangerous amendment in the sense that if I am a billionaire today, it is possible to buy all these MPs. Zimbabwean MPs are the poorest middle-class people in the world. They are the poorest people in the world.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** It is an inference that we are cheap and we can be bought. Hon. Members can be bought is very dangerous. We are not talking about billionaires here. We are talking about making a Constitution. I think that is very irresponsible.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** From their party, maybe they are being bribed.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I say so because the Zimbabwean MPs are the poorest in terms of remuneration. They get USD275 per month. There is no doubt about it. Let me say Zimbabwe is watching. So, an MP getting USD275 per month can easily be bribed with

USD200 000. We do not want that for the integrity of our country.

This amendment is dangerous.

**HON. S. SAKUPWANYA:** Point of order. I would implore you to indulge me. I would implore that the Hon. Member must withdraw his statement because it implicates the decisions we make in this House, as if to say we are not more patriotic than the need for money. If he is not patriotic in his own right, that is his problem. He must not insinuate that we are all so hungry for money that we will leave patriotism aside and be guided in our decision-making for the sake of money. Please, may he withdraw his statement? That does not implicate all of us.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Madzivanyika, I think on that one you must withdraw because you said the majority of MPs are poor. We are not poor. The majority of all these MPs are expressing these expressions there.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Hon. Speaker, let me go to the second item of the extension of the term of office.

**\*HON. RUNGWAVE:** Point of order. I am kindly requesting that Hon. Madzivanyika withdraws the allegation that Hon. Members of Parliament are bribed. We are being tarnished out there. I do not know if he is receiving any bribes from somewhere. We are tired of other people who want those clips to send on their social media handles. We are tired of these people. Please, may you just ask such people who debate in that way to sit down? I thank you.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Madzivanyika, I have not done the ruling yet. Hon. Madzivanyika, you were asked to withdraw. All people are listening. I thank you.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I withdraw again. I am now moving on to the issue of the amendment, which relates to the extension of time from five years to seven years. Let me make this a fundamental position. It is not the role of Parliament to abuse the majority against a position decided by the law already. Section 320 (a), Subsection 7, provides that if you want to benefit from a term-limited provision, you must go for a referendum. Section 95...

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND**

**PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Point of Order, Madam Speaker. We cannot allow people to continue to lie in this House. Section 328 (7), does not speak about a referendum. It only says that he who does something must not benefit. So, the Hon. Member must speak to what the Constitution says, not to what he thinks the Constitution is saying.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Madzivanyika, you are left with five minutes. Please debate the Bill, do not mislead the House or the nation.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Madam Speaker, the incumbent must not benefit from a term-limit provision as provided by Section 328 (7). If you go to a decided court case, which is the precedent that we use, it gives a position that Section 95 is a term-limited provision. As against what the others will saying, or will say, it is a cycle. It is a term-limited provision according to a precedent or a court case judgment of Marx Kupungu versus the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. I want to read paragraph 50 of that judgment.

It says, “by way of contrast, the Constitution abides a myriad of provisions that unquestionably constitute a specific term-limit within the parameters of Section 328”. First and foremost, there is Section 95 (2). This is clear; it is unquestionable, according to precedent, that Section 95 is a term-limited provision.

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. I think it is not right for people who do not know how to interpret judgments to pretend to know how to interpret judgments. That was not the main judgment; it was said in passing, in obiter. You should not say things that do not constitute the main judgment.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Madzivanyika, I think I have already warned you about misleading this House and the nation. You are misleading. Madam Speaker, you are misleading the court judgment. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Let me jettison to issues that really matter. Loice Matanda-Moyo, who is the Prosecutor General of this country, alluded to the fact that Zimbabwe is losing USD1.8 to USD2 billion in terms of corruption and illicit activities in this country. So,

extending by two years means Zimbabwe is going to lose USD4 billion.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is that in the Bill, Hon. Madzivanyika? What is the Bill saying now? Are you still debating the Bill?

**\*HON. MAHACHI:** Point of order, point of order! His time has expired. It is now six minutes.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** According to a report from Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC)...

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your time is up.

**\*HON. A. GUMBO:** Point of privilege, Madam Speaker. I was asking that Hon. Madzivanyika be awarded another ten minutes. -

[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**HON. MAKUMIRE:** Point of privilege Madam Speaker.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of privilege Hon. Makumire.

**HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. We have observed that those opposing this Bill are often interjected by the Hon. Minister. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] - The Hon. Minister took more than five minutes trying to respond to Hon. Madzivanyika, which he has not, he is supposed to respond to all these debates.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sit down now, I have not yet finished.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, I stand before this House as Pupurai Togarepi, the MP for Gutu South, representing those who voted for me and those who did not vote for me. I am their representative. When I am here, I speak on their behalf because they know that I am their MP. I am not only Pupurai Togarepi. I fought in the liberation struggle. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]

-

**HON. KUKA:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker?

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order? Is he lying that he fought in the liberation struggle? – (AN

HON. MEMBER: *What was his name? He never fought a war, he was a mujibha*)- If he was a *mujibha*, did he not fight a war? May we have Order in the House? Order please!

**HON. TOGAREPI:** I know my presentation is going to be interjected by Hon. Members from the other side. I will be very happy if this discussion is allowed to go into the *Hansard*. When you see Hon. Members exhibiting ignorance of the Constitution, they do not know that a *mujibha* was a freedom fighter. We expect them to understand and not mislead the House.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Togarepi. Hon. Makumire, you are disturbing the smooth running of this House, please may you leave the House?

*Hon. Makumire, having approached the Chair*

*Hon. Makumire was escorted out of the House by the Serjeant-at-Arms.*

**\*HON. KUKA:** On a point of order Madam Speaker. Thank you Madam Speaker. In your ruling, you asked Hon. Makumire to leave the Chamber but I am also seeing from the other side that Hon.

Mahachi is using the microphone, shouting at people from this side.

There must be impartiality when conducting your duties.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, if he does that, I will ask him to leave the House. Hon. Togarepi, you may continue.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** I rise to give my strongest and unequivocal support to Clauses 4, 5 and 9 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, Amendment No. 3. These provisions extend the presidential and parliamentary cycles from five to 10 years and streamline succession arrangements. They are not about entrenchment but about stability, peace and delivery. Madam Speaker, Clause 4 amends section 95 to extend the term of office of the President and Vice President from five years to seven years, with a new subsection confirming that this applies to the continuation in office of the President. Clause 5 simplifies section 100 on the Acting President, removing unnecessary duplication. Clause 9 extends the duration of Parliament from five years to seven years. Madam Speaker Ma'am, one thing that we should look at, at one point around 2008, if I am not wrong, Parliament reduced its term and people were very happy. Nobody

raised a finger or any complaint about that. Parliament can also extend its term and it should not give any person sleepless nights.

Madam Speaker, the suggestion that MPs - I heard some in the media and some were debating here, that MPs should never benefit from laws they pass. This is a misunderstanding of how representative Government works. Every law we make affects citizens. MPs are citizens too. If the test is whether the law benefits an MP, then almost no one could vote on anything. Take lawyer MPs who are here; when the Legal Practitioners Act is amended to update fees or professional conduct rules, lawyer MPs benefit. So does every lawyer in Zimbabwe – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - That is not corruption, it is representation. The same applies to farmers. If anything comes to this House relating to farmers, will we tell farmers to get out until we get the result of the vote. We have business people here who are MPs. If we are coming up with a law that touches business, are we going to tell all business people to leave? What we are looking for is the expertise that is found in those people and we should allow them to give us direction.

Otherwise, Madam Speaker, we will end up having laws done by people who have no orientation and who know nothing about certain areas. If we exclude everyone with a stake, we end up with a Parliament of outsiders making rules about industry in which they have never worked, that produces unworkable laws. Madam Speaker, the real issue is not whether MPs have a general interest in the subject but whether the benefit is exclusive, secret or targeted at them personally. That is where corruption lies.

Our safeguards already exist; when we come into Parliament, we disclose our interests and the judgment of our voters. If we do anything that is outward, when we go back for re-election, our people will discard us. Safeguards are there; transparency and elections are better checks than a blanket rule that treats all personal benefits as corruption.

On the other matter, Madam Speaker, let us be clear. Term length is not a term limit. We have lawyers here, some of great reputation, whom I have been following as a citizen. I am sorry, I will mention people like Hon. Gumbo here. They must be honest people, honest lawyers, like Hon. Mutodi here is a good lawyer. When they

debate here, they must be honest, interpret the law as lawyers, not as political animals. Madam Speaker. Section 991, (2) of the Constitution still keeps...

**HON. GUMBO:** On a point of order Madam Speaker.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: (HON. MUGOMO):** What is your point of order?

**HON. GUMBO:** Madam Speaker, I am a very respected lawyer in this country. You cannot cast aspersions by suggesting that we are debating dishonestly. He is casting aspersions on my professional capacity by saying we are debating dishonestly.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Gumbo, that is a point of debate.

**HON. GUMBO:** It is not a point of debate. He is saying we must debate honestly.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** No, you were given your time yesterday and you debated. Allow Hon. Togarepi to debate.

**HON. GUMBO:** You must clarify what he means there...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Gumbo.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, I think he misinterpreted me. If you feel offended by what I said, I just said we have lawyers here. When they look at legal issues presented in this Bill, they must help those who are non-lawyers to understand this thing, not because he is a bad lawyer. No, I did not say that; I said I follow you with keen interest as a good lawyer, maybe Hon. Madzivanyika who pretends to be one.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** On a point of order.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Madam Speaker, Order 98-2(d) of our Standing Rules and Orders is against an Hon. Member who speaks vulgarly or is disrespectful to other Hon. Members. The Hon. Member indicates that Hon. Madzivanyika pretends. I do not pretend; I am a legislator. Thank you Madam Chair. He must withdraw.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Madzivanyika I do not see where he went wrong.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I do not pretend; I represent the people and I represent the people as such. So, he must withdraw the statement that I am pretending. I am not pretending; that is not true.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, let me continue. Madam Speaker, it is important to recall that Zimbabwe's parliamentary cycle has not always been five years. At independence, the Constitution provided for the six-year presidential term...

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** On a point of order Madam Speaker.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** What is your point of privilege?

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** Madam Speaker, I am not trying to disrupt you. Actually, my point of privilege is that I was suggesting that the Chief Whip must be given 5 more minutes. Actually, I wanted to say, on this side, we never planned to disrupt the Government Chief Whip. We know the stature and the respect that is accorded to the Government Chief Whip, though we disagree with the Amendment Bill.

I appeal to Hon. Government Chief Whip not to provoke our Hon. Members so that they will not react. I also suggest that you give him five minutes more. We will not disrupt him but he should also lead by example. We want to hear, because he represents the main views of the movers of the Bill. We want to prepare our responses

accordingly. We wish he is not going to continue provoking our Hon. Members from this side.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker. When I started my debate, I referred to myself as a participant in the liberation struggle. In 1980, immediately, when we got our independence, we had a Constitution. That Constitution spoke to how we were going to elect Members of Parliament, even those who were going to lead the Executive. Members of Parliament were chosen using proportional representation.

The President or the Prime Minister was elected, who was the Leader of Government, using the same mode. So, we are not departing or we are not inventing a wheel; we are just going back. So, when people talk about one man, one vote, I find it may be a misinterpretation because one man, one vote only says if I am supposed to vote, I should not be denied; I should not be given lesser voting power; each one must be able to vote; we are voting at a certain stage.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** On a point of order Madam Speaker.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** If Members quote a Standing Rule, they must tell us on the rule. I am appealing to the Government Chief Whip so that he can tell us more about his explanation man, one-vote. Where is he getting this from, we are unaware of this rule.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Members. You all debated; give him the chance to debate according to his understanding.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Take it again, one man and one vote does not mean voting for the President. It only means you can vote where you are supposed to vote. It is like I vote for the councillor in my constituency – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, may you allow Hon. Togarepi to be heard in silence, please. Please, order Hon. Member, you may continue.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** I vote for my councillor and my councillor goes to the City Council and votes for the mayor. I have the right to vote for the councillor but I do not have the right to vote for the

mayor. It has not taken away my right to vote. Here in this Parliament, we are amending the Constitution; let me say, laws are made by rulers. They are not made by those who are supposed to be ruled. Madam Speaker, we are here in Parliament and both political parties went to an election, pushing to win elections, specifically to deal with law-making. They would want to make these laws to ensure that they govern well.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** On a point of order. I heard Hon. Togarepi saying he is a liberation war fighter. Hon. Togarepi was born in 1968 and he was 12 years old at Independence.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MUGOMO):** Order! Order! Hon. Madzivanyika.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Madam Chair, I am entitled to continue. Let me finish my point of order. Madam Chair, Hon. Togarepi was born in 1968; at Independence, he was 12, so when did you go to war?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Madzivanyika, that is unprocedural. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, my Hon. Member is a fervent player on social media. So, he is taking social media to be facts. I was born much before 1968. What I am saying here now is that we are here as Zimbabweans. The reason why we fought to liberate ourselves was to be able to rule ourselves. We only rule ourselves if we have made laws that we feel are good for our people. So, in this House, we make laws. The interpretation of the laws will be dealt with by lawyers but here we make laws as political representatives...

**HON. MAVHUDZI:** On a point of order. I am rising on Standing Order Number 65. The rules of Parliament are that, and according to the timekeepers, a person is supposed to debate for 20 minutes. Hon. Government Chief Whip has been debating for the past 26 minutes. So, I think his time has lapsed and he must stop debating.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Member. It is the duty of the Clerks-at-the-Table to keep time, so if the time is up, they will tell us.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** I would want to emphasise that before I go to the last two sections, as a Member of Parliament representing the

people of Gutu South who have sent me to say, we would want to increase the term of the President to seven years and that of MPs. In addition, MPs that we have chosen must go and vote for the President. I agreed with them because we all know, as Members of Parliament, that it will be very simple, 270 people or 360 people voting. There will not be all those lies of being cheated, expenses and acrimonies. We will finish this in a few minutes...

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** On a point of order. Madam Chair, we are Hon. Members of Parliament and we cannot be prejudiced while we are watching. He is now debating for the 31<sup>st</sup> minute instead of the gazetted 20 minutes. We cannot keep quiet, waiting for you to pronounce it, yet we are disadvantaged. He must sit down; it is time up. - [HON. MEMBER: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Madzivanyika. Hon. Togarepi, you are left with a minute. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, I did not debate in this House. So, how many minutes are you giving me?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Chief Whip, I think the officers are the ones who are keeping the time. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I did not debate as well.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Madzivanyika, may you sit down. We are being helped by the Clerks-at-the-Table here.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, can I be allowed to do my five minutes? *Vapfanha hamusirimi murikutonga imi.* - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Five minutes left for you to debate Hon. Togarepi. Hon. Madzivanyika, can you please sit down! His time has been wasted by Hon. Members who were interjecting. Hon. Madzivanyika, I am asking you to sit down. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** On a point of order Madam Chair, because a point of order suspends all business. The Hon. Member said *tiri vapfanha, hatisi vapfanha* in Parliament. We can only allow him to proceed if he withdraws.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** I withdraw. Madam Speaker, I want to say I have no problem with us keeping the Gender Commission. However, I want to put things into perspective. The reason why the Government is proposing that we put it under human rights, gender issues are human rights issues. Any other right that we have can be administered under human rights. Stakeholders representing women say they would want gender, which is not representing women but men and women. They want to keep it, maybe in the future change it to be Women's Commission. I am not sure.

Let me say I have no problem with us supporting that. I would, in a very short way, talk about the issue of traditional leaders. Allow me to read and I will read first. Traditional leaders are citizens first before they are traditional leaders. They should not be denied political rights. The proposal to repeal Section 281 (2) of the Constitution, which restricts the political rights of traditional leaders, is both fair and necessary. Our traditional leaders are citizens first. As citizens, they are entitled to the full enjoyment of political rights guaranteed under Section 67 of the Constitution.

What we should know is that before we bought the westernised leadership to this country, our traditional leaders were the leaders of this country. King Lobengula is the one who signed. Our traditional leaders are being arrested for their political rights. However, if they insist, we may give them. I am sure one day when we have another leadership in this Parliament, they will give traditional leaders their rights. It is a right that they have. We went around as Members of Parliament and you can count maybe five or less who said they do not want traditional leaders to be involved in politics.

Members of Parliament must not be afraid of traditional leaders because they will take up their constituencies. They are Zimbabweans and have their rights and political rights as well. Allow them to be politicians if they choose to. Madam Speaker, because I was not allowed by my fellow Hon. Members to go through my submission, I pray that it be allowed to find its way into the *Hansard*.

**HON. NYEVERA:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I rise to support Constitutional Amendment Bill (No. 3) for three key reasons: historical legacies, policy consistency and contemporary governance systems. On historical legacies, it is not by coincidence

that trends during our motherland, Zimbabwe's First, Second and Third Chimurenga, instilled political consciousness, ignited immense nationalism and the zeal to fight for our freedom.

Independence and sovereignty, including reclaiming our land, all took us in excess of five years for every single phase to be completed. Our Fourth Chimurenga is boldly declared and judicially demonstrated by our visionary leader, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Comrade Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, demands a stable, predictable policy environment and responsive, transformational, listening, servant leadership that respects the Constitution.

Popular demand and collective responsibility as advocated under the twin mantras of *nyika inovakwa, igotongwa, igonamatirwa nevene vayo* and the voice of the people is the voice of God. In this regard, the patriotic and loyal Zimbabwean citizens and indeed the community of Silobela, I overwhelmingly supported CAB 3 during nationwide consultations, as I hereby submit, guided by the need for prudent economic diplomacy, preservation of peace, security, tranquility and social cohesion for national development.

Furthermore, on consistent and inclusive policy. Constitution Amendment (No.3) Bill incorporates contemporary responsive governance systems globally credited for accelerated and sustainable economic development. Impactful infrastructure projects especially in energy, mining and road dams like Nkayi Lupane Road and Vungu Dam, among other milestones over the last five cycles, hence a two-year extension addresses the disruption caused by early election cycles, providing the executive time to finish critical programmes without resetting policy every five years. Stability attracts investors who need policy certainty, not constant electoral uncertainty.

On contemporary governance systems, electing the President through Parliament leverages a system we already pay for. Members of Parliament are elected representatives of the people. When Parliament elects the President, it strengthens the link between the Executive and the legislature and promotes accountability. It also reduces polarising, divisive and toxic campaigns that split communities. Furthermore, national elections cost taxpayers billions of dollars. In a difficult economic environment, that money can build clinics, schools and power stations.

International precedents exist, as many stable democracies use parliamentary or hybrid systems to elect the Head of State. Germany, Italy and South Africa elect their Presidents through Parliament. The goal is prioritisation of governance that delivers over theatrics and achievement of people-centric results over self-serving ego.

In conclusion, this amendment is about efficiency, continuity and putting resources into service delivery. It does not in any way breach any provision under our Constitution but bolsters our resolve, resilience and commitment towards redefining our identity and development aspirations as Zimbabweans. The country is indeed at an undeniably critical turning point to reverse the decades of long sanctions, induced and natural disaster-driven economic meltdown, as demonstrated by massive dams, roads, ports of entry, power generation, housing, interchanges, infrastructure developments and private sector-led investments in mining, agriculture, manufacturing, construction and tourism.

A longer attempt allows completion of national projects as we seek to reclaim the legacy of the great Munhumutapa Empire and assume our rightful leadership position among the community of

nations. Parliamentary election of the President preserves public funds and strengthens institutional oversight. For the sake of development and stability, I urge this House to support the Bill. I thank you.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** I rise representing Zengeza West in this House, and not in support of CAB 3. This Bill has come at the wrong time. It has come to divide people in this country. It has come to divide even ZANU-PF Members. It has also divided our opposition members.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Do you have the evidence of what you are saying? Debate what is in the statement, not what you are saying?

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I feel this Bill is even dividing families at home.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is misleading this House saying that the Bill is dividing people. I think we are Hon. Members. We should not just play with words that are not factual.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Zvaipa, try to debate what is in the statement.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** Yes, that is where I am heading. When I am saying the Bill is dividing us, I mean there is no longer unity. You see what the ruling party is doing and what I am doing. That means we are in dispute because of this Bill. The war veterans who fought for the country are no longer getting along because of this Bill.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Zvaipa, I cannot keep on reprimanding you several times. Debate what is in the statement. That people are not getting along has nothing to do with the Bill. I am asking you, Hon. Member, I am reprimanding you for the last time. If you continue like that, you are going to sit. Tell us the war veterans who are not getting along.

**\*HON. MANANZVA** Thank you Madam Speaker. He has a word that he has uttered. May the Hon. Member withdraw his words? He said that MPs within the ZANU-PF party are now divided. If he wants to join us, he has to come and we will register him in the cell.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** If you keep on doing what you are doing, I am going to order that you leave the House. Hon. Zvaipa, may you please be silent. You cannot keep on talking whilst I am talking.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I am requesting that Hon. Z. Ziyambi revisit the Bill and make amendments that unite all of us. That is what the people want in this country. People do not want to live in areas contaminated with sewage. Medication should be made available in hospitals and get employed. People want to be protected or rehabilitated from drug abuse.

**\*HON. ZIKI:** These sewage areas where people are staying are being caused by those in charge of the opposition party who are in the local authority. They are the ones who are causing that.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I am asking you to debate what is in the statement. Your time will lapse without you saying what you want to say.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** Let me debate what I have come here to debate. The people from Zangeza West are saying, ‘we entered into a contract with you as MPs to go to the Parliament for five years, CAB 3, not what we agreed upon’. There are some issues that are being said that seven years will assist us in developing the country. That is not it. The reason being that in 2013, when we did the Constitution, we said that the President must be in power for five years. After five

years, we vote for another or we reinstate him. The two years that we are increasing or adding, what are the reasons? That is what the people from Zengeza are saying.

I want to go back to the issue raised by the Government Chief Whip. He said that he fought in the liberation war. When we talk about the issue of war, let me say it this way. The liberation war that Hon. Togarepi talked about...

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Is what you are debating in the statement? Let us debate what is in the statement. You are going to have to sit down.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** You have taken my five minutes. You would have let me speak and then you hear where I am going. Some people died in Nyadzonya and Tembwe. There are some people who died in Zimbabwe. Those people were told that they were going to Zimbabwe where they were going to vote for a leader of their choice and that they would get land. Those people went to war. They were lied to and now we are bringing those lies back.

**\*HON. KARIKOGA:** You are stopping Hon. Zvaipa after every sentence. According to what he is debating, there is nothing that

he has said that is in the Bill. Madam Speaker, I was asking that if it is possible, give him time so that he sits down and goes through the Bill again. He can come back and debate when he is ready.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MUGOMO):** Hon. Zvaipa, will you debate what is in the statement as we have said or agreed upon?

**HON. ZVAIPA:** Let me talk about the army safeguarding the Constitution. In 2017, when things were not going well in this country, the army assisted us in correcting it. The army is now being withdrawn so that it comes in as a security, as a Fawcett...

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Sit down, Hon. Zvaipa.

**\*MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** I think that if people rise to contribute, they must say things that are there. Not things that are from their mind or to show their foolishness. None in the Bill mentions the army is now the Fawcett. Hon. Member must withdraw that statement.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Zvaipa, will you withdraw your statement? May you withdraw your statement.

The statement that you have just said, that has to do with the army, that you said is now Fawcett.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** You said I am now a fool; I am showing foolishness.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Zvaipa, will you withdraw your statement?

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** You have been saying that I am a fool; what does a fool know? You want a foolish man to withdraw?

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Zvaipa, will you withdraw your statement?

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** I did not say that the army is the Fawcett.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Let us not reduce the army to a Fawcett. May you withdraw your words. I was listening when you were presenting. Will you withdraw your statement?

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** I have withdrawn - [HON.MEMBERS:  
*Inaudible interjections.*]-

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Sit down, Hon. Members.

**\*HON. HAMAUSWA:** I will rise so that I contribute.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I have not given you a chance.

**\*HON. HAMAUSWA:** May I be given a chance?

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Will you sit down, Hon Members.

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** On a point of privilege, Madam Speaker. Minister of Justice must withdraw. We are now afraid of going home.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Nothing has been said for you to ask for a point of order. Sit down, Hon. Tsvangirai -

[HON.MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Masvisvi can you go ahead.

**HON. MASVISVI:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am, for giving me this opportunity to debate on the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill, which I fully support. The Constitution of a nation is not merely a legal document, but a living framework that evolves with the changing needs, aspirations and realities of society. Zimbabwe's constitutional development has always been guided by the need to strengthen Government...

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** On a point of privilege, I want to refer you to Section 148 of our Zimbabwean Constitution, which states that Members of Parliament may have freedom of speech in Parliament and in all Parliamentary Committees. While they may obey the rules and orders of their House they are not liable to civil or criminal proceedings, arrest or imprisonment, or damages for anything said in, produced before, or submitted to Parliament – [HON. TOGAREPI: *Do not insult our soldiers. Musatuka masoja edu.*] -

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Togarepi.

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** We are asking that when we are here, we must be safe; we must not be threatened because our Constitution is very clear. If that is what you want, we must go outside Hon. Minister.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Tobaiwa, who allowed you to speak?

**HON. MASVISVI:** Thank you, Madam Speaker Ma'am. The Constitution of a nation is not merely a legal document, but a living framework that evolves with the changing needs, aspirations, and realities of the society. Zimbabwe's constitutional development has

always been guided by the need to strengthen governance, promote stability, and advance national development. In this context, the proposed Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill (CAB3) represents an important step in refining and modernising the country's constitutional architecture in line with the governance, experience, and developmental imperatives. Rather than being viewed as a departure from constitutional principles, the amendment should be understood as a constructive reform that seeks to improve institutional efficiency, enhance political continuity, and strengthen the effectiveness of state institutions. When examined carefully and objectively, the amendment offers several merits that justify its adoption.

Madam Speaker, I want to start with Clause 2 of transferring voter registration and management of the voter's roll from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to the Registrar General. Given that the Registrar General already serves as the custodian of vital civil records, including birth and death certificates as well as national IDs data, the transition would enhance administrative efficiency, accuracy and centralised accountability. Furthermore, it would eliminate

duplication of roles, minimise data management inconsistencies and ultimately, strengthen the integrity and credibility of the voters' roll.

When responsibilities are clearly defined among institutions, the amendment helps to reduce duplication of functions and potential conflicts of mandates. Strong institutions, essentially for effective governance, contribute to building a more coherent and responsive State architecture. I therefore support Clause 2 of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

Madam Speaker, changing the election of the President from a direct public vote to an election by Parliament is a progressive element within the amendment and proposal to enhance the role of Parliament in the process of electing national leadership. A parliamentary-based approach to leadership selection can strengthen representative democracy by ensuring that elected representatives such as us who embody the will of the people play a central role in determining Executive leadership.

This model is widely used in several successful democracies across the world and often encourages stronger collaboration between the Executive and the Legislative branches of Government. It also

reinforces the principle of collective responsibility and ensures that leaders remain accountable to Parliament. I strongly support Clause 3 of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

The extension of the electoral cycle of the President and Members of Parliament from five to seven years and its application to the incumbent; longer governance cycles can play a critical role in promoting stability and ensuring continuity in national development programmes. Governments require adequate time to plan, implement, and evaluate long-term policies that address complex socio-economic challenges. Short electoral cycles frequently lead to disruption in policy implementation as governments shift their focus towards campaign periods and political transitions.

Therefore, by extending the term of office, the amendment creates a governance environment that allows leaders to concentrate on delivering developmental programmes without constant interruption caused by frequent elections. This approach aligns with the broader national vision of achieving sustainable economic transformation and long-term prosperity. In many countries around the world, long-term political terms have proven effective in enabling

governments to pursue strategic reforms and infrastructure development projects that require consistent leadership and policy stability.

In this amendment, we reduce electoral costs and administrative distractions. Furthermore, fewer elections mean fewer disruptions to Government operations. During election periods, public institutions often shift from service delivery to political processes. As such, the proposed amendment allows public institutions to operate more effectively and maintain uninterrupted service delivery to their citizens. I support Clauses 4, 9 and 10 of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026.

Madam Speaker, the increase in the membership of the Senate from 80 to 90 by including the 10 presidential appointees, the proposal to expand certain legislative structures aims to allow greater participation of individuals with diverse expertise and backgrounds in the legislative process. The approach recognises that governance benefits from contributions of professionals, technocrats and community representatives who can enrich policy debates with

specialised knowledge and practical insights in the Senate. I support the amendment to Clause 8.

The transfer of delimitation functions from ZEC to the new Commission.; this will significantly alleviate the heavy workload currently borne by ZEC. The dedicated entity will foster greater fairness, transparency and accessibility throughout the electoral process. Such an institutional split would cultivate technical specialisation in the complex of drawing constituency boundaries, thereby directly addressing historical shortcomings in the ZEC's handling of the previous delimitation exercise. I support the proposed amendment.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe's constitutional journey has always been guided by the principle of building a democratic system that is responsive to the needs of its people. The Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill should therefore be viewed not as a departure from democratic ideals but rather, as a constructive refinement of the constitutional framework to ensure that it remains relevant, effective and capable of supporting national progress. Madam Speaker, I fully

support the CAB 3 and recommend it to be adopted by Parliament. I thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Madam Speaker, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

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