

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Tuesday, 14th July, 2026

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

PRAYERS

(THE HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER

CHALLENGES WITH INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

THE HON. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that Parliament is having challenges with internet connectivity which is erratic and slow. The ICT Department is currently seized with resolving the challenge.

HON. DHANZI: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir, for affording me this opportunity to rise on a point of national interest. On the 8th of July, 2026, this Chamber was...

THE HON. SPEAKER: Sergeant-at-Arms, the volume is low. You should test the machines before we start.

HON. DHANZI: Mr. Speaker Sir, on the 8th of July, 2026, this very Chamber hosted the Junior Parliament and what took place within these walls that day deserves to be placed firmly on the record of this House. Young Zimbabweans occupying highest positions, among them were girls and people living with disabilities debating with confidence and clarity, not as guests, not as afterthoughts but as leaders in their own right regardless of gender and ability.

Among the robust debaters was a Form 2 student from Mutendi High, a Zion Christian Church Mission, Hon. Leona Nicole, who is the Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism. I was struck by her debate, “Sanitary pads are not a luxury but a hygiene necessity”. We plead for pad dispensers in public toilets as we see condoms in public toilets, even in this Parliament building. It is the direct fruit of the leadership and vision of His Excellency, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa and Her Excellency, Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa, whose tireless work for women and children and persons living with disabilities to fulfil the mantra of leaving no one and no place behind as they continue to open doors that used to be closed. I, therefore, urge this House to take note of this Junior

Parliament session as a signal of Zimbabwe being shaped today, tomorrow and forever. I so submit.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your statement.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. TOGAREPI: I move that Orders of the Day Numbers 1 to 12 be stood over until Order of the Day Number 13 has been disposed of.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

**REPORT OF THE JOINT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE,
LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE THEMATIC
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND HERITAGE ON THE
RECOGNITION OF THE KOREKORE LANGUAGE AS AN
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF ZIMBABWE**

HON. ZVOBGO: Mr. Speaker, I move the motion standing in my name that this House considers and adopts the Report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Thematic Committee on Culture and Heritage on the recognition of the *Korekore* language as an official language in the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

HON. SHIRIYEDENGA: I second.

HON. ZVOBGO:

1.0 Introduction

1.1 On Wednesday, 17 November 2025, the National Assembly received a petition from Dande Conversation Heritage, beseeching Parliament of Zimbabwe to exercise its constitutional mandate by amending the legislative provision of section 6 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe to include the *Korekore* language as an official language. The petition was referred to the Joint Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Thematic Committee on Culture and Heritage. The Joint Committees considered the petition.

2.0 Petitioners' Prayer

2.1 The Petitioner beseeched Parliament to do the following;

1. To undertake an urgent review of section 6 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe to include the Korekore language as one of the official languages of Zimbabwe, not only in keeping with the dictates of the Constitution, but also in line with Zimbabwe's obligations as an esteemed member of the United Nations.

2. Consider the listed reasons for consideration during the amendment of Section 6 of the Constitution.

3.1.1 Objectives

3.1.1 In its inquiry, the Committee was guided by the following objectives.

1. To identify legislative gaps regarding indigenous languages;
and
2. To present the Joint Committee's recommendations to both
Houses

4.0 Methodology

4.1 During its inquiry, the Committee received and considered the petition and deliberated on it.

5.0 Committee Findings

5.1 Legal Framework

5.1.1 Section 2 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe (hereinafter referred to as the Constitution) affirms that the Constitution is the supreme law of Zimbabwe and any law, practice, custom or conduct inconsistent with it is invalid to the extent of the inconsistency.

5.1.2 Section 16 of the Constitution provides for the promotion and preservation of culture and heritage. It mandates that the State and Government agencies promote and preserve cultural values and practices that enhance dignity, wellbeing and equality.

5.1.3 Section 6 (1) of the Constitution provides that the following languages, namely Chewa, Chibarwe, English, *Kalanga*, Koisan, Nambya, Ndau, Ndebele, Shangani, Shona, sign language, Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda and Xhosa, are officially recognised languages of Zimbabwe.

5.1.4 Article 14 and 16 of the United Nations further states that indigenous people have the right to establish their educational systems and media in their own languages and to have access to education in

their own language; Indigenous and Tribal People's Convention (No.169) of the International Labour Organisation.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Order! Order! Hon. Members, can you put aside your reading gadgets and listen to the debate! Please proceed.

HON. ZVOBGO: Thank you.

5.1.3 Linguistic Analysis

The joint Committees believed Korekore should be regarded as a dialect within the broader Shona language cluster. It was mentioned that *chiShona* is composed of several mutually intelligible dialects, including Zezuru which is spoken primarily in Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East and Harare; Karanga, found mainly in Masvingo and parts of the Midlands; Manyika, prevalent in Manicaland; Korekore, spoken in Mashonaland Central, particularly the Dande area, as well as parts of Mashonaland West and northern Zimbabwe and Ndaou, spoken mainly in Chipinge and Chimanimani, which is recognised separately in the Constitution.

The Committee acknowledges the complex and often-contentious nature of the distinction between a language and a dialect.

Granting official language status to every dialect could potentially open the door to numerous similar claims, given that nearly every language community in Zimbabwe contains internal dialectal variations.

6.0 Committee Observations

6.1 The Committee was concerned that recognising every dialect as a separate official language could fragment national unity.

6.2 Therefore, the Committees concluded that *Korekore* language was one of the dialects of the Shona languages and hence cannot be recognised as an official language but a dialect. The petitioner's claim of inclusion was not supported.

7. Committee Recommendations

7.1 The Joint Committees concluded that the petition does not carry legal merit which warrants Parliament of Zimbabwe to institute proceedings for the amendment of Section 6 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, as *Korekore* language is a dialect of the Shona language. The Joint Committees accordingly recommend that the petition be dismissed.

The Committees further recommend that the relevant Government ministries and agencies, in collaboration with cultural institutions, be

encouraged to promote the development and preservation of all dialects within the Shona language cluster, including Korekore through educational materials, cultural programmes and research initiatives, thereby ensuring their vitality and the cultural heritage of their speakers.

8.0 Conclusion

8.1 The Committees acknowledge the cultural significance and the sentiments underlying the petitioners' request to have *Korekore* recognised as an official language. The Constitution of Zimbabwe, under Section 6, provides a framework for the recognition and promotion of officially recognised languages and the Committees are mindful of the State's duty under Section 16 to promote and preserve cultural values and practices that enhance dignity and wellbeing.

8.2 However, the Committees concluded that Korekore is a dialect within the Shona language cluster which already enjoys official language status. The Shona language as officially recognised, encompasses several mutually intelligible dialects including Korekore, Zezuru, Karanga, Manyika and Ndau.

8.3 Therefore, the Joint Committees conclude that the petition lacks sufficient legal and linguistic merit to warrant the initiation of proceedings for the amendment of Section 6 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The prayer to include *Korekore* as a separate official language is not supported.

HON. SHIRIYEDENGA: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to thank the two Committees for considering this petition and also the recommendations, which I fully subscribe to as a Korekore person. I agree with the petitioners to the effect that the Korekore language is a distinct vocabulary. The pronunciation is also different. The idioms and the cultural expressions are equally different from the other Shona dialects. However, I concur and fully subscribe to the recommendations of the Committee on the following basis.

Firstly, Korekore is a dialect rather than a separate language. It is also regarded as one of the major dialects of Shona together with Zezuru, Karanga, Manyika and Ndau. Those dialects are relatively similar and they are kind of intertwined. Therefore, this is why I do not believe that the Korekore dialect should be considered different. Given

that we have several Shona dialects, what it means is that if we recognise Korekore as a separate language, we risk having a constitutional crisis of perennial changes and a growing list of official languages. I say so because you have a situation whereby the Zezurus and the Karangas will also approach Parliament demanding similar recognition. This is why I certainly believe that since it is a dialect, we should consider it as such. What we should also do is to ensure that being Shona, we need to promote the Shona language, our native language in all facets of life, be it in education, at our workplaces and wherever.

Moreover, in recognising Korekore like any other dialect, what it means is that there are serious implications with respect to administrative and financial costs. I say so because that calls, for example, the issue of translation. We now need to engage more translators to translate, for example, our Government documents, educational materials and public information. What it means is that even if we look at our education syllabus, we will need to start writing textbooks and recruiting more teachers who speak the language and also

getting ZIMSEC to examine the subject which has a serious cost implication.

On that basis, I strongly feel that yes, Korekore is a dialect and we need to promote it. However, in this regard, I feel that it would be inappropriate to consider it as one of our official languages given that we have other dialects out there, just like the Korekore language which might need a similar recognition if we do consider it as an official language. I submit.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Is there a Deputy Minister from Sports, Culture and Recreation? We would have allowed them to respond so that we could close the debate and adopt the report.

HON. MUSHORIWA: There is a debate.

THE HON. SPEAKER: There is further debate?

HON. MUSHORIWA: Yes.

THE HON. SPEAKER: You put me into some habit which I think I must disengage from. According to my list here, there are only two Members written down for debate. I am used to getting a list.

I was guided by the list here as usual. So, we open the debate. Is there any further debate?

HON. TOGAREPI: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the Hon. Members' desire to debate, I think if we can stick to the way we are doing business here, it would be fair to everybody. When the *Order Paper* comes to Members, they must indicate that they want to debate so that we move to other Orders very fast and do more business. However, if somebody then ambushes to come and debate, when we feel we have structured our debates to include other Orders, then somebody has to come after that. It will undermine the whipping system of this House.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Mr. Speaker Sir, on a point of...

THE HON. SPEAKER: I have not responded. Do not jump the gun. I have not responded. The Government Chief Whip is correct. According to what I have here, for example, on Order of the Day Number 14 on today's *Order Paper*, I have four Members of Parliament who would like to debate. Order of the Day Number 15, I have three. Order of the Day Number 20, I have four Members who would like to debate. In addition, Order of the Day Number 50, I have four Members

who would like to debate. So, without compromising your arrangements, if other Members would like to debate, we will open the debate accordingly.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Before I submit my debate, I want to confirm that we submitted our names. Unfortunately, it may be the timing the report was submitted, but we indicated that we wanted to debate. Mr. Speaker Sir, I have read...

THE HON. SPEAKER: You had indicated to whom?

HON. MUSHORIWA: To the Whip.

THE HON. SPEAKER: So, it is your word against the non-writing of - by the Chief Whip?

HON. MUSHORIWA: Yes, we did. Mr. Speaker Sir.

HON. NYANDORO: Mr. Speaker Sir...

THE HON. SPEAKER: Let sleeping dogs lie. Please proceed.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have listened to the petition when you read it in the House. I have also listened to the report by the joint committees about the request by the Korekore people who have requested that Korekore be regarded as a separate language. I

have been fortunate in my other life to have worked within the Korekore area, the areas of Mount Darwin and parts of Mashonaland Central. Mr. Speaker Sir, before...

THE HON. SPEAKER: Do not create a mystery by saying other life. You begin to speculate a lot.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Mr. Speaker, before Parliament, I was a banker and most of my clients were in Mashonaland Central. Before colonialism came, people in this country, between Limpopo and Zambezi used not to be called Shonas. They were Samanyikas, Zezurus, Karangas and Korekores. The question of Shona did not come from us as Africans, but it was standard Shona that was done and defined by missionaries. In their definition of standard Shona, they then considered Zezuru and Karanga as the dominant contributors to what we now call standard Shona. What has happened Mr. Speaker Sir, is that when you traverse the Korekore areas and you are a Shona-speaking person like me, sometimes you can hardly communicate with the people on the ground.

The reason is that there is a difference in terms of how we communicate. When the missionaries were doing this, they were doing it for administrative purposes. We need to understand that one of the worst things that you can do to people is to tamper with their culture and their language and the manner in which they speak. If you look at the manner in which the Korekore speaks, you will see that even in terms of their proverbs, in terms of their tongue, their tone of words, in terms of the other manners in which they actually subscribe, you then come to a realisation that there is a difference.

The Portfolio Committee argues and says that if we are going to allow this to be a language, it will then create a floodgate for all other people to then claim that they also need to be considered as a language. Mr. Speaker, I am of the opinion that the Committee needed to have gone further. Part of the problem that we face in this country, especially this side of Zimbabwe, if you check all the people who write their Shona, and this is one thing that I think is crucial, if you check the Grade 7 results for Shona, for people, the Korekore child when he or she writes Grade 7, their performance, I am not talking of English, I am talking of

Shona, which is supposed to be their mother language, they are supposed to then write Grade 7 Shona, but they are actually at a disadvantage.

Part of the problem which if it cannot be addressed by saying that Korekore is a language, but part of the problem is that if you look into the standard Shona, you can hardly come up with a Korekore wording that is actually fine. Even if you are going to take an exam of a Grade 7 Shona, it would be difficult for a Korekore to literally look and find some wording that can help a Korekore child sitting in Mount Darwin to feel that he or she is actually writing or answering his or her own mother language. It is my own view that I understand that the Constitution is currently positioned, did not include Korekore as a language, they put it under Shona.

The recommendation by the Portfolio Committee should actually have gone deeper and compelled the Ministry of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture to ensure that we do not leave other people behind. We need to make sure that our Shona speaks not only to the Zezuru, not only to the Karanga, but the Manyika, the Korekore, they also need to feel to be part and parcel, not only of Zimbabwe, they also need to feel to be part

and parcel of this group now called Shona. We are also even further away, Mr Speaker, that if we do not do that, you get certain names being given.

When you go there, you talk to them, they call you certain names because they think that you are trying to dominate them, the Korekore, and some of them, when you talk to them, they actually think that 20 years and 30 years from now, there will not be anyone who will be in a position to speak and teach people proper Korekore.

I think it is important, Zimbabwe is built, not on the standardised languages that we use, it is built based on our different dialects that we use at home, different phonology, different tones that we use, and it is my view that in as much as the Committee said they found no merit in this petition, but I actually feel that there is a need for the nation to actually go deeper and see what are the challenges that the Korekore are facing. I was also not aware in the report, one of the things that I would have loved to see was actually also the submissions that were made by people from the Korekore who actually came to give their own views

before Parliament, because I actually think that closing them like this may not be the best thing for Zimbabwe.

Let us try by all means to bring everybody, otherwise it will be a disaster as we go on because some people may think that this language is superior or they belong to the superior Shona when in fact every one of us has a right to be heard and a right to communicate in a language that he or she understands. Our mother language is important. Mr. Speaker Sir, I just thought, not being a Korekore myself, but having interacted with the Korekore, I think they have got a case, though it may not have probably met the required standards from the Portfolio Committee. However, I think the nation and the Ministry of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture need to do better in terms of making sure that they incorporate these people into Shona so that they also partake in this language. I thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: You read your Standing Orders? I have not called for a debate. Hon. Mushoriwa and others, it will be very interesting to find out how the nomenclature Korekore emerged. I am

not part of the debate, but I am posing to you to do some further research.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Thank you Mr Speaker for indulging me. As a proud son of a Zezuru man and a Korekore lady, I feel I need to add my voice. Mr. Speaker, I was disheartened by the contributions and recommendations that came from the Committee. Why do I say this? I had to endure in primary school having to be helped by my mother to do homework in Korekore. That would be marked wrong simply because the standard Shona does not necessarily have room for Korekore.

Mr. Speaker Sir, there is a risk for the already marginalised groups that are Korekore, of having extinction. Indeed, for us to fear administration, for us to fear the cost that comes with giving people a right that they have been denied by the colonial powers when we are clustered into a language that never existed, which is called Shona. It is not only unfair to the Korekore people, it slows their progression. Historically, it is known that those from Masvingo and other areas had missionaries well before the people in Korekore areas. Thus, the

language they have developed which is Shona, is predominantly dialects like Zezuru and Karanga and little if any of Korekore.

It is an opportunity and we should thank these people that brought the petition that they have opened our eyes to see how people have suffered for the last 43 years. Mr. Speaker, I am also privileged to be a Member of Parliament of an area where there is more Korekore than Zezuru.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Did you say for the last 43 years?

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: 46 years.

THE HON. SPEAKER: You mean Korekore is as old as that or is beyond?

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Before that, it was the colonial architects of Shona and when it became independent, it is us who should self-determine. The same people who are supposed to self-determine are not allowing the Korekore people. As I progress, I want to take the example of South Africa. In South Africa, Mr. Speaker Sir, there is a language that can be clustered as one, which is the Nguni language. The Xhosas, the Ngunis that are Ndebeles and the Ngunis that are Zulu have

a clear distinction despite there being similarities. If you go to their language which is called Sotho, if you go to Limpopo, you have your Northern Sotho which is called Sepedi. You have your Southern Sotho which is spoken in the Free State. You go to the Northwest, you have Tswana. These people's languages have more similarities than standard Shona and Korekore have.

It is important that as an august House, we allow the Korekore people to have the richness they have. There is so much difference and because of this perpetuation, the majority of Korekore people suffer self-esteem issues. These issues need to be addressed by recognising that they have their own language. This opens the floodgates so that we have more than one language. If you go to West Africa, there are more than 64 languages in Nigeria that are recognised. If you go to Ghana, there is a plethora of languages that are there. There is nothing difficult about accepting what were called five dialects of Shona to become languages. We are different and there is unity in diversity. Diversity should not be looked at as a disadvantage. Diversity should be an opportunity for us to showcase how God made us different. I plead with the Committee that

we give an opportunity to the Korekore people. I speak as one of their grandchildren and I speak as a Member of Parliament of people who are Korekore. I so submit.

***HON. TOGAREPI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I agree with those who went to investigate the issue of language. We have many languages but we must get to a time when we are able to use them. They must be usable as national languages, languages that we can use to do different jobs. I would like to give you an example of Masvingo where other Hon. Members are mentioned. In Masvingo, there is no Karanga language with the same dialect. If you go to Chivi, there is a dialect that is different from Gutu, Zaka and Bikita. These people talk differently but they can converse on their own. I think those who are investigating the issue of the language should investigate whether the differences are greater than the similarities.

If they combine the differences, we then come up with a language that is understandable to everyone. For instance, Shona, we get many explanations as to where Shona came from. If we look at the issue of Korekore, Zezuru, Karanga, Manyika and Ndau languages, these

languages are different but all these people, if you get them to the same place, can converse. If I meet a person from Chivi or Gutu, we can understand each other very well. We must not look down upon other languages.

When we look at the languages we call the national languages and separate them here in Zimbabwe, we might get up to hundreds of languages. Is this going to be usable in our lives? If one wants to write a Shona examination and have a hundred languages, will this be manageable in our education system? I am of the view that as a country, we must support the Korekore and they must be allowed to use their language.

People in Chivi must also be allowed to use their language. We must not incorporate them or use them as national languages because this might cause problems that we cannot be able to solve in the future. Our languages, in their diversity, if people from Gutu meet those from Chivi, they cannot say you are talking differently. If you go to Korekore or Zezuru, their languages are so closely related but they have some differences. If we separate the fact that these people must stand on their

own, I think we must have started something that we cannot be able to deal with. Thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Thank you so much Hon. Togarepi. You debated so well. Why did you not include yourself on the list of Hon. Members who wanted to debate?

HON. MALINGANISO: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My quest for standing is to demystify the notion that the Committee aided and failed the quest for recognition of the Korekore people. Shona is not singular; it embodies many dialects. Perhaps what other Hon. Members should be requesting is that when the Zimbabwe School Examination Council (ZIMSEC) sets its exams, it also caters for those dialects, particularly the Korekore language that has been brought before the House. Otherwise, as the Chief Whip has rightly raised, the idea of unity is defeated if we create small silos within the nation of Zimbabwe. That is my point. I thank you.

***HON. MAPIKI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, for granting me this opportunity. In my opinion, I see that the Committee's recommendations are true. If you look at the spellings from different languages, you realise

that the spellings are the same. Many words are being used but they will be used looking at how the speech is articulated but everything is the same. I would like to take the word that was used by the Committee. They used the term ‘cluster’. They said Korekore is like a pot with different kinds of meat. As a nation, we must look at that to see if we can separate it. You realise that on the issue of the exam which was mentioned, the spellings are the same and everything is almost the same. If it was Ndau, where we say ‘*mese*’, they say ‘*teshe*’. If we look at Korekore and Shona, you realise that it is almost the same thing. I want to air out my views clearly that they really had a right but their right was not neglected. The only difference is that of pronunciation but almost everything is the same. It is included in Shona language. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

HON. MUTSEYAMI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am in the Committee of Justice which is led by Hon. Zvobgo, son to the late Comrade Eddison Zvobgo. On the issue of speaking, I realise that most of the words which are said in Shona, if most of these people meet together, they can be able to understand each other. I can give an

example of Manicaland. The people are able to understand each other when they are communicating and they speak differently. If you look at how the Ndaou people speak, the Ungwe people in Makoni, the Hera people in Buhera, the Manyika people in Mutare and Mutasa and the Hwesa people in Nyanga speak and if all these people come together, they are able to understand each other.

The Committee finds it important that if we open the issue that the Ungwe people, the Hwesa and the Korekore be in the Constitution, we will put more than 200 languages in the Constitution. Our Constitution will be full with issues to do with languages which are supposed to be spoken in this country. The Committee of Justice also has some Members of Parliament who are deep thinkers. There are some lawyers, doctors and the Chair is Hon. Zvobgo. We sat with Hon. Zvobgo and discussed this issue together with the Thematic Committee of the Senate, which includes chiefs and we understood each other.

Hon. Togarepi did mention that when people look at the Karanga language, they will think it is the same but it was portrayed here that people in Bikita, Zaka, Gutu and Chivi speak differently. Mr.

Speaker, I feel it is important that people speak their mind but as Members of Parliament, we must look at what is good for the country to progress well. People realised that Korekore has been included under Shona, so we must leave it like that. If we disturb this, it is not going to come out correctly.

If you look at the country of Zimbabwe, it has different war spirit mediums. We have a war spirit medium for the Ndau which was led by Ngungunyana and a war spirit medium for the Makoni which was led by Chief Chingaira. It is impossible for a spirit medium leading the Sithole family to go and lead in a Muyambo family. What I want to draw home is the fact that the government saw it fit that it cannot deal with all this together. They must apprehend Mbuya Nehanda and Sekuru Kaguvi but in Ndau language, there was no Mbuya Nehanda as a spirit medium for the war but there was Ngungunyana. This was what I found out when we sat down together. We cannot put Korekore, Zezuru, Manyika and Maungwe separately. We say that all these languages must be put under Shona because the languages are going to be many. Thank you.

HON. BAJILA: Thank you so much Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the Joint Portfolio Committee and the Thematic Committee that brought this report. I think it brings us to a very important point that we need to engage in as a nation. The first question that we always need to ask ourselves is, as we move forward as a people, which parts of our past are we going with and which parts of our past are we leaving behind? The first issue we need to accept is that when colonialists needed to find means of communicating and controlling us at some point, specifically in 1923, Professor Clement Doke was hired by the Witwatersrand University in South Africa to standardise languages on this side of the Limpopo.

Those who have read Professor Clement Doke's report will understand his report, which is titled 'The Standardisation of Shona Dialect', which earlier speakers have made reference to. In listening to the report that was aptly presented by Hon. Zvobgo and supported by Hon. Shiriyedenga, I think that the committees needed to have gone further than what they have done. For example, both Hon. Shireyedenga and Hon. Zvobgo continue to mention Ndau as both a separate language

and as a dialect. The failure to put it in one category shows us that we have a lot of work to do. They continued to say Ndau is one of the dialects of Shona and proceeded to say Ndau is also recognised separately as a language. These two cannot both be correct.

Where it gets important Mr. Speaker and this is why I thought that the Committee should have gone further, was that it needed to give guidance to the Ministry and to this House in terms of how language is going to be defined. How do we define a language cluster and how are we going to define dialects so that we have clarity around these issues? We need not necessarily look at this issue from the angle of saying how many official languages do we need to have as a country. It is not a question that is constructive. It is not a question that is about bringing us together. What we need to do is to seek help from everyone in Zimbabwe to issues what Hon. Mhangwa spoke to. Somebody cannot leave their home saying this is the language that I speak. When they get to school, they are told we are teaching your language at this school but the things that they speak at home are not the things that are taught at school but it is said to be the same language. It cannot be. These are the

questions that as we attend to this issue, we need to be asking ourselves how best we can do this.

One of the issues that gives rise to this issue has been mentioned, even by the Chief Whip himself earlier on. The very fact that what is examinable at school is examined in Chishona, is predominately two dialects and the best thing we could do is to think around improving the Korekore content in examinable Shona. Improve the other contents in examinable Shona. The fact that Korekore is part of Chishona does not mean the things that we talk about must be so even in practical terms because indeed, we have Korekore speaking people in Zimbabwe.

We have people who when they are at home, there is a language that they speak and when they get to school, that language is not there, and they are disenfranchised. The fight for recognising the sixteen (16) languages that we now have emanated from that issue where people were saying, we go to Government schools and we are told we belong here as people of this country but our languages do not express themselves that much.

Mr. Speaker, what I pray for that the Committee should have done was to say how best can we improve the Korekore content in examinable Chishona because we are agreeing and we all can see that at the present moment the Korekore content in examinable Chishona in publicly used Chishona is too little but we still continue to say Chikorekore is part of our languages. The recognition of Chikorekore does not necessarily mean that we put it separately as a language on its own. It must be part of what we do, what we say and how we speak as a people because the Korekore speaking people are part of us. They are Zimbabweans like all of us.

Also, the issue is about pushing and perhaps making suggestions about how best do we want to have our own indigenous definitions as Zimbabweans of what constitutes a language, a language cluster and dialect. Hon. Mhangwa mentioned the situation in South Africa. If you go to the Eastern Cape, the predominant language is Xhosa but there are people who speak a language called Mpondo and these other languages. Efforts were made to increase the content of those dialects in what is publicly known as Xhosa and today, there is not much complaint about

those languages. So, in my view, we need to improve the recognition of Korekore as a language by improving its content in examinable Chishona. I thank you.

***HON. KAITANO:** The issue that is being debated on is something that talks and touches on human life. When I rose, Hon. Mhangwa shouted *mabuja*, *matoko* or *vangarwe*, all of them come from the Korekore language, we are one people. If we start speaking in our language here in Parliament, everyone else will just be looking at us. No one will be able to hear and understand us. You are lucky that we were then taught Zezuru, so we end up using Zezuru so that we can be heard but if we start using our dialect, no one will understand us.

So, it is like we are being forced to use a language that is not ours. As I grew up, especially during my years in kindergarten till Grade Seven, the Shona proverbs which we used, we were just writing proverbs which we did not even know their meaning. We were being forced to use those proverbs because it was our mother language. There is a Shona proverb which says *wabaya dede nemukanwa*. What is *dede*? There is no *dede* in our language. So, I grew up not understanding that

proverb, that is to say, what exactly it means to say *wabaya dede nemukanwa*.

Honestly, can you say that you are failing to consider Korekore as a standalone language. I think it is an issue that we have to deeply consider and we cannot just throw away, as what this Committee is doing...

***HON. CHIGUMBU:** Thank you Madam Speaker. The debater is speaking very well, so we are requesting that we get headphones for interpretation.

***HON. KAITANO:** The point of order points to the fact that Korekore is a language on its own and that is why we are saying it should be a standalone language. The Korekore dialect includes *mabuja* and *ngarwe* dialects. I am of the *ngarwe* dialect but taught to speak Zezuru. When I go back to my constituency, I will be speaking in my own language. So, we should sit and map a way forward pertaining this issue, and not abandon it as the Committee of Justice did.

HON. NYABANI: Thank you Madam Speaker. I am a full Korekore. Korekore is not an official language; it is a people, it is a tribe

found in the Zambezi area, in Mt. Darwin towards the Zambezi area. It is not a language. People say that it is a language, but no it is a tribe. So, as *maKorekore*, when we are speaking, people laugh and ask what exactly we are saying because some of the words we use are not easily understood. It is similar to English, to say that you are speaking in English, so you are now a white person, which is not correct.

As for what we call Shona, we do not know whether it is a language, a tribe or a people. We do not know. So, we think that Korekore comes from Karanga. Karanga and Korekore are the same people from Munhumutapa if we are to go back to history. Those are the two dialects. So, I was thinking that *chiKorekore* originated from Mount Darwin, Rushinga and extended up to Kariba. You will find Korekore-speaking people there.

So, I was thinking we were supposed to conduct thorough research on this particular issue. Are we going to make another mistake and overlook this language? Are we saying these are not people? We are failing to speak *chiKorekore* because we were forced, as Hon. Kaitano said. For most in our region, amongst the Korekore, many are failing

Shona examinations. I was thinking of those whom Hon. Zvobgo is leading. *ChiKorekore* is not just a language. It is a language which is spoken amongst the Korekore people.

Let us give ourselves time and thoroughly look at this particular issue. We should look and consider this particular issue and come up with a sustainable solution. You can say Shona is mandatory, but there is nothing that we can do. We would have been given no option. We would be left behind. It is our humble plea that you consider this particular issue of having *chiKorekore* as an official language. Thank you.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, for allowing me to add my voice to this. Madam Speaker, I am rising this afternoon to support the petition from the Dande Conservation Heritage, calling for the recognition of the Korekore language which is spoken by over one million people in this country as an official language of Zimbabwe.

Madam Speaker, this is not just a linguistic matter. It is a question of dignity. It is a question of justice and a question of correcting historical wrongs. Madam Speaker, our Constitution obliges us under

Section 16 to promote and preserve cultural values and practices that enhance dignity, wellbeing and equality. Section 6, Madam Speaker, lists the official languages, but it is not immutable. It is a living framework that must evolve to reflect the lived realities of our people. Madam Speaker, the petitioners here are not asking for privilege. They are asking for inclusion. They are asking Parliament to honour the spirit of the Constitution by ensuring that no community feels invisible within its supreme law.

Madam Speaker, the committees have argued that Korekore is a dialect of Shona, yet other languages also considered a dialect of Shona are recognised separately in the Constitution. Why then should Korekore be denied the same dignity? Madam Speaker, Korekore is spoken across Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and parts of northern Zimbabwe. It carries unique idioms, oral traditions and cultural expressions that cannot simply be subsumed under Shona. To dismiss Korekore as a mere dialect is to erase the lived reality of its speakers.

Madam Speaker, this petition before us forces Zimbabwe to confront a profound national question. How do we balance the

preservation of our rich cultural and linguistic diversity with the imperative of constitutional clarity and national duty? Madam Speaker, this is not simply about Korekore alone, it is about whether our supreme law can evolve to reflect the lived realities and identities of all people, or whether it will continue to carry the colonial classifications that grouped distinct towns under broad labels.

If we are to speak about unity, Madam Speaker, unity is built on recognition rather than erasure. Then the recognition of Korekore becomes a test case of our nation's commitment to inclusivity. Do we choose a path that honours every community's dignity, or do we risk perpetuating exclusion in the name of simplicity? Madam Speaker, this is the national question that demands our collective wisdom. For, in answering it, we define not only the place of Korekore, but the very character of Zimbabwe as a nation that neither celebrates nor suppresses its diversity.

Madam Speaker, I want to speak on colonial legacies. We cannot ignore the shadow of colonial legacies in this debate. The colonial administration deliberately imposed linguistic hierarchies, elevating

certain tongues while relegating others to invisibility. Korekore, like many indigenous languages, was subsumed under the broader label of Shona as part of a strategy of simplification and control. This was not a neutral act, Madam Speaker. It was a political tool designed to erase distinctions, diminish identities and weaken our communities.

Madam Speaker, by denying Korekore its rightful recognition today, we risk perpetuating those colonial injustices. True decolonisation requires us to dismantle these inherited hierarchies and affirm the dignity of every language and community. Recognising Korekore as an official language is not merely an administrative adjustment. It is a bold act of historical justice, a declaration that Zimbabwe will no longer allow colonial classifications to define who we are or whose voices matter.

Madam Speaker, we must confront these colonial legacies that shaped our linguistic landscape. Colonial administrators, Madam Speaker, acted in such a manner that imposed these hierarchies that fractured our communities. Some may argue that recognising Korekore will fragment unity. I want to argue the opposite. True unity, Madam

Speaker, is built on recognition, not erasure. When communities see their language enshrined in the Constitution, they feel valued and respected. Exclusion breeds resentment but inclusion fosters loyalty.

Madam Speaker, recognising Korekore strengthens our unity by ensuring that every Zimbabwean sees themselves reflected in the supreme law of the land.

I would like to go on to international agreements that speak to this. Madam Speaker, Zimbabwe is a proud member of the United Nations and a signatory to conventions that protect indigenous people. Article 14 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms the right to education in one's own language. The ILO Convention 169 recognises the rights of indigenous communities to preserve and develop their languages. By recognising Korekore, we do not merely comply with international obligations but we demonstrate leadership in protecting linguistic diversity.

In conclusion, this petition is not about fragmenting Zimbabwe. It is about weaving every thread of our cultural fabric into the national tapestry. Korekore is not a dialect to be hidden under Shona. It is a

proud language of a proud people. By recognising Korekore, we correct the colonial injustices that I spoke about. We fulfil our constitutional duty. We honour our international commitments and strengthen our unity through inclusion. I, therefore, urge this House to look closely at this matter so that we come together and recognise Korekore as an official language. I so submit.

HON. KAMBUZUMA: Madam Speaker, I move that the debate now adjourn.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 15th July, 2026.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. KAMBUZUMA: Madam Speaker, I move that we revert to Order of the Day Number 1 on today's *Order Paper*.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

SECOND READING

BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CRIMES BILL [H. B. 9,
2025]

First Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Second
Reading of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Crimes Bill [H. B. 9,
2025].

Question again proposed.

***HON. NYABANI:** Thank you Madam Speaker for allowing me
to add my voice to this Bill. If we are to look at everything that has been
done in this country, there must be clear legislation. We once debated on
illicit substances such as *mutoriro*, crystal meth, *guka* and so on which
are intoxicating people but due to weak legislation, we are seeing those
substances being peddled which are destroying our nation.

So, may this legislation be clear so that everything that is
happening finally comes to an end. Everything that is to be done in this
country must be in accordance with the legislation. Let us not have SIs
with loopholes. I will give an example of an SI that was put in place by
the Government, an SI calling on the arrest of people who are selling
drugs but when we look at the same legislation, we see that when these

people are arrested and taken to court, they are discharged on the basis that there is no such legislation.

There used to be some substances that contained 40% alcohol. They are still circulating in the country and people are dying from those substances. So, it is my wish that we put in place legislation that deals with the abuse of such substances. When we are talking about biological welfare, it also encompasses the intoxications, all those illicit substances. So, if we have legislation that only talks about one side of it, we will be going nowhere.

The legislation we are putting in place must also consider people who are coming into the country from Mozambique. Many Zimbabweans abide by the law and they are not committing such crimes. People who are coming from outside are the ones who are bringing those substances. The people who are brewing beer are not only Zimbabweans, they are also from India. They are coming here in the name of doing business. So, let us also consider licencing.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I wish to commend the Hon. Minister for bringing this matter before the House at an appropriate time. Given

the advancement in technology and the sophistication of modern weapons, some people may not necessarily manufacture conventional weapons but they may develop harmful agents such as viruses. We must thoroughly inspect everything that is imported into our country, be it food, donations, clothing or any other goods. We should have the necessary equipment and systems to examine all imported items including shoes, clothing and other products in order to determine their contents and ensure that they do not pose a threat to public safety.

The main issue I raised for debate is that we should not focus solely on weapons. We should also pay serious attention to illicit brews which have become another major threat that is claiming many lives. I thank you Madam Speaker for granting me this opportunity to contribute to the debate.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: Thank you Madam Speaker for allowing me to add my voice to this Bill. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for bringing the Bill to this House.

Madam Speaker, Zimbabwe is a state party to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Section 327 (2) of

our Constitution obliges us to domesticate these treaties. This Bill therefore, is not a luxury Madam Speaker. It is a constitutional duty to protect our people and to uphold our international commitments, ethical and public.

During nationwide consultations citizens spoke with one voice. Biological weapons pose an unparalleled threat to humanity. They spread uncontrollably, destabilise societies and inflict mass casualties. Madam Speaker, unlike conventional arms, they leave scars on our environment and undermine global health security. Therefore, this Bill is not just about law but it is about ethics, safeguarding humanity and building trust among nations. There are gaps that we must address.

The consultations and the Committee report revealed serious omissions. Whistle-blower protection without safeguards, insiders will remain silent where vigilance is needed most. Independent appeals tribunal and licencing decisions cannot rest solely with the Secretary of Defence, Madam Speaker. Justice demands impartial review.

There is also a gap in gender representation. Women are excluded from advisory and appeals structures. This contradicts our Constitution and our commitments to equality.

There is also an issue of disposal procedures, Madam Speaker. No framework exists for safe, secure and environmentally sound disposal of confiscated materials. Then there is also an issue of decentralised information systems. Researchers and enterprises outside Harare face barriers to access as well as search warrants. The Bill lacks a balanced framework for agent inspections without prior judicial authorisations.

Madam Speaker, I want to go onto recommendations for refinement. To make this Bill robust, we must enshrine whistle-blower protection with confidentiality guarantees and incentives. We need to establish an independent appeals tribunal to ensure fairness and transparency. We need to speak to gender inclusivity in advisory and appeals structures. We need to provide clear disposal procedures aligned with international best practices as well as decentralised information systems to empower rural researchers and enterprises. Madam Speaker, we also need to balance inspection powers with safeguards to protect

rights while enabling swift enforcement. This Bill is a landmark step but if we pass it without some refinements, it risks being constitutionally incomplete and administratively weak. We need to legislate it not only to comply with our treaties but to protect our people, uphold justice and enable peaceful scientific progress.

Therefore, I urge this House to adopt the Committee's recommendations and deliver a law that is inclusive, transparent and enforceable. Madam Speaker, I so submit.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (HON. MUCHINGURI-KASHIRI): Madam Speaker, I rise to respond to the Second Reading debate on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Crimes Bill, [H.B. 9, 2025].

Allow me to thank Hon. Members who debated constructively in support of this Bill. This was clearly a demonstration of the commitment this august House places in the protection of our fauna and flora and our people from biological agents and toxins.

The Chairperson of the Joint Portfolio Committees on Defence, Home Affairs, Security Services and War Veterans Affairs, Youth

Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training and the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security, Hon. Maoneke, in his presentation gave an exposé on the processes undertaken to ensure that Hon. Members were capacitated and familiarised with the Biological and Toxin Weapon Crime Bill. This was ably followed by a nationwide public hearing across Zimbabwe's 10 provinces during which written submissions from legal experts and civil society were presented. During the process, diverse views from citizens from all geographical and social backgrounds were well captured to enrich this vital legislation. We commend the Committee's adherence to section 141 of the Constitution which adopted a robust and multi-prompt consultation methodology.

Lastly, to indicate that most of the Committee's sweeping observations and recommendations were appreciated, they will be accommodated during the Committee Stage.

Allow me, Madam Speaker, to now address key submissions on specific issues that were raised in the report, clause by clause. I will address specific issues raised by Hon. Members. I will start with Clause

4 on offences in relation to biological agents, toxins or weapons. There were no issues; all Hon. Members supported the Clause.

On Clause 5 - responsible authority: no issues were raised.

On Clause 5, section 2, National Authority Advisory Committee. Madam Speaker, the recommendations to enlarge the National Authority Advisory Committee taking into consideration health, agriculture, environment, academia, law enforcement and civil society are justified. The proposals to align with the globally acclaimed One Health Model, which is being pursued by the Second Republic and conforms with a multidisciplinary approach will be observed.

Madam Speaker, regarding gender representation in the National Advisory Committee and other Honourable Members, our Constitution dictates explicitly under Section 17 that a 50-50 gender balance across all appointed State institutions be observed.

Clause 7, conditions of obtaining a licence, there were no issues that were raised and on Clause 15, powers of inspectors.

The suggestion that our biosecurity inspectors must be empowered to act swiftly without waiting for prior judicial authorisation in extreme

circumstances touches on a critical operational reality. A bureaucratic delay of just two hours to secure a warrant could result in an irreversible, catastrophic community outbreak or the permanent destruction of forensic evidence.

Therefore, we accept the proposal to permit warrantless entries but only under narrow, strictly predefined emergency circumstances where public health or national security is under imminent threat. However, we are equally mindful of our citizens' constitutional rights to privacy.

Accordingly, we are proposing embedding icon-clad statutory safeguards. Firstly, warrantless searches are strictly barred from private residential dwellings except on reasonable suspicion by an inspector that immediate harm to public safety will result. Unless such a search is made promptly to avoid such harm, in which case the inspector must, as soon as reasonably practicable, obtain a warrant from a court of justice for peace to enable the issuing authority to evaluate the agency after the event. Otherwise, warrantless search will apply only to commercial, industrial or institutional labs.

Secondly, an inspector who executes an emergency search is legally mandated to file a full written report and an exact inventory of seized items with the nearest Magistrate within 48 hours.

Finally, to ensure maximum accountability, it is proposed to insert in the Bill after Clause 22 a standard immunity clause for inspectors and other officers of the authority. The effect of this will be to make it clear, that legal immunity from civil or criminal liability does not extend to inspectors or officers who abuse their authority.

Other issues which were raised but not explicitly in the Bill on the disposal of biological agents and toxins weapons on 6.1, insertion of a new clause on disposal of confiscated materials, on the proposal to introduce a new clause on disposal of confiscated materials, we totally agree with the Joint Committee. Therefore, there is a need for a clear procedure for the safe, secure and environmentally sound disposal of confiscated biological and toxin materials aligned with international best practices.

Accordingly, the Ministry will insert a new clause on the handling and disposal of confiscated biological agents and toxins. On

decentralisation of information systems, lastly, the Joint Committee recommended that we decentralise the information system to ensure accessibility, particularly for researchers, universities and enterprises outside major urban centres. The proposal is valid and is in line with the requirements of Section 264 of our Constitution which provides for the devolution of Government functions and responsibilities.

The Ministry is proposing that this be provided for in the regulations to be made by the Minister in terms of Clause 23 of the Bill. The regulations will provide for the establishment, operationalisation and maintenance of a secure electronic registry and network to be known as the Decentralised Biosecurity Information System (DBIS). The system will have provincial access points to safe researchers, academic institutions and veterinary, agricultural or medical laboratories located outside urban centres. Remote compliance capabilities will enable rural-based entities to submit regulatory filings, inventory updates and licence applications without travelling to Harare.

The responsible authority will ensure that the DBIS features an able, safe, interoperable data-sharing interface with key line ministries, thus promoting a cohesive national biosecurity approach.

On whistleblower protection, to address the pertinent recommendation made by the Committee and other Hon. Members regarding the insertion of a specific clause to protect whistleblowers who report biological and toxin weapons crimes, while the Ministry deeply appreciates the Committee's vigilance in ensuring the safety of those who expose these high-level crimes, inserting a stand-alone whistleblower clause in this Bill would result in legislative duplication.

Our Government operates on the principle of legislative coherence. Whistleblower and witness protection in Zimbabwe will be centrally governed by the proposed Whistleblowers and Witness Protection Act. This specialised Act will provide a comprehensive framework that shields all public interest whistleblowers from threats, harm or occupational detriment. To maintain statutory alignment and avoid fragmented legislation, the Ministry is proposing to include a definitive cross-reference in the Bill. This will ensure that any individual reporting

biological crimes is explicitly directed to the robust protections to be offered under the primary whistleblowers law.

On the Independent Appeals Tribunal, the proposal to establish an appeals institution, my Ministry accepts the Committee's progressive proposal to establish a structured mechanism for individuals or entities to appeal against the decisions of the responsible authority. A robust, fair and transparent licencing process is vital for legitimate scientific and industrial research and there must be an accessible avenue for administrative justice when an applicant feels aggrieved. However, from a legislative drafting perspective, my Ministry is of the view that the term 'independent appeals tribunal' is inappropriate nomenclature.

In Zimbabwe, tribunals are highly specialised, semi-permanent judicial or quasi-judicial bodies. Introducing a new stand-alone tribunal under this Bill would create a jurisdictional overlap and structural conflict with the administrative court of Zimbabwe which holds overarching statutory jurisdiction over miscellaneous administrative appeals. Therefore, to maintain consistency with standard Zimbabwean legislative drafting, my Ministry proposes that we substitute the

independent appeals tribunal with the Biological and Toxin Weapons Licencing Appeals Board. This appeals board will serve as the first instance of specialised administrative review.

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the determination of this board, they will retain their constitutional right to appeal further to the administrative court in terms of the Administrative Court Act, [Chapter 7:1]. This ensures a streamlined, legally sound process that respects the existing architecture of our justice system. Madam Speaker, I now proceed to the debate by Hon. Members. I want to thank Hon. Madzivanyika for opening the debate and providing an elaborate situational analysis in support of this Bill.

We also thank Hon. Mashavave for voicing his support for this Bill and the Joint Committee's findings. He particularly endorsed Clause 5, which identifies the Secretary for Defence as the responsible authority. Hon. Mapiki also rose to support the Bill, bringing up the issue of passive biological warfare. In the same vein, we thank Hon. Chiduwa for supporting the Bill. He emphasised the Bill's constitutionality, zero tolerance for biological terrorism and weapons

proliferation, and he commended the automatic registration of entities already registered under the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe and licenced under this Act.

We are also grateful to Hon. Kaitano for adding his voice in support of the Bill, highlighting its consistency with modern-day security architecture. We also thank Hon. Dhanzi for adding a voice in support of the Bill, highlighting that the Bill will safeguard the health and security of the people of Zimbabwe.

Madam Speaker, allow me to address the concerns raised by Hon. Members. Hon. Madzivanyika proposed that the Bill include a schedule of controlled biological agents for the benefit of the public. My Ministry agrees with the suggestion from the Hon. Member. However, the list is part of the regulations to be issued by the Minister in terms of Clause 23 and cannot be accommodated in the Bill. Zimbabwe is currently domesticating the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Africa CDC, High Consequences Agents and Toxins Framework and developing the National Management Guidelines of the HCAT List which commenced in September 2025. Currently, what is in place is a

National Preliminary Priority HCAT List for Humans, Animals and Plants. The document is still a work in progress and will be gazetted in terms of Clause 23 of the Bill.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Mapiki raised an emotional issue regarding the environmental degradation and critical water contamination caused by substances like mercury and cyanide in gold mining operations. My Ministry shares the Member's deep anxieties regarding the safety of our communal water bodies. However, as a matter of rigorous legislative drafting, we must cleanly distinguish industrial chemical pollution from the scope of this specific Bill. The Biological and Toxins Weapons Crimes Bill is purely to domesticate the United Nations Biological Weapons Convention by criminalising the hostile use, cultivation and stockpiling of deliberate biological pathogens and toxins.

Conversely, mercury and cyanide are industrial chemical agents. Their handling, licencing and environmental tracking are already heavily policed by existing robust statutes, specifically the Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:27], *via* Statutory Instrument 268 of 2018, as well as the Mines and Minerals Act, folding mining regulations into

this bioweapons framework would create severe administrative overlap and legal confusion. I assure the Hon. Member that water contamination remains a high priority for the Government and must be addressed through the ongoing amendments to the Mines and Minerals Act and stricter enforcement by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), rather than diluting this biosecurity law.

Madam Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to Hon. Mapiki for raising the vital issue regarding border security. The potential exploitation of our borders for the illicit movement of biological materials is a matter of paramount national security. I wish to provide total reassurance to this House that the transit movement of biological agents is already entirely prohibited under this Bill. The preamble and core objectives are specifically drafted to criminalise and outlaw unauthorised transit, transshipment, transportation and transfer of restricted biological weapons or toxins through Zimbabwean territory. Any such movement constitutes a first-class felony.

On the issue of smuggling, this Bill is tightly focused on the lethal nature of the biological agents or toxins. The physical acts of border

breaching fall squarely under the jurisdiction of the Customs and Exercise Act, [Chapter 23:2]. It is actively policed by ZIMRA and border law enforcement agencies. To resolve the Member's concern, my Ministry is proposing a compromise by inserting a consequential cross-referencing clause. This will ensure that the moment a Customs official intercepts an illicit biological material under the Customs Act, it instantly triggers the heavy, severe criminal penalties outlined right here in this Bill. Hon. Mapiki further suggested that inspectors be appointed on merit and with a modern skill set. My Ministry fully agrees that appointments must be based on a transparent, competitive and meritocratic process rather than administrative placement.

Madam Speaker, Clause 14 of the Bill provides that inspectors will be drawn almost exclusively from existing agencies with the required expertise, such as the Environmental Management Agency and the Medicine Control Authority of Zimbabwe. A clause can be refined in the regulations to specify that the Minister must appoint inspectors based on verified professional qualifications, regulatory experience and a clean security clearance.

Hon. Pinduka expressed similar sentiments to the Joint Committee on the need to expand the Advisory Committee to include universities and research institutions to benefit from their expertise. As alluded to earlier, the Advisory Committee will be expanded accordingly. I want to thank the august House for the unwavering support of this Bill. I also want to appreciate that, before I conclude to appreciate, I did not quite get the name of the Hon. Member who raised an issue on drug and substance abuse which does not include the issues which we are deliberating on at hand. I would suggest that tomorrow, during question time, I will be more than ready to address the issue.

I am aware that in realisation of the challenges that he ably highlighted, the Government has constituted a Committee to look into these serious issues which does not observe a Statutory Instrument which was put in place to ensure that the drugs and substance items, *tumbwa* in particular and many other such substances which were included in that Statutory Instrument and that people continue to be sold openly, I want to assure this House that the Government is seized of the

matter, a Committee has been put in place and we are looking into those issues. I hope I have addressed that issue.

The second Member also raised the issues that were of concern to the Committee, which she is a Member of and I did allude to most of the issues of whistle-blowers, as well as such warrants and I hope I have adequately addressed the issues that were highlighted. With those remarks, I now move that the Biological and Toxin Weapons Crimes Bill [H. B. 9, 2025] be now read a second time.

Motion put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage: Thursday, 16th July, 2026.

TABLING OF AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORTS AND TREASURY MINUTES

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION (HON.
PROF. M. NCUBE):** I would like to table three very important Auditor General's reports. The first one is regarding State-owned enterprises and

parastatals. It covers the year ending 31 December 2025. That is the first report.

The second report is again from the Auditor General's Office regarding local authorities. Again, for the year ending 31 December 2025.

The third report, Madam Speaker, pertains to the appropriation accounts, finance and revenue statements and statutory and retention funds for the year ended 31 December 2025. These are the three sets of Auditor reports.

I also want to table a set of Treasury Minutes. May I present to this august House two Treasury Minutes in response to the Public Accounts, PHC report presented in Parliament by the Chair of the Committee. This is for Air Zimbabwe with the date ending 31 December 2022. The second one is on Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) for the period up to 31 December 2021 and 2022.

Madam Speaker, Treasury is committed to addressing all observations raised by the Public Accounts Committee to strengthen internal control systems and to enhance transparency and accountability

as enriched and enshrined in the Constitution. I submit, Madam Speaker, these two sets of Treasury Minutes. I thank you.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. KAMBUZUMA: I move that we revert to Order of the Day Number 45 on today's *Order Paper*.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE ON THE 2025 FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD QUARTER BUDGET PERFORMANCE

Forty-fifth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on Report of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade on the 2025, First, Second and Third Quarter Budget Performance Reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Question again proposed.

HON. SHAMU: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I rise to move that this House considers and adopts the reports of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade on the 2025 First, Second and Third Quarter Budget Performance reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Motion that this House considers and adopts the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade on the 2025, First, Second and Third Quarter Budget Performance Reports from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, put and agreed to.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. KAMBUZUMA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I move that we revert to Order of the Day Numbers 14 and 15 in that order.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE JOINT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND
THEMATIC COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON A PETITION
FROM THE POWER TOUCH INSTITUTION

HON. MALINGANISO: I move the motion standing in my name that this House considers and adopts the Report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and the Thematic Committee on Human Rights on a Petition from the Power of Touch Institution on the review of laws and regulations that have a bearing on senior citizens and pensioners.

HON. BAJILA: I second.

HON. MALINGANISO: Thank you Madam Speaker, Ma'am.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 According to section 149 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, read together with Appendix E, of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly on petitions, every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has a right to petition Parliament to consider any matter

within its authority, including the enactment, amendment or repeal of legislation.

1.2 On 15 August 2025, Parliament received a petition from the Power of Touch Institution, represented by Mr. Francis Dembetembe and Ms. Beatrice Sithole, requesting Parliament to review laws and regulations that have a bearing on senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals. The petition was examined for compliance and found to be admissible, and was subsequently referred to the Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. Given that the matters raised directly implicated the rights, dignity and welfare of older persons, the Committee considered the petition jointly with the Thematic Committee on Human Rights.

1.3 The petition raised issues of law, policy, administration and public service delivery affecting older persons in Zimbabwe. In particular, it pointed to the fragmentation of the legal framework governing older persons, the inadequacy of social protection programmes, the absence of dedicated institutional arrangements for implementation and monitoring of the same, and the limited recognition

of the social and economic contribution of senior citizens and retired professionals.

2.0 Petitioners' Prayer

2.1 The petitioners beseeched Parliament to take legislative and oversight measures to improve the conditions of senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals in Zimbabwe. Their principal prayer was that Parliament should cause an urgent review of all laws and regulations bearing on older persons and facilitate the enactment of a new and comprehensive Senior Citizens, Pensioners and Retired Professionals Act.

2.2 Specifically, the petitioners requested Parliament to consider the following measures:

- a. Commission an urgent review of all laws, regulations and socio-economic conditions affecting senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals, with a view to adopting a multi-stakeholder approach to reform.
- b. Cause the enactment of a new and comprehensive Senior Citizens, Pensioners and Retired Professionals Act that

consolidates and harmonises the rights, protections and benefits of older persons. In specific terms the laws should provide for the following:

- c. Define an “older person” or “senior citizen” to include every Zimbabwean aged fifty-five years and above.
- d. Establish a department in the relevant Ministry headed by a Director to ensure the implementation and monitoring of the proposed legal framework supported by adequate budgetary and human resources.
- e. Decentralise this office to all provinces and ensure that major public service points such as hospitals, clinics, banks, ports of entry, supermarkets, hotels, polling stations and educational institutions have properly manned older persons’ contact desks.
- f. Require publication of comprehensive quarterly reports on the economic, social and political status of senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals.

- g. Ensure that public broadcasters and taxpayer-funded media adequately cover issues affecting senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals.
- h. Introduce unconditional and predetermined social welfare grants, adjusted for inflation and reflective of the cost of living, and ensure that pensions and related benefits are indexed to the Consumer Price Index.
- i. Guarantee free access by senior citizens to public and private medical institutions of their choice and ensure the maintenance of functional geriatric wards.
- j. Enhance budgetary allocations to the Older Persons Fund and relax capital expenditure limitations in order to mitigate the hardships faced by older persons.
- k. Waive selected statutory and public service fees for senior citizens, including municipal rates, parking, birth and death certificate fees, conveyancing, capital gains and passport application fees.

1. Establish inspection mechanisms for public and private old people's homes and provide relief to older persons supporting unemployed, orphaned or single-parent dependents.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 In conducting its inquiry, the Joint Committee considered the petition as lodged by the Power of Touch Institution, including its admissibility record and annexures. The Committee also heard oral evidence on 23rd February 2026, from the petitioners and from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare.

3.2 The oral evidence session enabled the Committees to appreciate, on the one hand, the lived experiences and proposals advanced by the petitioners and on the other hand the policy, legal and administrative measures already in place or under development within Government.

The Committees further utilised the petition itself, the oral submissions and the applicable constitutional and statutory framework in arriving at their findings.

4.0 Committee's Findings

4.1 Nature of the grievances raised by the petitioners

The petitioners submitted that there is widespread hardship among older persons in Zimbabwe manifesting in poverty, inadequate income security, constrained access to health services, loss of dignity at public service points and weak institutional protection. The petitioners argued that although various statutes and policies touch on older persons, the current framework is fragmented and insufficiently coordinated. In their view this fragmentation makes implementation difficult and weakens accountability.

The petitioners further emphasised that older persons were not a homogeneous category. Some were pensioners, retired professionals and others were simply senior citizens who may have spent most of their lives in informal, peasant or communal livelihoods and therefore do not benefit from formal pension schemes. The Committees found this distinction useful because it illustrates the breadth of the social protection challenge and the need for responses that go beyond formal pensions only.

4.2 Need for a more coherent legal framework

A central theme of the petition was the call for one comprehensive law dealing with senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals. The petitioners argued that existing laws use different terms such as “older persons”, “elderly” and “pensioners”, and that the lack of legal and administrative coherence creates ambiguity regarding coverage, implementation and monitoring.

Mr. T. Zimunga, the Social Protection Acting Chief Director from the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare advised the Joint Committee that the Constitution already contains provisions on the rights of the elderly, and that the Older Persons Act [Chapter 17:11], the Social Welfare Assistance Act [Chapter 17:06], the National Social Protection Policy Framework and the National Development Strategy 2 all provide a basis for interventions concerning older persons. The Ministry further submitted that it was already in the process of reviewing the Older Persons Act, reviewing the Social Welfare Assistance Act into a broader Social Protection Act, and formulating an Older Persons Policy.

While noting those ongoing processes, the Joint Committee found merit in the petitioners' concern that the current framework remains dispersed across different statutes and policies.

4.3 Definition of “older person” and age thresholds

The petitioners proposed that an older person or senior citizen be defined as any Zimbabwean aged fifty-five years and above. Their argument was informed by the socio-economic realities of ageing in Zimbabwe, including diminished earning capacity, dependency burdens, poor access to health services and the vulnerability of many persons approaching or entering retirement.

Mr. T. Zimunga, however, advised that the Constitution refers to persons over the age of seventy years in relation to specified rights, while the Older Persons Act currently identifies an older person as one aged sixty-five years and above. The Ministry also indicated that the retirement age in the Public Service has been reviewed upwards, and that changing the age threshold across the board may require wider legal reform and constitutional alignment.

The Committees found that the age issue remains contested and requires careful policy and legal consideration. However, the evidence received clearly pointed to the need for a more explicit and operationally useful definition, including differentiation between senior citizens generally, pensioners and retired professionals where appropriate.

4.4 Institutional arrangements for implementation

The petitioners proposed the creation of a dedicated department, headed by a Director, to oversee the welfare and development of senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals. They argued that without a clearly identifiable institutional focal point, older persons' issues are treated as peripheral matters and are often addressed only in theory rather than in practice.

In response, Mr. T. Zimunga stated that responsibility for older persons currently lies within the Department of Social Development and that there is an Older Persons Board provided for under the law. The Ministry also indicated that older persons' programmes are decentralised across provinces and administrative districts, and that there is a section

dealing specifically with older persons under the Department of Social Development.

Notwithstanding those arrangements, the Ministry acknowledged resource constraints and indicated that the Government has not yet appointed a substantive Director solely responsible for older persons. The Joint Committees found that this admission was significant. It demonstrates that, although there is some institutional architecture in place, the petitioners' concern about visibility, coordination and implementation capacity was not without foundation.

4.5 Social protection and income security

A major grievance raised by the petitioners related to the precarious financial position of older persons. The petitioners called for unconditional and inflation-adjusted social welfare grants, as well as improved pension and benefit indexation. They submitted that many older persons, including those who were once professionals or public servants, now live in destitution and are unable to meet basic needs.

Mr. Zimunga informed the Joint Committees that the Older Persons Fund was operational and that older persons may benefit from

several social protection interventions, including per capita grants for those under institutional care, food deficit mitigation, cash transfers, health assistance and support through the Basic Education Assistance Module for dependents. The Ministry also advised that the Government was considering a universal grant scheme subject to fiscal space and the strengthening of the social registry.

The Committees found that while social protection measures do exist, they were neither universal nor yet sufficient to meet the scale of vulnerability described by the petitioners. The Committees also observed that inflation, currency instability and the cost of health care continued to erode whatever limited assistance is available to many older persons.

4.6 Access to health care

The petitioners submitted that many senior citizens fail to access free or affordable health care in practice, notwithstanding policy statements or statutory guarantees. They raised concerns over hospital charges, the cost of medication and the absence of adequately functioning geriatric services. The evidence highlighted the emotional and financial distress borne by families caring for elderly relatives.

Mr. T. Zimunga advised that persons above sixty-five years may access free treatment through the Assisted Medical Treatment Order issued in districts. It also indicated that the Government, through the Ministry of Health and Child Care, was working towards a National Health Insurance Scheme that may broaden access to treatment for older persons.

The Joint Committees found a clear gap between legal entitlement or policy aspiration and the lived reality recounted by petitioners. Even where a scheme exists, inadequate awareness, limited fiscal support, administrative bottlenecks and pressures within public health institutions can undermine effective access.

4.7 Public service delivery, dignity and prioritisation

The petitioners repeatedly underscored the issue of dignity. The petitioners argued that older persons often experience disrespect, poor handling, and a lack of priority treatment at public points such as hospitals, banks, supermarkets, and other service centres. They proposed older persons' contact desks and more deliberate accommodation of older persons across the public service delivery chain.

Mr. T. Zimunga submitted that there was already a standing expectation among service providers that older persons should not queue, and that the Government is engaging local authorities on discounts and exemptions on selected local authority services for older persons. However, the petitioners' oral evidence suggested that the practical observance of such arrangements remains uneven.

The Committees found that the issue was not merely one of formal rules, but of enforceability, awareness, training and service culture. There is a need for public institutions and private service providers alike to adopt more visible and standardised arrangements that preserve the dignity of older persons and improve access to services.

4.8 Older persons as caregivers and bearers of dependency burdens

The petitioners drew the attention of the Committees to the reality that many older persons were not only vulnerable in their own right, but also carry the burden of supporting unemployed children, grandchildren, orphans and single-parent dependents. In both urban and rural

communities older persons are often the final safety net for struggling households.

The Ministry acknowledged this challenge and noted that migration, unemployment, and other social pressures have left many older persons caring for dependents with inadequate resources. The Joint Committee found that this inter-generational dependency deepens the vulnerability of older persons and should be expressly reflected in social protection design, targeting and budgeting.

4.9 Recognition of retired professionals and social value of older persons

The petitioners also approached the matter from the perspective of national development, arguing that retired professionals and older persons represent a reservoir of experience, wisdom and institutional memory that should not be ignored. They proposed greater recognition and deliberate inclusion of senior citizens in advisory, governance and community structures.

4.10 Standards in old people's homes and public accountability

The petitioners requested stronger inspection and oversight of public and private old people's homes to ensure world-class standards of care. In response, the Ministry advised that residential care facilities are presently largely privately owned and that standards for such facilities are being developed.

5.0 Committee's Observations

5.1 The Joint Committee observed that the petition by the Power of Touch Institution was properly conceived and raised matters of genuine public importance. The evidence led before the Joint Committee showed that older persons face a multidimensional challenge encompassing legal uncertainty, weak institutional coordination, inadequate income security, constrained health access and dignity deficits at service delivery points.

5.2 The Committees further observed that Government had already initiated important policy and legislative review processes, particularly in relation to the Older Persons Act, the Social Welfare Assistance Act and an Older Persons Policy. These are commendable steps.

5.3 The Joint Committee noted that older persons were not a uniform category. Some are pensioners, some are retired professionals and some are elderly citizens outside the formal pension economy. Any future legal and policy response must therefore be broad enough to cover these categories while still permitting targeted interventions where necessary.

5.4 The Committees also observed that the welfare of older persons should be approached both as a rights issue and as a matter of national social policy. Zimbabwe owes older persons not only care and protection, but also dignity, recognition and inclusion.

6.0 Committee's Recommendations

6.1 The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare should expedite the review of the Older Persons Act and related social protection legislation so as to produce a coherent and enforceable framework for the protection of senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals by December 2026. Going forward, Government should consider the feasibility of a consolidated legal framework relating to older persons.

6.2 The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare should strengthen the institutional focal point for older persons by formalising a unit or directorate with adequate staffing and coordination functions at national and sub-national levels by January 2027.

6.3 Treasury should progressively increase budgetary support to the Older Persons Fund, the Assisted Medical Treatment Order and other social protection interventions targeted at older persons, with a view to improving access to service and reducing vulnerability in the 2027 National Budget.

6.4 The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, together with local authorities and relevant regulators, should develop standard service delivery guidelines on the treatment and prioritisation of older persons at public service points, including hospitals, banks, transport hubs and local authority offices by 31 December 2026.

6.5 The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare should progressively adjust pensions and social grants, aligned to the Consumer Price Index and cost-of-living benchmarks, starting budgeting in the 2027 financial year.

6.7 Treasury should comply with AMTOs extended to older persons while expediting the National Health Insurance Scheme by providing adequate resources in the 2027 financial year.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 The Committee concludes that the plight of senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals in Zimbabwe is structural, systemic and urgent. Existing laws and policies, while well-intentioned, remain fragmented, weakly enforced and insufficient to guarantee dignity, security and social inclusion owing to a lack of financial resources.

7.2 The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends the enactment of a comprehensive, consolidated Senior Citizens, Pensioners and Retired Professionals Act, supported by a powerful coordinating institution as the most viable and sustainable solution to ensure that every Ministry, without exception, takes full account of the rights and needs of older persons.

HON. BAJILA: Good afternoon Madam Speaker. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. I rise to wholeheartedly support the Report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and

Social Welfare and the Thematic Committee on Human Rights regarding the petition by the Power of Touch Institution on the review of laws and regulations affecting senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals.

Madam Speaker, at the outset, I wish to commend both Committees and the petitioners for bringing before this House an issue that speaks directly to the conscience of our nation. The measure of a society's conscience is not found merely in the size of its economy, but in how it treats those who have already given their productive years in service to the nation.

Section 82 of our Constitution recognises the rights of older persons and obliges the State to take reasonable measures to ensure their wellbeing. This report reminds us that constitutional obligation and that the promises must be translated into practical realities. Zimbabwe's older citizens are not a burden. They are our yester year teachers, nurses, soldiers, farmers, entrepreneurs, civil servants, religious leaders and even community builders to some extent. Many sacrificed their lives during the liberation struggle and others built our country through

sacrifices made post-Independence. Today, many of them live in poverty, they struggle to access healthcare and queue for hours to receive basic public services. That situation is inconsistent with the dignity guaranteed in Section 82 of our Constitution.

The Committees, therefore, correctly observes that our current legal framework is fragmented. The rights of older persons are scattered across various statutes, making implementation difficult and accountability weak. I, therefore, fully support the recommendation that the Government expedite the review of the Older Persons Act while working towards a comprehensive and consolidated legal framework for senior citizens, pensioners and retired professionals.

Madam Speaker, this recommendation is consistent with international various practice across from the Global South.

In South Africa, the Older Persons Act provides a comprehensive legal framework protecting the rights of older persons while regulating residential care facilities and community-based services.

In Brazil, the Statute of the elderly guarantees priority healthcare, transport concessions, protection from abuse and dedicated institutional mechanisms.

In India, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act imposes legal obligations on families while empowering the State to establish welfare mechanisms and specialised tribunals.

Closer to home, Namibia has maintained one of Africa's most universal social pensions, significantly reducing extreme poverty among older persons. These examples, Madam Speaker, demonstrate that comprehensive legislation backed by sustainable financing is both achievable and effective within developing countries.

I equally support, Madam Speaker, the recommendation to strengthen institutional arrangements by establishing a properly resourced directorate responsible for older persons. Across the Global South, countries that have made progress have established clear institutional leadership responsible for older persons. For example, Brazil established national councils for older persons that coordinate implementation across sectors. South Africa similarly integrates services

through dedicated social development structures working within provincial governments. Zimbabwe requires, therefore, an institution with adequate authority, personnel and financial resources to coordinate policy, monitor implementation and regularly report to this august House.

Madam Speaker, the recommendation to strengthen the Older Persons Fund deserves our strongest support. One of the greatest challenges facing older persons is inflation. Pension values decline while the cost of medicines, food and transport continues to rise.

Countries such as Brazil and Uruguay regularly adjust pension benefits to preserve purchasing power. Similarly, Botswana and Namibia continue to expand social pensions as instruments for poverty reduction. Zimbabwe should progressively move towards predictable pension adjustments linked to inflation and the Consumer Price Index, exactly as recommended by the Joint Committees.

Madam Speaker, healthcare deserves particular emphasis in this debate. The Committees correctly note that although certain legal provisions exist, many elderly citizens still fail to access affordable

treatment because of financial and administrative barriers. Countries such as Thailand have demonstrated that universal health coverage substantially improves healthcare access for older citizens. Rwanda has expanded community-based health insurance, enabling vulnerable populations, including older persons, to receive essential healthcare closer to their communities.

Zimbabwe's proposed National Health Insurance Scheme presents an opportunity to ensure that no elderly citizen is denied healthcare because of inability to pay. Madam Speaker, I particularly welcome the Joint Committees' recommendation on dignity in public service delivery. It is recognition that age often comes with reduced mobility, chronic illness and increased vulnerability. Across Asia, Latin America and Southern Africa, dedicated queues, seating facilities, accessible infrastructure and priority counters have become standard practice for the elderly citizens. Zimbabwe should institutionalise these simple but meaningful measures in hospitals, banks, Government offices, transport terminals and local authorities.

Madam Speaker, the report also correctly recognises that many older persons are caring for orphaned grandchildren and unemployed family members. This phenomenon is common across Southern Africa due to unemployment, migration, HIV and AIDS and ever-changing family structures. Our social protection policies must, therefore, support not only older persons themselves but also the households dependent upon them.

Madam Speaker, as Parliament considers the future legislation, I respectfully propose several additional measures for consideration. First, Government should establish a national register of older persons to improve planning and targeting of social protection programmes.

Secondly, Parliament should consider introducing tax incentives for employers that re-engage retired professionals on mentorship programmes, thereby preserving institutional memory. Most institutions are struggling to move forward because while it is necessary to take speedy steps moving forward, it is also important to preserve institutional memory. Therefore, there should be a programme of promoting the retention of retired civil servants and professionals as

consultants so that institutional memories of certain growing organisations are retained.

Thirdly, digital literacy programmes should be introduced for senior citizens to enable them to access online banking, Government services and health information. Madam Speaker, a lot of issues, Government services, public and private sector services are moving into online spaces and without including this kind of information, education and services to senior citizens we are leaving them behind. They are lagging and failing to access some of the things that are due to them. So, it is important that in planning about what digital migration as a different Government department and institutions, we include the interests of senior citizens and make sure that they are including into the digital migration that we are getting into.

Finally, Parliament should require annual reporting on the implementation of policies affecting older persons so that oversight becomes continuous rather than occasional. Madam Speaker, the report before us is not merely about welfare. It is about justice.

It is about recognising that today's older persons built the Zimbabwe we have inherited and tomorrow's older persons are actually ourselves. By adopting these recommendations, Parliament will be investing not only in the wellbeing of today's elderly citizens but also in the dignity and security of future generations. I, therefore, urge this august House to adopt this report in its entirety and to ensure that its recommendations are implemented without further delay. I so submit.

HON. KAMBUZUMA: Madam Speaker, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. NYANDORO: I second, Madam Speaker.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 15th July, 2026.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. KAMBUZUMA: Madam Speaker, I move that we proceed to Order of the Day, Number 15 on today's *Order Paper*.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: I have a point of order, Madam Speaker. It is my view that this House does not have a quorum.

[Bells rung.]

[Quorum formed.]

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE ON THE MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND SKILLS AUDIT AND DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION'S FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERLY BUDGET PERFORMANCE

HON. MALINGANISO: Madam Speaker, I move the motion standing in my name;

That this House considers and adopts the Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare on the Ministries of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and Skills Audit

and Development and Public Service Commission's First and Second Quarterly Budget Performance Reports.

HON. BAJILA: I second.

HON. MALINGANISO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Introduction

This report presents a consolidated and analytical summary of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare's review of the 2025 First and Second Quarter Budget Performance Reports for the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Skills Audit and Development and the Public Service Commission in accordance with Sections 32 to 35 of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) which require each Ministry to submit periodic financial and non-financial performance information to Parliament. Quarterly budget performance reports are a key accountability instrument that enable the Portfolio Committee to exercise oversight on the utilisation of appropriated resources.

Overall, the Committee found that both ministries and the Commission operated under severe and persistent cash flow constraints,

characterised by low and erratic Treasury releases. These constraints materially undermined budget execution, weakened service delivery, particularly for vulnerable populations and increased the risk of arrears accumulation. While both ministries reported achievement of several performance targets, the Committee is concerned about the credibility, depth, and sustainability of reported outputs given very low levels of expenditure during the first half of 2025.

Objectives

The objectives of this oversight exercise were to:

Assess whether each Ministry achieved or made credible progress towards its 2025 First and Second Quarter Budget Performance targets and whether reported achievements reflect measurable outcomes aligned to NDS1.

Evaluate the level of resource utilisation against quarterly estimates and annual allocations, including analysis by programme and by economic classification.

Identify major bottlenecks (including cash release constraints, procurement delays, vacancies, reporting gaps and arrears) affecting programme execution.

Determine the implications of underperformance on service delivery, fiscal sustainability and vulnerability outcomes and propose corrective actions.

Methodology

The Committee reviewed the 2025 First and Second Budget Performance Reports submitted by each Ministry and considered the analytical briefs prepared by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) for each quarterly report.

The Committee also sought clarification from the ministries on some grey areas.

COMMITTEE FINDINGS: MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

First Quarter Budget Overview

The Ministry's 2025 budget of ZWG 17.71 billion was structurally concentrated in Social Benefits, reflecting its core mandate of social

protection. The first quarter budget was allocated across the three programmes, with a major share directed towards Social Welfare. While this alignment is appropriate, it exposes service delivery to immediate risk when cash releases are delayed or inadequate. Underfunding of Social Benefits directly affect food assistance, disability services, education support and institutional care.

First Quarter Performance

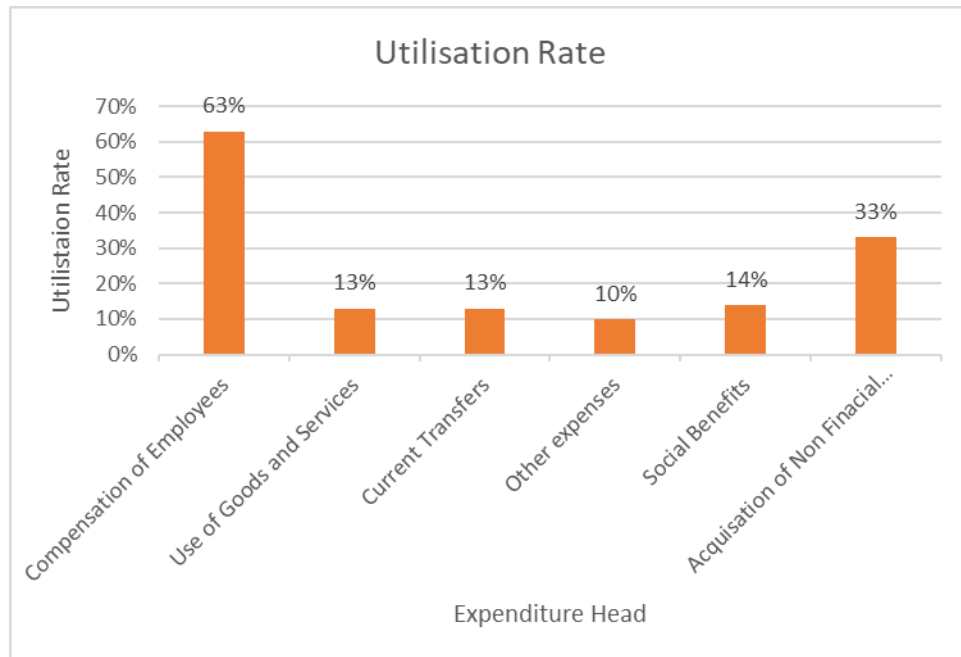
Budget utilisation across all programmes was extremely low. Programme 1 (Policy and Administration) utilised ZWG 16 709 million which is merely 7.5% of the quarterly expenditure target of ZWG 219 993 million. Programme 2 (Labour Administration) utilised ZWG 70 762 million, which is only 27% of the quarter target of ZWG 257 514 million and Programme 3 (Social Welfare) utilised ZWG 373 489 million, which is 15% of the quarterly expenditure target of ZWG 2 571 725 billion only.

The Ministry reported that residential care facilities' supply of basic needs was affected and the payment of first-term school fees and procurement of uniforms and stationery for children in institutional care

were also affected. Further, assistive devices for persons with disabilities could not be procured and some Vocational Training Centres were threatening to withdraw students with disabilities due to non-payment of fees. In addition, the provision of entitlement grants to vulnerable groups could not be done. It was further reported that arrears to transporters who provided services during the Food Deficit Distribution Programme continued to accumulate.

The Ministry reported that Treasury did not release cash for Capital grants in the first quarter. This affected the rehabilitation of infrastructure for ZIPAM, notwithstanding that this expenditure head had been budgeted for.

4.2.4 Budget Utilisation by Economic Classification



All expenditure heads had low utilisation rates as follows:

Compensation of employees 63%, Use of goods and services 13%, Current transfers 13%, Other expenses 10%, Social benefits 14% and Acquisition of non-financial assets 33%.

2025 First Performance Achievements

The Ministry reported that for Programme 2, it had either reached or surpassed most of its quarter targets except for the completion of Employment Policy and Employer Compliance with labour standards. The Committee noted that non-completion of the Employment Policy and weak employer compliance may compromise labour market regulation reforms and the protection of workers' rights.

Ministry of Public Service's Second Quarter Performance

In the Second Quarter, there was a modest improvement, particularly under Programme 3, which utilised about 70% of its quarterly target. However, cumulative utilisation by mid-year remained low at approximately 24% of the annual budget.

Programme 1 (Policy and Administration) utilised ZWG 52 938 816, which is merely 27% of the quarterly expenditure target of ZWG 194 601 000. The budget utilisation rate is a slight improvement from an absorption rate of 7.5% reported in the first quarter. For the period January to June 2025, the Ministry of Public Service utilised ZWG 69 648 181, translating to a utilisation rate of 9%.

Programme 2 utilised ZWG 53 656 891 in the second quarter, which is only 23% of the second quarter target of ZWG 231 478 250. For the period January to June, the programme had a budget utilisation rate of only 13% and Programme 3 utilised ZWG 2 281 655 490, which is 70% of the quarter target of ZWG 3 248 448 000.

The Ministry reported that there were low cash releases which mainly affected flagship programmes such as BEAM and the Food

Deficit Mitigation Strategy. The Committee urges Treasury to make timely payment of BEAM funds to ensure access to education for vulnerable learners and to stabilise school operations which depend on BEAM funds to cover operational costs such as teaching materials and utility bills. The amount of BEAM arrears at the end of the Second Quarter was ZWG -----

Cumulatively, the total expenditure by the Ministry of Public Service in the first six months of 2025 was ZWG2 820 213 290, translating to a budget utilisation rate of 24%.

Audit and Governance Issues

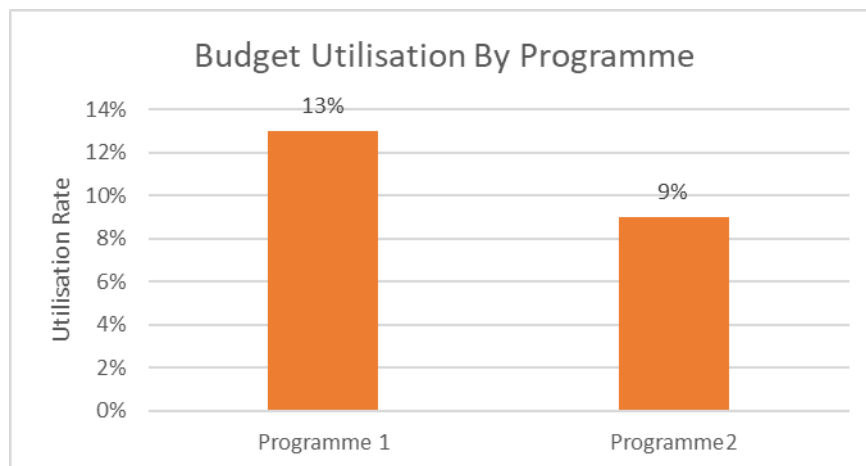
Although progress was made in addressing some Auditor-General findings, out of twelve (12) findings, seven (7) were addressed while five (5) were outstanding, including non-submission of returns, payments in arrears, and weaknesses in BEAM and cash transfer programmes. Furthermore, continued qualified opinions signal weaknesses in internal controls and compliance.

KEY FINDINGS: MINISTRY OF SKILLS AUDIT AND DEVELOPMENT

Budget Overview

The Ministry's 2025 budget of ZWG253.2 million is heavily skewed towards Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets and Use of Goods and Services, with a relatively small share allocated to Compensation of Employees. The Committee noted a persistent imbalance, with a higher share of resources allocated to Policy and Administration relative to the core programme of Skills Audit and Development.

2025 First Quarter Budget Performance



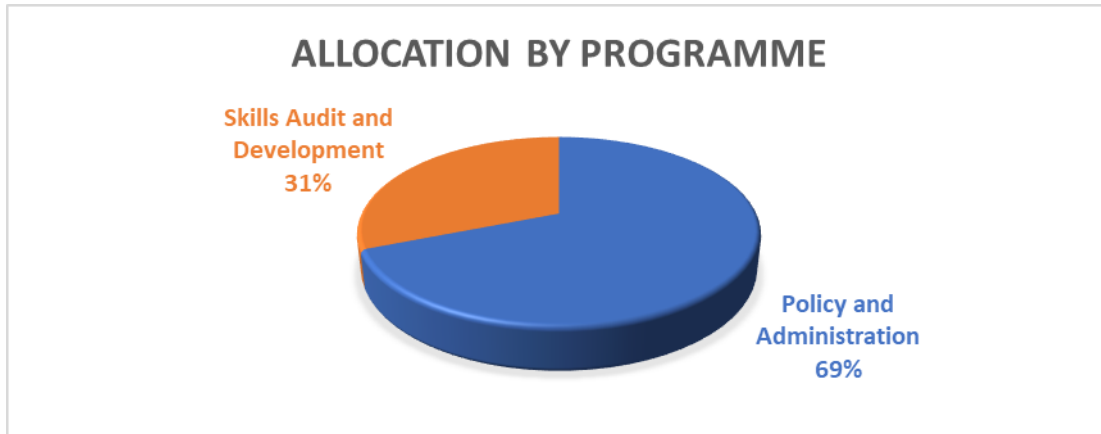
The Ministry utilised only about 11% of its First Quarter budget, with Programme 1 at 13% and Programme 2 at 9%. Programme 1 utilised ZWG 10 055 105, which is 13% of the quarter target of ZWG 76 768 000. Programme 2 utilised ZWG 5 641 682, which is 9% of the

target for the quarter of ZWG 65 097 000. The low percentage utilisation under Programme 2 is of concern because it affects the Ministry's ability to perform its core business, including conducting an informal sector skill needs assessment, crafting of scholarships policy and careers guidance policy and promotion of informal apprenticeship programmes.

In total, for the two programmes, in the first quarter, only 11% of the estimated budget was utilised due to non-release of funds. If this trend persists, the Ministry may not meet its set targets for the year, thus affecting the Ministry's contribution to achieving NDSI targets.

All expenditure heads utilised less than the targeted funds for the quarter. Acquisition of non-financial assets utilised ZWG6.122 million against a quarter target of ZWG109.82 million, translating to the lower utilisation rate of 6%. Use of Goods and Services utilised 22% of the estimated budget for the First Quarter. This raises concern over the Ministry's ability to achieve set targets in the First Quarter.

Second Quarter Performance: Ministry of Skills Audit and Development



The budget for the second quarter was ZWG59 007 000, translating to 23.3% of the total 2025 budget. Programme 1 (Policy and Administration) was allocated 69% of the estimated budget for the quarter, while Programme 2 (Skills Audit and Development) was allocated 31% of the estimated budget. The low percentage utilisation under Programme 2 continues to undermine the achievement of skills development and alignment of skills to industry requirements.

Both programmes' budget utilisation improved to about 34% for the Second Quarter, but cumulative utilisation by mid-year remained low at around 14% of the annual allocation. Treasury cash releases remained unpredictable and insufficient.

Performance Achievements and Credibility Risks

The Ministry, however, reported achievements and surpassing of many annual targets by mid-year. These include skills needs assessments, stakeholder engagements, diaspora database development and programme harmonisation.

Institutional Capacity Constraints

Persistent vacancies were identified as structural weaknesses affecting planning and decentralisation. The Ministry's request for additional posts to establish provincial structures remains unresolved thus limiting its ability to implement skills audits and programmes at devolved levels.

Arrears and Fiscal Transparency

The Ministry repeatedly failed to report on arrears to service providers. This omission conceals fiscal risks, undermines budget credibility and limits Parliament's ability to assess hidden liabilities that may contribute to public debt pressures.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS

Low and erratic Treasury cash releases emerged as the dominant constraint affecting both ministries. Misalignment between approved

budgets, quarterly targets and actual cash flow undermines planning, disrupts service delivery and increases the likelihood of arrears accumulation.

Consistent non-disclosure of arrears represents a major accountability gap. Without transparent arrears registers, Parliament cannot assess the true fiscal and debt position, sustainability of reported performance or risks to service continuity.

Underfunding of social protection programmes disproportionately affected orphans, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and food-insecure households. These gaps undermine NDS1 commitments and expose vulnerable populations to heightened socio-economic risks. The Committee observed that predictable disbursements are critical for Social Benefits execution. The persistent pattern of low disbursement to Social Benefits undermines the Ministry's ability to meet statutory and policy obligations in social protection, potentially shifting costs to future quarters and increasing the risk of arrears.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Treasury and the relevant line ministries should agree on predictable cash release frameworks for critical social protection and skills development programmes at the beginning of each quarter.

Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare should prioritise payments of Social Benefits, BEAM and cash transfers, and provide regular, consolidated performance and arrears reports, including for NSSA and ZIPAM by end of each quarter.

The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion should always treat disability issues as human rights issues rather than as matters of social protection.

The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare should complete the Employment Policy and the compliance strategy and come up with timeframes of inspections with the Ministry of Finance to financing the inspections by June 2026.

Both ministries should strengthen target-setting and performance indicators to emphasise quality outcomes and sustainability aligned to realistic cash flow scenarios at the beginning of each quarter.

Gender and province-disaggregated staffing and beneficiary data should be routinely reported to support equity, decentralisation and gender-responsive budgeting.

Outstanding audit findings should be addressed through time-bound remedial action plans to restore financial management credibility.

Public Service Commission

Strategic Planning and Human Resources

The Commission reported 464 vacant posts out of an approved establishment of 2 065 positions, representing a vacancy rate of approximately 22.4%. Such a vacancy rate may compromise the Commission's ability to discharge its constitutional and statutory mandate effectively, particularly in areas of human capital development, pension administration and performance management. Persistent staffing gaps may negatively affect service delivery and programme implementation.

Budget Allocation for Public Service Commission

The Commission received an annual allocation of ZWG10 723 billion distributed across three programmes as follows:

- Programme 1: Corporate Services (4%)
- Programme 2: Human Capital Development and Management (3%)
- Programme 3: Pay and Benefits Development and Management (93%)

The allocation demonstrates Government's prioritisation of pay and benefits, which constitute the core mandate of the Commission.

Second Quarter Budget Utilisation

By the end of the Second Quarter, overall budget utilisation stood at 32%, while utilisation of disbursed funds was 40%. Cumulative expenditure was only 19% of the total 2025 budget.

Programme performance was as follows:

- Programme 1 (Corporate Services) achieved approximately 99% utilisation of its quarterly target.
- Programme 2 (Human Capital Development and Management) utilised 45% of its quarterly target, an improvement from the previous quarter.

- Programme 3 (Pay and Benefits Development and Management) utilised only 28.6% of its quarterly target, reflecting a decline from 39% in the previous quarter. Low absorption under Programme 3 is particularly concerning given that it accounts for 93% of the Commission's total allocation.

Expenditure by Economic Classification

- Compensation of Employees recorded only 28% utilisation of its quarterly target and 38% of disbursed funds.
- Use of Goods and Services achieved 81% utilisation, indicating relatively efficient spending.
- No disbursements were made for Social Benefits, meaning no implementation of welfare-related programmes occurred during the quarter.
- Expenditure on Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets exceeded the quarterly target by 31%, raising concerns about planning and financial controls.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Commission reported several achievements during the second quarter, including:

- Alignment of 21 line Ministry structures against a target of 17.
- Electronic registration of 5 314 candidates against a target of 5 000.
- Capacitation of 1 948 disciplinary authorities against a target of 1 250.

Certain targets, including review of the Job Evaluation Framework and labour practices capacity building workshops, were not met due to limited release of funds.

REVENUE PERFORMANCE

The Commission collected ZWG43.5 million cumulatively by the end of the Second Quarter and USD2.48 million in the second quarter. All revenue was remitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund in compliance with Section 302 of the Constitution which is commendable.

Audit Findings and Governance

The Commission received a Qualified Opinion in the 2024 Auditor General's report. Several critical issues remain unresolved across its Appropriation Account and various funds, including:

- Manual receipting of revenue outside electronic systems.
- Lack of approved tariff structures.
- Unresolved losses and damages to Government property.
- Absence of actuarial valuation for pension liabilities since 2012.
- Significant pension receivables and liquidity concerns.
- Inadequate documentation for investments.
- Weak accounting systems and reliance on manual or spreadsheet-based records.

Observations

- Audit findings point to systemic weaknesses in internal controls and what the PSC should do to address these issues.
- Financial constraints continue to affect implementation of key reforms.
- Overall low utilisation delays key reforms such as salary reviews, digitalisation and pension processing.

- Non-disbursement of funds for social benefits adversely affects public servants' welfare.

Recommendations

The Commission must develop a time-bound action plan to address all outstanding audit findings by 31 December of 2026.

Treasury should ensure timely and adequate release of funds to avoid implementation delays.

Social benefit allocations should be prioritised to safeguard public servants' welfare in each quarter.

The Commission should develop and implement a staffing rationalisation and recruitment plan to address the 22.4% vacancy rate by end of September 2026.

CONCLUSION

The Committee concluded that while both ministries complied with PFMA reporting requirements, budget execution in the first half of 2025 was severely constrained by inadequate and unpredictable cash releases. Persistent underfunding of core programmes, weak arrears reporting and questionable alignment between expenditure and reported

performance undermine service delivery effectiveness and fiscal credibility. I thank you.

HON. BAJILA: Thank you Madam Speaker and good afternoon once again. I rise to express my full support of the report on the Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare for the 2025 First and Second Quarter Budget Performance Reports for the three MDAs, that is, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Skills Audit and Development as well as the Public Service Commission.

Madam Speaker, this report, as has been read out by Hon. Malinganiso, presents a balanced, evidence-based and objective assessment of the performance of these institutions in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act. The Committee correctly identifies the principal challenges confronting these institutions, that is the persistent mismatch between Parliament's budget approvals and the actual Treasurer's cash releases. Ministries cannot effectively implement programmes when approved appropriations are not matched by predictable disbursements.

Consequently, Parliament's oversight role extends beyond approving budgets to ensuring that appropriated resources are released in a timely and predictable manner. The findings show that despite commendable efforts by the ministries and departments to achieve performance targets, budget utilisation remains significantly below expectations because of erratic cash releases by Treasury. This situation undermines service delivery, weakens social protection systems and delays critical reforms in our human resource management.

Madam Speaker, the greatest victims of these findings are not Government institutions but ordinary Zimbabweans. The report demonstrates that delayed funding disrupted the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM), disrupted the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme, disrupted disability support, disrupted institutional care for children and disrupted the procurement of assistive devices and grants for vulnerable communities.

The programmes therefore are not luxuries. They are constitutional obligations aimed at protecting our vulnerable citizens. This directly relates to Section 30 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe which obliges the

State to provide social welfare and social protection, as well as Section 19 which requires the Government to prioritise the welfare of children.

Therefore, improving budget execution, as proposed by the report presented by the Chairperson, is not merely a financial matter, it is a constitutional imperative. Whenever we fail and any of us neglects or does anything that does not lead to full budget execution, we are violating the rights of the people of Zimbabwe and we are violating our constitutional obligations.

The Committee also correctly highlights the consequences of underfunding the Ministry of Skills, Audit and Development. Zimbabwe cannot industrialise without adequately investing in human capital. The continued underfunding of skills audits, apprenticeship programmes, career guidance and labour market intelligence weakens our capacity to prepare our young people for the future economy.

Madam Speaker, this report also aligns Zimbabwe strongly with the National Development Strategy 2. National Development Strategy 2 places significant emphasis on human capital development, social

protection, employment creation, public sector transformation, inclusive economic growth and results-based management.

Madam Speaker, none of these priorities can be realised if ministries consistently receive a fraction of their approved quarterly budgets. Effective implementation of NDS 2 therefore requires predictable financing, strong institutions and measurable performance.

Similarly, the report presented by the Chairperson advances Zimbabwe's commitment to attaining sustainable development goals. Specifically SDG 1, which speaks to no poverty, is advanced by the report through strengthening social protection systems. SDG 4, which speaks to quality education, is advanced by this report through speaking to the timely financing of BEAM and skills development. SDG 8, which speaks to decent work and economic growth, is advanced by this report because it speaks to issues of labour market reforms and skills alignment. SDG 10, which speaks to the reduction of inequalities, is advanced by this report as it speaks to the protection of persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups. SDG 16 is advanced by this report as

it speaks to improved financial accountability, transparency and public sector governance in line with the Public Finance Management Act.

Madam Speaker, SDG 17 is advanced by this report as it speaks to partnerships for the courts. This report speaks to improved coordination between Treasury, line ministries and other departments for oversight of these institutions. Therefore, supporting this report means supporting Zimbabwe's international development commitments.

The Committee's recommendations are also consistent with internationally recognised standard practices. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank consistently emphasise the importance of credible budgeting, cash management and expenditure predictability.

Similarly, the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Framework identifies predictable budget execution, transparency of arrears and reliable reporting as essential indicators of sound public finance management. The Committee's concerns regarding hidden arrears, weak reporting and inconsistent cash releases therefore reflect internationally acceptable principles of fiscal governance.

Likewise, the recommendation to improve gender and provincial disaggregation of data aligns well with sustainable development goals relating to monitoring standards and gender-responsive budget practices adopted across many African countries by this time.

I also commend the Committee for drawing attention to unresolved Auditor-General findings. Accountability cannot end with the publication of audit reports. Ministries should be required to implement corrective actions within clearly defined timelines with periodic reporting back to this august House.

The Committee also correctly identifies the large vacancy levels within both the Ministry of Skills, Audit and Development and the Public Service Commission. These vacancies reduce institutional effectiveness, delay decentralisation and compromise service delivery. While supporting all the Committee's recommendations, I respectfully propose the following additional measures:

Critical programmes such as BEAM, Harmonised Cash Transfer, Disability Support and Institutional Care should receive protected funding that cannot be delayed under exceptional circumstances. These

are our vulnerable people and they demand and deserve that care for them be not erratic but be consistent.

Madam Speaker, Treasury should establish a real-time digital dashboard showing approved budgets, releases, expenditure commitments and arrears for every Ministry to strengthen parliamentary oversight. It must be possible for Members of this august House to log into a dashboard and see that for this quarter so much is expected to go to the Ministry of Skills Audit, so much has gone, this much is the arrear and this is how this expenditure is being respected and taken care of.

That kind of continuous and digitised platform will improve our oversight systems as this august House and once we have got more open and transparent systems, the confidence of our people in the things that we do will go up and Zimbabwe will become stabler economically and socially.

Madam Speaker, ministries that consistently achieve programme targets and comply with audit recommendations should receive priority considerations during quarterly allocations. The Ministry of Skills Audit and Development should publish a five-year national skills demand

forecast in collaboration with industry, universities, technical colleges and the private sector to align education with labour market needs. One of the issues that we need to get out of skills audit is that our people, wherever they are should see that the trajectory of growth for Zimbabwe is this way and the skills that will be needed for that kind of growth are A, B, C and D. That way, our young people will have their minds and their focus aligned with the future economy of this country rather than to continue to develop skills in this direction when in actual fact we anticipate that our economy will grow in that direction. Therefore, a five-year national skills demand forecast is imperative for the Ministry of Skills Audit to publish.

The issue of disability-inclusive budgeting. Every ministry should mainstream disability budgeting in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities rather than treating disability solely as a welfare issue. The Chairperson was clear that the issue of disability must not be looked at solely as a welfare issue but as a holistic human rights issue to the extent that all ministries

should have what we call mainstream disability issues in their budgeting because disability issues are cross-cutting.

In conclusion, this report reminds us that a budget is only meaningful when resources are released, programmes are implemented and citizens receive the intended services. The Committee has discharged its oversight responsibility diligently by identifying weaknesses, recognising achievements and proposing practical reforms. Supporting this report is therefore supporting stronger public financial management, improved service delivery, protection of vulnerable citizens and achievement of our development targets as a country. I, therefore, urge this House to unanimously adopt the Committee's report and call upon Treasury and the respective ministries to implement its recommendations fully and expeditiously. I so submit

HON. TOGAREPI: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. NYANDORO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 15th July, 2026.

*On the motion of **HON. TOGAREPI**, seconded by **HON.***

NYANDORO, *the House adjourned at Ten Minutes to Six o'clock p.m.*