

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Tuesday, 14th July, 2026

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

PRAYERS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE

CHALLENGES WITH INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE: I have to inform the Senate that Parliament is having challenges with internet connectivity which is erratic and slow. The ICT Department is currently seized with resolving these challenges. They are looking into it.

NON-ADVERSE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE

PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL COMMITTEE

THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE: I have to inform the Senate that I have received non-adverse reports from the Parliamentary Legal Committee for the following Statutory Instruments; 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90, 91, 92 and 93 published in the *Gazette* during the month of May 2026.

BILL RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: CLIMATE
CHANGE MANAGEMENT BILL [H. B. 5A, 2025]

THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE: I also have to inform the Senate that I have received the Climate Change Management Bill [HB 5A, 2025] from the National Assembly.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF VETERANS OF THE
LIBERATION STRUGGLE AFFAIRS (HON. SEN. H. MOYO):** I move that Orders of the Day, Numbers 1 to 6 on today's *Order Paper* be stood over until the rest of the Orders of the Day have been disposed of.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. SEN CHAPFUDZA: Thank yo, Madam President. I move that we stand over Order of the Day Number 7 on the *Order Paper* until the rest of the Orders of the Day have been disposed of.

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

**STRENGTHENING LEGISLATION ON PROTECTING CHILDREN
FROM ABUSE**

Eighth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the rampant abuse of children in the communities.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MAVENYENGWA: Madam President, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. MUPFUMIRA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

MOTION

**REPORT OF THE 152ND ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN
ISTANBUL, TURKEY**

Ninth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the delegation Report of the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MUZENDA: Madam President, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. GOTORA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

MOTION

REPORT OF THE JOINT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND THEMATIC COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE PETITION BY THE POWER OF TOUCH INSTITUTION ON THE REVIEW OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT HAVE A BEARING ON THE SENIOR CITIZENS

Tenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and Social

Welfare and Thematic Committee on Human Rights on the Petition by the Power of Touch Institution on the Review of Laws and Regulations that have a bearing on the Senior Citizens.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: Thank you Madam President. I rise to make my contribution on the report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and Thematic Committee on Human Rights presented to this august House by Hon. Senator Mavenyengwa.

This report is based on a petition by the Power of Touch Institution on the review of laws and regulations that have a bearing on senior citizens. The report emanates from a petition raising issues of laws, policies, administration and public service delivery affecting older persons in this country.

In particular, the report pointed to the fragmentation of the legal framework governing older persons, the inadequacy of social protection programmes and the absence of dedicated institutional arrangements for implementation and monitoring of these laws that affect the welfare of

senior citizens. The petition further implored the Senate to take legislative and oversight measures to improve the conditions of senior citizens, pensioners and other professionals. Mr. President, older persons in Zimbabwe make up 7-8% of our population.

Research indicates that 80% of these people live in poverty, owing to a number of factors that are mainly economic. Few of these people depend on remittances from the diaspora. In short, we are saying very few of this age group have children who are in the diaspora who are now able to send remittances back home to support leaving the bigger population of our older people vulnerable and exposed to vagaries of life, which include poverty, penury and wants.

In many cases, this age group is affected by non-communicable diseases like hypertension, diabetes, arthritis, eye problems and so forth. There is a motion in this House, Mr. President, lamenting the increasing cases of non-communicable diseases, the majority of which are affecting the older people. The general feeling among this age group is that they have been abused and are neglected, that the mantra of the government that it seeks not to leave anyone behind is actually not being lived up to

their expectations. They also are food insecure. For this House, this is the age group that we are approaching. It is only important that we treat issues related to the plight of our senior citizens with the seriousness it deserves.

The petition raises issues of fragmentation of laws to the point that their plight is not being addressed by these policies, regulations and laws and it is calling on Parliament to do everything in its power to harmonise laws so that they are able or that the laws respond to their plight. What is the plight of the senior citizens? They are finding it difficult to access health services. They are finding it difficult to access their pension payouts even those who have been working. They are finding it difficult to access clean water sanitation. They are also finding it difficult to be integrated into the ordinary society.

In many cases, when we migrate from our rural homes, we neglect them. This is the population that has seen it fit to bring a petition to this Parliament. It is only proper and important in the interest of Ubuntu and our Africanness that we thrive in to make sure that we listen to the plight of this age group because sooner rather than later we are going to be

joining them. If we graduate into this age group without putting in place necessary safety mechanisms, we will only have ourselves to blame. This is a challenge that is being thrust on this Parliament that 7-8% of our senior citizens are living in abject poverty.

It is only fair, Mr. President, that when we debate budgets in this Parliament, we think about the plight of these older people. When we debate laws, the harmonisation of laws that have something to do with the plight of our senior citizens, we do so with the urgency that is required of this matter because 7-8% is such a huge number. It is only proper that in keeping up with our Ubuntu, we deal with this matter.

As I sit down, I want to thank Hon. Senator Mavenyengwa for bringing this report before this august House and implore Hon. Members of this House to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves because this is the age group where we are all going to be very soon. I thank you Mr. President.

HON. SEN. NCUBE: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

MOTION

REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE STREETS

Eleventh Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the increasing number of people living in the streets in Zimbabwe.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: Thank you Mr. President, for affording me an opportunity to add a few words to this important motion. I know much has already been said by other Hon. Senators who have debated before, but I hope to find one or two things to add.

Mr. President, I rise to add my voice to this important motion on the alarming increase in the number of people living on the streets of our towns and cities. This is not merely a social welfare issue. It is a national development challenge, a public health concern, a human rights issue and a reflection of the economic realities confronting many Zimbabweans.

Every day we see men, women, children, the elderly and persons living with disabilities sleeping on pavements, under bridges, in abandoned buildings and bus termini. What was once associated mainly with children has now evolved into entire families living on the streets. This should concern every one of us because no nation can claim to be progressing while increasing numbers of its citizens have no place to call home. Economic hardships, unemployment, family breakdown, substance abuse, mental illness, housing shortages, migration to urban centres and repeated displacement all contribute to homelessness and street living. Studies also point to persistent urban poverty, food insecurity and inadequate affordable housing as major drivers.

We must avoid the temptation to criminalise poverty. Chasing people from one street to another without addressing the reasons they are there merely relocates the problem. It does not solve it. The Constitution guarantees the dignity of every person. Therefore, our response must be humane, lawful and sustainable. The increasing number of children on the streets deserves particular attention. Many have fled abuse, neglect or extreme poverty. Others have been orphaned or abandoned.

Once on the streets, they become vulnerable to drug abuse, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, violence and recruitment into criminal activities. Instead of receiving education and protection, they grow up without hope, creating long-term social and economic costs for the nation.

The presence of more people living on the streets also affects public health. Poor sanitation, exposure to communicable diseases, lack of clean water and inadequate health care threaten not only those living on the streets but the wider public. During periods of a disease outbreak, this becomes an even greater challenge. The issue, Mr. President, equally has implications for tourism, investment and the image of our cities. Visitors judge our nation by what they see in our urban centres. Clean, safe and orderly cities encourage investment while widespread homelessness signals deeper socio-economic challenges that require urgent police attention.

Mr. President, addressing this challenge requires a whole-of-Government approach. The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare cannot carry this burden alone. The ministries

responsible for health, housing, local Government, youth, education, justice and home affairs must work together with local authorities, churches, traditional leaders and the private sector.

Civil society organisations as well as development partners, we also need stronger family support systems. Communities should be empowered to identify vulnerable households before they collapse into homelessness. Social protection programmes must reach the most vulnerable families in time. Skills development, youth employment initiatives and support for small businesses should be expanded so that people can earn sustainable livelihoods instead of surviving on the streets.

Mr. President, there is an urgent need for properly managed rehabilitation and reintegration centres across all provinces. These facilities should not merely provide temporary shelter but should...

THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE (HON. SEN. KAMBIZI): Hon. Sen. Chinyanga switch off your microphone.

HON. SEN. CHINYANGA: My apologies Mr. President.

THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Hon. Sen.

Mdhluri, please switch on your microphone.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: Thank you so much Mr. President, I have not noticed. These facilities should not merely provide temporary shelter but should offer counselling, health care, substance abuse rehabilitation, vocational training, education and family reunification services where appropriate. Those suffering from mental illness should receive specialised medical care rather than being left to wander the streets unattended.

Affordable housing must also become a national priority. Governments, local authorities and private developers should increase investment in low-cost housing and upgrade informal settlements. Secure housing restores dignity, improves health outcomes and provides a stable foundation for employment and education.

Furthermore, local authorities should strengthen data collection on homelessness. Effective policy cannot be based on assumptions. We need reliable statistics on who is living on the streets, why they are there, their ages, health status and the interventions that have proven effective.

While citizens, churches and charitable organisations continue to provide food, clothing and temporary shelter, charity alone cannot solve this crisis. Zimbabwe requires a comprehensive national policy on homelessness that focuses on prevention, rehabilitation and long-term reintegration into society.

In conclusion, Mr. President, this House has a responsibility to ensure that no Zimbabwean is condemned to life on the streets. The measure of a nation's greatness is how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. Let us therefore move beyond temporary clean-up campaigns and adopt lasting solutions that restore hope, dignity and opportunity to every Zimbabwean.

I, therefore, support the motion and urge this august House to call upon the Government to develop a coordinated national strategy to reduce homelessness, strengthen social protection, expand affordable housing, rehabilitate those living on the streets and tackle the root causes that force our fellow citizens into such desperate circumstances. I so submit Mr. President.

***HON. SEN. TONGOGARA:** Thank you for awarding me this opportunity to add my voice on this pertinent motion which was raised in this august House. The motion was brought in by Hon. Sen. Gwature. The issue under discussion started long back in the yesteryears. They were called street kids because they were young people but right now, I do not have a proper name. Can we call them street men and street women or street fathers and street mothers? As a country, may we investigate to the root cause of this problem of street kids up to the street fathers and mothers? Many people think that migrating from the rural areas coming to the towns, they can find all what they want. It is just an imagination but when these people do come and see, they struggle to get food, accommodation and other amenities needed for a person to live comfortably. These things are now caused because long back there was an extended family scenario where you could know that you can take care of your cousin maybe your grandfather or your niece. All that cultural aspect has been eroded.

This is one of the reasons why we see many people are now living in the streets. That is why we now have street mothers and street fathers

in the streets even including the street kids. Long back, we used to have street kids only but now we have got adults who are staying in the streets. Most of the challenges which they are facing in the streets have already been said like education, treatment, clean water, shelter and proper ablution facilities. These facilities are not there whilst they are staying in the streets. The lack of all these amenities makes them vulnerable to attack by many diseases. That is why we see the outbreaks of diseases like cholera and when that happen, the Government has to rush to look for the medication to cure those outbreaks. We see that most of the time those who are in the streets do not have identification documents like the national identity cards (IDs). They do not know when they were born, their place of birth, their village or even the headman. It is just an individual who is roaming around in the streets. When that person dies in the streets, he or she will be accorded a pauper's burial because there are no relatives to claim the body in the event of death. So, we are having challenges like of identification because they do not have identification particulars like IDs which each and every person must carry when they are moving around.

Mr. President, although this issue was identified, we say those from Labour and Social Welfare must work towards documentation for all these people and that addresses these problems which they are facing. If a problem emanates or arises in the country, it becomes everybody's responsibility to solve it. It is not Government's sole responsibility. We have got a lot of street kids, street fathers and street mothers in the streets. It now needs a coordinated national approach because many people must put their hands on the deck and put their minds together to make sure that they alleviate the issue of people who are living in the streets.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the First Lady, Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa. She has got a programme which she is doing. She started by taking street kids, giving them shelter at different homes. There is also a need to increase the knowledge gap for these street kids because most of these children are running away from these facilities and going back to the streets. So, it is very pertinent to educate them that it is very important for them to stay in these homes because some of these street kids are even being taken by adults and sending them to different areas.

There is a need to educate the street kids that if they are being removed from the streets and being put at different shelters, they must stay there. There is a need for awareness for the importance of them to stay in the shelters than for them to stay in the streets. The awareness requires each and every individual's effort.

As a country, we will be moving around. We must also know that there are those who are standing in the roads asking for money, food and everything. We encourage them to ask for gifts. You see that many people are giving them gifts and money. May we educate people that working is something which is capable of earning a decent living rather than asking for gifts. We must educate people that they must work to get something rather than standing at different points asking for gifts. We are creating a culture which is not good. May we have those programmes which mobilise money for rehabilitation centres. Those rehabilitation centres are very important and they are very crucial because that is where they are told how to take care of themselves. What I see is that the awareness campaign is very important. People must know that to get something which is good, it comes from hard work.

Right now, we are moving as a country using the mantra which has been said by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa that, '*Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo*' which encourages people to work so that they can get something not just to wait to get something from people. If you continue asking for help from people, you will see yourself going back to ask now and again but if you are able to work and get something which you want, it is like giving someone a rod to go and fish rather than giving that person a fish. If you give that person a fish, he or she might not be able to know how to get another fish. Hence, I want to take this opportunity to thank the raiser of this motion and this motion is very pertinent for us. I also want to thank the Hon. Senator who brought this motion in this august House because these are some of the things that we expect the responsible Minister to outline the Government policies and also other agencies which the Ministry is working with using the multi-central approach so that we can come up with a solution to alleviate this problem in this country, we currently observe significant development taking place.

There are numerous food development programmes being implemented as a result of various partnerships.

Therefore, as a Government, we recognise that while there are no longer many street kids but street mothers and fathers. We must adopt a multi-sectoral approach, working together to ensure that these individuals living on the streets receive education and the necessary knowledge to understand the importance of work. One cannot achieve anything without putting in the effort to earn it.

If we adopt this approach, Mr. President, I believe we will reach new heights in addressing the issues of street mothers, fathers and children. These individuals present a negative image to visitors, particularly tourists who come to Zimbabwe to experience our country. It is disheartening to see women and men with children begging at traffic lights.

Therefore, our nation must resolve this issue, allowing us to move forward in building our country and effectively marketing it without the sight of people begging in public spaces. Thank you.

***HON. SEN. GOTORA:** Thank you Mr. President, for granting me the opportunity to address this painful and disturbing issue. It is indeed painful because the streets, whether they are near rail stations or bus stops, were not designed to house people. This raises the question; what is causing all this turmoil in our towns?

Many of us grew up in Mbare, walking from Mbare to town and even as far as Mt. Pleasant without encountering anyone asking for money or begging on the streets. So, where is the problem now? I believe the issue lies in the breakdown of the family structure we once had.

In the past, we took care of all our relatives, including the elderly, while still maintaining our connections to our rural areas, preventing them from ending up on the streets. Today, however, we face the challenge of street kids, street fathers and street mothers living in these conditions.

We have trained professionals, including social workers and psychologists who should conduct a comprehensive study to understand the underlying issues that lead people to the streets. When individuals

are removed from these areas, there may be a brief period of peace but soon after, they return and their numbers increase without any effective intervention to address the root causes.

To my knowledge, no one can claim to be without a homestead or origin. Every individual has a background. For instance, a person living in Murehwa or Gutu has a place they come from, often linked to their parents' origins. Therefore, it is essential for social workers and psychologists to conduct comprehensive research to identify the root causes of this issue and develop effective solutions to alleviate it.

The challenge we face is that this issue is now a global phenomenon. Even in New York, you can see people with their blankets outside various buildings. In Europe and America, while homelessness exists, it is not as prevalent as what we are experiencing in our country. Moreover, many of those affected are not young people.

If you walk around the streets, you may encounter children, perhaps in grades 5, 6 or 7 who are alone and wandering without supervision. I suggest that we investigate the root causes of this problem to help reduce the number of people living on the streets. When I

mention Gutu and Murehwa, I refer to these rural areas where relatives may see individuals at Murehwa Centre or those wandering the streets of Gutu.

It is important to recognise that these individuals cannot simply say, "I come from Masema," as they are lost and disconnected from their origins. We should take that child and return him or her to the rural areas. It is essential for us to stabilise and strengthen the relationships within our extended families.

However, how do we achieve this? This is where psychologists and social workers play a crucial role in developing strategies to reinforce these relationships. After conducting comprehensive research, it is essential to ensure that individuals are placed in homes for the elderly and facilities for young people. I propose that these homes be fully equipped with everything necessary to support those who have been removed from the streets, enabling them to become self-sustainable. Additionally, these facilities should function as rehabilitation centres, helping individuals transition away from street life and providing them with meaningful opportunities.

Additionally, some individuals must be returned to their rural areas and provided with housing to help reduce or eliminate the number of people living on the streets. However, I do not foresee a complete resolution to this problem. Even in developed countries, there are individuals living on the streets.

While some may be sleeping due to substance use, it is important to note that the number of young people experiencing homelessness is relatively low compared to older individuals. In our country, we have a significant number of older people living on the streets, far exceeding those in more developed nations.

We must also consider that our population is significantly smaller compared to that of the UK. Given this difference, it is crucial for us to conduct thorough research to identify the causes of our issues and develop effective solutions. We need to take proactive steps to address these challenges, particularly concerning street children and work towards alleviating this problem.

We expect these young people to have the opportunity to grow, attend school and contribute meaningfully to our country. If they begin

their lives on the streets, they miss out on education, suffer from poor health and lack a proper family structure and guidance on how to behave.

Therefore, I urge the Hon. Minister of Social Welfare to come to this esteemed august House to listen to the concerns raised by Hon. Members. Additionally, he should conduct research aimed at reducing the number of individuals living on the streets, particularly street children. This issue is not confined to the towns alone; it is also present in growth points and other areas with shops. Thank you.

***HON. SEN. MAVENYENGWA:** Thank you Mr. President. I thank Hon. Sen. Gwature for raising a pertinent motion which is very painful. The motion which she brought in this august House talks about the street kids who stay in growth points, shops, townships and even in small and big cities. I see this issue as a problem for the whole country even if we want to take steps to remove people from the streets, towns, growth points and townships, you see that these people are going to come back again in the streets after being removed.

As an individual, I have seen that there are some other causes that are very painful to see young people staying in the streets, for example, the kids who are now orphans. Some of them do not want to go back to the streets. Some of them do not want to leave their homesteads because they do not want to stay at their place of origin but sometimes they end up leaving or going to the streets because they are being abused by their stepmothers and stepfathers. You see that the way the child is staying at this homestead is not good.

The child is being abused to the extent of not finding or getting food at the homestead. For example, if the child is staying with a stepmother, she will be given food that is not sufficient in the morning, afternoon and evening. When she comes home from school, she is given a lot of jobs to do without eating anything. That child will start asking for food from the neighbours or go to other relatives' homesteads.

At the end of the day, the child will start asking herself how she is going to survive at this homestead because she is physically abused and food is not being given to her. She will end up leaving in the streets. I encourage this august House, the Hon. Senators, councillors, village

heads, the chiefs and all the protocols that as leaders staying in different areas to look at how the orphans are living and managing, especially those without parents. People must not look at one side that maybe one of the parents is there but sometimes the father is there or the mother is not there but you see the child is being ill-treated by the stepmother or stepfather. The village leaders and the rural leaders must come up with a way to try to find out how the orphans are living at different homesteads. Those are some of the things that will help to alleviate the issue of street kids. When these kids see that they do not have enough support, they will run away and end up in growth points and towns. When these children are in the streets, they will learn the culture of the streets like taking drugs and substance abuse because they are going to mix with other kids who are not obedient and who have already have been living in the streets. So, we encourage every Hon. Member to be able to look into the issue of orphans in different areas.

We also have another scenario Mr. President where children just run away from their families because they are disobedient and choose to take drugs and engage in substance abuse. They end up running away

from their families and end up living in growth points and towns. Sometimes you see that the child is staying with their parents and uniforms and everything is being provided but the child is now abusing drugs and that child will end up in the streets. I see such types of people through the Ministry of Public Service and Social Welfare, like what Hon. Sen. Tongogara has already alluded to that she was building rehabilitation centres and facilitating the accommodation of street kids. At the moment, the First Lady is constructing another structure in Masvingo. I implore the Ministry to also take the initiative to build government structures to house these people in these rehabilitation centres where they will be educated and ensure that they desist from taking drugs and substance abuse and provide them with enough counselling.

We cannot have a situation where all of our towns are filled with street kids, street mothers and street fathers. Our Government does not have enough rehabilitation facilities to take these people into and rehabilitate them. This is a very big problem because we hear that these boys and girls living in the streets start to rob people, taking away their

wallets, bags, wigs and everything after taking drugs. They are stealing from people because they are acting under the influence of drugs. They no longer respect people.

Some people are now thinking that if they take a wig from someone or steal from someone and go and sell the stolen item, they can get money for food. The Government, through the Ministry of Public Service and Social Welfare, must take the opportunity, especially with the proposed budgets, to include the issue of the construction of rehabilitation centres for people living on the streets.

Let me conclude by talking about the issue of children living with disabilities who are being taken and put on the streets. We have been discussing this issue several times in this august House. Now, we are in the winter season and it is very cold but you see that a child is being pushed in a wheelchair without a jersey. The parent is now pushing the wheelchair asking for money. I think the Minister of Home Affairs must see that police officers must come in this august House or the Committee that works with these issues must call the Minister or the

leader of police officers and try to understand why children are being abused whilst the police are seeing that and not doing anything.

Even if you look at the robots where the police are now controlling the traffic, you see that the child is being pushed in a wheelchair in front of a police officer but this child is alive, can breathe and has feelings.

So, there is need for all those things to be addressed. If your country has laws, there is need for those people to be apprehended because they are abusing their children. If they really want to ask for help, they must go on their own without going with those children, abusing them and exposing them to different types of weather. Those children who are used to ask for money do not get food, jerseys or even school fees.

Sometimes if you look closely, it is a child who has been left behind by the parents who have already passed on. They take that child and go with him or her at the robots and ask for help. They get money and use that money to take care of their children. Mr. President, I am saying all these issues need us as a country to sit down, put our minds together, do comprehensive research and come up with a solution to alleviate the issue of people staying in the streets.

We travel to different countries. Last week I was in Azerbaijan and the other time in Serbia. In all those areas, we did not see people who are living in the streets or even children who are on wheelchairs being pushed in the street and asking for help. As a country, we must work towards alleviating this. Even when the tourists are coming, they must be able to see that we do not have this thing. So, the issue of all laws to protect the people must be followed. Thank you.

HON. SEN. GWATURE: Mr. Speaker Sir, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. MANYENGAVANA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

MOTION

RESUSCITATION OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY

Twelfth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the collapse of the cotton industry in Zimbabwe.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MANYENGAVANA: Mr. President Sir, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

MOTION

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESPONSE TO NON- COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Thirteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on increasing high prevalence and high mortality rate caused by Non-Communicable Disease (NCDs).

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: Mr. President Sir, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. KABONDO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

MOTION

REPORT ON THE VISIT TO THE ASSOCIATION OF
AFRICAN SENATES CONFERENCE HELD IN RABAT, KINGDOM
OF MOROCCO

Fourteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the
Delegation Report on the visit to the Association of African Senates
Conference.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: Mr. President Sir, I move that the debate
do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. GOTORA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

MOTION

REPORT OF THE THEMATIC COMMITTEE ON
INDIGENISATION AND EMPOWERMENT ON THE IMPACT OF
THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT BANK ON YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS

Fifteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the report of the Thematic Committee on Indigenisation and Empowerment on the Impact of the Youth Empowerment Bank on Youth Empowerment Projects.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: Mr. President Sir, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. GOTORA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

MOTION

ENSURING FINANCIAL INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Sixteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on failures by local authorities to provide basic services countrywide.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA: Mr. President, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. CHAPFUDZA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 14th July, 2026.

**POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING AND CONSERVING WATER
BODIES**

Seventeenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on climate change as a global phenomenon negatively impacting ecosystem.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. ADV. PHULU: Thank you Mr. President. I start by registering that this motion is on day 15. A reading of the motion presents a very wide couching of a topic which is very important and highly influential on the global stage. I only stand to contribute to this debate as a word of caution to fellow Members of Parliament and fellow Senators, Mr. President, in that such a debate which is on climate change as a global phenomenon negatively impacting ecosystems is very objectionable. It is objectionable in the sense that the whole notion of climate change itself is a very controversial topic on the global stage

with some people accepting that there is such a thing as climate change and others rejecting the notion that there is in fact climate change.

The weight of the debate shifts towards supporting the fact that there has been a noticeable pattern of climate change that has been traced. I do accept that one has to admit that climate change exists as a phenomenon. However, whether climate change is a phenomenon affecting the whole globe or emanating from the whole globe is debatable. We are in what is called the Global South, we have to be careful about such topics because these are topics which are normally introduced by the Global West onto the international platforms that deliberate these issues. Normally, they are tied with several conditionalities which are meant to engineer us into accepting domination by the Third World.

They come purporting to possess superior knowledge on global change, superior knowledge on these ecosystems and what impacts them negatively and therefore we must accept, lock, stock and barrel; how we must manage our own resources, environment and even wildlife including elephants. At the end of the day, it could be a nefarious agenda

to recolonise us and to take us over. Many a time we come to these platforms being very enthusiastic to implement some of these agendas which are proposed. Many a times we accept them as a stamp of progress and we do not question and we do not reason. In the end, we will sell our nations, resources and the future of our children, lock, stock and barrel. Mr. President, if we are not careful about some of these agendas that are proposed, this debate does not have anything that we must adopt because all these policies that are being spoken to, we already have them.

The deliberate policies aimed at safeguarding and conserving water bodies from drying out are already in place. As Africans, we have already been proficient at doing these things, so we have all our water and our water is not depleted. We simply, of course, need to do better at implementing the existing policies in order to harness more water from our environment.

To promote harvest, Mr. President, this motion or the things we are being asked to do are things we are already doing as Africans, even traditionally. Without having any English, Mr. President, we are already

doing these things. Sometimes we must be careful to overhype some of these agendas that are being introduced because Europe has dried out its water, oil, killed all its wildlife and now because of their guilt, they try to impose a lot of these things on us. They promise us to give us aid and so many things if we adopt their guilt and carry it on our shoulders as ours.

I submit that while what is being asked for is not harmful, these are policies that are demonstrably available as we speak. We already have policies dealing with these natural water bodies, wetlands, Mr. President. We already have them and we have debated in this House quite regularly on the issue of wetlands. Just as an illustration that we already have these things, we have strategies to replenish and sustain underground water levels. Again, that speaks to wetlands and we have extensive policies. Sadly, we do not implement these policies at the end of the day. Certainly, we would call upon the Government to reinvigorate its strategies in terms of ensuring that there is implementation when it comes to the issues of wetlands and underground water. Quite recently, we have policies that regulate how we drill boreholes. In fact, if you

consider, we now have a standard regime on how to drill boreholes and what one ought to do before they drill a borehole, depending on whether they are in an urban setup or in a rural setup. So, we already have these approaches and ZINWA is regulating how these boreholes are being done.

One of the things that they are doing is, they are looking at the levels of underground water and how we can best sustain it. Therefore, I would call the House to actually look towards ensuring that there is a better implementation of such techniques. On the promotion of and adoption of water harvesting mechanisms, I do agree. We need to actually do more on that but we do have again, the policies. We have in fact, taken steps in a number of areas to ensure that we have dams. We have the Zambezi Water Project, if we speak of the Matabeleland Region. We have many other initiatives for damming our water. Even for Harare, we have gone a long way. Again, it is an area where we need to improve our techniques and the political will to ensure that we reach the utmost level of harvesting and saving our water. We are a region

which is prone to droughts and such other phenomena. Hence, the promotion and adoption of water harvesting mechanisms is welcome.

However, I just want, as a word of caution, to say we do already have these things and where we lack is in implementation. I think that these three points could be spoken to without even having reference to the whole phenomenon of climate change. These are basic needs. Any community needs dams. Any community needs to safeguard its water. Any community needs to ensure that we have these mechanisms for service delivery and delivery of water to all people in all communities.

Since I do grudgingly support the motion, I would like to emphasise the fact that we need to focus more on ensuring that we implement what we already have. Sometimes we call upon new policies and more policies without focusing on the policies that we do have and seeing how we can call upon the Government to sharpen their approaches in terms of ensuring that we have more productive approaches to harvesting our water and providing better service delivery and ensuring the future for our children. With these few words of

caution, these notes of caution, I would move that the motion be supported by this House. I thank you.

HON. SEN. GOTORA: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. MAVENYENGWA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

MOTION

RESTRUCTURING OF RURAL HOMESTEADS

Eighteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the displacements in rural communities.

Question again proposed.

+HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA: Thank you Mr. President. We debated as the Senate and agreed that rural land must be protected. I would like to thank all the Senators who sat down and took their time and brought good debates in regard to this issue. Therefore, my plea is that the ministers should look into the issue. The Minister of Local Government and other ministers and that the chiefs in this House should also look into the subject and hear our major concerns.

Therefore, I would like this House to adopt the motion.

Motion that this House:

MINDFUL that rural communities form the backbone of Zimbabwe's agricultural production, cultural heritage and social stability;

CONCERNED that in several districts across the country, some Rural District Councils are attempting to relocate long-established rural homesteads into densely populated urban-style locations, often without adequate consultation with the affected communities;

DISTURBED that many rural families have invested decades of labour and financial resources in building permanent homes, developing fields, establishing livestock infrastructure and preserving ancestral heritage on their land;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the original growth point policy in Zimbabwe was intended to bring services, commerce and infrastructure closer to rural communities without displacing villagers from their homesteads;

ALARMED that forced relocation into artificial settlement

patterns threaten rural food security, household livelihoods, cultural traditions and ancestral ties to the land;

COGNISANT that rural development should prioritise the improvement of services such as water, roads, clinics, schools and markets, rather than displacing communities that have long occupied and developed their land:

NOW, THEREFORE, resolves that—

(a) the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works must urgently review and clarify the powers of Rural District Councils regarding the restructuring or relocation of rural homesteads;

(b) Government must ensure that no rural households are displaced from their long-established homesteads without full community consultation, transparency and legal safeguards;

(c) Rural development strategies must prioritise strengthening Growth points and delivering infrastructure and services to rural communities rather than imposing urban settlement models that undermine rural livelihoods; a clear national policy framework be developed to ensure that rural planning respects community investment,

cultural heritage, agricultural livelihoods, and constitutional rights to property and dignity, put and agreed to.

MOTION

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH: DEBATE ON ADDRESS

Nineteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion in reply to the Presidential Speech.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. TONGOGARA: Mr. President, I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. MAVENYENGWA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

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

On the motion of **THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF VETERANS OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE AFFAIRS (HON. SEN. H. MOYO)**, *the Senate adjourned at Four Minutes past Four o'clock p.m.*