

# PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

*Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2026*

*The National Assembly met at a Quarter-past Two o'clock p.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 Second Reading of the Constitution of Zimbabwe (No. 3) Bill [H. B. 1, 2026].

Question again proposed.

## THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND

**PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Madam Speaker. Firstly, allow me to thank the Hon. Members for the debate. I have requested the Clerk of Parliament to check for me the 120 Members who debated. It is a record in this Parliament since the inception of our Parliament – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

At this juncture, Madam Speaker, allow us to make some responses...

**HON. MUTSEYAMI:** I have a point of order Hon. Speaker.

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

**HON. MUTSEYAMI:** Thank you very much Hon. Speaker. I humbly want to know: are we closing the debate because I thought we are continuing with the debate. Has this been confirmed and given a position by the Whips? I and others are yet to debate – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You will debate at Committee Stage – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Madam Speaker, as I said, at this juncture, allow us to respond.

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

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please, may you allow the Hon. Minister to say what he wants to say.

**HON. MATEWU:** Point of order Madam Speaker.

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

**HON. MATEWU:** Madam Speaker, my point of order arises from the fact that here in this House, we represent 110 constituencies and apart from that, we also represent 10 provinces. We cannot agree to adjourn the debate until we have been heard. We are yet to represent our constituencies and we must also be heard

Madam Speaker, I represent Marondera Central, Mashonaland East Province; I have not been heard. We cannot adjourn this House without crucial constituencies being heard. So, we cannot adjourn the debate, Madam Speaker, until Hon. Members have represented their constituencies; it is their right to be heard. Marondera Constituency must be represented. Marondera, Chiredzi, Hwange, Bulawayo and Harare constituencies must be heard before we close this debate. We shall not allow Madam Speaker, to close this debate until we have been heard. I so move Madam Speaker, I thank you.

*Hon. Mambipiri having risen without being recognised.*

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please take your seat –  
[HON. MAMBIPIRI: *Yes, Madam Speaker but we also want to be heard. We cannot allow debate to close when we have not submitted the views of our people.*] – May we have order in the House? – [HON.

MAMBIPIRI: *We want to debate Madam Speaker.*] – Order! May we have order, please! – [HON. MEMBERS: *We want to debate Hon. Speaker.*] – Can you keep quiet so that I respond!

Hon. Leader of Government Business, may you approach the Chair – [HON. MATEWU: *Inaudible interjections.*] – *Ndokubudisa panze, ayiiii!* - [HON. MAMBIPIRI: *Whilst he is approaching the Chair, allow us to be heard, allow us to voice our opposition to CAB3 in this House. We cannot allow others to speak on our behalf. The Hon. Speaker made a ruling that every Hon. Member will be given a chance to debate, so let us debate.*] -

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, we will now proceed with the debate but you do not have to debate what has already been said by other members.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** Point of privilege Madam Speaker. My point of privilege pertains to what you have just said. The Speaker said there are so many ways of killing a cat, so we do not want you to disrupt those who are going to be debating, hiding behind what has been said already. So, allow people to debate without constraining them.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** *Cat yacho iyoyo yakatofa kudhara.* – [HON. MEMBERS: *Ichiri mhenyu kitsi yacho iyoyo.*]-

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** I have a point of privilege. I want to suggest something in line with your ruling. In view of what Hon. Minister has moved, I would suggest that you may reduce the time to 15 minutes so that all the Members who want to debate will be given ample time; even 10 minutes would be enough. I know I managed to debate in seven minutes and it was enough, so 10 minutes would be okay so that everyone will be able to debate.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Now that we have agreed that we are going to debate, if Members decide to debate more than the 10 minutes that is being proposed, let us all agree that we will make sure that this list is exhausted. So, we are going to sleep here until we have exhausted this list.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Agreed. Hon. Members will debate but not more than 10 minutes.

**HON. CHIKWINYA:** Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to represent the women of Harare Metropolitan Province, one of the war veterans of the armed struggle that brought

about independence of this country and has been blessed to be in this House, 46 years after independence, to witness this historic milestone of our revolution. I do have a message for the women that I represent and I quote, ‘zveAmendment (No. 3) Bill *takapedza nazvo,*

*kuParliament ikoko musanotambe neBill iroro nekuti takarimirira’.*

You cannot stop the wheel of history from turning the way it wants to go. CAB3 is a revolutionary wheel, which is turning according to the will of the Zimbabwean people as exhibited by the overwhelming support of CAB3 during the consultative phase, where we went for consultations. Therefore, it is unstoppable.

Let me categorically and clearly present in a clear, structured and patriotic manner the democratic wisdom underpinning the proposed Constitutional Amendment Bill before this House. The reforms we deliberate today are not a dominion of the people's voice, but a refinement and a structural evolution designed to mend the fractures that for too long defined our body politic. As our President has always told us, even our visionary leaders of the liberation of Zimbabwe educated us that the struggle for freedom is not a singular event but a continuous revolution. The architecture of our nation

building requires deliberate strategies executed across distinct phases of the revolution. Therefore, the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill is the genesis of yet another phase of revolution known as the economic war of liberation. It has its own strategies to meet the desired goals.

The military would say, usage of terrain and terrain features. In Shona we say, *kushandisa nzvimbo nemamiriro ayo*. This terrain of economic war of liberation has its own goals and strategies. CAB3 is one such strategy. Mr. Speaker, let me hasten to say, CAB3 is not a new phenomenon in our revolutionary blueprint. It is a phase of a revolution, which we are expecting at its rightful time. The time is now. Therefore, we fully support this Constitution Amendment (Number 3) Bill with reservations on the issues where we talk about the gender coalition, which I will deliberate on later in my presentation having said that, our revolution has undergone various phases of revolution. Beginning with the First Chimurenga of Mbuya Nehanda, Chareka, Sekuru Kaguvi, the Ndebele spiritual leader, Mlilo, Mukwati, Chief Mashonganyika and the Great Indaba of Matebeleland, they laid their lives in their blood-watered seat as they

resisted the people that were fighting and that established the foundation of the second revolution. This is what we call the arms struggle. *Yakatanga nekuti vana Mbuya Nehanda vavaita chimwe chinhu.*

The armed struggle, *hondo yeChimurenga*, where I participated has strategies and goals. The sons and daughters took up arms to fight successfully against colonial law, which brought about independence and freedom that we enjoy, including this sovereign Parliament *yatakagara nhasi*. This phase has its own strategies and goals different from the First Chimurenga. It is during this phase that we need to understand that the liberation struggle is not empty itself but a precursor to other revolutions to come. It came upon the advent of Independence. It was yet another revolution phase which needed to be dealt with and it had its own goal and strategies.

We find ourselves in yet another phase of revolution, Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill *woye*. The letter and the spirit of our Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill is not a new phenomenon on our revolution blueprint. It is a phase designed to move the gains of the liberation struggle and spearhead with vigour,

the economic war of liberation. It requires different types of weapons to fight this war. Constitutional Amendment (No 3) Bill is one such weapon to fight and win this war. Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill is directed toward the achievement of economic emancipation and the realisation of Vision 2030, the creation of a prosperous upper middle-class society by 2030. As His Excellency the President has consistently reminded us, political independence without economic emancipation is incomplete. Therefore, the Constitutional Amendment (No 3) Bill is an institutional mechanism to secure our economic destiny for current and future generations.

Allow me, Madam Speaker, to touch on a few fundamental points in the Constitutional Amendment (No 3) Bill. The election of the President by Parliament; the architecture of this proposal preserves the sanity of individual ballots while neutralising the toxic, zero-sum tension of winner-takes-all politics. The President is not selected by the abstract elite but by the Members of Parliament, the custodians of a community's destiny. This Parliament election model mandates negotiation, bridges ideological chasms and structurally enforces collusion-building. The result is a Head of State who

emerges not as a triumphant gladiator representing a narrow faction, but as a pre-negotiated symbol of a broader national collusion in the spirit of a liberation struggle.

It ensures our leadership reflects the consensus of a collective, diverse humanity, healing the fractured consciousness of our nation. On the issue of a term extension, the economic-industrial war for our liberation requires continuity under the guidance of a tried and tested ...

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Chikwinya, you are left with two minutes.

**HON. CHIKWINYA:** Like our President who has positively changed the face of Zimbabwe in the agricultural sector, health sector, transport sector, energy sector, mining sector, among others, in a very short space of time. We have also seen the positive impact of his mantra, Zimbabwe is a friend to all and enemy to none, *nyika inovakwa nevene vayo* and other policies that he has put in place. The results we are seeing at the domestic, regional and international level, hence the term extension from five years to seven years, is a very welcome development which we embrace fully without reservation.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, having the Zimbabwe Electoral Delimitation Commission is another welcome development. It will focus on the fundamental area of consent, which grants equal suffrage, a cornerstone of our liberation where every citizen's voice carries weight. In the interest of time, the issue of the Gender Commission, please, Madam Speaker, do not throw women under the bus. As you would know, the Zimbabwean black woman was at the lowest ebb of any structure at the colonial level. Firstly, it was the white man, secondly, it was the white woman, thirdly, it was the black man, and at the end of the ladder, it was the black woman. Even if you had the same qualifications at the same job, you would find that the black man would earn a higher salary; second would be the white woman, thirdly would be the black woman. We still have lots of things to be done in that area. We would say the Gender Commission must stay so that we continue to move in that direction. I put the matter to rest, Madam Speaker. I thank you.

**\*HON. F. MAKAZA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for awarding me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the women of Masvingo who sent me to this august House. The women of

Masvingo who attended the public hearings which were held in Masvingo told me to go and support the Constitutional Amendment (No 3) Bill and they said the Constitutional Amendment (No 3) Bill is a very good Bill. Women in Masvingo also added their voice, saying that they support the clause where the term of the President is extended by two more years, from five years to seven years, for the President, the Members of Parliament and the councillors.

They also said that they wish that most of the projects which are being done by His Excellency must be spearheaded by him in terms of infrastructure development, dams, schools, roads and all other projects we are anticipating to begin. All those projects on the blueprints must be complete; hence they support the increase of the number of years from five years to seven years so that we continue with the development. Women in Masvingo Province also said that the Members of Parliament must be allowed to vote for the President. They said this process is stress-free because we had a lot of pressure when the President was being voted into power by everyone; many court cases normally happen. So, if the President is elected by Members of Parliament, if he is nominated by a few people, even if

there are disagreements, they are going to repeat the process several times and there is no use of many resources.

Women in Masvingo also said that the Gender Commission must be retained. It must not be joined with Human Rights. They said for us to be women as we are, we are being assisted by the Gender Commission; we are being educated and given ideas by the Gender Commission. For example, if a person is a widow, when she is told to vacate premises, if you go to Gender Commission, they will give you advice on how to remain at your homestead, especially the widows who are chased away. The Gender Commission also gives advice to women on how to keep their inheritance. May we not touch the Gender Commission and also increase the budget allocated to the Gender Commission. Gender Commission and Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission must not be joined. These two commissions must remain as stand-alone commissions.

**\*HON. MHETU:** On a point of order! This august House agreed that all people on the list are going to debate. This august House also agreed that each person is going to debate for 10 minutes, which means we are going to finish our debate at 12 midnight because

we are going to debate for nine hours straight. I am pleading with you Madam Speaker, to reduce the minutes from 10 minutes to five minutes and make sure that our debates are going to take four and a half hours so that we are going to conclude our debates by 7.30. The list has got 54 people.

**HON. MATEWU:** Madam Speaker, I object.

**\*HON. MHETU:** Madam Speaker, those who are objecting must be those who have not participated in the debate. It is inappropriate for those who have already debated to raise objections.

**HON. MATEWU:** Madam Speaker, the rules are clear; every single Hon. Member is entitled to 20 minutes of speaking time. We must adhere to this. Every Hon. Member should have the right to debate. Let us not rush this Bill. What is the point of hurrying? We must ensure that every Hon. Member is given the 20 minutes stipulated by this country. Thank you.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We have already agreed on 10 minutes. Proceed Hon. Makaza.

**\*HON. MAKAZA:** Thank you Madam Speaker...

**\*HON. MHETU:** Point of privilege, Madam Speaker. I acknowledge your ruling and respect it. I request that if we do not exhaust the list today, may this august House agree to continue from where we left off. I urge you Madam Speaker, to allow us to resume tomorrow from the point we reached today.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We will assess the situation by the end of the day. Please continue your debate Hon. Makaza.

**\*HON. MAKAZA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for this opportunity. Due to time constraints, I would like to express that the women of Masvingo support the involvement of chiefs in politics. Their participation is essential as they have historically been politicians. Additionally, the women of Masvingo advocate for the transfer of voter registration responsibilities from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to the Registrar General. The Registrar General is familiar with all citizens, as birth certificates, death certificates and marriage records are all managed at their office.

*Hon. Members having stood up.*

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please take your seats.

Proceed Hon. Makaza.

**HON. MAKAZA:** I support the transfer of the Voters' Roll to the Registrar General. The Registrar General is responsible for birth certificates and knows who has obtained identity documents, who has married, divorced and who has passed away. Therefore, by placing the Voters' Roll under the Registrar General's purview, we can eliminate deceased individuals from the roll and avoid situations where deceased persons are still listed as voters. These contributions come from the women of Masvingo. Thank you.

**HON. F. NCUBE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. I wish to add my voice regarding the chiefs. Firstly, chiefs should not engage in politics because political discourse often lacks respect; we may end up undressing each other verbally. If a chief participates in politics - [HON. MEMBERS: *There is no interpretation.*]-

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You may proceed, Hon. Ncube.

**HON. F. NCUBE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Secondly, chiefs cannot simultaneously fulfill their traditional roles such as presiding over traditional courts while being involved in politics as this would compromise their dignity. I oppose the idea of chiefs entering politics because it undermines their status as respected leaders. If they choose to engage in politics, they should not seek political office but could receive the benefits of a Member of Parliament while remaining in their communities.

Additionally, I would like to address the Gender Commission. In our rural areas, it was once considered unacceptable for women to lead. However, thanks to the Gender Commission, we have gained the confidence to stand up and lead. They have empowered us, especially as Tonga women to reach this point. We have heard calls from public hearings to dissolve the Gender Commission, but I urge us to reconsider and find a better solution. I submit.

**\*HON. MUKUNGUNUGWA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Good afternoon. I represent Chivi North Constituency, specifically Chivi Mandamabwe, an area where it is said an elderly woman boiled stones.

I was sent by the people to express gratitude to the Second Republic for the tangible results we are witnessing, including the example of Kunzvi Dam, which is next to Mashava and Chivhu, which was previously used for irrigation by white farmers in the Chiredzi area.

Now, thanks to Tugwi-Mukosi, they are seeing irrigation pivots that they had never experienced before. They are enjoying healthy food through Vision 2030 and are living improved lives. They had a bountiful harvest in 2024 and 2025 and this year, they have tilled the land and expect another fruitful harvest.

Therefore, they appreciate the irrigation projects. Furthermore, devolution is already occurring in their area due to the establishment of a dam in the Hwanya area which was looked down upon now glows. We also appreciate that Chivi is a dry area where we live and rely on underground water. Through the different projects that are happening, people are happy because they have water. Even in the education sector, there are strategic school business units which are operating from schools and they appreciate that.

The President visited the Chombwe project which was not in operation for 20 years or so. The President saw the Chibi turn-off road, which goes through Chibi Growth Point to Mandamabwe and other areas. That road has been developed well; it has been refurbished and it links our area, so we appreciate that.

They said that I must not leave the issue of electricity; schools have been connected through the rural electrification agency, so we appreciate that. They said to me they are in support of CAB3 and two years of extension, because the indicators of progress are evident from the ground. The President should continue and Members of Parliament and councillors should continue as a team. I will not continue, but all the issues that were agreed upon are quite supported by the community. I thank you.

**\*HON. ZEMURA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to thank the mover of this motion, who is the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. On this Bill, there was a clause that talks about the extension of the term from five years to seven years, for the President, Members of Parliament and councillors. People from

Mashonaland East Province, particularly Murewa, said they support this whole Bill resoundingly.

On the extension of the term by increasing, it by two years, they said they are happy because of the projects that are being done throughout the country. They said the increase from five years to seven years will help all the developmental projects proceed. Look at the dam construction that has been done over the past few years, for example, from Muchekeranwa Dam in Mashonaland East and Kunzvi Dam which is expected to provide water to Harare and also the rural areas in Murewa and all other areas up to Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe. All these initiatives are very good because people are facing challenges of water. People from Mashonaland East, especially women, said they are in support of the Bill and it must proceed.

There is an issue with the Gender Commission. As an Hon. Member, I am also a product of the Gender Commission which advocated for equality between men and women, that is why we are here in Parliament, where 60 women were brought into Parliament through the women's quota.

The Gender Commission continued to advocate for women to continue to be included in Parliament. The last time we also got the opportunity to be in Parliament was when we were 60 women. Now, this is the third time Parliament has included a women's quota, which means that the Gender Commission stood firm to encourage the equality of 50:50 between men and women. May the Gender Commission remain and continue to advocate for women's rights and opportunities.

The issue of chiefs being active in politics touches me deeply because I am from chieftaincy. If we look at chiefs such as Chief Rekayi Tangwena, they fought tirelessly during the liberation struggle. He went as far as Britain to negotiate with the Queen that they were colonising our Zimbabweans. The powers of the chief to go and represent his country, it clearly indicates that he was already in politics. I support the clause on chiefs being involved in politics.

Lastly, I am saying development by His Excellency must continue to go forward. We now have new roads and roundabouts like Trabablas. There is a lot of development in terms of road infrastructure, which is a clear indication of how His Excellency of

the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa is working tirelessly.

They are working on the Mabvuku roundabout. If it is possible, may we also have a roundabout as far as Murewa? Even the issue of borehole drilling, I did not know that we could have tap water in rural areas, but right now it is possible through the leadership and the projects that are being done by His Excellency.

May we extend the term up to seven years so that we continue to have meaningful development throughout the country? Those who are in other countries do not go and fetch water, but now His Excellency is drilling solar boreholes, hence we are saying may the term be extended from five to seven years, we support CAB3.

**HON. MATEWU:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the resilient people of Marondera Central. These people not only elected me once, but a record three times, they did not send me to this august House to witness the quiet burial of our democracy. I stand in absolute and unyielding opposition to our Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill ....

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Point of Order Madam Speaker! -[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! May we have order!

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I think in this august House, we must tell the truth. There is no way in the Bill where democracy is being killed. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! May we have order! Hon. Leader of Government Business, please may you allow these Hon. Members to debate. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] - Hon. Leader of Government Business, you have the chance to respond to all the debate.

*Hon. Togarepi having stood up.*

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Matewu! Please take your seat. Hon. Togarepi please, may you approach the Chair.

*Hon. Togarepi having approached the Chair. - [HON.*

*MEMBERS: Inaudible interjections.]-*

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Matewu, you may proceed but do not mislead the House and the nation.

**HON. MATEWU:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I only speak facts. I stand in absolute and unyielding opposition to the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill of 2026. This Bill is not a Constitutional Amendment; it is not an administrative reform, nor a technical correction. It is a fundamental attempt to alter the relationship between the people of Zimbabwe and the State without first consulting Zimbabwe. This document we are being asked to tear apart today is not a collection of pages. The 2013 Constitution is a sacred covenant written in the ink of national consensus and signed with the millions of Zimbabweans who voted overwhelmingly in a historic referendum. This Constitution begins with a principle, but all authority is derived from the people of Zimbabwe; yet this Bill repeatedly seeks to diminish the direct role of the people of Zimbabwe in how they are governed. This Bill seeks to undo the collective wisdom not only to advance the lives of the ordinary

citizens of Marondera but to entrench Executive power and silence the voter.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Matewu, you are left with two minutes. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**HON. MATEWU:** How? I only spoke for one minute and I have 20 minutes. Clause 2 provides that we eliminate the direct popular election of the President and instead, hand it over to the power of a Joint Sitting of Parliament. This question is simple. Why should the people surrender a democratic right that we already possess? Why should the Zimbabwean voter lose the right to directly elect a President of their choice in this republic? What national crisis exists that we require such a drastic reduction in democratic participation?

Let us call what it is. This is a direct assault on the sovereignty of the Zimbabwean citizenry. For decades, the people of Marondera Central have stood in long queues and lines under the scorching heat to exercise their most fundamental right, the right to choose the leader of their country. This Bill seeks to snatch that ballot away from their

hands and lock it inside this august House, reducing the President to the item of parliamentary patronage.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your time is up Hon. Matewu, you have debated for 10 minutes. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] You have debated for 10 minutes and you have exhausted your 10 minutes.

*An Hon. Member having stood up on a point of privilege*

**HON. MATEWU:** There is no need for a point of privilege here. I have debated for two minutes. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We agreed that every Member is going to debate for 10 minutes. Your time is up Hon. Matewu. Please take your seat, or else I will ask you to go out – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible Interjections.*] -

*Hon. Matewu having been asked to leave the House*

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** May we have order in the House? Order please!

**\*HON. HWENDE:** On a point of order Madam Speaker. I want to clarify one thing. If you make an arrangement outside the rules and

a Member insists on you following the rules, you cannot chuck him out of Parliament. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections*]-

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** May we have order!

**\*HON. MAKUMIRE:** Madam Speaker Ma'am, I respect this august House, the Chair you occupy and your ruling in this august House. May you make sure that the debate flows without noise and also follows the procedure. That makes the debate viable. The Minister had requested that we go to the Committee Stage because time is moving. May you make sure that there is an opportunity for everyone to debate? Even those who are opposing the Bill should be allowed to present their views.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Makumire, you are now saying a lot of things. The request was made for everyone to debate for 10 minutes – [HON. MAKUMIRE: *Madam Speaker, when you give me the opportunity to speak, let me air my views and then you respond. Those who oppose the Bill must be given an opportunity.*] - Hon. Member sit down! Even those who support the Bill if they become uncontrollable will be requested to leave the House.

**\*HON. S. TSHUMA:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am for awarding me this opportunity to add my voice. The voice from the people of Gokwe-Kabuyuni Constituency and the whole of Gokwe North has sent me to this august House. They sent me as their representative in this august House. They said that we should not forget what happened yesterday because of some minor things. We are not going to drop what is already in our hands because we want to clap hands. The Government, which is led by His Excellency, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, is the same Government that remembered them in 2025 and had Independence Celebrations in Gokwe-Nembudziya. They said they had many opportunities in terms of infrastructure development and employment in road infrastructure, dams and all the development in the area.

They said that CAB3, public hearings were also held in Gokwe. People of Gokwe said that the President and his team should have their term increased from five years to seven years. They also gave their words of gratitude to His Excellency, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa and his leadership that after 45 years, they managed to remember Gokwe by hosting Independence Day in Gokwe. People of

Gokwe said that this Government is very pertinent for them because it is the only Government that ruled from 2018 to 2025 and they had already remembered Gokwe in terms of infrastructure development because the area was lagging. Madam Speaker, due to limited time, let me just mention very few things but the big issue is that Gokwe-Kabuyuni Constituency is supporting this Bill resoundingly.

I am going to talk about two clauses. We will also debate other things at the Committee Stage. I want to touch on the issue of delimitation. Section 161 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe clearly states the issue of delimitation of wards and constituencies throughout the country, after every 10 years, there is a census which is held and then delimitation happens. However, the delimitation of 2023 and the census that happened in 2022, there are some things which were not done properly. This means there is a need for delimitation to occur. There is need for addition on the issue of delimitation. When they are doing delimitation, for example, in Gokwe-Kabuyuni, there is Ward 29 where two polling stations of its ward were removed and placed in another ward, which is very far away from them. These few villages ended up being isolated, hence some of the meetings which are

supposed to include their chief. They cannot be part of those meetings because they are supposed to go to the ward centre for such meetings. In rural areas, most of the meetings are conducted at the ward centre. Their ward centre was changed. This issue caused a lot of disagreements between the two chiefs. Due to this delimitation, in terms of voting, delimitation boundaries are different from the boundaries of the chiefs. Therefore, when the issue of delimitation was brought in this House, we saw it as an opportunity for the Minister to resolve some of the things when he heard the submissions that we have in this august House.

The issue of delimitation should also not be limited to voting processes only. Delimitation must also touch the way of living in terms of the social structures of people or social dynamics. Some of the time, the number of people in the Voters' Roll is determined by delimitation; it uses the Voters' Roll, it does not use statistics from ZimStat. I have an example of Gokwe-Kabuyuni Constituency. In 2023, it had 31 444 registered voters. People who managed to vote were 21 759. This clearly indicates that there is a huge number of 9 389 people who did not manage to vote. So, the number of people

joining Gokwe North is 249 000 but the people who can vote are 74 747. On the Voters' Roll, there was 180 000, hence we saw that the delimitation must not look into voting boundaries but must look at social amenities, including the boundaries of chiefs, wards, *et cetera*. The delimitation process must also allow for another part, which deals with statistics so that they can assist each other.

We also have another challenge because most of the time when we get into this august House, we fight with the Minister of Social Welfare saying when are we going to get food for people? The Minister responds saying we are going to send the enumerators to count people to see how many people are in need of food assistance. That is what happened last year but it was not even a year after having conducted the census. This means that the numbers we work with during the delimitation exercise do not represent what is actually happening on the ground for several reasons. Some of the things, which I am not able to discuss because of the limited time given to me. May the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, if possible, give direction for the Delimitation Commission and the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency to work hand in hand? The

Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency is responsible for the census. It will help them because they are only concerned about the issue of delimitation and putting boundaries. This issue of delimitation has many advantages if the points raised are being followed properly; even the execution of the work will be done properly.

Madam Speaker, when the Minister of Health is doing health progress like immunisation, they will have statistics up to the district level.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, you are left with two minutes.

**\*HON. S. TSHUMA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I will conclude my debate on the Committee Stage. On the clause to do with chiefs, I do agree with the issue brought by both Hon. Jere and the Chairperson of the Justice Portfolio Committee. They said they do not agree that the chiefs must be involved in politics. I also spoke with the chiefs from my constituency. The three chiefs said that we selected our chief who is in the Chiefs Council. They said you must listen to the chief whom we have voted into the Chiefs Council. They said this Bill which we are expecting to pass in this august House, we make

sure we vote for the President, not for everyone to vote. This initiative must be applied to the Chiefs' Council. Those chiefs who will form part of the Chiefs' Council must be the ones who have the final say. Their submissions must be taken into consideration by the Chiefs' Council and must be agreed to. During the campaigns, we cannot campaign, competing with the chiefs because people will be speaking vulgar language. May the chiefs not be involved in politics? Thank you.

**\*HON. GUYO:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker Ma'am. I want to start by thanking you for giving me this opportunity to represent the people of Buhera North who voted for me to represent them here in this august House. The people of Buhera North Constituency want us to remind this august House that the Constitution is not cast in stone, but it is a document which can be amended time and again depending on what we will be facing as a country.

Furthermore, they appreciate the good work that is being done by His Excellency, President Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa. They are saying that they have been voting time and time again. With what is

happening now, they saw it fit that two years be extended for the President, Members of Parliament and all councillors so that we complete our projects.

Madam Speaker Ma'am, as citizens of Buhera North, we have seen a lot since the President took over. We have seen the sinking of boreholes and Marovanyati Dam because Buhera is a hot area. It was a dry, arid area and we relied on rains during the rainy season. The President initiated a dam project, which is benefiting the community. We have plans for drip irrigation and other projects. I believe that completing the project and being allowed to complete the projects is going to benefit the community. Talking to the people of Buhera North, they were saying that we are not just giving you two years but we are giving you the opportunity even for those who are in the opposition who take time opposing....

**\*HON. KUKA:** Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. For us to conserve our time, we must better not heckle each other. The Hon. Member should withdraw his negative words towards the left side.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Which left side are you talking about Hon. Member? Maybe it is the other side. There are four different sides in this august House. Continue, Hon Member.

**\*HON. KUKA:** On a point of order Madam Speaker Ma'am! In this august House, there are two distinct sides, the left and the right side. When a Member from the right side says the other side, he is alluding to the left side, he must just swallow his words and stop wasting time.

**\*THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** May you withdraw your words Hon. Member and continue with the debate.

**\*HON. GUYO:** I withdraw my words, thank you. The two years that I am alluding to, which should be extended, it is quite important because sometimes after elections, people will take time going to courts. So, the two years that are wasted, we intend to continue with the five years developing our nation and developing our constituencies. You would find that normally three years are progressive, but the other two are just wasted on electioneering. As Buhera North, we believe that the two years should be added.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** On a point of order Madam Speaker! We do not agree with what the Hon. Member is saying.

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Guyo, may you continue.

**HON. GUYO:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let me talk about chiefs. As residents of Buhera North, we support that chiefs be allowed to participate in politics because in the past, we had chiefs like Chief Ndiweni and others who were supporting the other side. We support that all chiefs should be given that opportunity to participate in the political process, unlike what was happening in the past with Chief Ndiweni and others.

As Buhera North residents, we request the extension by two years, to make it seven years. We request that the Hon. Minister of Finance should fund the CDF so that projects are completed in all areas and no place is left behind. This is the money, which will benefit the people of Buhera North. I want to thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am, for this opportunity.

**HON. SHIRIYEDENGA:** I want to thank you Hon. Speaker for this opportunity. I fully concur with the colleagues that debated

before me that the Constitution is a living document and should evolve with the needs and aspirations of the people. Additionally, any constitutional reform should embed the core values of constitutionalism, including constitutional supremacy, popular sovereignty and separation of powers, institutional independence, accountability, inclusion and protection against personalisation of power.

Any Constitutional Amendment which transgresses one or more of these core values is a nullity and should be rejected.

Be that as it may Madam Speaker, the million-dollar question therefore is, does Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill (CAB3) deepen constitutional democracy or weaken it? Does it seek to strengthen the 2013 Constitution's founding values or dilute them? In my respectful view Madam Speaker, CAB3 should be rejected because it threatens the core values of constitutional democracy instead of protecting the people's rights to choose their leaders and hold them accountable. The amendment concentrates on more power in the Executive, weakens independence of State institutions and reduces direct public participation in national governance. A

constitution should protect citizens from abuse of power and not make it easier for leaders to escape scrutiny.

Why do I say so Madam Speaker? First and foremost, this Bill weakens judicial independence. Clause 14 of this Bill removes the issue of public nominations and public interviews of lower court judges. Madam Speaker, this removes the aspect of transparency and there is no guarantee amongst the public to the effect that the persons that will be appointed as judges are fit for the purpose and qualified. Courts are supposed to act as neutral guardians of the law, any changes in their appointment procedures giving the Executive more influence affects the independence of the Judiciary which is contrary to section 164 of our Constitution, which is clear that the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the courts are central to the rule of law and democratic governance.

The second issue is that this amendment weakens the traditional leadership system. I would like to concur with the views of the Chiefs' Council on that matter. Madam Speaker, I heard some arguing that traditional leaders should be accorded political rights because they are universal and that is true. If we are to accord them political rights, let

us adhere to Section 67 and preserve their universality and consider the prisoners and those that are in diaspora who are deprived of their political rights.

The third issue Madam Speaker is on how this Amendment Bill weakens our election management body. In his presentation, our Leader of Government Business did indicate that the changes primarily on the Voters' Roll and delimitation were motivated by the need to align ZEC and make it focus on its role of conducting elections. Madam Speaker, I respectfully partially agree with the Minister, however the Minister did not consider is that election is a cycle. If we remove certain components of the electoral cycle, then that affects its integrity and the flow of the electoral process. The reason why I also feel this amendment weakens ZEC, the role of delimitation for example, has been removed from ZEC and given to a new Commission.

Madam Speaker, we are all aware that according to Section 320, such commissions are appointed upon the prerogative of the President, hence they report to the President. Madam Speaker, that in itself affects the independence of that particular Commission which is

proposed. the public has constantly complained about its conduct, particularly on the issue of independence but at least it has some nominal independence as compared to this body, which is proposed. Madam Speaker, what is exciting about this debate is that even colleagues from the ruling party have complained about the conduct of ZEC, which we as the Opposition have been complaining about; in a way, we have been vindicated. We complained about how ZEC conducted the delimitation of 2022.

Madam Speaker, when it comes to the issue of delimitation, it is not whether the function is removed from ZEC or given to another body or it remains with ZEC. The bottom line is that our Constitution is clear when you go to Section 160 and Section 161. What ZEC failed to do was to respect the principles of delimitation, particularly for example, on the community of interest where they are supposed to engage traditional leaders. ZEC failed to adhere to the thresholds that are gazetted in our Constitution. So, Madam Speaker, even if that function is removed from ZEC and given to another body, the bottom line is that as long as there is no respect, then we are not going anywhere. The issue is that instead of us debating this Amendment

Bill, we should be focused more on aligning the Electoral Act to the Constitution.

Then going to the issue of the Voters' Roll, the Minister did inform this august House that the amendments were motivated by Members of the Opposition bench, particularly Hon. Markam, Hon. Hwende and Hon. Biti. I had the privilege to consult these Hon. Members and also had the privilege of going through the *Hansard* of the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023, which the Minister referred to. The Minister was right to say that the Opposition bench recommended that we have automatic voter registration. Yes, the automatic voter registration was what our members proposed; however, the Minister did not adopt their recommendations in totality. I say so because, yes, we complained about the conduct of Mr. Mudede with regard to the Voters' Roll but then the Minister did not separate the functions of the voter registration, which the members had said should go to the RG's office and that the Voters' Roll should go to ZEC.

What should happen Madam Speaker, which the Members proposed, is that the RG's Voters' Roll which is derived from the civil registry database, should be used as a way of checks and balances to

compare with what ZEC has. So, at the end of the day we have a Voters' Roll which is accurate and incorporates everyone. This is the system, which is adopted in South Africa and Botswana. So, I submit.

**HON. MAONEKE:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker for allowing me this opportunity to share my views with regard to CAB3. Representing the people of Chivi Central, I fully support it. I fully support this Bill in its entirety with the exception of just one clause, that is Clause 18. At this point, allow me to share with you my understanding of what a Constitution is. It is a fundamental legal document that outlines the structure, principles and process of Government, establishing the framework within which a nation operates. It is a social contract between the Government and its citizens, detailing rights, responsibilities and the duties owed to each other thereby legitimising the authority of the State.

It serves as the supreme law of the land, embodying the will of the people and determining the distribution of power among various branches of Government such as the executive, legislative and the judicial. A Constitution is a living document, a response in governance too that evolves to the needs and aspirations of society,

business, the academia, natural phenomena, the global trends and the religious discourse of a particular people. As I am defining this concept, it is becoming clear that a Constitution is not cast in stone. It is responsive, it is elastic, it evolves and so is humanity. Allow me to share a quote by Charles Darwin (1881 and in 1882) which is about the theory of evolution where he defined evolution as a process whereby simple cells develop into complex organisms. According to this theory, humanity evolved from such stages as *homohabilis* to *homoerectus* to *homosapiens* and from that to modern day digital men.

As such, the Constitution which applies to those stages of human development such as *homoerectus* cannot apply to the lifestyles of the *homosapiens* and that which applies to the *homosapiens* cannot apply to the modern-day digital men. Change is inevitable, change is unavoidable and change should be embraced.

Once again, allow me to quote a certain philosopher, Eric Hofer who said “in times of change, the learners inherit the earth and the learned are left behind, finding themselves beautifully equipped with the

skills to solve or deal with the problems in a world which does not exist”.

Allow me as well to remind the Hon. Member who once indicated that he studied data science, that already those skills are being replaced by AI, an indication that everything is evolving. Learners are those who are continuously curious and adaptable and will inherit the future. They thrive by constantly questioning, updating their skills and anticipating shifts in their environment. On the other hand, the learned view of their education is finished since they may have mastered the skills of the past. Their expertise is rigid and, in this environment, become a liability. Allow me to share with you an overview of several countries across Asia, Africa, America and Europe that have amended their constitutions in recent years, along with the reasons for their amendments, the Presidents in power at that particular time and the circumstances leading to those changes.

Madam Speaker Ma'am, I am doing this to shed light on the view that it is normal to amend the Constitution and Zimbabwe is no exception to this necessity. Like others, if need arise, we are

automatically obliged to take action to protect the interests of Zimbabwe, its people, its systems and its environment.

Number 1, in Asia, there is India, which amended its Constitution in 2021, and it was amendment 103. Reasons for the amendment was expansion of reservations for economically weaker sections in education and Government jobs. The President of that particular amendment was Ramanathan. Circumstances, which led to the amendment, aimed at enabling greater social justice and amid ongoing debates about reservation policies and the ballot.

Number two, there is Pakistan. It was amendment times 25 in 2018. The reason to merge the Federally Administered Tribal Areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province for better governance in the south end. The President of that moment was Arif-ur-Rehman.

Number three, it was Venezuela in America. The amendment was done in 2017. The reason was to consolidate power and restructure Governments, including the creation of the constituent assembly.

Number five, the United States of America. Various proposals are ongoing as we speak and significant amendments including the Equal Rights Amendment still pending. Reasons for amendment, it aims to ensure equal rights regardless of sex.

The fifth one is in Europe that is Austria-Hungary. The amendment was done in 2020. The seventh was Poland. The amendment was done in 2019. In Africa, Kenya, the amendment was done in 2020. Reason for amendment was that they aimed to force the units and address ethnic divisions but was openly rude. Constitutional in 2021. The President was Uhuru Kenyatta. I am now transitioning to Clause 4 which I may liken to striking an academic g-spot on the part of researchers, particularly Hon. Ziyambi and his team. That is changing Zimbabwe's electoral cycle from five years to seven years. This can be looked at from several perspectives across economic, social, political and security angles. Here are some of the compelling economic reasons.

Number one, longer stability for policies. A seven-year cycle could provide a more extended period for Government to implement

and stabilise economic policies. Attracting foreign investment and fostering long-term economic growth.

Number two, reduced election costs. Less frequent elections would save significant financial resources that can be directed to essential services like education and healthcare, thereby improving the economy by enhancing human capital. Social reasons, increase the focus on development. With the longer electoral term, Governments might prioritise long-term social programmes and development initiatives rather than short-term electoral promises leading to better health, education and infrastructure outcomes.

Political reasons enhance the political stability. A longer electoral cycle may reduce political volatility and the frequency of power struggles leading to a more stable governance environment conducive to democratic practices.

Number seven, it encourages long-term accountability. With the seven-year term, elected officials may be more inclined to focus on long-term strategies and outcomes rather than being solely driven by short-term electoral gains. For security reasons, improve national security. Longer terms could allow for more consistent and stable

security policies, enabling the Government to effectively plan and implement strategies to combat crime and terrorism.

Number eight, it reduce electoral violence. Fewer elections could lead to a decrease in electoral-related violence, promoting greater national harmony and community cohesion. From a global perspective, it allows alignment with global trends. Many nations operate on a longer electoral cycle. Transitioning to a seven-year cycle could align Zimbabwe with global democratic trends, potentially enhancing its international relations and partnership.

I will not delve much into other clauses because of time. Suffice to say that I fully support them all except Clause 18. Madam Speaker, I have a divergent view regarding the proposal to combine the Gender Commission with the Human Rights Commission. Gender Commission should remain a stand-alone system. Here are some of the reasons why Gender Commission in Zimbabwe should remain a stand-alone system separate from Human Rights Commission.

Number one, focus on the agenda. A stand-alone Gender Commission can specifically address gender-related issues such as discrimination. I thank you.

**HON. S. NYONI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to add my voice on the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. First, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of Government Business, Hon. Ziyambi and his team for a job well done. Hon. Members, you will all agree with me that he introduced this Bill with confidence and clarity, laying a very good foundation for a democratic debate that has taken place in this House. We have been warned, Hon. Members, not to be repetitive and therefore, I will try to make just a few points, because a lot of good points have been made in favour of this Bill.

Our President is on record as saying the voice of the people is the voice of God. This Parliament has moved around all provinces soliciting the voice of the people and the people spoke. Who are we to oppose this Bill? Constitutional Amendment (No 3) Bill *bhoo*. For over 18 years, Madam Speaker, the people of Nkayi North have voted for the President, the Member of Parliament and the councillors together. It then follows that the people would have no problem with this august House and the Members of Parliament voting for the President.

On extending the term of office from five to seven years, this will allow our President to finish the good work that he has done and will also give the elected Members an opportunity to deliver. However, for this to happen, I want to call upon this august House that, through the Portfolio Committees, we need to strengthen our oversight role so that no one and no place is left behind. Through lack of supervision and oversight from this House, we have seen a lot of underserved communities, despite the good work that our Government is doing. We would like, with this extension, that no constituency should have one inch of a tarred road as it exists now, and that no constituency should be left behind without vocational training centres. We should make sure that whatever is excellently pronounced, whatever Cabinet programmes are put in place, this august House must make sure that they are implemented so that there is no blame game.

On the Gender Commission, Madam Speaker, let me say that this Commission has done a sterling job. Our President leads by example.

He has appointed more women to higher positions than at any other point in our history. Last month, we saw him confer honours and awards to 22 outstanding women. It includes women in security, academia, women in business and women in politics. This included some of the women in this august House, such as Hon. O. C. Z. Muchinguri-Kashiri, the Minister of Defence; Attorney General, Hon. Mabhiza; our First Lady, Dr. Auxilia Mnangagwa; Chief Justice Gwaunza; the Minister of Tourism, our young lady, Hon. Barbara Rwodzi and Hon. Chinomona.

In our universities, girls are doing much better than boys. An example is my own university in Lupane. We have seen over 60% of girls graduate, a higher percentage than boys. This is commendable. In my opinion, the Gender Commission has done a sterling job. It has seen girls and women take roles that were just for men before. Just to give an example, Zimbabwe has outstanding women who are flying the skies. We have women pilots who are doing very well. This includes Captain Chipso Matimba, Captain Elizabeth Simbi Petros and Captain Emilia Njovana. This shows that as women, we fought alongside men in the war and the struggle continues. This

Commission, in my opinion, has fallen short in balancing the genders. The men and boys have been shortchanged. I want to admit that a lot still has to be done for women. We are not there yet. As a result, we have more men and boys in our mental hospitals than women and girls. Men are suffering in silence. The Gender Commission has also been silent and not visible on the issue.

As a result, men and boys have resorted to gender violence, substance and drug abuse. We want to thank His Excellency for setting up rehabilitation centres and the Cabinet Committee on Drug and Substance Abuse. Our society is now producing unproductive men. In Ndebele, we say, *amanye amahloka kasageci* because of drugs. This is weighing very heavily on our population and also on our economy. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I would like to recommend that the Gender Commission be kept as an independent commission and that we strengthen it and support it to live true to the gender of men and women as equals. I submit.

**HON. NKALA:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to represent Gwanda North. The people of Gwanda North want to understand why there should be an

additional two years in this Parliament, especially considering that our roads are in a deplorable state.

**HON. O. NCUBE:** Point of order Madam Speaker.

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

**+HON. O. NCUBE:** The Hon. Member is misleading this august House. There are many good roads in his area. Which roads does he use?

**THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nkala, please do not mislead the House and the nation. You may proceed.

**+HON. NKALA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. However, I have never seen him in Gwanda, so I do not know whom he represents. I was clear that I am speaking on behalf of the people from Gwanda North. He should not speak about Gweru. Thank you.

I was stating that the people are aware of roads such as Trabablas, Masvingo-Beit Bridge Road. However, Trabablas does not serve the needs of my constituency. The state of the roads is quite poor, so why should we add more years to this Parliament?

Furthermore, the people expressed their desire for the Gender Commission so that it should not be dismantled but to continue its tangible work. It has been effective without reporting to another Commission. If it is absorbed by another entity, the Gender Commission may not operate effectively, which would weaken its functions.

I also support transferring the Voters' Roll to the Registrar General's Office. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), with the time it has been given, has not performed well. We need to consider this perspective, as ZEC has failed to manage the electoral process effectively, including Senate appointments.

From my engagements with constituents, there are concerns that this will create a financial strain on the fiscus, as some constituencies are still awaiting the Constituency Development Fund. We do not want to add more individuals drawing from the same budget.

It would be better to maintain the existing structure rather than complicate the current situation. As an individual, I believe we should not extend the parliamentary term.

Regarding traditional leaders, our Hon. Chiefs are respected as custodians of culture without being involved in active politics. Allowing them to engage in politics will dilute their power and influence. During campaigns, the mudslinging that occurs can compromise a chief, especially if they have had previous encounters or grudges with candidates. This would undermine their authority and influence. Therefore, we believe that chiefs should remain as custodians of culture and must be respected.

The next issue concerns the military. I believe that the military should maintain its ranks. No one should consider themselves above the military. The military must remain a professional entity without interference. It is important to note that our people do not support CAB3. They desire to maintain the current state of affairs as they see no need for the Executive to review and amend the current Constitution.

Lastly, as I represent my constituency, I want to emphasise that the people do not agree with CAB3. They want to continue choosing the President of their choice. They do not want a situation where only a few individuals elect the President, individuals who might be

compromised or influenced. They desire a process where the President is elected without any interference.

+**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You have two minutes left Hon. Member. As a representative of an area where I come from, you did not consult me either. Please continue Hon. Member.

+**HON. NKALA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I visited your community, spoke to neighbouring households and conveyed their desire to elect their own President without influence from any individuals. I want to thank you Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Mr. Speaker, I rise in terms of Order Number 111 which directs that we must not repeat what others have said. Once somebody has said something, it has been taken note of and we respond. It is not necessary to repeat what others would have said and I am just imploring all the Members of Parliament. I think a lot of people have spoken about the Gender Commission, the chiefs and why should we continuously repeat the same process. Our Standing Rules, Mr.

Speaker, if you read them, they do not allow such repetitive debate. I implore you Mr. Speaker, to rule so that we act accordingly.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! Leader of Government Business, you are very much on point. The issue that the Leader of Government Business is bringing up in this House now is not an issue of stifling anybody, but it is a simple issue of saying that let us not be repetitive. In your debate, if you know that you are going to say something that has already been said, you would rather say it in a summarised way, passing by and sitting down quickly.

We are not going to allow you to then go on and respond on issues that have been said over and over again by other Members. At times Hon. Members, it is okay to actually admit that, okay, my point has been said, so let me just keep quiet, rather than just standing up for the sake of standing up.

So, for the sake of obeying our Standing Orders and Rules, I concur with what the Leader of Government Business has said and therefore, I rule that whoever, yourself – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – Order, order, order, be very, very careful

not to cross the line here. I am the Speaker of Parliament right now.

Okay!

I am saying that I am making a ruling to say that if you are repeating things that have been said, I will ask you to take your seat.

We may continue.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** On a point of clarification Hon. Speaker.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Yes, Hon. Mushoriwa, what do you want to clarify? Do you want to clarify my ruling or something else?

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Hon. Speaker.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** No, no, no.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Standing Order Number 11 (b).

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Be clear about what you want to say.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Yes, Standing Order Number 11 (b) states that where there is a ruling or observation...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Standing Order Number what?

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Number 11 (b).

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Number 11 (b)?

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Yes.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hold on, let me go there.

There is 11, but there is Number 11 (b). There is 11 (1), (2) and (3).

Where is (b)?

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** I mean 111.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You mean 111? I thought you said 11 (b).

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** No, no, no. I said 111 (b). It is read with Standing Order 98.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** So, what is your point of clarification?

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** The Hon. Speaker, Hon. Mudenda, referred to this Standing Order when he then said that there were many ways of killing a cat and you are aware, Mr. Speaker, that in terms of consistency, this House is a House of Rules and Orders. Once a rule has been applied to other Members, it cannot be proper to

then change in the midst at the expense of other Hon. Members. Hon. Speaker, if we are going to adhere to the provisions...

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Mr. Speaker, you cannot debate him –

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

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Mr. Speaker, No, no, no.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order. I am the Chair.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** No, but he cannot do what he is doing.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order!

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** What is he doing?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! That is my responsibility.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** No, but he cannot, he is seated. He is not even standing up, he is seated.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order, order! Hon. Mushoriwa. I have not stopped you from talking, so what is your problem? – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – No, do not worry about that. It is my job to deal with that, not you.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Mr. Speaker, you should actually...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** No, no, no. We cannot do that.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** He stands up and raises the point of order, not for him to say he is seated.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I have recognised you and I was still listening to you. I have not stopped you. Why are you now interfering with my job? Your job is to speak. My job is to judge.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Yes, I want to speak.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Yes, so speak.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** So, in speaking, I am saying, Mr. Speaker, the rules of the House cannot be changed midstream. A ruling was made and Members were allowed to stress their points. If we are going to adhere to the current ruling, it will mean that Members from my right, who are supporting what the Hon. Minister said will not be allowed to debate and we cannot do that Mr. Speaker. We already conceded the Member's ten minutes. Why should we concede them again?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I think you have made your point. Now, let me clarify this, Hon. Mushoriwa – [HON.

MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – Hon. Hamauswa *tisadaroka hatizi mubhawa*, you must not behave like that. From the Speaker's ruling on that particular day and remember, that ruling was for that particular day. Despite that, when the Speaker said there are many ways of killing a cat, he clearly meant that this cat was still alive and we were still looking for different ways of killing it. Now, we have since killed that cat. It is dead, you see. So now, you are simply coming and throwing stones at a dead cat. It is very unfair – [HON.

MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

Anyway, like I said, order! Order!

**HON. MAMBIPIRI:** A cat is nine lives Hon. Speaker. It is not yet dead.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You are pressing your microphone while I am speaking. Go outside. You come back after 20 minutes, leave! – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

Hon. Mushoriwa and the rest of the Hon. Members, I hope you understand that yes, we are going to be listening to your debates, but they must not be too repetitive. You understand? For the good audience of this august House.

**HON. KANGAUSARU:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir, and greetings from Hurungwe.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**HON. KANGAUSARU:** The French philosopher and political thinker, John Paul Sartre, is credited with one of the earliest uses of the term neocolonialism in 1956, describing a condition in which a nation may perceive political independence, yet remain constrained by inherited structures that limit their capacity to determine their own future.

His observation reminds us that true sovereignty is not merely the attainment of independence. It is the continuous ability of a people to shape institutions that respond to their own realities, aspirations and developmental priorities. Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise today in support of Clauses No. 3,4, 9 and 10 of the Constitution Amendment (No.3) Bill.

The late African revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara once said, “We must dare to invest in the future”. Those words remind us that the nation does not achieve greatness by becoming prisoners of the past. They progress when they dare to shape institutions that respond to the present realities and future aspirations. The question

before this House is, therefore, not simply whether we are amending the Constitution. Constitutions across the world evolve with the changing circumstances. The real question is whether those proposed amendments strengthen the constitutional architecture and enhance our capacity as a nation to achieve sustainable development, effective governance and public accountability.

Constitutional reforms should therefore not be viewed through the narrow lens of political competition but through the broader lens of nation-building and constitutional statecraft. Clause 3 must be understood within the framework of representative democracy and democratic delegation. In every constitutional democracy, citizens delegate authority to elected representatives to make decisions on their behalf. Members of Parliament are entrusted with making laws, approving national budgets, authorising public expenditure, rectifying international agreements and exercising oversight over the Executive. Parliament also possesses the constitutional authority to remove a president from office through impeachment.

If Parliament can be entrusted with the responsibility of making laws for millions of Zimbabweans and even removing a sitting

president, it can be logically argued that Parliament is incapable of electing a president. Such an argument would undermine the very foundation upon which representative democracy rests. Mr, Speaker Sir, Clause 3, therefore, does not diminish democracy; rather, it elevates Parliament to its rightful constitutional position as the central democratic institution of the closer constitutional relationship between the Executive and Parliament, therefore enhancing accountability, responsiveness and oversight.

Mr. Speaker, mature democracies are not measured solely by how power is acquired; they are measured by how effective institutions are structured to ensure accountability and serve the public interest. This amendment reflects confidence in the Parliament as the embodiment of the people's will and as the institution best placed to exercise democratic judgment on behalf of the nation. One of the greatest challenges confronting our developing nation is the tendency to spend too much time managing politics and also little time implementing development. Nations do not become prosperous merely because they hold elections frequently; they become prosperous because they build strong institutions capable of pursuing

long-term national objectives with consistency, discipline and purpose. The history of successful development teaches us that economic transformation requires institutional stability, policy continuity and long-term planning horizons; infrastructure development, industrialisation, agricultural modernisation, energy security, technological innovations and human capital development cannot be achieved through perpetual elections.

Development is not an event; it is a process. Roads, dams, power stations, irrigation schemes, hospitals and industrial parks require years of planning, financing and implementation before citizens can enjoy their full benefits. The recently completed Trabablas Interchange provides a practical example. Such a transformative infrastructure project cannot be conceived, designed, financed and completed overnight. It requires strategic planning, sustainable implementation and policy consistency over several years. Its successful completion demonstrates that the national transformation is achieved when Government is afforded the time, the institutional stability necessary to see major projects through, from conception to completion.

The Trabablas Interchange stands as a visible reminder that development requires continuity. A developmental State succeeds when it is able to think beyond the next election and focus on the next generation. Vision 2030 itself is evidence that national transformation requires a long-term perspective. If we are serious about becoming an upper middle-income economy, then our constitutional arrangements must facilitate policy continuity and developmental governance. We must align our Government architecture with our development ambitions. A modern constitutional scholarship increasingly speaks of developmental constitutionalism. This concept recognises that constitutional arrangements should not only regulate power and protect rights but should also create an enabling framework for economic growth, social justice and national development. In this regard, Clauses 4, 9 and 10 seek to strengthen the State's capacity to deliver on its developmental mandate.

Furthermore, the provision has got the potential to promote national coherence. Winner-takes-all political contest often deepen divisions, reinforce polarisation. Constitutional arrangements should strengthen the forces that unite Zimbabweans rather than those that

divide them. Our constitutional framework should advance the spirit of unity, consensus and collective nation-building. This debate should not be reduced to personalities, political interests or short-term considerations. It is about the kind of State we wish to build, the Zimbabwe that we want to build, the constitutional framework that will carry Zimbabwe into the future.

Let me finish by saying Clause 3 strengthens Parliament, reinforces its representative democracy. Clauses 4, 9 and 10 provide the policy continuity necessary for long-term national transformation, developmental governance and the realisation of Vision 2030.

Thomas Sakala challenged Africa to dare to invest in the future. If we want to invest the future, we must also prepare to build the constitutional institution capable of carrying Zimbabwe into the future. So, the people of Hurungwe say Bill Number 3 *huchi, ndizvo, zvaendwa*. I thank you.

**\*HON. MUCHEMWA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for the opportunity to add my voice to the debate. I rise to represent the people of Uzumba in the district of UMP. People from Uzumba are well known for their support. They have sent me to say what I am

going to say today in this Parliament. In short, UMP has the majority of people, so when the majority speaks, the minority must keep quiet. If we ask you to jump, you just ask how high.

**HON. KUKA:** On a point of order!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):** Yes.

**\*HON. KUKA:** The Hon. Member is mixing languages in his presentation; he must stick to one language, which we can all understand.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** That is my duty to tell him; it is not your duty. Hon. Mavhudzi and Hon. Chigumbu, even if you throw your hands, it will not be your duty.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** On a point of privilege!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, please sit down.

**HON. MUCHEMWA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. So, let me say what the majority said, we cannot talk about Zimbabwe without mentioning UMP. During public consultations, no one opposed this Bill. Let me not waste time because this Bill has been spoken about for some time. I will just give you a small brief on why people from

UMP are always in support of the programmes to do with this country. It started in the liberation struggle when we were fighting for this country. People from Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe (UMP) are the people who witnessed the liberation. UMP was the corridor where war veterans would pass by, going to different areas or places where they were fighting. Representing people from Uzumba, the people said that they are supporting this Bill 100%.

They are supporting the addition of two years to the President's term and the others who will have succeeded him, two years to the Members of Parliament, and two years to the councillors. Everyone is seeing the development that is happening in this country. So, I will just go through it again. Even if we look at the independence that we held...

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I was trying to say, you have to stick to one language. If you want to stick to Shona, stick to Shona. If it is English, stick to English. Do not mix these two languages.

**\*HON. MUCHEMWA:** Thank you. Hon. Speaker. I was saying that since 1980, we have been celebrating our independence.

We would just celebrate Independence Day without any developments. Nowadays, we wish that Independence Day be celebrated in UMP so that we have developments like stadiums, roads and boreholes. Without wasting time, let me share with you the development that is happening in UMP. We have a road which we call Nhakiwa that goes to Nyadire in Mutoko. During the Smith regime, that road was never tarred. When President Mnangagwa came in, the road was rehabilitated. We also have a road from Madicheche. The construction of that road started in 1980, but it was not completed. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic, the road is now being constructed.

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

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You know that when you raise a point of order, you tell me the rule that you are abiding by.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** Order Number 65.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** What are you saying about that Order 65?

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** Hon. Speaker, the people were being corrected by the Government Whip that we must tell the truth. The road is not being constructed by President Mnangagwa, but it is being

constructed by the Government using the money from taxpayers, the money that is paid by the Zimbabweans. They must say that roads are being constructed by the Government. These are two different things, to say the Government is led by President Mnangagwa.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Chigumbu, tell me something. I hear you saying President Mnangagwa did this, so, it is bad. When it is bad, you want it to be apportioned and alluded to him, but when it is good, you do not want to. Is that what you are saying?

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** If you go through the *Hansard*, I have never said that. Even if you go through the *Hansard* from 2023, if I say there is something bad, I say the Government has done something bad and if they have done well, I say the Government has done...

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** The two of us said this when we were outside unless you are saying that I am lying, but we once talked about this. His Excellency, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa is the Head of State and Government. So, anything that is being done by the Government, surely must be referred to him as well. As much as anything that is done by Parliament, surely reflects on you as an Hon. Member. So, there is nothing amiss by Hon.

Muchemwa referring to things done well to the President of Zimbabwe and until he stops or ceases being President, there is nothing amiss at all. Hon. Muchemwa, please go ahead. It is for you to actually point out the Head of State of Zimbabwe, go ahead.

**\*HON. MUCHEMWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. We cannot compliment that the school children are passing very much without indicating the good thing that is being done by the headmasters. In UMP, there is mining of the black granite that is being done. Mining was happening yet there was no benefit for the community. The President managed to stop that. Those stones that are being cut are now helping in the development of the area. Let me talk about the good things that were done by the current President. We have Beitbridge Border Post. If you go there, you can get lost...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Muchemwa, you are left with two minutes.

**HON. MUCHEMWA:** We have many airports that were commissioned in this country, like Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport, Victoria Falls and the innovation hubs in tertiary institutions. That is development that came along with the

new leadership of Government. There is now clean water because of the boreholes that were drilled around the country.

The development of the country is seen through infrastructure development. If we go around Zimbabwe...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Member, you may take your seat. Your time is up. The next Hon. Member to take the floor is Hon. Mutseyami.

**HON. MUTSEYAMI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for allowing me to speak on the Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill representing the esteemed people of Dangamvura Constituency. I did some consultations in the six wards. It is with a profound sense of duty to oppose the Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill Hon. Speaker, I am opposing...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Mutseyami. Hon. Molokela and Hon. C. Hlatywayo, so that we hear the Member in total silence and good accord, may you two leave the House until he finishes the debate. Leave the House now. You come back when he is done. You are disturbing him.

**HON. MUTSEYAMI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker.

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

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** What point of order, Hon. Matangira, are you raising? The Hon. Member has not even begun talking.

**\*HON. MATANGIRA:** I am raising a point of order about what he has already mentioned. The Hon. Member has said that he is allowed; who allows him to speak on someone's behalf? He has to repeat what he has said.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! Hon. Members, I just said order and you are speaking; do you want to also join them outside? There, you are allowed to speak as much as you want, not here. Hon. Members, can we allow the debate to flow and can we not just make unnecessary points of order so that it becomes fair on both sides.

**HON. MUTSEYAMI:** Hon. Speaker, I rise today with a profound sense of duty to oppose the Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill in its entirety. Constitutions are not ordinary statutes. They are solemn covenants between the people and the State. They are not instruments crafted to suit the convenience of those temporarily

occupying positions of authority. They are enduring safeguards designed to protect future generations from the excess of power. The late South African statesman Nelson Mandela once warned that a critically independent and investigative press is the lifeblood of any democracy. Similarly, Hon. Speaker, democracy itself survives only where constitutional safeguards remain intact and are protected from political expedience. CAB 3 represents not constitutional reform from the way I see it and from the way people in Dangamvura see it, but constitutional regression. The Constitution of Zimbabwe was adopted by overwhelming popular support in 2013. Following extensive consultations, it reflected the aspirations of Zimbabweans for constitutionalism, accountability, separation of powers and democratic governance.

Today, merely because the Constitution has become inconvenient, maybe to those wielding power, we are invited to dismantle the very safeguards that Zimbabwe fought hard to establish. Section 3 of our Constitution established the founding values and principles of Zimbabwe, including good governance, democracy, transparency, accountability and respect for the will of the people.

Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as Government of the people, by the people, for the people. The proposed transfer of Presidential election powers from direct popular vote to parliamentary election fundamentally weakens the direct democratic mandate of the Presidency. It diminishes the voice of ordinary Zimbabweans in determining who governs them.

Hon. Speaker, the people are the ultimate custodians of sovereign authority. Parliament exercises delegated power. It cannot usurp powers reserved for the electorate. Secondly, CAB3 seeks to extend the term of office from five years to seven years. This proposal violates the spirit of constitutionalism. If you read Thomas Jefferson, he wisely observed that this earth belongs to the living, not to the dead. No generation of political leaders has the moral authority to extend its stay in office by altering constitutional rules midstream. Constitutions exist precisely to prevent those in authority from modifying the rules to perpetuate themselves in office.

Constitutionalism means limited Government under the law, not Government manipulating the law for its own convenience. The proposed concentration of appointment powers in the Executive

regarding judges and other institutions risks compromising institutional independence. An independent judiciary is not a luxury. It is the last line of defence against abuse of power. When judicial appointment becomes overly dependent on Executive discretion, public confidence in the administration of justice inevitably suffers. The proposed restructuring and abolition of constitutional commissions weakens accountability mechanisms. Independent commissions were deliberately entrenched in the Constitution to serve as watchdogs. The Zimbabwe Gender Commission and National Peace and Reconciliation Commission are constitutional guardians.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You only have two minutes left.

**HON. MUTSEYAMI:** This was caused by Mr. Matangira, they have disturbed my time. So naturally, time is borne...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! [HON. MUTSEYAMI: *Hon. Speaker, I hear you. I will abide by the two minutes*] - Order though. – [HON. MUTSEYAMI: *You are also taking my time*] - I will give you the time. Order! When we are in this House, please address him as Honourable not Mr. Matangira.

*Hon. Chikombo having pressed the mic and talked while seated.*

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Pressing the mic whilst seated because you are a lawyer, please go out! You will stay there. We want discipline in this House. You will come back when you have now revised your manners and pray that God forgives you, then you come back. Leave, go outside. – [HON. CHIKOMBO: *Hon. Speaker, please address me as Honourable*] – Hon. Mutseyami, I have left your two minutes untouched; you are still going to have it in full, because I am a fair and just Speaker. Can you please withdraw Mr. Matangira to Hon. Matangira.

**HON. MUTSEYAMI:** I withdraw. Hon. Speaker, CAB3 risks undermining investor confidence and international credibility. Investors seek predictability, constitutional stability and the respect of the rule of law. Frequent constitutional alterations driven by political interests create uncertainty. The renowned jurist Lord Benyam stated, “the rule of law requires that all persons and authorities within the State should be bound by and entitled to the benefit of laws publicly made and publicly administered”. Zimbabwe's economic recovery depends upon strengthening constitutional governance, not weakening

it. Constitutions must never become instruments of convenience. Africa needs strong institutions, not strong men. It is about institutions. It is about whether future generations will inherit a democracy governed by constitutional principles or one governed by political expedience. Constitutions are designed precisely because human beings are imperfect. Checks and balances exist because concentrated power inevitably invites abuse.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I submit that CAB3, one, it weakens popular sovereignty. Two, it undermines constitutionalism. Three, it erodes the separation of powers. Four, it weakens independent institutions. Five, it reduces democratic accountability. Six, it creates uncertainty regarding constitutional stability. Our constitutional obligation under Section 117 is to protect the Constitution, not to facilitate its erosion. History judges harshly those who remain silent when democratic safeguards are dismantled.

*[Time Limit]*

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** I move that the Hon. Member's time be extended by three minutes.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I second.

**HON. KARIKOGA:** I object.

Motion put and negatived.

**HON. MANDIWANZIRA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I stand before you as a proud representative of the people of Nyanga South Constituency to whom I am very grateful, as they have given me a third term. I stand here as an MP who has been given a further term to represent those people. I had the privilege and honour of being the Chairman of the Joint Committee of this Parliament that travelled throughout the districts of Manicaland to get the views of the people of Manicaland about Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

The very first meeting was held in Nyanga South at Nyamuka Hall where the majority of the people were completely in support of Amendment (No. 3) Bill. Mr. Speaker, I come from Nyanga South, the land of Chief Rekai Tangwena. For those who do not know who Chief Rekai Tagwena is, Chief Rekai Tangwena is a traditional leader in my constituency. He is late, now buried at the national shrine, who is an icon of our independence, who fought resistance against the colonial Rhodesian regime. He is known for several things and I will mention just two. When our First Prime Minister and First Executive

President, Cde. Robert Gabriel Mugabe was running away from arrest, it was Chief Reikai Tangwena who assisted both Cde. Robert Mugabe and Cde. Edgar Tekere to cross Gairezi River into Mozambique to join the liberation struggle and lead the liberation struggle to the independence that we enjoy today.

Chef Reikai Tangwena fiercely fought against the occupation of the Tangwena land by one white farmer with the support of the Rhodesian Government in his area, a farmer called Mr. Hanmer. The Rhodesian forces came in full force by helicopter, on horseback, armed to remove the Tangwena people. They burnt their huts but they refused to move. Overnight, Chief Reikai Tangwena mobilised his subjects to rebuild their huts. When the colonialists arrived the next morning, they found people going about their normal business. That was the work of a committed traditional leader to the political independence of our country. It will be a sad day Mr. Speaker Sir, if this Parliament, which is almost 100 percent black, 40 years plus after independence....

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir!  
When I debated on Friday, the Hon. Minister of Justice stood on a

point of order and said I should not go back into history and that they know the history. This was despite the fact that the Hon. Member who spoke before me narrated the history. Now, I want to know the consistency of this House, the consistency also in terms of Hon. Minister's responses; why is he not interjecting the Hon. Member who is eulogising, as he said? He said you are eulogising the heroic sons and daughters, yet he is seated right.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** We heard you. You had bad luck on that day, so Hon. Mandiwanzira has not encountered that bad luck. Hon. Mandiwanzira, please continue!

**HON. MANDIWANZIRA:** I want to summarise that point by saying Chief Rekai Tangwena, the late, would turn in his grave if this Parliament, which is almost 100 percent black, more than 40 years after independence, rejected political participation by our traditional leaders – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - Elsewhere, if you go to the UAE, we are not talking about just being Parliamentarians; we are talking about the traditional leaders running that country. If we go to Saudi Arabia, we are talking about traditional leaders running that country. If we go to the United Kingdom, we are talking about the

traditional leaders having significant influence in the direction of that country. Prime Minister Kier Starmer cannot send British soldiers to war without the approval of King Charles. That is the role and significance of the traditional leaders and therefore, they should be allowed to participate in our politics.

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** On a point of order! What we are against on CAB3 are partisan leaders. I think it is wrong for him to talk of the heroism of Chief Tangwena and want to put him in a box. There is a difference between the parties, politics and being a patriotic person. Chief Tangwena was a heroic figure in the struggle of Zimbabwe...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Mushoriwa! When you stand up on a point of order, do not debate, just simply state what you think has been infringed, then let it be upon me to make a decision. Just like what I did to Hon. Mutseyami, I am holding Hon. Mandiwanzira's time because of your point of order. It is my prerogative. That is exactly the point where the Speaker said a cat can be killed in many ways, which Hon. Mandiwanzira is doing. Hon. Mandiwanzira, please carry on.

**HON. MANDIWANZIRA:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I have no reason to stand before this important House to debate partisanship of chiefs. The chiefs have every right to decide which political party they have to belong to. I have heard the arguments from the other side that say that because traditional leaders are given cars by the Government they are likely to support the Government. I must point out that the political parties on the other side have been recipients of government funds. Can they convince us that they have changed their support because they were given money by the Government? They are recipients and beneficiaries of the Zimbabwe Political Parties Finance Act but it has not changed their political views.

I will now move on to my next point. You know Mr. Speaker Sir...

**HON. MAKUMIRE:** On a point of order. I just wanted to assist Hon. Mandiwanzira that even ZANU-PF Members receive money from Government.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** On a point of order Hon. Speaker, if you look at what is happening in this House, there is no seriousness and it seems we no longer have anything to debate. If you see people

arguing on trivial issues when the Hon. Member is debating very well and an Hon Member calls for a point of order, it shows people are no longer interested. Can we not just wind up the debate and move to the next stage?

**THE TEMORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, shall we minimise points of order, especially the trivial ones.

**HON. MANDIWANZIRA:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I have had the blessing of having three children, two of them daughters and a son. My late brother Augustin who served the Zimbabwe Defence Forces as Commodore died and left three girl children. I have the responsibility to look after these girls and it is my dear wish that my girls and all other girls in this country must get an opportunity to scale any heights they want in whatever field they choose. I am very proud as a Zimbabwean with the work that has been done by the Government since 1980 and the acceleration of that work under President E. D. Mnangagwa in ensuring that women are given more opportunities. It has not happened in silence but because there has been an organisation responsible for pushing that agenda, which is the Gender Commission, I therefore reject the idea of combining the

Gender Commission and Human Rights Commission. We have the Ministry of Women Affairs in Government. It is because women's issues have to be propelled and that is why we do not have the ministry of men's affairs. Therefore, we must allow the Gender Commission, and I am very aware that gender applies to both men and women but we must have it to continue its great work whose results we are seeing today.

**\*HON. MARANGE:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I am happy to deliver the words that are coming from Marange in Mutare West Constituency. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Molekela, this is not a beer hall. Hon. Karenyi, you have also joined that squad? Hon. Makumire and Hon. Mhangwa, please do not do what you are doing.

**\*HON. MARANGE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am happy to deliver the message coming from Marange in Mutare West Constituency. The Marange family or people from Marange are fully supporting Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. The people from Marange, Hon. Speaker, are joyful because of the programme that was introduced by the Leader of Government business Hon. Ziyambi,

for the President's term of office to be increased from five years to seven years. We, the people from Marange, have a lot of work that we are looking forward to that has to do with development. So, people from Marange felt that the ongoing projects in the areas could only be completed if the President's term of office is increased. We have our road from Riverside to Marange that is being tarred. So, people from Marange are grateful for the two-year extension because this work will progress well and be completed. We have diamonds in Marange and companies have come to establish themselves and the people in Marange are happy because of the work that government is doing. His Excellency, Comrade E. D Mnangagwa, has opened opportunities for people in Marange to go to work. The country is free and there is peace. We, the people of Marange, say that the President did us well. He has opened job opportunities for us. We are now building schools because of the opportunity that we were given by the President. So, we are happy that this CAB3 will succeed and pass so we can move forward.

Hon. Speaker, people from Marange were happy when they heard that there is a clause that allows the chiefs to participate in

politics. They were very happy indeed. As I am speaking here, I am a son to a chief. He was happy that they are now being allowed to air out what they came across, the way they were treated by the whites and sent to prison, *etcetera*. So, for chiefs to participate freely in politics is something they accepted in Marange.

Then on the issue of the Voters' Roll being taken to the Registrar General's office is something that they received well. We support the issue of registry...

**\*HON. CHIGUMBU:** On a point of order! This is my first time seeing this Hon. Member speak and I must point out a misunderstanding. The Bill does not state that elections must be taken to the Registrar's Office; rather, it specifies that the Voters' Roll should be submitted to the Registrar's Office. I am just trying to assist him as he may have missed this point during previous discussions.

**\*HON. MAKUMIRE:** Where is he from? I do not know him.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You are not allowed to switch on the mic; you know the punishment. Stand up, Hon. Member and leave the House! Pressing the mic without being given the floor is not allowed. Switch off your mic and leave. You come back in 10

minutes. I do not want anyone who presses the mic on without my permission.

Hon. Chigumbu, we have heard what you have said. I think that is what Hon. Mavhunga meant. So let him proceed.

**\*HON. MAVHUNGA:** The issue of CAB3 is of great significance to us, the people of Marange, as it pertains to our ability to engage in developmental work. We believe that the Government should facilitate these development efforts, particularly concerning CAB3. Hon. Speaker, we from Marange express our gratitude to the President, E. D. Mnangagwa, for his contributions to the development of this country since he assumed office in 2017. We have witnessed the advancements he has made and it is this progress that has led the people of Marange to support CAB3. Therefore, with the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill, we will move forward.

Our President, E. D. Mnangagwa, said that no one and no place is left behind. Today, we are people who came into Parliament from the ruling party. That is why you are hearing people say that we do not know anything. We came because the President said that they want the youth to come into Parliament. For those who are saying

they do not know me, they shall know me. If you do not know a place called Marange in Zimbabwe, you now know that place, Marange Bocha. Marange Bocha is there. We are inviting you so that you know the place and you get to know us. The issue of CAB3 in Marange, *takaenda, takaenda!* Let us move forward. It has been long overdue. What Hon. Ziyambi did, we were happy. So, we want CAB3 to sail through; we are supporting the Bill.

**+HON. S. MAPHOSA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, for granting me the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I represent Matabeleland South. I want to highlight that we have also engaged in discussions with our electorate regarding the Constitutional Amendment Bill. The people of Matabeleland South are asking, "What kind of issue has the Minister introduced?" They feel that since they were unable to address this matter during the public consultations held in the constituencies, it can now be resolved here in the National Assembly. They were expecting that they were the people who were going to slaughter this CAB3 animal. They said, Hon. Maphosa, as we are talking together here, take note that you did

not just go to Parliament voluntarily; instead, you were elected by the people of Matabeleland South Province.

As Members of Parliament and Senators from Matabeleland South, you are 26 in total. The constituents have expressed the challenges they face in Matabeleland South Province and are questioning how you intend to address the issue referred to as CAB3. They have urged us to form a caucus to discuss the Constitutional Amendment. They want to know: if we allow this "slaughtered beast" to be accepted, will it lead to development in our province or not? These are the questions they have presented to me and I have been unable to provide answers. This is why they say we should sit down together as Hon. Members from Matabeleland South.

Therefore, all 26 Members from the National Assembly and Senators are present to discuss this matter. We believe that CAB3 has potential benefits and we will speak to what we have observed. If we claim that CAB3 is not beneficial, we must reflect on what evidence supports this position. The people of Matabeleland South are yearning for development. If you have engaged with them about CAB3, will it lead to meaningful progress? Will it address the repair of the

Gwaranyemba-Mandiwongola Road? Will it restore the damaged dams? Will it ensure that our children who have faced discrimination in entering the nursing profession receive fair consideration? These are the urgent questions raised by the people of Matabeleland South Province. They implore us to engage in discussions about these matters. If they feel their concerns will be addressed, they seek assurance that their children will have the opportunity to enrol in nursing school without any obstacles. They are tired of facing discrimination.

Some Hon. Members from Matabeleland South have indicated that discrimination persists within the province. Their shared concern revolves around the pressing issue of development. I will keep my remarks succinct, Hon. Speaker, as I speak on behalf of many. I will share the insights I have gathered and together we will address this matter. We are committed to fostering development in Matabeleland South Province. We have articulated our views and opinions and this represents the consensus we have reached.

Regarding our traditional leaders and their involvement in politics, I respect them, particularly Chiefs Marupi, Nhlamba, Mathe

and Chief Phasu. I deeply respect all the chiefs in Matabeleland South. However, if they were to enter the political arena, I fear I would lose that respect. Competing against them would inevitably lead to a loss of the esteem I hold for them. If our chiefs are drawn into political affairs, it is likely to create conflicts. Therefore, Hon. Speaker, I propose that we allow our traditional leaders to maintain their authority and continue serving as custodians of our traditions. While it is commendable that they have been nominated and occupy positions in the Senate, I believe it is essential to preserve their traditional roles. These are a few thoughts I wish to share and I trust they have been heard. Thank you.

**HON. DAVID BUTAU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill (CAB3). It is common cause Mr. Speaker, that I am a deployee of ZANU-PF - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - and in the affairs of men, Mr. Speaker, the notion of majoritarian rule prevails - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - I do not need to search up low and high and proclaim that some went to law school and others went to engineering school. I speak, Mr.

Speaker, on behalf of the people that deployed me here - [HON.

MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

Mr. Speaker, the people of Mbire in Mashonaland Central are extremely grateful that we have a road called Harare-Kanyemba Road. This entire country did not even know of the existence of Kanyemba until the Second Republic and the Government of ZANU-PF led by Dr. Mnangagwa made known that they would develop Kanyemba as a town - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - They would exploit the Gonono gas fields which you know in the country as Mukuyu One and Mukuyu Two, for the benefit of Zimbabweans, and those projects, Mr. Speaker, I think we can speak until the donkeys grow horns. Those projects need to be completed. It is necessary for those projects to be completed and continuity is the reason that impels democracy. Continuity is what impels investors. Others claim to understand the notion of predictability. I hope so but predictability is the basis of capital and confidence and development.

I do not want to overextend the discussion Mr. Speaker.

However, I am talking about continuity because I support the extension of the term of office of His Excellency the President, Dr.

Mnangagwa, the current term of office of this House of Parliament and the term of office of our councillors. The issue that arises before me, Mr. Speaker, that I need to contribute to, others here come up with all sorts of interpretations. We are victims of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) issued in 1965 by Ian Douglas Smith.

There was no consensus among the Zimbabwean people. There was no consultation that we undertook around the country, but we lived under UDI until 1980. So, therefore, the fact that there was an effort by the ZANU PF Government to consult the people of Zimbabwe and even to afford the same beneficiaries of the liberation struggle to sit in this august House and debate, is something that gratitude must be shown - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - Two months ago, the ZANU PF Government, led by Dr. Mnangagwa, announced a robust revenue share agreement with one of the big investors, Invictus Oil and Gas Company, that will bring the national GDP up by six to seven percent. I do not think any loyal and responsible Zimbabwean would want disruption to that kind of development - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

I want to discuss the benefits of transferring the voter registration programme to the Registrar's Office. We have seen and heard the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage refer to the steps taken to enhance the Registrar General's services. You can walk into the Passport Office, get your passport in less than 24 hours, that is development. We used to sleep in queues for 12 hours to get a simple passport; now you get it in 24 hours, that is development. That is ZANU PF, that is a majoritarian notion, not an imaginary opposition. Sorry!

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Butau! What is your point of order Hon. Mushoriwa?

**HON. MUSHORIWA:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is only fair that we debate the CAB3, and Hon. Members should refrain from pronouncing statements which will bring this House to disorder. The Hon. Member needs to withdraw his statement about imaginary opposition because in this Parliament, we are on the right side; we do not have a problem with his majoritarian statement. They are the majority party, granted, but we are also here and have our own view

which is opposed to the ruling party. For him to say 'imaginary' is demeaning to us who were elected by the people on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2023. I think when you see us here, we do not stand as Mushoriwa, but stand as people who voted me to come to this august House. So, I do not want to be demeaned Mr. Speaker Sir.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. Mushoriwa, I was listening attentively to Hon. Butau's debate. He did not refer to the party. He said and I will sub-quote him, He said , 'now, before you would queue for 12 hours or more to get a passport, but now it is 24 hours, you can get a passport. Unlike the imaginary opposition of minds of people who would want to dispute that.' – [HON.

MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] - He was not referring to the party. – [HON. MAVHUDZI: *On a point of privilege Mr. Speaker!*] - The guilty shall be afraid, but I think that is what he was talking about. Hon. Butau, please go ahead.

**HON. MAVHUDZI:** On a point of privilege Mr. Speaker!

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Privilege? – [HON. MAVHUDZI: *Yes.*] - What privilege?

**\*HON. MAVHUDZI:** Mr Speaker, when you are ruling, you must judge fairly because if you yourself start throwing words at us, the House will be in chaos. So, we are requesting, Mr Speaker, that you be impartial in your judgments. What you do to this side is the same as what you do to the other side; that is what is causing us to be disgruntled. We have to correct that, and thank you for the privilege that you have awarded me.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** As I said, I listened to his debate very well and for your own benefit, I will also ask him to repeat but the way I understood it is exactly what he meant. We may interpret the same thing differently. That is why you find some students fail and others pass, yet they are in the same classroom. Hon. Butau, can you please clarify that for them because I think I heard you very well. I know you, because I have had many conversations with you, I know you are a man who has the utmost respect for other people and other political parties. I know you did not mean to demean anyone. They just misunderstood you. So, please enlighten them.

**HON. BUTAU:** Thank you Hon. Speaker, for that kind contribution and support. I just wanted to assist Hon. Mushoriwa to ameliorate his concerns. Our Leader of Government Business...

**HON. MUTSEYAMI:** Point of order Mr. Speaker.

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

**\*HON. MUTSEYAMI:** I think it is important that Hon. Butau respects the House and the opposition party. Hon. Butau experienced many things when he was in Mrs. Mujuru's office – [*Laughter.*] –

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order. Please get straight to the point. Do not go round in circles.

**\*HON. MUTSEYAMI:** He got into trouble and quickly left the country. So, he should respect all sides. Hon. Butau just disappeared from the country. He should remember what happened to him when he was in Mai Mujuru's office. We should respect each other –  
[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order Hon. Members!

**HON. BUTAU:** Hon. Speaker, if you want to get the best out of me, give me threats. I will face them head-on. I was born a warrior – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. Butau, let us speak to the debate, please. Finish off your two minutes.

**HON. BUTAU:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. China has developed into a 17 trillion-dollar economy. They do not have elections. So, there is absolutely nothing wrong with us as Parliament electing our President. We do not want elections and if we could avoid them completely, I would like that – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – I do not have a single ounce of regret about my emotions and what has been achieved. I want to go back Hon. Speaker, to the point that the Leader of Government Business listened to these very same people that are pointing fingers today and incorporated the Registrar General's amendments. So, we will never have a point of convergence because our principles are different and you can never intimidate me, maybe it is because I worked for this vice president or the other. I will stand. I represent the people of Mbire and you cannot cull me no matter what you say. We want to

vote for President Mnangagwa to continue for the next two years.

Thank you Hon. Speaker. I will fight – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! If you have a point of order, please just stand up without switching on your microphone and then when you are recognised, that is the only time you switch on your microphone.

**\*HON. MAKUMIRE:** Point of order Mr. Speaker Sir. I rise on a point of order because of what Hon. Butau said that the people in Mbire are in support of this Bill. How can they support this Bill when they do not have any roads and they are suffering? I thank you – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order Hon. Members! I reject your point of order.

**\*HON. ZEVEZAI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to debate on this Bill. This Bill has been in this House for quite some time and I want to add a few words.

I represent Bikita East and I speak on behalf of the people of Bikita East. Consultations were held across the whole of Bikita and I

was present. All those who were present and wanted to speak during these consultations were given a chance to speak. Those who were not able to speak were asked to submit written submissions and I trust that they all made the same point. The people of Bikita spoke about the development that is taking place within this country and therefore, they agreed that the term of office of the President, Members of Parliament and councillors should be increased.

They said that the increase in the term of office would ensure that projects that the Government is currently undertaking would be given enough time to be completed because these projects are of national importance to the people of Zimbabwe. For these projects to be completed successfully, those who started the projects should be allowed to see them through.

I would like to thank Hon. Z. Ziyambi for bringing this important Bill to this august House. This Bill received resounding support during the consultations. If this Bill is passed, then our country will witness development.

Let me go to the clause that speaks about the chiefs. The issue to do with chiefs was spoken about since the liberation struggle. If you

see someone opposing the proposal of chiefs to participate in politics, that person is pulling back this country. Bikita is saying that they are in full support of this Bill and the progression of this country. Thank you.

**+HON. LINYANI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I come from Matabeleland North and I do not agree with the clause that says the Gender Commission must be under the Human Rights Commission because the Gender Commission still has a great task before it. There are still a lot of women's wishes that have not yet been achieved. A lot of women and young girls are still being sexually abused. Women are still being discriminated against, economically, they are not yet being recognised fully. Politically, women are not yet fully emancipated. If you look at this Parliament, you witness that most of the women, if they were not considered through the proportional representation, there would not have been a lot of women in this House. They do not have enough opportunities as their male counterparts.

I also do not agree that the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission be dissolved. Regardless of the ten years that have

elapsed and it has to be dissolved, there is no country, which should live without peace and harmony. The chiefs were going around mediating so that people forgive each other and there be peace. This conflict was caused by the *Gukurahundi*. They have not yet accomplished this task. People in the areas have not yet received the report and the way forward. They are still mourning, waiting for the way results and forward. Dissolution of this commission means that if there are conflicts and violence, there will be no one who would mediate and make sure that the conflict is resolved. Hence, I say the Zimbabwe National Peace and Reconciliation Commission should stay in place.

On the extension of the term of the Hon. Members, the Head of State and the councillors, I do not see anything bad in this. I concur with this. It should be done as it has been said that they have to complete the projects that they have started. It is my first time to hear that we have to extend the election cycle so that we finish our projects. This shows that it is important. In the Matabeleland Province, since independence, there is an important question that has been asked. The Nkayi-Bulawayo Road is just 180 km but it has

become a legacy road, which is almost 40 years now and it has not yet been completed. There is no development that has been done. What kind of road, which is just 180 km that takes 40 years to be completed? These are some of the questions that people are asking.

The extension of the election cycle would be embarrassing if the wishes of the citizens are not fulfilled. If you look at the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls Road, the Plumtree Road and the Gwanda Road, as I grew up holding my child who was born in 1992, that was the first time when I heard that these roads were being developed. It is now 34 years still trying to construct these roads. Children are suffering in terms of employment, especially for us who reside in the rural areas. You feel very pity watching these young boys coming from gold panning, dirty and without getting anything.

In the coming years, you will find out in 2030, there is no one who will be reproductive because their backs are no longer functioning. When it goes to hospitals, in Matabeleland, you will find that in one of the hospitals, especially the clinic that is in Sebalanda, there is a ceiling that is falling. It is a sagging ceiling. The

ceiling can collapse and injure people at any time. Hospitals are in a bad state and there is no medication.

When we are extending the terms, let us not be embarrassed that we do not come back because we would have failed to serve the people. People will shun you because you would have failed to fulfil the wishes of the people that you have promised that you are going to accomplish when we extend the term. It is my plea that the Government in Matabeleland South improves the roads, create employment opportunities and ensure all their wishes are fulfilled. I thank you. With these few words, I feel that the desire of the people is going to be fulfilled.

**HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise on a matter of privilege regarding the unfortunate and regrettable incident on the behaviour displayed by Hon. Matewu. During today's debate on CAB3, as observed by everyone in the Chamber, at the material time, Hon. Matewu's conduct consisted of the following infractions:

1. Persistently disobeying the direction of the Presiding Officer;

2. Threatening the Sergeant-at-Arms and refusing to leave the House upon instruction;

3. Shoving and pushing Hon. Hamauswa in a manner that is unbecoming of an Hon. Member – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order!

*Hon. Hamauswa having stood up.*

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Hamauswa! Sit down.

**HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** Mr. Speaker, if the Member was not pushed, it is going to be observed on the video.

4. Discrediting the Constitution and generally being disorderly.

It is my contention that the conduct was a breach of privilege or constitute contempt of Parliament and offences at law. I, therefore, move that you rule on the matter. Thank you so much – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! Hon. Zhou, your point of privilege is noted and I shall study the matter and give a ruling on the matter tomorrow.

**+HON. MUJEYI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on this Bill. I also stand to support the Constitution Amendment Bill, the entire Bill. Since you said that we should not repeat what others have said or read, I was also privileged enough to be one of the people who were part of the public consultations. I joined the Matebeleland North team which you were chairing.

We first went to Tsholotsho and since I joined Parliament, I have never witnessed such a gathering for public consultations. A lot of people came from Tsholotsho and I witnessed you chairing. You gave people who were inside the hall and ended up going outside the hall to give the overflow a chance to debate. After that, we went to Hwange, where we had a huge turnout. I was part of the Committee, so this is not hearsay, as I witnessed everything. A lot of people from Hwange came and supported the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

If I still recall well, I only witnessed one person who stood up to reject and did not support the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. We proceeded again with you Hon. Speaker and went to Binga. I was

really surprised when I saw a huge crowd of people saying *twalumba* CAB3. From Binga, we went to Lupane, which was our final public consultation and people came out in their numbers supporting this Bill.

I also support this Bill from Bulawayo. I represent Cowdry Park and I was sent by the people from Cowdry Park. Our Chairman, Jabulani Sibanda said young men, we are done. We are giving this task to you now. Cephas, the War Veterans Chairman said that we are done and we are leaving the task in your hands for you to complete in Parliament. The whole of Bulawayo is saying that we support CAB3. I also stand here saying I support CAB3.

We are just wasting time by saying that we have witnessed a lot of great works that have been done by the President, which are a testament why we should extend his term. From where I come, in Cowdray Park, they have constructed a very good hospital. We did not have a hospital in Cowdray Park and it operates 24 hours. Since the President said in his mantra that he is leaving no place behind, we have witnessed what the President has done and that is why we are supporting the CAB3.

If I tell you that Cowdray Park is the second largest constituency in Zimbabwe, as we have over 75 000 people in Cowdray Park. We did not have a Magistrate Court but through the President's efforts and projects, we have a court that is under construction. This is the reason why we are supporting the Constitution Amendment Bill so that the President can complete his project of constructing the Magistrate Court. Currently, when people are arrested, the police officers would ferry the accused persons in kombis going to Western Commonage but this is going to be an issue of the past when the court in Cowdray Park is completed. I say the President should go on with these projects.

As residents of Cowdray Park, we did not have electricity and we have been given thirty-four transformers so that we could have electricity...

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** My point of order is that the rules of this august House are very clear that when you are presenting, you must speak in one singular language. I am hearing three languages from this honourable speaker. You are not allowed to give

political slogans because you represent everyone, not just people from your party. You represent everyone in your constituency.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order!

**+HON. MUJEYI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for protecting me.

In English, I would say I was just quoting. I applaud the President for the work that he is doing. Teachers in Bulawayo are now getting houses, which is a noble thing that is being done by the President. Most of our teachers did not have houses but they are now getting the opportunity to own houses. This is all because of the President's efforts. If you look at the Gwayi-Shangani Dam, it will be coming through my constituency and the water treatment plant will be in my constituency. We are talking about the Glass Block. In Bulawayo, we have water challenges and as the President said we are leaving no place and no one behind; he is taking care of us like all his children.

Looking at Freedom Murechu, he also supported the Constitution Amendment No. 3. The President is leaving no one behind. We also have Hon. Mavunga who is now a Minister; he says that we support CAB3. Looking at you Hon. Speaker, I feel that I

should thank the President because CAB3 is very good. With these few words, I support all the clauses in CAB3.

Then we also go to our traditional leaders, the chiefs. The clause says that the chiefs have the right to vote. It says that they have the right to participate in political affairs but people are afraid that they are going to lose their positions. The clause does not say that the chiefs will come and contest. It just says that they are going to be allowed to vote like us who are allowed to vote. This clause is right as it is. We should not limit the chiefs to say they should not vote. I say CAB3 is honey. Thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much Hon. Mujeyi. For the avoidance of doubt, to say *phambili loCAB3* is not a political slogan. Just like this past Sunday when I was in church – [HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE: *So, mina ngizakuthi phansi loCAB3.*] – Order Hon. Molokela, do not do that. When I was in church, the spirit of God drove me to stand up and I shouted, ‘*Phambili loJesu*’. It was not a political slogan.

**\*HON. DUMBARIMWE:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for allowing me to debate and say what the people of Mutare South said.

The people of Mutare South are in support of CAB 3 100%. They support that the President, Members of Parliament and councillors have an extension of the cycle from five to seven years. I will not labour because most of the things that are good about this Bill have been said. I thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Dumbarimwe, what you have done here is what we call setting a good precedent. Well done indeed. If only a lot of Hon. Members could do like what you have just done, this House would move faster and progressively. I salute that kind of spirit.

**HON. DUMBARIMWE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**HON. SAGANDIRA:** I rise to debate the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill. At the outset, allow me to clearly place on record the position of the people of Makoni Central Constituency whom I represent in this august House. Following extensive consultations and engagements within my constituency, the overwhelming view of the people of Makoni Central is that they rejected the proposed constitutional amendments. They believe that the Constitution adopted by the people of Zimbabwe in 2013 was

intended to establish strong democratic institutions, institutional safeguards and accountable Government. They are therefore concerned by any amendments that appear to reduce the direct participation of citizens in the Government of this country.

Before addressing the substantive provisions of the Bill, I wish to place a matter of grave concern on record regarding the public consultations process on CAB 3. The people of Makoni were not afforded a meaningful opportunity to express their views during the public hearing conducted on this Bill. Makoni is one of the largest districts in Zimbabwe, comprising five constituencies, namely Makoni Central, Makoni North, Makoni South, Makoni West and Headlands. Given its size, population and geographical spread, it was only fair and reasonable that the district be allowed its own public hearing venue. Instead, the people of Makoni were expected to participate through a hearing conducted at Chipembere Business Centre in Mutare Rural District. This arrangement placed an unreasonable burden on many citizens who wished to participate in a process concerning the supreme law of this country.

Allow me to illustrate the practical difficulties faced by ordinary Zimbabweans...

**\*HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** On a point of order, we participated in the public hearings that he is referring to – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – even the former MP that he replaced, attended the public hearings and it was convenient for a lot of people.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Members, as I have already said, let us minimise disturbing debates.

**HON. SAGANDIRA:** Mr. Speaker, a young girl with a disability in the Dewerwe and a war veteran in Chendambuya Makoni North had to travel more than 60 kilometers to Rusape and thereafter, proceed for a further 40 kilometers to Chipembere Business Centre, a journey exceeding 100 kilometers. Equally, an elderly grandmother in Ringanai, Makoni Central, a youth community Chair from Mutendebvure in Makoni West were required to travel a comparable distance to participate in the hearing. So many citizens, particularly persons with disabilities, the elderly, war veterans, women, youth and those with limited financial means, such distance effectively becomes

a barrier to participation. The right to be heard in constitutional matters should not depend upon one's ability to travel over 100 kilometers to a venue located outside one's own district.

The constitutional amendment process derives its legitimacy from broad, inclusive and meaningful public participation. Public consultations must not only exist in form, but they must genuinely be accessible in practice; where citizens are prevented by distance, cost or logistical challenges from participating, the consultation process cannot be said to be fully capturing the views of the people. Many citizens in some parts of Zimbabwe were effectively denied a realistic opportunity to attend, present their views and participate in the process that directly affects the supreme law of the land.

The constitutional amendment processes derive their legitimacy, not merely from Parliament approval but from meaningful public participation where a district of the size and importance of Makoni is not provided with an accessible platform to contribute its views.

Legitimate concerns arise regarding the inclusiveness and inclusiveness of the consultative process...

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

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order, order! I made a ruling earlier on. I said if you want to rise on a point of order, you stand up and say it without your microphone on. Then when I recognise you, you can switch on your microphone. Since you breached that rule, I will override your point of order for now.

**HON. SAGANDIRA:** Mr. Speaker, I am concerned by the proposed amendment relating to defence forces. The current Constitution places a clear obligation upon the defence forces to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution. This is not merely symbolic language. It reinforces the principle of constitutional supremacy under Section 2 and ensures that defence forces remain guardians of the constitutional order rather than servants of any individual or political office.

The great constitutional scholar, A.V. Dicey, reminded us that the foundation of constitutional governance is the supremacy of the law over arbitrary power. Institutions entrusted with safeguarding the Constitution must therefore possess both duty and capacity to resist unconstitutional conduct. By weakening the express obligation of

defence forces to defend the Constitution, this risks weakening one of the institution's safeguards that protects the rule of law.

In the interest of time, I shall not continue to quote some other scholars but I will go to the next point. I oppose Clause 3 because it effectively deprives more than seven million Zimbabweans of their right to directly elect the President. While Parliament may participate in the constitutional process, it cannot do so in a manner that diminishes the fundamental political rights guaranteed under Section 67 of the Constitution. The principle that political authority derives from the people is as old as constitutional democracy itself. This philosopher, John Locke, argued that Government derives its legitimacy from the consent of the Government. Any constitutional amendment that transfers a fundamental democratic choice from millions of citizens to a smaller group of representatives must therefore be approached with great caution. I will go to my last point. I am concerned by Clause 21 affecting traditional leaders. Chiefs occupy a unique constitutional position as custodians of our culture. Much of the debate has been done. I want to quote the African statesman, Julius Mwalimu Kambarage Nyerere, who also taught that

national unity is strengthened when leaders serve the whole community rather than particular political interests. Preserving the non-partisan character of traditional leadership promotes that objective. The Constitution deliberately requires traditional leaders to remain non-partisan so that all members of their community, regardless of political affiliation, may have confidence in their leadership and dispute resolution.

In conclusion, the people of Makoni have made their position clear. They reject these proposed amendments because they believe they weaken constitutional safeguards, reduce democratic participation and undermine the independence of institutions that are intended to serve all Zimbabweans equally. For these reasons, I respectfully urge this House to reject these provisions and serve the constitutional principles of democracy, constitutional supremacy, accountability, national unity and the sovereignty of the people. I thank you.

**\*HON. RARADZA:** I would like to thank Hon. Ziyambi, who took his time after listening to the majority of Zimbabwe's grievances and he took good steps, which he then brought forward in this House.

Public hearings were conducted and the Bill was read for the second time, which then brought me into this august House. As I represent youths from Mashonaland West Province, which is the origin of Mbuya Nehanda, I am here to add my voice in this august House to state that citizens from Mashonaland Central Province youths including women who are under the leadership of Hon. T. Gezi, including the whole of Mashonaland West Province, which is being led by Hon. Kazembe Kazembe, we are all in total support of this Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

This was taken into consideration after discovering that the leader of this Government is doing good work. You know all the developments which are happening. Let me speak to Bindura University, where cell phones, laptops and tablets are being manufactured but the biggest problem which we have now is that we belittle ourselves. This was seen by the citizens from Mashonaland Central Province who discovered that they are now manufacturing their own cell phones and laptops, meaning that they have created enough employment for the youths. I grew up in an area, which we

call Muzarabani. Usually, secrets are always there. It is only the owner of a pregnancy who knows what is happening within their tummies.

So, let me speak to this issue Voters' Roll. Those who know that an individual is born or has died, everything is centred at the Registrar General's Office. That is why we are simply saying the Voters' Roll should be taken there. We are only saying when voting for the President, it should be done in this august House because when the leader of the nation goes out to the United Nations or to other areas, they simply say, if the President speaks, the President of the country has spoken and if he votes, the President of the country has voted. So, what stops us from voting for the President in this august House? Even on the councils, they do vote for the Chairperson of the Council or the Mayor. What stops us from doing the same? Let it be done in this august House so that we save time and also ensure that we save resources. In Mashonaland Central Province where I come from, all the youths are very happy. They want economic development to go forward beyond 2030. So, they are simply saying it should proceed from 2030 and beyond.

The issue of term extension from five to seven years is good to us as youth, we do not want our time to be wasted. Right now, they have told me that those other people from the opposite side are only speaking to say not even one of them is opposing the Bill. Even those from my right side are all in agreement with this Bill. So, what is stopping us from concluding this? Let us just vote. I was happy when the Minister of Justice spoke last week, he said we need to give ample time to all those people to debate what is on their mind but they simply said there is nothing going to stop us. We are only waiting for people to come and debate, just like now. Let me conclude by saying, Mashonaland Central Province is where citizens of the origin of Mbuya Nehanda were found.

People used to look down upon us just like his Apostles way back when we were Christians. People now respect those Apostles because way back, they never respected them. It means everything is going well.

If you look into tourism, Zimbabwe is number one. If you look into the Security Council, we are also part of that. It shows the good works being done by His Excellency. So, it means the Second

Republic is doing very well. Even children from this country are managing to buy helicopters just like what I was saying. At Bindura, people are manufacturing cellphones. Others are simply saying they do not want to buy local products. So, let us have trust in each other and support each other. I am simply saying, people from Mashonaland Central Province are in total support of this Bill, that His Excellency E. D Mnangagwa to go 2030 and beyond for its economic development.

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

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MAUNGANIDZE):**

Order Hon. Gumbo! You were shouting while you were sitting down and I have not recognised you. I know what I am doing. It is Hon. Mudekunya. I will come to the other side. She did not debate. Let us not disturb the process.

**HON. GUMBO:** No, but you are the one who is not following the list. She declined.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Gumbo, let us not disturb the process. Hon. Mpfu did not debate. Allow Hon. Mudekunya to debate.

**HON. MUDEKUNYE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to add my voice on behalf of the people from Buhera South in support of this CAB3. I am not speaking my own mind, or from my wife, or from my family, but I am simply representing people from Buhera South. Madam Speaker, for me to be standing on this platform, I was elected by citizens from Buhera South. It is a privilege for me to be standing right in front of you like this. I had to stand head-on with those learned and those unlearned, those rich and the poor, the wise and the unwise who failed to represent Buhera South, just like up to this position. I am only representing citizens from Buhera South.

Everything that I am going to say here is on behalf of Buhera South citizens. So, if I am in this august House, I have to follow the instructions that I was given by people from Buhera South. If I come into this august House, if I am sent to debate, I am actually being asked by members from Buhera South. Even if I am asked to vote in this august House, I will be voting on behalf of Buhera South citizens. So, if I am asked to vote for the President, I will be voting for the President on behalf of the advice that I have received from citizens from Buhera South. For me to be in this august House, I am

representing Buhera South. I want to repeat that Buhera South has sent me to represent them in this august House. So as I am here, I am representing Buhera South in its totality, including everything that they want to say. It was an opportunity or a privilege that I was given democratically by citizens from Buhera South.

I was not only appointed, I also started from primary elections, and then Buhera South elected me, and then from there, I contested against a lot of political parties, and then I won. So being here, it is in totality; I am Buhera South in its totality. I can spend the whole night debating everything to do with Buhera South.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our Minister, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi, because in this CAB3, he is well-versed. Zimbabwean politics has everything to do with land. We discovered that some of the politicians who were against the issues related to the land became irrelevant. Even in the First Chimurenga, they were fighting for the land. In the Second Chimurenga, they fought for this land. Even if we go back, they were fighting for our land. Where I come from is Buhera South. We are called by the Nyashanu tribe; even Mbuya Nehanda *ndivaChihera mwana waNyashanu*. The issue

with the land is touching us. So, if you are speaking to Zimbabwean politics, you will be speaking to land. There is nothing else apart from the land.

So, if you are speaking to the issue of land, be it mining, it is confined by the land, agriculture is within the land, where we stay is within the land, Zimbabwe is described as a piece of land which we were given by God to live on. So, we cannot in the morning say the chiefs are in charge of the land. Then, in the afternoon, we say, we do not want chiefs to come here, no. Whenever I am speaking to the issue of land, we are speaking to the land which belongs to Chief Charunga, Chief Nyashanu, those are the things that we will be discussing. We might have a lot of chiefs, but we cannot chase them out whenever we are discussing anything to do with Zimbabwean politics. So, we would like the Constitution of this country; it was actually an era whereby they were saying when speaking to politics, the chiefs would be chased out.

We would like it in the Constitution of this country. It was an era whereby they were saying that when speaking to politics, the chiefs would be chased out. Whenever speaking to the land, chiefs

should be there. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land, so if we say we do not want to include chiefs when talking about the land, it is a big error. We need them to be there as we will be speaking about the land and politics. Now, we have other people who are thinking otherwise, to say chiefs should be party activists or candidates, no. The one who proposed this amendment, Hon. Ziyambi, we can even further ask him. He was only saying that you do not have to chase away these chiefs whenever you are debating anything to do with the land of this country. So, I am totally in support of these chiefs whenever we are debating issues related with politics or land; chiefs should be there.

I was elected by people from Buhera South in 2023. As I am standing right here to amend the current law, it states that my term of office should end by 2028. Mathematically, I can say I have covered three-fifths of my term. Now, even the first CDF, I have not received it. My failure to receive CDF, nobody is actually oppressing me, but it means we have limited resources in this country. So, before I get any of the development fund to show my vision for the Buhera South Constituency, elections are actually on their way. So, before I show

my expertise, I will be working on my next term, which involves campaigning and various related activities. His Excellency, President E. D. Mnangagwa's appointment has been pivotal for development in Buhera South. Previously, we only had a 10 km stretch of road but now a tarred road is being constructed from Buhera to Murambinda. In Buhera South, we experience limited rainfall but we have many boreholes being drilled in those areas.

We have discovered that the Second Republic is actually recognising our needs. If we were to seek a fifth republic, the perspective would likely be different. Therefore, let us continue to support this Second Republic, which is making significant progress in Buhera South, my home region. However, some have pointed out that their term ends in 2028, raising the question of what we should do next.

In our discussions in the rural areas within our constituencies, we proposed adjusting the term of office from five years to seven years. I want to clarify that we are not suggesting an extension of the current President's term by two years. Rather, we are advocating for a

change in the parliamentary term from five years to seven years, as this would allow us to achieve our goals more effectively.

Some have claimed that we are extending His Excellency, President E. D. Mnangagwa's term but that is not the case. We are simply proposing to change the election cycle from five years to seven years, ensuring that the developments in Buhera-Murambinda, including clinics and boreholes, can be completed.

What we are advocating for has nothing to do with the current President's tenure. We recognise that five years is insufficient to accomplish our objectives. With these few words, I thank you.

**HON. MAMBIPIRI:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let me start with a conclusion for the avoidance of confusion. I rise now to totally reject the text, the motive and the spirit behind every one of the 22 Clauses that constitute this Bill. This Bill, this CAB3, is to many people an assault on our evolving constitutional order ever since the hanging of Mbuya Nehanda in 1898.

Here at Parliament, I know we are calling it a reform Bill, we are calling it CAB3 but in the ghettos where we are coming from, people are calling it money and power-hustle on steroids. I have been

mandated by Kadoma today to do two things; firstly, to reject the whole Bill as I have stated and all its clauses. Secondly, to bring sight and insight to every Hon. Member who is here.

**HON. MATANGIRA:** Point of order Madam Speaker Ma'am.

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

**HON. MATANGIRA:** My point of order Madam Speaker Ma'am is that the Hon. Member debates about the hanging of Mbuya Nehanda when he, in fact, received money at the formation of MDC from the same people that hung. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you Hon.

Matangira. You may proceed Hon. Mambipiri

**HON. MAMBIPIRI:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

As I stated, my second objective is to bring sight and insight to fellow MPs to see the dryness that is there in this Bill. When the Hon. Minister did the unpacking of this Bill in this House, two things became clear to me.

The first one is an attempt to recreate an imperial presidency to run this country. The second one is an uncanny desire to take away

citizens, who are, by the way, the real stakeholders and stockholders of this country, away from the democratic and governance issues that control and determine the fate and the future of this country.

I need to remind this House Madam Speaker, that in doing all that, we must remember that the debate and the war around the Constitution in this country between 1999 and 2013 had two essential elements that we cannot choose to ignore today; those elements that are being negated by this Bill.

The first demand by those who pushed for a new Constitution, those who died for a new Constitution since 1999, was to make sure that we curtail the imperial presidency and allow other arms of the State to perform and do their functions within the State for the greater prosperity of Zimbabwean citizens. The second demand that was there until 2013 was to make sure that the citizens are at the centre of both the governance and the distribution of the resources of this country. Now what I see Madam Speaker, when I look at this Bill, it is an attempt to do away with all that we had gained when we got a new Constitution in 2013.

I now want to move on to the issue of seven years and Madam Speaker, instead of seven years, I have seven reasons why we must throw away this proposed Bill. The first reason is that I was commanded to do so by the 150 000 people from Kadoma who said this Bill does not cover us. This Bill does not address the issue of raw sewage that we encounter on our streets each and every day. This Bill does not deal with the salaries for the teachers and nurses but it simply addresses the question of power at a higher level, which is not immediate to us.

I reinforce that point by underlining that the Constitution must always be people-driven, but this particular Bill was fathered by the Executive and is simply being midwifed here in Mt Hampden, far away from the people and for that it must be rejected.

The second reason is that those who are trying to justify term extension have always told us about Mbappe who can keep scoring and scoring and scoring but they have not budgeted for that day when we have a Wilfred Mugeyi who will miss scoring and miss scoring and miss scoring. What that means, Madam Speaker, is the Constitution is not made for good people, is not made for good days.

The Constitution is made for bad moments and for bad people who need the restraining chains and for the Constitution.

Some have argued that we need a longer-term extension for projects to be completed. That argument does not hold water...

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

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

**HON. MAHACHI:** Madam Speaker, his time has exceeded by three minutes – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** He still has time. Hon. Mambipiri, you may proceed.

**HON. MAMBIPIRI:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Some have argued that we need a longer-term extension for projects to be completed. That argument does not hold water. In 2005, the Government and the President then commissioned the dualisation of the Harare-Bulawayo Road that is 440 kilometers long. Until today, that road has only been done 60 kilometers – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – If we were to allow the President who was there then

to wait until that project ended, it simply means we would still be having the same President 25 years later.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. Mambipiri, you are left with two minutes.

**HON. MAMBIPIRI:** This Bill Madam Speaker, also proposes to take away the management of the Voters' Roll from an independent Commission and put it to the Registrar General.

Again, I think we would be committing a grave error when we allow that move. The whole of SADC has come together and realised that elections must be managed by Independent Commissions and for those who are in, they know that the Voters' Roll is the election. We can therefore not allow the Voters' Roll to be in the hands of someone who is not independent, in the hands of an entity that reports to a Minister and a Minister that reports to a President, therefore taking away the whole independence.

We would rather have the Voters' Roll stay with ZEC because ZEC has opportunities to come here to Parliament and account. I also want to say, Madam Speaker, we have the Law Society of Zimbabwe

as one of the institutions besides the churches that has always helped this country in times of need.

The Law Society is not a group of bush lawyers or a group of funny characters, but is a serious organisation when it comes to legal and constitutional issues in this country. They have clearly stated their position regarding CAB3 and said, to move fully with CAB3, we must subject especially those sections that require lengthening terms of office to a referendum.

I, therefore, call upon this House, Madam Speaker in our wisdom or lack thereof, to take heed of what we have been advised, not only by the Law Society of Zimbabwe, but also by the heads of Christian denominations as well as the Catholic Bishops' Conference.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, your time is up, Hon. Mambipiri.

**HON. MAMBIPIRI:** Who has said that for us to appreciate fully this CAB3?

**HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

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

**HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** I propose that he be allowed to round up the good thoughts that he is given.

**HON. MAMBIPIRI:** Thank you very much Hon. Mhangwa.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Who seconds?

**HON. MAVHUDZI:** I second.

**HON. TAFANANA. ZHOU:** I object – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. Chigumbu, I am not taking that.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Madam Speaker, there was an agreement that each Member must be given a certain time. This business of continuously interjecting and saying you must extend time when we have an agreement, I think we must invoke the rules and send people out, because an agreement was made and if somebody persistently interjects and disturbs the debate, the rules dictate that they must go out.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Minister.

Let us stick to the agreement. Each Member is going to debate for 10 minutes and you are not going to ask for any extension.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** Point of privilege, Hon. Speaker.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Chigumbu, you are now disturbing the session.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** No, I am not debating. It is a point of privilege.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You are now disturbing the session. Can you please take your seat?

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** It is a point of privilege, Madam Speaker.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I am not taking that. I have told you.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** Okay.

**HON. TIMBURWA:** Good evening Madam Speaker. Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the Leader of Government Business, our dear Minister Hon. Ziyambi, for coming and presenting

such a Bill as he highlighted earlier, which has been the most debated Bill in this august House.

I am not going to take much time debating issues that have already been debated by other cadres and other Members. In my debate, I am going to speak the mind of the people of Chegutu West, of which I represent – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

I was privileged enough during the public hearing to be deployed in the region of Matabeleland. When I went there, one thing that was very magnificent in the public hearing was the display of democracy in the public hearing. Why I say so, I remember vividly that when we were in the biggest hall in Bulawayo, we had Mayor David Coltart sitting next to Deputy Minister Hon. Mavhunga. All who know that these are people who sit from different political divide, but they were sitting because they were eager to hear and have consultations about the Bill – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – That alone displays the maturity of Zimbabwe's democracy to have an opposition mayor sitting with an opposition ruling party Deputy Minister and for that, I commend the people of Matabeleland for the public hearing and consultations.

A constitution is not a document frozen in time, Madam Speaker, but it is a living document which is designed with the architecture of the people or the citizens of the country. In Shona, *tinoti kugara nhaka huona dzevamwe*. Other developed democracies like America, over the past 250 years, have evolved in amending their Constitution to meet the realities of the developing country called America. The same right the Zimbabweans have to design a Constitution that fits the architecture of the Zimbabwe we want, creating the environment that possibly allows the development that Zimbabwe wants to see for the citizens to have the best life.

In saying so, Madam Speaker, I am saying people should not take a Constitutional Amendment as the brokenness of law but as the maturity of a democracy. We are allowed as the people of Zimbabwe to design our Constitution and amend it. If there is any other generation that comes after this Parliament and they see the need to amend the Constitution and they have the mandate of the citizens of Zimbabwe as we have in this august House – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – We have the right and the privilege to stand on the mandate given to us by the Zimbabwean citizens which I believe

every Member of Parliament in this House is doing justice to the constituents that they are representing, as I am doing justice to the people I am representing from Chegutu West.

Madam Speaker, Chegutu West, when the public hearings were done, the Chairperson of the Committee was Hon. Malinganiso. He told me that the people in Chegutu overwhelmingly supported the Bill and I stand to represent the interests of those people who supported the Bill - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

I am going to stick to a few clauses in the Bill that were suggested and proposed by the Minister. The first clause I want to articulate is the extension of the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court is the apex court in the land. It is the supreme court of the land. I believe it is only right for it to be allowed the extension of its jurisdiction, for it to be able to adjudicate in other issues that pertain to public matters, so that it sets precedent and jurisprudence that is required by every other court of the land. I believe that clause should be allowed.

I will also move to another clause that talks about the involvement of our chiefs in politics. I believe Madam Speaker, we

are met with a very complex issue and an enigma. It is their right as chiefs to participate politically because our Constitution allows every citizen to participate politically. If you indulge me, our chiefs have been the custodians of our culture, our heritage as a nation and I believe as a nation, we honour them and we give them due respect.

Where I come from, I have Chief Mupamombe or Chief Ngezi. He is an adjudicator. If I argue with my brother from the other side of a political divide, he stands in as a father to be able to unite us as a father figure within the jurisdiction. I believe, according to the report that we received from the Committee of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, they, as the leaders of wisdom, know more than we do when it comes to these issues. They have reasons why they say they would rather not be participating in the political expedients and I believe we should apply our minds critically on this matter. Why I say so, I cannot go and contest with my chief because, by nature, culturally, I am supposed to honour and respect my chief.

When they become partisan and entrenched in political actors, that I believe will affect the way we relate with our chiefs because some people, by nature, politics and contestation in political arenas become

toxic, as the Minister said, the reason why we are having some of these amendments is to deal with the toxicity of the politics of the day. So, I believe our chiefs should remain centred as the moral compass of our culture and as the custodians of our history.

Allow me to also rush to the Gender Commission. I believe the Gender Commission, the reason why we had it established, it was a political will of the nation of Zimbabwe to basically focus on gender issues with scrutiny. The moment we envelope the gender issues under another wing, we tend to lose sight of many issues and when we talk about gender, we are dealing with one of the most important things that has made Zimbabwe a beacon of hope and set precedence in most of the issues that we have seen in the country. So, I believe the Gender Commission should remain independent so that it can continuously adjudicate on issues that pertain to gender.

Madam Speaker, allow me to conclude on the issue of the additional 10 Senators in the Senate. We have learned that we have people of expertise. Some of them, because of their professions, they shun to contest in political contestations and I believe the President of the Republic should be allowed to appoint 10 experts who are going

to stand in the Senate representing the interests of Zimbabwe, pertaining to qualified engineers. You can talk about people that have served this country in legal matters and they can come as a Council of Elders in the Senate to advise on developmental issues. I believe Zimbabwe was blessed with a think tank of many people and citizens that are sitting across the country. Amongst the 10 Senators, I would propose that some of them should be people that have served in foreign countries and they have been exposed to development so that they can come and be appointed by the President to come and serve the nation of Zimbabwe the expertise that they have acquired over the years, serving and developing other democracies. I thank you.

**HON. BILA:** Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I stand here representing Chiredzi North Constituency, the most active voting constituency in the country. Chiredzi North Constituency is in full support of Bill Number 3. Before I delve into small issues, I want to congratulate the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Z. Ziyambi, he is a man among men.

Why am I saying so? He has read and produced a beautiful, smart Bill that is before us.

In that Bill Madam Speaker, you find that he is only saying we should put some more two years, not to the President alone, not to the councillors and not to the Members of Parliament but this is coming from the people. It boggles the mind when you see some of us here standing here, they say they are very experienced lawyers but I am so surprised that they cannot understand simple terms of the law. The Minister never talked about the term extension; the Minister talked about just changing the electoral cycle. If I ask you one question in this House – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. Members on my left, may you allow Hon. Bila to be heard in silence.

**HON. BILA:** If I ask you one question in this House, is there any Hon. Member in this House who advocated to say, I want to go for seven years? There is nobody who said that, these are the people, the people whom we represent are the ones who said that we should go for another seven years. Let me just take you to our neighbour Zambia. Just last week, they were debating Bill Number 7 and they

were borrowing Bill Number 3 and it is not a crime to amend the law. These are International Best Practices, which are done everywhere. In Zambia, they did it last week, following us, who have already done the proportional representation for women and senators and here we are also debating the amendments, Bill Number 3, which they are using in their Parliament. They are also voting for their own President, so I do not see anything bad about that. We are only saying, if we extend by two years, those outstanding projects will be finished. You hear some saying there are projects which are not yet finished. This is what we are saying, they should be finished, and where is the problem?

Chiredzi North and Chiredzi District as a whole, when the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee came, nearly 20 000 people attended at Chitsanga to support this Bill and who am I to refuse it?

**HON. MAKUMIRE:** Point of order Madam Speaker!

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Makumire, sit down.

**HON. MAKUMIRE:** Point of order! I do not want to disturb but 20 000...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Makumire, I did not recognise you, may you sit down.

*Hon. Makumire having remained standing*

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I think you may go out.

**HON. BILA:** Madam Speaker, numbers count and I am happy that my Hon. Member Makumire was there witnessing the overwhelming support for the Bill. We were together in Chitsanga Hall. It is only that he had left hurriedly that day because the majority of the people supported aggressively.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** Point of order Madam Speaker!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Chigumbu! May you allow him to finish.

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** It is a point of order!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Arising from what?

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** The Hon. Member...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Chigumbu, I did not allow you to talk. May you please take your seat! I was also there in Chiredzi and you were there. He is not lying; can you please take your seat.

**HON. BILA:** The Bill has been debated enough and I think everybody here can concur with me that nearly 98% of this House are for the Bill. I propose that Chiredzi North, since it is the most active voting constituency in the country, the Bill should now be closed and we move to the next stage. Thank you.

**HON. TSVANGIRAI:** Thank you Madam Speaker for granting me this opportunity to be able to articulate the position of the people of Norton. In the book, “Why Nations Fail”, Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson seek to answer a fundamental question. Why do nations prosper while others remain poor? The authors reject the notion that prosperity is determined by geography, climate, natural resources, or culture alone.

Instead, they argue that the primary determinant of a nation's success is the nature of its institutions. They distinguish between two types of institutions, inclusive and extractive institutions. Inclusive institutions are characterised by democracy, accountability, transparency, broad participation and respect for the rule of law. They distribute political power widely and create opportunities for citizens to contribute and benefit from economic growth.

On the other hand, extractive institutions concentrate power in the hands of the few. They weaken accountability, limit citizen participation, undermine democratic oversight and are often designed to serve the interests of political elites rather than the nation as a whole. The question before this House today is whether the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill strengthens inclusive institutions or moves our country towards extractive institutions.

Having carefully considered the provisions of this Bill, I am persuaded that it does not strengthen inclusivity, accountability or democratic participation. Instead, several provisions concentrate power, weaken institutional independence and reduce the direct role of citizens. It is on that basis that I rise to oppose the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

Madam Speaker, allow me to turn to Clause 6 of the Bill which seeks to amend Section 120 of the Constitution by allowing the President to appoint 10 additional senators. Parliament cannot effectively hold the Executive accountable if a growing portion of Parliament owes its position to the Executive. Good governance is anchored in the doctrine of separation of powers. This doctrine

requires that the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary remain independent of one another while providing checks and balances that prevent the concentration of power and promote accountability.

Parliament was never intended to be the extension of the Executive. Its constitutional duty is to scrutinise the Government's actions, oversee the conduct of the Executive and present the interests of the people of Zimbabwe.

However, Clause 6 undermines this principle by increasing Executive influence within institutions that are supposed to oversee the Executive. When senators owe their appointments to the President, questions inevitably arise as to whether they can exercise independent judgment when called upon to scrutinise the actions of the appointing authority. The risk is that oversight becomes loyalty and accountability becomes silent. This amendment, therefore, creates fertile ground for patronage politics where public office may be perceived as a reward for political allegiance rather than a responsibility to serve the nation's interests.

Such a development weakens parliamentary independence and undermines public confidence in the Legislature. The authors of 'Why

Nations Fail’, Acemoglu and Robinson, warn that extractive institutions emerge when political power becomes concentrated in the hands of a few rather than being dispersed across society. They argue that successful nations build inclusive institutions that distribute power, strengthen accountability and ensure that no single office can dominate the machinery of the State. Clause 6 moves us in the opposite direction. Rather than displacing power, it concentrates additional influence in the hands of the President. Rather than strengthening Parliament's oversight role, it risks compromising the independence of Parliament. If our objective is to build a democratic Zimbabwe founded upon transparency, accountability and constitutionalism, then we should be strengthening Parliament as an independent institution, not expanding Executive influence within it. For these reasons, I oppose Clause 6.

Allow me to move to my conclusion in the interest of time.

Allow me to return to the central lesson from ‘Why Nations Fail’.

Acemoglu and Robinson argue that nations do not fail because of geography, natural resources, culture or the character of their people.

Nations fail because of extractive institutions. Extractive institutions

concentrate political power in the hands of the few, weaken accountability, undermine democratic participation, and place the interests of those in power above the interests of the nation. Inclusive institutions distribute power broadly, strengthen oversight, uphold the rule of law and ensure that public institutions serve all citizens. When we examine this Bill in its entirety, we see a pattern that raises serious concerns.

The transfer of the election of the President from the people to Parliament, the extension of terms of office, the appointment of additional senators by the President, the weakening of safeguards in judicial appointments, and the increased executive discretion in appointing the Prosecutor General, all point towards a concentration of power rather than distribution. The question before this House is not whether these provisions are legal. The question is whether they strengthen the inclusive institutions envisioned by the Constitution and necessary for Zimbabwean democratic institutions. In my respective view...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Your time is up Hon. Tsvangirai.

**HON. O. BVUTE:** Thank you Madam Speaker, and good evening. Thank you for allowing me to air my views representing the Mutasa North Constituency. Zimbabwe stands at a historic and defining moment. Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill is showing majority support in this House because we have the people's mandate for doing so, and it is largely derived from the recent public hearings. CAB3 is going to be not just a piece of legislation. It is going to be the bridge to Vision 2030, leading to the prosperity that every citizen deserves. Under the decisive leadership of His Excellency, the President of the Republic, Dr. Emmerson Mnangagwa, this Bill anchors continuity, stability, policy consistency, long-term and national development so as to develop positive impacts for generations to come.

I stand here representing the people of Mutasa North and the whole Mutasa District, fully supporting CAB3 in its totality. Our prayer is that the millions of dollars that are used to run short-cycle elections be reinvested into national priorities that sustain the livelihoods of our people. The main reason why rural constituencies are in full support of CAB3 is that the priority right now is on

empowerment and development projects, especially roads, schools and a host of other critical infrastructure establishments which are being spearheaded by the Second Republic.

Elections are therefore not the highest of priorities. Maybe urban constituencies may not worry about sorting roads and other infrastructure urgently, because they may not get mileage from that. In rural areas, we really sweat for people's support. I applaud the current Government for focusing on the bigger picture and doing the basics right to improve people's lives.

Personally, I feel that some of the money saved from these short-cycle elections can be used productively to increase CDF money tenfold, to compare with what is happening in other countries in the region, and to meet the electorate's demands. We need to put capital where the country gets optimum value. I, therefore, propose resource shifts and realignment in this manner. If we look at the budget for elections in Zimbabwe in 2023, it was around 188 million. I looked at the statistics there that we have got 210 MPs; 160 are rural and among the 160 rural MPs, if we combine the devolution funds and the CDF funds, we can give each rural constituency one million. The urban

ones, we will give half of that, about 560. That squeezes the total of 188 million for the next two years which we are going to extend directly to the rural people.

In our party, we say to the cells, in Shona, we say *musangano kuma sero*. With CDF, we will then buy road construction equipment like graders, tippers, *et cetera*, drilling rigs and other equipment that is necessary for the required development so as to complement the Central Government. Hon. Speaker, I am so humbled by CAB3, which was initiated and well-articulated by the Government through Hon. Minister Ziyambi.

I will comment on one clause of the Bill, which stands out in CAB 3, the change from five to a seven-year election cycle allows the Government more time to consolidate development blueprints like the current NDS2 to enable the creation of employment and growth prospects for our people. These, among other initiatives, represent emerging global funders and opportunities for the Zimbabwean people in the medium to long term. Let us also not forget so easily that we as a nation, have been under severe sanctions for more than two decades. However, Zimbabwe has been so resilient and it needs

time to refocus on these critical needs. Hon. Speaker, we also admire the Second Republic's prevailing economic tranquility in Zimbabwe post-COVID-19. In Shona, *tiri kuti munyika mune runyararo, naizvozvo asingadi runyararo muroyi chete.*

As I speak now, we have a single-digit inflation economy, major recovery initiatives and many other achievements currently experienced in the Second Republic have resulted in improved Zimbabwean people's per capita earnings. We have small-claims miners who have taken over 60% of gold output in this country and this is on record. These achievements, among others, need to be celebrated. Therefore, CAB3 solidifies and consolidates this Government momentum, which we must unequivocally and unashamedly support. The President, Dr. Emmerson Mnangagwa's Zimbabwe's Open for Business philosophy, the infrastructure revolution through energy projects, dam constructions, economic modernisation, *et cetera* prove that the current Government philosophy is delivering value for citizens.

Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill locks in that momentum, making sure that Government efforts do not go to waste and remain

uninterrupted by the familiar election contestations and economic instability. It ensures policy does not restart after every short election cycle of five years only but it builds instead, brick by brick, towards an Upper-Middle-Income State by 2030. Hon. Speaker, this is continuity, this is stability, this is Vision 2030 in motion. In Shona, we say, *chawawana batisisa midzimu haipi kaviri*. So Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill, *isu veku Mutasa North takato ribata kuti dzvi*. The 2030 Agenda and *nyika inovakwa noku namatirwa nevene vayo* philosophy is the people's heartbeat. In my constituency and I believe the rest of the country too, people are praying for the speedy completion of this Bill so that farmers work in their fields, students in classrooms, workers in offices and factories, all aligned behind one goal, a peaceful and prosperous Zimbabwe. Therefore, the Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill is what the doctor ordered for Zimbabwe. Let no delays get in the way of this legendary and generational progress. With CAB3, Zimbabwe's future is stable, secure and unstoppable. This Bill is ideal for youth, women, the PWDs, urban and rural and the time to do the correct constitutional reconfiguration for Zimbabwe is now. I so submit.

*Business was suspended at 1930 Hours and resumed at 2030 Hours.*

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! I call upon Hon. Shumba.

*Hon. Shumba not being in the House.*

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Further debate Hon. Tobaiwa.

**HON. TOBAIWA:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker Ma'am, for giving me this opportunity to air my voice on this Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill. I rise today not only as the Member of Parliament of Kwekwe Central Constituency, but a servant of the people who sent me here to defend the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the liberation ideas on which our nation was founded.

As young people in Zimbabwe, we stand guided by the Constitution because democracy is built on regular elections and people's right to choose their leaders. We do not want to return to the system where a few individuals hold power and abuse it without seeking a fresh mandate from citizens. Our future lies in democracy and accountability; the voice of every Zimbabwean is not going back

to the practices associated with the colonial Smith error. I also want to concentrate on the issues affecting the people of Kwekwe Central.

The people of Kwekwe Central are expecting the Bill to eradicate the issues of *shuramatongo* which is affecting them. They are expecting the Government to solve that problem. Also, the people of Kwekwe Central are expecting the Bill to help the families suffering from the trauma of the disease called silicosis, *yapedza vana vemu* Kwekwe Central.

Furthermore, I would like to address the will of the people.

Madam Speaker, I want to discuss the Bill itself. While the Bill may pass, I believe that the people of Zimbabwe will not accept it.

Regardless of its passage, citizens will continue to focus on the issues that directly affect them, particularly those impacting the youths of Zimbabwe. Madam Speaker, I want to state this: the people of Kwekwe Central strongly oppose the Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill. I so submit.

**\*HON. TAYEDZWA:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker, for granting me this opportunity. As I stand before you, representing the people of Epworth South, I would like to reflect on our recent

public consultations. We engaged with residents from both Epworth South and Mabvuku-Tafara, with attendance nearing 20 000. I did not observe a single person opposing CAB 3; rather, everyone was wholeheartedly supportive.

As I consider the constituency I represent in Epworth, I recognise that this is a community where many residents are not particularly affluent. In the past, it was often referred to as an area that harbours thieves. However, thanks to the leadership of His Excellency, E. D. Mnangagwa, we have witnessed significant developments, including the establishment of schools, roads and boreholes. The people in this constituency express their strong support for the Bill in its entirety. They are genuinely pleased and encouraged me to convey this positive sentiment, sharing all the wonderful initiatives being implemented by His Excellency. They are truly impressed.

Let me now address the extension of the electoral cycle from five to seven years. Biblically, we can refer to the story of Jacob who worked for seven years for his wives before ultimately being given the one he desired. The number seven resonates deeply with our lives

and experiences. In rural areas, for instance, home-brewed beer is prepared over a period of seven days, further reflecting the significance of this number. Additionally, when we consider the structure of time, we recognise that there are seven days in a week. Even in the creation narrative, God rested on the seventh day, signifying its holiness. This underscores the importance of the number seven in our lives and traditions. So, in so doing, I suggest that the figure seven will take us to everything fruitful.

I also support the inclusion of chiefs in political participation. As mentioned previously, their involvement is essential as they play a crucial role in governing our land, our motherland.

If we examine what the Second Republic is offering, without placing blame on the First Republic for past actions, we can see significant developments. For instance, we have the newly constructed Trabablas Interchange and the Mabvuku Interchange which is still under construction. These improvements will facilitate easier travel for road users. Those coming from Chitungwiza no longer have to pass through the central business district; instead, they can travel through Epworth and then to Mabvuku. Similarly, residents

from Ruwa can avoid passing through the CBD. This means that the burden on all these travellers has been significantly reduced.

Consequently, all residents of Epworth are fully supportive of this Bill in its entirety. I thank you.

**\*HON. MADIRO:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I have received feedback from the constituents of Magunje who are expressing their concerns. They are asking, "What is the problem and why is this taking so long?" We have spent numerous days without concluding CAB3.

Madam Speaker, whenever we convene in this august House, we should begin by offering a prayer in reverence to the Almighty. As stated in Psalm 115 verse 5: "You have eyes but cannot see; you have ears but cannot hear." I pose the question - what is the significance of this scripture? It seems to reflect the current situation in this House. Although this was written nearly a century ago, it resonates with our present circumstances. We have many individuals here who possess sight, yet fail to perceive the progress being made. His Excellency the President is undertaking significant initiatives, including the

construction of dams and roads, yet many people remain unaware of these developments.

In my constituency, we have a hospital which was built under the Second Republic and I am happy. I am kindly requesting a term extension from five years to seven years to ensure that development is completed.

I understand that our Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs is well informed. When someone is sentenced from five years to seven years, that person begins their term from the moment the sentence is issued. This raises an important question: if a judgment has been reviewed for seven years, will the individual start their term from that point, or will you need to consult the Minister for further information? What happened in the past should not be considered; we should begin counting from the time when it is established that we now have a seven-year term of office.

Therefore, let me proceed by stating that in 1980 when we won our elections, there was nothing like this. However, I understand that starting in 2000, after we were placed on the sanctions list, we began to experience these conflicts. I recognise that what the Minister is

saying is intended to assist us, as this august House, in voting for the President. However, he cannot personally dictate the matter concerning the President. The issues surrounding elections for councillors and Members of Parliament are different, but the election of the President is particularly contentious. Therefore, I suggest that we all come together in support of this initiative. We already supported this and agree. I thank you.

**\*HON. JIMU:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker Ma'am.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views on the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill, CAB3, as I represent citizens of Harare Central. The people of Harare Central asked me to come and present that they are totally denying and objecting to this CAB3.

– [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

They advised me to inform this august House that they completely oppose the two-year extension of the President's term of office. They would rather have it done through a transitional Government or a Government of national unity. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – That will be inclusive of everyone who was elected into this august House in the 2023

elections, including President Mnangagwa and President Nelson Chamisa – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – These two positions...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order Hon. Jimu. We only recognise the President of Zimbabwe as none other than President Emmerson Mnangagwa. May you please withdraw your statement because Chamisa is not the President of Zimbabwe.

**\*HON. JIMU:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I withdraw. Secondly, the people of Harare Central are proposing that within the next two years, we look into electoral reforms and ensure that we hold peaceful and transparent elections in 2028 without vote rigging.

On the issue of the chiefs, our traditional leaders, Harare Central is saying chiefs should actually stick to what they do best, which is presiding over their communal areas, and avoid participating in political affairs. They should remain in rural areas and maintain peace and unity within their communities.

On the issue of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), Harare Central is steadfast that the Voters' Roll should remain under ZEC's jurisdiction and not be returned to the Registrar-General's

Office. ZEC should actually adopt the recommendations put forward by SADC on conducting free and fair elections.

The people of Harare Central were also expecting us to make noise in this House regarding employment creation. In conclusion, if CAB3 is to proceed, let it do so by way of a Referendum. Let us return the decision to the citizenry and allow them to vote yes or no. Let me reiterate that Harare Central is not in support of CAB3. I thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am.

**\*HON. TAVAZIVA:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. Let me start by saying, how are you Madam Speaker Ma'am?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I am fine, thank you.

**\*HON. TAVAZIVA:** As an elected Member of Marondera West Constituency, I am elated to be presenting on the Constitutional Amendment Bill (No. 3) as per the desires of the people of Marondera West. I will table what they asked me to say to this august House.

Madam Speaker, the people of Marondera West would like to thank you for extending the President's term of office from five to

seven years, though they would rather it be extended to 2040 or 2050.

– [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

Madam Speaker, let me say that I was quite surprised by the sudden turnaround of one of my two neighbours, Hon. Caston Matewu. Let me inform you that both Hon. Mutokonyi and Hon. Matewu are my neighbours, representing Marondera East and Marondera Central, respectively. So, I was actually shocked to see the latter opposing the Bill since he had promised to support the Bill earlier - [HON. HAMAUSWA: *On a point of order Madam Speaker Ma'am!*] –

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Hamauswa, may you please resume your seat!

**\*HON. TAVAZIVA:** Madam Speaker, thank you for affording me this opportunity. I was shocked and disappointed to see one of my neighbours speaking against CAB3 because it has brought water to our dry taps in Marondera. He had promised to say this in support of CAB3. Yes, and he even urged me to come and support this Bill since he cannot do so publicly - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear,*

*hear.] – [HON. CHIGUMBU: On a point of order Madam Speaker!]*

–

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

**HON. CHIGUMBU:** Madam Speaker, my point of order is that you cannot speak on behalf of someone who is not in the House and cannot defend themselves.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! The Hon. Member is referring to a conversation that they had in Marondera Hon. Chigumbu! You are from Harare and not from Marondera. You were not there when they were talking.

**\*HON. TAVAZIVA:** Madam Speaker, I do not want to waste much of people's time. Honestly speaking Madam Speaker, Hon. Matewu was the one who was chairing these CAB3 meetings in Marondera when he said that he is totally in support of this Bill - [HON. CHIGUMBU: *You cannot abuse him just because he is not here.*] - Thank you so much Madam Speaker, I would like to say all that I am saying, I was sent to come and speak on his behalf.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order you may take your seat. Hon. Tavaziva, may you speak to the debate that was presented by the Hon. Minister – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – I told him what to do Hon. Mambipiri. Please sit down.

**\*HON. TAVAZIVA:** Without wasting much time, I would like to say Hon. Mutokonyi will bear witness that we sat down – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – We now have our own Trabablas in Marondera and people are saying President Mnangagwa has done a great job. Even those who are in the opposition, who are pretending to oppose the Bill are saying that President Mnangagwa is doing a good job. So, all the people in my constituency support the Bill. If they are saying otherwise, I have the videos as evidence to say the Bill should be passed.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Point of order Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, my plea is, let us allow people to debate. Hon. Members are standing up and saying my people told me this and we are unable to verify those claims. So, if

people discussed what they discussed, I think let us allow debate; otherwise, I implore you to invoke the rules because some of these points of order are useless. They are meant to drag debate – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Minister. Hon. Members, let us allow Hon. Members to debate and to be heard in silence. Let us allow procedure to flow without any disturbances.

**\*HON. MUWOMBI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to support CAB3 brought before this House by the Hon. Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Ziyambi. I represent the people of Makoni North who voted me to be their Member of Parliament and I strongly support the Bill. I also represent the youth of Manicaland. They are also in support of the Bill. The people of Makoni North have sent me to say they are in support of the appointment of the President into office by Members of Parliament because they have voted us to represent them in the Parliament. Therefore, they have given us the power to appoint the President on their behalf.

Makoni North also supports that the term of office for the President, Members of Parliament and councillors be extended to seven years. This will bring stability and help in the development of our country. The people of Makoni North support the Voters' Roll to be moved to the Office of the Registrar General. This will reduce instances of claims that the elections are unfair and rigged. They would like the Gender Commission to remain as an independent Commission because it helps in looking into the rights of women. So, the Gender Commission should continue its work but if it is integrated into the Human Rights Commission, then a department that looks into gender issues should be set up.

On the issue of traditional leaders, they should not be involved in politics too much. They should remain neutral and not be partisan. This Bill is good as it will help in the development of our country, like what is happening in other countries. If we look at countries like China where I lived for a number of years furthering my education, they are very stable countries that have progressing economies. If you look at such countries, there are no elections. They have what we call a one-party State. I think this is what we need to follow as a country.

Zimbabwe should be a one-party State because at times democracy does not help the country. It is there to make people like Johnny White happy as was sung by Hwenje.

I was in university in China together with Hon. Tsvangirai. He used to always comment that China was a good country and well organised. China is well organised because it is a one-party State. The central Government is the one that makes decisions and everyone follows these decisions and they carry out long term planning. This makes it a very stable country. Elections waste our time, especially us as a country with an economy that is still developing. We do not have money. So, as a country that is still developing instead of wasting money holding elections, we must save money and invest in agriculture, exporting our products and mining. The money that we get from these economic activities will help us to invest in education, hospitals and Government institutions. This does not need democracy. The country needs money in order to develop and move forward. So, we should save money and hold elections after, for example, 10 years. That is what I support.

So, I strongly support the Bill. Makoni North supports the Bill and it should be passed. We should work together and develop our nation. I thank you.

**HON. MAZHINDU:** Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to convey the views and aspirations of the people of St. Marys. The people of St. Mary's have made it clear that they still want to choose their President, Members of Parliament and councillors. They also hope that one day Parliament will allow them to choose their mayor.

Madam Speaker, I have carefully examined the 2023 harmonised elections in my constituency and indeed, in many parts of the country. No Member of Parliament or councillor received more votes than their Presidential candidate. In my view at the Citizen Coalition for Change, president Nelson Chamisa polled more than –  
[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. Mazhindu, withdraw your statement.

**HON. MAZHINDU:** I withdraw. The presidential candidate for CCC, Nelson Chamisa, polled more than any candidate that stood

under the same ticket in the 2023 harmonised elections. If you take away people's right to directly elect their president, we would be moving backwards from the democratic principle of one man, one vote...

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Madam Speaker, that is very dangerous and insightful. We have a President who won in Zimbabwe. Reference to his constituency in terms of the presidential election does not arise. He must speak about his constituency in terms of his constituents, not a national election and insinuate that Chamisa won. That is very dangerous and I think he must withdraw that statement.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mazhindu, may you stand guided and withdraw your statement.

**HON. MAZHINDU:** I stand guided.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** May you withdraw your statement.

**HON. MAZHINDU:** I withdraw.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mazhindu, may you withdraw the whole sentence. If you do have anything to debate, take your seat and let others debate.

**HON. MAZHINDU:** Madam Speaker, what I am putting here is that the presidential candidate polled more than their parliamentary incumbent...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mazhindu, may you withdraw.

**HON. MAZHINDU:** I withdraw. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, electing the President within the walls of this House risks diminishing the Office of the President. The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe derives legitimacy from the millions of Zimbabwean voters across the country. That mandate cannot be equated to a vote conducted among the Members of Parliament alone. The Office of the President is a national office, not merely a parliamentary office. His Excellency, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, has consistently reminded us that no one and no place should be left behind. So, electing the President in this House is against this mantra. For this reason, I respectfully urge this House to remove the

clause and preserve the people's constitutional right to directly elect their President.

I move to Clause 8 of the Constitutional Amendment Bill. It seeks to empower the President to appoint an additional 10 senators. The people of St. Mary's have instructed me to oppose the provision for several compelling reasons. Madam Speaker, Zimbabwe has a population of 16.7 million and a Parliament of 360 Members, which translates to roughly 46 000 people per Member of Parliament. When compared to other jurisdictions, Zimbabwe is already the most legislator-dense parliamentary systems. South Africa, with a population of 16 million, has approximately one legislator for every 129 000 citizens, while China with a population of 1.4 billion, has approximately 423 citizens per MP. These figures raise important questions about the size and cost-effectiveness of our Parliament.

Before we contemplate the number of legislators, we must first demonstrate that the current Parliament is operating at maximum efficiency and delivering measurable value to citizens of Zimbabwe who fund it. The people of Zimbabwe expect us to reduce the cost of governance, not expand it. This provision concentrates power in the

hands of the Executive. Parliament's constitutional role is to represent the people, make laws and provide oversight over the Executive.

Increasing the number of presidential appointees' risks weakening the principle of representative democracy and may create a State that is more accountable to the appointing authority than the citizens of Zimbabwe.

**HON. NYAKUEDZWA:** Madam Speaker, I rise today, to support the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill, 2026 and to commend the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Ziyambi for bringing before this House a constitutional reform agenda aimed at strengthening governance, improving institutional efficiency and accelerating national development. Constitutions are living documents. They must evolve to address emerging realities and national aspirations. After more than a decade of implementing the 2013 Constitution, it is both prudent and responsible for Parliament to review areas that require refinement to improve the effectiveness of our Government systems. The question before this House is, will these amendments strengthen

our institutions, improve service delivery and help Zimbabwe achieve its developmental goals? I firmly believe they will.

I strongly support Clauses 3 and 4. They seek to promote political stability, continuity and policy consistency. Development is not achieved overnight. Major infrastructure projects, industrialisation programmes, irrigation schemes, power generation projects and housing developments require time, consistency and uninterrupted implementation. Under the leadership of His Excellency, President Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe has witnessed significant development through the construction and rehabilitation of roads, dams, airports, border posts, schools and health facilities. Programmes such as rural development, devolution initiatives and the ongoing modernisation of our economy require continuity if they are to deliver maximum benefits to our people. Madam Speaker, development requires stability, continuity and certainty. A seven-year cycle provides Government with sufficient time to implement long-term projects and allows the nation to focus more on development and less on perpetual election cycles.

I also support Clauses 9, 10 and 11, which strengthen our electoral administration. These amendments introduce a clear separation of responsibilities among institutions. The Registrar-General maintains the Voters' Roll, the Electoral Delimitation Commission manages constituency boundaries and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission conducts elections. This specialisation improves efficiency, professionalism and public confidence in the electoral process. It also ensures that electoral boundaries are determined well in advance of elections, thereby enhancing transparency and fairness.

Madam Speaker, I equally support Clauses 15 and 16, which strengthen the justice, delivery system. A highly qualified Attorney General enhances the quality of legal advice available to government and strengthens the rule of law. Expanding access to the Constitutional Court promotes legal certainty and ensures constitutional questions are resolved efficiently and authoritatively.

I strongly support Clauses 18, 20 and 21 concerning traditional leadership. Chiefs remain custodians of our culture, land, tradition and community government structures. In many rural

communities, they are the first points of contact between citizens and Government. Retaining chiefs in the Senate ensures that rural communities continue to have a voice in national lawmaking. Expanding the advisory role of the Council of Chiefs allows traditional leaders to contribute meaningfully to legislation affecting land, local governance and rural development. Madam Speaker, these reforms recognise the important role traditional leaders continue to play in promoting peace, development and social cohesion throughout the country.

Madam Speaker, I also support the introduction of 10 expert Senators under Clause 8. Modern governance requires expertise in agriculture, engineering, medicine, economics, technology and finance. By bringing experienced professionals into Parliament, we strengthen the quality of legislation and improve evidence-based policymaking. The ultimate beneficiaries of these reforms are not politicians. The beneficiaries are the ordinary Zimbabweans seeking jobs, better roads, reliable electricity, quality health care, quality education and economic opportunities.

A stable political environment attracts investment. Strong institutions promote economic growth. Policy consistency encourages development. Reduced political conflict allows Government to focus on service delivery. For these reasons, I fully support the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment Bill (No. 3) of 2026 and I urge this Hon. House to pass it in the interest of national development, institutional stability and the future generations of Zimbabwe. I so submit for the interest of time.

**\*HON. CHIHWA:** Thank you Madam Speaker for affording me this opportunity to add my voice on this very important debate. I represent Chiredzi West Constituency, which at the moment is mourning because of the accident that happened where nine people died and 25 are in hospital. However, this is a national duty, which we cannot abandon. So, I want to thank the Hon. Minister Z. Ziyambi for bringing this Bill into this House, which will bring a legacy to this Parliament and the whole country that we changed the law for the good of our country.

In Chiredzi, our main task is to grow sugar. So, when you say seven years, we understand it because when we are growing sugar

cane, seven years is the productive cycle of sugar cane. If you grow sugar cane and you harvest within five years, your business will collapse because you will not realise any profit. If you grow sugar for eight to nine years, you will not realise much profit. So, when seven years was mentioned, we saw it fit that we should follow that.

I will just focus on Chiredzi West because the people who sent me have their own wishes and desires that they would want the President to finish his projects before he leaves office. This has been caused by the standard of development that we are seeing in Chiredzi West. In Chiredzi West, we have Tokwe-Mukosi Dam. I heard one speaker saying that people are loitering around because they do not have any jobs. I wish that Hon. Member had consulted me, I would have shown him the jobs that were created by our President.

In Chiredzi, looking at Tokwe-Mukosi, by 31 December, we would have planted 19 000 hectares of plantations but the whites had only opened 400 000 within 100 years. Currently, for 45 000 hectares, we have 25 000 workers but when we open the 19 000, we would have more than half of the workers that are there already. This is all because of President Mnangagwa. While some are looking for jobs,

we are looking for workers and I think you should send your children to us because there are jobs there and tangible development is going on.

The other year, someone scolded us saying we were like mushrooms but through the Government of President Mnangagwa, we have come up with a re-organisation programme. Now, the mushroom which was just mushrooming have been settled well. They have electricity and they are using water from Tokwe-Mukosi. What workers want is job security. Before the Second Republic, people were not certain and were living in fear but when the President came, all the workers in the plantations are happy because he is increasing the plantations. We do not want to hear people saying that the President said to increase our term by two years but our President is a revolutionary leader. He is not given a contract which dies on the job and then someone comes to get the contract.

So, I think as time goes on, we will plead with Hon. Z. Ziyambi to ask us whether two years is enough because with what is happening, I think the President should get 40 years. Chiredzi General Hospital does not serve one constituency as it is a district hospital. If

you are from the Opposition because of the attitude of participating in stay-aways, you will not be aware of what programmes we have under the leadership of President Mnangagwa. Very soon you will hear that we have a school of nursing and we will be talking of the rehabilitation of Chiredzi General Hospital.

Due to the increase in population, there are many things that need to be developed but there is development that took place during the Second Republic under the leadership of Hon. President Mnangagwa, and now you cannot tell him to stop. So, we are saying President Mnangagwa should continue and that, yes, for today we agree, we support that he goes up to 2030 but as Chiredzi, we want him to go further. At the moment, we have Tugwi-Mukosi but we also have another dam which is being constructed and we can export water even to South Africa. Smith talked about it but he did nothing. The First Republic came and they did not do anything at all. We have faith in the Second Republic because it has embarked on tangible projects.

In Chiredzi, when Smith said he wanted UDI, he was banking on ethanol plant in Chiredzi but he did not do anything about it. Petrol is being manufactured here. President Mnangagwa is famous for two

ethanol plants in Triangle and Chisumbanje. The whites could not do it but now President Mnangagwa has two ethanol plants. So, we are saying, President, if you are through with the 19 000, you should put another plant for the Chiredzi West development plant because the plants that are there are not enough. You should put another one in Mukwasine. These plants are well advanced.

We are not happy when you say our President should not reach 2030. It really pains us. You should leave President Mnangagwa to revive the economy and the country. We are growing sugar cane. We used to have shortages of sugar but now there are no shortages and we are even exporting to other countries. With all that, you can see that President Mnangagwa is a good leader.

After the elections, one of the persons who were there was shocked. He thought that the people in Chiredzi and the sugar cane voted. It is because they did not have a record of people in that area. That is why we are saying we should move the voter registration to the Registrar-General's Office, where all records are kept. The records in ZEC could not show the leader that we have so many people in Chiredzi. We should support this so that you will not be

shocked after elections when you think that it is sugar cane that has voted, which means you do not know the people that you want to lead.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity. What I have said came from Chiredzi. These are not my thoughts or words as we are preparing for this, all the Hon. Members came together. Even Hon. Makumire really worked hard, ferrying people using his lorry from Chitsanga Lodge in Chiredzi. We did not hear anyone not supporting the Bill. What he says here is what they get from the embassies where he visits. All the old people he ferried in Chiredzi are in support of the Bill. So, when we are here, people change. Now that people are watching, we do not know what they are saying because what we are doing is very important. We are building our nation and our inheritance. With these few words, Mr. Speaker, I thank you as I support this Bill – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):**

Order, order. No shouting. This is not a beer hall. You can go to the second floor and do that there.

**HON. MHETU:** Thank you Mr. Even though fact that this House collectively conducted public hearings and came up with statistics which showed that the majority of those who attended public hearings were in support of CAB3, my people in Epworth North came to me weeping. They said, Hon. Mhetu, Parliament trembled over our voice and misrepresented our views. Their message is clear. They reject this Bill in total and not in part, not with amendments but as a whole.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Mhetu. I think your statement is, if it is coming from the people – [HON.

**MEMBERS:** *Inaudible interjections.*] – *Aaa aiwa. Imika.* Take a seat Hon. Mhetu. To say Parliament trembled on our - what did you say exactly? Can you repeat the statement?

**HON. MHETU:** On this paragraph, I spoke about what the people of Epworth said....

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** What did they say?

**HON. MHETU:** If you want me to withdraw, I withdraw for the sake of progress. Let us move on. Our Constitution is the blood covenant signed by our fathers in the bush...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Mhetu. Order, Hon. Mhetu. Rewind. I said I want to hear that statement again.

**HON. MHETU:** Mr. Speaker, I withdraw – [HON.

MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mhetu....

**HON. MHETU:** Alright, I hear you Hon. Speaker. Let me go ahead. My people in Epworth North came to me weeping. They said, Hon. Mhetu, Parliament trembled over our voice and misrepresented our views. This message came from the people of Epworth and they acknowledged that public hearings were done and the results were published in this House, which shows that the majority of people were in support of CAB3 but the people of Epworth are excluding themselves from such people.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Right. Thank you. I wanted to clarify that. Now, Hon. Mhetu, you are a Member of the same august House, the Parliament you are talking about like that and you honestly take such a submission from your people without correcting them to say, no, Parliament is an august House – [HON. MEMBERS:

*Inaudible interjections.] – I am still talking. Hon. Zvigumbu, aaah iwee. Take your seat Hon. Mhetu. I want to fix this properly.*

Hon. Mhetu, as a responsible Member of Parliament, when you go out there and people say such a statement about the House that you belong to and you also take it bluntly like that and bring it here, are we honestly being honourable enough? Why am I asking that? Public hearings were done and people went around. Yes, not all the people got a chance to speak. That is why there was a request for written submissions either to the Committee that went there or through the emails that were provided for. So where is the trampling of all that when all these things were clearly laid out and laid down? I want us to be factual as Honourable Members. Let us not get into a position of...

*Hon. Mhetu having stood up to continue debating.*

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** When I am talking, please sit down and switch off your microphone.

**HON. MHETU:** Mr. Speaker, can you allow me to proceed?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Take your seat.

*Hon. Eng. Mhangwa having stood up to raise a point of order.*

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mhangwa, *hatidi zvekuonererwa pano*. I am doing my job here. Alright!

Hon. Mhetu, it is totally wrong to do that. I want you to withdraw it totally and unreservedly and then we can move on. I do not expect that from you. I know you personally, your character and everything.

**HON. MHETU:** I withdraw. I will proceed. Our Constitution is the blood covenant signed by our forefathers in the bush. Section 57 (3), every Zimbabwean citizen who is of 18 years of age or over has the right to vote in all elections and referendums, if Parliament legislates broadening more voting rights for the people, like what happened in 1990.

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** I think we do not need people who read the Constitution and stop finishing. You must finish what the Constitution says. We do not want people who give their own interpretation. For the record and for those who are watching us, we must have the correct record rather than grandstanding.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mhetu, can we be guided by simple things like that. Let us do things parliamentary. We

are Members of Parliament who are called honourable. For that one thing, we should do things in an honourable way.

**HON. MHETU:** If Parliament legislates broadening more voting rights to the people like what happened in 1990, we all sing with joy but to take away that sacred voting right or to alter it, we must kneel before the people first. We must beg their permission in a referendum. Section 328 of our Constitution commands it.

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Section 67 is very clear. You must speak to what Section 67 says if he wants to interpret Section 67.

**HON. MHETU:** I will read section 67. It says, every citizen has the right to participate in a free, fair and regular elections for any elective public office.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Go further and finish.

**HON. MHETU:** Our duty in this House, we are lawmakers. I expect every Hon. Member in this House to know this Constitution offhand. For me to regard it word by word like we are in a kindergarten classroom, we will not be fair to the people of Zimbabwe. Can you allow me to proceed by saying what the people of Epworth send me to say in this House?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. Mhetu, you have quoted Section 67 (1) paragraph (a) so, when you do that, you must then quote it in full. You disregard paragraph (b) going downwards. You wanted to speak about paragraph (a), right? So, read it like that as it is so that we all can all relate because you must remember that this sitting is not only for our benefit.

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** Point of order!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I am still talking, sit down. I am making a ruling here. You are a law student. What kind of a law student are you? You are not the Chair. You cannot do that Hon. Hlatywayo. Hon. Mhetu, I am sorry about this but I wanted us to be clear about this. When you quote the Constitution, quote the whole section properly or the subsection or the paragraph, simple. It is standard. So, please do that. I will give you all your time but I wanted us to do the right thing.

**HON. MHETU:** Mr. Speaker, can you allow me to proceed?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Please finish your quotation.

**HON. MHETU:** I even opened my Constitution.

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** Point of privilege Mr. Speaker!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Can you take your seat!

Switch off your mic and take your seat. If you want to speak to your Chief Whip, go to him there. You cannot just stand and start talking.

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** I apologise. We trust your wisdom when you are seated there but many times you are being guided by the Leader of Government Business, which is unfortunate. You are being directed to judge us, it is unfortunate for us; we make the laws, interpretations for the judicial. If there is anything that the Hon. Minister has to explain, he will have his time and it was ruled by the previous Speaker that Hon. Minister will have ample time, unlimited time to explain his position. Allow him to debate.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Take your seat. I have heard where you are coming from.

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** I did not finish. We are disadvantaged Mr. Speaker. It is unfair. On this side, we cannot raise a point of order. On that side, they lie, they do whatever and they say whatever nonsense they want to say.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** No! What did you just say now? They say nonsense?

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** Some Hon. Members, they would say...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** *Buda, Ah buda!*

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** I apologise Mr. Speaker. I am sorry.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Go out *umborohwa*

*nemhepo uchazouya.* Hon. Mhetu continue.

*Hon. Hamauswa having moved out of the House*

**HON. MHETU:** I want to speak about the vote Mr. Speaker.

The vote is sacred. Our uncles died in shallow graves for it. Our aunts were raped and beaten for it. Our mothers cooked for freedom fighters and bullets flying over their heads. Now we want to trade away with parliamentary arithmetic. Mr. Speaker, God forbid. I cannot do it. Raising my hand in support of this Bill will be a betrayal to every orphan of the liberation struggle.

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Point of order! One of the points that we must also appreciate is that when Hon. Members are debating, I have to respond even at the end. Hon. Members must learn to appreciate and to speak the truth when they are quoting the Constitution. Hon. Members must quote our history correctly because we never had a direct Presidential election soon after independence. I want him to

withdraw that statement that he said because that never happened at the path of our independence.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mhetu, did you say there was an election of the President soon after independence?

**HON. MHETU:** I said if Parliament broadens voting rights like what they did in 1990, we all sing with joy but to take away, we must kneel before the people and ask them through a referendum. Mr. Speaker, I would actually propose giving this paper because that is where I was reading.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. TSHUMA):** Okay, you may go ahead. I will give you the benefit of the doubt.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Mr. Speaker, I think, like anyone else, I would want to see impartiality. When an Hon. Member creates chaos and his or her time is taken by those misunderstandings, you should treat the Hon. Member the same as you treated everybody else. In my situation, I lost all the time that I was supposed to debate because you said my time was up and I accepted. So when there are these points of order and ten minutes are up, it must be ten minutes.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order, order!

Unfortunately, the Clerks did not show me that the time was up because I was not keeping time. They are keeping time for me. So once they show me, I will be guided accordingly. You may carry on.

**HON. MHETU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for standing by your word. I remember you said I am going to hold the time until all that fiasco ends. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to speak about Clause 4, which seeks to alter the electoral cycle from five to seven years. Mr. Speaker, is Zimbabwe so poor in leadership that one man must rule for seven years to bring notable change? History teaches us that great work does not require endless time. Deng Xiaoping transformed China's economy in just over a decade in 1978 without extending his term. Sheikh Rashid Al Maktoum of Dubai built Dubai from sand in less than 15 years. Turning a trading port into a global hub.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mhetu, I will give you another one and a half minutes.

**HON. MHETU:** Mr. Speaker, *ndokunyarai ndokumbirawo mundinyarewo ndingoo mundipedzere* 5 minutes

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** One and a half minutes.

**MR. MHETU:** Mr Speaker ndokumbirawo mudziite five muri munhu wekunyara.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** One and a half minutes.

**HON. MHETU:** May you make it two.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Your time is lapsing.

**HON. MHETU:** Mr. Speaker, I look at you now my soul is trembling. Do you want your name to be written in the history books as the first Speaker who presided over the mutilation of our Constitution? Do you want to be remembered as the man who undressed our army in cold winter, leaving our last line of defence naked before our enemies?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order. Hon. Mhetu you shall not speak.

Who said nyika ndeyedu tese? ---- Chigumbu.

Go home Hon. Chigumbu.

**\*HON. NKANI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on this CAB3. I am representing Chakari. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank this House because Chakari was given an opportunity to be heard during public hearings.

A team that was led by Hon. Mangaliso and Hon. Tsvangirai was there. It went very well. They can witness that the Chakari Constituency said that the Bill was good. When word spread of Vision 2030, there was calm. The economy of the country became steady. The currency became steady. Prices became steady. Even in politics, there was stability, which means that the family of Zimbabweans wants peace and stability.

Let me give you an example of water. If water is stirred, no one wants to drink it. People wait for it to settle down. When it has settled, those who want to drink, drink. Those who want to bath can bath. Our country needs a lot of time without elections for it to calm. If it has time to calm, in Chakari we are into mining. People from Chakari, want the country to be stable so that they can mine their gold for the good of the economy. The people from Chakari are farmers, they want a lot of time without elections and violence so that there is stability and they have time to plough so that people do not get angry. So the people in Chakari support that our elections be held after seven years have passed. Mr. Speaker, when we talk of holding elections, you will find boys in the streets saying that our money has devalued

and they are the ones who bring down the value of the money as they will be dropping their trousers. So we are saying no, Vision 2030 is explaining the stability of things. Now our currency, ZIG, is very strong and very worthwhile. People are hunting for ZiG because of Vision 2030. I want to emphasise that people do not desire elections; instead, they seek stability and peace in the country. They want an environment that allows them to work for the betterment of the nation. I am grateful for the prevailing peace and pray that it continues for the development of our country.

Now, let me address the election of the President by Parliament. I am surprised that people lack trust in their MPs whom they elected to Parliament, to choose the President on their behalf, to represent them in Parliament, it means they have faith in you, and they should not have an issue with you selecting the President for them.

Mr. President, when you come to Parliament from our side, it reflects the influence of those who have groomed you, including the aunts and community leaders who support you. If you find yourself in Parliament, it means you have been prepared to represent the interests

of the people who elected you. On our side, we choose representatives who are genuinely desired by the people.

**HON. NYATHI:** Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. NYATHI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. It is five minutes to ten, *vana tete havasi mu Bill*. Can we focus on the Bill and move forward?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nyathi, I have never known you to act this way. Where is this spirit coming from?

**HON. NYATHI:** Mr. Speaker, we limited speaking time to ten minutes to facilitate progress but what the Hon. Member is discussing is not related to the Bill. Can we concentrate on the matters at hand?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Hon. Nyathi, when we give you ten minutes, you may discuss what you wish as long as it pertains to the debate. Perhaps you do not understand or maybe you lack structures on your side. The other side has their structures, so they comprehend what he is saying. These are the kinds of points of order I mentioned that we do not need. I am surprised to

hear this from you, so I will disregard that point of order. Hon. Nkani, please continue.

**\*HON. NKANI:** A lot has been said by the other Hon. Members. In conclusion, if you find a builder constructing a house and they reach the window level, then you seek another builder to finish the job and when they reach the gable, you look for yet another builder, that building will not be straight. We should allow the person with the vision to complete the work by 2030 and then we can evaluate their progress. I thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nkani, I believe you meant to refer to Vision 2030.

**\*HON. MATINYANYA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to represent the people of Mbare. Firstly, the people of Mbare have agreed to extend the term by two years. When we introduced this issue, they expressed that we were late; they want the extension. They support this for several reasons.

They believe that under the Second Republic, our current Parliament is free and not constrained. If you visit the airport, you will see how much it has improved. We have constructed about 121

clinics through the Second Republic. Additionally, we have built 1200 dams.

In both rural areas and towns, many village business centres have emerged, allowing people to earn a living, thanks to the Second Republic. We also have Trabablas; even those on the left side are now satisfied when passing through Trabablas to Mbare. For those who have not visited Mbare in a year, you will find a new state-of-the-art market that makes you forget you are in Mbare.

Numerous roads are being constructed across the country due to the Second Republic. If you visit our borders, you will notice significant improvements; people used to spend days at the borders but now they are much more efficient. Even at the Registrar's offices, obtaining passports is now a walk-in, walk-out process.

Regarding our minerals, the situation is improving significantly. We are realising substantial revenue from mining and it is evident. Our ZiG currency is supported by gold and has remained stable for quite some time. We previously experienced hyperinflation but now our currency is stable. The ZiG is in demand and many people are seeking it. If you look at the promises that were made by the Second

Republic, 235 so far, 187 were successful. This is a talk of the people of Mbare, where I represent; they are saying that the works that are being done are many. If you go to Mbare, you find that it has changed. It is now a good place and lice are no longer there.

You find that we have many investors now. People are free, have freedom of worship and everyone is enjoying the freedom in Zimbabwe. We expect that the work that the President is doing is very good and we should support it. In the rural areas, there is *Pfumvudza*, people are not angry.

They are saying they are in support of the two years that are being talked about. I think those who came to the public hearing, they saw that everyone in Mbare agreed with the works that our President is doing. We are saying that the Voters' Roll should be returned to the Registrar because they are the custodians of the death and birth records of our people. They will bring an end to the dead people appearing in the Voters' Roll. They are saying that we voted for you in Mbare, so we should come and vote for the President. As people of Mbare, we voted for you and we trust you as our representative. We

do not doubt you, so the Members of Parliament should vote for the President.

People in Mbare are happy with their leadership, which is being done by the Second Republic and they are happy with the Members of Parliament who are getting two years extension. The Members of Parliament and the councillors' terms should be extended as well so that our development would move forward. We have a lot of projects that are happening which we hope will have gone an extra mile by 2030.

Coming to the youths, most of them have really improved. No one is being left behind, especially when it comes to business, projects and mining. Even if you go to church, the angel Gabriel is helping. As people of Mbare, the Bill should be accepted as it is because it is a good Bill. Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

**HON. NYAMURONDA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to debate the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. I stand firmly opposed to the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. This Bill seeks fundamentally to alter Zimbabwe's

Constitutional Order by removing the people's direct right to elect their President and replacing it with election by Parliament.

It also seeks to extend the terms of office from five to seven years. These are not minor administrative changes; they are profound constitutional transformations affecting the very source of political authority in Zimbabwe. The Bill requires a referendum because it alters the people's sovereign rights.

The 2013 Constitution was adopted through a national referendum. The direct election of the President is one of its defining democratic features. Madam Speaker, Bill No.3 proposes repealing Section 92 and replacing direct presidential election with an election by Members of Parliament sitting jointly.

This removes a fundamental democratic right from every Zimbabwean voter. Sovereignty belongs to the people, not Parliament. If the people gave themselves the right to elect the President through a referendum in 2013, Parliament cannot legitimately take away that right without retaining it for the people. They have to go back to the people.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Point of order Madam Speaker!

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

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Madam Speaker, when Members debate this Constitution, they must quote it correctly. The people that the Hon. Member is referring to allowed this Parliament to amend the Constitution in certain circumstances without the need for a referendum. The Hon. Member must speak to the spirit of the Constitution and not cherry-pick whatever he wants and ignore other issues.

He must speak to the Constitution and attack what he wants to attack, but making reference correctly to what the people said and not what he thinks in his head is what the people said.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nyamuronda, do not mislead the House and do not speak what is outside the Constitution. May you stay guided?

**HON. NYAMURONDA:** The Bill betrays the principle of one vote. Zimbabweans fought for universal suffrage and equal voting.

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Point of order!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order!

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Hon. Member must state precisely where the Bill is betraying the one man, one vote. Otherwise, we do not want people to lie on camera and on record, because this is being recorded and it is on record, we cannot perpetually continue to allow people to lie on record on the basis that it is their right to debate –

[HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Honourable, may you stick to facts and stop misleading the House. If you do not have anything to debate, may I ask you to sit down and another Member will take the floor.

**HON. NYAMURONDA:** Hon. Speaker Ma'am, the people of Zimbabwe have religiously selected their President for the past more than a decade. So, just taking away that responsibility and putting it here in Parliament becomes a different story. Parliament is not a

substitute for the people's mandate. A President elected directly by millions of citizens...

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Point of order Madam Speaker!

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

**HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** That is totally misleading. Parliament is a substitute for the people, because all these Hon. Members represent people who cannot make decisions on their own. The Hon. Member is lying and he must withdraw that particular statement.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order!

**HON. KUKA:** On a point of privilege Madam Speaker!

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I have not made a ruling. Hon. Nyamuronda, you must withdraw. The Minister is actually right. I will refer you to Section 117 (1) of the Constitution. The powers of the people are vested in the Members of Parliament. So, withdraw your statement, that is what the Minister said. Withdraw your statement.

**HON. NYAMURONDA:** No, no, no.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Withdraw your statement –  
[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**HON. NYAMURONDA:** Hon. Speaker, no, no, no, I cannot go.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Withdraw your statement and you are left with two minutes.

**HON. NYAMURONDA:** Hon. Speaker, we were given the mandate as Members of Parliament to save, let us say, for five years.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Withdraw your statement, Hon. Nyamuronda. You are now left with a minute.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member can just leave the House if he is not representing the people. If you are here and you do not know that you represent the people, then why are you here? – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – .

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Nyamuronda, may you withdraw your statement.

**HON. NYAMURONDA:** I withdraw. In conclusion, I therefore, oppose the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. It

removes the people's direct right to elect the President, violating the democratic principle of one person, one vote. It contradicts the...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Nyamuronda!

Your time is up – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**\*HON. MAPFUMO:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to air my voice in support of Constitutional Amendment Bill (3) in its entirety on behalf of the largest constituency in Zimbabwe, geographically of Headlands Constituency.

**HON. MAMBIPIRI:** Point of order Madam Speaker.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order, he has not even started? It is arising from what. May you allow him to debate?

**HON. MAMBIPIRI:** I need to correct. The largest constituency geographically...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I did not acknowledge you Hon. Mambipiri. Stop disturbing.

**\*HON. MAPFUMO:** The people of Headlands are in full support of this Bill wholeheartedly and they said that in this Bill, there

is no political party or the name of the President, His Excellency Dr. E. D Mnangagwa is not mentioned in the Bill but this Bill is not focused on a political party but is focused on the development of the country, for everyone and not for an individual or a political party. They said this Bill is a living document. When this Bill needs amendments, it must be done, hence the amendment of Section 238. It also speaks to the Bills which need referendum and those that do not need referendum.

There are only three things which need referendum, which includes human rights, land, section 238, there is no comma, or there is no need for referendum. In the year 1980, Canna Banana was the President, he ruled for six years without the Executive. We also saw that violence is being caused by elections and that is when the conversation of *bhora musango* started, in 2008. Some people died and in 2018 some people died again, even in other countries where Frelimo won the elections in Mozambique but there was violence.

They said the results for the presidential elections were not fair and same as Tanzania, but there was no dispute in terms of elections for the Members of Parliament. Looking at countries like South

Africa and Botswana, the Hon. Members are given the opportunity to elect the President in the august House. Even in Britain, the Parliament of Britain is the one that elects the President but when the king or the queen denies, what the king or queen says is the only thing which is being agreed to. Hence, we support the inclusion of chiefs in politics. The agro-bush also talks about the inclusion of the rulers and talk about democracy. Hence, we are following them. The Electoral Act which was done by Parliament in previous years wanted to retain the Voters' Roll from the Registrar to ZEC. They said we did not like Mudede. Ask those who were in COPAC. The Registrar is the one who is responsible for all the official documents from birth certificate up to death certificate and not ZEC who only get to know people when they are in the ballot box voting.

Madam Speaker, these amendments are going to help everyone from today onwards. So, it is not the Bill of His Excellency Dr. E. D Mnangagwa, but it is the Bill which is going to come out from this Parliament and help everyone.

The people of Headlands also said that Hon. Members and President have got only three years term of office, the other remaining

two years are for campaigns. His Excellency got the opportunity to go around, seeing people and hearing their aspirations. May we increase the time so that we can have enough time for development? May we increase from five years to seven years? In Kenya and France, they are doing the same. We must remove the issue of election mode all the time and focus on development like what is being done by the Second Republic, spearheaded by Dr. Mnangagwa.

On the issue of term limit referencing *Malaba and Makarau*, the term of office for the President starts where the President is given up to midnight, and the five years of the MPs start when the MPs are being sworn in. When an Hon. Member dies, the other one who comes through by-election finishes the term. So, the extension of term is not beneficial for individuals but for the development of the country.

Section 158 which talks of term limit, we said seven years talks about the term of election. If we say seven, it is the same thing like the Lancaster House in 1985. Madam Speaker, from all the debates, all people were trying to explain the Constitution, but that is where we see that there are other people who are learned, the laws that apply to

banks and other laws are different, but they want to pretend as experts in terms of constitutional law.

Section 328, they must show us where it talks about referendum. The other two terms do not talk about length. We have increased the term to seven years, maybe we might have said 10. Section 238 talks about the senators where they are increasing the number by 10 so that we can have more experts in Parliament who are going to give meaningful contributions. In Uganda, the opposition leader was nominated as the Minister of Justice in order to reduce the issue of violence, hate speech and encourage unity. In Chipinge, **Ngonga through Khumbula reduced the political and social commission.**

**\*HON. MAPFUMO** (speaking)... I want to conclude by saying that many people who spoke in this august House have given an example of China. I do not know if all Hon. Members from our different constituencies deal with 110. China has different languages, which range up to 56, but they managed to unite. The 210 Members of Parliament who have constituencies must be united and encourage development in the country. In English, they call it connectivity. If

you have brilliant ideas for building the country, please bring them in so we can implement them and those ideas will be spearheaded by the ruling party.

The people of Headlands are saying that the two years that have been increased, may you also help us in terms of road rehabilitation from Ribbi to Bamba and we hope that during that period, this project will be fulfilled. Many things have already been said. The people of Headlands really support CAB3. Thank you.

**HON. R. MPOFU:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am for granting me this opportunity to add my voice to the Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill. I rise to support the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill– [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]- with a profound sense of responsibility and commitment to the national interest, constitutional governance and the good governance principles underpin our beloved republic. I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this vital debate as we deliberate on amendments that will shape the constitutional and governance landscape of Zimbabwe for years to come. I have noticed the active engagement from citizens on the official Parliament of Zimbabwe

Facebook page regarding what the youngest Member of Parliament is saying on the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

As a representative of the young women in Midlands Province and as the youngest parliamentarian, I would like to express my strong support for the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. The Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment is not merely a piece of legislation. It is a deliberate and considered constitutional evolution designed to strengthen our institutional architecture and improve administrative efficiency, promote stability and accelerate our journey towards Vision 2030, the blueprint for Zimbabwe Social Economic Transformation and Sustainable Development.

The Bill before us is comprehensive and cross-cutting. It squarely addresses historic and systemic challenges that have long hindered good governance, policy continuity and effective public administration. For instance, by transferring the responsibility of voter registration and management of the voters' roll to the Registrar General, the Bill taps into the Civil Registry's technical capacity to maintain accurate and up-to-date electoral registers, thus reducing

previous irregularities such as the presence of deceased persons on the Voters' Roll.

This change reflects a pragmatic approach to institutional re-engineering, streamlining functions and enhancing electoral integrity. Moreover, the shift to parliamentary election of the President exemplifies a calibrated move towards fostering greater political stability, accountability and harmony between the Executive and the Legislature.

By narrowing the Electoral College to elected representatives, the legislative appointment model reduces the enormous financial costs and political tensions associated with direct Presidential elections. This innovation draws from successful constitutional democracies in the region, including South Africa and Botswana, where the parliamentary election system has contributed positively to political stability and democratic consolidation. The extension of electoral cycles from five to seven years for both the President and Members of Parliament is equally prudent.

It reflects a realistic appreciation of the demands of long-term national development projects, which require policy consistency and

temporal continuity beyond the interruptions of frequent elections. Given the fiscal constraints, which our nation operates under, longer electoral mandates reduce the financial burden on the State and ministries, allowing the Government to focus more intensively on delivering the development agenda in Vision 2030.

I firmly oppose the dissolution of the Gender Commission as it has played a crucial role in enabling women to hold influential positions. I am among those who have benefited from its initiatives, which have allowed young women to participate in decision-making boards. We have also seen outstanding leadership from women exemplified by the remarkable performance of Hon. Barbara Rwodzi as the best-performing Minister of Tourism. I strongly disagree with the proposal to dissolve the Gender Commission.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 3) Bill embodies a transformative step forward in our constitutional governance journey. It addresses pressing governance challenges, aligns our supreme law with practical realities and reinforces our commitment to democracy, the rule of law and national development.

I urge all my fellow Hon. Members of Parliament, regardless of party affiliation, to rise above partisan considerations and unite in approving this Amendment Bill. Let us act in the best interest of our nation, our Constitution and the millions of Zimbabweans who look to us for visionary leadership. It is time to deliver a Constitution that matches our national ambitions and enables Zimbabwe to reach its full potential as a proud, stable and prosperous nation. I thank you.

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Ma'am. I rise today not merely as an Hon. Member of this august House representing Chipinge South Constituency but as a representative of citizens whose democratic rights must never be surrendered at the altar of political convenience. This Bill before us goes to the heart of our democracy and constitutional order. It is not a minor legislative exercise or an ordinary amendment. It is a serious constitutional matter with long-term consequences for the future of our country and the democratic rights of our citizens.

Constitutions are not meant to serve the political interests of those who hold power at a particular time. They exist to protect the people, including future generations, from the abuse of power. Once a

Constitution begins to bend to the desires of those in office, the foundation of constitutional governance begins to weaken. We have heard arguments that elections are divisive...

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member must not misrepresent facts. Changing or amending the Constitution is not an abuse of power. It is inherent in the Constitution that we can change the Constitution. It does not mean we are abusing power. He has the right to debate against the amendment, but not to misrepresent that each time we amend the Constitution, we are abusing power.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Chief Whip. Hon. Hlatywayo, try to avoid reckless statements. Please withdraw your statement.

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** Which one in particular?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** The last statement.

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** I withdraw the last statement. Hon. Speaker Ma'am, we have heard arguments that elections are divisive, conflict-ridden and toxic. With due respect, that reasoning is deeply troubling. Elections are not a problem.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND**

**PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Madam Speaker, my debate is on record in the *Hansard*. The Hon. Member must quote exactly what I said without misrepresenting. I think it is not correct that we said elections are divisive. He must quote exactly the five afflictions that I mentioned in my speech and then debate them. Then I will be happy. It will enrich what I said and then I can consider it but to pick little things and ignore the whole context because context is everything. When you want to quote someone, context is everything. You cannot pick one point and leave the other and put your own context. So, he must debate exactly the context in which I indicated that statement.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MUGOMO):** Thank you Hon. Minister. Hon. Hlatywayo, as I said before, try to avoid reckless statements and please do not mislead the House.

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand guided by your wisdom. Elections are the lifeblood of democracy. They are the constitutional mechanism through which citizens choose leaders, hold governments accountable and peacefully transfer

authority. If political tensions exist during elections, the answer cannot be to weaken democratic participation or reduce accountability. The answer must be to strengthen our electoral institutions, improve electoral integrity, encourage political tolerance and ensure that every Zimbabwean can freely participate without fear, intimidation or violence.

Madam Speaker, across the world, democracies do not abandon elections because politics becomes contested. Contestation is part of democracy itself. While a nation begins to fear elections, it slowly begins to fear the voice of its own people.

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

**HON. ZIYAMBI:** Madam Speaker, the Bill has no reference to the abandonment of elections. The Hon. Member must withdraw that statement.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Minister.  
Hon. Hlatywayo, this is the last time. Withdraw your words.

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** I continue being guided but this is an appeal to you, Madam Speaker. There is an earlier ruling by

Madam Deputy Speaker, that the Hon. Minister will respond after all the debate. I stand guided.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Hlatywayo, withdraw?

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** I withdraw Madam Speaker. The liberation struggle was fought so that citizens would choose their leaders through the ballot and not through elite political arrangements.

**HON. ZIYAMBI:** Madam Speaker, he cannot continue. The rules do not allow somebody to persistently lie. I think we cannot take this because what he is saying is a blatant lie. The Bill does not speak to what he is saying. He has a pre-written speech that does not speak to what the Bill says, nor does he speak to what my speech was all about.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Hlatywayo, it is now the fourth time reprimanding you. What was said by the Minister in this House, the *Hansard* is there. When you are debating, debate the contents of the Bill. I once warned you to avoid reckless statements. This is the last warning

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Our Constitution, the 2013 Constitution, emerged from one of the

widest consultative processes our country has ever undertaken.

Zimbabweans spoke clearly about the kind of nation they wanted. They wanted accountable leadership, limited power, democratic participation, equality and constitutional governance. The Constitution belongs to the people; no political majority has the moral right to fundamentally alter democratic principles through returning to the people without the participation of the people themselves. Hon. Speaker, we are also told that these amendments are necessary to maintain progress and to finish the project. However, genuine progress cannot be achieved by weakening democratic safeguards. True national progress is built upon strong institutions, constitutional certainty, accountability, transparency and separation of power and the respect of the rule of law. History has repeatedly shown that nations decline when constitutions are manipulated to protect those in power rather than the citizens themselves. Constitutions are not amended for political convenience. They are preserved to safeguard the democratic order of the day.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Hlatywayo!

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, we cannot continue to listen to intransigence. The Hon. Member says the Constitution is being manipulated. By who? He participated in the consultations. He is here debating the same Constitution. Is he part of the manipulation himself? In any Parliament, there will always be a majority and we get a majority specifically to be able to rule and make decisions. So, if you say when we are a majority, then we manipulate. Then, what is the purpose of going to elections? I think it is wrong.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Chief Whip. Hon. Hlatywayo, I think your time is up.

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** But Ma'am, I do not think...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Hlatywayo, I have reprimanded you three times. This is the fourth time reprimanding you.

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** It was a direct ploy to make sure that I...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Hlatywayo, may you sit down.

**HON. C. HLATYWAYO:** We must not allow this, there is the ruling party and I am the opposition, allow me to oppose. I must give alternatives and you must listen. I am not from the ruling party.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Hlatywayo, order, order! May you sit down. I can be rude; may you sit down. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – Order Hon. Members.

**\*HON. DZIDZAI BUTAU:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am for awarding me this opportunity to add my voice as the representative of the people from Mount Darwin East Constituency and Mount Darwin District. I want their voice to be heard in this august House. I do not have many words but let me say the people of Mount Darwin Constituency resoundingly supported CAB3 and they said they support this Bill 100%. The President is developing this nation. We know the projects that are being carried out. We have witnessed the projects, because of time, I cannot mention these projects one by one. A lot of things have already been said in this august House. Right now, we are simply replicating and buttressing what the Hon. Members have already said.

Madam Speaker, in Mount Darwin District, they are supporting the extension of the President's term of office from five years to seven years. People from Mount Darwin are happy about the term extension for the President. They are in support of term extension because of the projects being done by the President in Mount Darwin District. What they are really talking about is the extension of the term of office from five years to seven years.

With these few words Madam Speaker, I do not want to continue debating and waste a lot of time. From the whole of Mount Darwin District, CAB3 is being supported resoundingly. They said that if CAB3 fails to succeed, do not come back to Mount Darwin.

**\*HON. CHARI:** Thank you Madam Speaker for the opportunity given to me to add the voice of the people from Kariba, those who have elected me to be in this august House. Let me take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Z. Ziyambi who brought CAB3 in this House. The People of Kariba resoundingly support CAB3. Let me take this opportunity to say that during the public hearings on CAB3, I was one of the Hon. Members who participated in the consultations.

I participated in Mashonaland West. The people of Mashonaland West support CAB3. Let me also say that the people of Midlands resoundingly supported CAB3. Let me say that CAB3 must sail through in its entirety. The people from Mashonaland West are supporting CAB3. Kariba and the whole of Mashonaland West are saying let us lengthen the time from five years to seven years because we are wasting a lot of money on holding elections after a short period of time and there is a lot of hatred and violence during the elections. All the clauses must be accepted in this august House.

People have debated, people have buttressed their points for two weeks when we started CAB3. We are now just fulfilling. If we do not debate, we may seem to appear as if we are supporting those who are opposing the Bill. I am here to support CAB3 wholeheartedly. May you let the Bill proceed and be accepted as it is? These things are not being done for the sake of one person, who is the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa but the lengthening of term also touches the Members of Parliament and councillors. The other Hon. Member said, may we be allowed to enjoy until 2030, *tifadaye*? Thank you Madam Speaker.

**HON. MAVHUDZI:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am for this wonderful opportunity to also add my voice on this debate. I rise to reject CAB3. Let it be unequivocally clear, Madam Speaker Ma'am, the good people of Highfield have also rejected this Bill in numbers unaccountable.

The proposed extension of terms of office from five to seven years and its immediate application to sitting MPs and the President is in direct loggerheads with Section 328 (7) of the supreme law of this country. The drafters of this current Constitution Madam Speaker, did include this part of the Constitution with mechanisation like CAB3 in mind. They understood one thing Madam Speaker....

**HON. TOGAREPI:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker, we now have attendance of Hon. Members misrepresenting facts. Hon. Members have no term of office limit, they can extend, extend and extend as long as they can do that, supported by the people of Zimbabwe. So, he is misrepresenting the House that Members of Parliament have a limit.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Mavhudzi, do not mislead the House. Please withdraw.

**HON. MAVHUDZI:** I withdraw Madam Speaker. They knew that power does not surrender itself; it must be bounded. The constitutional philosophy that informs Section 328 (7) is unambiguous and very clear. Those who draft an extension of time cannot be material beneficiaries of the same. To lengthen our own tenure by two terms.

**HON. DAVID BUTAU:** On a point of order Madam Speaker. The basic tenets of the law state that if you cite a certain section of the law, you must break it up by effect. Can you give us the rules under the law that you have quoted?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon Butau. Hon. Mavhudzi, you may go ahead, but please, as I said before, try to debate what is in the statement. Exactly what is in the statement and this is the second time I have said this. The third time you will sit down.

**HON. MAVHUDZI:** I have understood and actually have been observing the trajectory, so I know already but, let me just proceed Madam Speaker. Lengthen our own tenures by two terms, without a direct and uncoerced...

**HON. Z ZIYAMBI:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. The Hon. Member is persisting that MPs have a term limit provision in the Constitution, which is not correct and our Chief Whip indicated that but he is persisting along those lines. I think you need to rule on that. He cannot continue lying. The reason why I am objecting to lies is that it will be a record in the *Hansard* and it will be propagated that he debated and he presented this as if it is a fact when it is a lie. We do not want our voters to be fed with lies. We must state facts as they are or debate the Bill and my statement as it is without misrepresenting the facts.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Minister. Hon. Mavhudzi, I did caution you earlier on and asked you to debate what is in the Bill. Can you debate what was presented by the Hon. Minister so that I do not continue cautioning you? This is the last chance that I am giving you.

**HON. MAVHUDZI.** Thank you Madam Speaker. I stand guided by your wisdom. Madam Speaker, the argument that an administration has done so well and so it deserves extra time in office is just as retrogressive as it is a threat to the body of politics. Madam

Speaker, a good dancer knows when to leave the stage. It is always prudent to leave the stage whilst people are still ululating. Throughout the world, history is pregnant with a litany of regimes that have claimed performance legitimacy as a way of entrenching autocratic consolidation. Performance legitimacy must be evident in implementing unemployment rates, in functional public schools, in a smart and efficient road network, in an efficient health system and in proper policy governance. Continuing to hold to power is symptomatic of dictatorial tendencies. Such antics Madam Speaker, cannot be tolerated in our beloved country.

As I conclude Madam Speaker, because of the trajectory of the debate, certain Members of Parliament had actually usurped the Speaker's powers. So I will conclude...

*Time limit.*

**HON. TOGAREPI:** I hope he has stopped debating but derogatory statements to other Hon. Members are unacceptable. He must respect us; we are here not through chicanery but all of us in this House were voted in. This type of reckless statement is not going to

help our genuine reason for staying to debate this amendment so late into the night.

**HON. MANGONDO:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I rise to represent the views of the people of Murewa South Constituency which were clearly enunciated at the public consultation that took place at Murewa Centre. More than 3 000 people turned up for the public consultation representing Murewa South, Murewa North and Murewa West constituencies. I actually attended the public consultations myself because I wanted to hear clearly the people's views. The people of Murewa, as a district, very clearly enunciated that they support lock, stock and barrel Constitutional Amendment (No.3) Bill in its entirety. We also had a report from the Justice Committee which was presented by Hon Zvobgo. Arising from that report, two important issues were raised and I am going to note them here. The first one had to do with the views of the traditional leaders who felt that the clause on removing the bar on the participation of traditional leaders in partisan politics was not supported by the traditional leaders. The recommendation from the Justice Committee was that perhaps that particular clause be removed from Clause 20.

There was also the view from the women's lobby groups, which felt that the clause on the transfer of the Gender Commission to Human Rights Commission should also be removed. So, apart from those two clauses, Madam Speaker, the people of Murewa fully support all the clauses in the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill, except those two, on retaining the Gender Commission as it is and also removing the clause which would allow traditional leaders to participate in partisan politics.

Madam Speaker, a lot has been said and I think I would like to take wise counsel from the Speaker as well as the Leader of the House that we should not engage in repetition of what has already been said. So, with that contribution, I submit Madam Speaker. Thank you.

**\*HON. CHIBAGU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wholeheartedly want to support this Bill, and I am happy for the Bill. Our President has done a lot of things in terms of developmental projects. People say that we were called all sorts of names, bushmen, but right now we are happy; we are now ploughing maize, and there are lots of developmental projects because of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa. The people of

Mbire support this Bill. I have seen a lot of development by the MPs for Guruve.

What I have learned is that there was a lot of water in Mbire for irrigation schemes in areas like Kachuta and Bakasa, and they planted a lot of maize and tobacco, and those crops have done very well. The people in these areas used to suffer from starvation but now we have irrigation schemes, hence, I support this Bill resoundingly. Thank you.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to debate the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. I need to make it unequivocal and state in certain terms that I am totally opposed to this Bill. I oppose every one of the 22 clauses of this Bill. For the purposes of record, as a citizen of this country, I believe that the future of this country lies in its democratic foundation, and without a solid democratic foundation, any attempt to dream of a better Zimbabwe will not come into reality. The truth is that in 2013, when we adopted this Constitution, we were optimistic; we were hopeful that we would have a better tomorrow. The future of Zimbabwe hinged on the expectations of that same Constitution. As

we debate the third amendment today, I am so sad, I am so disappointed that we are reversing the gains of the same 2013 Constitution. Due to time, Madam Speaker, I will not be able to go through every one of the clauses, but I will need to highlight a few. The first one that I need to make it very clear that it is a very disappointing contribution from this august House through this Bill is Clause 3. I read through this clause, and I was horrified. The people of Zimbabwe, every citizen of this country, as long as they reach the legal age of majority of 18, should have their constitutional right to elect the leader of this country. What this Bill seeks to do is exactly the opposite: to take away that national responsibility and duty and give it to a selected few. I fully oppose this Bill, and I say the President of this country must be elected by the citizens of this country. I propose that whenever we need to elect a President of this country, every registered voter must have a chance to vote for the President of their choice. I also need to show my clear opposition to Clause 4 and Clause 9, that talks about the extension of the term from 2028 to 2030.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, I think it would be better for my good Hon. Member to withdraw one statement among many that he has been saying. Specifically, he says, when you are 18 years old, you must vote for the President. Where is it in the Constitution? You have the right to vote, but you can vote anywhere you want to vote. We want to see where it is written.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** Madam Speaker, I did not say it is in the Constitution, I said it is my view that every citizen of this country, upon reaching the legal age of majority of 18, must have the opportunity to elect a President of their choice. So, I support a direct election of the President, and I strongly oppose this Clause. Thank you Madam Speaker. I also want to highlight Clauses 4 and 9, and also Clause 10 which talks to the postponement of elections to 2030.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, if we have people with opinions that go against the Constitution, we end up having rebellions. Your views must follow the Constitution. The Constitution must guide you.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** In 2018 and 2023, we elected our President. I said I support the current process. I am opposed to the

alternative where parliamentarians have to vote for the President as an electoral college, and I do not need to cite any provision of the Constitution for that. Postponement of elections from 2028 to 2030 as proposed, I am 100% opposed to that. I prefer that the term of office expires in 2028. If we need to change the Constitution from 2028 to 2035, it is okay. Those elected in 2028 can serve seven years as long as the Constitution has been changed. It must not benefit us, the current MPs. It is a violation of the principle of conflict of interest that I, the very same person who was elected in 2023 for a term of office that is supposed to last until 2028, then vote to extend my own term by another two years. This is what I am opposed to and I believe that the people of Zimbabwe and the people of Hwange Central deserve a chance to elect a Member of Parliament in 2028.

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

Members. Are you the one who is keeping time? Let us have order, Hon. Members. You can continue Hon. Member.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me proceed to Clause 18 and 19 that speak to the Gender Commission. As a parliamentary He-For-She champion, I need to

make it very clear that as for these two clauses, I am 100% opposed to them. We must not remove the Zimbabwe Gender Commission; we must increase its capacity and resources. The Zimbabwe Gender Commission must continue and no Bill should stop its existence. So, I am 100% fully supportive of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission; it must continue. We have not yet achieved gender equality as exposed by our Constitution.

I also now turn to Clause 21 which talks about traditional leaders. A traditional leader is not elected by popular majority. A traditional leader is born into leadership. Not every citizen of this country is entitled to be a traditional leader. It is a prison for specific...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Molokela, you are left with two minutes.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** Thank you. Not every citizen of this country is entitled to be a traditional leader. It is a birthright. If you are not a member of the royal family, you have to wait for a traditional leader to be nominated within the royal family. So, to the extent that chiefs or headmen and other traditional leaders are born leaders, they are leaders of every citizen in their community. It is a big

mistake to expect the same person who was born a leader by birthright to become a politician and enter into the political field with the same subjects that he is supposed to be representing from birth.

If you are a traditional leader, you must be a leader of everyone regardless of their political affiliation. So, I am 100% opposed.

Traditional leaders must be leaders of everyone regardless of their political affiliation. Last but not least, I want to encourage this august House to vote against every one of the 22 clauses of this Bill. Let us reject it. Let us take this Bill back to the sender.

**HON. MUCHIMBA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. As a Member of Parliament for Binga North, I rise to support this Bill as it has been affirmed by the people of Binga, while thanking the President, E. D. Mnangagwa, for the developmental projects that he is carrying out in our district. For a long time, families fight each other when it is time for elections.

We thank the Committee that went to Binga which was headed by Hon. J. Tshuma. You have heard other representatives of Binga speaking, saying that Binga was grateful. As a representative, I also want to retaliate like our people said during the public hearing and as

advised by the people of Binga, this is the reason why I thought of adding a few words to this debate. The people of Binga are excited about the development championed by the Second Republic. They expect that if the Second Republic is given an additional two years, there will be a lot of development since we have outstanding projects like Bulawayo Kraal irrigation which has been topical for years. It could be completed in the next two additional years.

As we are speaking right now, in Binga North, we have the Kasambabezi Border Post, which is complete. This year again, the Government gave Binga School of Nursing, which may start enrolling next year. All these are developmental projects that are coming to Binga.

In relation to chiefs participating in politics, they said there is no problem for them. As I am speaking, the 15 chiefs are the ones who intervened, requesting me to be their representative in Parliament. Hence, there is no problem with them participating in politics as they are like any other citizen who votes. In Binga North, we are saying this is good; we are going to complete the projects that we started.

In Binga North, they are saying this is a good project; that is honey, something that brings development and something rare to find, something that is an eye-opener for development in the district. With these few words, I say let us continue to support CAB3.

**HON. MATAMBO:** Thank you Madam Speaker, for affording me this opportunity to debate the Constitutional Bill Amendment (No. 3). The time is 23:24; I have just mentioned it for the sake of transparency and accountability. I submit that I am opposed to this Bill in its totality, but because of limited time, I shall confine myself to the following clauses; that is, Clause 2. This clause speaks to the transfer of voter registration function from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to the Office of the Registrar-General. Taking back voter registration function to the Registrar-General represents several steps backwards in our attempt to strengthen our electoral system and democracy.

The transfer of the voter registration function from the Registrar-General to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission was done out of serious negotiations of the electoral reforms through many electoral stakeholders. This quite significant reform came about

against the backdrop of trying to put a key cog in the management of our elections in the hands of an independent commission other than directly under the purview of the Government.

Some clauses in this Bill, more specifically Clauses 4, 9 and 10, are presented as being brought in to deal with the alleged political toxicity, yet the same Bill is attempting to bring back to life some areas of conflict in our electoral system. In this regard, I submit that instead of taking away this function from an independent body; rather, this House should strive to enhance and strengthen the independence and capacity of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), as transferring back the voter registration function to Government is a serious drawback from incremental electoral reforms that were made back then and peace opposes conflict. Whilst I indicated that I will confine myself to specific clauses, notwithstanding that the whole Bill is proposing a serious drawback...

**HON. TOGAREPI:** On a point of order. Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member started very well, but I think now he is behaving as if he is getting lost. I do not know. We are not taking away the independence of ZEC. We are taking away what it does not have

capacity to do. So, there is no reason for him to say we are taking away. It remains an independent commission, Chapter 12, but we do not want it to do what it cannot do for effectiveness. The Hon. Member must be very honest to everyone and to himself.

**HON. MATAMBO:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am, I will stand guided by your wisdom.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Matambo, do not mislead the House, please.

**HON. MATAMBO:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Whilst I indicated that I will confine myself to specific clauses...

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** On a point of clarity so that the Hon. Member can proceed. Madam Speaker, we got this clause from the opposition. The Hon. Member is attacking what his own party gave us. So, I just want clarity from the Chief Whip or from the leader of the opposition, because they never informed us that they have now reneged from the original position which is on record. It is on record. We can check, pull out the *Hansard*. We have had meetings, those may not be on record but this

is on record, that in the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament, the opposition wanted this to be put in the Electoral Act and because it was a constitutional matter, we could not do it. I then proposed that after the elections, we would then amend the Constitution to give effect to it. So, those from this side must cause or show us where they then resolved or reneged from that original position that we agreed. I submit.

**HON. C. MOYO:** Sorry, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much.

I was there in the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament and we really thank the Hon. Minister for acceding to the request that was made by opposition Members of Parliament and we have not shunned it.

**HON. MATAMBO:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. The Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs here, who is also present in this House, presented a plethora of issues around the cost of having a contested electoral outcome. Indeed, I equally share the views that the manner in which our elections have been conducted for more than two decades puts an extra monumental tax on the economy that manifests in subdued foreign direct investment. A subdued financial and capital market has led investors and players to shun

investing in countries that have political instability. Instability, even latent, is a threat to progress.

More so, the contested outcomes keep the country in a perpetual election mode. Unfortunately, this Bill seeks to inflame an already bad situation. This Bill is not curing the mischief, but rather seeks to fertilise the crisis. I may not want to belabour this august House by pointing out that this Bill is not a product of consensus and convergence, taking into consideration that the country remains in an election mode due to contested outcomes. While it is a prerogative of the Executive to bring Bills to this House, a Bill dealing with a non-perennial conflict ought to have been a product of wider and honest consultation of key stakeholders.

I will go to Clauses 4, 9 and 10, a compact. These clauses seek to extend the term of all elected office bearers, that is, the President, the Parliamentarians and the councillors. Why, I constrain myself from venturing into the legality of the proposed term extensions without the urgency of the masses. The reasons for extending the terms of office have a clear testament of misdiagnosis of our problems that have bedevilled our elections for the past two and a half decades.

Term extensions are not a cure to deep-seated electoral challenges, but dealing robustly and effectively with structural issues of our electoral mismanagement system is the cure. I put it to this House that our current electoral laws as they are, are capable of delivering an election result that is beyond dispute if the rule of law is respected as well as fidelity to constitutionalism while progressive reforms, as recommended by many stakeholders, which include several election observer missions, political parties, churches, civic society organisations, just to mention a few, are adhered to and considered in the spirit of progress.

In conclusion, constitutions are a living document world over. Yes, they can be amended when the need arises to address national issues in progressive democracies. A Constitution is amended to cure mischief as opposed to suit powerful individuals. Constitution Amendment (No.3) Bill came at a cost, as we witnessed the masses being denied an opportunity to air their views. Some respected members of our society who held counter-views were bashed and abducted. Constitution Amendment (No.3) Bill is a clear instrument of counter-views.

**HON. TOGAREPI:** On a point of order Madam Speaker, we cannot allow an Hon. Member to lie like this. He is an Hon. Member. I have so much respect for him and the people who voted him to come here. For him to say he did not witness 500 000 people plus who participated in the consultation for this Bill, it has never happened in the history of this country. We had two amendments before we came to this one and we did not witness such high participation. The Hon. Member continued to lie. Madam Speaker, I pray that you can help him to come to his senses, not to lie. He represents many people and they cannot be represented by a liar.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Matambo, please do not mislead the House.

**HON. MATAMBO:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. We saw what happened to...-[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

**\*HON. MUDUMI:** Hon. Matambo's time is up. We want to debate as well Hon. Speaker Ma'am.

**HON. MATAMBO:** Thank you Madam Speaker. We also saw what happened to Liberty Hamauswa, a student... -[HON.

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

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Members. Hon. Matambo, your time is up.

**HON. KARENYI:** Madam Speaker, I have a clarification before you give the floor to the Hon. Member.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Go ahead, Hon. Member.

**HON. KARENYI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. We must clarify, the Hon. Minister, the Leader of Government Business said the opposition in the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament. Maybe I must also refresh his mind to say that he must also separate the issue of automatic registration from the Registrar-General and the custodian of the Voters' Roll. Those are two different issues. Yes, as an opposition during that time, as MDC, we were advocating for that automatic registration from the Registrar-General, but the custody of the Voters' Roll, we said it must remain with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), because we cannot take it away from ZEC. That was the position as the opposition.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND**

**PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Madam

Speaker, let me explain. In my speech, I even quoted that on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. I even said we can go back to the *Hansard*. To refresh your memory, maybe with your leave, we can ask the Hansard people to pull out the *Order Paper* so that she can see the amendments that were put forward by Hon. Hwende, supported by Hon. Biti, Hon. Markham, and the entire opposition. My response is that we cannot transfer back the registration of voters to the Registrar-General because the Constitution says voter registration must be done by ZEC. We need to amend the Constitution so that, that function can be transferred. I am very clear, for the benefit of this House, this can be availed so that she can be very sure; she was the Vice-President of the party. I am sure she will gladly accept that. I thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Minister for a clear clarification.

**HON. MAUNGANIDZE:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I rise today as the mouthpiece of the youths of Masvingo Province. By the authority vested in me by the youths of Masvingo Province, I

would like to say that they are in full support of the CAB3. Today, I want to speak to Clauses 3, 4, 9, 10 and 19.

Clause 3, which provides for the election of the President by Parliament should not be reviewed; reduction of democracy but rather elected to represent the will of the people. The CAB3 is consistent with Section 117 (1) which says that legislative selection derives from the people and is vested in Parliament. Members of Parliament are democratically elected to represent the will of the people. Any constitutional amendment passed through Parliament reflects the exercise of the people's sovereign power.

Therefore, supporting the Bill is supporting a constitutional process carried out by the legitimate representatives of Zimbabwean citizens. The Amendment Bill demonstrates democracy in action as Parliament is exercising the authority entrusted to it by the people to make laws and constitutional changes that are believed to serve the national interest.

Madam Speaker, by entrusting Parliament with this responsibility, we reduce costly electoral processes and create a system where the President remains continuously accountable to the

representatives of the people. The resources saved can be redirected towards empowering women entrepreneurs, funding youth innovation and expanding social protection programmes. Furthermore, I support Clauses 4, 9 and 10, which extend the term of office of the President and Parliament from five to seven years. Development is not an event; it is a process. Roads are not built in a day, industries are not revived in a day and youth unemployment cannot be solved in a day. Frequent elections often plunge the nation into perpetual campaign mode where politics overshadows development.

A seven-year term provides policy certainty, continuity and the opportunity to see transformational programmes from conception to completion. Young people and women need sustainable results, not endless election cycles. I also represent the marginalised group of women. My strong support lies with the Committee's recommendation to reject Clauses 18 and 19. We sought to repeal the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and merge it with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission.

Zimbabwe remains a society where patriarchal attitudes continue to limit opportunities for women and girls. In such an

environment, gender equality cannot be treated as a sub-category of human rights. It must remain a national priority with a dedicated constitutional institution championing it. The argument for measure may be administrative efficiency, but efficiency should never come at the expense of visibility and accountability. History teaches us that when gender issues compete with broader concerns, they are often the first to be overlooked. The Zimbabwe Gender Commission is a voice for women in boardrooms where they are underrepresented, in communities where harmful cultural practices persist, and in workplaces where equality is still work in progress.

As young people, we aspire for a Zimbabwe where opportunity is not determined by gender. Retaining the Gender Commission safeguards decades of progress and ensures that future generations of women and girls have a dedicated institution to defend their rights and advance their aspirations. Madam Speaker Ma'am, a nation that empowers its women strengthens its families, its economy and its future. A nation that invests in its youth secures its tomorrow. For those reasons, I support Clauses 3, 4, 9 and 10 and I also support the

Committee's recommendation to reject Clauses 18 and 19. I support the Bill in total. Thank you.

**HON. J. TSHUMA:** Good evening Hon. Speaker Ma'am.

Thank you for the opportunity that you have given me to air my voice on this very pertinent Bill that has made us stay in Parliament up to now, quarter to twelve. There was a very interesting game of France and Senegal today that I thought I was going to watch, unfortunately, duty called and we answer to duty.

Madam Speaker, I was privileged to be nominated to chair the team that went to Matabeleland North. When we left Bulawayo, we went to Tsholotsho. Being the democratic person that I am, while I was chairing that process, I remember I took the microphone and said, now it is time for people to make submissions. To make sure that this thing is very fair, open, without any malice whatsoever, I handed the mic to the people. I said, whoever wants to speak, just pass the microphone to the next person, to the next person, to the next person. I wanted to hear what exactly the people of Tsholotsho are thinking about concerning this Bill. I will be very frank with you. Out of a total

number of more than 30 to 40 people that spoke there, only two people spoke against the Bill. The rest of the people were for the Bill.

I moved again, leading the team that went to Hwange where Hon. Molokela comes from. I even looked for him, and I believe he absented himself from the process for reasons unknown. However, in his hometown, which fortunately for me is also the town where I grew up some years ago, the venue was filled. All the people present, save for about two individuals, expressed support for the Bill.

In Hwange, I think over a hundred people spoke, and only two of them opposed the Bill. The rest were in favour and even those who spoke were supportive. As we were leaving, I heard people singing praises of the Bill. So, I said to myself this Bill must indeed be very popular with people because when you find that almost everyone is supporting it, there is something remarkable about that.

We then moved to Binga, Madam Speaker. In Binga, I thought we were going to find resistance and people really talking bad about the Bill. To my surprise, not even one person opposed the Bill in Binga. I remember when I came back here, I even said I will speak to Hon. Mhona, the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural

Development. They must fix that road going to Binga, because those people deserve it. By 2030, that road must be fixed, because they are all in support of the Bill.

We then proceeded to Lupane once again. The same trend was evident: everyone supported the Bill except perhaps two individuals, which is acceptable and indeed normal. We cannot expect absolute unanimity, nor can we expect everyone to perceive matters through the same lens or perspective. I was in fact, pleased that some opposed, as dissent is part of democratic discourse.

However, what troubled me most was that the majority of those opposing the Bill did so out of ignorance. Their objections were uninformed. One could hear people raising issues entirely unrelated to the Bill itself. For instance, some argued that a referendum was necessary. Yet, calling for a referendum in this context is essentially suggesting we are breaking the Constitution because the Bill does not refer to a referendum. The Constitution is clear: a referendum is required only in three specific instances. These are: Chapter 4, the Declaration of Rights; Chapter 16, which addresses land and Section 328. Those are the only provisions that necessitate a referendum.

My wish and prayer are that, even when one chooses to oppose this Bill, such opposition should be grounded in truth and supported by facts rather than misleading the public. I actually heard one Hon. Member declare that the Bill does not address development, roads, or bread and butter issues. I asked myself whether that Hon. Member was truly listening to their own words.

The essence of the Bill is to extend the term of office to seven years after observing numerous shortcomings in the five-year cycle. The proposal seeks to establish a cycle that is more pro-developmental than purely political. This is the central point that people must grasp, and it is the issue to which public discourse should be directed.

We lament the absence of development, yet now we are proposing to give it a genuine opportunity to take root by creating an enabling environment that ensures feasibility. Despite this, there are still voices that rise to declare the initiative wrong.

Madam Speaker, there is a misconception that the proposed seven-year term is intended merely to benefit Members of Parliament, the President or councillors. That view is incorrect. The measure is

designed to endure permanently, and future generations of leaders will benefit in the same way as they too will have the opportunity to serve within a seven-year cycle and to work effectively during that period. There is nothing improper in that arrangement.

Madam Speaker, I am compelled to stand before this House and declare without reservation that Bill (Number 3) is sound, Bill (Number 3) is strong, Bill (Number 3) is sweet, Bill (Number 3) is solid indeed. Madam Speaker, I trust that by the conclusion of this process, it will be clear that the matter is not about antagonism. It is not about violating the Constitution as some have alleged. The Constitution was designed with the understanding that circumstances may change and that one day we might determine that certain provisions are no longer relevant, applicable or suitable. In such cases, amendment must be possible without hesitation, for it is our Constitution. It should never be portrayed as though we are desecrating it. The Constitution is a guiding document but it is not immutable; it is not cast in stone. When amendments are made lawfully within this House, they are entirely legitimate. Members should therefore rest assured that nothing unlawful has been done.

I am aware that some individuals have been given speeches to read and others have been promised money to oppose the Bill. They should be told clearly that Parliament has acted within the law and that this amendment is valid.

As I conclude, Madam Speaker, I wish to reassure all Members that even if inducements were offered to oppose the Bill, the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill is fair. I thank you.

**HON. C. MOYO:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am, for affording me this opportunity to add my voice to this topical Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. I also want to thank all Members of this august House for the manner in which they have handled themselves until now; that is exactly what we call Parliament.

Terry Class, a certified professional coach, recommends that seeing things through a different lens allows leaders to consider issues holistically thereby avoiding groupthink. At the tail end of these robust debates, citizens who are always at the centre will benefit from pro-people laws that we will make.

Madam Speaker, I am just worried about the debate that I have been listening to here. It is more like we are undermining the public

hearings that were done. No one is respecting what was done. Emails were used and no one was barred from using email. During public hearings, I also saw members of the public contributing to say they want 10 years, like in Hwedza. I am just worried to say, some say I am representing this Constitution, they say no. Why are we undermining the public hearings that were carried out by the Parliament of Zimbabwe, according to Section 141?

Figures do not lie, Madam Speaker, 537 102 were in support, in addition to those who attended the public hearings. Only 2 935 said no. Someone has got the guts to stand up in this House and say I reject all 22 clauses. You are not even guided by the people that we represent. I support this Bill because it is a progressive one. We are doing this for our nation. It is very important to say that

Also, Madam Speaker, allow me to say, to thank the chief whips. They have been saving the ship. I think you were seeing all the drama, but we were trying to make sure that we sustain the pressure, including you Madam Speaker. You know, there was here and there near 55, but you tried by all means to make sure that we go through this process.

Allow me, Madam Speaker Ma'am, to speak on Clauses 4 and 9. To begin with, I was voted a councillor for Ward 9 in 2013; in 2018, Member of Parliament for Mpopoma-Phelandaba; in 2023 Member of Parliament for Mpopoma-Mzilikazi. So, to say elections are divisive, I know because I have been in this game. I participated in these elections and our people do not benefit from the posters that we put when we are campaigning. They do not benefit from fake manifestos that we give to our people. They benefit from the real development that we are supposed to give. Therefore, lengthening the electoral cycle is a progressive Bill and we must support it in total... - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

We are not doing this for the people that want to be voted into office. We are doing this for the people so that they can heal from the electoral divisiveness and toxic... – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]

-This is our Zimbabwe and we must do this for our people. So, I am done with Clauses 4 and 9, which I am in support of.

On Clause 3, the change of the electoral system from direct Presidential election to election by Members of Parliament, I think we need to reflect; 2002 Presidential elections were declared by the

European Union leaders that they were not free and fair. Let us fast-forward to 2008. There was the June runoff; there were short sleeves, that was the Presidential election; 2013, again, it was declared not free and fair, especially from the opposition side and the nation was put in an election mode; 2018, again, not free, fair elections, and credible elections.

So, I am looking at the history that we are trying to cure. In 2018, someone put people in that election mode, *Ndinoda majiggies angu*. It was because of the election mode that was given to the people of Zimbabwe. So, what we are doing for the people of Zimbabwe, those people who are put in that election mode until now, going to 2030, we were told we are anticipating having SADC June elections again. We are putting people in that election mode. We are going to vote. Let us allow Members of Parliament who represent the same people to elect their President. There is no problem- [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

In fact, if you allow impeaching a President, according to Section 97, we are given the powers to impeach. So, it is just a

realignment. Since you allow us to impeach, we are now voting for the same President as you represent our people.

Clauses 18 and 19, these were a no. However, I commend the Hon. Minister for putting that amendment clause to say I will leave the Zimbabwe Gender Commission as it is. I think it is commendable, so there is no debate about that. I do not want to say you are a listening Hon. Minister, but this one is appreciated - [HON.

MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - Thank you very much.

On Clause 22, National Peace and Reconciliation, of course by operation of law and according to Section 251, it ceases its operation. My question is, Hon. Minister, what are you going to do or do you have a successor plan, to say National Peace and Reconciliation ceases its operation by operation of law, but what is next in terms of the outstanding issues that will not be finalised? I hope you answer to that.

On Clause 2, the Registrar-General has the bio-data for everyone and we put this as opposition. In my earlier response when I was given time to clarify, I said we have not changed. My answer on this one is, I support this in total. My question Hon. Minister, maybe

if you answer that as you reach or attain 18 years, are you automatically registered? You realise what was happening, especially from the opposition side? The youth will be asking you, if I go and register to vote, what are you giving me? Are you going to give me \$5? Are you going to buy me *mutoriro*? Are you going to give me money for refreshments? I cannot go and register for nothing.

So you cannot say, I reject this Bill in total. We are representing the youths who are attaining 18 years and you are saying, as you attain 18 years, automatically you are in the Voters' Roll. Then you say, I reject in total. Then we have to ask, are you representing the people?

Madam Speaker Ma'am...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Moyo, you are left with two minutes.

**HON. MALINGANISO:** On a point of order Madam Speaker Ma'am, may we extend the Hon. Member's time with five minutes?

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Minister. We will not be granting time extensions. We agreed at the onset that we are not going to extend time and had already agreed on 10 minutes

for each person so that everyone will be afforded an opportunity to debate.

**HON. C. MOYO:** What happens, our youths on voting day will be there in the queues because of the appetite to vote, but only to be told that they are not in the Voters' Roll and we are addressing that so that there will not be any issues. On the very voting day, all our youths will participate in our governance issues. So, this Bill is addressing that and this is a reform that we are saying, Hon. Minister, thank you very much, as we represent our youths- [HON.

MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

In conclusion, Madam Speaker Ma'am, let us unite our people and heal the divisions of the past. Let us forge a new national consensus. History will remember the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament for transforming a potentially divisive Bill into an instrument of national unity, just as one tree can never make a forest, never a drop of water make a river. There is power in union. Let us all focus on national development for our people and achieve our National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) priorities. I so submit Madam Speaker Ma'am.

This is worth voting yes, to the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill.

**\*HON. KAMBUZUMA:** A very good morning to you, Madam Speaker Ma'am. I saw it fit to use my mother language. I would want to appreciate people from Hurungwe West who elected me to come and represent them, airing their views on Bill No. 3. Before that, I want to thank the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi and the team, the lawyers, who did the work from the ministry up to Parliament. People were working together.

I also want to thank everyone who debated. People really worked hard. I want to thank the Chief Whip who just debated. When we are here, I have seen oneness. There is no division, together we are one people. Even if we are born from the same mother, nurses are born, teachers are born, but thieves are also born, so one would wonder if they are not siblings. Hurungwe West requested me to come and support Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill. Indeed, people came in numbers to the public hearings. They really wanted to air their views. They were believing in our God-given President, Dr.

Mnangagwa and the Second Republic, because the person who was driving the Second Republic bus is our President.

We are bus conductors on that same bus, writing and issuing tickets. So, parliamentarians are the conductors and the councillors are the touts. Members of Parliament are the conductors and councillors are the touts. A bus cannot travel without a person issuing tickets and we are the ones issuing tickets. That is what we are doing here today. Tickets are the constituencies that we represent. The councillors are the touts who will be loading the buses. When we are here in Parliament attending to our parliamentary duties, our councillors will be in charge of our wards in our constituencies. So, our bus is one with a driver, President Mnangagwa, conductors who are the Members of Parliament and touts who are the councillors.

Hon. Members are the ones with the bus tickets. When the CDF is given to the different constituencies, we will be the ones chairing the committees on how that money will be used in the constituency. So, our bus is moving. The people in my constituency have appointed me to say let the bus and let the train be driven towards 2030. This was prophesied in 2017. God has already spoken and we have come

to carry out God's wishes. Some may disagree because they go to different churches from us. There is a prophecy that in 2030 we would have completed what we want to accomplish.

Leaders are installed by the people and God. If you are in a position of power, you should know that it is because God has allowed you to be put there. If you disagree with the 2030 agenda, then it means that you are not among those chosen by God and you should leave us, who have been put here by God to serve the country.

We have many clauses in the Bill and most have been spoken about during the debate but that does not mean I cannot mention them. I will mention them because I have been sent by the people from Hurungwe West. We compare Hurungwe to the UK, meaning that Hurungwe is a beautiful place and there are not many ills that take place there. As Hurungwe West Constituency, we are in support of the CAB 3 Bill. The Bill is helping the people of Hurungwe West.

If we look at Clause 3, we are saying Parliament should elect the President. There is no problem with that if the President is doing a good job. The President is our Moses who is leading us to Canaan. We cannot travel this journey alone without a leader. President

Mnangagwa is a good leader who listens to his people. In my constituency, we did not have tarred roads but because of his leadership, we now have tarred roads. We now have buses plying our roads, which is something we never used to have. We used to sleep in long queues at grinding mills but now we go to the grinding mills and return home the same day. This was because there was a shortage of diesel to run the grinding mills. We no longer have people sleeping at service stations waiting for fuel or at the grinding mills.

The two-year term extension is a good thing because it means that major projects will be completed. In my constituency, we have the Binga Road. The distance of going to Binga through Bulawayo is much longer compared to when one travels through Hurungwe. You would have travelled 200km less. The Government is in the process of resurfacing the Binga Road and we would like to thank the President and the Second Republic. This will mean that we will have buses plying that route up to Sanyati. We would also like to thank the Ministers that are working together with the President. President Mnangagwa has stayed true to the mantra, leaving no one and no place behind.

Hurungwe West was lagging in terms of development. We did not have enough classrooms at many of our schools and learners used to learn while sitting under trees but now there is a good school that has nice classrooms with tiles and running water, which was built by the Second Republic. So, the people of Hurungwe West have sent me to say we want the President to be in office until 2030 and finish the construction of the school because we want it to be a modern school with modern facilities and teachers will be motivated to come and work there.

They insisted that I come to Parliament and convey this message and not return if I have not fulfilled their wish. So right now, they are watching me on television to make sure that I have said what they sent me to say. So, I am going to repeat what they sent me to say. The people of Hurungwe would like to thank the Second Republic and President Mnangagwa and they should stay until 2030 and the Bill should be passed in this august House without adding or removing anything – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] –

The people of Hurungwe are happy and thankful that our President is a listening President. He listens to his people. We will

pray for him. He says that our country shall be built by its citizens.

We fully support him.

On the issue of Vice Presidents, we say they should have equal powers. No Vice President should have more powers than the other. I would like to thank all the Hon. Members who debated in the House. Hurungwe West is saying God should look after our President, the Members of Parliament who are the conductors and the councillors who are the touts. We have all benefited and we should work towards the development of the country. The people that we represent here in Parliament are the citizens of the country and not only party supporters. With those few words, I thank you Madam Speaker.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I would like to thank the Deputy Chief Whip for her contribution towards this debate and all Members of Parliament for the work they have done. We all know that when we debate Bills, it is either you support or you oppose. There is no need for hate speech or reckless statements. This is what we are meant to do in this House because it is your right to either support or oppose. So, I would like to encourage Hon. Members to work together so that we accomplish what we came to do because at

the end of the day, *shiri inozongofa sekufa kwayaita ipapa*. This is just a word of advice that we are giving each other. Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI)** Thank you Madam Speaker. I think I should start by thanking you and all the presiding officers who were here from 2.15 p.m. until 12.15 a.m.

In the history of Parliament from 1980, we have never had a Bill that has been debated like this constitutional Bill. We even had to bend the rules to allow Hon. Members to repeat what others had said. We sat until midnight so that every voice of our Parliamentarians is heard. We are also aware that some were vocal, who wanted to disrupt but the moment that they said what they wanted to say, they immediately disappeared. They did not even wait to hear what others who had not debated before them were going to say. As a matter of statistics, Madam Speaker, in 2017 when we had our first Constitutional Amendment Bill, post the enactment of the 2013 Constitution, only 19 Members debated during the Second Reading speech. In 2021, when we had our second amendment of the Constitution, only 18 Members debated. On this one, we have had

every Member who wanted to debate. In other words, we had over 200 Members debating. I will reconcile with the Clerks tomorrow and when I respond, I will give an accurate figure but it is a record that I do not believe will be broken in a very, very long time.

Having said that, I really wanted to proceed to Committee Stage to give my response but I had given my word that during my discussions with my colleague ministers, I indicated that I would want Hon. Kazembe, who is the Minister of Home Affairs and an IT expert, to respond specifically to issues of the Registrar General being the custodian of the Voters' Roll. The role of the Registrar General is simply to register and keep the Voters' Roll which will be inspected and used by the body that is tasked with doing the election.

I promised him and I indicated to him that I wanted him to go and rest because I am envisaging this debate happening until the early hours of the morning. So, I want you to be fresh and I cannot renege on my word and proceed to the Committee Stage. I also promised Hon. July Moyo, he is our local government expert in Cabinet. He has got a wealth of historical experience and expertise in delimitation. I want him to respond to Members so that when we go into committee,

Members are fully equipped with correct information pertaining to delimitation and to voter registration. I also indicated to him, you saw they were patiently seated here but I allowed them to go.

I also indicated to the Attorney General, she is allowed to speak here, to say that listen, you are the Attorney General, you head our drafting team, perhaps you can clarify on issues pertaining to the instructions and the policy that you were given to say we want a Bill that does not touch on term extension, which does not touch on term limits, which would do specific issues, to speak to it to Hon. Members so that they appreciate.

In a summary manner, before I give my responses in general to all that you have debated in Parliament, in other words, I am going to give my response speech to everyone who debated. I also indicated to the Chief Whip that I and my team have been capturing what you have been debating. The remainder of this evening and tomorrow morning, we will consolidate that and include it in my response tomorrow. We do not want to exclude responding to anyone who has debated today. We want to capture what we have debated and include it in my response. Because of that, we are going to proceed to

respond, starting with the ministers that I have indicated, the Attorney General and I will then deliver my concluding response to every debate, even though I am going to cluster because some of it was repetition. Then we proceed to the committee stage.

Having said that, Madam Speaker, I wish to thank everyone who has endured the long journey from a quarter past two to around half past twelve midnight and move that debate do now adjourn.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

*On the motion of* **THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI)**, *the House adjourned at Twenty-Two Minutes past 12 o'clock a. m.*