

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Thursday, 11th June, 2026

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

PRAYERS

(THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER

CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF PORTFOLIO

COMMITTEES

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wish to inform the House that on Thursday, 21st May 2026, the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders made changes to the Membership of Portfolio Committees. The full list will appear on the Votes and Proceedings and the Hansard for today.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

1. **Hon. Dr. Makombe (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Chakukura A.
3. Hon. Chaimvura N.

4. Hon. Jonga W.
5. Hon. Karenyi L.
6. Hon. Machangu P.
7. Hon. Makope M
8. Hon. Makuvire
9. Hon. Murwira T.
10. Hon. Moyo D.
11. Hon. Nyandoro B.
12. Hon. Sibanda M.C.
13. Hon. Sibanda O.
14. Hon. Sithole G.
15. Hon. Zhanda W.
16. Hon. Chiwa D.
17. Hon. Muwombi J.
18. Hon. Matiza M.
19. Hon. Thompson B.
20. Hon. Bvute Obey.
21. Hon. Hamauswa S.
22. Hon. Matara

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
PUBLIC WORKS AND NATIONAL HOUSING**

1. **Hon. Dr. Njanji. M (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Buka. F
3. Hon. Batitsa
4. Hon. Butau. D
5. Hon. Chitimbe
6. Hon. Chidziva. H
7. Hon. Chimbaira. G
8. Hon. Cumanzala
9. Hon. James. B.
10. Hon. Kambuzuma. C
11. Hon. Kanupula. T
12. Hon. Mahachi. A
13. Hon. Makumire. R
14. Hon. Mashavave
15. Hon. Mashonganyika. D
16. Hon. Mavhudzi. D
17. Hon. Masvisvi. D

18. Hon. Mbofana M Taedzwa
19. Hon. Mhetu. T. Z
20. Hon. Mujeyi
21. Hon. Mureyani. S
22. Hon. Ndebele. M
23. Hon. Nhatiso. D
24. Hon. Nyakuedzwa. A
25. Hon. Nyevera.
26. Hon. Tawomhera.
27. Hon. Tshuma. J
28. Hon. Jonga W

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

- 1. Hon. Chiduwa C (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Chiwa D
3. Hon. Hungwe T
4. Hon. Linyani M
5. Hon. Madzivanyika C
6. Hon. Mapfumo F. W

7. Hon. Matinenga M
8. Hon. Mazhindu B
9. Hon. Mudumi
10. Hon. Mureri M
11. Hon. Muringazuwa P
12. Hon. Mushipe
13. Hon. Mushoriwa E
14. Hon. Musweweshiri B
15. Hon. Mutokonyi V
16. Hon. Ncube E
17. Hon. Samson A
18. Hon. Sibanda L
19. Hon. Ziyambi S
20. Hon. Tsvangirayi
21. Hon. P Ndudzo
22. Hon. M Matinyanya
23. Hon. G.H Mukungunugwa
24. Hon. R Musiiwa
25. Hon. S Timburwa

26. Hon. S Tshuma

27. Hon. Mavhunga

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

1. Hon. Shamu W. (Chairperson)

2. Hon. Chinanzvavana C.

3. Hon. Chitimbe V.

4. Hon. Dhanzi A.

5. Hon. Gwabeni M.

6. Hon. Hadebe J

7. Hon. Hlatshwayo G.

8. Hon. Jere F.

9. Hon. Karikoga T.

10. Hon. Majaya B.

11. Hon. Mandiwanzira S.

12. Hon. Mangondo N.

13. Hon. Maphosa S.

14. Hon. Marikano Diana

15. Hon. Mguni Nomvula

16. Hon. Moyo Sithabisiwe
17. Hon. Moyo Charles
18. Hon. Moyo Priscilla
19. Hon. Mudumi B.
20. Hon. Mugomo M.
21. Hon. Munemo L.
22. Hon. Ncube Lungile
23. Hon. Samson A.
24. Hon. Shiryedenga E.
25. Hon. Ziki R.
26. Hon. Kudhlande P

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON LANDS, AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 1. Hon. Maburutse S (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Batitsa N.
3. Hon. Bonda J.
4. Hon. Chinodakufa I.
5. Hon. Jimu L.
6. Hon. Karumazondo T.

7. Hon. Kuka J.
8. Hon. Maseko S.
9. Hon. Masuku E.
10. Hon. Masvisvi D.
11. Hon. Matangira R.
12. Hon. Matinyanya M. S.
13. Hon. Mhuri W.
14. Hon. Moyo V.
15. Hon. Murambiwa O.
16. Hon. Ncube F.
17. Hon. Ngwenya S.
18. Hon. Nyabani T.
19. Hon. Rungwave T.
20. Hon. Sagandira P.
21. Hon. Sakupwanyanya S.
22. Hon. Sihlabo V.
23. Hon. Sithole J.
24. Hon. Taedzwa H.
25. Hon. Tasikani I.

26. Hon. Zhou T.
27. Hon. Zvaipa I.
28. Hon. O Sibanda
29. Hon. G Mambipiri

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Hon Karikoga T (Chairman)

2. Hon. Bonda J
3. Hon. Buka F
4. Hon. Butau David
5. Hon. Dumbarimwe T
6. Hon. Jimu L
7. Hon. Jonga W
8. Hon. Kaitano K
9. Hon. Karumazondo T. M
10. Hon. Maposa W
11. Hon. Marikano D
12. Hon. Mhangwa L
13. Hon. Mhuri W

14. Hon. Monga S
15. Hon. Muchemwa W
16. Hon. Munemo L
17. Hon. Murambiwa O
18. Hon. Mureyani S
19. Hon. Nyamupinga B B
20. Hon. Rungwave T
21. Hon. Tasikani I
22. Hon. Musanhi K
23. Hon. Tavaziva G
24. Hon. Maoneke E
25. Hon. Mudekunye N
26. Hon. Nyabani T
27. Hon. Kashambe T. M
28. Hon. Gumede M

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE, HOME AFFAIRS,
SECURITY SERVICES AND WAR VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

- 1. Hon. Maoneke E. (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Butawu D. Z

3. Hon. Chibhagu G.
4. Hon. Chikwinya N.
5. Hon. Chimbaira G
6. Hon. Kaitano K.
7. Hon. Khupe Thokozani.
8. Hon. Gumbo A
9. Hon. Madzivanyika Coban
10. Hon. Mahlangu S.
11. Hon. Makumbe T
12. Hon. Mashonganyika D.
13. Hon. Mashavave G
14. Hon Mavhudzi D
15. Hon. Mhetu Z.
16. Hon. Mudzingwa L
17. Hon. Murwira T
18. Hon. Musanhi K
19. Hon. Nyamuronda Revai
20. Hon. Ncube E
21. Hon. Pinduka T

22. Hon. Sakupwanyanya S
23. Hon. Sithole S.
24. Hon. Murechu F.

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT,
DEVELOPMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

1. Hon. M. C. Ziyambi (Chairperson)

2. Hon. N. Chaimvura
3. Hon. A. Chakukura
4. Hon. D. Chigumbu
5. Hon. A. Dhanzi
6. Hon. S. Dube
7. Hon. A. Gumbo
8. Hon. R. Makumire
9. Hon. S. Marashe
10. Hon. N. Maunganidze
11. Hon. T. T. Mudowo
12. Hon. B. Mudumi
13. Hon. T. T. Mushipe
14. Hon. A. R. Mpofu

15. Hon. P. Ndudzo
16. Hon. T. Ngadziore
17. Hon. L. Nyelele
18. Hon. E. Raradza
19. Hon. S. Sakupwanyanya
20. Hon. Lovejoy. Sibanda
21. Hon. T. Tawomhera
22. Hon. B. T. Thompson
23. Hon. S. Timburwa
24. Hon. J. Tobaiwa

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON MINES AND MINING
DEVELOPMENT.**

- 1. Hon. Matangira R. T. (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Chikomo T.
3. Hon. Chinanzvavana C.
4. Hon. Chokururama
5. Hon. Gava A.
6. Hon. Guyo P.
7. Hon. Karumazondo T.

8. Hon. Kudhlande
9. Hon. Kuka
10. Hon. Maburutse S.
11. Hon. Mahachi A.
12. Hon. Majaya B.
13. Hon. Mapfumo F. W.
14. Hon. Marashe S.
15. Hon. Maunganidze N. L.
16. Hon. Mpasi J.
17. Hon. Musweweshiri B.
18. Hon Nhatiso
19. Hon. Nyathi T
20. Hon. Nyevera
21. Hon. Nyelele
22. Hon. Samambwa E
23. Hon. Samson
24. Hon. Tobaiwa J.
25. Hon. Zvaipa I
26. Hon. Sakupwanyanya P.

27. Hon. B Nyandoro

28. Hon. Batitsa

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AFFAIRS,
COMMUNITY, SMALL TO MEDIUM ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT**

1. Hon. G. Mutandi (Chairperson)

2. Hon. R. Chari

3. Hon. N. Ndlovu

4. Hon. S. Ndebele

5. Hon. A. Gava

6. Hon. J. Makuvire

7. Hon. S. Moyo

8. Hon. F. Ncube

9. Hon. M. C. Sibanda

10. Hon. F. Makaza

11. Hon. L. Nyelele

12. Hon. M. Matinenga

13. Hon. P. Moyo

14. Hon. D. Molokele

15. Hon. L. Mudzingwa
16. Hon. N. Chikwinya
17. Hon. G. Chibagu
18. Hon. M. Matiza
19. Hon. T. Murwira
20. Hon. M. Linyani
21. Hon. N Chaimvura
22. Hon. A Samson
23. Hon. L Zemura
24. Hon. O Sibanda
25. Hon. V Nhari
26. Hon. Chinanzvavana
27. Hon. P Chitimbe
28. Hon. E Shongedza

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION**

- 1. Hon. Mandiwanzira S. (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Batitsa N.
3. Hon. Butau D.

4. Hon. Chaimvura N.
5. Hon. Chihota C.1
6. Hon. Chitimbe V.
7. Hon. Hadebe J.
8. Hon. Majaya B
9. Hon. Matara T.
10. Hon. Monga S.
11. Hon. Mukomberi T.
12. Hon. Mundungehama S.
13. Hon. Murambiwa O
14. Hon. Muringazuva P.
15. Hon. Musiyiwa R.
16. Hon. Muwodzeri T
17. Hon. Muwombi J.
18. Hon. Pinduka T.
19. Hon. Thompson B. T.
20. Hon. Ndebele S.
21. Hon. Ndou T.
22. Hon. Ngwenya L.

23. Hon. Shiriyedenga E.
24. Hon. Zevezai C.
25. Hon. F Murechu
26. Hon. M Nkomo

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

- 1. Hon. Dhliwayo L (Chairperson)**
2. Hon Bvute O
3. Hon. Chiduwa C
4. Hon. Dube P
5. Hon. Hungwe, T
6. Hon. Hlatswayo G
7. Hon. Kademaunga M
8. Hon. Karenyi L
9. Hon Khupe T
10. Hon. Madzivanyika C
11. Hon. Makombe J
12. Hon. Mamombe J
13. Hon. Mpofu. A.R

14. Hon. Mukomberi T
15. Hon. Mushipe T
16. Hon. Mushoriwa E
17. Hon. Mutseyami C.P
18. Hon. Mutodi, E
19. Hon. Muwombi J
20. Hon. Nkani A
21. Hon. Nkomo M
22. Hon Nyamuronda R
23. Hon. Shumba T
24. Hon. Sithole G.K
25. Hon. Tsvangirai R
26. Hon. Zhou Tafanana
27. Hon. Ziyambi S
28. Hon. Zvobgo E

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE
AND WILDLIFE**

- 1. Hon. S. Matema (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. I. Benza;

3. Hon. C. Chinanzvavana;
4. Hon. A. Dhanzi;
5. Hon. C. Kambuzuma
6. Hon. T. Kanupula;
7. Hon. J. Mapiki;
8. Hon. M. Makope;
9. Hon. S. Matsunga;
10. Hon. Z Masvingise;
11. Hon. D. Moyo;
12. Hon. V. Moyo;
13. Hon. B. Nyandoro;
14. Hon. C. Moyo
15. Hon. R. Ziki
16. Hon. A. Nyakuedzwa
17. Hon. Tafanana Zhou
18. Hon. W. Chikombo
19. Hon. E Raradza
20. Hon. Spare Sithole
21. Hon. S Mundungehama

22. Hon. C Zevezai

23. Hon. M Njanji

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SPORTS AND RECREATION

1. Hon. F Jere (Chairperson)

2. Hon. Benza I. D.

3. Hon. Butau D.

4. Hon. Chaimvura N.

5. Hon. Chakukura A.

6. Hon. Chitimbe V.

7. Hon. Chiwanza C.

8. Hon. Cumanzala F.

9. Hon. Dube P.

10. Hon. Gwabeni M.

11. Hon. Gwangwaba S.

12. Hon. Hadebe J.

13. Hon. Marikano D.

14. Hon. Matsunga S.

15. Hon. Mhuri W.

16. Hon. Muchimba C.

17. Hon. Mukuhlani T.
18. Hon. Ncube Lungile
19. Hon. Ndudzo P. D.
20. Hon. Nyamupinga B. K.
21. Hon. Nyelele L.
22. Hon. Sibanda Lovejoy
23. Hon. Thompson B.
24. Hon. Tobaiwa J.
25. Hon. Tshuma J.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Hon. Hwende Charlton (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Butau David
3. Hon. Butau Dzidzai
4. Hon. Chari Ruth
5. Hon. Chokururama Jacob
6. Hon. Chigumbu Darlington
7. Hon. Dube Prince
8. Hon. Guyo Phillip

9. Hon. Gwangwaba Shine. C
10. Hon. Jonga Witness
11. Hon. Mambipiri Gift
12. Hon. Makumbe Tsungai
13. Hon. Makuvire Julliana
14. Hon. Mapiki Joseph
15. Hon. Maposa Wilson
16. Hon. Marashe Sekai
17. Hon. Mhangwa Leslie E
18. Hon. Ndlovu Brown
19. Hon. Nyathi Tendai
20. Hon. Sibanda Libion
21. Hon. E Samambwa
22. Hon. T Shumba
23. Hon. I Chinodakufa
24. Hon. N Mudekunye
25. Hon. T Mugwadi
26. Hon. E Maoneke
27. Hon Bridget Nyandoro

28. Hon. C Kambuzuma

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ICT, POSTAL AND COURIER
SERVICES

1. **Hon. Vusimusi Moyo (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Machangu P
3. Hon. Maseko S
4. Hon. Mavhudzi D
5. Hon. Mazhindu B
6. Hon. Muchimba C
7. Hon. Munemo L
8. Hon. Timburwa S
9. Hon. Kapoikilu S
10. Hon. Chigumbu D
11. Hon. Gwangwaba S
12. Hon. Makaza F
13. Hon. Bajila D
14. Hon. Mpofu R
15. Hon. Nyabani T
16. Hon. Mapiki J

17. Hon. Ndlovu B
18. Hon. Raradza E
19. Hon. Bvute Obey
20. Hon. Gumede M.
21. Hon. Jere F
22. Hon. Matinyanya M
23. Hon. Tavaziva G
24. Hon. Kashambe M. T
25. Hon. Mananzva K

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON MEDIA, INFORMATION
AND BROADCASTING SERVICES**

- 1. Hon. Vincent Sihlabo [Chairperson]**
2. Hon. Chokururama Jacob;
3. Hon. Dube Sikhuphukile;
4. Hon. Guyo Phillip;
5. Hon. Hamauswa Shakespear;
6. Hon. Mambipiri Gift;
7. Hon. Maphosa Sibongile;
8. Hon. Mguni Nomvula;

9. Hon. Marange Nyasha
10. Hon. Matema Samson;
11. Hon. Mavhunga Maxwell;
12. Hon. Mhetu Togarepi Z.;
13. Hon. Musweweshiri Benjamin;
14. Hon. Ndebele Madalaboy;
15. Hon. Nhatiso Daniel;
16. Hon. Nyabani Tendai;
17. Hon. Sagandira Patrick;
18. Hon. Samambwa Edmore;
19. Hon. Shamu Webster K.;
20. Hon. Sibanda Otilia;
21. Hon. I Zvaipa
22. Hon. B Mazhindu
23. Hon. Innocent Zvaipa
24. Hon. B Mazhindu
25. Hon. Supa Mandiwanzira
26. Hon. Obey Bvute

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

1. Hon. Caston Matewu (Chairman)

2. Hon. Chiduwa

3. Hon. Chidziva C

4. Hon. Chiwanza C

5. Hon. Dhliwayo L

6. Hon. Dr. Mutodi E

7. Hon. Hlatswayo C

8. Hon. Hwende C

9. Hon. Kademaunga M

10. Hon. Kangausaru C

11. Hon. Maburutse

12. Hon. Makombe J

13. Hon. Makuvire

14. Hon. Mangondo N

15. Hon. Maposa W

16. Hon. Masvisvi D

17. Hon. Bvute Ovias

18. Hon. Mudumi B

19. Hon. Mugwadi T

20. Hon. Mukomberi
21. Hon. Mukungunugwa
22. Hon. Mureyani
23. Hon. Mushoriwa E
24. Hon. Mutokonyi V
25. Hon. Mutseyami P
26. Hon. Ndudzo P
27. Hon. Nyamupinga
28. Hon. Njanji M
29. Hon. Nkani A
30. Hon. Sithole G. K
31. Hon. Tsvangirayi R
32. Hon. Ziyambi M
33. Hon. Nyamuronda
34. Hon. Mavhunga

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND
HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY**

- 1. Hon. Mamombe. J (Chairperson);**
2. Hon. Chokururama. J

3. Hon. Gwangaba. S
4. Hon. Hamauswa. S
5. Hon. Molokele. D
6. Hon. Moyo. C
7. Hon. Moyo. S
8. Hon. Mugomo. M
9. Hon. Murombedzi. M
10. Hon. Mambipiri. G
11. Hon. Ndlovu. N
12. Hon. Ngwenya. S
13. Hon. Nhari. V
14. Hon. Nkala. D
15. Hon. Nyakuedzwa. A
16. Hon. Sagandira. P
17. Hon. Shongedza. E
18. Hon. Sithole. J
19. Hon. Taedzwa. H. M
20. Hon. Tshuma. S
21. Hon. Zemura. L

22. Hon. Zhou. P
23. Hon. Jonga. W
24. Hon. Butau. D
25. Hon. Tawomhera, T
26. Hon. Sihlabo. V

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

1. Hon. Dr. Khupe T (Chairperson)

2. Hon. Bajila D
3. Hon. Bhila R
4. Hon. Chakukura A
5. Hon. Dumbarimwe T
6. Hon. Hlatyawo C
7. Hon. Kapoikilu S
8. Hon. Karenyi L
9. Hon. Matsunga S
10. Hon. Mahlangu S
11. Hon. Makombe J
12. Hon. Molokele D
13. Hon. Muchemwa W

14. Hon. Mutandi G
15. Hon. Murombedzi
16. Hon. Muwoderi T
17. Hon. Ndudzo P
18. Hon. Nhari V
19. Hon. Nkala D
20. Hon. Nyamupinga B
21. Hon. Ndlovu N
22. Hon. Pinduka T
23. Hon. Shongedza E
24. Hon. Zhou P
25. Hon. Ziyambi S
26. Hon. Zhanda W
27. Hon. Moyo D

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LEGAL AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

- 1. Hon. E. Zvobgo (Chairperson)**
2. Hon. Chikomo T.
3. Hon. Chikombo W.

4. Hon. Gumbo A.
5. Hon. Kangausaru C.
6. Hon. Malinganiso T. D.
7. Hon. Masuku E.
8. Hon. Matambo J.
9. Hon. Matema S.
10. Hon. Matewu C.
11. Hon. Mavhunga M.
12. Hon. Mpasi J.
13. Hon. Mudowo T.
14. Hon. Mureri M.
15. Hon. Dr. Mutodi E.
16. Hon. Mutseyami P.
17. Hon. Ngwenya S.
18. Hon. Nkomo M.
19. Hon. Samkange J.
20. Hon. Shiryedenga E.

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR
AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

1. Hon. Malinganiso Chairperson

2. Hon. D. Bajila,
3. Hon. R. Bhila,
4. Hon. Chihota,
5. Hon. T. Chikomo,
6. Hon. T. Dumbarimwe,
7. Hon. M. Jaravaza,
8. Hon. J. Kuka,
9. Hon. S. Mahlangu,
10. Hon. T. D Malinganiso,
11. Hon. K. Mananzva,
12. Hon. Maseko S.,
13. Hon. E. Masuku,
14. Hon. J. Matambo,
15. Hon. T. Matara,
16. Hon. D. Mavhudzi,
17. Hon. V. Moyo,
18. Hon. R. Mpofu,
19. Hon. A. Mujeyi,

20. Hon. T. Ndou,

21. Hon. L. Sibanda,

22. Hon. J. Sithole,

23. Hon. T. Tawomhera,

24. Hon. L. Zemura,

25. Hon. C. Zevezayi

SECOND READING

CONSTITUTION OF ZIMBABWE AMENDMENT (NO. 3) BILL

[H. B. 1, 2026]

First Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Second Reading of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

Question again proposed.

HON. E. NCUBE: I am Edgar Ncube from Mkoba North Constituency in Gweru. I stand before this august House today to express my full support for the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026. It is with deep humility and a profound sense of duty that I rise to add my voice to this landmark debate on the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026. I do so not merely as a Member of this august House, but as the

voice of the men, women and youth in Mkoba North Constituency whose hopes and futures are shaped by decisions we make within these walls.

This Bill is not a simple legislative amendment. It is a deliberate and forward-looking step, aligning our laws and systems and our governance with the Zimbabwe we have all committed to building by 2030. I intend to target three key aspects that are included in this Bill before this House. A term extension from five to seven years, shifting of voter registration to the Registrar General, and the formation of an electoral college comprising Members of Parliament who will elect the President under a specific scenario.

Clauses 4, 9 and 10, extension of term of office - five years is too short a time in which to conceive, implement and entrench substantial development in our country. You cannot plant a tree on Monday and harvest its shade by Friday. Development, like a tree, requires deep roots, patient standing, and time before it yields shelter for the people. Policy consistency is critical to our national development strategy. How can we attract foreign direct investment when we shift the policy direction of our country every five years?

Investors need stable, enduring, reliable policies before they risk their billions. A nation that is always in an election mode can never govern or develop at the pace that we all seek. A builder who is forced to change architects every five years will never finish a house. He will spend his days drawing new blueprints instead of laying bricks.

I am conscious of the concern about term limits. I must reassure this House that this Bill is not about making it possible for any sitting President to contest beyond their allocated terms. The Bill simply changes the length of a term from five years to seven years. This practice is not new to our continent. Rwanda is currently on a seven-year term for a President. Rwanda has registered one of Africa's fastest GDP growth rates over the past ten years. This shows a longer horizon of planning results in development. It is these developments that we need to implement in our extended planning period, one that is long enough to allow these developments to reach completion.

The empirical data and literature on sub-Saharan Africa consistently show a clear correlation. Higher growth rates, increased foreign direct investment, greater industrialisation, and the link to stable, predictable, consistent government. Extending the office term

allows long-term projects to be completed, whereas short-term policy changes create uncertainty that stalls development and industrial growth. The provision is about the desire for the nation to develop fully. The accountability issue I know may come up but a seven-year term with a maximum of two terms does not eliminate elections in their country. The frequency of these elections is reduced by accountability.

On Clause 2, transfer of voter registration to the Registrar General - let me also address the second issue, that of transferring the voter registration function from ZEC to the Registrar General's office. I know some critics say that this undermines the independence of the election process. I beg to differ from that position. Voter registration inherently is a civil registration function. It determines the identity of a person from birth to death and is an identity question even before it comes to an election question. The Registrar General's Department currently handles the birth and death records of the population and it makes more sense that it will handle the voter registration function for several reasons.

Firstly, this harmonises our system with government-based practice. In countries like South Africa, voter registration falls under the Home Affairs Department. In Namibia, civil registration functions, including voter's roll maintenance are handled by the National Registry. Secondly, as the Minister of Justice correctly indicated in the House, this would create streamlined, automated processes for voter registration and deregistration.

Once an individual reaches the age of 18, the Civil Registry Department will have automated systems in place to alert them that they are eligible to vote and upon the event of death, the Registrar General's Office, in the same automated manner, would have processed the death and removed it from the voter's roll. Such measures will result in a clean, verified and updated voter's roll, which is vital for fair, credible elections. It will minimise the effects and costs involved and will also allow ZEC to focus its expertise where it is most needed in ensuring efficient, impartial conduct of elections.

I go to Clause 3, the Electoral College for Presidential Succession. However, the third aspect, which had the greatest coverage, is the establishment of an Electoral College of 280 MPs and

Senators to elect a President in the event of a vacancy. Some may be quick to say that this is undemocratic, but let us stop and consider the essence of representative democracy. Who are we here in this House? We are the direct representatives of the people. We all attain positions in this House as a result of the people who have given us their mandate in elections that were deemed to be free and fair.

When we are elected on their behalf, we represent the votes that are cast in our respective constituencies. Having an Electoral College comprised of Members of Parliament takes the selection of a leader away from the informal backroom politics of the party caucuses and puts it squarely in full public view. Countries we all admire for their stability, such as our neighbour, the Republic of Botswana, elect their President through an Electoral College formed by their MPs. The Republic of India, the world's most populous democracy, elects its President from a wider Electoral College comprising Members of both Houses of Parliament and State Assemblies across the country.

Constitutional writers across the globe have found this to have an advantage with respect to representative proportional adequacy and reflection of constituents. Germany is a prime example of a system

that resembles that proposal that is before the House today. It is an Electoral College that is formed by the Members of the Federal Assembly comprising MPs from both Houses of Parliament, State Assemblies in various Federal States across the nation and the Members of different State Parliaments in that country. These examples are of functioning, stable and durable parliamentary democracies.

Mauritius is already putting in place such an Electoral College using the examples of Germany, India, Trinidad and Tobago. The argument therefore, that our own proposal is undemocratic is an outdated and ill-informed argument.

In conclusion, a Constitution that cannot be refined is a tool that cannot be sharpened. We do not discard the hoe because its blade needs tending. We sharpen it so that it can serve us better. Our Constitution, by virtue of having been amended numerous times since its promulgation, clearly indicates that the nature of the beast itself can be attended to using the mechanism set in its own provision. To bring forth meaningful and beneficial changes is in no way undermining our Constitution, but rather perfecting its functionality. I

urge this august House to support CAB3 for the benefit of our nation and our future generation. I so submit.

***HON. MUDZINGWA:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker. Let me thank you for according me this opportunity to air my view in connection with the debate, which was brought forward by Hon. Z. Ziyambi to do with the Constitution Amendment (No 3) Bill (CAB3). Madam Speaker, kindly allow me to thank Hon. Z. Ziyambi, who brought forward this magnificent Bill. You fought very well. May God bless you. I would like to promise you, Hon. Minister, that whatever is bound in earth is also bound in heaven.

Let me go on to the section, which deals with the increasing of the term of office for the President from 5 to 7 years. Honestly, this has come at the right time because I actually want this section. I am totally in support of the adjustment or the increase to the 7-year term for the President to serve in office. In addition, 7 years is a good time because it is hard if we continue doing elections every 5 years, but if you are given 7 years, you have enough time to breathe. Madam Speaker, 7 years brings enough tangible development. We will see how the Government operates.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ministers who are here present, you are being asked to go to the Senate. You may proceed, Hon. Mudzingwa.

***HON. MUDZINGWA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me continue from where I left. I was saying 7 years have tangible development. We have places like Trabablas and Muchekeranwa Dam, which were developed in 5 years. What if we adjust it to 7 years? We will see more development. I am totally in support of the Presidential term to be increased by 2 more years. Let the President work. We like him and he works very hard.

Also, let me say, within the 7-year term, we will enjoy peace. We will also witness peace because in all these 5 years, we used to have many challenges. People could hardly greet each other. They could shout at each other because of political differences. If we extend Presidential term to 7 years, we will end up greeting each other.

The other section which I want to speak to is for the President to be elected by the Members of Parliament. Yes, I totally support that. If the President is elected by the general public, I discovered something, we will end up having close to 17 candidates contesting to be

President. Others end those elections without even acquiring one or 20 votes and they insinuate that the elections were rigged. How can you expect someone to rig if you have only 20 votes cast in your name? Clearly, if someone brings in 60 members and you bring 20, automatically the one with 60 is going to win. So, I am totally in support of the President being elected by this august House. We need Senators and Members of Parliament to vote for him.

I also want to speak to the issue to do with the chiefs. During the liberation struggle, we could, first of all, consult those cultural leaders or those chiefs. Those are the people who could give us someone to say this one will lead you all the way. When we got there to fight the wars, even those chiefs were the people who could explain what was needed in that area. They could tell us all the regulations for the area. So, I am simply saying if somebody has assisted you in achieving something, just work together because they were participating in politics back then. Why are we stopping them from participating in politics, yet they started way back? During the liberation struggle, I went through the chiefs' houses and then I was blessed to go. I am

simply saying the chiefs should be allowed to participate in politics because they were there from the beginning.

Moreover, I will speak on to the section to do with gender. Gender is like our aunt. We all know how our auntie in our culture operates, especially us as ladies. Gender teaches us how to survive well. Even in our matrimonial houses, they tell us all the regulations. When I came into the august House, I could not have the confidence to stand right in front of everyone when I was asked to give a speech. Right now, I am strong. As a woman, you must have confidence in yourself. Those were the duties of our Gender Commission. I am totally in support of this. The Gender Commission should continue assisting us as women to tell us what to do and what not to do. It should be a stand-alone commission because they are doing wonders. Madam Speaker Ma'am, I would like to thank you for affording me this opportunity.

***HON. MURERI:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker Ma'am for affording me this opportunity to air my view on this Bill, which is being debated on. I am here representing Masvingo Urban Constituency as well as representing myself. As you were calling my

name, I was reading another message, which I was being asked to say, please do not forget what we told you. I looked into it and then said...

***HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** On a point of order! Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. The Speaker ruled that Hon. Members should not concentrate on their cell phones. I am kindly asking you to caution him so that he does not continue using his cell phone while in Parliament. I thank you.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mureri, can you proceed.

***HON. MURERI:** Thank you Madam Speaker for ruling in justice. Masvingo Urban just assigned me to come forth and tell everyone that they do not support this Bill. I myself do not support this Bill. I then wanted to know why they were not supporting this Bill. They said the issue on the ground was that we should look into the history from where we came from and where we are right now. You discover that for the past 33 years, we have been using the Lancaster Constitution, which we call the ceasefire document. That is the one which was then debated by all political parties, including all

these political parties in 2013. They came out with this current Constitution that we now have. What was giving problems that people were objecting to? People were saying everything should have a jurisdiction.

If you are asked to rule for two years and then you have to end there, you do not have to add more time for yourselves. What it means is, even if you go to the headman's place and ask for a piece of land, you will not extend it by yourself. If you are given four acres, you do not increase them. I then looked into this urban area. If you are allocated a stand, you do not increase it by yourself. That is when you see those local authorities coming with excavators and demolishing those houses. What it simply means is, Madam Speaker, allow me to use Latin language: *nemo plus iuris ad alium transferre potest quam ipse habet* principle. It means nobody can transfer to another, more rights than he himself has. In Shona, *dzvinyu haripe vamwe makushe iro risina*.

If we said in 2020 we were accorded five years, where did we get the power to increase without consulting the general public? I was very embarrassed Madam President. When we went to Tsholotsho

doing those public hearings, somebody stood up and said, “You are not supposed to be here because you are beneficiaries of this system. You are here to ask us to say you want to increase more time for yourselves.”

Honestly speaking, what we are debating here, we are speaking to say we want to increase more years for ourselves. We only have to receive powers from those who gave us powers. Those who gave us powers are the people who voted for us. Those are our employers. They are simply saying, please come back and ask us again if we still need you. We then end up saying, no, we do not have to come there. We want to have some other developmental projects. The next question would be, who then concluded those projects, which were put in place by R. G. Mugabe?

If we look into this august House, Trabablas, Masvingo Road, all these things were in the former President's plans to say he could have finished all those things. It must not target one person. It has to be a governmental project. I think those are not good reasons to tell people as if we are pumping out funds from our own pockets. These are our taxpayer funds. They are asking us to say, let us come back

and ask them to say, should we continue and proceed to conclude these projects or you need someone else to conclude it. On the issue of the President being elected by this Parliament, people from Masvingo urban are disputing that. They are saying that they want to vote for a President that they want. Other Members of Parliament's votes, if you compare them to the President's, are fewer than those garnered by the President. One candidate might say, "We want this President," or "We do not want this, President." I was once told that, Hon. Mureri, 'you are just like a newly married person.

When you initially get to the seat of Member of Parliament, you will have a lot to say. However, when we get into this House, we now have a lot that we want to do for ourselves. Let us just go back to those people who voted for us. Others are saying elections are a waste of resources or cause chaos. That is not the issue. In August 2018, some people were shot in daylight. The Motlanthe Commission then came into this. They said they had other issues, which they said were different issues. The people who caused the deaths of those people, up to now, have not been arrested. On to the issue of SADC in 2023, they

came into this country saying, for our elections to be done well, please follow certain procedures.

The Constitution should not be drafted focusing on one individual. The Constitution should not benefit two or three people. The issue that I want to speak to is the issue with these traditional leaders. I heard people saying these traditional leaders were assisting during the liberation struggle. There is no chief that I heard of who participated in the liberation struggle. The chiefs were being consulted simply because they were taking care of our culture. They used to do the traditional rites on how people should behave during the liberation struggle. We consulted the chiefs, and they said they do not want to be there or to be called war collaborators. They want to continue having their powers and continue doing cultural leadership. There is no way I can expect a chief to come today wearing regalia and tomorrow I will attend his traditional court from the opposition side. Maybe by then we will be from the ruling party; I do not know. What it simply means is that we should respect our chiefs. Let us not take them as political activists. Those are the people who maintain our culture; those are the people who take good care of us.

HON. TOGAREPI: Madam Speaker, I have no problem with the line of debate of the Hon. Member. However, a derogatory statement to the *mujibas* is not acceptable.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May we have order in the House? Hon. Mureri, we all know that these war collaborators are part of those liberators. We should give them respect. If you speak while saying these chiefs are in comparison with those war collaborators, you are saying these collaborators are not that important. Kindly withdraw your statement.

HON. MURERI: Thank you. I withdraw, Madam Speaker. I was saying these chiefs are disputed...

[Hon. Matangira, having stood on a point of order]

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Matangira, you are the one who is coming next, after his debate. We need to debate in the correct manner. Thank you.

HON. MURERI: Thank you Madam Speaker, for protecting me. I would like to say that the section that needs to be amended is 281 of the Constitution. We have other sections which are being left out, like Sections 163 and 165, which speak to the chiefs, which says

they lead those traditional courts, and should not be involved in politics. What it means is that, if we amend one of the sections and then leave another, it will be pointless. What we took to the general public; it was section 281 but other sections were not taken for consultation, so we cannot amend that section. On the issue of where our Constitution came from. We only had all those political parties that came forth and the general public and they agreed to say no one should extend their term because they were avoiding something, which, once happened before. They disputed that these judges should not be appointed. If any President comes with his friends, then he appoints them as judges; what is the reason for the interviews? Why is it that people were disputing? People were saying these chiefs should not be involved in political issues because something must have happened before, which people were actually trying to avoid. In this Constitution, we do not want to say that if we have 13 years, then we go and amend it. What I am interested in is that we had those people who had vast knowledge in law, whom I agree to say His Excellency was once a Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. He is a constitutionalist and he does not want confusion within this

Constitution. Those were some of the leaders who were looking into the law and then they agreed to say we were there and we were making this law. We do not want any confusion there.

Those are some of the laws that we are sitting here trying to adjust. I looked into it and discovered that we have 22 clauses. It means we are now making another constitution by ourselves here without consulting the general public. Nothing prevents us if we want to amend the Constitution, but let us go back to the citizens who own this Constitution. They will then speak in the referendum.

Even if you want to consider this matter, feedback from Masvingo urban highlights concerns of public hearings. They failed to attend those consultations in Chidzikwe. It is a hard-to-reach area. Those are some of the things that are being said by the public to say we were not accorded the opportunity to debate this. Why not reinstate the referendum so we can vote yes or no? It could have been easier for us. Even during our discussions here, it would have been straightforward to tally the votes, counting the "ayes" and "noes." We then faced all these challenges. Specifically, myself as I am speaking alone, it could have been better tackled by people from Masvingo

urban, speaking and disputing to say they are saying no, these are saying yes. That is the issue Madam Speaker.

If you are asked to hold on to something, it does not mean you own it. We are not the cream of the nation to say that other people should not give their input. If you leave us doing this, we cannot develop the nation. We have other people who were there in 1980 and they are no longer here. We came in 2023; we should have our own time to go.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for this opportunity. I also want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to give the submissions that I took from Masvingo urban.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker Ma'am. I represent citizens from Bindura South and Bindura, who then gave me the mandate and opportunity to come and speak on their behalf as Parliament went there for consultations. All of them in Bindura South at large are in support of this CAB 3 in its entirety. Then the numbers in Mashonaland Central, all of it, they say CAB 3 is a yes.

I am not surprised that in this august House we have Hon. Members speaking different views, yet they are all from the left. Opposition is not only a thing in politics. It started in heaven. God Almighty reigning with His angels, sweet and nice. One angel called Lucifer wanted to be God and God did not deny him the right to do so but; he said I cannot have opposition in heaven, so you go down to earth and that was democracy. So, opposition has a right to be there. In Parliament, we need different opinions as we debate and the day will go with the winners. The angel's name was Lucifer. Today, we call it Satan.

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: Point of order Madam Speaker. What the Hon. Member is saying is not only blasphemous; it is also very dangerous. You know, to frame the opposition as Satan is extremely dangerous. This is part of the problem that we have in this country. I think he needs to withdraw; he must speak to the debate on the floor.

HON. KAITANO: He is narrating a story that is true. Let him narrate it. – [AN HON. MEMBER: *Inyaya yekudenga haisi yepano panyika, hauna kunangwa iwe.*]-

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

Hon. Matangira, debate the Bill. Stick to the Bill. I think he was saying that even in Heaven, there is opposition.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: On a point of clarity Madam Speaker.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What we want is for people to debate fluently. I also have to protect Hon. Matangira. We need the debate to flow very well. I actually stopped Hon. Matangira when he was disturbing.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** Madam Speaker, I will simply say there is Pharaoh and Moses. I will not say much - [HON.

MEMBERS: *Inaudible Interjections.*]-

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Matangira, kindly debate so that everything flows very well. I do not want you to be disturbed when you are debating. If you speak in idioms, then people will start to make noise. Please kindly stick to this Bill and all the facts. Thank you.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** The issue that I wanted to speak to initially, which also shocked me, is the issue of the chiefs and

traditional leaders. These traditional leaders fought for this land. We are speaking about male chiefs and female chiefs. *Sekuru* Lobengula fought the war as he came from the northern side.

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

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Matangira has not said anything wrong.

+HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE: A King like Lobengula cannot be called a grandfather. He is a Chief under the Ndebele culture. -

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

+HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE: On a point of order Madam Speaker. There are people in Matabeleland North who are listening to our chief...

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Molokela, please take your seat...

HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE: There are people in Matabeleland North who are listening to our chief...

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Molokela, please take your seat. Hon. Matangira, take your seat. Hon. Molokela, do not do it again. If you do it, I am going to chase you out.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Chief Lobengula, Chief Chingaira, Chief Mashonganyika and Chief Svosve, those were the first chiefs who fought against these first colonisers. They were fighting for this land up until Ambuya Nehanda said, ‘you have killed me but my bones shall rise’. The bones rose and then the war came. Then we take some of the information that was said by Hon. Molokela. He said, Inkosi Lobengula, Chief Chingaira and Chief Mapondera are now being called chiefs and we agree. That is when we lost it.

During the Liberation Struggle, the chiefs and village heads, including parents, fought in the war in the sense that they gave support to the guerrillas and they became the water and the fighters were fish. Now, who do you give praise to, the pond or the fish because the pond can exist without the fish but the fish cannot exist without the pond. Who do you actually give praise to? Do you praise

the chiefs or do you praise the whites? You should give praise to those people who accommodated all those people.

Let us go on to the *Bible*. Jesus came here on earth and performed so many miracles and they said glory be to God. Today, you want to tell us that we selected the leader who was elected by the chiefs. His Excellency, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, is the one who is there. Even the chiefs voted for him. We were there and the chiefs were there. Then you say they should not be included in politics. That is politics. What is the definition of politics? Maybe if we ask the people from this side, they must have read it from books written by Mao tse Tung, Karl Marx and the like but if you ask Hon. Members from the left. They may say it is communism. The people do not believe in God, yet in Africa, we had a God Look at the differences we have, this House is similar to those people who wanted to go and get the moon and could not communicate and God caused confusion among them and they perished Let us all unite. The seven-year terms are not said to be only for ZANU-PF, no. Even other parties *nda, nde, ndi, ndo and ndu* will also enjoy the seven-years term if they are also

elected in this Parliament. They will sit in Parliament for seven years for two terms.

Even if Satan says the right hand is now the left hand, even if any political party comes in, they will then stay for seven years again. Even those Members of Parliament, councillors and political parties will also enjoy the seven-years term. Why should they differ? Where are we getting it wrong?

I heard people say that some councillors and churches refused the Bill. I am also a Christian but let us not forget what happened to us when colonisers came holding a *Bible* and under the *Bible* was a gun That is when we were given this indoctrination of pacification, whereby those from the West were now mining in this country and we as blacks were busy looking for money in the *Bible*.

His Excellency is saying, leaving no one and no place behind. So, the extension of time by two years is good because it makes sure that all projects are completed. Seven years is a good time for us to have development in our wards, constituencies and the country at

large. So, the extension of time to seven years is what the people chose.

Madam Speaker, let me tell you a story that I read about what happened in another country, not here in Zimbabwe. There was a Member of Parliament in that country. He started to build a hospital. It was at window level. After a short time, elections came, then somebody else was elected. The majority said, let us continue with this hospital but the Member of Parliament said, I cannot continue from where that person left off; I want to start my own. After five years, they went for other elections. Someone else was elected. Then they said, select one of these two hospitals to finish? Then he said, no, I cannot and he started building his own hospital.

So, do we say there is development in that constituency? I suggest that seven years is ample time to complete all projects that would have been started? The whole of Bindura is supporting CAB 3, just like what was said by other Hon. Members in this august House. We are in support of CAB 3, except for the Gender Commission. We want Gender Commission to remain where it was because gender does not mean women only. Gender is for women and men. Many

men are beaten by their wives and this requires the Gender Commission to right the wrongs, not only with women.

Our President should be elected in this august House because Members of Parliament represent all people of Zimbabwe from their constituencies. That is democracy. If 537 000 said yes we are in support of CAB 3 and only 28 Hon. Members in the House said no, Madam Speaker could we say it would be democratic to accept 28 Members of Parliament who are against the 537 000 majority who supported CAB3 Madam Speaker, when was democracy discovered because at the time of colonialism in Africa the African people were treated as dirty? Which year because when these whites came into Africa, they treated the black people as dogs. If we go to America, others say America is on top in terms of democracy. No, there is no democracy in America. That is where convicts were being taken to; that is where Red Indians were put into conservations but America is now number one.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Matangira, your time is almost up. You are left with five minutes.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. You must add three more minutes. I am actually asking for myself. Please add three more minutes to the five minutes.

Madam Speaker, we have differences of democracy. Democracy in China is not democracy in India. Democracy for America is not democracy for Russia. Zimbabwean democracy belongs to Zimbabweans. Why do you want to entertain Western democracy as the democracy that we must follow when they were our colonisers.? You will be brainwashed, yet we are black people as we are. Some Hon. Members from the left are not supporting CAB 3 simply because of the brainwashing that would take an Hon. Member to go and ask for sanctions against himself and the people he represents and still wants to rule the country. We say no.

Madam Speaker, I am only saying in this august House, let us avoid saying ruling party or opposition party. People from rural areas are saying that they only know their representatives. In my constituency, I represent all and speak to it. His Excellency Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa is the President of Zimbabwe. Mr. Chamisa is also under

the President, His Excellency Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, under his MP and the councillor in his constituency.

Then we go on to the last issue, democracy for all - about 537000 people were in favour of CAB 3. Then we have been accorded an opportunity here. Please come forth. Let us now say yes or no in this august House, to say you want us to go for a referendum even tomorrow. Let us do it right in this House, in this august House. Let us do it. If you want, let us do the referendum in here because you said you want a referendum. Let us do it tomorrow here. Am I still in the range of my time?

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are left with two minutes.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker. Development comes from us. Not everyone who calls upon God will go to heaven. So, we are here and we are saying we want development. Are you serious? If you think you want it, let us come and weigh each other to do those checks and balances to ensure that we do not say the election is nullified. The extension of the cycle with two more years means that both sides of the House have not been able

to complete projects for the last five years. Why should we not accept such an opportunity to go back and complete the projects. So, we are now being given the opportunity. Even those people from the rural areas, they should actually hear this. So, in retrospect, we want to say those people from the rural areas, let them look up to their Members of Parliament and councillors for their own benefits. That is what His Excellency is looking for and then we simply dispute to say we do not want an extension. If you disagree with the extension of the cycle, come 2028, you must not come back here. Stay at your respective homesteads because you are doing nothing.

If you are speaking about chiefs, if you are a Member of Parliament from Chitungwiza, do you have a chief in Chitungwiza? In Masvingo urban, you speak about the chiefs. What is the name of the chief in Masvingo urban? Thank you Madam Speaker.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** On a point of order Hon. Speaker! If we are debating, let us not discriminate others or look down upon others like what the Hon. Member has said. The MP for Chitungwiza comes from a rural area where there is a chief. So, when he is

debating, he is not only representing Chitungwiza only, but he also comes from a rural area. So, the speaker must withdraw.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think when the MP for Chitungwiza is debating, he should spell out why he wants chiefs to engage in politics. I think if we follow that, we can proceed very well.

***HON. MUWODZERI:** Point of privilege Madam Speaker! I want to applaud you, today you are chairing very well. If we were supposed to give you a trophy, I would have given you. Thank you very much.

***HON. JARAVAZA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Firstly, let me thank you for giving me this opportunity to air my views on CAB3. Madam Speaker, I thank you for your good leadership. You should maintain that. We are really proud of you. We feel safe.

I want to thank the President of this country, His Excellency, Dr. Emmerson Mnangagwa, for the good works that he is doing in this country. Our President is like honey. Our country is proud because of his leadership.

I want to thank our Minister of Justice, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi, for this good Bill, which he brought into this Parliament. I support

this Bill resoundingly, especially when it is talking about the powers of Parliament, that it should have powers to select the President in this House.

Madam Speaker, because of the projects that have been done by the Government through the leadership of President Mnangagwa, I support that the cycle should be extended by two years. This gives the chance for the President, the MPs and councilors, more time to complete projects. When it comes to elections, a lot of money is used and this drains the fiscus. That is why I support the extension by two years so that people get enough time to work.

I support this Bill because of the powers that they are giving to the Registrar's office that they should oversee the registration of voters. I find it good because they are the ones who register the births, the deaths of people and they are the ones who remove people from the system.

I supported this Bill and all those who were not in support of it ended up supporting it because it is good for everyone.

Madam Speaker, I saw our ancestors, Mbuya Nehanda and Sekuru Kaguvi smiling when the Minister tabled the Bill. I thank the

Government for their vision because in this Parliament, most of us are saying this Bill is good. Even those on the opposition side, some of them are saying the Bill is good. So, I am very happy because of their insight as this Bill is for everyone. It is for the country.

I support CAB3 because it is allowing the chiefs to be involved in politics. I am happy with the reasoning that they should be involved in politics. We should give it a try. Many people were against this Bill before it was read explained properly but when the Minister explained it, I saw everyone saying that Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill is good.

Madam Speaker, blessed are those who support Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill. Their future is good. Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill has been accepted by the heavens. Even the Apostolic Faith and all those of different beliefs are saying the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill is good. Where I come from in the Midlands, the Zvishavane-Ngezi Constituency has sent me to represent them. They have agreed that the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill is good and we support it. Madam Speaker, I do not want

to waste your time. In Shona, we say that many words do not bring anything good. Thank you.

HON. S. DUBE: Madam Speaker, allow me to begin by commending the Joint Portfolio Committee for conducting extensive public consultations and presenting a comprehensive report on the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi for bringing this important Bill before the House.

As a young woman serving in this Parliament, I rise to support both the report and the Bill because I view these proposed reforms not merely through the lens of today's politics but through the eyes of future generations who will inherit the institutions we build today. The Committee's findings demonstrate that a significant majority of Zimbabweans who participated in the consultation process supported the Bill, reflecting a national desire for stronger, more efficient and development-oriented governance structures.

Madam Speaker, one aspect that particularly resonates with me is the proposal to transfer voter registration and the maintenance of the voters' roll to the Registrar General's Office. My generation is growing up in a world driven by data, technology and integrated information systems. We therefore appreciate the importance of having accurate, centralised and continuously updated records. The Registrar General's Office already manages births, deaths and national identity records, making that institution best positioned to maintain an accurate voters' roll. This is not merely an administrative reform; it is a modernised reform. It lays the foundation for a more reliable and efficient electoral management system, while allowing the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to focus on its core mandate of conducting elections and voter education.

I also support the proposal of the President to be elected by Parliament and the extension of the electoral cycle from five years to seven years. As young people, we often speak about investment, innovation, entrepreneurship and economic transformation. However, these aspirations flourish only where there is policy certainty and institutional stability. Investors, entrepreneurs and development

partners make long-term decisions based on predictable Government environments.

The Committee correctly observed that the majority of developmental projects require longer implementation periods and that longer electoral cycles provide greater continuity for national programmes. In many respects, the greatest gift one generation can give the next is not money or infrastructure but stability. Stability allows roads to be completed, industries to grow, jobs to be created and opportunities to emerge for young people.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, I wish to submit that constitutions are not merely legal documents, but they are bridges between generations. They represent promises made by one generation to another. The responsibility before us is therefore not mainly to govern for today but to build institutions that will remain effective long after we have left this House. The true measure of leadership is not how loudly we speak about the future but how deliberately we prepare for it. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support the report of the Joint Portfolio Committees and the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3), Bill 2026.

HON. CHITANDO: I arise to support CAB 3. I arise as a representative of the people of Gutu Central who are fully supportive of CAB 3. A number of my colleagues, Hon. Members of Parliament, have raised a number of reasons in support of these amendments. I will not go into much detail, suffice to say, Madam Speaker, fundamentally a Constitution is a living document that when and as there is need, it ought to be amended. I will not repeat the various examples, which were given by fellow Hon. Members of Parliament on the number of countries, which have amended their constitutions, and the number of times they have amended as that has been outlined over the last few days. So as Zimbabwe, we are amending our Constitution to suit our needs.

Madam Speaker, the whole essence of CAB 3, among other things, is to provide and improve the framework for the development of our country, and to provide for a longer duration for policy framework, which is provided through the extension of terms for both the President and Parliament. I will once again not repeat the countries, which have been referred to by Hon. Members over the

last few days were a number of countries, which also elect the President through Parliament or through electoral colleges.

This amendment is thus consistent with what is happening in a number of countries as it will enable a smoother election process through the representatives of the people being the Hon. Members of Parliament. The basis of a Member of Parliament to debate is rooted in the mandate, which is given to represent their constituencies.

Madam Speaker, the increase in the number of Senators will enable the President to identify selected skills and personalities to augment the development agenda. The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Legal Committee gave statistics with respect to the representations made from members of the public. The input from public consultations, augmented by those statistics, clearly indicates that those who participated in the consultations are fully supportive of the amendments as provided for in CAB 3. I therefore, wind up by saying I am fully supportive of CAB 3. I thank you.

***HON. BUKA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me start by thanking the people from Gokwe-Nembudziya for participating in

their numbers to contribute their views and make submissions on the importance of CAB 3. In Gokwe-Nembudziya, chiefs, people from different churches, youths and many different parties attended the CAB 3 consultations. The people who made their submissions peacefully during the public hearings are the ones who gave me the power to come here and support the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill. I support it fully.

Before getting into the debate, let me first thank our Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Z. Ziyambi. I want to thank you for the way you crafted and presented Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. You have exhibited your professionalism, importance and vision on the way forward in developing the Zimbabwean nation so that future generations will appreciate the good laws we will have passed and they will benefit from the results.

Furthermore, I support the parliamentary system of electing the President. I will talk about one of our neighbours because most of them have been mentioned before: Botswana. When it comes to elections, we use the same system which is known as first-past-the-post. Then, after that, the 61 Members of Parliament meet and elect

the President. There is nothing wrong for us as Zimbabweans to also adopt what Botswana is doing because *njere moto dzinotokokwa*.

During our Constitution-making in 2013, they used to do benchmarking in Kenya and South Africa, and they were copying the good those countries were doing, which is called international best practices.

If we see that Botswana is leading in Africa, there is peace and they do their Presidential elections without any violence, and their elections are not contested. I think, as Zimbabwe, we can also copy that in advancing our nation. What makes it possible for the National Assembly and Senate to elect the President is that the composition of Parliament is inclusive of the youths, the elderly, chiefs, women and men, different people from various churches as well as from the business community.

I do not see our Parliament, with this composition, able to elect the President for the people of Zimbabwe. This is a good system because it reduces a lot of expenditure when holding Presidential elections. I have seen a lot that happens during presidential elections. Some candidates would just come to contest as independent

candidates and then bloat our ballot paper with people who do not even have a constituency. This is abuse of taxpayers' money and the country's resources that must be channelled towards road rehabilitation and the provision of potable water by drilling boreholes in every village. We want people who are serious about presidential elections, who do not waste the country's resources and who have people's support to contest the presidential elections so that there is no waste of resources.

I also want to support the extension of the term, the presidential term from five to seven years. The development that we are witnessing in Zimbabwe is so impressive. Roads are being constructed and rural areas are developing. I come from Gokwe which used to be looked down upon before this new President but since he came into power, there is a lot of development. We now have Starlink in abundance in our Gokwe area. We have a lot of solar-powered gardens, electricity and even tarred roads. We want this development to continue. I think that vision should go on until 2030.

If we get to 2030, development must not stop. Even those who follow will also have the seven-year term. When we go for elections,

there is a lot that goes on, which includes fighting and hatred because everyone wants the post but if we give ourselves time, we can get to the next elections with one vision. In the previous elections, we have seen that if people do not win, they take their frustrations and go out of the country, inviting foreigners to come and meddle in our business as a country, forgetting that we are a sovereign country. They will spread lies, wasting time on our development. I am saying we should extend the years and people should be given time to relax. This gives us time to develop and move forward as a country.

I also support that the voters' roll should be taken to the Registrar-General's Office. When this voters' roll was removed and taken to ZEC it was because of complaints from other people who thought that there was rigging and a certain political party was being favoured, this should not mislead us as a nation. The Registrar-General is the custodian of our birth and death certificates. So, they are knowledgeable and have the capacity to run the country well when it comes to voting. I think that this is good because this will remove a lot of work for ZEC. Overseeing the elections gives a lot of pressure and ZEC should only focus on its mandate.

I also support that delimitation should have its own commission which will focus on that only. So, I support that the voters' roll should be taken back to the Registrar-General and then we come up with a competent delimitation committee which is well resourced. In addition, I support the recommendation that the President should appoint 10 more Senators so that he gets a chance of appointing professionals, engineers and lawyers that are needed. This will give him a wide choice of people who will work in those capacities.

Furthermore, the President would see that a few women have been elected into the Senate and this gives him the chance to appoint more. The President will also get a chance to appoint academic people so that they come in with professionalism and bring their expertise in politics for the good of our country.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, I am a woman from Gokwe. I came into this Parliament representing the people of Gokwe Nembudziya and other women in general. When the Gender Commission was put in place, women and elders worked together for us to get independence as a country, from colonialism. The women were lagging behind. When it comes to gender equality, there was a

need for a Gender Commission to be in place to cater for that. So, this Commission was put in place so that women get into decision-making positions, address the question of GBV and child marriages.

As we are talking Madam Speaker, all these things are not yet in place. So, I do not see why we should abolish the Gender Commission because it has not finished what it is supposed to do. I am thankful that we have a listening President who knows that there should be gender equality in our Constitution. Our President has done a good thing. This time there are many women who are in power: the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the Prosecutor General, Ministers and Defence. So, with the work that the President is doing, he needs some help from a commission. As a country, we have many treaties that we signed: the Convention on the Elimination and Discrimination against Women, the Southern Protocols on Gender and the Maputo Protocols. All these conventions, they give us pride as a nation.

If we go to the UN, some women look at gender equality. If we come to the African Union, there is also a department, which is looking at gender equality between women and men. If we go to

COMESA and ECOWAS, it is the same thing. Madam Speaker, we are pleading as Zimbabwean women who participated in the liberation of Zimbabwe that the Gender Commission should remain in place so that it does the work that it is supposed to do. With these few words, I thank you.

HON. CHIKOMBO: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I will preface by indicating that the Constitution is the soul of a nation. It is not an ordinary statute to be added for political convenience and expedience. It is the sacred mirror of our collective identity, the keeper of our national ideals, the voice of our aspirations and the supreme covenant that binds the people while restraining those in structures with power.

I rise to reject the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026 and I reject it lock, stock and barrel. I do not rise to amend it. I do not rise to make it acceptable. I rise to say clearly and without an apology that this Bill must just fall. Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of Government Business came to this House. He told us what this Bill does not do. Allow me to ride on the same approach. Allow me too to tell this House what this Bill does not do and then tell the nation what it actually does.

Firstly, this Bill does not eliminate election toxicity. You cannot dig a hole, jump in it and blame gravity. Zimbabwe's election toxicity has never been caused by mere frequency of elections. It has been caused by the abuse of State institutions and unequal access to the media. Violence, intimidation, delayed reforms, disputed voters' roll and partisan administration. The situation has been exacerbated by the threat against opponents who have been treated as not legitimate citizens of this country.

HON. TOGAREPI: On a point of order! Madam Speaker, we are debating here. By referring to State institutions that are not here, the Hon. Member is accusing people in unknown institutions. Let him tell us which institutions.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Chikombo, do not mislead this House and the nation. Debate the Bill.

HON. CHIKOMBO: Thank you Madam Speaker. Toxicity, violence and genocidal acts took place during the period of the 1980s when Presidents were not directly elected. You do not cure a poisoned well by reducing the number of times people come to drink from it. That is a delusional relief. You would rather cure it by removing the

poison. Where is the poison located? History has answered that question again and again.

Let me tell you the history of this country as far as electoral issues are concerned. In 2002, Hon. Dr. Kaire Mbuende, the then head of Namibian Observer Mission to the Zimbabwe presidential election, became part of the contested African Observer Record around that election. The deeper truth was later confirmed by Justice Sisi Khampepe and Justice Dikgang Moseneke, two respected South African juries sent by President Thabo Mbeki as a judicial observer mission. They concluded that 2002 could not be considered free and fair and credible.

Let me also remind the House that in the same year, the then Secretary General of the African National Congress, Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe and Professor Adebayo Adedeji from the United Nations were sent to Zimbabwe to observe the situation in their report...

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Chikombo, please debate the Bill. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]- It is like now you are debating an election report or whatever. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

HON. CHIKOMBO: Hon. Speaker, I will continue guided by your wisdom. In 2005, Professor Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, the United Nations Special Envoy for Human Resettlement in Zimbabwe, was sent by the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. She came to assess Operation *Murambatsvina* and other human rights-associated issues. Her report spoke of action carried out in an indiscriminate and unjustified manner with indifference to human suffering.

In 2008, after the election, President Mbeki, then President of South Africa, sat as the head to mediate the Global Political Agreement because Zimbabwe's election would become a regional crisis. In 2018, His Excellency, President Kgalema Petrus Motlanthe, former President of South Africa, the Chairperson of the Commission of Enquiry into post-election violence, had to confront the painful truth that citizens had been shot in the streets after an election.

In 2023, His Excellency, Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba, former President of Zambia, Head of SADC Electoral Observer Mission, again told Zimbabwe that aspects of our election fall short of the Constitution, the Electoral Act and SADC democratic principles. His

mission spoke of access to the voters' roll, impartial State-owned media and transparency in voter materials and inclusivity in the electoral process.

Hon. Speaker, from Mbuende to Khampepe, Khampepe to Moseneke, Moseneke to Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Tibaijuka to Thabo Mbeki, Motlanthe to Nevers Sekwila Mumba, Zimbabwe has been handed the same message again and again. What is this consistent message? The message has always been to say, reform the State, level the electoral field, respect the citizens and stop treating every election as a war against opposition. -[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

Let us not insult the people by pretending that a seven-year term will remove toxicity. Toxicity is not removed by extending power. Toxicity is removed by reforming power...

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): On a point of order! Madam Speaker, I just want it for the record that the Hon. Member corrects that in 2018, it was post-election violence where a particular party, having lost the presidential election, refused to accept

the result. That is a defect on the ground. It had nothing to do with any election. They had lost an election. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Chikombo, do not continue to mislead the nation in this House. Debate the Bill and do not mislead this House.

HON. CHIKOMBO: Hon. Speaker, from the beginning I have been guided by your wisdom. Secondly, the Bill does not implement electoral reform. It reverses electoral reform. How? I will explain. Instead of strengthening the independence of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), it strips ZEC of co-electoral functions by moving voter registration and voters' roll management to the Registrar-General, while also taking delimitation away from ZEC and placing it under a body. That is not a reform. The voters' roll is the heart of any election. Delimitation determines the weight and value of every vote.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Point of order Madam Speaker! - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]- Thank you Madam Speaker. The Hon. Member must state facts as they are. Madam Speaker, you were in the last Parliament and the issue of the voters' roll, for us to

include it, came from the opposition. If he has had a change of heart, he must first of all acknowledge that it is they who indicated that they want the voters' roll to go back to the Registrar-General. Evidence is there in the *Hansard*. So, the Hon. Member must own up to what they suggested to us. I submit.

HON. CHIKOMBO: Thank you so much Hon. Speaker. As usual, I will stand guided by your wisdom. If those functions are removed from an independent electoral commission and placed closer to Executive control structures, then the election is compromised before the first ballot is cast. Zimbabwe has walked this road before. We cannot return to the era where the voters' roll was associated with the Registrar-General's office under Tobaiwa Mudede. We do not want another Mudedeistic moment of electoral gymnastics. We want an independent electoral system that the people of Zimbabwe can trust.

Thirdly, this Bill does not entrench universal suffrage. Universal suffrage means the people must directly choose those who govern them. This Bill does the opposite. It takes away the citizens' direct right to elect a President and hands that power to Parliament. A

President must seek a mandate from the people, not from political elites. Once the Head of State is chosen indirectly, the ordinary voter is pushed to the margins of democracy. The vendor in Muthuwapethu to Beitbridge, the teacher in Musimbakwa in Kariba, the nurse in Glen Norah Rutsanana Clinic, the student in Bidhiri in Buhera, the miner in Bondamakara Mutoko, and the unemployed graduate in Filabusi all deserve to vote directly for the President of this republic. I speak here as a son of a poor peasant farmer in Buhera, and I speak here as a legislator representing Glen Norah. I also speak here as a lawyer. As a lawyer, I strongly believe that no amount of political chemotherapy can cure this political cancer without resorting to serious reforms.

Fourth, this Bill does not heal the nation. How can it heal the nation when it weakens institutions meant to protect memory, justice, gender equality and reconciliation? A country with our history should be strengthening peace and reconciliation, not folding such functions into broader institutions as if wounds have disappeared. Zimbabwe has not healed from the past violence. Zimbabwe has not healed from electoral trauma. Zimbabwe has not healed from Gukurahundi,

Murambatsvina 2008, 1st August, or the endless criminalisation of dissent. A nation that has not healed...

HON. TOGAREPI: Madam Speaker. I want to beg that the Hon. Member must not mislead the House. The Peace and Reconciliation Commission was abolished by the operation of the law. It is not this amendment that is removing it. He must not mislead the House.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told you Hon. Member, before that you must not continue misleading the House.

HON. CHIKOMBO: Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand guided by your wisdom. I am much indebted. Let me say what this Bill actually does. It extends political tenure from 5 years to 7 years. It removes direct presidential elections. If you allow this to happen, you will be serving a divorced purpose against democracy. It transfers power away from citizens and towards political elites.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are left with 5 minutes Hon. Member.

HON. CHIKOMBO: Thank you. I am guided by your wisdom. It centralises power. Zimbabwe is a democracy and not a bureaucracy. It weakens independent constitutional safeguards. It tells the people that their vote is dangerous, but the comfort of incumbents is sacred. This is not a reform Bill. It is a plutocracy entrenchment. It is not a stability Bill. It is not a development Bill. It is a power retention Bill. In summation, Zimbabwe does not need fewer elections. Zimbabwe needs better elections. Zimbabwe does not need a constitutional bend around individuals. Zimbabwe needs leaders who vote before the constitution. Leaders must be able to supplicate before institutions and the constitution. This proposal will take Zimbabwe nowhere because the indirect election of a president is not something a nation wakes up and imposes overnight. Where it exists, as in South Africa, it is clearly constitutionalised, politically understood, and validated by the people through an in-service electoral system.

I will conclude by saying we have more time when you go clause by clause. Where we will be able to dissect Clauses 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, and Section 328, especially sub-section 1 on the destination clause on term limits. I submit Hon. Speaker.

HON. MAKUMIRE: Madam Speaker, my point of privilege is that you were presiding over the House fairly. I request that if the Minister is eager to respond, he must wait until the debate is finished and then respond. If we say the Minister is responding to every point from the opposition, it does not sit well. Also, the Government Chief Whip debated yesterday. If he is eager to debate, he can convene people at Maungwa and debate with his people there. I thank you.

Madam Speaker.

HON. MALINGANISO: Thank you Mr. Speaker, for granting me latitude to air my views on the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment Bill (No. 3). Let me begin by stating that our actions or inactions as a House are guided by the prescriptions of the law, chief of which is the Constitution of Zimbabwe. Hence, we progress not on sentiment but by way of applying our minds to these prescriptions and not our hearts. The Book of Jeremiah reminds us that ‘the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately corrupt’. Our corrupted hearts must not prescribe a referendum where the Constitution does not. Our deceitful hearts must not promote redundancy where progress demands streamlining. Our hearts must not hold on to things

that have not worked, where reason demands hankering after the old and planning anew. I want to align myself with the mind and not the heart because emotions are inherently subjective and none of us can dress them in an objective guise with the exactness of a Jewish prophet. It is always difficult to tell whether the correct emotion is in the right Sunday apparel. I rise in support of the Bill, having traversed parts of Mashonaland West and the Midlands Provinces, gathering views and having carefully considered the report of the Joint Portfolio Committees and the views expressed by citizens during public consultations.

In approaching Constitutional Amendments of this nature, we must remind ourselves that constitutions are not ordinary pieces of legislation enacted to address temporary political concerns. They are thriving and enduring instruments that define the relationship between the State and its citizens, distribute public power and establish the framework within which future generations may be governed. I say maybe in recognition that those who will come after us also possess wisdom, may be better than us. It is therefore a practice and futility to

say that because this Constitution was conjured in 2013 by people, we consider great minds, it should remain static.

Consequently, Constitutional Amendments must be assessed not based on immediate political merit or demerit, but on whether they advance constitutionalism, democratic accountability, national unity and effective governance. It is my considered view that the Bill before us is in that spirit. Mr. Speaker, the first issue I wish to address is the proposal for the election of the President by Parliament. Much of the debate surrounding this proposal is focused on the mechanics of the election.

However, the real constitutional question is far deeper. It is a question about the source of democratic legitimacy and the manner in which political power should be exercised and controlled within a constitutional democracy. Modern constitutional systems recognise that democratic legitimacy may arise through different constitutional arrangements. Some democracies elect their Heads of State directly through popular vote, whilst others elect them through representative institutions. Neither model is inherently more democratic than the other. What ultimately matters is whether those entrusted with power

remain accountable to the people and subject to constitutional restraint.

Parliament is not an abstract institution. It is the embodiment of the sovereign will of the people. Every Member here seated in this Chamber derives authority directly from citizens who entrusted us with the responsibility of governing on their behalf. Therefore, a President elected by Parliament remains a President elected by the people through their elected representatives. In that regard, Hon. Mutodi was right, the legal principle is *qui facit per alium facit per se*. He who acts through the hand of another has done it himself.

Mr. Speaker Sir, one of the greatest challenges confronting many developing democracies is the tendency for presidential elections to become winner-takes-all contests that leave societies deeply polarised long after ballots have been counted. Once political competition becomes a struggle for absolute control of State power, elections cease to be contests of ideas and increasingly become contests of conquest and survival. The result is often prolonged political tension, disrupted legitimacy, disputed legitimacy and national division.

A parliamentary model offers an alternative constitutional logic. Rather than concentrating political legitimacy in a single electoral event, it encourages consensus building, compromise and continuous accountability. Walter Bagehot, a constitutional scholar, argued persuasively that the strength of parliamentary systems lay in the fusion of authority and accountability. The institution that confers power is the same institution that continuously scrutinises its exercise. In such a framework, executive authority remains closely linked to democratic oversight. Comparative constitutional experience supports this proposition. The South African example has since been overemphasised.

May I add that researchers have painted South Africa as one of the most violent nations globally, yet the same country is not known for political violence. Is it not common cause, therefore, that the parliamentary system cures political polarisation? Germany elects its Chancellor through the Bundestag. These countries remain vibrant democracies because democratic legitimacy is not measured solely by the method of election, but by the accountability mechanisms that accompany the exercise of power.

There is a further dimension that deserves careful consideration. Sustainable national development flourishes where political stability exists and struggles where politics become a perpetual cycle of hostility and division. The extraordinary transformation of China from widespread poverty to becoming one of the world's leading economies was undergirded by policy consistency, political stability and the ability to pursue long-term development objectives without being trapped in endless political contestation.

While Zimbabwe's constitutional democracy fundamentally diverged from China's political system, there is an important lesson that transcends ideology. Nations develop faster when political energy is directed towards nation building rather than perpetual political conflict. I am not suggesting that Zimbabwe should replicate China's political model. Our Constitution firmly commits us to democracy, constitutional governance and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.

However, we would not be wise to ignore the obvious lesson that excessive political polarisation consumes national energy that ought to be directed towards industrialisation, infrastructure

development, economic growth and job creation. Constitutional arrangements should therefore encourage cooperation rather than confrontation and consensus rather than perpetual division. Mr. Speaker Sir, some have argued that democratic legitimacy can only arise through direct presidential elections. Respectively, that argument oversimplifies constitutional democracy. If democratic legitimacy depended solely on direct elections, then no parliamentary democrats could legitimately claim to be democratic. Yet many of the world's most stable and leading democracies elect their leaders through representative institutions.

It is common cause that our candidate won the popular vote, but it was George Bush who became the President, courtesy of the Electoral College. The same happened in the United States of America in 2016 when Hillary Clinton won the popular vote and lost the Electoral College to President Trump. Is it therefore correct to say America is not a democracy? Definitely no. Democracy is not merely the act of voting every five years. Democracy is the continuous accountability of those who exercise public power.

A President elected by Parliament remains accountable to the State and its institutions. The true measure of democracy is therefore not the method of election alone, but whether power remains transparent, accountable and constitutionally constrained. A Parliament that has the right to impeach a President should exercise the right to elect one.

Mr. Speaker Sir, about the proposed amendment of the election cycle from five to seven years. In Shona, let me say, *ndikabata rekeni ndikaidhonza ikatatamuka hadzibve dzaita mbiri*. It has been ably demonstrated by the majority of speakers who spoke before me that a longer cycle would provide greater policy continuity and stability even in the face of deep political polarisation. Large-scale economic reforms, infrastructure projects, agricultural modernisation programmes in the wake of climate change and related ecological challenges, and public sector restructuring often take many years before producing measurable results.

A seven-year cycle reduces the pressure on governments to focus on short-term political gains ahead of elections and instead, encourages longer-term planning and implementation. Less frequent

elections lower the financial and administrative costs associated with organising nationwide polls, allowing resources to be directed towards development priorities such as the progressive Bill and Assisted Medical Treatment Order (AMTO) facilities that are key in building human capital.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I now turn to the clause concerning traditional leaders. On this matter, I respectfully depart from the proposed amendment and align myself with the recommendation of the Committee that the current constitutional position should remain unchanged.

The institution of traditional leadership occupies a unique place within Zimbabwe's constitutional framework. Unlike politicians, traditional leaders do not derive their authority from electoral competition. Their legitimacy derives from history, culture, custom and the confidence reposed in them by entire communities. The wisdom of our constitution lies in its deliberate separation of political authority from traditional authority. Political leaders are expected to compete for support. Traditional leaders are expected to unite communities. Political actors represent interests and constituencies.

Traditional leaders serve all members of their communities equally, regardless of political affiliation.

This distinction is neither accidental nor symbolic. It is a carefully crafted constitutional safeguard designed to preserve social cohesion and national unity. Section 281 of the Constitution requires traditional leaders to remain politically neutral. That neutrality is not a restriction designed to weaken them. It is a constitutional shield designed to preserve the integrity, dignity and legitimacy of the institution itself. It ensures that every citizen, regardless of political persuasion, can approach traditional institutions with confidence that they will be treated fairly and equally.

Some may argue that preventing traditional leaders from participating in partisan politics infringes upon their political rights. Respectively, that argument overlooks an important constitutional principle. The Constitution often imposes restrictions on certain offices to preserve institutional independence. Judges are prohibited from partisan political activity to safeguard judicial impartiality. So are members of the security sector.

The traditional leaders Mr. Speaker Sir, are no different. The limitation is not directed at the individual but at the office they hold. Once traditional leaders become active participants in partisan politics, their role inevitably changes. They cease to be impartial custodians of communal interests and become actors within political competition. Communities become divided between supporters and opponents and traditional institutions risk losing the moral authority that has sustained them for generations.

Mr. Speaker Sir, at the outset, let me state unequivocally that gender equality is a constitutional imperative. The Constitution guarantees equality, dignity and freedom from discrimination. The advancement of women and girls must remain a central objective of our constitutional order. However, the issue before us is not whether gender rights are important. The issue is whether the continued existence of a standalone constitutional commission remains institutionally necessary.

Constitutional commissions are exceptional bodies established because ordinary governmental structures are deemed insufficient to protect particular constitutional values. Their existence must therefore

be justified by constitutional necessity, specialised expertise and demonstrable effectiveness. The question Parliament must ask is not whether the Commission performs important work. The question is whether that work can be performed equally and effectively within a strengthened and specialised human rights framework. Where constitutional mandates substantially overlap, Parliament is entitled to consider whether institutional consolidation would enhance coherence, reduce duplication and improve efficiency without diminishing the protection of rights. Constitutional governance is not measured by the number of institutions we create. It is measured by the effectiveness of those institutions in protecting citizens and advancing constitutional values.

The objective should never be the preservation of institutions for their own sake. The objective must always be the effective protection of constitutional rights. If the same outcomes can be achieved through a strengthened Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission while maintaining specialised protection for women and girls, then Parliament is entitled to consider that option in the interest of good governance and prudent utilisation of public resources.

May I pose a few questions? Would we have the current debate if the proposition were to place the Human Rights Commission under the Gender Commission? In my view, we would not. May I invite this House to shun sentimentalism and apply our minds?

The second question is whether or not gender rights are human rights. In my respectful view, there is seldom a difference. The third question is whether or not gender refers solely to women. It is a common cause that gender speaks to both males and females, shortened for humans; hence, gender rights remain human rights.

There is no mischief in doing away with the Gender Commission in creating a strengthened Human Rights Commission boasting a specialised department on gender equality. Mr. Speaker Sir, history teaches us that nations rarely fail because they lack resources. More often, they fail because they allow division to overwhelm national purpose and permit political contestation to eclipse developmental priorities.

The enduring strength of any constitutional order lies in its ability to create stable institutions, promote accountability, preserve social cohesion and provide a framework within which development

can flourish. The constitutional choices we make today must therefore be guided by the overriding question. Do they strengthen the Second Republic and improve the lives of the people of Zimbabwe? In my respectful view, the greater part of this Bill answers that question in the affirmative. It seeks to create a constitutional framework capable of promoting stability, accountability and effective governance, whilst preserving the values upon which our democracy is founded.

The people of Zimbabwe expect us not merely to debate constitutional provisions but to build a constitutional order capable of delivering prosperity, unity, opportunity and justice for future generations. If not now, then when? If not us, then who?

In 1789, Mr. Speaker Sir, James Madison said, 'If in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates'. Parliament followed the prescriptions of Section 328 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. Those who sought to associate with the proposed amendments, either for or against, attended public hearings and forwarded written submissions, in the affirmative or the contrary. The

report of the Joint Committee was composed of Hon. Members from across the political divide. The House attests to the fact that the majority of those who participated are in favour of the propositions.

Section 141 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe enjoins Parliament to consult the public, not every individual, household, village or every ward. It has been demonstrated by Hon. Tafanana Zhou that in scope, this current consultation is even better than COPAC. Democracy, by its nature, is merely taking directives from the majority and that was done. Who are we to deny the voice of the majority? Who are we to prescribe a referendum when, in their numbers in 2013, the people of Zimbabwe did it so directly?

For the above reasons, Mr. Speaker Sir, I support the Bill, subject to the reservations I have expressed regarding traditional leadership. I thank you.

HON. ZHANDA: I rise to debate in support of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill as presented before this House by the Hon. Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

At the outset, allow me to commend the Hon. Minister for bringing this important Bill before Parliament. I fully support the Bill

and all its 22 clauses because they are progressive, developmental and people-centred in nature.

Laws and constitutions are living instruments, which must evolve with the social, economic and political realities of the nation. As parliamentarians, our duty is not only to preserve constitutionalism but also to ensure that our laws respond effectively to the aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe. This Bill seeks to strengthen governance systems, improve administrative efficiency and create stability necessary for national development. Stability is one of the key ingredients for economic growth, investor confidence and national unity...

HON. SAGANDIRA: On a point of order! We would like to follow the debate but the Hon. Member's speed is just too much.

THE HON. SPEAKER: If the speed is high, please attune your ears.

HON. ZHANDA: One of the major issues raised in this Constitutional Amendment is the extension of tenure from five to seven years. I strongly support this proposal because meaningful development requires adequate time, continuity and policy

consistency. Development projects are not events, they are processes. Roads, dams, schools, hospitals, industrial parks and irrigation schemes cannot be fully implemented and completed within a short political cycle that is constantly interrupted by election preparations and campaigns.

If we remain in perpetual election mode, the nation risks losing focus on production, service delivery and economic transformation. Elections are important in any democracy but development must remain the ultimate priority for the people of Zimbabwe.

Frequent elections are also financially demanding. Resources which could otherwise be directed towards hospitals, schools, water projects, agriculture and infrastructure development are repeatedly consumed by election processes. Extending the term of office allows Government to concentrate fully on implementation of national development programmes without unnecessary political distractions.

When we objectively assess the achievements made by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, within a relatively short period in office, it becomes evident that continuity of leadership is critical for sustainable

transformation. Under the Second Republic, we have witnessed major infrastructural development across the country, including road rehabilitation programmes, dam construction, modernisation of airports, rural electrification, irrigation development, industrial revival initiatives, decentralisation of education and health services and engagement and re-engagement efforts with the international community. These achievements clearly demonstrate that when leadership is given sufficient time and policy consistency, national development accelerates.

This Bill is therefore not about individuals, but about national progress, institutional stability and long-term planning. Countries that have achieved rapid economic growth and modernisation did so through stable governance systems that allowed leaders and institutions enough time to implement national visions.

I also wish to emphasise that all clauses in this Bill are aimed at improving governance structures, enhancing efficiency within State institutions and ensuring better service delivery to our citizens. As representatives of the people, we must place national interest above political emotions. Posterity will judge us not by how loudly we

opposed change, but by how wisely we made decisions that advanced the welfare of our people.

Zimbabweans desire development, jobs, modern infrastructure, quality healthcare, quality education and economic opportunities. These aspirations require a stable political environment and uninterrupted implementation of Government programmes.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support CAB 3 and all its clauses. I urge Hon. Members of this House to support the Bill in the spirit of patriotism, unity and national development. With these few remarks, I so submit. I thank you.

HON. RUNGWAVE: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and good afternoon. I rise to contribute to the debate on Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill as presented before this august House by the Hon. Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Z. Ziyambi

Firstly, I want to express my appreciation for the proposal to transfer the administration of the voters' roll from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to the office of the Registrar General. It is evident that the electorate has experienced significant challenges with

the voter's roll, including the omission of eligible voters and retention of the deceased persons on the voters' roll.

These irregularities have undermined the confidence in the electoral process, thereby discouraging participation in the election of Councillors, Members of Parliament and the President. The transfer of this function to the office of the Registrar-General is, in my view, a prudent measure. The Registrar General's Office maintains the National Civil Registry, which records births and deaths certificates, and is therefore better placed to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voters' roll. This will allow the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to focus on its core mandate of conducting elections.

Secondly, I wish to address the provision in the Bill that seeks to extend the term of the office for the President, Parliament and local authorities from five to seven years. Mr. Speaker Sir, speaking on my individual capacity, I completely support this proposal. A seven-year term provides sufficient time for elected officials to implement long-term development programmes and complete major national projects. Examples of these include the construction of large-scale irrigation dams to ensure food security in our country and the rehabilitation of

key national highways. Such projects require continuity and time to yield tangible results before the next electoral cycle.

I wish to place on record my support for the proposal that the President be elected by Parliament. This practice is observed in several countries within our region and outside our region and has proven effective in ensuring a peaceful and orderly electoral process. It encourages political parties to focus on selecting credible parliamentary candidates, as it is from among these members that the President would ultimately be elected. I submit that Parliament should be vested with the authority to elect the President and not merely with the power to impeach the President.

In conclusion, regarding the Gender Commission, I propose the establishment of a one-stop rights protection institution with strong and comprehensive powers to safeguard the rights of all citizens seeking justice. Alongside this, there should be a dedicated administrative body focused on vulnerable groups, ensuring effective implementation of social protection measures. This approach would strengthen rights protection, improve access to justice, reduce

bureaucracy, and create a more robust and efficient system for serving citizens. I so submit.

***HON. T. HUNGWE:** I rise representing people from Mberengwa East Constituency. They sent me with some words to debate here. I will try to debate just as they said. Firstly, Hon. Speaker Sir, they asked me to debate about delimitation. They are encouraging that there must be a Delimitation Commission because they were affected by issues of delimitation. So, because of that, I am saying let it be there because they were affected in many ways.

Secondly, there is the issue of the Gender Commission. The issue of the Gender Commission, we are not seeing anything wrong or bad with it being under the Human Rights Commission. What we can say is that we want to tell the secretariat that was in the Gender Commission to be moved just as it is and then we will remove the Commissioners.

I will move on to the issue of our traditional leaders. In my constituency, I have five traditional leaders. All of them are saying they have been waiting for this Bill for a long time. They are saying that they want to get into politics openly, not hiding, just as they were

doing. They are supporting that our chiefs be allowed to be involved in politics.

Mr. Speaker, I will move to Clause 3. Personally, as Tasara Hungwe, I am supporting that the Parliament be the one to elect the President of the country. When we conducted our public hearings in Mberengwa, there was no one who opposed that clause. So, as representatives, I think we will be debating the views of the people we represent. So, we have no reason not to include what we were told by our constituents. So, we are saying CAB 3 is a Bill that was long overdue.

We are also saying that CAB 3 on Clauses number 4, 9 and 10, are all okay. I wholly support them without any amendment. We are saying that if we are talking of lengthening of the term from five to seven years, there is no reason for us to argue when 500 000 people support that point, and then we come here and have different views. Mr. Speaker, it would be unfair to the people we represent. Let us follow what our people told us. We are here to finish what was already started by the people in our constituencies.

I will also come back to the issue of politics Mr. Speaker. Way back, there was what was called the Munhumutapa Empire. It ruled from the 15th to the 18th century, which is about 300 years. So, when we are talking of adding two more years in our country that idea cannot be opposed by anyone because we stayed for 300 years under one leadership. So, because of that our DNA or our way of living as black people, we are saying that if Munhumutapa ruled for 300 years, what about us right now? If we say we are adding two more years to make them seven, what is wrong with that? I see no problem.

If we look back again, Mr. Speaker...

THE HON. SPEAKER: Order Hon. Member, be historically factual. Either you are speaking of the Munhumutapa dynasty or you are speaking of an individual. That must be clear. Otherwise, we may be misled.

***HON. T. HUNGWE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for correcting me, but I was about to finish.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Were you referring to a ruler, Mr. Munhumutapa or the whole dynasty?

***HON. T. HUNGWE:** I was referring to the Munhumutapa dynasty. I had shortened the statement Mr. Speaker but in fact, I had written it down to say Munhumutapa dynasty.

In conclusion, I wanted to say, still on the issue of leadership, we must look at the history to say, before the Europeans came to this country, how were we living? What were we eating? Who were we worshipping? Then we look at it now that nowadays, if a person lives for several years, then you are asked to start eating traditional foods, meaning that we are abandoning our traditions and cultures. I want to say, let us think deeply and see what we are supposed to do. We are saying that CAB 3 was voted for by the people. So, as the august House, we are just supposed to express the views of the people. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

HON. MUDOWO: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank you for this opportunity you have given me. I rise as the youth representative for Mashonaland East. Speaking on behalf of the youths whom I represent, whose voice deserves to be heard in this august House, the position I advance today reflects the aspirations, concerns and hopes of the youths of Mashonaland East who have

mandated me to be their advocate and custodian of their interests in the legislative process of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026, particularly its recommendations on Clauses 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9. These provisions, taken together, seek to improve governance efficiency, strengthen institutions and create conditions necessary for long-term national development. The Committee recommendations are informed by extensive public consultations conducted throughout the country and deserve the support of this House.

As I go to Clause 2, it seeks to transfer voter registration and management of the voters' roll from ZEC to the Registrar General. The starting point must be the recognition that the credibility of elections begins with the credibility of the voters' roll. The Registrar General is the custodian of birth, death and national identity records. It therefore possesses the most current information necessary to maintain an accurate and voters' roll. By consolidating civil registry and voter registration functions within one institution, the State can reduce duplication, eliminate administrative inefficiency and ensure that deceased are removed from the voters' roll promptly. This

arrangement will also allow ZEC to concentrate on its primary mandate of voter education, election administration and electoral supervision.

Further, Clause 3 which provides for the election of the President by Parliament, should be viewed within the framework of representative democracy. Every Member of Parliament sitting in this House carries a mandate directly conferred by the people. If Parliament has the constitutional authority to remove a President through impeachment, then it makes sense for Parliament to also have the power to elect a president.

Furthermore, this model has worked successfully in countries such as South Africa and Botswana, where parliamentary elections of the Head of State have contributed to political stability, accountability and reduced electoral costs. The proposed amendment recognises that democracy is not defined only by the method of election but by accountability, legitimacy and effective governance.

Mr. Speaker, Clauses 4 and 9 which extend the electoral cycle from five years to seven years, are perhaps the most development-

oriented provisions in this Bill. The reality is that meaningful development requires time. Major infrastructure projects, industrialisation programmes, energy, investment and public service reforms cannot be fully conceived, funded, implemented and evaluated within a short political cycle. Frequent elections often result in the government operating in a perpetual campaign mode, with political calculations overshadowing developmental priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I speak not merely from theory but from practical experience. I come from Mashonaland East in Wedza. For many years, the Government Administration Complex in Wedza remained incomplete, with the structure standing only at window level, despite its strategic importance to the district. However, under the servant leadership of His Excellency, President Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, the project was completed and is now fully operational. Today, the people of Wedza can access passports, national identity documents and other essential government services within their district.

Mr. Speaker, this is not only happening in Wedza, but in all corners of Zimbabwe. This demonstrates an important lesson. Transformative development requires continuity, stability and

sufficient time for projects to move from conception to completion. Development is measured by the infrastructure delivered and the services brought closer to the people. The experience of other jurisdictions also supports longer planning horizons. Countries that have enjoyed sustained development progress have obtained benefits from political stability and political continuity. A seven-year cycle provides governments with adequate time to implement programmes while reducing the substantial financial burden associated with frequent national elections.

As I conclude, Clauses 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 represent a coherent effort to modernise governance, strengthen institutions and create an enabling constitutional environment for sustainable national development. They seek to improve administrative efficiency, promote political stability, enhance institutional specialisation and provide governments with the time and capacity necessary to deliver the aspirations of Vision 2030. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I fully support the amendments made to this Bill. I thank you.

HON. KARENJI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today as the duly elected representative of the people of Chikanga, whom I

represent and I have the honour and privilege to serve in this House. I stand here carrying the hopes, aspirations and concerns of the citizens who entrusted me with their votes and their voice. After carefully considering the provisions and implications of the CAB3, I wish to register my opposition to this Bill. This is guided by the interests of the people I represent and by my commitment to promote legislation that advances democracy, protects citizens' rights and serves the public. I therefore rise to reject CAB3 and I will proceed with several reasons why I believe this Bill is not in the best interest of the people of Chikanga and the nation at large. When I travel across my constituency, I did not hear people asking for the constitutional amendment. I did not hear mothers asking for CAB3. I did not hear unemployed youth demanding CAB3. I did not hear pensioners, vendors, farmers, teachers or workers calling for CAB3. What I heard were cries for jobs. What I heard are calls for affordable education. What I heard are pleas for food on the table. What I heard are demands for reliable transport, decent accommodation, functional hospitals with medication and an end to the drug abuse destroying our young people.

That is the conversation taking place in homes, in churches, in buses, in markets and in our communities. The people are asking how they will survive while this House is being asked to debate how politicians will govern. That is why I stand firmly opposed to this Bill at a time when families are struggling to earn a living, when young people are leaving school because of poverty, when graduates cannot find jobs and when communities are battling with substance abuse and economic hardships. This amendment does not answer the question of what ordinary Zimbabweans are asking. People want bread, not political engineering. They want opportunities, not constitutional experiments. They want service delivery, not the extension of political power. The Constitution must be amended only when there is a compelling national interest.

The question before us is very simple. Whose problem is CAB3 solving? It does not create a single job. It does not lower the price of mealie meal. It does not improve the state of our hospitals. It does not even build schools. It does not bring investment in our country. It does not put food on the table for struggling families. The people did not ask for this Bill. The people deserve better. People deserve leaders

who focus on their daily realities rather than on the arrangement, that benefits those already in power or position. Is a Constitutional Amendment at this stage giving various social, political and economic challenges which our country is going through? It does not seem an amendment of the Constitution is an answer. The prices of oil have gone up due to the war in Iran. The price of fertilizer has increased due to the war in Ukraine. There is a need for our Government to make interventions to cushion our people from these hardships. I stand with the people.

Our people are crying out for a better life, food on the table, quality education, reliable transport, jobs, decent accommodation and an end to drug abuse. They want policies which improve their daily lives, not the CAB3, which many feel does not address their immediate needs and aspirations. The people's voice must come first. We must address these issues as a nation before anything else. The proposed amendment does not address these important issues. Our country remains internationally isolated and does not have access to international credit as well as international markets. The amendments

to the Constitution at this stage are unnecessary as it does not address the bread and butter issues of our country.

Let me go to the issue of the extension of the term and the benefits by the incumbent in the same Bill. Among other things, the Bill seeks to extend the Presidential and Parliamentary term limits. At the same time, it seeks to enable the incumbent to benefit from this extension. In terms of Section 328 (8), the two items cannot be in the same Bill. The fact that they have been put in the same Bill means that the Bill itself is illegal. One may be tempted to argue that the amendment does not seek to amend the Bill of Rights. This is clearly wrong. So far it removes the right to elect the President from the general populace, the Bill takes away the right to vote as enshrined in the Constitution, Section 67 (3).

Therefore, the amendment cannot be in the same Bill. In terms of Section 117 (2) (a), Parliament can only amend this Constitution in terms of Section 328 of the Constitution. As this amendment seems to suggest that the amendments will end with Parliament before being sent to the Presidential assent without need to go to the referendum then it falls foul of the provisions of Section 328. This amendment

removes the right of the people of Zimbabwe to vote for their President. Therefore, it affects the Bill of Rights and it has to be subjected to the referendum. There is also a conflict of interest on the part of Parliament and the President. Parliament stands to materially benefit from this amendment and so will the President. To make these two institutions the alpha and omega of this Bill is to bring a serious conflict of interest. To avoid conflict of interest, this Bill must be subjected to a referendum.

The reason why I think the referendum will be the best is that the statistics are very clear. The statistics which are before this Parliament show that those who are supporting the Bill are more than those who are opposing. So, it will clearly send that right back to the people who are saying they want the Amendment Bill and those opposing the Bill. They will clearly vote for it in the referendum and those who are opposing will also oppose. I would also like to highlight the shortcomings of this Bill. Returning the voter registration function to the Registrar General's Office in terms of the Bill, voter registration is also going to be done by the Registrar who is directly appointed by the President. This was one of the key issues in

the Constitution-making process that ended in 2013 and was roundly rejected by the people.

For us to achieve a truly free and fair election, voter registration must be done by an independent institution. Clause 2 inserted new Section 43A to give back the responsibility of registering voters to the Registrar General. In most countries and in the world, processes to do with elections are normally handled by independent bodies. These elections are normally handled by independent bodies. The office of the Registrar General in Zimbabwe is an arm of Government and is not an independent institution. The Registrar reports to the politician who is the Minister of Home Affairs and is also a beneficiary of the electoral process and hence an interested party. It is therefore inappropriate to transfer voter registration from an independent institution to a non-independent institution. I want to go to SADC countries. I would go for Botswana. Botswana has an Independent Electoral Commission. South Africa has the Electoral Commission of South Africa. Zimbabwe has the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and Mozambique has the National Elections Commission. Malawi has the Malawi Electoral Commission; Namibia has the Namibian

Electoral Commission. There is the National Electoral Commission in Angola. The Democratic Republic of Congo has an Independent Electoral Committee. In Mauritius, there is the Office of the Electoral Commissioner.

Zambia has the Electoral Commission of Zambia, while Tanzania has an Independent National Electoral Commission. It has the role of supervising and coordinating the registration of voters in the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. Zimbabwe must go along with the majority in the SADC region and the world at large. The election of the President by Parliament and not by the people is a fundamental change in the political system. However, it falls foul of the other provisions of the Constitution.

In terms of Section 3 (2) (b), the principles of good governance binding the State include an electoral system based on universal adult suffrage. This means the right of all legal adults to vote. The amendment removes the right. Further, in terms of Section 3 (2) (f), there must be respect for the people of Zimbabwe, for the authority to govern is derived. This means the President's authority to govern must come directly from the people and not from Parliament. One of the

ideals of the liberation struggle was one man, one vote. This is now being violated by this Bill...

HON. TOGAREPI: On a point of order Mr. Speaker! The Hon. Member must not mislead the House. In 1980, we did not vote for the Prime Minister. If we were fighting for one man, one vote before independence, we should have used that because we had won the war. Why did we not use it?

THE HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Karenyi, did you actually say the Prime Minister was voted for through one man, one vote? - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]- Can you allow her to answer?

HON. KARENYI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I did not even talk about the Prime Minister. I did not. I can repeat what I said. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

THE HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Chief Whip, can you please clarify your point of order?

HON. TOGAREPI: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member said, when we fought, we fought for one-man, one-vote. In the context that we were going to vote for the President or Prime Minister, that is not

what happened in 1980. If that was the grievance that we had, why did we not use it in 1980?

THE HON. SPEAKER: Order, order! If the Hon. Member was insinuating that the one-man, one-vote implied the election of the Prime Minister, then - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections*]- Order! I have not finished. Standing Order says when the Chair is speaking, you must be silent. If that was intimated, then it should be withdrawn. If it was not intimated, you may proceed.

HON. KARENYI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand guided by your wisdom. I would like to go on the Presidential appointment...

THE HON. SPEAKER: Just to advise you. You still have three more minutes to wind up.

HON. KARENYI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. On the issue of the appointments in the Senate, this is totally undemocratic. It was rejected by Zimbabweans during the Constitution-making process. To emphasise my submission, we have seven Members already, which I feel that if the President sees that they are not performing well, he can actually withdraw and also appoint those who can do the work.

Let me rush to the issue of the traditional leaders. I strongly feel that the traditional leaders must remain apolitical because these are our traditional leaders who also act as judges in dispute among our people. For them to join politics, it will also affect the day-to-day running of their issues and their businesses in the rural areas. The current provisions prohibiting traditional leaders from joining political parties are correct. Our traditional leaders should not be partisan and I strongly feel that they must not involve themselves in politics.

In conclusion, there is a saying that if it is not broken, do not fix it. Our Constitution is not a problem. The problem is violence, intimidation, corruption, inequality and unequal access to the nation. Our problem is the international isolation of our country which is affecting the poor. This amendment takes away the power of the people to elect the highest office of their land. It is unnecessary, undemocratic and totally uncalled for.

Our Constitution is not the cause of poverty; it is not the cause of unemployment, it is not the cause of corruption, and it is not the cause of poor service delivery. The challenge before us is not a constitutional crisis. It is a governance crisis. The people of

Zimbabwe fought the liberation struggle so that we could have a good living. They fought for the right to choose their leaders. They fought for a democratic nation where the power comes from the people and remains accountable to the people. Any amendment that weakens that principle cannot be taken lightly.

History will not ask whether we protected the politicians, but it will ask whether we protected the rights of the people. Today, I choose to stand with the people. I choose to stand with the unemployed, the youths who do not have jobs. I choose to stand with the mothers struggling to feed their families. I choose to stand with farmers, workers, vendors, pensioners and citizens who deserve the head. For those reasons, I reject this Bill and urge this House to put the people first. The voice of the people must remain the voice of our democracy. I submit. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

HON. MUGWADI: Good evening Hon. Speaker...

Hon. Molokela-Tsiye having been jumping in the House following Hon. Karenyi's debate.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Order, order, Hon. Molokela, please be happy in your heart and not jumping around. Hon. Mugwadi, please proceed.

HON. MUGWADI: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir and good evening. I wish to say that the Constitution of the Republic of Zimbabwe is *sui generis*. It is sacrosanct; it is the verses and chapters establishing relations between the governed and the governing. It is, therefore, a very crucial document that establishes the social contract of our people and their Government. In other words, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in what are going to be my very shortest submissions, I wish to say that the Constitution therefore assumes an important place in our society.

The process of amending it therefore, requires us to apply our minds sufficiently and put our minds together in order to ensure that the Constitution continues to take its proper place within our society. That is not, therefore, to say, Mr. Speaker Sir, that this Constitution is dead. It is for the living. It is itself a living organism. Like a human being, it breathes, it goes to sleep, it wakes up. It is a living organism. Therefore, it can go hungry, it can go full and that makes it, therefore,

possible for this Constitution to respond to the ever-changing dynamic nature of our society. We are not aesthetic people. Our society is not aesthetic; it is dynamic. When change takes place, Mr. Speaker Sir, it faces resistance. I am privileged to have gone through some lessons about change management and resistance to change. I am not, therefore, surprised by what is obtaining in this House because exactly that is what a process of change faces.

Mr. Speaker Sir, for time, I would not want to speak to the gallery. I am a lawyer by profession and our profession of course, requires us to be very clear and straight to the point. Allow me just to do that by way of avoiding unnecessary prevarications and going straight to what I wish to say. I believe that many issues have been sufficiently ventilated in this House. There is no room or need for repeating them. I just want to thank the Minister of Justice for the Bill that he brought to this House and I am in support of the Bill. I want to touch on a few areas where I feel that the Minister and the House that he leads may certainly need to apply their minds sufficiently. That is an area of reform of the conduct and the administration of justice by chiefs.

I am privileged, Mr. Speaker Sir, to have been able to travel to China last year to an international conference about reforming the criminal justice system in the international community. One of the key issues that I learned there, which I will be happy one day to have this House consider, of course, through the relevant minister, is the empowerment of chiefs. The empowerment of Chiefs through the deliberate processes of decentralisation of judicial authority from conventional courts to traditional courts. In China, they call those courts communal courts because they are not traditional chiefs *per se*. They call them communal courts. Now, what happened with these communal courts is that they have the capacity and the right to try other matters that we still take to conventional courts here in Zimbabwe. Their judicial system has become so efficient out of the decentralisation process that has taken place by way of bringing on board communal leaders to be capacitated, to be able to handle both criminal, civil and traditional as well as cultural matters.

In the same spirit, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would want to suggest that going forward, the decision, therefore or the suggestion that chiefs become active players in our politics may not be really fathomable. I

would want to throw a joke, Mr. Speaker Sir, by saying that if chiefs are allowed to become active politicians or to partake in politics so actively as Members in this House do. I postulate that in 2030, you may not be surprised that this House will be full of chiefs only as Honourable Members and not us. I cannot stand against Chief Makumbe or Chief Nyashanu when he decides to want to become a Member of Parliament because I am one of their subjects. You know what happens when people are campaigning; there is mudslinging; those are certain things that we cannot do to our chiefs.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a double-edged sword. I would say it is a catch-22 situation because chiefs are human beings. Human beings by nature are natural and imprescriptible. That is to say, they are accorded to a human being by the very nature that he exists as a human being and not an animal. So, here is a situation that places us in a catch-22 situation. We cannot use this House to dilute the freedoms and rights of our chiefs, including political rights. We would want them to enjoy human rights in totality as others do. How do we strike a positive balance to ensure that we do not jeopardize the confidence that communities, men and women have in our traditional

authorities to handle disputes that are local, at the same time, having to make sure that our chiefs still enjoy the freedom that myself enjoy? That is, if Hon. Mugwadi is having a rally here and a chief would want to attend, maybe say one or two words because I am still his subject; the people that I seek to address are still his subjects. The communities within which we are working, where we want to do development, they are still the communities under their custodianship. How do we strike a balance there to ensure that we do not jeopardise the confidence of the people in our chiefs but at the same time, we do not politicise the political space against our chiefs?

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker Sir, that we probably say chiefs are not denied to do certain political activities, that is, attending rallies or making statements. I do not know why, of course, others are very vicious about chiefs not attending. Probably, they also want to attend your rally but I do not know why you are vilifying them.

The second issue, Mr. Speaker Sir, which I just want to place my conscience on is the proposal that the constitutional court's jurisdiction gets expanded to involve all other matters that are pertinent when it

comes to matters of general public law. That is a good suggestion and I am sure, Minister, you actually took a long time to bring that into the House. It makes the court accessible; it broadens the scope upon which our people are able or capable of appealing or registering their issues before the Constitutional Court, which is an ambit that is to make sure that constitutional questions are not the exclusive arena upon which a person can be able to seek the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court

Mr. Speaker Sir, in my conclusion, as I said earlier, the time is still mine to do what I want with it because I know it is too much. For purposes of wanting to see the conclusion of this matter that has kept us this, I rest my submission, Mr. Speaker Sir.

HON. MUNDUNGEHAMA: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir, for according me this very important opportunity to submit the views of the people of Chiredzi East Constituency, which I do hereby represent and indeed, my own views in respect of the Constitutional Amendment Bill (No. 3), which is under debate in this august House. Hon. Speaker Sir, constitutional amendments must always be considered in light of the national interest, political stability and

efficient functioning of Government, while at the same time preserving the core principles of democracy. My analysis and scrutiny of the Constitutional Amendment Bill (No. 3), Hon. Speaker, respond so well to those key tenets that govern constitutional amendments. Thumbs up to Hon. Minister Z. Ziyambi, for coming up with a Bill that resonates so well with our country's socio-economic, political and technological needs.

Hon. Speaker Sir, before I delve much into some of the provisions of CAB3, may I put it on record that the people of Chiredzi East Constituency I represent and indeed myself, unequivocally support the CAB 3 and as such, pray that this Hon. House adopts it without delay. Without much ado, let me straight away go to the Clause, which speaks to the repealing of direct popular vote for the election of the President in favour of an election of the President by Members of Parliament and Senators in a joint sitting of the Senate and the National Assembly.

The Chiredzi East Constituency people and myself strongly support this clause for various reasons, some among them being that it enables policy continuity, it brings stability, less election toxicity and

it enables cost savings. We are all aware that direct presidential elections are very expensive, think about the ballot printing, voter education, security, observers, *et cetera*. Hon. Speaker Sir, I appreciate that more than enough justice has been done on this provision by all the Members of Parliament who debated before me in support of this provision.

Let me come to the provision which seeks to lengthen the Presidential, parliamentary and local authorities' terms from five years to seven years, amongst the many reasons that my fellow Hon. Members have brought forward before this Hon. House in support. I also wish to reiterate that national building is an extensive work that needs time in terms of planning, resource mobilisation, implementation and evaluation. It also allows for long-term national stability and long-term national development.

Finally, Hon. Speaker Sir, I wish to register my support on the provision that the President should be allowed to appoint an additional 10 Senators based on professional skills and competencies. Zimbabwe needs a Senate that is not only representative but also knowledgeable, balanced and effective in lawmaking. In a country

facing complex challenges such as economic recovery, public health, agriculture, education, infrastructure and institutional reform, Parliament must benefit from the wisdom of experienced professionals who can enrich debate, strengthen scrutiny of Bills and improve the quality of national decisions.

Legislation is not simply about filling seats; it is about ensuring that those entrusted with reviewing laws have the expertise to guide the nation wisely. This reform, Hon. Speaker, creates constitutional space for merit to work alongside representation and that is why it is practical, inclusive and forward-looking. A strong Senate Hon. Speaker, means strong governance and ultimately, better service to the people of our country, Zimbabwe.

In conclusion, Hon. Speaker Sir, I and the people of Chiredzi East Constituency, which I do hereby represent, are in full support of the Constitutional Amendment Bill (No. 3) with all its provisions. I so submit Hon. Speaker.

HON. GWABENI: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Constitution Amendment (No 3) Bill. Mr. Speaker Sir, a seven-

year term gives the Government enough time to plan, implement and complete long-term development projects. A long term allows leaders to focus on delivering results rather than spending a large part of their time preparing for the next elections.

I have three points to say. Firstly, reduced election costs. Holding elections less frequently reduces the financial burden on the country. The money saved can be invested in essential public services such as health care, education and economic development.

Secondly, policy consistency. A seven-year term promotes policy continuity. Government can implement long-term policies without interruption, leading to more stable economic and social development.

Thirdly, gender and political stability. Frequent elections can create political tension and uncertainty. A long term allows the country to focus more on development and governance rather than continual election campaigns. I thank you.

^^HON. MUSHIPE: Thank you Hon. Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity. I rise representing the youth from Matabeleland South.

The youth that I represent here in this Parliament gave me this voice to come and support the Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill.

There is something that is surprising me. Some pretend as if they do not know this, but we have once witnessed this thing. Some are saying, let us go back to the people but when we conducted these Public Hearings, we went to the people. People were asking us why we delayed coming to them and putting forth such a noble and good Bill. They are saying that this Bill should excel.

Most of the issues have been debated. I will add four or five things which I think I should buttress by adding my voice. I will begin with Clause 20. It speaks about the choosing of the Prosecutor General by the President. This is a noble idea. I do not know when Hon. Minister Z. Ziyambi dreamed that this would be good and smooth in our courts. If you look at the process, which was used to choose the Prosecutor General, the Commission would sit down and send the message to the President saying that, out of the shortlisted candidates, we think this is the right candidate for the job. Looking at this Hon. Speaker, there was something that was not transparent there. I could go and befriend some of the people that sit in that

Commission. Everyone who sits in that Commission will support a colleague.

In English, we are trying to eliminate what we call a conflict of interest. If we task the President to choose the Prosecutor General, he will make sure that when he is executing his duties, he will not look at the judges that favoured him. He will do his work intelligently and make sure that there is a smooth flow in our judicial system.

I will go on and touch on Clause 14. It speaks of extending the powers in the Constitutional Court on which matters can be referred to them. Currently, if someone goes to the Supreme Court to submit these papers, he will be given a date that is very far away because they are overwhelmed with the duties that they have. If we increase the Constitutional Court's powers and make sure that there are handling more cases, it will enable us to have more cases be heard in a short time. We will make sure that we clear the backlog in the cases that we have. This will make sure that all the citizens are represented effectively because all the cases that are brought before the Court are heard in a short space of time.

If we go to the issues that are being mentioned by other people, especially looking at Clause 3. It looks into the issue of the President being elected by Members of Parliament. It will be removing the direct election from the general populace. A lot of people and other Hon. Members have mentioned this. I will just pass through it. I want to say that I support this Clause because if you look at the conflicts that are associated with the Presidential elections, most of the other people rush to the courts in a bid to disturb the development of the country.

Some people get support from other Western countries. They want to get political validation from Western countries. This disturbs the development of our country because we are delaying the process of the President being sworn in and this delays development. If we choose the President here in Parliament, there will be no delays because no one is going to go to the courts since the elections will be transparent. Everyone sees how it is done. The one who won the victory is his and the one who has been defeated goes on to mourn with his colleagues.

As the youth, we want our country to develop and to grow. We are still growing up. There are many aspirations that we have and want. So, if there is a lot of violence and lawlessness in the country, these things cannot be attained. You find out that it takes a lot of time and resources, especially economically, to do violence rather than channelling these funds into development.

I will go to Clauses 4, 9 and 10, which state that we should extend the election cycle to 7 years. I support these clauses wholeheartedly. If we say that after every 5 years we go for elections, it means in 10 years we go twice. If we extend the election cycle to 7 years, it saves a lot of money, which will be channelled to infrastructure development like dams, roads and even hospitals. So that when we go to work, we are fit and the medical facilities are always there. You will find that after these 5 years; people will plan to go to war. There is a lot of conflict in each and every 5 years. With this, I say please let us extend the election cycle.

In conclusion, as a country, we have the National Development Strategy (NDS2). We started with the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) and went to the National Development Strategy

(NDS1), which ended last year in 2025. We are currently in NDS2, which started this year, 2026 and will end in 2030. If we do not look at this properly, we will find that we are going for elections again, which was proposed to be there by the Hon. Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Z. Ziyambi. If these elections come, they would disrupt the NDS2.

You will find that the incumbents who are going to come after elections will take a lot of time trying to articulate what is in the NDS2. By the time they articulate this, the time would have gone by and they would fail to achieve anything. We will not achieve anything because they will only be reading but failing to implement anything that they would have read. If we have such figures, let us work with these figures. We want to make sure that whatever we plan, we implement and see it succeed. This is good for our nation and our people. When we make these provisions pass, especially NDS2, we make sure that our people will be very happy because in 2030, after passing NDS2, we would see a lot of achievements.

The youths of Matabeleland are saying that they support the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill and I also support it.

***HON. KANUPULA:** Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. Let me start by thanking people from Harare South Constituency, from Hopley and Stoneridge, among others. These citizens from Harare South say that they are totally in support of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill (CAB 3) and its clauses. They have asked me to come into this august House and air their views and wishes on everything that was stated by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. They are very much happy with the development, which has been brought forth, especially on the Trabablas development in the constituency.

We are all benefiting from Trabablas. It brought forward development in our Constituency, mostly on the issue to do with the roads. Mr. Speaker Sir, if you look at Harare South history, especially here in Harare, it is a Constituency with people who understand the history of Zimbabwe by voting for the ruling party from its inception. They are always in total support of the Government and its policies and ensure that all its developments are the developments of the nation. Still on that point, people from Harare South applaud the Second Republic, which is being led by His Excellency, Dr. E. D.

Mnangagwa, to say that all those people who are staying in peri-urban areas...

HON. MAVHUDZI: On a point of order Mr. Speaker! I believe that the Hon. Member on the floor should be debating the Bill. He should not be showboating on the achievements in his constituency. He should focus on the Bill and make sure that we do away with whatever we are supposed to do here. He should focus on the Bill. Thank you very much. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA): Order Hon. Members! Hon. Mavhudzi, when you lay your debate, you are putting across your ideas in support of or against a certain topic. Right now, Hon. Kanupula wants to justify why CAB3 is important to him through tangible works that have been done by the same Government led by the President of Zimbabwe, Cde. Dr. Emmerson Mnangagwa.

It is within his rights to point out those achievements so that his line of debate can be understood. So please, allow Hon. Kanupula to debate and air his sentiments. Hon. Kanupula, I am allowing you to praise all the good works that the President of Zimbabwe has done.

***HON. KANUPULA:** Thank you so much Mr. Speaker Sir for protecting me. Citizens from Harare South said they are very happy with the progress, which was brought forward by His Excellency. They asked me to say, whenever you go back to this august House, kindly go and strengthen and ensure that as Members of Parliament, we should be voting for the President because we have assigned you to go there. They supported this fact because most of the people that we see on social media intend to become Presidents on social media, but this Bill will finish all that. This Bill wants people who want to represent and lead this country; whenever they are elected, they have to work on the ground, and then they will ensure that they have many people to support them as Members of Parliament, in order for them to vote for the Presidents. By so doing, this Bill has clarified all the problems that are being faced by those in the opposition party. This has come as a solution to clear and solve all the problems. If you feel that you are a good candidate who can influence all the people, then this Bill has come forth to allow those who say they have influence; they can go outside and lobby, ensure that they have their Members of

Parliament, and those Members of Parliament of theirs will come and elect them as President in this august House.

At a time when people simply stay indoors and start to type on social media, this Bill has brought people to come forth and stand firm and stand for their Members. These are areas where people simply say, 'I want to recall you; if you do not come out, if you do not come out, we will not go back'. No. Kindly work with those who want to work with these citizens. Just like what was said by His Excellency, the President, that you use your influence, ensure that you have a lot of representatives, Members of Parliament, to come and represent you here, and you will be elected President, and then you will lead the nation. Those habits of using social media now and then are not good. I would like to thank Hon. Z. Ziyambi, as well as his members.

You know what happens if you are a team. As a team, you initiate things so that you come out with a Government. People join politics so that they can lead the Government for the majority. This is what was seen by residents from Harare South. They simply said they never had title deeds and all those things. If the Government has an

opportunity to ensure that development is being done, it should look at the Presidential Title Deeds. We need time and proper research to ensure that the one who is benefiting is the correct citizen. A lot needs to be done, such as drawings. All those things need ample time to ensure that people end up having their title deeds for their places of residence.

Citizens from Harare South asked me to come with their total support. They are saying they want this Bill as it is. If you look into it, when the President was re-elected in 2023, that is when he launched the issue related to the master plan to solve the issue of illegal residence. I am one of the leaders from these constituencies that need the additional time for the President and council to ensure that they can rectify everything and put everything in order. This Bill has come at the correct and rightful time to an extent that when we get to 2030, many people will be settled. People will be relieved by then, and it also ensures that the Government's laws have enough time to work up to the end.

This Bill has assisted us in ensuring that those who want to sabotage the ruling Government, with the hope of saying, after a short

time, I will be elected, I will go on social media. We are saying no to that. Now, let us move away from social media. Let us desist from vandalism to force a law where a referendum is needed. They will be vandalising the Constitution. Today, the World Cup starts.

There's Mexico versus South Africa. That is the duty of our ministers and those people that they work with to ensure that they look for ways to say, for a team like this one, how best can we ensure that they win? Are we using the right wing or the left wing? It is up to them to look at the weakness of their opponent.

It does not necessarily mean the lineup that was put in by the opposite team is illegal. It is the duty of the President and Ministers to look for people who can ensure how best they can form a reasonable and understanding Government. Those are the duties of these leaders. We initiate this using these laws, and then we find ways of penetrating, just like what was done by our Minister. There was no way those issues were going to be tackled by a referendum. None of the sections was spoken about. What was done was that they needed Members of Parliament, as well as consultations. If you look into Harare Province, we were the best in terms of supporting this Bill.

Let me avoid speaking much, but I just feel like I have to remind you that those people who are against development should go back to the ground and ensure that we do everything in our constituencies. Let us avoid lying idle, like what was said in this august House, by Hon. S. Sakupwanya. He said, if you cannot plan from your home, then how best can you plan for the nation? Let us go back and maintain order in our House. We can say people want me, people love me, but let us show through these Members of Parliament who come into this House that you are wanted. The people who voted for me in Harare South said they are total support of this CAB 3. I say CAB 3 *bhoo zvokuti*.

***HON. CHIMBAIRA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, for according me this opportunity to add my voice on this Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill (CAB3). Firstly, I would want to thank the people of Zengeza East Constituency who gave me an opportunity to represent them in this House and I promised them that I would represent them. Mr. Speaker, Zengeza East was where the public hearings were held at Aquatic Complex and all five constituencies

were gathered there. The unfortunate thing was that the residents of Zengeza East were not able to attend the hearings for various reasons.

The residents of Zengeza East called me to their wards and they told me that they are the ones who had chosen me to represent them, hence I should speak on their behalf.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order. Hon. Members, let us allow Hon. Chimbaira to be heard in silence. Order, Hon. Makumire. If I say order, you must keep quiet. Let us allow Hon. Chimbaira to be heard in silence, please. It is important so that we do not disturb the flow of the debate. You may go ahead.

***HON. CHIMBAIRA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, for protecting me. When they called me, I visited them in their wards, we engaged each other on the Constitutional Amendment Bill Number 3. What I am going to say here is not my own views, but I am just saying what the people said. They said you should start with the most important issue before you forget, because you might get carried away. The first thing they talked about was the extension of their term from five years to seven years. They said I should give you an example. Two weeks ago, there was a match between *zviganda* and *makepekepe*.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I am an avid football follower. I have never heard of a team called *zviganda* in Zimbabwe. Which team is that? Order! – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

***HON. CHIMBAIRA:** Let me withdraw my words. They are just words.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: You are an Hon. Member in the august House, so you do not bring or import behaviour from social media or outside there. It is not okay –[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] - Order. Order! As an Hon. Member, there is a certain decorum that you need to carry yourself by. Please, let us not use such derogatory terms here in this House. If you keep on behaving like that, it will not be good for all of us. Thank you for withdrawing your words. You may proceed.

***HON. CHIMBAIRA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The team that I am referring to is Scotland, which played against Caps United. Those teams played and Scotland won with two goals. Then, after the match, at 90 minutes, it did not matter how well they were playing, but they did not go and ask for a time extension.

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

Chimbaira, I watched that game. It went into extra time with five minutes. It did not end with 90 minutes.

***HON. CHIMBAIRA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Let me continue. What I wanted to bring out is what happens with us here. We were chosen by the people in 2023, which means that our term of office ends in 2028. It does not matter how good or bad I have performed but in 2028, the people in Zengeza will come back and they have a choice whether to let me continue or not.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** On a point of order! My point of order is; if you forcefully take a horse to the river, if it does not want to drink, it will not drink. He who does not want to come back after 2028 must stay home.

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

Members. Shall we try and not interrupt debates unnecessarily? Carry on, please, Hon. Chimbaira.

***HON. CHIMBAIRA:** Mr. Speaker, I said what I am talking about here is not my own views, but I am reporting what the people sent me to say. They said that they do not want to hear about the

extension of years. They said that when 2028 approaches, we evaluate whether you should go back or we make you sit down. If this amendment passes before 2028, then we have another amendment number four...

***HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** Hon. Rwodzi, stop doing that...

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mhangwa, stop doing that. Everyone is hearing what you are saying. Hon. Chimbaira, please continue.

***HON. CHIMBAIRA:** Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the Delimitation Commission, which is in the Bill. I will air my views. I am surprised. Let me give you an example. The Minister comes with two things. On one hand, he is removing work from the Commission and then on the other hand, he is joining the Commission with another Commission. So, we do not know whether we are going forward or we are going backwards. I will ask to be educated on that.

Hon. Minister, this Delimitation Commission works once in 10 years. We last had it in 2023, which means we will have it in 2030. So, if this Commission is now in place, for now it will just be idle

receiving salaries and benefits or it will be implemented in 2030 if all goes well, if it passes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the chiefs. The biggest problem that I have, before you sat on the Chair, Madam Speaker said that we should not talk about chiefs because we come from Zengeza. I heard people referring to Sekuru Kaguvi, Mbuya Nehanda but I did not hear anything about Sekuru Chaminuka. Sekuru Chaminuka comes from Chitungwiza. The problem is that some were not born in chieftainship homes. Chieftainship is not child's play. If you get into the cow's pen when it is raining, you come out with mud. So, if you take chiefs and they become political, they do not earn respect because we will be contesting against them. If a chief decides to be in the opposition, then they will be chased away.

So, I think we should not touch the chiefs. The chiefs are there in Parliament, even in our areas where we come from. Why do we want them to join politics? The problem we have is that in the rural areas where they stay, there will be disagreements when it comes to politics. Mr. Speaker, I am pleading with the Minister, to remove that because the residents in Zengeza East said no to that.

I know a lot has been talked about. I just wanted to add that the residents of Zengeza East sent me to come and say no, resoundingly. I am against it. I do not support the Bill. I should shout resoundingly. We are saying no.

Finally, the challenge that we are facing is that there are some ideas, which are good, but it is just a matter of time. The people from Zengeza East said we could have supported it if this had taken place after the 2028 elections. There is nothing bad about that. They said it is us, Members of Parliament, who are benefiting when the children of Zimbabwe are suffering. The people who have spoken before me were pretending as if they want the President. We are the ones who want to extend the term. It is not the President. The President said he does not want to extend. So, we are the corrupt people here. We have been possessed by evil spirits and want to remain in power.

Demons and evil spirits of not wanting to give up power have risen. This will give us problems in the future. After five years, I think you should go home. Those who have chosen you are the ones who should decide whether they still want you – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

***HON. TOGAREPI:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is using derogatory words. How can he say these Hon. Members, especially from this side, have been possessed by evil spirits and do not want to leave their seats and political posts?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA): Order Hon. Mhangwa! You know there is a thin line between love and hate. Some words are derogatory and insult other people. Please be careful and refrain from insulting others.

***HON. CHIMBAIRA:** Let me touch on unfinished projects. Mr. Speaker, the issue of road rehabilitation started in the 6th Parliament during President Mugabe and the Chairperson was Leo Mugabe. Maybe Hon. Shamu and a few others might know. Many of you were not yet here.

The construction of the Kariba Dam was started in 1952 but the construction is still going on. You keep on referring to projects, nameless projects. Which are the projects that you want to finished? Projects should be about a country, not personal – [HON.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order Hon. Members!

HON. TOGAREPI: Mr. Speaker, we have an Hon. Member who does not want to leave the Chair. That is why he does not want to leave the House – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, order in the House! I am going to definitely give Hon. Chimbaira his one minute. So, if you keep on talking, I will stop the clock for him.

HON. CHIMBAIRA: Thank you – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I will deny you entry into this House if you continue misbehaving.

***HON. SAMSON:** I want to thank you for affording me this time to add my voice in this House. Before I air my views in this House, Mr. Speaker, I want to briefly refer to all the leaders here. Firstly, I want to thank the Minister of Justice, Hon. Ziyambi, for coming up with such a law, which he did professionally.

I also want to thank the women that I represent in Chiredzi District. For me to come here, they approached me and have faith in me, so I want to represent them well in this House. I can see that some of us in this House are just speaking willy-nilly but I want to remind

them that if they do not get the opportunity to come back to Parliament, it is cold out there. The way they speak here is not the way they will do when they are campaigning. I just want to remind them that they should be serious. Some of us here have already been rejected by our constituents because of our work.

I will now speak about the issues that I stood up to say with regards to the extension of the term or cycle by two years for the President, the MPs and Councillors. These years are very few. I do not know why people are complaining. People are intensively complaining because they are bitter that two years have been added. I support the two-year extension from five to seven years. Some were saying that people want to finish their projects. It is very difficult for us to see with the same eye because some do not see clearly because they do not see. We should give the chance for work to be done because some of us see good things. We should be able to separate good from bad, tough from good.

The people who sent me here are the ones who agreed for the seven years. When the public hearings were done, they came to Chitsanga Hall and there was an overflow because they wanted to

support what they wanted. I cannot refuse that when I am in this House.

I want to talk about the Gender Commission. This is a well-known issue that women are important. As a woman, when I came to this House, I was not able to deliver a speech because we knew that women were inferior to men. If you are inferior, you are just supposed to listen to what men say. The Gender Commission taught us an important thing that you should stand up as a woman and defend yourself. Also, our President, Dr. Mnangagwa, saw it befitting that women should be uplifted. We now have women representatives in this House. We have women ministers, deputy ministers and chief whips.

Our role as women is not just childbearing. We should stand up and contest these men. So, I say the Gender Commission should stand on its own. All this time, it was struggling and was not being funded well. We are pleading with the Minister of Finance to channel money to the Gender Commission so that it can fulfil its mandate of helping women. I think if the Commission is given resources, women will

improve from where they are because they will be able to execute their mandate.

I will now speak about chiefs. As an individual, I say that chiefs should be allowed to join politics. Why am I saying that? We went to war so that we would fight for the land. This land belongs to the chiefs. If we agree that this land was fought for, it was being fought on the issue of the land. So, we should leave them doing what they were doing because when you talk about the land, it is politics. I do not know why you do not want them to get into politics. What wrong have they done?

Mr. Speaker, I do not see anything wrong because during the war, when you were entering Tete or Gaza, you would first of all go and look for the chief of that area. The chief would tell you the rules of that land and he would tell you the sacred places and rivers. As a result, our liberation struggle went very well. Even up to today, if you come to my birthplace, I respect the chief. When I go there wanting to address the people there, I first respect the chief of that area, which means we respect the owners of the land. However, I know that some do not like it but it is not their problem. When we go back to the

Bible, it says that my people perish because of lack of knowledge. So, in this House, we really need the mercy of God that people should support what is good like the extension by two years.

Mr. Speaker, if we look at the Hon. Members here, some are pretending as if they do not want the Bill but inside, they are dying because they support the Bill. If someone speaks as if they are opposing, they cannot applaud because in their hearts, they have welcomed it already and they want it to pass. We know that if this Bill passes, we will be the ones who will be doing what the law requires. This Bill, was not put in place for a certain party but it is for all the people in Zimbabwe. It was made for you and me so that everything goes well but the challenge is that people think the Bill is there to benefit the sitting President. However, when the time comes, he will leave and someone else will come and enjoy the Bill as well. This Bill is for you, our grandchildren and the future leaders to be chosen.

Mr. Speaker, without saying much, I want to say to Hon. Members in this House, must learn from the fig tree that when it starts to blossom, the rains are not very far. So, you should choose what is good for you in this Bill and leave the bad. Thank you.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):** I am surprised that when Hon. Samson was debating, some Hon. Members wanted to disturb her while even Hon. Makumire was sitting quietly.

HON. MAMOMBE: My point of privilege as a Member of Parliament is that we commenced the sitting at 2 o'clock and I am now just looking at the time and only 23 members – [AN HON. MEMBER: *You were not here.*] – No, I was here and I know the rules were suspended. Hear my point. Only 23 Members have been allowed to debate. I am on number 71. I want to seek if I am going to be afforded the chance to debate or if the debate is going to be closed before all of us are going to debate. So, I seek your guidance Mr. Speaker, so that we make sure that everyone on this list is going to be allowed to debate. I thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, order. Everybody who wishes to debate shall get a chance to do so. Not necessarily today but definitely you will get a chance to do so – [HON.

MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – Order! So, Hon. Mamombe, you can rest assured that your time shall come.

HON. MAMOMBE: Mr. Speaker, this is actually a very serious matter and that is why I rose on a point of privilege. You know, obviously I am serious on this. Are we going to be able to debate today or is it probably tomorrow or any other date? I seek your guidance Mr. Speaker.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: You may approach the Chair Hon. Mamombe.

***HON. CHAIMVURA:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for according me this opportunity to add my view on this topical issue in this Parliament. This is a good thing and I fully support the Constitution Amendment Bill (No.3). Mr. Speaker, if it were possible, I would ask the Hon. Minister to stand up for people to see him. For he has done a good thing. It is good to have people who are knowledgeable. This Minister comes from my province, Mashonaland West. I represent young women. These young women told me what to say to this House. They said Hon. Chaimvura, when you go to Parliament, you should say that CAB 3 is good.

In Mashonaland West, from where it starts and where it ends, they said that this Bill is very good. As women, it gives us the chance to work, not to be violated during election times. We want to have time to do our chores, build our homesteads and sell our wares. During the time of elections, there is a lot of uncertainty. Mr. Speaker, the women from Mashonaland West said that when you get to Parliament, say to them CAB 3 is good.

Mr. Speaker, the women from Mashonaland West said that in this country, it is good that the President's term should be extended for two years but two years is little. I think they should be extended to 50. They said that this is good because now transport is not an issue as the roads are being constructed and our children are no longer suffering from kwashiorkor because boreholes were drilled and women are doing projects. So, kwashiorkor is a thing of the past. Mr. Speaker, this was well received by the people in Mashonaland West.

Coming to the issue of our chiefs, I support that traditional chiefs must be allowed to participate in politics because they are also human beings. Chiefs need our support because they are the ones who stay with people in the communities. If you hear people saying

traditional leaders must not participate in politics, it means they are not well-mannered and they do not respect the traditional leaders. Their slogans are disrespectful because they point fingers at people. The right slogan is the one that we use with the fist. They do not like the traditional leaders because if they misbehave, they are fined. Thank you.

+HON. N. NDLOVU: Thank you for affording me this opportunity to add my voice and also to add the voice of the people I represent in this Parliament. I will start with the Gender Commission. Gender Commission should stand alone so that it can continue assisting us as women. All these women that we see here in Parliament were groomed by the Gender Commission. Some of us came from areas where there was no network and where no one could phone you to inform you of what was happening but people from the Gender Commission used to come to our faraway places and teach us. Therefore, because of that, the Gender Commission should be left to stand alone. It should not be merged with any other.

Secondly, I will talk about the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). I support what has been said by others. Yes, it should be

removed from ZEC but should not be taken back to the Registrar General's (RG's) office because of the problems we faced sometime back with the RG's office. Our prayer is that there be an independent commission that will look into the issues of delimitation.

I will talk about Gwanda Tshitauze. It is taken as a constituency in Gwanda and also at the boundary of Beitbridge. People from the Beitbridge boundary are failing to go and see their MP who is in Gwanda Centre because they have to catch two buses in order to get there. That is why we are not happy with it. Maybe they should put something else in place that will work better. It should not be taken back to the RG's office. If possible, if someone turns 18, they should automatically be put on the voters' roll. He should not go to register because we now use technology to register electronically. There is no need for people to make several files.

Thirdly, to our traditional leaders, I am *MaMhlope*. I come from a chieftainship family. My father is a traditional leader. I do not think it is proper that traditional leaders be involved in politics. You know that when we are campaigning, insults are thrown around. If I am contesting with the traditional leader, I will insult and de-campaign

them. When we have challenges, we go to traditional leaders and they mediate. If they are also involved in the campaigns, who is now going to mediate? Traditional leaders should be respected and people will stop respecting them, even the sacred places if they participate in politics. Traditional leaders should be respected because if they are not respected, we will not have rain. We are not supposed to interfere with traditional leaders because it is taboo.

Now, coming to peace and reconciliation which we thought was going to bring peace, as someone from Matabeleland, we were still waiting for this. Are you aware, Mr. Speaker, that people are still waiting for the Gukurahundi outcome? This is an issue that was taken over by traditional leaders. Traditional leaders were sent to go and talk to the people and we are still waiting for this peace and reconciliation. We are still waiting for them to come back to us and tell us what steps are going to be taken. We are a peace-loving people or a peace-loving tribe, so if they become political, who then is going to come back and brief us? I ask that they should not be involved in this. I thank you Mr. Speaker, for allowing me this opportunity to add my voice on the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

HON. M. C. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to add my voice on the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill ...

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):

Order! Order Hon. Members, can we allow Hon. Ziyambi to be heard in silence, please. Hon. Ziyambi, please carry on.

HON. M. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for allowing me this opportunity to add my voice on the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. I rise to lend my full support towards this Bill and as a young and patriotic Zimbabwean. I firmly believe this Bill is a progressive step towards consolidating the developmental gains that have been achieved under the leadership of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde E. D. Mnangagwa and the Second Republic.

This Amendment Bill comes at a critical time when the youth are being placed at the very centre of economic development towards Vision 2030. This was evidenced as the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Youth Empowerment Development Vocational

Training was one of the five Committees selected to take part in the just-ended public consultations on the Bill. This proves the importance of young people in the current and future development of our country.

The youth and people of Zimbabwe deserve peace, stability, development and prosperity. We are more concerned about innovation, industrialisation and economic growth rather than perpetual, political, contestation and politicking. It is against this background that I wholeheartedly support the Bill as it is development-oriented.

I would like to speak on Clause 4, which seeks to extend the Presidential term from five to seven years. The extension of two more years to 2030 is aligning itself with major youth reforms and policies which have been evidenced by the National Youth Strategy 2026-2030, which was launched last year and also the National Youth Policy 2022-2026-2030, which was approved by Cabinet, I think, sometime last week.

These policies are paving the way for job creation, youth employment, entrepreneurship, mandatory youth quotas in former

employment, just to name a few. Therefore, this clause is positively aligning itself towards youth inclusion and empowerment, as both the clauses and youth policies I mentioned just before, are working together and complementing each other towards 2030.

One would wonder that if both did not have the same timelines, would they both survive or rather be achieved. Therefore, there is no better time to be a young person in this country than now and I am positive the older generation in this House and across our nation envy us as young people at this very moment.

I would like to speak on Clause 3, which seeks for the election of the President by Parliament. This Bill is not only promoting economic stability but also a stable learning environment in our universities and schools. During our public consultations, most students were in support of the Bill stating that Presidential elections were destabilising progress in their studies mainly as the investors would be used for election purposes. Disputed elections were providing for examinations and learning times being put on hold and such delays had a very negative impact on a student's life.

The delays also cause financial constraints on these very same universities at large and also considering that these delays are unforeseen circumstances, they are not planned. Therefore, they were voicing their support for the President being elected by Parliament, as it promotes non-disturbances at their schools and provides for accurate planning for the future bearing mind that the youth are also the future of our country.

I would like to speak also on Clause 8, which seeks to increase the membership of the Senate from 80 to 90 by including 10 Presidential appointees. I and other fellow young parliamentarians, especially under the youth quota, have been allowed to represent the youth populace in this House without any direct election but rather proportional representation. This has been a positive milestone as evidenced by various young MPs participating in this House for the betterment of the youth population across the country, including the debate on this very same Bill.

That being said, why is it supposed to be viewed differently when it comes to the addition of ten more Senators with whom we have the sole aim of increasing the pool of expertise within the

Senate. Senate fully comprised of members who came in without any direct election, just like the youth quota which I just mentioned before. Therefore, the argument against that, is these people are coming in without being directly elected, does not hold any water. In fact, there is need for clarification that this clause is providing for more expertise, which in turn provides for broader knowledge in contributing towards economic development and stability.

In conclusion, this Bill is a forward-looking piece of legislation and I would like to mention once again that I am fully supportive of it in its wholesomeness and we are very blessed to be part of this magnificent positive change in our country as a young people. I thank you.

***HON. MHURI:** Good evening Madam Speaker Ma'am. I am Hon. Mhuri, representing Shurugwi South. Before I proceed, I would like to express my wholehearted support for this Bill. As residents of the Shurugwi District, we have had the opportunity to gather at Chachacha to discuss the Bill in detail.

Before I continue, I would like to thank the President for providing us with expert leadership and guidance. Hon. Ziyambi has

explained the Bill to us in a way that we can fully comprehend and I appreciate that.

Before I address the specific clause, I would like to mention that I previously rose to support this motion, which has garnered backing from many Hon. Members here from various regions, as I have conducted studies related to these issues.

I must correct a misconception held by one of our colleagues regarding the Delimitation Commission. The Delimitation Commission is not solely responsible for elections; it also encompasses the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2 and Vision 2030, ensuring that these initiatives are effectively implemented.

Why do I say this?

HON. BAJILA: Point of order Madam Speaker Ma'am.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MAUNGANIDZE):

What is your point of order?

HON. BAJILA: Constitution Amendment (No.3) Bill is the Zimbabwe Election Delimitation Commission. Therefore, the one that is not about elections is not the one that he is talking about.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Let us give Hon. Mhuri a chance to explain exactly where he is heading.

***HON. MHURI:** Thank you Madam Speaker for protecting me. I want all the Hon. Members to be enlightened on the reason why we are debating in this House, for us to correct the law, including the Delimitation Commission. Is it only going to do with elections? I have to emphasise that. Going on, I would like to say that the Delimitation Commission makes life easier for the people, looking at NDS2 and Vision 2030. This delimitation will be successful if we know our boundaries. If we know the boundaries, we will know the number of people within those boundaries. So, we will be looking at the boundary issue and the population size. This is one of the duties that the Delimitation Commission will do when it is not election time, to look at the boundaries in our areas. It will also help us with rural-urban migration or urban-rural migration. These boundaries will look at those boundaries to see whether we can establish another town, looking at the activities. These are some of the duties this Commission will do. That is, if it is possible, we give the Commission a chance. I would like to correct again what has been said by...

HON. SHIRIYEDENGA: On a point of order! Thank you Madam Speaker. The Hon. Member should not mislead the House. If you are to go to section 160 of our Constitution, it is clear about the functions of delimitation. It has absolutely nothing to do with migration.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MAUNGANIDZE):** Order, order Hon. Shiriyedenga! You are now debating. He is just emphasising his point. Hon. Mhuri is just stating his facts.

***HON. MHURI:** Thank you for protecting me Hon. Speaker. The section that she has mentioned is no longer in use because they are now going to the amendment. I would like to correct the issue that I heard being spoken here. There is an issue of one man, one vote. It means that every person has to choose the President.

Section 117 allows me to read it. The legislative authority, Chapter 6; Part 1. It says Section 117 (1), “the legislative authority of Zimbabwe is derived from the people.” We are here representing the people. “The legislative authority of Zimbabwe is derived from the people and is vested in and exercised in accordance with this

Constitution by the legislature; 117 (2), “the legislative authority confers on the legislature, the power to amend the Constitution in accordance with section 328”. Then (b), “to make laws for peace, order and good governance of Zimbabwe.” 117 gives us the power that if we have been sent by the people, we come here and represent them to change the Constitution. One man, one vote. That was happening to the Member of Parliament. It is legislative authority in section 117. I had to correct that.

I would like to talk about Clauses 4, 9 and 10, which increase the term from five years to seven years for the President, the Member of Parliament and Councillors. Residents of Shurugwi districts, both constituencies; that is why you see me seated close to my colleague from Shurugwi North as well. People from Shurugwi, from all the districts said the road from Mhandamabwe to Shurugwi, which was rehabilitated by the leadership of President Mnangagwa is much appreciated and as such, two more years must be awarded.

They said they now have boreholes, solar boreholes, tapped water and another elderly citizen said that we are no longer using a hand manual system but now have tapped water. President

Mnangagwa and his Government gave us a soft life. So, we want the years to be increased to seven years.

I would like to also mention that the residents of Shurugwi agree with 99.46% of Zimbabweans, who said they are in support of the Bill. I have to say the percentage of those who want to understand from the public hearings that were done, 99.46% said that the Bill is good and 0.54% were not in support of some of the clauses in the Bill. So, if we look at 99% and 0.5, it shows that we must abide by the people's choice.

The issue of Clause 3, they say who hires, fires and who appoints, dis-appoints. It means that we cannot be given a duty to impeach and yet we cannot select him. The people of Shurugwi are saying that since we already had the powers of impeaching, we also have been given the powers to elect the President. So, they agree with Clause 3 that a President must be elected by the Members of Parliament, which is in agreement again with Clause 117, which gives the Parliament to finish off. I would like to say, let us desist from looking at this Bill without doing what the people have sent us to do; 99.46% said that they are in full support of the Bill, 0.5% should now

follow the majority. Democracy means the minority follows the majority.

***HON. CHIHOTA:** Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to air my views pertaining to Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. I will first speak about gender. I think that the Gender Commission must not be adopted by Human Rights. If we look at women here, we did not have the confidence to speak publicly, but we were assisted by the Gender Commission, so I think that it should remain a source of assistance to us women. It does not only concentrate on women but also on men, boys and girls. I also want to speak on issues related to chiefs. I think that the chiefs should remain in their position, rather than being involved in politics. Even when we are in war, the soldiers would consult them and war veterans' assistants would also go to them.

If they get involved in politics, we will not be able to approach them because if he is from another party and I am in support of a different party from him, he will not be able to assist me because of our different political parties. Chiefs are not elected but they should not choose or take the side of a party.

I move on to the issue of adding two more years on top of the five years. When people were campaigning, I once passed through the constituency of Hon. Nyamupinga. The bridges had been washed away; there were no roads but the person who had started this did not manage to finish the construction because the term was cut short. If two years are added, it will help us because most of the things are not completed. If I look at the work that is being done by Hon. Mhona, I went to Seke, where the roads are being rehabilitated. If he does not complete what he started, the person who will take his place will not be able to complete or finish the work.

I am in full support that the two years be added. With that, Hon. Speaker, I conclude.

***HON. KARUMAZONDO:** Good evening Madam Speaker. I would like to thank you, Hon. Speaker, for allowing me to air my view on the Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026.

Firstly, I would like to thank Parliament for sending the staff and the Members of Parliament to go to Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe District. The Members of Parliament who came to Uzumba-

Maramba-Pfungwe District were led by Hon. Kaitano and Hon. Molokela.

Hon. Speaker, the consultation was done peacefully and people were happy when this consultation was conducted in my constituency. When the consultation was done and the residents said that they are supporting the Amendment (No. 3) Bill. They received it soundly as it is. There was no one among all the people who were there who opposed the Bill. Residents from the community said that they are in agreement with the clause, which says the President's term of office must be added from five to seven years, including the Members of Parliament and councillors.

Madam Speaker, we are in Regions 4 and 5, so because of that, there are water problems. As we speak, many boreholes have been drilled and some women would sleep at water points; some women would end up having backaches using manual boreholes. Now, because of the leadership that we have, there is tap water from the boreholes and it is accessed at close points. It is their wish that this work of borehole drilling continues.

In Zimbabwe, there was the construction of flats in rural areas, so in Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe, there are some flats that are being constructed, something that has not been done in Zimbabwe. My constituency started with this project. There is a big change in Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe, which is something that they also wanted for years. The Madicheche Road, was not accessible. It has gone for years without being constructed or rehabilitated, but because of this leadership, the road is being rehabilitated and people are grateful.

Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe was behind in terms of development, but because of the Second Republic, they are appreciating the good works. They have sent me here to say that they are in agreement that the years increase from five to seven years because the development that is happening should not stop. After all, when elections are being held, the development may cease and the money may be directed to elections so they can send me to say that the constituency of Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe is in agreement with the Bill.

Madam Speaker, I am now going on the issue of chiefs. If we go back to the time of the liberation struggle, the chiefs were being arrested pertaining to the issue of politics and yet they were the rulers of the land. If these chiefs are allowed, then if they want to participate, they must not be harassed. For instance, let us say a chief studied as a doctor, so should we stop him just because he is a chief from practicing as a doctor? Let us say if he is a lawyer, we cannot stop a chief from practicing law because he is a chief; he is allowed. The chiefs must be allowed to participate in politics; those who are free to do so must be allowed.

I would like to talk about the Clause which speaks of the registrar. The voters' roll must be transferred to the Registrar because they are the ones who have all the details about a child who has acquired birth certificates, national identification and death certificates. So, I support that the voters' roll be transferred from ZEC to the Registrar's office so that the voters' roll can be compiled accordingly.

On the Gender Commission, my view is that Zimbabwe is known to have moved some steps forward pertaining to issues related

to gender. So, I was asking that this House leave that commission as it is. I am also asking that when we conduct our budget processes, the Gender Commission should be included in the national budget so that it can work efficiently.

On the clause that the President be elected by Hon. Members of Parliament, people from UMP have said that they are not disputing and are in agreement and supporting it. They say that there is no difference between voting for councillors; because they are the ones who vote for the council chairman. They went on to say that all their problems and grievances they bring to us, so they said I should represent them in electing the President.

Madam Speaker, most issues that I wanted to say have already been said. I would also like to thank Hon. Matewu, Hon. Molokela, Hon. Kaitano and all others who and applauded after the completion of the consultations at UMP. Thank you Madam Speaker.

**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: Friday, 12th June, 2026.

On the motion of **THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYMABI)**, *the
House adjourned at Ten Minutes to Eight o'clock p.m.*