

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Friday, 12th June, 2026

The National Assembly met at Half-past Nine o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

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

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. MPASI:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for according me this opportunity to debate on this issue which was brought in by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Z. Ziyambi. I am representing the people from Shurugwi North. The people in Shurugwi North are saying we are happy with this CAB 3, we embrace it in totality. In my individual capacity, I strongly support this Bill. The reasons are that those who have eyes, let them see what is happening in our country. The people in Shurugwi say the Presidential term extension was supposed to be five years, not two. The reasons

are that the violence after elections is very high and people will not be happy till the next election. If we extend it by seven years, we can develop our country and we can save our money so that we can match other countries economically.

The people in Shurugwi gave me an example of an advertisement by Cold Storage Commission (CSC), that there was a bull which used to say Samson is good meat, which speaks for itself. They were saying the Bill is right on its own. The people in Shurugwi North had not come across programmes like irrigation until the advent of the Second Republic. Furthermore, they are saying the roads are good, which is a testimony of the hardworking leaders in the place. So many state-of-the-art projects have been implemented through the Second Republic. For example, if you look at our airports, now we can stand among other nations that have developed. If you look at our GDP is growing. So, the people of Shurugwi North are saying they really want the Presidential term limit to be extended to seven years. If it were possible, they were proposing five years instead of two years, because they are looking at the development of the nation.

The people of Shurugwi also asked me to convey the message from Galatians 6:9 to the Minister, saying, "Continue doing good for you are a good Minister." It is important not to grow weary in doing

good. We look to you as a beacon of hope for our country, especially now that Zimbabwe is on a positive path. For those who may not see this progress, your guidance can help illuminate the clear future ahead. They also support the idea of the President being chosen from this House. If you look at our neighbouring countries, that is what they are doing. I cannot continue repeating what the others have already said, but the bottom line is that the people from Shurugwi are saying we are in support of the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill (CAB3). I thank you.

***HON. MATIZA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I come from Gokwe. Gokwe was known for producing housemaids and boys who herd cattle. We gathered in Gokwe and I would say CAB3 is our brainchild. I want to thank the Hon. Minister for explaining in this Parliament. He explained very well that those who do not understand should understand what the Spirit says to the church. I am grateful for the opportunity you have given me as a representative from Gokwe with regard to the debate of this Bill.

Madam Speaker, on 14th February and 4th March, in February 1980, the Opposition was thoroughly beaten. They came up with 20

seats but as the ruling party, we came up with 57 seats. The opposition did not stop there...

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

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

HON. MUTSEYAMI: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I think Hon. Matiza should withdraw his statement. His statement does not give a good impression. There are no enemies in this House. It is a question of contesting when it comes to elections. There are no enemies here.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is only that I was signing this paper here, so I did not get him clearly. Were you not referring to 1980?

***HON. MATIZA:** I was referring to 1980 and our people were killed at Chimoio, where blood was lost.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you should understand that, Hon. Mutseyami, when we were coming from the war, the people who were fighting were our enemies. It is about the 1980 election.

***HON. MUTSEYAMI:** Hon. Speaker, I understand what you are saying and I respect your Chair. You cannot tell me about war because my father also went to war. No one can tell me about that. Hon. Matiza did not mention the war. He was talking about the elections and he referred to people who were contesting way after 1980 as enemies but if you want to protect him, that is okay.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He said we came up with 57 seats and it was indeed 1980 when we were contesting against the enemies.

***HON. MAVHUDZI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. The elections in 1980 had many parties, including ZAPU, which also fought. So, if we say the opposition in 1980 were enemies, does it mean that ZAPU were enemies? I thank you.

HON. TOGAREPI: Madam Speaker, maybe a little bit of history to them will make them understand. ZAPU and ZANU just agreed to go into the elections separately but with one manifesto, so they were one. In an election of 1980, we won 77 seats. He may just

be looking at ZANU, but we were one ZAPU and ZANU, with one manifesto.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is very true that in the 1980 elections, we were contesting with enemies.

***HON. MATIZA:** Thank you for protecting me Madam Speaker, I feel warm. As I have alluded to, we agreed as Gokwe, that Parliament should be given powers to select the President. Secondly, we also agreed that the term should be extended by two years from five to seven years for the President, the Hon. Members of Parliament and the councillors.

CAB3 is not good for us only but for our nation as a whole, so that we have peace and more time to work. There is no clever cat that eats a pregnant mouse. When we say Government business, we are referring to business and not losses. I am trying to say that this Bill is good for us. It is for uplifting each one of us so that we have time to work. It is a plea to the nation of Zimbabwe that we should speed up this process and not waste time debating in this House. This Bill should be passed.

Representing my daughters, I support them on the Gender Commission. There are no other issues that you can talk about but to support this Bill in its totality. I thank you.

HON. NYATHI: Thank you Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to add my voice on CAB3. I represent the people of Lobengula Magwegwe Constituency. The people of the Lobengula Magwegwe Constituency would like to air their concerns regarding CAB 3 as follows. They say they do not have a problem with Parliament electing a President. However, their issue is the manner in which this procedure will be carried out. They ask if there will be guarantees that the President who will be elected by Parliament will be accountable, like what we see happening in South Africa, where the President comes and joins parliamentarians and answers questions.

Since I came to Parliament in 2023, I have never had an opportunity to ask anything directly to the President. We would want a situation where we are able to interact directly with the President on matters that affect the citizens.

On the transferring of voters' roll to the Registrar General Office, they are worried that this places electoral eligibility with the Executive. It becomes so very difficult for the Registrar General's Office to do the registration and also conduct elections. While it is progressive that registration should be done by the Registrar, the running of the elections should be done by an independent body. It must not be done by the Registrar General's Office. This is what they are saying. I do not want to repeat many of the issues that have been said, but I will just be touching on the important points so that we do not waste a lot of time for other Hon. Members that would want to debate.

The issue of chiefs is very topical. It is not proper for our chiefs to be involved in politics. The reason being, if a chief has to compete, for example, with me, Tendayi Nyati, in an election, it erodes the chief's dignity. It erodes the office of a chief's dignity because there are a lot of events and insults that are held during a campaign period. This would place the chiefs in a very difficult position. So, according to them, the chiefs must maintain their leadership roles, grievance and

problem-solving roles within the communities and leave politics to politicians, just like the judges and other public office bearers.

Let me talk about the Gender Commission. Abolishing the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission reduces the independent oversight architecture. We must leave the Gender Commission as it is. We must not make any changes in that regard. This is what they have said. Let me go to the other concerns that they raised. They have raised concerns about what will happen with the projects, which we think the Second Republic is set to achieve. They asked me a question, which I could not answer. They said that about a decade ago, the Mutare-Plumtree Road was meant to be dualised. That road has not been dualised; it was just resurfaced. This is over 10 years now.

In addition, they are asking whether anything will be done on that road within the two-year extension. They are also asking about the land degradation. Is there going to be a halt to the rampant mining in the country within these two years? Will these two years see beneficiation of minerals by Zimbabweans? Will these two years show a difference in the schools, particularly in Matabeleland and

Bulawayo, where there are no roofs in some schools, where there are no benches and desks in some schools? They are worried, Madam Speaker. They are very worried that if CAB3 does not address these problems, then it is not worth supporting. They want to see real change in the communities.

Furthermore, they appreciate the work and efforts, which have been done by His Excellency President Mnangagwa. The bone of contention is that Matabeleland as a region is still crying; it is still left out. If you go to Matabeleland North, Hwange is the oldest mine, over 120 years old but there is nothing to show in Matabeleland North. The only two items we can talk about are the lithium mine and the Beitbridge Border Post. The road from Beitbridge to Bulawayo is pathetic. They ask if CAB3 is going to address this and if it is going to rehabilitate the road between Bulawayo and Beitbridge, which is a gateway to Zambia, DRC, Malawi and other countries.

Madam Speaker, coming from Bulawayo, we have problems with water. I am sure the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs will attest to this because for the past few years we have been going to Bulawayo for our budget processes in November. The

Gwayi-Shangani Dam has been talked about for a long, long time. They want to know what is in it for the people of Bulawayo as far as water reticulation is concerned. Will this see the completion of the Gwayi-Shangani Dam? Will this see the glass block dam being constructed? Or will these two years come and go without anything tangible being seen in Bulawayo?

Let me talk about the industries in Bulawayo. They want to know what this Government will do with regard to resuscitating industries in Bulawayo. They want to know what this Government will do in as far as capacitating entrepreneurs in Bulawayo is concerned. We see in other areas Government doing projects for the youth and young ladies. I will not mention the names, but we see them all over the show. Projects are happening elsewhere, but hardly anything is happening in Bulawayo.

If you go to Bulawayo now, you will hardly see any construction in the CBD, let alone painting happening. People of Bulawayo want to know what is in it for CAB3. What is in it as far as rebuilding the country? The Minister of Justice spoke about the toxicity caused by elections. Even if we go to seven years, if fundamentals are not

corrected, we will not solve the toxicity problem. I will give you an example: if you go to South Africa, you will not see, outside of an election, ANC-branded cars. If you go to Botswana, you will not see BDP-branded cars. If you go to Namibia, go wherever you want to go. The toxicity is caused by failure to unite citizens after elections.

I would want to implore the Government to really consider mechanisms for coming out of election mode. When we see these branded cars roaming around the streets, we wonder if they are going to campaign or where they are going. We want to have a country where after elections, we are brought together and we forget about elections. Even if we go to seven years, as long as we are seeing what is still happening, nothing will change. We want to ask the Minister responsible to allow people to heal and come together after an election by removing anything related to party politics in Government.

In conclusion, I want to say the people really appreciate and realise that there has been great transformation from when President Mnangagwa took over until today. If you look at the projects that he has achieved under his watch, you will appreciate the work that he has

done. He has achieved these good things within the five years that were allotted to him. People really appreciate that what we need as a country is the battle of leadership to be passed on. It must be passed on transparently. It must be passed on smoothly. We do not want a situation where our development is centralised to one party. We want a situation where we sit as we did in the inclusive Government. We sit around, we agree on what we want to do and we move with what we want to do. When we did the 2013 Constitution, everyone felt involved. The people of Magwegwe-Lobengula Constituency wish to request that they are given an equal ear and an equal voice in the making of this CAB3.

I struggled with some old women in the constituency. They were of the feeling that CAB3 was grab three. I said it is not grab three, it is CAB3. They said it is grab three because you want to grab three terms. I said no, that is not what it is.

In conclusion, as I sit down, I want to say, let us do what is best for the country as Zimbabweans. Let us sit and come to a collective point where, both Houses, left and right, agree what is good and what is best for the country. This country has great potential. This country

can grow 10 times more than what it is today but we need people to work together. We need to stop the politics of division. Dividing people along political lines and along tribal lines, we need to stop that. Once we come together, we will work for the greater prosperity of this country. I thank you.

***HON. TASIKANI:** I am representing people from Mutoko South. I cannot talk about Mutoko South only without mentioning that I am a youth representative in Mashonaland East. Here I am representing Mutoko South and the Mashonaland East Province youth wing. Let me thank the Hon. Minister of Justice for bringing this Bill into this House. Let me also thank the team of Parliament that went to Mashonaland East, including Hon. Matewu, Hon. Kaitano and many others who were part of the team. I stood up in support of this Bill as an individual, Isaac Tasikani and the whole constituency of Mutoko South and all the youths in Mashonaland Province.

I will speak in reference to what is happening and what is being done by our President in the Second Republic. Where I come from in Mutoko, we have seen a lot of what the President has done which has caused us to support this Bill. When we were growing up, we used to

know that if quarry stones were mined in Mutoko, they would be exported out of the country, but because of the Second Republic, we have three companies that have come to do beneficiation of the stones and the youth are now getting jobs. This has happened because of our President. In Mutoko as well, we have a big plant, which was placed there, which produces canned vegetables and tomatoes. People are no longer coming to Mbare. People are just going there in Mutoko, which is quite near. They sell their produce and they are given money.

We have seen a lot that our President has done when it comes to our health. We have many clinics in Chisambiro and Nyabote is near completion. This has happened during the Second Republic. Looking at Mashonaland East Province, in supporting this Bill, when it comes to irrigation, we have Muchekeranwa Dam which was constructed in a short time and people now irrigate the fields easily. People now have access to clean water. This has taken place in the Second Republic because of our President. We also have Chivhu Dam which was built within a short space of time and people are enjoying using the water for irrigation. This has caused Mashonaland East Province to support this Bill and that the President, MPs and councillors and all

those who will come, their term should be extended to seven years from five years. We have a lot to say in support of this Bill. I am supporting the election of the President in this House. I support that. We are the youths; we are the only ones who can tell the story of what we go through during elections because during elections, the youths are the ones who do the campaigns. We have seen it fit that we should support this Bill; only a few in this House are against the Bill. Now it is each man for himself, as an MP, as a councillor. Since we have been given the mandate by the people we represent, we can vote for the President in this House. I heard some people saying that talking about democracy, where I come from, everything is transparent. The process that we use for general elections, when we are holding our primary elections, is done peacefully. We have leaders who come from the people. We are not afraid of choosing our President in this House. I know some other parties; the way they do their elections is not transparent.

Let me move to Clause 2, that the voters' roll should be returned to the Registrar General's Office. The people of Mashonaland East support that the voters' roll should be returned to the Registrar

General's Office. I want to thank Hon. Ziyambi, who said that the voters' roll should be returned to the Registrar General's Office whilst Mr. Mudede is still alive, because he is a custodian of our history, and he is quite knowledgeable, so he can come and teach the coming leaders. Previously, when this was put in place, many people cried foul after elections, claiming that the elections had been stolen. Mr. Mudede was of strong character. People just hated him; he did not do anything wrong. Lastly, I am pleading that the Minister should let us vote, because people are supporting this Bill. We are not worried about two or three who are not comfortable with it. We assure the Hon. Minister that we are doing this for the youth, so that when you leave power to us, we will be able to take the nation further.

In conclusion, as the Chairperson of the Youth Wing in Mashonaland East Province, I lead with other provinces, like the Midlands. We have Mr. Dzoro, Mr. Mandebvu from Masvingo, Mr. Masenda from Mashonaland West, Mr. Lundy Nhandi from Matebeleland North, Mr. Langa from Matebeleland South, Mr. Mahachi from Harare, Hon. Sakupwanya, Hon. Murechu and Hon. Raradza, who are saying they are in support of this Bill. It is clear that

we are supporting this Bill; you have nothing to fear because we are behind you. I thank you.

HON. MAVHUNGA: Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to air the views of the people of Chitungwiza South Constituency, whom I represent. Perhaps before I debate, I want to debunk the myth that was created yesterday by Hon. Matangira during his debate that there is nothing that Chitungwiza people can say about the traditional chiefs because they come from an urban constituency. The people of Chitungwiza are Zimbabweans; they have traditional roots in their rural areas, and they are not from outer space. That they stay in Chitungwiza does not imply that they do not appreciate their role and responsibility as chiefs.

The debate, therefore, by Hon. Matangira cannot go unchallenged. Chief Musana of Bindura South is where I come from. Hon. Matangira is my MP. It is, therefore, unfortunate for him to say that the people in urban areas cannot comment about our roots in the rural areas. I stand here with lived experience, personally having participated in CAB2 under the Committee of Justice Legal in Parliamentary Affairs. I was personally involved in CAB2. I vividly

recall public hearings that were held exclusively on radio stations since it was the time of COVID. I recall the positives of CAB2, which culminated in the extension of the women's quota and youth quota. I heard the Hon. Sakupwanya complimenting our effort there. I do not have any issues with those clauses.

However, I recall, in my view, the wanton and unnecessary removal of the running mate clause from the Constitution. I also recall the removal of the interview process for judges being promoted from the High Court to the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court. This time, CAB 3 is going for the kill. They are removing the interview process for judges altogether. Still, I recall the extension of the time and age of the Chief Justice from 70 to 75 years, which then benefited the incumbent, the former Justice Luke Malaba. The High Court bench of Hon. Justice Zhou, E. Mushore, and J. Charewa in the case of Kika versus Minister of Justice and others, as well as Young Lawyers Association of Zimbabwe versus the Judicial Service Commission, would rule that the Chief Justice had ceased to hold office at the age of 70 and would not benefit from the amendment as an incumbent.

The decision of the High Court was not without consequences, as it triggered the departure from the bench of Justice E. Mushore under mysterious circumstances. The Constitutional Court overturned the judgment, and Chief Justice Malaba would stay in office until 14 May 2026 at the age of 75. These are my lived experiences. History has a harsh tendency to repeat itself, and we are at it again. The same script being written but with different actors. Instead of standing proud having participated in two Constitutional Amendment Bills (CAB), which are supposed to entrench our people's rights, I feel like standing on the wrong side of history, overseeing the shredding of our Constitution at every turn.

I will begin, Madam Speaker, with a quotation by James Madison. He was the fourth United States President. He lived between 1809 and 1817. He said, "Frequent elections, frequent changes to the Constitution will make the Government unstable and will have a direct tendency to diminish the respect and attachment which are requisite to preserve it". Madison feared that if the Constitution was amended casually, the people of that particular nation would stop believing it.

At the same time, Immanuel Kant is a philosopher from Germany who lived between 1724 and 1804. He quickly wrote that the Constitution of the Republic must be such that it cannot be changed by the mere will of the Government. He saw the Constitution as the only moral basis of law. The Constitution of any country must not be amended for the convenience and expedience of those in power at the time. I question this, as it is increasingly becoming the tendency in Zimbabwe. In this instance, CAB3 must not be used for the dynamics of succession politics.

HON. MATANGIRA: Point of order Madam Speaker.

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

***HON. MATANGIRA:** Madam Speaker, this Bill is not being amended because of the ruling party. This Constitution, if it is amended, is for future generations. That should be clear.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Matangira. I think he has heard it.

HON. MAVHUNGA: My MPs are on it again. I question this as it is increasingly becoming a tendency in Zimbabwe. In this

instance, CAB3 must not be used for the dynamics of succession politics, elite realignment or the future distribution of political and economic power in Zimbabwe. This is the spirit of the clauses, which seek to extend the tenure of office for the President, the legislature, and local authority.

The Zimbabwean Constitution was promulgated in 2013. It is only 13 years old and we are on the third amendment. The question therefore is, was there any sincerity when we enacted the Constitution in 2013? Certainly not. It is now dawning on us, Madam Speaker Ma'am, that the 2013 Constitution was actually a marriage of convenience for that particular time. Otherwise, the parties to that Constitution were not sincere with each other.

I submit that given the frequency and the nature of amendments, one is forgiven to conclude that the changes are for the convenience of those in authority at the time, and this is dangerous for democracy and constitutionalism. The concept of amending a constitution is not a new phenomenon in Zimbabwe. It has existed since time immemorial. It is the circumstance, nature and type of amendments that have triggered the resistance. To preserve the

sanctity and the *sui generis* nature of a constitution, it should not be subjected to frequent and at times, unnecessary amendments.

In this context, the following examples act as guides on democratic values and constitutionalism.

We cannot ignore other jurisdictions because the world is now a global village. We do not exist in isolation. This is why Zimbabwe is on the verge of sitting on the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member. This is why we engage in benchmark visits. The American Constitution is 237 years old. It was promulgated in 1789 but it has only 27 amendments. Closer to home, Namibia is 36 years old, but has only three amendments. Kenyan Constitution is 16 years old. It has no amendments. Japan's Constitution was enacted in 1947. It has no amendments.

In this context, Madam Speaker, the reasoning advanced that the progression of society is necessitated by these amendments is merely superficial as it would be an insult to other progressive countries within the region and beyond, which have not amended their Constitution to date.

Allow me to deal with a few clauses in the Bill which I want to dissociate from. I feel the clauses related to term extension have already been exhausted by my colleagues.

I do not agree with the clause that seeks to transfer the voters' roll from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to the Registrar General. ZEC is an independent body. It means that ZEC reports to Parliament and the Registrar General is accountable to the Executive. By transferring the role to the Registrar General, Parliament is saying we have failed in our oversight role over ZEC. Therefore, let us get rid of it and throw it somewhere else. To allege that ZEC has failed would imply that Parliament itself has also failed in its duty to oversee ZEC. ZEC has trained staff and has acquired the relevant polling station-based voting materials, which the Registrar General currently does not possess. Instead of cutting costs, this clause intends to increase costs in human resources training and registration equipment by the Registrar. Similarly, there is no need to transfer the delimitation of boundaries to a separate commission. Delimitation in terms of the current Constitution only occurs once in 10 years, yet we

want to create a separate commission that works only once in 10 years.

The second clause, Madam Speaker, which is close to my heart, is Clause 15. I am not only a lawyer; I am a legal practitioner. These are the issues that confront us daily in the corridors of the judiciary. They are live issues which most legal practitioners are concerned with. Clause 15 speaks to the appointment of judges by the President after consulting the Judicial Services Commission. It seeks to remove the process of interviews of judges before being appointed.

The process of interviewing judges was so transparent as it ensured that the best person for the job with the relevant skills and qualifications would be selected for the job. Public participation was guaranteed and the integrity of the process was well known. I was carefully listening to the Minister say the rationale for removing this constitutional clause, but I did not hear any clear mischief which this clause intends to cure, other than consolidating and centralising power in the country where the separation of powers is sacrosanct. South Africa, Kenya and Uganda are good examples where judges of the High Court undergo the process of interviews.

In Uganda, Parliament is involved in the process of interviewing judges. If Zimbabwe is amending the Constitution on the issue of the selection of the President to be based on democracy, we are citing South Africa as an example of parliamentary democracy. Why do we not cite South Africa also in the process of appointing judges? The intended approach to the appointment of judges has the following negative attributes and unintended consequences.

There is a general fear of the appointment of judges on political, tribal, religious or other grounds rather than on merit. There is a risk of the appointment of compromised individuals whose independence as judicial officers is biased towards the appointing authority, thereby eroding the doctrine of separation of powers. There will be low public confidence and trust in the courts if judges appear to have been hand-picked behind closed doors.

Madam Speaker, Ma'am, Clause 21 which seeks to repeal Section 281 of the Constitution, thereby allowing traditional chiefs to participate actively in politics, runs contrary to the principles governing traditional leaders in this country. Before I submit the factual issues around this issue, as much as Hon. Members and the

Minister will debate in support of the traditional leaders being involved in active politics, this is impossible as such an amendment will be unconstitutional.

On this one, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs who is a lawyer by profession, has no discretion but to remove the clause. There is no constitutional engineering that can justify it as this clause contradicts other clauses in the Constitution. It is not a matter of persuasion; it is a matter of law because the Constitution cannot contradict itself. This clause, standing alone, will contradict other sections in the Constitution to the extent that it cannot pass itself without amending other constitutional provisions. In that context, there has to be another CAB4 to streamline this particular clause with the Constitution.

Section 163 (1) of the Constitution provides that traditional leaders are members of the judiciary. Section 165 subsections (a) and (b) provide that members of the judiciary must not engage in any political activities. Subsection (b) says that members of the judiciary must not hold office in or be members of any political organisation. So, once we have agreed that chiefs or traditional leaders are part of

the judiciary, then other clauses in the Constitution have to be amended and these clauses cannot be amended without going to public hearings again. So, this clause, Madam Speaker, if enacted as law, will be unconstitutional.

Traditional leaders are not just leaders. They are traditional, spiritual and cultural ambassadors of their communities. We should not conflate the role of a traditional leader with that of a political leader. Since time immemorial, they have presided over disputes within their jurisdiction without segregating. The core function of traditional leaders in the community is to unite people. Once they join party politics, half of the village sees them as biased. That weakens their authority in resolving disputes.

Political parties can then use chiefs to mobilise votes, threaten dissenters or claim traditional backing that turns cultural authority into campaign machinery. Political office is associated with many negative factors such as sloganeering, political banter and at times insults. This should not extend to chiefs, as it will belittle them and they will lose their spiritual and cultural value.

Madam Speaker, imagine a chief losing a primary election to a kraal head. Will the kraal head and those who voted for him still respect the chief in the same light? The submission by the Minister that chiefs are already in the Senate and are part of the legislature does not make them partisan. In principle and according to the Constitution, they are not supposed to represent party interests. They represent diverse cultural interests in the Senate. Many countries like South Africa, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia ban chiefs from getting involved in politics. The middle-aged approach is that chiefs must be allowed to vote, which is their right but not to actively participate in politics.

Madam Speaker, my final submission relates to the Constitutional Court. On this one, I submit that it is a progressive amendment. The Constitutional Court must be allowed to hear cases of national interest on points of law. In fact, the Constitutional Court should be allowed to hear cases on the merits rather than on technicalities, like what we have been seeing under Chief Justice Malaba. For the above reasons, Chitungwiza South Constituency cannot and does not endorse this Bill. I submit.

HON. MUDUMI: Thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the people of Masvingo North Constituency and myself as the representative of the ZANU-PF mass party on the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that countries with progressive democracies always keep their Constitutions under checks if it still suits the will of the majority and the national direction. In that aspect, ours cannot be left out in modernising our democracy.

The Bill represents significant and progressive steps towards strengthening the Government systems, improving administrative efficiency and promoting political stability. Constitutional reform is a normal feature of constitutional democracies across the world and it is viewed as a means of ensuring that governance systems remain responsive to national realities and development aspirations.

These proposed amendments seek to streamline institutions, eliminate duplication of functions, strengthen accountability and

create conditions necessary for the successful implementation of Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2).

This Bill seeks to build a governance architecture that is more efficient, cost-effective and development-oriented. It is at a time like this that Zimbabwe is pursuing ambitious infrastructure, industrialisation and economic transformation programmes.

Therefore, the constitutional framework must support policy continuity and the effectiveness of national cohesion. Madam Speaker, in the spirit of leaving no one behind, I support that we continue with the Gender Commission to promote gender equality.

The new system we are proposing will require a Parliament that is gender balanced to push the country forward. The time Gender Commission was introduced; we saw that women were getting influential positions and they were encouraged by the policies of the Government. Hence, in Masvingo North, we had managed to have one of the best Attorney Generals and the first female Attorney General in the history of this country.

Already, the Registrar General is responsible for maintaining birth, death, national identity and citizenship records. So,

consolidating voter registration under the same authority will improve data accuracy, reduce duplication, strengthen accountability and lower the administrative costs. A single authoritative database will enhance the integrity of national records and improve service delivery.

Revamping our governance system is also in sync with many systems in the region, like Botswana and South Africa.

On Clause 3, I support that Parliament elects the President. This system promotes stronger cooperation between the Executive and the Legislature. It reduces the enormous costs associated with nationwide Presidential elections and this minimises electoral tensions and violence. This model is not unique to countries such as South Africa, Botswana, Ethiopia, Germany, Italy and India, which use the parliamentary mechanisms in selecting their Head of State and Government. These systems have contributed to political stability, stronger institutional accountability and improved policy coherence.

Madam Speaker, on Clauses 4, 9 and 10, I support extending the term of office for the President, the Parliament and local authorities from five years to seven years. Frequent elections are costly and often place the country in a perpetual campaign mode. Development

requires stability, continuity and adequate time for implementation.

Major national projects such as the Gwayi-Shangani Dam, the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls Road Rehabilitation and other infrastructure industrialisation initiatives require long-term planning and consistent implementation. If you look at China, President Xi Jinping got an extension after starting developmental work that has seen China rise to be a superpower.

Back home in Zimbabwe, our gold deliveries and reserves have gone up, our food security is at an all-time high and massive infrastructure work is underway. Do we want to hastily change a winning team? The answer and the masses say no. So, the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill gives us a chance to continue on this trajectory. That is what our people have overwhelmingly said in public hearings.

Longer electoral cycles will improve investor confidence and enhance fiscal planning, allowing our Government to focus on service delivery rather than constant election preparations. This approach is not unusual internationally. Cameroon has a seven-year presidential term. Ireland and Italy have a seven-year presidential term. These

examples demonstrate that longer terms can coexist with democratic governance while promoting policy continuity and national development.

On Clause 5, I support the removal of distinctions such as the first Vice President and the Second Vice President. This amendment promotes equality within the presidium. It strengthens collective leadership and eliminates unnecessary perceptions of hierarchy. It will foster teamwork, unity and coordination at the highest level of Government.

On Clause 8, modern governance requires expertise. The appointment of ten technocrat senators will enrich our parliamentary debates through the inclusion of experts in areas such as economics, engineering, health, education, agriculture and technology. If you look at many countries, they utilise appointed members in upper Houses and legislative bodies to bring specialist knowledge into policy formulation and lawmaking. This proposal will strengthen legislative scrutiny, improve the quality of laws and encourage evidence-based decision-making.

On Clauses 12 and 13, I support the establishment of the Electoral Delimitation Commission. Our past delimitation exercise has generated concerns regarding the constituency boundaries and reassignment of voters to distant polling stations. A specialised Commission will enhance fairness, transparency and professionalism in constituency delimitation. This will improve accessibility, voter participation and public confidence in electoral processes.

In conclusion, as the representative of the people, it is important that we do not deviate from the aspirations of the people who have already spoken overwhelmingly supporting CAB3. If the people have spoken, who are we to say no? It is time to align our governance systems with global democratic trends where parliamentary democracy reflects the will of the people.

This Bill seeks to address democratic deficiencies which are at variance with modern-day governance and democratic trends. This amendment creates conditions for sustainable national development. The Bill aligns with Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy 2 by creating a governance framework that is going to

support Zimbabwe's transformation agenda into an upper middle-income economy.

President Mnangagwa is a steady hand and has the experience that is required to keep us on the development path. This is why our party; the ruling party, has proposed to allow him to continue and finish the work that he has started. As parliamentarians, it is our duty to implement resolutions from our party which has brought us here. Change must not be for the sake of it – to earn plaudits from Western democracies. It must be beneficial to the people of Zimbabwe.

We learn that democratic systems from Europe, particularly the British and the Americans, which have been accused of being the handlers of our colleagues, these have taught us that functional democracy is where the legislature is empowered enough to appoint or disappoint the executive through parliamentary vote. If you look at parliamentary votes in America and Britain, they all speak to appointing the President through Parliament. With this submission from the people of Masvingo North and the mass party ZANU PF, I so submit.

HON. MASHONGANYIKA: Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on this CAB3. I also want to thank the mover for this motion, Minister of Justice, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi. The majority of the people from Mashonaland Central Province across all districts are in full support of this amendment Bill.

I want to comment on Clause 3. The election of the President by the Parliament - the participants are in full support of this clause. They view it as a progressive reform that could reduce election costs, minimise political tensions and promote unity. If Parliament can take the role of impeachment of the President, why not elect their own President?

On Clause 4, the majority of the people of Mashonaland Central Province strongly support the extension of the President's term of office from five to seven years. They emphasised that long terms would promote policy continuity, reduce the frequency of elections and it creates a stable environment for economic growth. I also strongly support this clause.

The President's Vision 2030 Agenda aims to transform Zimbabwe into an upper-middle-income economy. The participants of

Mashonaland Central across all the districts are in support of term extension of parliamentarians and councillors from five to seven years. Longer terms would allow Members of Parliament to complete their development projects and deliver meaningful results. This was emphasised by rural areas, urban areas and also growth points. The majority of people strongly support the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, especially women in Mashonaland Central Province because it plays a pivotal role in promoting women's rights, advancing gender equality, women's participation in politics and women's empowerment.

Finally, Madam Speaker, the traditional leaders are citizens who should be allowed to exercise their political rights. Participants drew deeply from the country's liberation history, making reference to figures such as *Mbuya Nehanda* and *Sekuru Kaguvi* and so on, who symbolise the central role of traditional leadership in politics and spiritual resistance during colonial rule. As a war veteran, I noticed and witnessed this Madam Speaker. Even my fellow war veterans in this august House also witnessed this; hence, I strongly support this Clause. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. MAMBIPIRI: Madam Speaker, now, it is the third speaker from that side. It is the turn for this side now to take the floor.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is a time when we called Hon. Dzidzai Butau and we proceeded to Hon. Tasikani and then Hon. Mavhunga. We were supposed to take two, so we are now compensating.

***HON. MAKUMBE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for according me this opportunity to add my voice on the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 3). I want to speak representing the people of Mazowe North Constituency, where I come from and I want also to take this opportunity to give people's views and their message to this august House.

I want to start by saying that Mazowe North Constituency is very happy because of the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill, which was presented in this august House by the Minister of Justice and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. The people of Mazowe North Constituency said Hon. Minister Ziyambi, you are a very good person. You presented a very pertinent Bill. Thank you very much.

They also resoundingly support CAB 3. Where I come from is the origin of Mbuya Nehanda and the Mazowe North people are happy. They said the Bill came at the right time and this Bill must be accepted and it must pass resoundingly, especially on Clause 2, where the President must be elected in this august House by Hon. Members of Parliament. The people of Mazowe North, they do agree that the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe must be voted into power by Members of Parliament. They are saying that it allows them to bring in peace because it eliminates the issue of hate among the residents in their area and they also support the term extension for the President, Hon. Members of Parliament and the councillors from five years to seven years.

The people of Mazowe North said they are happy with that initiative. They say Mashonaland Central has been affected by the liberation struggle. They are saying seven years is very good for development so that people can take enough time or ample opportunity to build their country because holding elections each and every five years was disturbing a lot of development, which was supposed to happen in the country. The people of Mazowe North

Constituency were saying that, if possible, the extension should be increased from two years. They need it to be from 40 to 50 years so that we do not continue to hold elections each and every time because it delays a lot of development in the country.

For example, right now in Mashonaland Central Province, we can see a lot of projects being done and spearheaded by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa and those projects really need time. The rebuilding of the country really needs time. It is different from childbirth, which requires only nine months. People from Mazowe are saying we need time to do projects that are meaningful for the development of the country.

As an Hon. Member, Madam Speaker, who is also part of the youth leadership in ZANU PF party most youth in the provinces and the country are happy with CAB 3 because I had the opportunity to go to Matebeleland North, Matebeleland South, Manicaland, Masvingo, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Harare and even Bulawayo. All the youth are supporting resoundingly CAB 3. They said the Bill allows them opportunity to build our country. If you look at some of

us who cannot see like kittens that have just been born, they do not gain eyesight in one day. Some can even delay in terms of suckling. So, as youths, we are resoundingly supporting the Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 3) and we have been waiting for this Bill for a long time.

Hon. Minister Ziyambi, the programme which you brought into this august House for the Bill, may it move forward. We are really behind you and as the youth, we are saying *CAB 3 bho*. Right now, Hon. Minister, we are just waiting for the whole process to finish. The youth are really happy about what is happening and they are resoundingly supporting the Bill.

Now going to the clause which talks about the chiefs. Even as Hon. Members in this august House, we are chiefs. Hon. Mhangwa is a chief who moved from Chiweshe to Chinhoyi. So, as chiefs were saying, they see nothing wrong for the chiefs to be involved in politics. There is nothing wrong about that because we are already in politics and since time immemorial, the chiefs were already in the politics so they were the ones who were spearheading the liberation

struggle. So, there is nothing wrong about them coming out and being part of politics in the country.

Moving on to the clause to do with the Registrar General's Office, I see it is very important that the Registrar General be given the role to come up with the voters' roll. The whole of Mazowe North Constituency is supporting the Bill but there are other people who do not understand clearly. During the election time, I competed with others and managed to win resoundingly but when it comes to the Presidential election, they talk a lot. So, it is very important for the voters' roll to be returned to the Registrar General's Office because sometimes they are saying some people who are dead are appearing on the voters' roll. So, if we return the voters' roll to the Registrar General, it becomes very easy because they are the ones who are responsible for the production of death, birth, and passport records. Even if you go there with a birth record, you can be able to get a birth certificate. So, it is very important to return back the voters' roll to the Registrar General's Office.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Together with the community of Mazowe North, we are happy. So, it is my first time

to be speaking in this august House. Although I appear to be a bit agitated, I really support CAB3 and also, I want to thank the Hon. Minister of Justice and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Minister Ziyambi. May you finish this process. We support you. We need you. We appreciate you and we support this Bill. May it go forward. Thank you.

HON. P. DUBE: Point of order Madam Speaker.

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

HON. P. DUBE: Nonetheless, I think he has just finished but I wanted to say that the Hon. Member who was on the floor must be well educated to address the Minister with his full title properly as Hon. Minister. I think the way he addresses others is very poor and indecorous.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Makumbe.

HON. MAMOMBE: Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to debate the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026. In doing so, I carry with me the views and

concerns of the citizens of Harare West Constituency, gathered through a constituency consultative meeting that I held on the 21st of March, 2026, in Marlborough, Harare West Constituency. I wish to state from the outset that the people I represent expressed overwhelming opposition to this Bill. They believe it weakens democratic governance, undermines constitutionalism and erodes sovereignty.

Our Constitution is not an ordinary statute. It is the supreme law of the land and a social contract between the citizens and the State. At the centre of this Bill today is a fundamental question: Does this Bill strengthen the sovereignty of the people or does it take away the power from the people and concentrate it in the Executive? The Constitution of Zimbabwe is founded on popular sovereignty. The legislative authority that we enjoy today is derived from the people. Parliament is therefore not a master of the Constitution but Parliament is a servant of this very Constitution.

Madam Speaker, this Bill, when read as a whole, does not merely make technical changes. It forms a coherent scheme that weakens electoral accountability, reduces citizens' participation and

consolidates power in the Executive. When I was going through this Bill as presented by the Hon. Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi, I saw a troubling pattern. I saw that the Bill seeks to take away the people's direct right to elect their Head of State. I saw that the Bill also seeks to extend the term of elected officials. I also saw that the Bill weakens the independent institutions and concentrates more authority in the executive. I am, therefore, Madam Speaker, convinced that these amendments move this country, Zimbabwe, in the wrong direction.

Let me go clause by clause. I want to start with Clause 2. It removes the voter registration, compilation of the voters' roll and custody of the voters' roll from an independent Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and transfers those roles and functions to the Registrar General. As Harare West Constituency, we reject this clause. The voters' roll is a foundation of a free and fair election. Whoever controls the voters' roll, controls the critical part of our electoral process. Moving this function from ZEC to the Registrar General weakens electoral independence and places a core electoral function under an office that lacks the same constitutional safeguards as the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission.

Madam Speaker, if the concern with ZEC is efficiency, the answer is very simple. The answer is not to strip ZEC of its mandate. The answer is to strengthen ZEC by making sure we improve data sharing with the Registrar General and modernising registration systems. We are now in the fourth industrial revolution where we can leverage AI to improve processes and ensure transparency within ZEC.

Let me quickly move on to Clause 3. This is one of the most dangerous clauses. It proposes that the President must be elected by Members of Parliament in a joint sitting of the Senate and the National Assembly. The people of Harare West are very clear, the President must be elected directly by the people. We maintain that one person, one vote. Madam Speaker, the question is, are we saying the liberation struggle and its gains were a mistake? One person, one vote, was it a mistake? I want to say today, let us not strip citizens of their right to vote. Why should an elected few decide for the majority? A direct presidential election is not a democratic feature of our democracy. This is a central mechanism through which citizens exercise sovereignty. Removing the people's direct vote for President

reduces millions of Zimbabweans to spectators while a small group of parliamentarians decides who becomes the Head of State.

Madam Speaker, this clause also creates serious risk of patronage, bribery, intimidation and political bargaining. In a context like our country where money and executive power already influence political processes, reducing the electoral college from millions of citizens to a few parliamentarians is very dangerous. Even more concerning, the proposed clause appears to allow a person who was never directly elected by the people or even rejected by the voters to become President through this Parliament. This is not democracy. This is a removal of the people from the centre of government. I, therefore, oppose Clause 3.

Madam Speaker, let me move to Clauses 4, 9 and 10, which talk about the extension of terms from five years to seven years. In 2023, the President and Members of Parliament were elected for a five-year term. No candidate sought a mandate from the people for seven years. To extend the term after the election is to alter the people's mandate after it has already been given.

The Bill is about consolidation of political power. This is what we have seen since this debate started. If one examines the political campaigns surrounding this Bill, particularly the advertisements that have been put out on radio and television, the focus is not on deepening democracy or strengthening our institutions or even improving governance. The focus has been on an individual. If you listen to the jingles, if you listen to the songs around this Bill, they have been centred on an individual and we reject this Bill.

No elected body has the moral or constitutional authority to unilaterally extend its own term of office without returning to the people. This is precisely why Section 328 (7) exists. It improves the incumbents. It prevents the incumbents from benefiting from the amendments that extend their term in office. It is a constitutional firewall against self-serving amendments. If leaders want a seven-year term, they must ask the people directly through a referendum and apply these changes only for future officeholders, not this current Parliament.

Clause 8 allows the President to appoint additional senators. The proposal de-democratises the Senate. Senators must represent the

people and their provinces, not Presidential preference. The danger, Madam Speaker Ma'am, becomes clearer when Clause 8 is read together with Clause 3. If Parliament elects the President and the President appoints the Senators, then the system risks being secular.

There is Presidential influence shaping the body that may intend to choose the President in the future. This also affects the constitutional amendment arithmetic. Additional appointed Senators, as proposed by the Bill, can alter the balance of power in Parliament and make it easier for a ruling party to reach a supermajority without securing a genuine two-thirds mandate from voters. This is not a technical reform. It is a constitutional fraud.

Let me move to Clauses 11, 12, 13 and 17. These clauses talk about the electoral Delimitation Commission and the reduction of the ZEC function. The delimitation and voter registration must remain with ZEC and ZEC must be strengthened. The problem with our electoral system is not that ZEC has too much independence. The problem is that citizens, want more transparency, want more independence, more accountability and more public confidence. The

proposed Delimitation Commission would be appointed by the President. Again, this is an executive override.

That creates a risk that boundary delimitation, one of the most politically sensitive electoral functions, may become a subject of executive influence. Free and fair elections require an independent institution. These clauses move us in a different direction. The repeal of the constitutional provision requiring traditional leaders not to be members of political parties or to participate in partisan politics, this is Clause 21. We strongly reject this Clause.

Traditional leaders serve communities made up of citizens with different political views. Their authority depends on neutrality, fairness and trust. If traditional leaders become openly partisan, their constitutional role as community leaders and quasi-judicial authority is compromised. This clause also affects the Senate because the chiefs are going to be sitting in the Senate as Members of Parliament.

Therefore, if chiefs are no longer constitutionally required to be non-partisan, then the democratic legitimacy of the Senate is further weakened. You have an additional 10 senators; you have chiefs who are now partisan. This will weaken our Senate. The traditional leaders

must remain above partisan politics. They must not subscribe to any political party.

The recurring message from the constituency that I represent in this august House, Harare West Constituency, was to demand a referendum. The people of this country made the Constitution. The people must decide whether it must be fundamentally altered. As their representative today, I wish to place their views before this House and submit that the Constitution of Zimbabwe, Amendment (No. 3) Bill, must be rejected in its entirety. The Constitution must be rejected in its entirety. The Constitution of this country belongs to the people and no one has the right to play around with the people's Constitution. I therefore submit the views and concerns of the people of Harare West Constituency. I thank you.

HON. KARIKOGA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. The amendments are necessary to ensure that as a country, we achieve what is best for Zimbabweans. I am not here to quote European philosophers and their philosophies. I am here to say what my great philosopher said. *Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo.*

Now, if we are to build this country, , we develop it using our Constitution and these constitutional amendments we are debating today are necessary for the growth and development of Zimbabwe. The amendments to the Constitution are for Zimbabwe, for Zimbabweans and for the good of Zimbabweans.

I will not burden the House with the points already exhausted by other Hon. Members who spoke before me. I will simply give practical examples on why, as Gokwe, we support Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026. The people who voted for me, *Abiyangu* from Gokwe, Mapfungautsi Constituency, said they are in agreement with the amendment.

I will firstly focus on Clause 17 that seeks to give the Registrar General's Office the mandate to register voters and also give a practical example of why people from Gokwe are supporting this clause. The current system, Madam Speaker, disenfranchises particularly voters from rural areas. Therefore, voter registration presently is not fair in comparison with urban voters. Building up to 2023, voter registration left many people without being registered to vote.

People, particularly from Gokwe South, over 15000 of them, could not vote because ZEC, lacked proper coordination with the Registrar General's Office and embarked on a voter registration blitz but people had no IDs. Madam Speaker, two weeks later, after ZEC was complete with their blitz, the Registrar also went on a blitz to register people to give them IDs and ZEC was already done with voters' registration. This left many of our people without being registered to vote.

I will also give you another example. People from Manoti in Gokwe South, people from Sengwa Bridge, from as far as Ndandulo and Ganyungu, that is about 100 kilometres from ZEC's district office, they have to sacrifice their time and money to go and register to vote, only to be told that ZEC's network is offline. Then, those people will take another two days to go back, without registering to vote. It is against this background that people from Gokwe South are supporting the clause.

Our current Constitution, Madam Speaker, has not proved to avoid a constitutional crisis when it comes to the election of the President. We should be grateful that we have not experienced a clear

potential crisis brought by this Constitution. As alluded to by the Justice Minister in his remarks, this current Constitution has the potential to give us a President who may not have a two-thirds majority in Parliament, or who may not have majority support in Parliament, thus creating a crisis. I support the motion that the President must be voted for by Parliament.

This will also ensure that there is no more waiting for Presidential votes to be verified as required by the current laws. Presidential elections are a logistical nightmare. Those with rural constituencies, I want you to think about the furthest polling station in your constituency, that polling station which is hard to reach. A Presidential vote will come from that polling station, then be transferred to the Ward Collection Centre where a councillor will be declared a winner. I know most of our Hon. Members here; their constituencies are smaller than the ones in the rural areas that are small. Then, from the Ward Collection Centre, that vote will go to the Constituency Collection Centre. Then from there, to the district, then to the province and then to ZEC. HQ will be having votes from 1 970 wards of this country. The nightmare is where that vote will wait until

all 64 admin districts have been verified and announced. I think against this background, people from Gokwe will say Parliament must vote for the President.

The proposed seven years provides political stability in this country and also promotes sustained economic growth, foreign direct investment and tourism. The infrastructure development that we are witnessing in this country indeed requires seven more years to complete. This allows our Government to implement long-term policy strategies and foster public trust, enabling social and human capital progress. Madam Speaker, allow me to sit down and, as I said earlier, people from Gokwe South are in support of this Amendment Bill.

***HON. MUSIYIWA:** Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill presented in this august House by the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. As an Hon. Member of Mutoko East Constituency with the places called Domborinemhiri, Chije, Chibeta, Makora, Mushimbo, Chinyika, Kaunye, Musanhi, Nyamakosi, Kapondora, Chifambiro and Makosa, people are in support of this Bill. People from all these areas have sent me to this august House

and notified the whole nation, the whole world, that they support this Bill wholeheartedly. Everything in that Bill, we agree and we do not disagree with anything. So, as the Member of Parliament for Mutoko East, we support this Bill resoundingly. I have another position for Mutoko in monitoring three constituencies. I will not mention the position; it is the same position as Hon. Ziki and Hon. Mudungehama. As Mutoko, we support the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill resoundingly without any objections. When the public consultations were done, all people from Mutoko, all age groups, from youths, women, men, all veterans, supported the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill resoundingly.

Madam Speaker, we see that our President, our father, His Excellency, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, has a vision which if he reaches 2030, that vision will be fulfilled. For example, he says every village must have its own borehole, it is something that we are witnessing right now. As I am speaking in this august House, at Kapondora, RIDA is drilling a borehole at Chimoyo Primary School. Every school must have a borehole.

About the initiatives and the vision of the President, we are supporting this and he must be given enough time to finish all the projects. The President also has a vision of revamping our electric sector, our energy sector, to the extent that we will be able to sell electricity to other countries. We want him to reach 2030 as the President so that he can fulfil all these projects in line with his vision.

I also want to talk on the issue of extension of the term from five years to seven years. Seven years gives opportunity to the President, councillors, Members of Parliament; to plan things and be able to execute them effectively because there is ample time. I want to say I was a Member of Parliament in the Ninth Parliament. I also managed to construct clinics at different levels and they are seven now. One of the clinics has already started working. Some of the clinics are now at different levels, nearing official opening. It is not possible to construct all those clinics in five years but it needs more time, like seven years because sometimes we do not get enough funds here to construct all these things at once. The extension of the term allows us to finish all projects and even what we are doing and planning to do in different

communities, we will be able to execute them. Seven years is good and people of Mutoko support that initiative.

Madam Speaker, on the election of the President, the President must be elected by the Members of Parliament. If you look back long enough, when we do elections, most of the time, the disharmony, violence and misunderstanding in the families when people are fighting for their different candidates to take the provincial post. Most of the time, we end up having violence and it does not mean the violence is caused by one political party, but will be coming from all the people because every party will be fighting for its leadership.

It is very pertinent for the President to be elected from this august House. When we join hands, we are going to join them in this august House and elect our President. I want to thank our Hon. Minister for the vision, which resoundingly supports the Bill. We are supporting the Bill to move forward and the Bill must be signed into law. People from Mutoko are supporting it. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. MURINGAZUVA: Good morning, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to debate on the CAB 3. Now, before I go further with my debate...

HON. TSVANGIRAI: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MAUNGANIDZE):
Order! What is your point of order?

HON. TSVANGIRAI: According to our ratio, Hon. Speaker, it is supposed to be two on that side and one on this side. Now we are having 30% debating from that side, while no one has been allowed to debate from this side.

THE HON. TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Well noted. I am just following the list. I will rectify. Hon. Muringazuva, you may proceed. I will correct it.

HON. MURINGAZUVA: Thank you, Madam Speaker Ma'am. Now, at this particular stage of this debate, I would like to point out that this debate has been going on for quite a while and it has been debated almost exhaustively and professionally. I would say, very fantastical views have come from Hon. Members, especially Hon. Members of this side of the House.

As I said, it is almost exhaustive in nature, what has happened now and it will take a lot of creativity to come up with a new angle to this debate, considering what has been said so far by the esteemed Members of this House.

Now, what pushes me to come here and continue to debate even though the debate has been debated exhaustively, is the fact that the people of my own constituency of Hurungwe North insisted and said, Hon. Member, you are our representative in the House and we insist that you go to the House and speak before the House and tell the whole nation what we as the people of Hurungwe North have told you to go and say, we support the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill in its entirety.

Before I proceed with my debate, Madam Speaker, we ought to note certain fundamentals as far as our nation of Zimbabwe is concerned.

Firstly, of all, Zimbabwe is a third-world country, or what we call a developing nation. Secondly, Zimbabwe's economy is at a stage that we call the stage of recovery. It is recovering. Now, I will draw parallels before I go further. It is recovering from a depression that

was caused by sanctions that were imposed upon us in the year 2000-2002, somewhere thereabout – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

As I go further, I will draw parallels.

HON. JAMES: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

THE HON. TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, what is your point of order, Hon. James?

HON. JAMES: Madam Speaker, we have heard the sanctions bit for quite a while now. It is sometimes used as a convenient excuse and sometimes it is used in a progressive manner that we do not need sanctions. We can rely on local investment.

If the sanctions were put on the Government and only the Government can get them lifted.

THE HON. TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. James, may you allow Hon. Muringazuva to debate?

HON. TOGAREPI: Madam Speaker, I respect Hon. James, but for him to pretend that we were not under sanctions and we are still under sanctions is, for me, not honourable, but irresponsible and may bring us to think more reasons as to why he is saying that – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

THE HON. TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. B. James, I do not acknowledge you. We will not allow you to mislead the House. We will not allow you to be honest in what you will be saying. May you please take your seat? Hon. Muringazuva, you may proceed.

HON. JAMES: Madam Speaker, I am not denying the sanctions, it is just being used as an excuse.

THE HON. TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. B. James, I did not acknowledge you. It is well known that our country is still under sanctions. You may proceed. Order! Hon. Muringazuva, you may proceed – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

HON. TSVANGIRAI: Point of order.

THE HON. TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Tsvangirai, I have made a ruling.

HON. TSVANGIRAI: I have a point of order.

THE HON. TEMPORARY SPEAKER: It is arising from what? I am not tolerating that. Please, let us not disturb the process. Hon. Muringaziva, you may proceed.

HON. MURINGAZUVA: Madam Speaker, Ma'am, *hanzi kuzeza chati kwatara hunge une katurikwa*. Now, Madam Speaker,

Ma'am, they say history repeats itself. I want to bring the House to a certain incident in history. You see, the United States of America at one point underwent a certain period that was called the boom.

During that period, the American economy grew to unprecedented levels at that time. It came to a time around the 1920s, which was the time of Presidents like Calvin Coolidge and Warren Harding. It went through what was called the depression. American industry fell, real estate fell and unemployment came to unprecedented levels. I think we have all heard about the crash of 1929. America was on its knees after the boom.

In 1933, they elected a President whose name is Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Immediately after assuming power, he went through and started programmes like the Tennessee Valley Association, the public works, whatever and things like that. America started recovering during that period and because of the great works that were done at that time, Congress, for the first time in American history, voted for Franklin Delano Roosevelt for a third term. During his third term, the Second World War started and Congress decided that Franklin Delano Roosevelt could run for the fourth time.

Around 1945, when he was just beginning his fourth term, we all know that Franklin Delano Roosevelt died of polio. He was actually ruling America from a wheelchair, and the people allowed him to do that because of the great works that he had done in terms of the recovery of the American economy.

Now I can draw parallels, Madam Speaker.

HON. NGADZIORE: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

THE HON. TEMPORARY SPEAKER: What is your point of order, Hon. Ngadziore?

HON. NGADZIORE: I think it is a miscarriage of justice to use an example of the former President Roosevelt, who came to power in 1933-1945. He was elected then because this was the law in the United States before they had passed the 22nd Amendment, which was ratified in 1951. It is tired intellectualism to prepare and to mislead the House. Madam Speaker, he is misleading the House. I do have the history and we know it.

THE HON. TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, Hon. Ngadziore. Order, when you have a chance to debate, you can come up with your facts. May you allow Hon. Muringazuva to finish his

debate because when you do your research, you put your facts together. May you allow him to finish his debate?

HON. MURINGAZUVA: We are well aware of the history, as the Hon. Member alludes, Madam Speaker, but we are drawing parallels. We never said our Constitution is the same as the Constitution of America. No, we did not say that. What we are saying here is that the bottom line is the same. A great leader who takes the country through a recovery deserves more time. This is the basic tenet of this whole argument.

It is not about the American Constitution said that, but the Zimbabwean Constitution said this.

The bottom line is that the man who led America from the depression to the recovery was given four terms. Basically, a great leader who takes a nation from a depression to a recovery needs more time to finish his programmes. The parallels I draw with the United States of America are very simple. When you look at it, around 1939, World War II started and today, how many wars are there? Look at the geopolitics of this world right now. We are in a war, almost a third

war. So, we can draw parallels from the American experience to the Zimbabwean experience.

Now, when His Excellency Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa came into office in 2018, we all saw phenomenal growth of our economy. Our GDP is quite upward, economic growth is at 6%, against a global average of 2.9%. We are now producing 100% of our basic needs. Cooking oil, rice, you name it, we no longer import anything. Before 2018, the most fashionable thing to smuggle and profitable in Zimbabwe was cooking oil. Today, if you bring cooking oil into Zimbabwe, you are not going to find a single buyer. We are producing it. You do not see any Delight cooking oil; the Delight you see in Zimbabwe now is written 'made in Zimbabwe'. Smuggling of cooking oil is happening from Zimbabwe to Zambia.

Our companies that were non-existent at that time, for example, the Sun Yi Feng factory here in Norton, are producing double the number of tiles that SADC can consume but before 2018, we were importing tiles from South Africa. Madam Speaker, all this phenomenal growth and what has happened made us so distinctly aware of how many limitations are on our Constitution. Five years are

not enough for a recovering economy, for a developing nation to implement all its programmes. Why am I saying so? The time we are living in is a time of war. You must understand goods that normally take three months to reach Zimbabwe are now taking a year because of the blockades on the seas. We are living in an era of global warming, facing numerous natural catastrophes. Events such as El Niño-induced droughts significantly disrupt our economy, and these are beyond our control. In 2023-2024, we had a very debilitating drought that took almost \$5 billion from our economy and imagine what \$5 billion would have done for our people in Zimbabwe. We could have built 10 highways like that one from Beitbridge to Harare. All these natural phenomena are causing a stagnation of our development. When we continue, we see that there is an emergence of new pandemics. We have COVID-19. It took two years of our time and these new diseases continue to come.

This is the modern world. People are now fragile. Many viruses are emerging. We have recently had the Hantavirus and the Ebola virus. So, in five years, the possibility of a disturbance to any trajectory is very high. We cannot assume that when a President or an

Hon. Member of Parliament or a councillor comes into office, he is going to sail through the five years, no. Five years is just not enough. I can give you examples, in my constituency, three Hon. Members, which is about three Parliaments ago, a Member of Parliament initiated the construction of a clinic, a few years later, he lost the election. Another term later, another Hon. Member came, and when I came as an Hon. Member of Parliament, I found that building at window level. If you go there, and then when I tried to resume the construction, I could not even find the plan of that building up to now and we cannot continue with that building anymore. This is the same because this Hon. Member did not get enough time to implement, finish his projects and whoever came after him started his own projects. What I am saying here is also true on the national level.

A third-world country relies on many resources for its projects and these resources sometimes are external. Negotiations have to be made by external financiers. Money has to be borrowed from here, from there. Just the mobilisation of resources takes three to four years. Implementation, another four or five years and before even that project is on 25% completion, we start running for elections again.

What happens when you change candidates in such quick rotation?

No development.

I would like to debunk this. There have been some quotations from politicians or economists who claim that the quick turnaround of elections brings development. You see, the most developed nation, the highest developing nation in the world right now is China and the President of China, Cde Xi Jinping, has been in office since 2012 and yet his country is number one, even ahead of the United States of America. So, I would have wanted to debate on other issues here, but since my time is gone, I would say...

HON. MATANGIRA: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

HON. MATANGIRA: Madam, when a Member is debating constructively like this, I seek extension of his time. Thank you.

HON. MAKOMBE: I second.

HON. GUMEDE: I object!

HON. NGADZIORE: I object!

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Matangira, you seek an extension usually after an Hon. Member of Parliament has finished debating.

HON. MURINGAZUVA: Since my time is up, I will just conclude by saying what inspired us as a nation to ask for an extension is the great works that we have seen, and it is our wish for continuity. We need someone with the institutional memory to continue heading in this recovery. I so submit.

HON. G. K. SITHOLE: Thank you so much Madam Speaker for the opportunity to debate and air the views of the people that I represent, the good people of Chitungwiza North Constituency. I rise to oppose this Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill. I have been making personal consultations with the people from my constituency and we have been discussing this Bill. The general majority of the people oppose this Bill. They oppose this Bill because they believe it fundamentally weakens the constitutional settlement that Zimbabweans overwhelmingly voted for in 2013. The Constitution is just not an ordinary act of Parliament.

It is the supreme expression of the people's will. It was negotiated, debated and subjected to a referendum and endorsed by millions of Zimbabweans. Therefore, constitutional amendments must only be undertaken where there is a compelling national necessity and not where there is political convenience. Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill proposes extending the tenure of the President, Parliament and local authorities. I asked a simple question: what national crisis requires an extension? Zimbabwe does not have the constitutional crisis that is coming from 5-year electoral cycles.

Currently, the crisis that we have, especially from my constituency, is that of unemployment, healthcare, non- service delivery and water. The people of Chitungwiza North have been asking, since most members have been saying certain projects need to be finished. If you remember very well, in November 1999, in Chitungwiza North, there was a ground-breaking ceremony. There was a launch of a railway project from Harare to Chitungwiza. It is now more than two decades down the line and that project has not been finished.

As a result, the people are asking, why would we expect the Government to finish this project in two years when it could not finish it in 20 years? We also go to the issue of Muda Dam. There is a huge crisis of water in Chitungwiza. Chitungwiza does not have a source of water of its own. It receives its water from Harare and Chitungwiza, people have been promised that there will be construction of Muda Dam. This promise was made more than two decades ago. Up to now, the people of Chitungwiza have to get water from Harare. So, they say they are strongly opposing this proposal to extend the terms of office of the President, Parliament and local authorities.

In addition, Section 328 of the Constitution is very clear. We cannot be beneficiaries of a subject that will be debated in this House. We, Members of Parliament, cannot be discussing and debating on this very day of 12 June, saying that, no, we want to extend our own term of office. There is a conflict of interest there. The people are saying, no, if you want to extend your term, come back to us and then we can have a referendum.

If there is a referendum, then we can put our views so that everyone would know. There is nothing to be afraid of. The statistics

that have been released by the Parliament administration show that, in the consultations that were done, above 90% of people were agreeable to this CAB3. If that is the agreeable majority, why should we not go for a referendum so that we do what the people expect on the ground? In Chitungwiza, nothing is being done towards the construction of the roads. We have lost many lives in Chitungwiza on that basis.

Let me move on to the issue of traditional leaders. The people of Chitungwiza have been saying that there is no need for traditional leaders to be actively involved in politics because these are the custodians of our culture and traditions. There is no point and need for these leaders, who should be our custodians of the culture, to be deliberating and actively involved in politics. A villager in Binga, a farmer in Gokwe, a vendor in Mbare and a teacher in Chipinge must have the same right to choose a President as any Member of Parliament. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - The right to vote directly for one's President is not a privilege but is a democratic right.

HON. TOGAREPI: Point of order! The Hon. Member is debating, but this Constitution does not seek to deny people the right to vote. If they want to vote for the President, they can be Members of

Parliament and then they will come and vote for the President. If they want to be included in voting for the President, the simple issue is coming to Parliament as MPs.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MAUNGANIDZE):

Hon. Sithole, may you be guided and stick to the presentation that was presented by the Hon. Minister. May you proceed?

HON. G. K. SITHOLE: Thank you Madam Speaker. During the liberation struggle, J. Z. Moyo, a senior leader in the liberation struggle, fought for what was called and what is still called universal suffrage, which means every Zimbabwean citizen has a right to vote for a councillor, an MP and for a President. By saying that Parliament will vote for a President without the participation of every Zimbabwean, we are taking away that right from every Zimbabwean citizen. Even if you look at the liberation struggle, there was Nikita Mangena. He was a respected military commander. He fought for one man, one vote. Even if you look at the first chairperson of ZANU PF, Herbert Chitepo, he fought for one man, one vote. The issue of one man, one vote cannot be substituted by Parliament...

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): On a point of order Madam Speaker. I think when we are debating, let us not confect and get confused. When we got our independence, we got the right for everyone to vote on an equal basis. We never had a direct Presidential Election until 1990. So, this attempt to grandstand and link the liberation struggle to an event that happened in 1990 is very mischievous and he must withdraw that. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Hon. Sithole, may you withdraw your statement.

HON. G. K. SITHOLE: Okay, I withdraw my statement. This issue that has been said by colleagues from the other side, when they were saying if we delay elections it helps to cut costs. Everything that we do has cost-benefit analysis. The cost of postponing elections does not exceed the cost of people being in public offices spending more time without accountability. If you look at Zimbabwe statistics in terms of illicit financial flows and corruption, Zimbabwe is losing so much. It is because we have had more than five years without

elections. It means public offices will spend more time without facing accountability.

Moreover, on to the other issue of having 10 more Senators. Currently, Parliament has more than 210 constituencies. We are already bloated. In my opinion, we should reduce the constituencies from 210 to 110 so that we do not put a burden on the taxpayers' money. The argument that we should add 10 more Senators to the Senate; it only increases the number of people who get to Parliament without the participation of the very same citizens that they are supposed to represent.

In addition, the argument that those Senators will be technical persons who will be able to assist the President in appointing the Cabinet, that might not work. We already have qualified and experienced people in this House. If you look at Hon. Madzivanyika, he is very experienced and he can be a Finance Minister and we have so much in this House.

On the point of our traditional leaders, the Constitution deliberately insulated traditional leaders from partisan politics because the nation recognises the danger of mixing traditional

authority with party politics. I further submit that the secret services of Zimbabwe must continue to uphold the Constitution without fear or favour.

The Defence Forces belong to Zimbabwe. They do not belong to a political party; they do not belong to the Government of the day; they do not belong to an individual but they belong to the republic. Professional secret services are the cornerstone of every constitutional democracy. I propose and insist that the Defence Forces must always be allowed to uphold the Constitution.

The Gender Commission exists because our Constitution recognises that equality does not happen automatically. Women continue to face barriers in politics, business, education and employment. The Gender Commission provides constitutional oversight to ensure that gender equality becomes a reality rather than a slogan. To abolish or weaken that institution would send a wrong signal to women, girls and future generations. It would suggest that equality is no longer a national priority.

Constitutional democracies across the world are built upon certain fundamental principles. These principles include periodic elections, separation of powers, independent institutions, checks and balances, citizen participation and constitutional certainty. So, this idea would always come here and try to ensure that we do these amendments without going back to the people; they should not be allowed to this House. CAB3 moves Zimbabweans away from the principles and towards greater concentration of power.

The Constitution was designed to limit power, not to expand it. It was designed to protect future generations, not merely accommodate present political interests. History teaches us that nations prosper when institutions are stronger than individuals. Today, we are not deciding what is convenient for politicians; we are deciding what is safe for Zimbabwe's democracy. The people of Chitungwiza are asking where the railway is, they are asking where Muda Dam is, they are asking where fresh water is and they are asking for jobs. In conclusion, I would want to say the people of Chitungwiza have said it clearly that they do not support this Bill in its entirety. Thank you.

***HON. NHATISO:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I come from Bikita West Constituency in Masvingo Province. I have been sent by the people from Bikita West to come and support this Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill. Let me start by supporting the issue of voter registration going to the Registrar-General's Office. Voter registration to be moved from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to the Registrar General's Office is a noble idea. People from Bikita are saying that the Registrar General's Office is where people acquire their birth certificates and that is where birth registration is done. That is where people above 18 years are recognised. If you are above 18, they will automatically transfer your name to the voters' roll.

So, people from Bikita West are saying the Registrar General's Office should keep everything within its office. I remember in 2023, people who were registered could search for their names, even on their phones, without queuing at the ZEC's office. Those from the Registrar's Office can ensure that those who are above 18 years can then be channelled into the voters' roll.

Let me move on to the issue of extension of term for the President, MPs and Councillors. It is a noble idea that MPs, Councillors and the President's term can be extended from five to seven years so that they can conclude their projects. The way in which His Excellency, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa is operating, we would like to thank him so much. We have others who are blaming him, saying they are underperforming. There is someone from this august House who said, even in the Bible, we have those who oppose. If you look into the same Bible, on the day when Jesus was crucified, he restored sight for a blind person. That same blind person is the one who said that the nail should be nailed more so that Jesus would be crucified. We have such people and we know that development will not be done in one day.

I will move on to the issue of the traditional chiefs, who even during the liberation struggle era used to lead the liberation struggle. They could lead everything that was happening. Even when these comrades were going into those areas, they could approach the chiefs and then the chiefs could tell them the directions and what to do. These chiefs have always been there in politics. By voting, it even

shows that the chief can choose whom he selects. Without much ado, I would like to thank you so much.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to thank you for this precious opportunity to air views regarding CAB3. On behalf of the good people of Warren Park Constituency, on behalf of all progressive churches, the true Christian community and on behalf of over 10 million people who still...

HON. TOGAREPI: On a point of order Madam Speaker. There are no true and false churches. They are all churches. We are not representatives of churches. You are not a God who knows which one is true and false.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Hamauswa, can you please withdraw.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Madam Speaker, I withdraw that statement, even though the Bible gives us an instruction to test the spirits. It also says there are true and false prophets but for the sake of progress...

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I asked you to withdraw and rephrase your statement, not for you to explain why you are withdrawing.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Madam Speaker Ma'am, I will rephrase. I am also representing all churches and the Christian community.

+HON. MUJEYI: On a point of order Madam Speaker! Hon. Hamauswa does not represent over 10 million people in his constituency.

HON. HAMAUSWA: I know people fear figures. It is fine, I withdraw Madam Speaker Ma'am. I also stand on behalf of all the people of Zimbabwe who hold on to the words of the illustrious son who came to be known as the father of democracy...

***HON. SHONGEDZA:** On a point of order Madam Speaker! My point of order states that we cannot proceed if this Hon. Member is lying in this august House. I thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Hamauswa, may you be factual.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Madam Speaker Ma'am, I did not even finish my statement. I say to all those in Zimbabwe who believe in the words of one of the illustrious sons of this country, the former Prime Minister, Morgan Tsvangirai, who said that one day Zimbabwe is going to be democratically free. He actually said he was going to soldier on until Zimbabwe is democratically free.

Madam Speaker Ma'am, I thank you and I stand guided by your wisdom. I was saying that I am representing a section of the people of Zimbabwe, who believe to the words of one of the illustrious sons of this country, the late Former Prime Minister Richard Tsvangirai, who vowed that one day Zimbabwe will be democratically free. In advancing this dream, I stand here to move that this Bill be rejected in total.

An Hon. Member having switched off the microphone.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Madam Speaker Ma'am, we have also the capacity to match their capacity to frustrate us. We may also retaliate.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MAUNGANIDZE)

– Hon. Hamauswa, can you please stick to your debate? That is not

part of the debate. Can you speak to the presentation that was made by the Hon. Minister?

HON. HAMAUSWA: I was seated here and I never interrupted anyone. This is not their country; we all belong to the same country. This is the reason why we are rejecting this Bill. This is the reason why we say this Bill does not promote equality. The way we are being treated here is pathetic. Is this the Parliament that is going to elect the President? A Parliament without order.

THE TEMPORARY: Order. Hon. Hamauswa, may you stick to your debate?

HON. HAMAUSWA: This is part of the debate, Madam Speaker, Ma'am, where we cry for Zimbabwe. One day, the history of this nation will be written and it will keep a page for the Tenth Parliament. Every name recorded in this House will be on that page. Our children will read it and their children after them will ask of us one question, Madam Speaker, Ma'am. That history asks everyone who has ever held power in this land, what did they do when it mattered? This is the time when it most mattered to Zimbabwe. We already know how to answer that question to those who went before

us. When we remember, Mbuya Nehanda, we know what she is remembered for. When we say *Sekuru* Kakuvi, *Sekuru* Chaminuka, Cde Herbert Chitepo we know, we know what they stood for.

Madam Speaker, Ma'am, I stand where I stood to fight for democratic equality in this country. We all know how in 2017, Generals like S. B. Moyo, Perence Shiri Mugova, put their lives on the line to restore legacy in this country. We remember the late Richard Morgen Tsvangirai as a general for the democratic struggle. They are remembered because in their hour they refused to surrender the right of these people to Government themselves and some of them paid that refusal....

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Order! What is your point of order, Hon. Minister?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: Madam Speaker, I think we all know the history. We are here to debate the Bill not to speak about Mbuya Nehanda, he must stick to the Bill. If he has nothing to debate, I think you must rule on that. We are not getting anything out of what he is saying. There is absolutely nothing that will edify what we get

from what he has said so far. So, if he has nothing to debate, he might as well sit down. He must stick to the content of the Bill so that we progress, rather than telling lies and saying nothing.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Hamauswa, we have a list of people who want to debate, so if you do not have anything to say we will ask you to sit down. May you debate on the presentation that was made by the Hon. Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

HON. HAMAUSWA: People are referencing Americans here! I thank I stand guided by your wisdom. I will not stand here to respond to the Hon. Minister, the *Hansard* will respond on my behalf.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: You cannot respond to the Minister. May you speak to the debate. If you do not have anything to debate, I will ask you to sit down, Hon. Hamauswa. We have other MPs who want to contribute towards this important debate.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Okay, Madam Speaker, I stand guided. This Bill does the following. It takes away the election of the President from the people and gives it to this House. It lengthens the term of office from five years to seven years. It switches off the very

provision for the people who wrote to stop a sitting office holder from extending his own time in power. It removes from our Defence Forces the written duty to uphold this Constitution. It takes the registration of voters away from an independent commission and hands it to an office of the Government, an office controlled by the Executive. It abolishes the Gender Commission and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission. It does every one of these things without going back to the people for a referendum to ask their leave. The Constitution is the Supreme law

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: On a point of order Madam Speaker Ma'am. This Bill is not abolishing the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission. He must withdraw that statement.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Madam Speaker, I withdraw that. This Bill does not remove the Peace and Reconciliation. I implore the Minister to consider giving it a new life. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Section 2(1) of the Constitution states that this Constitution is the supreme law of Zimbabwe and any law,

practice, custom and conduct inconsistent with it is invalid to the extent of inconsistency. In addressing this issue, Professor Lovemore Madhuku in 2010, said that the reason why the Constitution is given this special place in the hierarchy of law is that, in principle, it is considered to be the weight of the people themselves.

This underlines the importance of a referendum. CAB3 is against the principle of constitutional liberty...

HON. TOGAREPI: Madam Speaker, I do not want to instruct you but what I want to find out is whether Prof. Madhuku is a politician or a lawyer, which one is he talking about?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Hamauswa, may you clarify?

HON. HAMAUSWA: Madam Speaker Ma'am, the moment I say Prof. Madhuku, I am referring to a lecture room at the university. You can check on his book - that is unnecessary and I do not think the caliber of the Government Chief Whip will continue doing that? CAB3 is against the principle of constitutionalism. Wallace:2007, notes that constitutionalism is an idea often associated with the political theories of John Locke and the founders of the American

Republic that Government should be legally limited in its powers and that its authority depends on observing these limitations. This means Government is a creature of the Constitution, it is below the Constitution and not above it. John Locke is well-known for advancing his own version of social contract where they say social contract is an escape route from the state of nature and to a civilised society. The state of nature according to John Locke was characterised by unpredictability laws and judicial independence.

Thomas Hobbes stated that the state of nature was characterised by war of every man against every man and life was nasty, short and brutish. This is exactly what was depicted by the Minister to say there was toxicity; I would want to refer it to a situation that is in the state of nature. I propose that allegations of rigging and characterised electoral cycles in this country, electoral violence was also there as a result of allegations of policy inconsistencies where we have policies like ZIMASSET, indigenisation laws that have been changed midway without being implemented. So the social contract theorists advise that the route from chaos to a normal civilised State is through dialogue, not nefarious change of governing structures or the use of

law to tilt the power matrix as is going to happen in the Senate.

Currently, we know that without the vote from the Opposition, the ruling party will not have a two-thirds majority. It means that if that vote is used wisely, this Bill is not going to pass. Once the Bill is passed, the President is going to have an unfair and authoritarian advantage to control both Houses and this should not be allowed.

If it was going to be suspended, maybe until after an election. So, we cannot have a situation where a sitting President would then change a law that would then tilt the power matrix in the Senate. According to Greg Leamington (2001), constitutions are generally difficult to change and fundamental constitutional principles are placed beyond a simple majority.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order Hon. Hamauswa, you are left with five minutes.

HON. HAMAUSWA: This led to the principle called counter-majoritarian rule. An American scholar, Stephen Holmes, writing in support of the counter-majoritarian position, states that the basic function of a constitution is to remove certain functions of a constitution from democratic processes that it ties the community's

hands. This is to withdraw certain subjects from political controllers so as to place them beyond the reach of simple majorities and to establish, for instance, the amendment of the right to vote to elect the President. Historically, Madam Speaker, Zimbabwean courts have ruled that the Constitution gives them power to determine, in the event of litigation, whether Parliament had acted within the provisions of the Constitution when enacting the law in question.

Courts can set aside and invalidate any legislation enacted by Parliament if the correct procedures were not followed. The Supreme Court explained this position in the case of *Smith vs Mutasa* and another. This was in relation to the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith, who, in 1989, the Parliament suspended without salary for making remarks that were considered as contempt of Parliament. Dumbuchena, C. J. then said the Constitution of Zimbabwe is the supreme law of the land. Parliament is indeed supreme in the legislative field as assigned to it by the Constitution but even Parliament cannot step outside the bounds of the authority prescribed to it by the Constitution. The learned Chief Justice, according to Leamington, stated that Zimbabwe is a constitutional democracy.

It is not a parliamentary democracy. In a constitutional democracy, both Parliament and the Executive are creatures of the Constitution. Therefore, they can only do what they are prescribed to do by the Constitution.

Madam Speaker Ma'am, on the passionate plea for a Referendum, I would like to encourage the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs to consider the essential features doctrine. I would like to refer this House to the words of the then Chief Justice Gubbay who considered the application of the essential features doctrine...

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member rightly pointed out that we are supposed to be guided by the Constitution. He must show me where in the Constitution it is written that we are supposed to go for the Referendum. We do not need to be told what a scholar said; he must tell me what the Constitution says and what the Bill is doing that is violating that provision.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Hamauswa, do not create your own Constitution and your time is up.

***HON. MATAMBO:** Madam Speaker, I ask that the Hon. Member's debating time be extended by five minutes so that Hon. Hamauswa can explain what the Hon. Minister asked him.

HON. MUJEYI: I object Madam Speaker.

Motion put and negatived.

***HON. MANANZVA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on Constitution Amendment Bill Number. 3. I am Hon. Kudakwashe Mananzva. I represent Zvimba East Constituency, which also covers the New Parliament Building. In other words, you are all visitors in my area. I moved around Zvimba East Constituency and I saw many people bringing their written submissions to this Parliament. Madam Speaker, the constituency from which I come from are agreeing with the amendments made to the Constitution Amendment (No.3) Bill.

HON. HAMAUSWA: The Hon. Member who is speaking came through a back door through a by-election after...

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I did not acknowledge you. Hon. Hamauswa, I did not recognise you. Order, I am not going to acknowledge you anymore; you are out of order. Hon. Mananzva, please proceed.

***HON. MANANZVA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I was once a pastor in my church. So, whenever I spoke, people would manifest. If you see them interjecting, it is demons that are manifesting. Madam Speaker, I rise to add my voice in support of the CAB3 Bill. I mentioned earlier that I met several people from my constituency and many were coming here to Parliament, submitting their written submissions. I met several groups. I am going to say a little. I also met people from the apostolic sect. They told me that CAB3 is *shepriona*, which is going to the sea. So, CAB 3 is going to make our country a better one.

I also met the liberation freedom fighters who fought for this country. They told me that when the political party was formed in 1963, there were men...

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

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

***HON. HAMAUSWA:** You cannot continue to allow him to speak because I was disallowed to speak.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Hamauswa, you are disturbing the session. I am going to ask you to leave the House.

***HON. MANANZVA:** Those demons from Warren Park are troubling him and as I have mentioned earlier, that is exactly what is happening.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Hamauswa, I am going to ask you to leave the House if you continue talking.

***HON. MANANZVA:** What I explained earlier is happening.

HON. KUKA: On a point of order.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Mananzva has not yet said anything. Please sit down. You are disturbing the session. What is your point of order?

***HON. KUKA:** When we were listening to the debate, I said that we must not continue to interject the Hon. Member speaking. Hon. Mananzva is saying that if he speaks, people will manifest. If people raise points of order, he responds by saying this is what I mentioned earlier. We must respect each other and the continued

mentioning of the word *shepriona*; this is not good, it will disturb the debate. We must have our independence when debating but even the Presiding Officers are interrupting us.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I heard you. You may now sit down, Hon. Member.

***HON. MANANZVA:** I was saying that where I come from, when the people started to collaborate for freedom fighting, there were words like unity, peace and freedom. The issue of amendment did not start with the Lancaster House, which was amended in 1997. It was about unity, which gave birth to the Unity Accord and the Unity Day, meaning that from time to time we make amendments which are in line with what we want as a nation.

When we wanted to get back our land, we made Amendment Number 17, which enabled us to get back our land. Where we are right now in terms of development, we need an amendment for us to have a prosperous nation. Let it not be surprising today that this amendment is being done. Amendments have been done from time to time, so I rise in full support of this amendment.

I am going to debate a few clauses because other clauses have been debated on. I want to talk about the issue of the voters' roll.

When a person is born, a birth certificate and a national identity is issued by the Registrar-General's Office. If they decide to go outside the country, they are issued a passport. Upon death, a death certificate is issued. So, my thinking is that if the voters' roll is taken to the Registrar-General's Office, it then becomes automatic that if a person reaches 18 years, he or she appears on the voters' roll, than to look for other agencies or bodies to put his or her name on the voters' roll.

I also want to support the clause, which is saying that Members of Parliament must vote for the President. Where I come from, Members of Parliament are selected from what is called a congress, not by everyone. Our Government has different departments. We are of the People's Party, the ruling party, ZANU-PF; when we want to select the President, we go to congress. We do not say all the cells vote for the President. So, we are agreeing that the President must be elected by Members of Parliament.

If we want to follow the people who do not have a structure, it means we are not going anywhere. In addition, copying from other

people who are champions of democracy, they do their elections the same way, which we want to adopt. So let us not waste time listening to nonsense, listening to birds with no nest; that is not good.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: On a point of Order.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MAUNGANIDZE):

Hon. Madzivanyika, may you sit down. Hon. Mananzva, may you proceed. Hon. Madzivanyika, stop disturbing the session.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: On a point of Order, Madam Chair.

Madam Speaker, may you leave that chair so that Hon. Tshuma can assist us because you are not being fair. - [HON. MEMBERS:

Inaudible interjections.] -

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Order! Hon.

Madzivanyika, may you withdraw your statement.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: I am not going to withdraw, Hon. Speaker. You are not being fair in your judgment.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Madzivanyika, may you leave the House. Hon. Mananzva, you may proceed. - [HON.

MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

HON. MAMBIPIRI: Hon. Speaker, if a point of order is raised, the debate is not allowed to continue until the matter is resolved.

Thank you Madam Speaker. The challenge that Hon. Mananzva is having is that he is using insightful language. He is looking down on us. We cannot continue to listen to nonsense. What it means is that he is saying that people from this side are talking nonsense.

HON. TSVANGIRAI: On a point of Order.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Tsvangirai, you are now disturbing and you have been doing that. It is arising from what? I have made a ruling on what the Hon. Member has proposed. I am not giving you the point of order. I have made a ruling already. May you allow Hon. Mananzva to proceed. Hon. Mananzva, may you debate.

HON. MANANZVA: In conclusion, let me go to the *Bible*, *Hebrews 7 verse 18 and 19*. Allow me to read it in English: ‘The old rule then is set aside because it is weak and useless. For the law of Moses could not make anything perfect and now a better hope has been provided through which you come near God.’ We are now taking aside the previous law and we are having a new law. Five years is too

short because two years is for those who will be refusing that they did not lose the election. So, it is two years of fighting and no development is done. One year is not enough for production. The two years when you are seated in Parliament, there is a candidate from your constituency already. So, I would like to thank the Minister of Justice who proposed this Bill.

We are now going to the seven years, which the Lord took when creating the nation. Meaning to say that we have fulfilled the will of God. I want to conclude with the issue of chiefs.

HON. MAKUMIRE: On a point of Order.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, let us not disturb. May you take your seat?

HON. MAKUMIRE: I have a point of order, Madam Speaker. Allow me to raise my point of order. I am being guided by the Standing Rules and Orders of this House. I have a point of order. Allow me to raise my point of Order.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Makumire, I told you to sit down. Stop disturbing the session every time.

HON. MAKUMIRE: I am guided by the Standing Rules and Orders of this House. We must be bound by the *Green Book*.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I am the one who is telling you to sit down. I am the Chair...

HON. MAKUMIRE: No, you cannot change the rules.

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

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Mananzva, you may proceed.

***HON. MANANZVA:** I am now concluding. I will go on to Clause 21, that of Chiefs. Our national history where I come from, I am a son of a Chief. From our history, we know that the coming of the colonisers - may you protect me from people who are manifesting?

***HON. MATAMBO:** Point of order! You want us to be quiet. Surely, you want us to remain quiet when it is being said that after we say something, we are now manifesting.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MAUNGANIDZE):
You are disturbing, no one acknowledged you. You are just talking.
Hon. Mananzva, may you proceed and you are left with five minutes.

***HON. MANANZVA:** When I started debating, I said that I am the Member of Parliament for this place, so it is important to respect the owners of the land whenever you visit it. I was talking about the issue of chiefs. My grandfather Mashonganyika had his head cut off when he was fighting for liberation. Today, we are now free. We have independence then we say chiefs must not be involved in politics, yet the heads of other chiefs are in London. That is not fair Madam Speaker.

***HON. ZVAIPA:** Hon. Member is saying that he is the owner of this place but my issue is that when he is collecting coupons, he is claiming that he is coming from far and he is taking 12. How many is he supposed to collect since he is from this constituency?

***HON. MANANZVA:** Thank you Hon. Fawcett. I am now concluding. We really want our chiefs to be involved in politics. We do not want them to be left out. We want them to exercise their rights to be involved in politics. It does not help to say a chief must not be involved in politics but an MP should. You are voted and then you are an MP for everyone. The President comes from a political party but when he is a President, he is President of the nation. So, that same

authority which you have here as an MP, the chief can also exercise the same. You cannot say that when MPs are going back to their constituencies, they are Members of Parliament only for the people of their party.

***HON. MUSWEWESHIRI:** Good afternoon. Firstly, I am asking that may I be protected because a prophet has risen; so many demons may manifest. Firstly, I want to thank our Minister for CAB3. I am in full support of it and I am going to say out what people from Mudzi were saying. In Mudzi, I have several positions. I also have a role in Mashonaland East and Mudzi North. So, people from Mudzi North gave me their word to come and say here in Parliament, that CAB3 is good. People from Mudzi North and Mashonaland East are very happy with the great work that is being done by the President, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, whom God gave to us.

I am very surprised by a person who says I do not eat pork but I eat the soup. This Bill is good for everyone because those who seem to be opposing are liking it even in the corridors. I want to discuss the issue of the extension of term from five years to seven years. This is giving more time for projects to be finished. People whom I was

competing with, the good thing is that people from where I come from know what is good. I won by 99 percent, meaning that they know what they really want. In Mashonaland East, a few people were opposing the Bill, meaning to say everyone supported it.

I also want to say that the President must be elected by Members of Parliament. We were elected by people from our constituencies. In Mudzi North, they said that they sent me to come and represent them, meaning to say everything that I am going to say here is what they sent me to say.

There are many things that they sent me to say in line with the developments which are needed in the constituency, drilling of boreholes and road rehabilitation. They are very happy with those projects, so they asked me to come and say out their views that they are in full support of the Bill.

I do not want to waste much time but I want to go to the last clause of chiefs to be involved in politics. I see nothing wrong because they are the ones who support our work; they support this country and are the owners of land. So, if they stand by us, they are the ones who know what really is needed.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): I move that
the debate do now adjourn.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Tuesday, 16th June, 2026.

On the motion of **THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI),** *the
House adjourned at Nine Minutes to One o'clock p.m. until
Tuesday, 16th June, 2026.*