

# PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

*Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2026*

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

## PRAYERS

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

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** I have a list of very few Hon. Ministers who were supposed to come and answer the questions. Also in the House, we have the Deputy Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE

### APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM MINISTERS

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** I have a list of apologies. Hon. General Rtd. Dr. C. D. G. N. Chiwenga, the Vice President; Hon. Col. Rtd. K. C. D. Mohadi, the Vice President; Hon. E. Ndlovu, Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Prof. A. Murwira, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Hon. R. Modi, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce.

We were supposed to go to our questions without notice but I am failing to see the Ministers here. I can only see the Deputy

Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. Is there any other Minister whom I am not seeing where he or she is seated? –

[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – Is someone having an answer – you cannot talk on your own while I am asking. If you have an answer please tell us. You stand up and then I recognise you, you say out what you want to say. This is what is done by an Hon.

Member of Parliament.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. MAZUNGUNYE):** Thank you Madam President. I believe most of the Hon. Ministers are in the Lower House, that could be the reason why there are no other Ministers in here. They are in the Lower House.

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** That was going to be wonderful if they are in that House – because they are supposed to come here. If there is a voting, the bell will ring and they will go back. They are supposed to come here and do their duty – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – Any proposal of how we can proceed?

**HON. SEN. ZINDI:** Thank you Madam President. With your indulgence, realising that Hon. Ministers are not present, I may propose that we revert to the Orders of Day on the *Order Paper*.

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Okay, that is a good proposal. I am advised by the administration that they have sent an officer to go and request for the Hon. Ministers to come into this House – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – if they are there. If they are not there or if they cannot come because of what is happening there, maybe we will revert to what the Hon. Senator has suggested.

**HON. SEN. GOTORA:** Thank you Madam President. Since Tuesday, almost all the Hon. Ministers were in the National Assembly and we presume that is where they are. If the Clerk has sent someone to go and ask them to come here, there is no harm in us waiting for them.

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Thank you. However, I can also see empty chairs of those who are not ministers. Maybe, since we need to save time, we can go back to our Orders of the Day, which are Questions without Notice. When we have Hon. Ministers, maybe we will come back.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Madam President, I have a point to make.

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Yes, Hon. Senator.

**HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI:** Thank you Madam President. I just need to get this recorded for parliamentary austerity. Madam President, I suspect that the excuse that all Hon. Ministers are in the Lower House is nothing but an excuse. From my understanding, the President is allowed to appoint seven people who are not members of the Lower House to be ministers for their own special skills. However, seven ministers are not busy in the Lower House and in addition, the President has appointed certain Members who are Members of this Senate to be ministers. Therefore, I think that if that is not an excuse, we should be having at least seven ministers here, plus those ministers who are Senators.

I just needed us to record this to say this is just an excuse and that ministers, as is practiced, showed a lot of disdain for your august Senate.

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Thank you Hon. Senator Zvidzai. Maybe before we are very much sure of what you

are saying, can we wait for that officer who has been sent to the National Assembly before we conclude on that?

Moreover, Hon. Ministers, even if they are Hon. Senators, can go there and maybe answer some questions. They are allowed to do that. Even if he is an Hon. Minister who is an Hon. Senator, he can go there and sit in the House and answer if there are questions in that particular House. Maybe they are following up the debates and see where...

*Hon. Ministers having entered the Senate Chamber*

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Welcome, Hon. Ministers. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]- Anyway, I think we have some who are getting into this House for the first time. Can I please welcome you. I cannot say names because you might not like it. Welcome Hon. Minister Machakaire – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]-

In the House we have the following Ministers; Hon. Mombeshora, Minister of Health and Child Care; Hon. Dr. Mavetera, Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services; Hon. T. Moyo, Minister of Public Service, Labour

and Social Welfare; Hon. Machakaire, Minister of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training; Hon. Masuka, Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development; Hon. D. K. Mnangagwa, Deputy Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion; Hon. Kambamura, Minister of Mines and Mining Development; Hon. Garwe, Minister of Local Government and Public Works; Hon. Kazembe Kazembe, Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Hon. M. Ndlovu, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Hon. Musa Ncube, Deputy Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities and Hon. Makwiranzou, Deputy Minister of Mines and Mining Development responsible for Oil and Gas Research and other Strategic Minerals Exploration and Leader of the House Hon. Matuke.

### **ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**\*HON. SEN. MAVENYENGWA:** Thank you Madam President of the Senate. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Child Care, Dr. Mombeshora, who is present in this august House. We are happy to see what His Excellency, the President, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, is doing by bringing in the cancer

machines for the treatment of cancer patients. We have witnessed that on television. Hence, I want to understand from the Minister of Health, on the machines that came in this country, we know that they were handed over to Sally Mugabe and Mpilo Hospital in Bulawayo. In other provinces, there are no cancer machines. We want to know if other provincial and district hospitals are going to get these machines. Many people from our areas, do not have the money to pay for medical fees. May the Minister clearly explain to us, so that those who cannot get enough money to pay, can get assistance when they are being treated for cancer? I thank you.

**\*THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (DR. MOMBESHORA):** Thank you Madam President. I want to thank Hon. Sen. Mavenyengwa for that pertinent question. Madam President, before answering the question from the Hon. Member, we want to thank His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, for his vision to make sure that we get enough funds to buy machines to treat cancer because we did not have enough machinery to treat cancer in the country.

Firstly, yes, the machines were found in Harare and Bulawayo only. The other reasons for us to have those few machines, we did not have enough radio-oncologists. There are very few in this country. I want to take this opportunity to notify this august House that we are now training radio-oncologists at the University of Zimbabwe. Right now, these machines are at Parirenyatwa and Mpilo Hospitals. These machines at Parirenyatwa and Mpilo Hospitals, were not operating properly. They were old and consuming a lot of money to repair. The new machine which arrived had already been installed at Parirenyatwa. Another one is at 85% installation in Bulawayo. The machine which is going to be removed from Bulawayo, is going to be installed in Gweru. This initiative is to make sure that we put all the machines throughout the country's provinces. We started by putting the machine which is going to be removed from Bulawayo, in Gweru. We are targeting provinces that train doctors. The doctors who are being trained at MSU, are going to have the exposure and the knowledge of how to use those machines. Besides that, those doctors have to go to other provinces to look for the machines. Hence, we are going to start by putting the second machine in Gweru.

We are looking at areas that train doctors so that these doctors can have exposure to the machines. We are saying where Hon. Sen. Mavenyengwa comes from Masvingo we are looking forward to that province. There is another school at UZ that teaches doctors. There is a Presidential programme for infrastructure at your hospital. Today we had a meeting requesting for a place to build infrastructure to treat cancer so that people do not travel from all over the country to come to Harare for cancer treatment.

We had a tender which closed on 3 June last week to buy accessories for the part of diagnostics for cancer, so that each provincial hospital can have a CT scan and an ultrasound scan which help in the diagnosis of cancer. These machines must be found in every provincial hospital. We are also installing machines that are going to examine the types of cancer from the samples taken from people. Cancer is a disease which is affecting many people. Cancer is one of the non-communicable diseases but it is also a lifestyle disease, hence we are also taking this opportunity to notify people, sensitise them and encourage them to eat their traditional meals. Most of the cancer patients, develop the disease through lifestyle. I want to

promise this House that in the nearest time to come, we are going to have many cancer-treating places and machines for testing. In each district we are going to build a hospital with its facilities. We are going to put all the equipment for testing. We are also going to include tele-radiology, so that the machines we are installing nowadays are going to be digitally enabled. The centre may be in Bulawayo or Harare, reporting at one place so that when a person is being tested, he or she is not required to spend at least a month being told to come back for the result. I thank you.

**\*HON. SEN. MAVENYENGWA:** Madam President, the Minister did not answer me on the issue of the people in rural areas whom we represent. Yesterday in the Committee, we had another Hon. Member in this august House who paid USD400 for a child to be treated. May a person coming from Mwenezi in Masvingo, maybe those in the Public Service, have some documents written for those who do not have the capacity to pay, because some people might die without getting that amount which can cost USD400. The Hon. Minister did not answer that part.

**\*THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** I was going to ask the Hon. Minister to respond to that but I think he answered.

**\*HON. DR. MOMBESHORA:** Thank you Madam President. I did not answer that part. We have a Government policy that those who are disadvantaged and do not have money, must go to the social service and get their dues paid. We also have the initiative which is going to come shortly in this august House, which we have taken a lot of time trying to spruce up the Bill.

We started it as National Health Insurance, but now we are saying it is a National Health Fund Bill. We came up with the final draft last week. This week I have written the letter to the Cabinet on Legislation; from there it is going to the Cabinet and then to Parliament. In that Bill, every citizen in Zimbabwe must be able to be treated in all Government hospitals for free – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]-

It is not totally for free like what we are sayin; it is free because we are taking some tax from cigarettes and alcohol, which are causing harm to people so that we will be able to use that money to improve our health systems. People will get treated for free and then the

hospital where a patient is being treated will claim their money. It is the programme that we are expecting all Members of Parliament to support so that people can be treated locally instead of going outside the country.

Most people are going to seek medical treatment outside the country while we have doctors but lack the machinery. We are going to put all the machinery that was not available in the country, because most people are going to request some of the services in the private sector. I see that the direction that was being presented to us by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. Emmerson Mnangagwa, is going to be helpful to all of us. I thank you very much.

**\*HON. SEN. ZINDI:** Thank you Madam President. My supplementary question is, we have a group of people, the war veterans. Most of them are now of advanced age and the issue of non-communicable diseases like cancer, prostate and cervical cancer is affecting a lot of them. What is the Government policy for the war veterans who are earning USD153 as a pension per month when this fund was established? Right now, they are not feeling well. What is

the Government's policy in making sure that the war veterans get assistance and can live? I thank you.

**\*HON. DR. MOMBESHORA:** Thank you Madam President. I also thank Hon. Zindi for that supplementary question. Yes, our war veterans are now old people and these diseases like cancer are affecting them, especially prostate cancer which normally affects older men.

Firstly, I want to notify you that we now have tests which we do, that we call rapid tests. In a few minutes we will be able to diagnose if you have prostate cancer or not. We are going to test a lot of people throughout the country.

**\*THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Hon. Minister, may you respond to the issue of war veterans because now they are at a critical point.

**\*HON. DR. MOMBESHORA:** That is why I was trying to say that we bought outside medical vans that we are going to send out to people, and war veterans are going to be tested for free and through their Ministry, they have got a fund which they will pay after being treated – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]-

We have bought outside medical vans and will go to the rural areas and encourage people to come and get tested. If the people are diagnosed earlier, they are going to be treated. We are working with the Ministry of War Veterans so that they can be assisted. Thank you.

**+HON. SEN. L. SIBANDA:** Thank you Madam President. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Child Care. You mentioned that there are machines that have been purchased for testing cancer. After these examinations, there is money required; you did not mention how this is going to be catered for. People are ending up going to private clinics and laboratories. I thank you.

**\*HON. DR. MOMBESHORA:** Thank you Madam President. Most of the blood tests the Hon. Members mentioned can be done in Government hospitals. The payment is being made if they go to Social Welfare. The Social Welfare is going to pay the hospital. We are encouraging our hospitals to make sure that they treat every patient, regardless of whether they have money or not. They must treat a patient and make a claim to the Public Service, to Social Welfare, or to the war veterans.

I promise that the machines are already there in our hospitals. They must not have a problem with testing blood. Yes, in the past we were experiencing some problems, but we have machines at the district hospitals. That is the programme that is there to support this initiative.

**+HON. SEN. R. M. NDLOVU:** Thank you Madam President. my question is directed to Minister of Lands and Rural Development. We began resettlement in 1982, back then and households were enough for the parents but now the families have grown up. What measures have been taken so that these kids can also have their own households to reside in?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,  
MECHANISATION AND WATER RESOURCES**

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. DR. MASUKA):** Thank you Madam President. I thank the questioner for a very important question. I assume this is focused on the old resettlement which we started in earnest in 1981 and this was basically a decongestion model from congested communal areas to better soils, better rainfall areas and at that stage it was envisaged that we will have a villagised model within

the new resettlement. So, we are actually just decongesting but creating villages within the new resettlement scheme so the governance of those villages replicates the governance that was in communal areas. It meant that the village assembly, as they would ordinarily do where I come from Madam President in August, those that are now ready to start their households would be given portions by the village assembly to start their households. This is different from A1 and A2 settlements, which is my understanding of the old resettlement but that is to be done systematically through the village assembly.

**HON. R. M. NDLOVU:** I just want to be cleared by the Minister here. He says the assembly that is the community can identify or recycle their own children without the Ministry involved. What is the position?

**HON. DR. MASUKA:** Thank you Madam President. It is exactly what I have said. The Zimbabwe Land Commission Act was promulgated in 2018, which changed the circumstances but before that it was the village assembly from 1983 to 2017. Now, in terms of the Zimbabwe Land Commission Act, the Minister responsible for

lands has the administrative authority to issue out pieces of land. So, I assumed that it addressed that aspect Madam President. Thank you.

**\*HON. SEN. CHIEF NGEZI:** Thank you Madam President for awarding me this opportunity. My question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development. I can see that he is not around, so I am directing my question to the Leader of Government Business. I wanted to know who instructs the Ministry on which roads to rehabilitate because there are some areas with roads that are in bad state. Who instructs you which roads to rehabilitate because some roads honestly are in bad state compared to the others, which are being refurbished?

**\*THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (HON. SEN. MATUKE):** Thank you Hon. Senator for those pertinent questions. These roads are different; we have primary and secondary roads. Some of the primary roads end up joining the secondary roads. Most of the primary roads are under councils, whether they are in rural or urban councils. In the rural areas, these are programmes done by councilors. These councilors hold their meetings and agree on the roads to be rehabilitated. They also have

RIDA, which was known as DDF in the past, which helps them when discussing the developmental projects that are supposed to be done. However, in the midst of those discussions, there are roads, which they select to be rehabilitated first. RIDA is the department that is able to look at those roads and rehabilitate them but they will be notified by the councilors through the people whom they represent from their rural areas.

There are also roads, which fall under the Minister of State and Provincial Affairs. The Minister would do so in consultation with the provincial development committee and also discuss the nature and the state of those roads. They can also get some information about the roads from Hon. Members from that province. The information may be cascaded up to ZINARA which will then work with the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Development

These roads can be upscaled up to the national level, where they are going to be included in the National Budget and His Excellency is notified. So that is how people know the state of the roads but it is the duty of each and every person to notify the existing structures from the councilor, provincial and up to the national level on the state of

the road. In short, that is how the reports are made. All of us we cannot rush to one office to report about the roads so we have the structures which are put in place to make sure that people report the issues of roads. Thank you.

**HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA:** My question is to the Minister of Health and Child Care. Madam President, many public hospitals continue to enforce restrictive visitation policies introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Given that the public health emergency has long since ended, when does the Ministry intend to review these measures to ensure that patients receive adequate family support during hospitalisation? I thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. DR. MOMBESHORA):** I want to thank the Hon. Senator for that question. Yes, the visiting hours were changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Let me say, generally we do not want patients to be overcrowded when they are admitted. I think the public does not understand the stress that comes from visitors. Everyone gets in and they ask the same questions. We want to limit the number of visits as much as possible. We are open to review as raised by the Hon.

Member. I will talk to my executive so that they have a relook, since it is an issue that is coming from the people. We will be able to review it.

**HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA:** Madam President, you realise that in most public hospitals, most patients need family support. Inasmuch as the Minister is saying we do not want a lot of people but you still need the support of the family. So, I am also suggesting that we take it in moderation to make sure patients get support of their families. Most of the time, public hospitals do not have test kits and some other medications that you need the family to buy.

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** What is the question now?

**HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA:** There is no question. I am suggesting that the Minister do it in moderation.

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** This is what he was saying: that he is going to sit with his staff.

**HON. DR. MOMBESHORA:** I think you have correctly said what I said. We are going to review. I just mentioned that we do not want patients to be overcrowded.

**\*HON. SEN. CHIEF NECHOMBO:** My question is directed to the Minister of Mines and Mining Development. Let me start by saying we thank the Government for the progress in terms of development through mining activities and even job creation that is happening in our areas. Our elders say everything has its own ending. So, my question is, as time goes on, when mining activities cease to happen, what is the Government's policy to make sure that our families are going to have livelihoods or something to benefit from going forward?

**THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING**

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. KAMBAMURA):** I want to thank the Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo for that pertinent question about the life we are going to live after mining activities cease to happen. My response is that this is the wish and aspiration of the Government, that those who are doing mining activities should look at how people are living in the areas they are operating from. We see other companies that are doing mining activities and are doing business, so that people from surrounding areas are benefiting. We are also looking at the issues of the environment. Those who are doing mining activities

must also see that they have done environmental initiatives before the lapse of the mines. They must also come to the Government and present their plan on what they are going to do after mining ceases.

When examining the environmental and government assessment frameworks, we must consider the ministry's guidelines that miners are required to follow as outlined in the submitted documents. It is essential that once mining activities cease, the livelihoods of the local communities are improved compared to the pre-mining situation.

From a governmental perspective, we will review and enhance these policies.

In addressing both small-scale and large-scale mining operations, we need to ensure that they respect their environments and the surrounding communities while also contributing to the enhancement of local livelihoods. Miners should actively collaborate with communities to facilitate improvements in their quality of life, ensuring that after mining concludes, residents can progress positively.

For example, mining activities are happening at ZIMPLATS. It has a very good initiative. We see a very good example. They have

taken the community, given them jobs and income-generating projects. There are some women who are molding bricks which are being used by the company. The company is no longer buying bricks from other companies but they are buying from those women. They also gave the youth capital for the production of metal. They are buying those metals from the youth. They also constructed dams and the locals are farming. We are expecting all mining companies to follow that path so that the livelihoods of the people can improve while mining is still functioning. Thank you.

**\*HON. SEN. CHIEF NECHOMBO:** I would like to express my gratitude for the response provided by the Hon. Minister regarding the activities of the mining companies. My question primarily focuses on employment. We recognise that when the minerals are depleted and mining ceases, those jobs will no longer exist. Therefore, what measures is the Government taking to ensure that individuals currently employed in the mines can transition to income-generating projects? Are there any programmes in place to support this? Thank you.

**\*THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING**

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. KAMBAMURA):** Thank you Madam President. I thank the Hon. Senator for the supplementary question. The Government programme that we have requires that those companies that are doing mining activities must also focus on social investment. They must plough back and put some money into the communities so that they can benefit and have something they can do for themselves. We are in the process of crafting a document that will ensure that each company, when they are starting to mine, we will be in agreement with that company that during the mining process, the surrounding area must benefit and make sure that when the mining activities have ceased, how are they going to live. I want to take this opportunity to tell the Hon. Senator that we are moving with that issue.

Previously, we were talking about Corporate Social Responsibility, which the mining company must consider when looking at how people are living today, so that when mining ceases, people will be able to live their lives. We are moving from Corporate Social Responsibility to Corporate Social Investment.

**\*HON. SEN ZINDI:** My supplementary question to the Minister of Mines is about the issue raised by Hon. Sen Chief Nechombo. If I look at the mining that is happening in the mountains. I will give an example of Boterekwa and Christmas Pass. Tourism in Manicaland is well known for the mountains and the same applies to Boterekwa. The mountains have been destroyed. Is it possible that it is going to be restructured, as our Minister has said, because these mountains have been destroyed?

**\*HON. KAMBAMURA:** Thank you Madam President. I would like to thank the Hon. Senator for the question and for how long the mining is being done, which we call heap leaching. I agree with the Hon. Senator that there are some areas where mining is not done properly. If we go to other countries, mining is done in mountains, but the way it is done there is different from what is being done here. I think I once explained this issue on the Constitution and how our investors are doing.

We will tighten our laws and look closely at how they are operating; it is not good. They are leaving these areas in a bad state. We are working with the Ministry of Environment so that we engage

these miners so that they correct their methods of mining that they are practicing. Those who have areas where they want to start mining, we look into it. What mining procedure will they use? Is it good and for how long will they be mining in that area?

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** If they have proposals, can they bring them to the Ministry so that you can consider them when you are looking into that matter?

*Questions Without Notice were interrupted by* **THE HON. PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE** *in terms of Standing Order No. 67.*

**HON. SEN. MOHADI:** I move that the time for Questions without Notice be extended.

**HON. SEN. GOTORA:** I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** It is being proposed that we extend the time for Questions without Notice by 1 hour. We can proceed with Questions without Notice.

**HON. SEN. BVUMO:** Thank you Madam President for allowing me to ask a question which is directed to the Minister of Local Government. In light of the tragic death of three people who

drowned in an open sewer sludge pit in Budiro, Harare, allegedly resulting from an unsecured and inadequately protected municipal excavation site. What immediate measures is the Ministry taking to ensure that local authorities comply with public safety standards on all infrastructure projects and mechanisms and what mechanisms are being put in place to hold accountable those responsible for negligence that led to the loss of human life? Furthermore, Hon. Minister...

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** No, can we bring a question, please? A straight question, not furthermore; what is it now again?

**HON. SEN. BVUMO:** Thank you Madam President. Will the Minister inform this House whether the Government intends to introduce stricter regulations requiring local authorities to fence, barricade and clearly mark hazardous construction and rehabilitation sites to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future? Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE):** Madam President, let me

thank the Hon. Senator for a very pertinent question. It is very disheartening and regrettable that due to negligence of duty by employees of our capital city, City of Harare, we lost lives. These lives were lost because people did not put in place precautionary measures to alert passersby to avoid the unprotected area. This was as a result of poor enforcement by the Municipal Police.

Yesterday, we had discussions with ZRP. As we speak Madam President, action is being taken for culpable homicide for the people that were involved in this tragic loss of lives. We are also going to have the meetings with all the local authorities within a fortnight from today, to discuss specifically this issue of negligence of duty when working on a road, on water and sewage reticulation. Laws are already there; what is lacking is enforcement of those regulations and we are going to work with ZRP to ensure that they assist us in enforcement of these regulations. Thank you Madam President.

**HON. SEN. BVUMO:** Thank you Hon. Minister for the clarity. You mentioned that it was because of gross negligence; my question is, since the Minister has agreed that it was because of gross negligence on the part of council, what mechanisms are there to make

sure that the victims are compensated or are given support because of the tragedy?

**HON. DR. GARWE:** Thank you for the supplementary question Hon. Madam President. As I said earlier, we are now asking the City of Harare to give us a detailed report of what happened. We have also engaged people outside the local authority employees who can do a thorough investigation of what happened; thereafter, we will make recommendations. So, compensation issues, obviously, once ZRP has done their investigations for culpable homicide and matters go to court, the courts will then decide how to deal with the issue.

**\*HON. SEN. MUZODA:** Thank you Madam President, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Our cattle are dying. What measures is the Ministry taking to curb January disease? People are losing their livestock.

**\*THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,  
MECHANISATION AND WATER RESOURCES**

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. DR. MASUKA):** Thank you Madam President and I also want to thank the Hon. Senator for the question. Cattle are a source of livelihood in our culture. We should look after

them properly. It is the responsibility of livestock owners to take care of their cattle before Government intervention. Cattle owners should take their cattle for dipping. They should take all their livestock for dipping; if they leave one behind, it will spread the diseases to the other animals that would have gone to the dip tank. It should start in our families, villages and the whole communities to take our cattle to the dip tanks.

The Government has 4 200 dip tanks; most of them were no longer functional but we now have 4 200 that are now functional. We want to make the dip tanks for the whole country functional. We are approaching winter and because of the capacity levels, we no longer have enough water to fill the dip tanks. During the winter season, diseases decrease compared to the rainy season. That is why you find that we have reverted to dipping our cattle once a week and during the rainy season every week. Since we are not in June, it is no longer January disease. In November and December, there will be a lot of water, so in January, that is when the disease will spread. As Government, we have a law that there are some diseases that we conscientise people that whenever you notice that an animal has

January disease, you notify the animal health specialist in that area so that the Government can intervene. We use that same chemical that is used for dipping. We are now using Bolvac vaccination. If you had told me where exactly, we would rush there and assist.

**\*THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** The Hon. Senator will come to your office.

**\*HON. SEN. MAVENYENGWA:** Madam President, there is a motion on the *Order Paper* regarding this motion. I am about to wind up the motion; may the Hon. Minister come and respond to the motion.

**THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** You are out of order Hon. Senator. This is a question without notice session.

**\*HON. SEN. CHIEF DANDAWA:** Thank you Madam President of the Senate Ma'am. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs. We have a problem of inheritance in my rural constituency. If a man marries two wives and he dies, the children of the first wife will go to the Registrar General' Office and register him as a widower at the time of his death without the knowledge of the second wife. The second wife will then have

problems in accessing her late husband's wealth because it will be written that the deceased is a widower. How do we go about rectifying this problem?

**\*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (HON. KAZEMBE):** Thank you Hon. President of Senate, I am having difficulties in trying to interpret the question and I request that the Hon. Senator repeat his question.

*Hon. Sen. Chief Dandawa repeated his question.*

**\*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (HON. KAZEMBE):** Thank you Hon. President of Senate Sir, I am hearing of such anomalies today. I am surprised that when a second wife is legally married, then why should the children go and get a death certificate for their father, where will the wife be. However, if this is happening, I am requesting time so that I can go and investigate the matter with the Registrar General's Office. The Hon. Sen. Chief Dandawa can also help me by putting his question in writing, if he has a specific example, I will be glad if he can also put it in writing so that we investigate. I thank you.

**THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** I think it is better if that question is put in writing because I am failing to comprehend the essence of that question. I advise Hon. Sen. Chief Dandawa to put his question in writing.

**\*HON. SEN. C. MUTSVANGWA:** Thank you Hon. President of Senate. My question is emanating from what Hon. Sen. Chief Chikwaka said on the plans that Government has regarding areas that have been damaged by mining, like mountains. I want this question to be answered by the Ministry of Industry or Minister of Finance, who deal directly with investments. We mine because after mining, we will send those minerals to our industries so that they can be benefited. It is the work of Ministry of Industry, not the Ministry of Mines. I am saying this because Finance is the Ministry that deals with investment. I thank you.

**THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Hon. Sen. Mutsvangwa, are you directing that question to the Minister of Finance and Investment Promotion. You must direct your question to the Hon. Minister of Finance but before you do that I sympathise with you because I believe the essence of the question which was

raised by Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo and not Hon. Sen. Chief Chikwaka...

**\*HON. SEN. C. MUTSVANGWA:** Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo, I thank you.

**THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** He said we must not rely on one particular commodity we need to diversify and I think that is what the Hon. Sen. Chief was insinuating when he said these minerals will get exhausted; they will be exhausted and what will happen after that. Hon. Sen. C. Mutsvangwa, which Minister are you directing your question to?

**\*HON. SEN. C. MUTSVANGWA:** I thank you Hon. President; these two Ministers must answer.

**THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** You may now take your seat. The Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, I judge that you are the right Hon. Minister to answer because you give the overall macro-economic strategy of the whole nation, proceed to answer.

**\*THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION (HON. D.**

**K. MNANGAGWA):** Thank you Hon. President of Senate and I would like to thank Hon. Sen. Mutsvangwa for his question. If you realise, every time we have a budget, our fees look at miners and all the incentives that ease our ways of doing business; we remove these fees. This has been necessitated in order to remove five years to those in the mining sector so that they will not pay very high fees. In 5 to 10 years our minerals will be exhausted. Our taxation policy when it comes to mining has reached what we call a fine balance to promote the ease of doing business, promote investment and to get whatever we are supposed to get as Government. These monies will be used to support some social activities of Government, whether it is social, health and agriculture. We will be doing this with a view that in the years ahead our minerals will be exhausted.

Mr. President of Senate Sir, our mining is determined depending on type of mineral. If we take for example, platinum, we will be examining its life cycle, in this case we will be looking at 20 to 30 years before this mineral is exhausted. In terms of our royalties, we will be assuming that within a 20-to-30-year period, the monies that we will have invested, our royalties and taxes that are paid. If you put

into account all those monies, we then invest it in the Industrialisation Fund.

For example, in Mhondoro we will be looking at the welfare of those families; will they be able to be sustained because ZIMPLATS has closed down? Is there agro-processing? Yes, that is how we work with the Ministry of Industry and that is why he said Ministry of Finance then Ministry of Industry. We sit and look at every value chain, each and every area so that we can distribute the funds accordingly in terms of need. We will be looking at places of need and demand. Things like what crops can we plant and what can we value add so that we can export. All of these things, we have a committee that sits comprising the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture that looks at all value chains.

Now we have 11 value chains both regionally and provincially; we have that exercise but I cannot say for each area that is mined, we have plans for rehabilitation and industrialisation that is localised, we are still looking at each area and saying that apart from mining, how can they can benefit. Maybe I can ask the Minister of Industry to help me if I have left anything.

**THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** You do not ask the questioner; it is me who determines. The Hon. Minister of Industry do you want to add anything?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE**

**(HON. SEN. M. NDLOVU):** Thank you very much Mr. President Sir. I wish to thank Hon. Sen. Mutsvangwa for a very important question and also to thank Hon. D. K. Mnangagwa for ably responding to the question.

What I will add Mr. President, relates also to what I presented yesterday to the Thematic Committee on Indigenisation and Empowerment, which speaks to a Bill that will be before Parliament possibly mid-July, which is the Bill on Economic Empowerment and it has a lot to do with communities benefiting from the extraction, mainly of minerals in their area.

In 2025, the Cabinet approved that we revive the Community Share Ownership Trust as they were called but they will now be called a Community Economic Empowerment Trust, primarily focused on driving rural industrialisation, promoting agro-processing and doing what we call Local Enterprise Development, where they

will be integral even in the operations of the mining companies and other institutions in their jurisdictions.

We believe our communities have the capacity to produce some of the PPE and other supplies that these corporations need. To have a sustainable programme in these communities, we looked at how they can benefit from this extraction. I must say this is a question that is standing but will be decided between ourselves, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion and the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development because Cabinet had approved a 2% turnover of every mineral mined to accrue to communities to fund their enterprise development initiatives.

However, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion has introduced a 2% corporate social responsibility tax, so we will synchronize as the Bill comes here to have a unified approach on this. This, Mr. President, is a constitutional matter coming from Sections 13 and 14 of our Constitution, which bind Government to make sure that communities benefit from the resources.

At the end of June 2026, we will be relaunching nine community trusts, most of which had previously collapsed. We will be managing their funds and preparing them to receive financial resources that are currently held by the Treasury, awaiting a disbursement framework. By the end of the year, our goal is to have revived at least three community trusts in each district. These trusts will be adequately equipped to ensure that the funds received are utilised in a manner that promotes sustainability, creates jobs and drives rural industrialisation in their respective areas. Certainly, we will also ensure that corporate governance issues are adhered to and to make sure that the funds that would have been disbursed to them are expended properly. We will be insisting on annual audits from the Auditor General to make sure that we can appreciate how these funds are spent. I am happy that our chiefs will continue to be the Chairpersons of these trusts but we have also included the Ministers of State representatives so that there is closer oversight, learning from past mistakes that may have led to some of the trusts going under.

I am saying this with caution because I have said that while this was approved by Cabinet, it is contained in a Bill which I hope this august House will support when it gets here. Thank you.

**THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Thank you Hon. Minister, for that very comprehensive response which you have supplemented to the one given by the Hon. Minister of Finance.

**\*HON. SEN. NYATHI:** Thank you Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity. My question is directed to the Minister of Housing and Social Amenities. We have observed that government workers are struggling with accommodation issues, often resulting in them having to lodge in expensive housing. What plans does the government have to address this accommodation problem?

**\*THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HOUSING AND SOCIAL AMENITIES (HON. PROF. MAVIMA):** Thank you Mr. President. I would like to express my gratitude to Hon. Senator Nyathi for that pertinent question. The challenge of providing accommodation for civil servants is significant, particularly for those in various provinces, whether in large cities, smaller towns or rural areas such as our agricultural extension officers and business advisors

in the Ministry of Agriculture. This challenge arises from the fact that some Government accommodations are now in a dilapidated state, rendering many houses uninhabitable due to a lack of renovation over an extended period.

Additionally, we face a shortage of houses available for allocation to civil servants. Currently, the Government is constructing housing in different regions across the country. For instance, in cities like Harare, several flats have been built in Dzivarasekwa and there are ongoing projects in Marondera. However, the steps we are taking are insufficient to address all the issues at hand. We desire to do more, but we are going to come up with a public-private partnership that will give the private sector, who have the capacity to build houses. The Government will provide the land. After constructing the houses, the Government will take 30% of the houses. This will serve the Government. These are the houses that we are going to distribute to civil servants. If this project is completed as soon as possible, I believe that this is going to address the challenge.

The other thing that we request is for Treasury to allocate a sizeable budget to the Ministry, which is going to assist us in terms of

renovating the old, dilapidated Government houses so that we can provide our civil servants with decent accommodation. Some are uninhabitable and civil servants have moved out because they are in a state where they cannot occupy them. So, the Ministry needs such a budget to renovate and we can also construct new houses.

We have already requested His Excellency: that rentals which are collected from civil servants in Government houses every month should be directed to the Ministry instead of going through the Consolidated Revenue Fund. If rentals go to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, they do not come back to the Ministry. So this is a request that we have sent to His Excellency so that we will be able to maintain Government properties so that we can accommodate civil servants in decent accommodation.

What I am saying Senate President, is that the Hon. Senator quite addressed the question, a challenge that is in existence and which we request for is to have money to fund the public-private partnership so that we accommodate our civil servants in decent accommodation. I thank you.

**HON. SEN. NYATHI:** My supplementary question, Senate President, is that private sector accommodation is expensive. Can civil servants afford private sector accommodation?

**HON. PROF. MAVIMA:** Thank you for that supplementary question, Hon. Sen. Nyathi. Where I alluded to the private sector, Senate President, I was referring to a memorandum of association through a public-private partnership where a private developer constructs 100 houses and we take 30 houses which are not charged like what they do in the private sector, but these will be owned by Government which is 30% of the total houses and which Government is going to charge so that our civil servants can afford such accommodation. These have nothing to do with the private sector but they fall under the Government and this allows us to provide decent accommodation which is quite economical and affordable to our civil servants. I thank you.

**\*HON. SEN. MUNZVEREGWI:** Thank you Mr. President. My question is directed to Hon. Masuka as the Chairperson of the Committee that was reinstated by the President on the issue of rivers. I would like to thank our President, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, for putting

in place a Committee. Our rivers were destroyed and that was affecting people in the rural areas. Are there any plans, Minister Masuka and your committee looking at the number of rivers that we saw in the papers? Each province has rivers that are being affected by what we call river rehabilitation. Hon. Minister, I am happy that Hon. Minister Mutsvangwa is in the House. Do you have any plans for women to participate because that is the only mining that is cheap in which women can participate? If there are women who are going to put their applications towards that project, are you anticipating giving women opportunities because women will be able to benefit from this kind of mining?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MECHANISATION  
AND WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT: (HON. DR.**

**MASUKA):** Thank you Mr. President, for the question. I will start with the President's vision that he has seen that rivers have been destroyed. Water is no longer flowing. There are now gorges where animals fall into. Animals are drinking water from our poisoned rivers and they die. The way we are mining on riverbeds, the President and Cabinet came up with a law, Statutory Instrument 188 of 2024, which

says it is no longer allowed to do alluvial mining. That law is there. So it is not allowed by the law, as the question has asked. There are people who are there, if you are found practicing alluvial mining, you will be prosecuted or arrested. The President saw that we have stopped the destruction of rivers. He said that there are areas that have already been destroyed. What can we do about those areas? So he moved from the Environmental Management Act and went to the Local Government on the Civil Protection Act. The Act gives the President an opportunity in case of a disaster. He formulated Statutory Instrument 91 of 2026, which came out on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, that says that there is a disaster in the rivers about 17. We wrote to the provinces asking where these rivers that flow within each community and it was written like that. He said, let us go there for 90 days and correct this so that when the rain comes in December and October, we will have rehabilitated or restructured our rivers and built bridges. That is the law that is there.

The third law came out on 28<sup>th</sup> May, Statutory Instrument 92 of 2026, Polluter Pays Principle, which says that if we look at the first law, S.I 188, alluvial mining is not allowed. It says that we now have

a law that follows those who would have done alluvial mining so that we take money from those companies, so that we reconstruct or rehabilitate where the rivers have been destroyed.

From 1 to 5 June, those who think they are good, to assist us as the Government to rehabilitate and reinstate these rivers to their original state, we have more than 270 companies that have applied. We have a Committee that is called the Clearing House which is going through those who made the application so that we can find who we will be working with to rehabilitate these rivers.

I believe that women also made applications because it was not stated whether male or female, but it was just citizens of Zimbabwe. I believe that women accepted it and made their applications. Next week, our committee will meet again and allocate these tenders. That is when we will know whether there are companies for men, youths or women. When we called out or when we advertised, we only said that those who think they are able, but what I know is that women from Zimbabwe are good.

**\*HON. SEN. MUNZVERENGWI:** I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for explaining well as it is. The rehabilitation of rivers

and siltation, you see that the number of companies that have applied is because there is something that they want to take. When you go through the applications, are you going to include companies that are run by women? We thank the President for introducing this programme because rivers were being destroyed before the introduction of this Committee that you are now chairing. I thank you.

**\*THE HON. TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE**

**(HON. SEN. KAMBIZI):** It is now a request, not a question. I think the Minister is going to look into that. I will not ask him to answer that.

**^^HON. SEN. FANUEL:** Thank you for giving me this opportunity to pose my question. BEAM was there, but now learners are being sent back home because....

**THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Order, Hon. Sen. Fanuel! To whom are you directing your question?

**+HON. SEN. FANUEL:** I am directing my question to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education.

**THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Is he here?

**+HON. SEN. FANUEL:** I am directing it to the Leader of Government business.

**THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Leader of the House, you can proceed.

**+HON. SEN. FANUEL:** It is Social Welfare.

**+THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** So, you have changed.

**^^HON. SEN. FANUEL:** Thank you Mr. President. I think the question should be directed to the Minister of Social Welfare who is in charge of orphans. BEAM is used to assist the orphans and child-headed families. Is BEAM still there because learners are being sent away from school although the Government used to forbid that, but now they are not going to school anymore?

**THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. E. MOYO):** Thank you very much Mr. President and the Senator for that question. I want to confirm that BEAM is still there and is still a social protection programme for all those groups that the Senator has indicated. This year, BEAM, we have started to clear all outstanding payments and I can confirm that

as of now, BEAM this year has been paid ZiG87 million to schools and it is not enough. It is a far cry from what the Ministry owes schools, but we are working with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that these debts are liquidated so that schools are not disadvantaged.

On the question of children being sent home for BEAM, that is illegal. From the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, we know that this is a social protection instrument put together by the Government to make sure that everyone has access to education. Dealing with those people or those school authorities who are sending children home is a matter for the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. However, from our standpoint, BEAM is still there and is intended for social protection programmes. Yes, the Government is behind in terms of payments because of issues of financial constraints, but BEAM is there. I want to confirm that.

Thank you.

**^^HON. SEN. MOHADI:** Thank you for giving me this opportunity, Mr. President. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works, the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Wildlife.

**THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Hon. Sen.

Mohadi, direct your question to a particular Minister.

**^^HON. SEN. MOHADI:** I think it affects both.

**THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** At least give us one Minister.

**^^HON. SEN. MOHADI:** My question pertains to wetlands. Looking at the issue of wetlands, you will find that it is a law and a convention worldwide, that they are supposed to be recognised and not supposed to be disturbed because they are the ones that absorb water for us. If you look at the towns, most of our towns currently, houses are being constructed on the wetlands. As a result, the wetlands are now drying up because people are now constructing in these restricted areas. Thank you Mr. President.

**+THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (HON. SEN. MATUKE):** I do not know if I have captured the question correctly, but I heard as if there are people, there are developments that are being done in wetlands. She wants to know what is going on, why people continue developing such areas

because those areas are supposed to be protected. I do not know if that is correct.

The issue of wetlands is addressed through the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, these areas that must be protected, especially through local authorities because they know that these areas which we are calling wetlands are supposed to be protected. It is an offence, a criminal offence for people to develop in wetlands. Usually, the local authorities formulate bylaws before we talk about the Government laws. Local authorities are supposed to protect wetlands and put in place laws that those who would trespass will be prosecuted and pay fines. There is no development that should be done without Environment Impact Assessment Plan, which means that whenever there is development, the officials from the Environment would have assessed the area. Given a licence, development should be done. An application is made by a person who wants to develop the area.

We are going to inform them about this question that has been raised here. We suggest that the President of Senate should give a statement on the areas that are being mentioned because the numbers

are increasing. So, people must know that they are given stiffer penalties if they are found developing in wetlands.

**HON. SEN. MOHADI:** Thank you, I have been answered but currently looking at the local authorities, specifically here in Harare, even Hon. Members are allocated stands which are in wetlands. What is the Government saying about such developments? Thank you.

**HON. SEN. MATUKE:** It could be like that. I have heard someone explaining that Government employees and Hon. Members are getting stands in such areas. Nobody is above the law; it does not matter whether you are an MP or a civil servant. If something like that has happened, it is an offence. So, I was thinking that if she has areas where she knows, she can give us the names of those areas in writing so that the responsible authority would go to the area and investigate. Even the council can be prosecuted if they do developments in areas that are not allowed. They can be prosecuted if found guilty. There is no one who is superior to the law.

**THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE (HON. SEN. KAMBIZI):** The Hon. Ministers came in their numbers today and you will agree with me that this is the first time that we have had

over 20 ministers in this Senate. I hope that from today onwards we will have such several ministers. With due respect to the Leader of Business in the House, I would like to make a humble plea to the ministers that we need you to come and respond to reports and motions that are raised in this Senate. Since the beginning of this term, we have had only one or two ministers who have come to respond. I will not mention names.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (HON. SEN. MATUKE):** Thank you Hon. President. I think what is important is that you provide us with the list of ministers that are supposed to be attending here but are not, so that we try to mention them in the Cabinet whilst the President hears.

*On the motion of* **MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (HON. SEN. MATUKE)**, *the Senate adjourned at Twenty-two minutes to Five o'clock p.m. until Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.*