

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Wednesday, 15th 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

EXTENSION TO CONSIDER THE DEPOSIT PROTECTION

CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL

THE HON. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order No. 33 (7) (a), the Parliamentary Legal Committee sought and was granted an extension of 26 business days to consider the Deposit Protection Corporation Amendment Bill [H. B. 2, 2026] due to the technical complexity of the Bill.

2026 STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION SURVEY

THE HON. SPEAKER: I also wish to inform the House that Parliament of Zimbabwe has engaged Precise Management and Research Consultancy and Independent Research Partner to conduct the 2026 Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey. As Members of Parliament, you

are one of the key stakeholders, hence your participation in this survey is highly valued and appreciated. The insights you provide will play a critical role in strengthening the effectiveness, accountability and public responsiveness of the Parliament of Zimbabwe.

Committee Clerks will share a QR code or a link in your respective Committee WhatsApp groups. Please take a moment to fill in the questionnaire. Those who may require hard copy questionnaires can pick up copies from the consultants at the National Assembly main entrance. The consultants will be at Parliament today, 15th July and tomorrow, 16th July 2026.

I have not received any apologies from the Executive, Leader of Government Business, *vamwe vasara kupi?*

Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi having approached the Chair.

THE HON. SPEAKER: I forgive the Cabinet Ministers. They are looking at the mid-term review. Unfortunately, because of other exigencies, they could not finish on time to be here but there is no excuse for Deputy Ministers. If they resist or continue, I think we will have to advise the appropriate political party to look at their

performance. That message must be delivered to them because there is no excuse for Deputy Ministers not to be here. Nonetheless, we will proceed accordingly. Hopefully, they will join us soon.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HON. CHIDUWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion. It is a technical question but I hope the Leader of Government Business will manage it. Zimbabwe at the moment...

THE HON. SPEAKER: Did you say the Hon. Minister of Government Business will manage it? Did you use the word manage?

HON. CHIDUWA: Yes, that is what I used.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Do not predict, please. Do not be predictive. Only artificial intelligence can do predictive analytics. Please proceed.

HON. CHIDUWA: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Zimbabwe is currently experiencing historic macroeconomic instability which is characterised by single-digit inflation, current instability and high GDP growth. Our main challenge is raising capital at the moment. I wanted to

find out from the Hon. Minister what policies have been put in place to enable the diaspora to participate in the capital markets to raise the capital needed for new investment projects.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question. We have travelled a long journey since 2017 in trying to stabilise the economy. We started with the transitional programme, TSP; we had NDS1 and now we are at NDS2. Our thrust was to ensure that firstly, we wanted to stabilise the economy and then we would find ways of ensuring how we can grow it. We are very happy that, for the first time in over a decade, since 1998, we now have a single-digit inflation rate.

What we have been doing is to try and ensure that once we create a stable economy, it will attract money to that particular economy. So, what we have been doing is to create an enabling environment that will be attractive to any investor, diasporans included. So we are still doing that process and that is the major reason why you notice that we have even postponed speaking about a date when we have mono-currency

because we are saying to ourselves, we want the market to play out and it will then introduce a mono-currency seamlessly.

Right now, we are at a circulation rate of our currency, which is now more or less above 20%, with 80% forex, but we hope to gradually increase it and ensure that once all of us are used to having our currency, then the environment will be okay. Also having an export cover of at least three months, we should be stable. What we have been doing as a Government, one of our major milestones was to put all our companies into Mutapa so that we can now capitalise and be able to raise capital against the assets of Mutapa and that is one of the ways that we have done.

We are also in the process of trying to raise funds for infrastructure by ringfencing part of our revenues that we collect through ZINARA. We open a nostro account where money will be going, where anyone who thinks we can borrow from can see a steady and constant flow and then we should be able to borrow using that.

We have not been able to access funds from international monetary organisations because of sanctions, but we are now coming up with

innovative ideas on how to use our own resources that we ringfence to access capital and that is the process that our Minister of Finance is currently doing. I thank you.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. The Zimbabwe Stock Exchange is an environment where capital can be created. However, while we are boasting of stability in terms of inflation, exchange rates and the macroeconomy in general, why are local Zimbabwean companies running away from our own Zimbabwe Stock Exchange and going for the Victoria Stock Exchange yet the ZIG is stable? I thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I am not aware of the flight but the efforts that we have been making are to ensure that we bring back confidence. It is a perception issue. It has nothing to do with the stability of our currency. The figures are there for everyone to see over the last 24 months of how our currency has been stable. Those who are running away are doing so maybe because of a perception, I do not have those figures but that is what we are trying to correct by saying we are not going to put policies that will force people to do certain

things but we will create an enabling environment that will allow you as an individual to want to use our currency. I thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I should have ruled your question out of order because when you say several companies are running away, that is a statistical issue. You must come up with the exact figures and not a general statement. I think you should thank me for indulging you.

HON. MUTOKONYI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question goes to the Ministry of Skills Audit and Development. The latest skills audit from the Ministry, we have seen gaps in terms of the sectors where there are gaps which require attention. My question to the Ministry is, what is the Ministry doing to address the skills gaps that have been observed from the skills audit? Thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Please define exactly what the gaps are.

HON. MUTOKONYI: Okay, the gaps in terms of the skills. From the report, the gaps are in the technical skills, particularly in the sectors of agriculture and engineering. We want to hear from the Ministry what they are doing to ensure that the identified skills gaps are addressed. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you

Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question. One of the results of our skills audit is that we changed our curricula and we are now having a Heritage-Based Curriculum. We are also moving towards ensuring that we capacitate and strengthen our vocational training centres. You may be aware that before independence, we used to have schools that were called F2. We believe that we need to go that route where we should not force all our learners to do academic subjects, but we must have a deliberate policy of identifying those who can gain specific skills that are useful within the economy. That is the thrust that we are doing through our vocational training centres and universities. We are taking on board some of the results of the audits and ensuring that we tailor-make our programmes to suit what our industry requires. I submit.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Supplementary, thank you Mr. Speaker. My follow-up question is, considering that we are on an academic trajectory where in some provinces technical colleges have

become universities and that has left a gap in terms of polytechnic colleges, are there any plans to have more technical colleges coming on board? Thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for that important question. Indeed, we are doing that through, firstly, the Ministry of Youth, Vocational Training and Empowerment. In some areas, I know it comes from Mashonaland West, Murombedzi, you will find out that Harare Polytechnic is already building a campus there to ensure that we offer the necessary skills that are required to lead us within that particular area.

So, yes, that is the thrust that we are doing. Where we can have campuses, where we can build vocational training centres, we are in the process of doing that. The relevant Minister, as well as the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, can provide the necessary statistics if they are required. I submit Mr. Speaker.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Supplementary Mr. Speaker Sir. The thrust shift that the Hon. Minister explained definitely requires financing. I would want the Hon. Minister to share with this House the plans in place

to ensure that those who want to pursue skills training are adequately funded, maybe through scholarships if any, to make sure that no one is left behind. Thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question where he is requesting information on the provision of scholarships for vocational training. That question, I will defer to the Minister if the Hon. Member can put it in writing, because I am not at present aware of a deliberate policy to give scholarships for vocational training *per se*. However, I know that vocational training colleges recruit and they have been training. So, the financial modalities, the specific ones, I am sure the Hon. Minister can explain how that programme has been running because it is indeed being done and learners are going to our vocational training centres. I submit.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Hamauswa, do you think you can put your question in writing so that we can get the statistics?

HON. HAMAUSWA: Thank you.

HON. S. SAKUPWANYA: Supplementary Mr. Speaker.
Following up on the question to the Ministry of Skills Audit, my

question is, has the Ministry initiated the process of creating a database with respect to understanding exactly the skills shortages aggregated according to the skills that are required in the country *vis-à-vis* the skills that are being matched to the vocational training centres to say if it is in engineering, how much short are we in terms of percentages so that we can know which area needs to be tackled on a priority basis? Thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Sakupwanya, were you there when the Hon. Mutokonyi asked the question? Hon. Mutokonyi referred to an audit.

HON. S. SAKUPWANYA: Yes.

THE HON. SPEAKER: So, an audit is there. You cannot ask for an audit on another audit that has just been published.

HON. S. SAKUPWANYA: Maybe Mr. Speaker, what I was referring to was this specific, because he talked about the gaps, but in terms of...

THE HON. SPEAKER: Revealed by an audit.

HON. S. SAKUPWANYA: Indebted, Mr. Speaker.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Yes, revealed by an audit.

HON. S. SAKUPWANYA: Yes. Noted Mr. Speaker.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker and a very good afternoon. My question this afternoon goes to the Hon.

Minister of Health and Child Care. We are witnessing huge numbers of returning residents from South Africa who in those groups, we may have citizens who are living with HIV and are in urgent need of uninterrupted treatment. I would like to find out from the Government Minister the concrete measures that the Government has put in place to ensure their integration into our health system, particularly regarding antiretroviral supply chains, continuity of care and coordination with regional partners. I so submit.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. DR. MOMBESHORA): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank the Hon. Member for that very important question. Indeed, we have got huge numbers of returnees from South Africa, some passing through legal ways and others through illegal pathways. We have put in place our health workers at the ports of entry to make sure that every returnee

is being screened, from adults to children. So far, we have screened over 99 000 Zimbabweans, but we are also screening returnees to Malawi and Zambia to make sure that no communicable disease passes through.

However, specifically on her question where we are dealing with those living with HIV and on ART treatment, we are also interrogating every returnee whether they are on any chronic illnesses, specifically HIV, diabetes and hypertension. Some of the returnees will tell you that they have been on treatment, but when they left, they also left some of their treatments. We have put in place a mechanism. We have a clinic that has been set up there, where we can provide treatment for at least five days, because we want all those returnees to go to the respective areas where they are staying so that they can be registered in the districts where they will be staying and they will start receiving their treatment on a long-term basis.

We are not able to institute long-term treatment on their arrival because we need to first take baseline tests, like viral load and things like that which cannot be done at the port of entry at the moment. We have put in place those mechanisms to ensure that no one who has been

on any treatment will have their treatment interrupted, but that continuous treatment can be instituted wherever they will be staying. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question is, are the treatment regimes in Zimbabwe and South Africa compatible?

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. In that regard, each country has got its own treatment regimes, but in most cases we see that the medicines that have been developed are the same, but countries may decide on which ones to put on first-line treatment, second-line treatment and third-line treatment.

Therefore, that is information that we will require and also to do further tests. That is why we are not giving people long-term treatment on the initial phase so that we really establish what they were taking and what needs to be done because we have to take them on board with our own regimes here. When we start them on our own regimes, we really have to monitor and do a series of tests to make sure that they are now compatible with those treatments. I thank you.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the Hon. Minister for his response. My follow-up question, Hon. Speaker Sir, relates to this issue to do with the fight against HIV in line with the increased number of Zimbabwean citizens who are coming from South Africa. In 2025, the Zimbabwean Government denied \$365 million from the Government of America which was intended to fund contraceptives and HIV vaccines. What was the rationale of that in light of the shortages that were experienced in terms of contraceptives in the fight against HIV?

THE. HON. SPEAKER: The question is about treating retinitis and not the general policy of availability of ARVs.

HON. CHIGUMBU: My supplementary, Hon. Speaker, goes to the Minister regarding the last response that you gave when Hon. Eng. Mhangwa asked the compatibility of the different regimes that we have between South Africa and Zimbabwe. My question is, how far have you been utilising technology, Hon. Minister, to sort of have pre-trained models or pre-trained procedures to help us as a country to say when we encounter such dilemmas, such instances where now we are having

people coming from South Africa or other countries but now you want to understand the compatibility? Do we have pre-trained models that we have at national level to help you quickly make decisions around those instances?

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The short answer is no, we do not have those models. When certain things happen, when you are not prepared for them, it is us now to think and say how we deal with such cases if they arise in the future. Thank you.

***HON. NYABANI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Child Care. Firstly, I would like to thank our President for establishing a group that deals with intoxicating substances. We are seeing some illicit substances which are being sold at \$1 for 3, \$1 for 5 and 40% alcohol. There are still certain types of beer like *tumbwa*.

Those substances are still being sold where I come from. Does it mean that the Minister of Health and Child Care is allowing those products to continue being manufactured? If that is so, what plans are in

place to make sure that we stop the manufacturing? How can the Government overcome that problem? How can the Government help in reducing the drug and substance abuse? I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. DR. MOMBESHORA):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Hon. Nyabani for his question. We have a very big problem in this country, of people who are taking illicit substances. I want to appreciate that after our President realised this challenge, he established a Cabinet Committee to look into this problem. This Committee is chaired by Minister of Defence, Hon. Muchinguri-Kashiri, supported by the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Hon. Kazembe.

As the Ministry of Health and Child Care, we are also there standing in for treatment and rehabilitation procedures. The illicit substances mentioned, Mr. Speaker, are no longer allowed to be manufactured in this country. However, there are lawbreakers. What we encourage is that if you see your neighbour or a person whom you know doing that, quickly report to the police because the police have the mandate to arrest people who are breaking the law.

The police are arresting each and every day. We are seeing some reports of different arrests from various parts of the nation. They are even seizing those substances and destroying them. So, the Government is continuing to make sure that the manufacturing of these substances comes to an end. They are trying by all means to arrest the manufacturers so that we have good health in our nation. I thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM MINISTERS

THE HON. SPEAKER: Just a second for supplementary.

I have received here apologies from the Hon. Gen. Rtd. Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga, Vice President; Hon. Col. Rtd. K. C. D. Mohadi, Vice President; Hon. B. Rwodzi, Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry; Hon. K. Kazembe, Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage; Hon. J. Muswere, Minister of Skills Audit and Development; Hon. S. Chikomo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Hon. Sanyatwe, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage; Hon. F. Moyo, Deputy Minister of Mines and Mining

Development and finally, Hon. Y. Simbanegavi, Deputy Minister of Energy and Power Development.

***HON. NYABANI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to thank the Minister for his answer. However, I want you to understand where I am coming from and where I am going. That is to say, in Rushinga where I come from, beer called *tumbwa* is being sold. The police are arresting those people but when they go to the courts, they are not being convicted because it is said that there is no law against that. I want to know what can be done by the Government to arrest those people and put them in custody because each day they are being taken to court but they are not convicted and sent to prison. I have those substances but I did not bring them here to Parliament. I seized them. The police are arresting people and people are taken to court but they are discharged. What can be done for those people to be given sentences and be convicted?

***THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. DR. MOMBESHORA):** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. What Hon. Nyabani talked about, that people are being arrested, taken to court and

they are acquitted, I have no capacity to answer to that. I ask that he gives examples or write to the relevant Ministry. Maybe he might get an appropriate answer. I thank you.

HON. BAJILA: Thank Mr. Speaker Sir. I appreciate that the question of preventing the sale and trafficking of these harmful substances falls outside the scope of the Minister of Health and Child Care. My question is in terms of our readiness and our capacity for the rehabilitation of people who have consumed and abused these substances. How prepared is the Government and what programmes and systems are there in Government for rehabilitation to the extent of recovery from addiction or from abuse of these kinds of substances? I thank you.

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. The Government is in the process of establishing treatment and drug rehabilitation centres throughout the country. The problem is so huge that it will take us quite some time because of limited resources to be able to establish enough rehabilitation centres throughout the country. So far in the last year, we have managed to open four new centres and

we have got a plan to open a centre in every province. Land has also been identified to open bigger centres for rehabilitation programmes to be established in all the provinces. The Government has a plan and we are moving towards establishing those centres so that we will be able at some stage, to deal with all those who require the services. We are also encouraging private players to come in and to assist. We have a number of our rehabilitation centres that have been registered by the private sector. I thank you.

***HON. KASHAMBE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. We are requesting that due to the effects of drugs that have been mentioned by Hon. Nyabani, since the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs is here, is he not in a position to assist us and tell us what exactly should be done to those people who are being taken to court and are not being convicted?

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. We have legislation that is in place that speaks to the issue of dangerous drugs which is under the Ministry of Health and

Child Care. It allows us to say that if we have other substances or drugs which we want to add to what is already there, just as has been rightfully said about *tumbwa*, we would want to see what exactly was taken to court and whether it was examined to see the alcohol content in that drink so that, that drink is also put in the Statutory Instrument which states that these substances are not allowed to be consumed.

Also, we have a Bill that is here in Parliament. When we are looking into that Bill, we can then discuss and come up with what exactly can be incorporated in that Bill so that we have strict measures to fight against the issue of drug and substance abuse. I am requesting with your indulgence, that when we are debating that Bill, maybe we can then fit in some of these points to make our Bill very strong and with clear views on what should be done. I thank you.

***HON. P. ZHOU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Firstly, I want to thank His Excellency, President E. D. Mnangagwa for signing CAB No. 3, which we all worked for. My question is then directed to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. What are the plans for the provincial councillors to commence their duties?

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND**

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you

Mr. Speaker Sir. These plans have been set aside by legislation which we want to polish and bring to Parliament. We wanted to bring the Bill

to Parliament here but we discovered some loopholes. The Bill is now with the experts to whom we gave the explanations of what we want.

After that, the Bill will then be brought to Parliament. Once we have that legislation, the provincial councillors will resume their duties. I thank you.

***HON. P. ZHOU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. The time for provincial councillors to resume their duties is long overdue. We were thinking that we would then reach 2030 with them having started doing their duties, following our President's mantra of leaving no one and no place behind. The issue to be resolved is now taking time. I am requesting that you give us a timeline for that Bill to be finalised. I thank you.

*** HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Mr. Speaker, these plans have been set aside by a legislation which we want to polish and bring to Parliament.

We wanted to bring it to Parliament but we discovered some loopholes.

The Bill is now with the experts whom we gave the explanations of what we want. After that, that Bill is then brought to Parliament. Once we have that legislation, then the provincial councillors will resume their duties.

***HON. P. ZHOU:** Mr. Speaker, it is long overdue. We were thinking we would get to 2030 with them doing their duties following our President's mantra of leaving no one and no place behind. So, it is now taking time to resolve the issue. I am requesting that the Minister provides us with timelines for that Bill to be finalised.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for the will for the provincial councillors to be doing their duties, which is also our wish. According to our observation, we realised that it is better for us to make legislation that is effective rather than to come up with something that will give us headaches in the future. The Bill was then taken back and it is our wish that in the next quarter, all the papers would have been finalised. We are not worried about being in a rush or in a hurry but we want to have a clear legislation which will

allow them to operate. Right now, the Minister of Local Government and the Minister of Finance are disbursing funds to all the districts so that the development will continue. There is no district which is being left behind. What we want to consider is that we must make sure that this legislation will help us, not only having a person working but doing their work properly. I thank you.

***HON. KARENYI:** Mr. Speaker, this shows that as a government, we are not yet in a position to make this happen. According to my knowledge, in the 9th Parliament, these people were voted for as provincial councillors. Their term lapsed. This time they were also voted for and their term is about to end. If it means that Government is failing, why should they not say it clearly so that people will not waste their time campaigning because the campaigns need a lot of money? Yes, the Minister said it is being done and it will be finalised soon. How many years are needed because now we are close to 10 years and these people are not yet doing their duties? What are they going to be given as their monthly benefits from their provinces? Some of them were even fired from their workplaces and some brought their CVs and

they resigned from where they were. What is going to be done to them because they lost their former employment?

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Mr. Speaker, the work of coming up with legislation is being done. After being finalised, we are going to give you the Bill so that it will be gazetted and brought into Parliament for debate. What we did not do was to quickly rush and produce things which are not well polished in terms of the councils. After that is finalized, we are going to bring the Bill before this Parliament. We also realised that we cannot rush the people who draft the law when they had requested for more time to look deeper into the Bill so that they will produce a refined version. The problem is that in Zimbabwe when we made our Constitution, there are quite a number of things which were copied and put together which we also now want to revisit and compare with other countries to see how they are doing it, comparing to our state as a nation. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for his answer. Is it not possible that for now, whilst we are waiting for the legislation that we put other plans in place to

enable them to continue working. This will help us in different provinces just as the Constitution rightfully says. I thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the Hon. Member for stating the problems that he said are hindering progress. I believe that if he realised that there are some problems, may they be told to the Minister of Local Government if there are any, then we can see how best we can resolve those problems. I thank you.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** On a point of clarification Mr. Speaker. It is my view that the Minister's response is not in line with my question. My question is, is it possible for us to have other quick measures for work to be done whilst you are waiting for legislation. I thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. For us to come up with quick legislation, it means that there will be a gap that we will be creating and that cannot be resolved without proper legislation. That is why I said if they realise that there is a huge problem, they can then

approach the Minister. The Minister will come to us for way forward and we will assist. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

HON. BAJILA: Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity. My question goes to the Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle. The Government conducted vetting programmes in 2022 and in 2024. We would like to know from the Ministry, the pace and the stages that they are taking towards the names of those who have been vetted and approved to fall into one category or another of the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle. I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for that very important question about our veterans. Today, the Minister of War Veterans was thanking Treasury that the process is almost complete. We should be able to see a *Gazette* soon because that process has been finalised. Treasury has committed funds to ensure that the process is done and the Minister of War Veterans indicated so this morning in our meeting. I submit.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** My question is directed to the Minister of Lands. Let me start by appreciating our President for the Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme which was going well but right now, we are seeing it has since stopped. Putting into cognisance that we are now going towards the rain season and in the rural areas, this is the right time that we will be expecting boreholes to be drilled. I want to hear from the Minister what measures are being taken for other places to have boreholes drilled. When is that scheme going to those places just as our President said that it has to be done? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): I want to thank Hon. Tshuma for the pertinent question. He said that the Borehole Drilling Scheme is no longer going at the pace it started with. Mr. Speaker, what Hon. Tshuma said is true. The Hon. Members who are here present can remember and also consider that this year we have quite a number of projects and programmes. Since we are a country that get revenues from taxes, royalties and other things and also, we do not have

anywhere to borrow from to enable us to carry out the long-term projects.

If there are some challenges going on outside, for instance, when the wars were taking place the prices of commodities rose and people from the Foreign Affairs advised us that things were not in place. The Meteorological Department also told us that we were not going to receive adequate rains because this year, we have what is called El Nino and the fertiliser prices rose as well. We then thought of supporting the Ministry of Agriculture so that we could buy several tonnes of maize to curb hunger in the years to come.

Again, as Members of Parliament, when we are in the rural areas, we must encourage people to keep some grains in their silos because the Meteorological Department is reporting that we might be faced with hunger. If that is resolved, considering our President's mantra, we want every village to have a borehole and that is our objective but right now, we have slightly shifted because we saw that there was something that needed to be attended to for our people not to starve. I thank you.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** I am grateful for the response given by the Hon. Minister. As has been said that we are going to experience less rainfall in the next season, we feel that boreholes are very important in places where we come for our animals and gardens help people to sustain themselves. My supplementary question Hon. Minister is, when are you going to encourage people to register for the Borehole Drilling Scheme? When registering, you also notice that sometimes the Government does not have answers to what it will be saying. We must not advertise things which we will not fulfill because it will put us in a difficult situation but I have understood your answer.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** The Hon. Member is just giving advice but did not ask a question. You are just saying that when we do these projects, we must advertise things when we are about to do them.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: I want to thank the Minister for the response. My follow up question relates to the fact that some of the boreholes have been budgeted for in our 2026 National Budget and we approved it as Parliament.

For the second quarter Mr. Speaker, ZIMRA has surpassed its own target and the Government and Ministry of Finance's target, which means we have resources for those boreholes which have been budgeted for by Government. Where are we with those boreholes which have been budgeted for because the resources are available? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank the Hon. Member for his question regarding ZIMRA's impressive results in collecting and surpassing targets. Mr Speaker Sir, some of the issues I spoke about that require long-term planning now cannot wait until collections are done in the third and fourth quarters.

So, what he is speaking to, we are very much aware of that. However, certain exigencies required us to divert funding to ensure that we secure sufficient grain as a country because of the wars in the Middle East. We also secured fertilisers to ensure that we can grow our crops, and that cannot wait for collections that we will do in the third and fourth quarters. I submit Mr. Speaker Sir.

HON. M. C. SIBANDA: Yes, thank you. I want to thank the Hon. Minister for the explanation on the presidential boreholes. My follow-up question concerns the monitoring and evaluation of these presidential projects. Is there a programme that then follows in terms of monitoring? Where we come from, sometimes we realise that in some of these projects, communities have been shortchanged. The boreholes may be just the drilling, yet in other places there is drilling and installation, and people can access water. So, is there specific monitoring and evaluation of this Presidential Borehole Scheme? I thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. The answer is yes, we actually have a Ministry of Presidential Affairs. We have a Special Advisor to the President responsible for monitoring and evaluation of all those special projects. I am sure Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members have seen him touring the country, assessing the projects.

He works with a team. He produces a compendium of all the projects that are being done and if those projects, I will then check with his office for copies to be distributed to Hon. Members so that they can be aware of some of the projects that are being done. The office actually

does very wonderful work of monitoring and evaluating the work that is being done. I submit Mr. Speaker Sir. – [HON. CHIGUMBU: *Point of privilege Mr. Speaker Sir!*] –

THE HON. SPEAKER: Pardon? – [HON. CHIGUMBU: *Point of Privilege!*] No, ask your supplementary question. – [HON. CHIGUMBU: *No, it is not a supplementary.*] - Can you ask your supplementary question?

HON. CHIGUMBU: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker ...

THE HON. SPEAKER: No, I recognise, that is Honourable... – [HON. MAMBIPIRI: *Mambipiri!*] – Pardon? – [HON. MAMBIPIRI: *Mambipiri!*] - Yes, please proceed.

HON. MAMBIPIRI: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Hon. Minister's response that, given the circumstances and context, they are to divert funding to prepare for a looming disaster and so forth. I want to ask the Hon. Minister whether this is tantamount to rewriting the budget that was approved in this House. If so, is that allowable for you to take that stance of rewriting a budget that was approved to prepare for something in the future? I thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The short answer is, we are not rewriting the budget and the other answer is, it is within the budget. I submit.

***HON. CHIGUMBU:** Yes, thank you Hon. Speaker. We have received some news and would like your assistance. We have two Members of Parliament who encountered a problem while performing their parliamentary duties. They were assaulted. They had a problem. Hon. Chimbaira and Hon. Mavhudzi were assaulted when they were executing their Parliamentary duties in Mutare today. Hon. Mavhudzi is the one who got injured. So, I raised this issue, Mr. Speaker, because people are respected in Parliament. When we are executing our duties as parliamentarians, we are supposed to be protected. This happened at a Government complex. May you help us to investigate the issue?

THE HON. SPEAKER: If I am informed, I have to take appropriate action. If I am presiding here, how do you want me to take appropriate action? – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] - We have an office here. Report immediately, then appropriate action will be taken.

***HON. HUNGWE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development. I want to applaud the winter wheat which has sold very well. There is so much wheat. My question is, where are we now in preparation for the summer irrigation and the whole farming season so that we can get inputs, the seeds and fertilisers in the summer season? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Thank you for your question about our stance on the upcoming farming season. Mr Speaker, when I was speaking and Hon. Tshuma asked about boreholes, I responded that we are hurrying to look for fertilisers. The problem we have is that there was instability in the eastern countries, and fertilisers were scarce and expensive. However, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion allocated funds to the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanisation and Water Resources Development so that fertilisers and seeds could be secured.

We are also in the midst of our education which we are getting from the experts. They are saying that we are going to receive light rain, and we do not know how the rain is going to come. At the moment, when we are working with ARDA, we are looking for seeds and fertilisers and doing irrigation in some farms which we know that if we farm them, we are going to get a bumper harvest for the country. If we encourage people to do their gardens, we will have our silos as a Government. The promise I give as Government is that the Government is in the midst of securing agricultural inputs and the great job that we are doing is that we want to have irrigation in ARDA which will enable us to have a bumper harvest in which we can be able to go and get some food from the Presidential silos. Thank you.

HON. NKALA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry. What policy measures does the Ministry, in collaboration with other ministries, have regarding the issue of street kids who are running around the tourist attractions or tourist facilities like the hotels, creating havoc, stealing

purses, wigs and other personal belongings of these people? We have had an incident where an Hon. Member lost a wig to these rogue people.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, that is a law and order question. If the respective hotels and our police commanders in that area are informed, they can intensify surveillance and ensure those issues are addressed. I believe that thieving, I am not sure whether it was a street kid because, if it was a street kid, the Hon. Member is assuming that he was caught and identified as a street kid.

A question of law and order requires that the responsible authorities engage our police commanders within their respective areas so that they can develop a strategy to ensure that our visitors and citizens go about their duties without fear. I submit Mr. Speaker Sir.

***HON. MUNEMO:** My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Child Care. We have clinics in rural areas. What plans are in place to ensure they can access network services during emergencies such as accidents or when someone is seriously ill? Do you also have

plans to provide network coverage to clinics, similar to what is provided to schools? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. DR. MOMBESHORA): Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Hon. Member for his pertinent question. We have a very big initiative in which we are saying that we must not leave any place behind.

Firstly, I would like to let this House know that in most of our clinics we are installing solar power so that there will be network. We have more than 400 clinics in which we have supplied or installed Starlink network so that we are able to reach those people in those places, including what we call telemedicine, so that we can be able to get hold of those people in those places.

The first initiative we did was installing solar energy so that when we install the Starlink network, there will be electricity and we are continuing with this initiative. I do not know when we will finish doing this but what I know is that we are going to be installing this network in more than 700 clinics. Thank you.

HON. GWANGWABA: Hospitals have been given Starlink kits but they cannot afford to subscribe. They are just keeping them. What can be done in order for the hospitals to raise the necessary funds?

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: Indeed, we have received those challenges and we are engaging the agents to lower the subscriptions so that we can pay for all those Starlink kits that we will install. I think the negotiations are taking place. We understand they have been a bit too high for all our clinics and it has also been too high for us as a Ministry to be able to pay the subscriptions. So, negotiations are taking place. Thank you Mr Speaker.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Supplementary question. Thank you Mr Speaker. Considering that the Telecommunications Bill is still before Parliament, is it not prudent that such costs are taken through the Universal Savings Fund (USF) so that libraries, hospitals and other essential services are treated the same way as the establishment of base stations in remote areas?

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: I think the Hon. Member has come up with a good suggestion but with your permission, if I can allow the ICT Minister to assist in answering that question. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):
Permission granted, Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, POSTAL AND COURIER SERVICES (HON. DR. MAVETERA): Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes, indeed, within the Universal Services Fund, we have made provisions to pay for subscriptions but because of limited resources, we are mainly paying subscriptions for our digital centres and various schools but this is only for a year. So, we expect people within the community to come up with a sustainability plan that will enable us to pay for the various subscriptions but like what you suggested, we also need to do the same for hospitals, which I think is worth considering.

I will communicate with the Minister of Health and Child Care and find a way for us to also give a provision for subscriptions for hospitals because currently, the scope is mainly for our digital centres and

schools. I am sure it is important that we also extend that to the hospitals as you have suggested. I so submit. Thank you.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** It is commendable that solar systems have been installed in 400 clinics but people in the rural areas in some communities have moulded bricks and built clinics. What plans are in place for the Government to assist such people who have taken the initiative to build clinics in their areas, for example, through building houses for nurses? Are there funds available to assist in such initiatives?

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** This is a new question and not a supplementary question. So, I will allow you to ask that question later.

+HON. GUMEDE: Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Services, Labour and Social Welfare. I realise that most of our people, especially those who were in South Africa are coming back. They brought in a lot of money that used to help us as a country. They also used to take care of their families by sending money back home. Hon. Minister, does the Government have programmes to assist these people who are returning

for them to get jobs, vocational training or to be assisted with capital to start businesses? Can the Hon. Minister give us assurances that those people returning will be given opportunities to build their lives and use whatever they have and for them to be given the opportunity to contribute to the development of the country? I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Member for raising such a pertinent question regarding the initiatives that our Government is implementing to assist returning Zimbabwean citizens in securing vocational training and funding to start businesses.

Mr. Speaker, our Government prioritises the welfare of Zimbabwean citizens who wish to return home. We do not evaluate their past; our focus is on supporting them in their reintegration. Our Embassies play a crucial role in facilitating their return by providing transport assistance, especially for those coming from South Africa. Upon arrival, individuals are asked about their places of origin and we

ensure transport is available to take them to their respective areas, whether they are from Zvimba, Chirau or any other location.

Once they are back in their communities, all returning citizens, regardless of where they have come from are considered Zimbabwean and deserving of our support. The Empower Bank and various vocational training programmes are in place to promote the welfare of Zimbabwean nationals. We are committed to repatriating our fellow citizens and assessing their needs to help them reintegrate successfully.

Moreover, our Civil Protection Unit along with health personnel are prepared to assist returning citizens. As the Minister mentioned, upon arrival in their villages, individuals will be registered for health assessments. Those in need of medication such as blood pressure tablets will receive them. For those interested, we provide support for the *Pfumvudza/Intwasa* programmes, thus allowing them to cultivate their own gardens. For those who move to urban areas and possess various skills and expertise, opportunities will also be available for their professional development.

In summary, Mr. Speaker Sir, we are committed to ensuring that our Zimbabwean families receive the assistance they need to return to their homeland and thrive. I submit.

HON. CHIDUWA: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I wanted to find out from the Hon. Minister. I know in diplomacy that there is the policy of reciprocity. Our people were chased and they are being chased from South Africa. In Zimbabwe at the moment, we have got at least 25 000 South Africans. In the spirit of diplomatic reciprocity, is there not a need for us to chase South Africans back to South Africa?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order. Order! I will not allow that line of questioning in this House, Hon. Chiduwa – [HON.

MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] - You do not tell me what to do.

You are out of order. Order!

Order! We know His Excellency, our President, is an engaging President. I will allow the Minister to respond but we do not as a people have that kind of attitude as Zimbabweans, so we will not allow that.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you

very much Mr. Speaker for your kind response. I will just add for the purposes of ensuring that as a Parliament, we will not be misquoted. As Zimbabweans, we are friends with everyone. Our culture dictates that if our children visit and they want to come back, we duly take them back.

We do not have a policy of chasing away visitors. We have never had that. If you recall, His Excellency, in 2021/2022, even directed the Minister of Home Affairs to say that all those with national identity documents marked 'alien', or all those who are undocumented should be given IDs. He even went further and I recall that in Cabinet, he said, if they do not have names, give them yours and all of them, let them be Kazembe. So, we do not want to be what we are not, if I may say this.

So, we maintain our *Ubuntu*. We do not want to be dragged into borders that were created by people who are not us and deny our relatives, whether they are in Zambia, Malawi or Botswana. We want to maintain this level that will accept everyone. So, if we have our brothers and sisters coming from South Africa, we will accept them. If we have a South African who wants to come here and whose papers are okay, we accept them. They are our brothers and sisters, I submit.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, order. Thank you Hon. Minister, for that clarification. On that note, Hon. Karikoga and Tobaiwa, stand guided and next time do not try and direct the Chair on how to control the business of the House.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I would like to commend the Hon. Minister for his response. However, I must express my deep concern regarding the alarming situation facing our Zimbabwean citizens in South Africa. Reports indicate that our nationals are being subjected to assaults within their residences and even those who possess proper documentation are experiencing harassment.

Disturbingly, this harassment occurs in the presence of law enforcement officers who appear to disregard the plight of our citizens. It is unacceptable that individuals with valid documentation are left vulnerable and unprotected while the authorities turn a blind eye to their suffering.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** The Minister explained and also said that in our tradition, that is something that we cannot do. So, we cannot start from here.

⁺HON. MAHLANGU: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question to the Hon. Minister is that I am very grateful for the response, but my request is about the situation of these people who came from South Africa; they came in a very poor state. Some of the people came without documentation and they cannot access funding like loans in this country because we are always here. Since they were out, they did not come back with anything. Would it be possible for the ministry to have a fund for them to start even small businesses like markets, instead of them even trying to go to the banks because some people do not have anywhere to stay, but for them to have startup capital to sell anything, even small markets? I thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Our Zimbabwean citizens who are coming back from South Africa, if they do not have national identity cards, yet they were issued with one, we have ways to replace them because even us here, we can also lose our identity cards. So, we are also issuing documentation to our citizens who are returning from South Africa. If you have children whom you bore while you were in South Africa without a birth certificate, we are also issuing birth

certificates to them. So, the issue of documentation is being resolved. If you are from Harare and you do not have a place of birth, we will then tell Mr. Edgar Moyo and if you go to him, he will help you. If you come from Goredema, we will then go to the rural area and if you do not have a rural area and a place to stay, we have DGCs and councils that are there. They will have a meeting and a civil protection meeting where they will be discussing how to make those people settle in the areas.

They will see if there is help that they can give to that person to settle in that place. When they are accommodated in that place, they must work as the others are doing and if they have skills, they must assist us. I feel this is a very good initiative because most of the people who are coming with skills are going to make and help the country to develop. So, we must welcome these people and accommodate them so that they can be able to execute their skills.

In addition, those who are into farming must also do the farming so that our economy can be elevated. I do not see this thing as a bad initiative. I see this as our children who have come back home. We are not there to have misunderstandings with our neighbours. We are there,

as per our tradition, not for misunderstandings. Those who are coming, let us try to accommodate them in the places where they come from and they can be assisted there.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I think you had missed the question somehow. The question was: since these people have come, are they able to be assisted with some funds to make them and have access to money so that they can start their businesses? That is where the question was emanating from.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I had answered the question. I had answered it by saying that we are not creating funds for those who are coming, but we are encouraging them to go to the rural areas if they have projects that they want to do when they are in their rural areas. Our Government sectors are helping those staying in the country and those who have come back from South Africa, to have equal opportunities and resources. We are not selecting these people. No one is more important than the other. We are encouraging them to go to their rural areas and those who have expertise in mechanics have the potential to start a business and then be able to get the money must be assisted.

They are not being assisted because they have come back from South Africa, but because they have the expertise to do their job. I thank you.

***HON. KARENYI:** On a point of privilege. Thank you Mr.

Speaker. The questions that were asked about our returning citizens were based on how they get resources. My question is, is there an initiative that can be done by the Minister of Government? We know that the Minister cannot interfere with some issues in some places. Is there an initiative so that there will be a dialogue between South Africa and Zimbabwe so that when our citizens are being repatriated, that can be done in order? Some of our citizens are being arrested and their properties are being burnt down. Can they come here so that there will be peace?

There must be a dialogue that our citizens are coming, but can this be done in peace and can they also come with the property which they worked for? Their properties which they worked for are being destroyed. Can there be a peaceful dialogue? Thank you.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** This was a point of privilege.

I think the Hon. Minister understood the plea that came out. Can you take this up so that you can see how to resolve this?

***HON. MUCHEMWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to firstly thank the Zimbabwean Government for allocating land to youth, women and war veterans. My question is, what does the Government policy say about protecting youth, women and those who are into horticulture marketing, because there is stiff competition between them and *makoronyera*? What Government initiative is there so that these people can be able to develop our country, Zimbabwe? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. From time to time, when we are farming, we usually come up with initiatives on how to import the produce into the country. So, if the Hon. Member knows those items which are being imported into our country, he must indicate them. We will investigate the issues to see if it is true that we have many tomatoes that are being imported so that those

who are in here can go to the market and sell their produce without being disturbed by those middlemen.

***HON. KARIMATSENGA-NYAMUPINGA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to add so that the Hon. Minister's response has depth which can assist us. We come from places where we were sustained by the crops. The winter season is the time when we make a lot of money because the prices of tomatoes are high. However, there will be tomatoes from South Africa and Zambia, and our people go back with their tomatoes and then throw them away. What are Zambian tomatoes doing here? This is because Domboshava alone can supply the whole country with tomatoes. You want the tomatoes to be priced high so that they can be too expensive for the people?

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Mr. Speaker, that is the response I gave that our policy is that we do not give an import licence. If we see that our farmers are no longer able to go to the market and have money because there are some crops which are being imported from other countries, we can raise the import price so that the price here can ensure that our farmers can sustain their livelihoods. That is why I said that they

must put the question in writing. I am not aware that there are tomatoes from Zambia, but our Minister of Agriculture, if they write and investigate, that is their everyday job. Our job is to speak out about the policy and how to equate this if we have the product or we do not have the product in our country.

I remember that there was a time we did not have many groceries. The President said there was a drought and even mealie meal must be imported without an import licence. When we had the products, we then stopped that. So, if they write down their question, the Minister of Agriculture will go and investigate and protect our farmers because we cannot protect Zambian farmers without protecting our farmers from Mutoko. Thank you.

An Hon. Member having stood up for a supplementary question.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hold on, I think the Hon. Minister and Leader of Government Business is giving us a better way of tackling this issue by saying that let that question come in written form so that the responsible ministry can do proper research and give us a quantified response so that we approach it holistically. By virtue of

that, I think there is no other supplementary question that will arise from that.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. A pronouncement was made that heritage-based education is now compulsory for all schools. My question, in line with schools already taking international exams in the form of Cambridge is whether Cambridge is being phased out. If yes, what is the roadmap? If not, is there an expectation that the students will do both examinations? I submit.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. GATA): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. We are indeed focusing on Heritage-Based Curriculum. Cambridge exams are still being taken, but with the Heritage-Based Curriculum. Circulars are still to go out. This is with the start of 2027, not the current sitting students. So yes, we are going on with Cambridge exams, but our main focus is the Heritage-Based Curriculum examinations. They are taking both. If you feel you want to go the

Cambridge way, you will still be taking the Heritage-Based Curriculum exams. I so submit.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Supplementary. Thank you Hon. Minister for the comprehensive response. Considering that the students are taking both, there has been a pronouncement to insist on local languages being part of what they should go through in terms of passes at the Ordinary Level. What happens to the contingent of students who may not have done indigenous languages at a primary school level? Would they be at the same level to be examined with those who were taking it from Grade 1?

HON. GATA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to say for clarification purposes, yes, indigenous language is a must that we have an indigenous language in our Heritage-Based Curriculum. So, if your student was not taking an indigenous language in primary school, I have never heard of that. Here in Zimbabwe, we do have our 16 official indigenous languages and they are everywhere. The nine of them are the ones which are taken exams. We are still in the process of them being written. It is a must that you have an indigenous language. Thank you.

HON. GUMEDE: Supplementary Mr. Speaker Sir. Thank you for the opportunity. My supplementary question to the Hon. Minister is whether the Ministry has assessed the schools that are offering both heritage-based and Cambridge. Will they have sufficient resources in terms of teachers, learning materials and classrooms? Moreover, the time to implement both of these curricula effectively without compromising educational outcomes.

HON. GATA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. So, here is the thing. Policy is that we give priority to our own Heritage-Based Curriculum. If you decide that you are taking both curricula, this is the Cambridge and heritage curriculum, yes, we will come and assess. If you are qualified to write Cambridge, on its own, it assesses the institutions that are offering Cambridge exams. As a Ministry, heritage-based, our ZIMSEC, yes, we do assess. If you can manage the ZIMSEC exams, this is where our exam centres are located. It is really up to you, if you can take both, that we are giving priority to our heritage-based curriculum and it is compulsory. It is up to you if you can take both.

The institutions that are offering Cambridge have already been offering it and Cambridge has assessed them and certified them that their exams can be taken. In our schools, we are teaching Heritage-Based Curriculum.

*Questions Without Notice were interrupted by THE
TEMPORARY SPEAKER, in terms of Standing Order Number 68.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE
**INTRODUCTION OF EXEMPTIONS FOR PENSIONERS, PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES AND LOW-INCOME HOME OWNERSHIP IN
THE VALIDATION AND SECURITISATION EXERCISE**

1. **HON. GUMEDE** asked the Minister of Justice, Legal and
Parliamentary Affairs to inform the House;

(a) Whether the Government intends to introduce flexible payment arrangements, instalment plans or exemptions for pensioners, persons with disabilities and low-income homeowners participating in the validation and securitisation exercise.

(b) What kind of public consultations were undertaken before the introduction of the programme.

(c) What mechanisms are available for citizens to lodge complaints, appeals or disputes arising from the validation process.

THE TEMPORARY. SPEAKER: Do you have the answer to that?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Hold the question for now. We are looking for the answer.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Alright, with your indulgence, Hon. Gumedé, I will go to Question 2. As soon as the Minister is ready, we will have him respond to your question. Is that alright with you?

HON. GUMEDE: No.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: It is not okay? He is looking at the responses and making sure that he answers. It is a pertinent question, so we will come back to it. I am not saying that he will not come back as soon as he is ready. I will move to Question 2.

STATISTICS ON NEWBORN DEATHS FOR THE YEAR 2025

2. **HON. MUROMBEDZI** asked the Minister of Health and Child Care to supply the House with statistics on maternal and newborn deaths for the year 2025 and to disaggregate these by province.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. DR. MOMBERSHORA): Thank you Mr. Speaker...

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order. Leader of Government Business, may you approach the Chair, please? Hon. Minister of Health, you may continue.

The Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (Hon. Z. Ziyambi) approached the Chair.

HON. DR. MOMBERSHORA: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I will start by saying the province, then the total number of deliveries in that province for the year, then the number of neonatal deaths and lastly, the number of maternal deaths in that order.

Provinces	Total No. of deliveries	Number of neonatal deaths	Number of maternal deaths
Bulawayo Metropolitan Province	20 649	624	61
Harare Metropolitan Province	84 756	2 205	190
Manicaland Province	47 942	493	53
Mashonaland Central Province	43 467	434	42

Mashonaland East Province	38 991	368	34
Midlands Province	46 770	741	78
Matabeleland North Province	18 616	175	15
Matabeleland South Province	17 094	158	16
Masvingo Province	37 483	385	19
Mashonaland West Province	54 283	594	55
TOTAL	410 051	6 177	563

HON. MUROMBEDZI: Thank you so much Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for giving those statistics. My question however, having noted these provincial statistics on the maternal and newborn deaths for 2025, may the Hon. Minister outline what specific measures are being implemented to reduce these deaths going forward, particularly in scaling up emergency obstetric care, strengthening referral systems as well as retaining skilled midwives in underserved provinces and also the retraining of midwives. I so submit.

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for that supplementary question. We have a multi-pronged attack to this problem. Firstly, we deal with infrastructure and equipment. Secondly, we deal with health workforce and then thirdly, we deal with the referral system.

On infrastructure, we are rehabilitating our infrastructure, especially in the rural areas from the clinic level to the district level. We have actually renovated most of our theatres and then bringing in equipment. We have actually put in, over the last year, more than 43 new anaesthetic machines to enable our doctors in those district hospitals to perform caesarean sections to reduce maternal mortality and also to have improved outcomes of the neonates.

We have also deployed neonatal resuscitators so that the newborns can be resuscitated as soon as they are delivered and we have deployed them to a number of our district hospitals. Wherever we have put in a new anaesthetic equipment, we have also put a resuscitator. We have also been building mothers waiting shelters so that the mothers can wait at the clinic early enough rather than wait until they are in labour because most of them face transport challenges as a result. Some of them deliver at home and some of them deliver whilst going to the health centre and the outcomes become poor. These are some of the measures that we are taking in terms of infrastructure and equipment.

On the health workforce, we have increased our training starting with the RGN intakes which we have now doubled since 2023 and we continue opening new training schools. I am sure some of you might have realised that in the last week there has been an advertisement for intakes for only three nursing schools, one in Chimhanda, Gwanda and Mapisa. These are new intakes and they will be adding new numbers to our intakes. That is why there were only three and then from January they will join the rest of the training schools. We have also increased our midwifery intake and we have cut short the period from completing the Registered General Nurse (RGN) training to the period they are required, or they are eligible to take the midwifery courses. We have reduced that by one year; from two years to one year so that we accelerate the production of our skilled health workforce to deploy in all these areas. It is a long-term project to be able to reduce maternal mortality and neonatal mortality. If you roughly look at the figures that I have given you, when we report maternal deaths, we report 100 000. If you divide 400 000 by 563, you can see that we have gone down from

the 212 that was reported last year. It means we have done much better.

We are improving. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

***HON. MASHONGANYIKA:** I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for the good response. My question is, what is the Government saying about traditional midwives? They used to help a lot in reducing maternal deaths between the child and mother in labour because some of them receive medical assistance late. What is the Government doing with traditional midwives? Is the Government still thinking about them, or we no longer have them? Thank you.

***HON. DR. MOMBESHORA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to say traditional birth attendants are there, however, we are not concentrating on training them. We are now training midwives because we realise that even if they are helpful, they were just a stopgap measure. We want to come up with a plan that can assist us using scientific methods that are helpful. Yes, we recognise them as they are still there, but we are training midwives so that we have more of them and our work can be easier. That is helpful in terms of health. Thank you.

HON. KAPOIKILU: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for giving us those statistics and coming up with the proposed solutions to reduce those deaths. This House would appreciate it if the Minister could highlight the major causes of these deaths because the Minister did not highlight the major causes.

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. For maternal mortality, the major cause of death is postpartum hemorrhage. Something that I must also mention is institutional deaths. It is also a delay in seeking professional medical attention. Some of them delay getting to the appropriate institution where they can get help. By the time they get there, it will be a bit late, and it will be too late to save the mother and the child. In most cases, the mother can be saved through a caesarean section. That is why we have increased the facilities for caesarean sections, and it may be too late to save the neonates. For the neonates, the commonest cause is also birth asphyxia, where we say that during birth, they get trapped in the birth canal where they were now detached from the mother. The placenta has been detached and yet at the same time they are not able to breathe. The neonate dies. That is one of

the major causes of death for neonates. The second cause is infection, especially neonatal infection. In that case, we have always seen that the resuscitation part of it, when the neonate is born has been lacking. We are putting these resuscitators in place to be able to suck out secretions which then clog the lungs and create these infections. We also see infections in mothers, especially when mothers have tears or they have had a delayed delivery at home and they have had that delayed stage or where the neonate passes through in the abdomen. Then we have these infections - I think infections and birth asphyxia in neonates and then postpartum hemorrhage and infections for the mothers are the major causes. Thank you.

HON. KARENYI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question is, many expecting mothers report that they are being asked to pay for a caesarean section. Some cannot afford these costs, which results in a delay in receiving the care they need. What measures is the Government taking to ensure that no mother is denied or delayed in accessing medical care, especially when they are due for a caesarean section? Some cannot even afford to pay. Has the Ministry

assessed whether the issue of finances is also a barrier contributing to the poor maternal and newborn health outcomes?

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for asking that question. Yes, at times access is indeed difficult because of financial constraints. As the Government, we are coming and we will be bringing into this House, the National Health Insurance Programme scheme which we are now terming the National Healthcare Provision Programme. The draft Bill is complete, and I have been communicating with our Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and anytime soon, I think it will be discussed in the Cabinet Committee on Legislation so that we can bring it here. In that piece of legislation, the Government is coming up with free health care for every citizen of Zimbabwe and every resident of Zimbabwe.

Funds will be collected in different ways which I am not going to go into detail about now and it is up to Parliament to be able to support that Bill. The sooner it is passed in Parliament the sooner it will be implemented and it will reduce the out-of-pocket challenges. As the Government, currently, we are paying for all blood so that all women

who need blood during delivery will have that blood supplied to them for free. I want to thank the Government that so far they have been able to pay for the blood from the National Blood Service and blood is available. At times when we have shortages, it is a shortage of specific classes of blood because we may not have been able to get enough quantities from the population.

That is one way we are trying to deal with those issues. Ideally, our policy is that no woman needing obstetric care should be charged money. At times it is because the commodities that are needed may not be in the hospital, so the hospitals will end up charging for writing prescriptions for those commodities to be available. As for the services, to say a woman will not have a caesarean section because she does not have money to pay for the procedures - that is not our policy. Should that happen, please let us know the institution and if possible, the name of the patient so that we can make the necessary interventions. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I will ask the Leader of Government Business so that we go back to the first question, as you

had indicated that you responded. Hon. Gumedde, I do not know how you wrote your question. Your question was not very clear about what you were talking about. Someone would just guess, like I just guessed that you are talking about the issue of title deeds. Next time when you are drafting these questions, be specific as to what you are really referring to so that there is no misinterpretation whatsoever.

INTRODUCTION OF EXEMPTIONS FOR PENSIONERS, PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES AND LOW-INCOME HOME OWNERSHIP IN
THE VALIDATION AND SECURITISATION EXERCISE

1. **HON. GUMEDE** asked the Minister of Justice, Legal and
Parliamentary Affairs, to inform the House on: -

(a) whether the Government intends to introduce flexible payment arrangements, installment plans or exemptions for pensioners, persons with disabilities and low-income homeowners participating in the validation and securitisation exercise;

(b) what kind of public consultations were undertaken before the introduction of the programme; and

(c) what mechanisms are available for citizens to lodge complaints, appeals or disputes arising from the validation process.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This question appears to be appearing twice. Let me start by giving a background. At the Deeds Office, we have a manual registration of title deeds. What has been happening of late is that there have been fraudsters who have been colluding with some of our officials, changing title deeds and then having homeowners evicted from their homes. There is a case in Bulawayo where some law firm fraudulently obtained a title deed for a piece of land that was not theirs, advertised to people in the diaspora who then bought in the mistaken belief that they were buying real land because they were actually showing them deeds. In the end, it was then discovered that this was not their land. The most famous one is that of the former Cabinet Minister, Dr. Mutumbuka, whose house was nearly sold because of those activities.

Given this, we then undertook research and we decided that let us computerise the Deeds Office so that we then have title deeds that are securitised. Nonetheless, how do we then decide to go about it? We felt that everyone owning a property and a title deed must go to their conveyancer and that conveyancer, should anything happen, that becomes the responsible person that will be held accountable so that we exclude those that may steal other people's title deeds. We do not want a scenario where you walk in with your title deeds and then you do the verification alone. It may happen that after some time, someone will come and say that I never tendered my title deed. The whole thrust is that all the title deeds in the country must be securitised.

We want to remove this fraudulent activity and connivance that were happening where honest people have lost their properties. We decided to go the route of using a professional who would then do the verification and tender those documents. Being a professional registered by the law society, we then hold that individual accountable. The money that is charged is purely consultation fees to the lawyers. We are not, as deeds, getting all that money.

To answer the first question, I will answer it in a manner that our late Minister of Agriculture, Perrance Shiri, may his soul rest in peace. He said at one point when addressing farmers, they were complaining that they did not have chemicals for dipping cattle and their cattle were dying. What was Government doing because they were indigent? They said the loss is to yourselves. It is better to sell one cow and you contribute as a team to procuring these chemicals and you save five cattle. If you have five, sell one and you preserve four.

This question whereby the Hon. Member is saying they want flexible, they want exemption, the point is, this exercise is benefiting the title deed holder. We are putting mechanisms to ensure that what may happen now, because this question is presupposing that what happened to Mutumbuka or to those diasporans who were sold land will not happen to the disabled or to the pensioners. We are saying, what can be negotiated is the quantum but this is a noble process that will secure property for everyone. Once it is securitised and the verification has been done, the burden now lies with the conveyance should anything happen.

All the homeowners will now be protected because we will now have a computerised system that will tell us exactly who accessed the system and authorised the transfer. These questions, even the public consultation, this is for the benefit of the public. There was a public outcry which is well documented and there is no need to continue with a public consultation over a process that is protecting the very individuals, including all of us here. You may fall prey to somebody who can manipulate the system as it is currently.

Even on the question of mechanisms to lodge complaints, we are saying, go to your conveyancer. I am not sure what complaint because you are going to a lawyer or if you do not have, Government has a Legal Aid Directorate. We will do some test to say there is this programme that is being done but I am an indigent person. They will do a test to see whether you are unable to pay or not. I am appealing to Hon. Members that there has been so much misinformation about this. This is a very good programme that will put safeguards to ensure that we protect properties for all of us by migrating from a paper-based system of title deeds production to one which is computer-based, which is securitised.

We will even have links to banks whereby if somebody is selling a property and you go to a bank, the bank will have a user code that will access our system and be able to view and satisfy themselves that this is authentic. Right now, you may visit Deeds Office looking for a copy of your deed. You may not get it. This is a process that has not been clearly understood by the majority of the people. I can see from the questioning that Government is benefiting from this, believe that it is an unfair system but this is a people-driven process because of the outcries from those that have lost their properties. I submit Mr. Speaker.

HON. GUMEDE: Thank you so much for the comprehensive response that the Hon. Minister has given us, highlighting the fact that as legislators, our responsibility is to convey what is on the ground. If the digitalisation of title deeds is a Government initiative, first of all, I believe that the principles of good governance guide us that there should have been public consultations.

Secondly, I did not quite get why the citizens are expected to pay the USD215. Yes, they do benefit but can the Government not allocate some kind of budgetary support so that they can be able to fund this

programme? This to me, is a plea to the Minister to say that the USD215 sounds reasonable to say you are protecting maybe a property of USD60 000 but still the USD215 is not affordable. Can there not be ways that this USD215 can strike a balance from what the people are saying on the ground and the good work that the Government is trying to do with this programme? Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Maybe to ease that because Hon. Minister, believe you me, this subject of title deeds and all that we are talking about here is very contentious out there. Is there probably a way that maybe you as a Ministry can give us a proper direction in terms of a written statement to say the process that the people are supposed to go through is A, B, C and D. I say so because now there is a lot of misinterpretation, false information and so much information that is flowing around. People no longer know what is happening. You are told they are supposed to pay \$250 or \$210 somewhere.

So, maybe can you as a Ministry give us a comprehensive way of how this thing is supposed to happen from A up to Z so that from there, we can be guided and know because in the question that was asked by

our people in our constituencies, I was asked that question yesterday at 9 p.m to say Hon. Member, what is happening? Why are we now paying all this money? So please, is it possible to probably give us a comprehensive statement on the whole process?

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Firstly, let me just respond to indicate that I comprehensively responded and indicated that we had a problem of fraudulently produced title deeds and that does not require a public consultation and it has nothing to do with the so-called good governance. It is clearly a criminal process that was happening due to the issuance of title deeds that were fraud to duplication and connivance with other people. So, as a Government, you do not wait to say I am going to do a public consultation on whether to put a system that will secure your property.

Just like the example that I gave you that Government put dip tanks and they make sure they provide dipping chemicals to protect the herd and then somebody says we need a public consultation on whether we need to have our herd protected. This is a system that is protecting our property. As a Government, when we put measures, we even compel

the ignorant so that they are protected. That is the reason that when you have programmes like immunisation that they do, I was told that my grandson needs to go and have cholera and polio vaccinations and they indicated that it was ending on Friday. There is no need for public consultation. The Minister will simply direct that we need to eradicate cholera and these are the measures that we are putting to ensure that it is eradicated.

The point that I am putting Hon. Speaker, is that we have politicised a system that is protecting ourselves but the danger as a Government is to allow the ignorant to say I do not want. When you lose property, you then have to go to the same legal system, our police and the courts to report and it will be the burden of the State again. What I am saying is, we actually negotiate...

HON. HAMAUSWA: My point of order is that despite the fact that you have made a ruling, we expected the Minister to comply with your ruling and to consider also the wisdom that can be found in the people they assume are ignorant. What is happening with title deeds and I want to give one example. There are people who are now staying in

houses that they inherited from their fathers. Some are now maybe 99 years old and those are the people who are no longer working Mr.

Speaker. The idea now is how then that person needs to be protected.

Even the idea of public consultation cannot be substituted because there was a problem. Even if there is a problem, a public consultation is a constitutional requirement because this is a programme that will require people to pay. So, those who are not able to pay, ministers cannot simplify and take the property owners as homogenous. If you go, Mr. Speaker, to Kwabobo or to Harare South...

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Can you keep it short?

HON. HAMAUSWA: Yes, I am finishing. I just want to end by saying if you go to areas where this issue of title deeds started, like Kwabobo, Hopley in Harare South and Hatcliff, the people in those areas struggle even to get \$10. So, these are the people who would be expected to pay \$200 or more. We need those safety nets. I humbly request the Hon. Minister to listen and to consider that there is also wisdom even in those shacks in Hopley. That is our plea Mr. Speaker and the wisdom there. Thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Hon. Speaker. Hon. Hamauswa never listened to what I was saying because Hopley does not have title deeds. It is a totally different scheme altogether. We are trying to give them title deeds. We have different schemes. We have a Presidential Title Deeds Programme where we are saying those vulnerable people that are staying in houses without title deeds need to have title deeds.

Then we are saying you are holding a title deed and you are vulnerable because there are people who are manipulating those paper-based title deeds. We are having a process of converting those into securitised, computerised and more secure deeds. So, those are two different programmes. However, I am saying the process of conversion, we actually had to negotiate with the Law Society. We had an option of saying all Zimbabweans with title deeds, you walk into Deeds Office and present your title deeds but we felt it was extremely dangerous because thieves can actually steal, connive and change those deeds. The true owners would then emerge when we have already changed. Then we said let us use conveyancers because these are professional lawyers that we can hold accountable should they process a deed and verify a

deed fraudulently. So, what we can only negotiate is how we can assist those who are indigent so that they can also have their title deeds changed. That is where I said we also have the Legal Aid Directorate that does a means test for those indigents.

Then I gave a scenario to show that this process is helping all of us because we are vulnerable to fraudsters. Some of us may believe that what happened to Mutumbuka cannot happen to you and that is false. It can happen to you. While you are crying that I do not have \$200, you may lose property worth \$15 000 to \$20 000. So that is where we are saying, this is a very good programme. The question is, perhaps, as Hon. Gumede said, that those who are indigent are the ones we can refer to our Legal Aid Directorate so they can screen, be satisfied and then process because there may be cases where genuinely, they cannot. They are not even able to feed themselves. Perhaps Social Welfare is taking care of them. Then it means that it is the same Government that is feeding them, that should also do likewise. We are saying this process does not need all that Hon. Gumede was saying because it is real.

I agree Hon. Member. We have already started running programmes on the radio. My Permanent Secretary has issued a statement and has been on Face the Nation. We can prepare a comprehensive statement to circulate to show the gravity of the situation. However, all I am saying is that those stands that *vaMnangagwa* gave you, if you get deeds for them, you are vulnerable to the fraudsters if we continue with the system that we have currently. That is why we want to switch to a more secure system that will provide our citizens with greater comfort.

Let us not confuse this process with the Presidential Title Deeds Programme which targets areas where people do not have title deeds. We are saying we need to verify and identify the actual owners and come up with a scheme that will be incorporated into the rates, so that they end up with their title deeds and be able to access, be it an infrastructure bond collectively to do the roads and other infrastructure, that is a separate programme. This one is for those who have title deeds and property with a certain value. I submit Mr. Speaker Sir.

I will prepare something for Hon. Members as you directed but I felt I needed to clarify why this programme is there for Hon. Members to gain appreciation. I will duly comply with what you submitted Mr. Speaker Sir.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you very much Hon. Minister. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Supplementary! Supplementary!*] - I think because the Hon. Minister has agreed to give us a comprehensive statement, let us wait for that, by next week it will be there. Then we will stand guided as to what exactly the process is and if there is any clarification, we can do the clarification then. – [HON. MEMBERS: *On a point of privilege!*] - Order, order, please take your seats. Wonderful.

Right. The Hon. Minister has clarified what he has clarified and has even agreed to do a Ministerial Statement. So, I do not know which points of privilege you want to raise. Alright, I will indulge you. Yes, Hon. Gumedde you can start.

HON. GUMEDE: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir for indulging me. My point of privilege is to request that the Hon. Minister acknowledge that aspects of this programme are very complicated and confusing for

the public. I am requesting that as you write the Ministerial Statement or a comprehensive statement, you clearly state what happens at the end when the deadline comes and lapses. What happens to the people who would not have digitised their title deeds? I think people really want to know about the deadline issue because the deadline is quite close. Thank you so much.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Mahlangu, what do you want to be clarified?

HON. MAHLANGU: It is not clarity *per se*. My plea to the Hon. Minister is to extend the validation period to 31st December, 2030. We want to align this project with our Vision 2030, which aims to reduce panic among people and agencies that might want to engage in gaming problems. I thank you.

HON. SAGANDIRA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Ministry is doing very well in employing digital rights management systems, but it is overlooking other property rights management such as the Rights of Musicians. This system is not benefiting Intellectual Property Rights for musicians. They are not able to get their subscriptions...

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Order! I think you are now out of - [HON. SAGANDIRA: *I am just requesting the Hon. Minister to...*] - No, no, no. I was indulging you but you are actually out of order because I wanted the Hon. Minister to be prepared for the comprehensive statement that we had asked for.

So, what I want to know is what you need to be included in that statement. That is why I allowed - [HON. SAGANDIRA: *Yes, that is why I am saying Intellectual Property Rights for Musicians, which is the same office.*] - No, please bring that separately, not on this one. Thank you. Order, order, hold on, order! The last word on this, Hon. Madzivanyika, and keep it short.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Sure. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I request the Hon. Minister to include in the response on the title deeds as sometimes parents say they paid the conveyance fees and they are being asked whether they have paid them. So now it becomes a double payment. May the Hon. Minister clarify on that? I thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I think we are done because we have got a lot of other questions. I had indulged people in this but the

Hon. Minister has heard the jinx and the trajectory of his response. –

[HON. MUTSEYAMI: *If you can indulge me, yours truly.*] - 30 seconds.

***HON. MUTSEYAMI:** Thank you so much Mr. Speaker Sir for granting me this opportunity. Mr Speaker, I just wanted to hint to the Hon. Minister, Hon. Minister Ziyambi, Leader of Government Business, if you may pay attention. Please, please, Hon. Ziyambi.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I said 30 seconds and you are going round and round.

***HON. MUTSEYAMI:** If you acknowledge that the former Minister Dzingayi Mutumbuka's house was fraudulently stolen because of these title deeds, I am requesting that the Hon. Minister, when he makes the Ministerial Statement, be very thorough in examining all the gaps so that he can assist people out there who are being wronged. I saw the wife of the late Brigadier General also lost her house through the same system. So, I appeal to the Minister to assist so that we prevent such cases from taking place.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** The Hon. Minister said this programme was actually moved because of a lot of fraud cases that had

come up, so it was meant to protect the public from all those problems, especially fraud that had come up. I thank you.

DATA REGARDING THE PREVALENCE OF GROWTH
DISORDERS AMONG CHILDREN OF COVID-19 VACCINATION
RECIPIENTS

3. **HON. BAJILA** asked the Minister of Health and Child Care to inform the House on whether any studies or data exist regarding the prevalence of developmental and growth disorders among children born to parents who received COVID-19 vaccination and to clarify the Ministry's position on any established relationship, if any, between COVID-19 vaccination and such disorders.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. DR. MOMBESHORA): As a Ministry, we have not received any such reports or any concerns regarding this. We have not received any data on any changes to the prevalence of growth or developmental disorders post-COVID-19 vaccination.

Let me take this opportunity to inform the House that the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) which is a parastatal under the Ministry has an arm that looks at adverse events following vaccines. They are the ones mandated to perform surveillance on any ill effects regarding vaccines administered. To this end, there have been no such reports. I submit Hon. Speaker.

HON. BAJILA: I would like to thank the Minister for the response. What I wanted to check was if they have managed to have conversations with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, in the sense that while no reports have been brought to them, whether there could be those kinds of thoughts and observations from the side of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education amongst growth and development issues with these ECD learners at this juncture. Parents who bring these issues to us have their children starting ECD now and they sense that there are growth and development issues amongst their children and the responses that they are getting perhaps straight from the clinics may not be satisfactory to them. Has the Ministry had

conversations with their counterpart in the Primary and Secondary Education to ascertain that these issues do not exist at all?

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: Mr. Speaker, this is why I said there is MCAZ which follows up on such issues and does surveillance. They have not reported anything to the Ministry. We, as the Ministry take cases that are reported to us and then start the follow-up. We have not heard any cases of developmental abnormalities. These are theoretical things that we have read about, that there could be higher chances. In fact, they say 16% higher chances of neurodevelopmental abnormalities but we are saying, as Zimbabwe, we have not had any reports to that effect. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: So maybe Hon. Bajila, you probably need to help those parents who are experiencing that by approaching the Ministry or the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) so that if ever there are any issues, they can arise from the research from there.

ADDRESSING THE GRIEVANCES OF STRIKING NURSES

4. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Health and Child Care to inform the House on the measures being taken to urgently address the grievances of striking nurses across the country.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. DR. MOMBESHORA): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government carried out a payroll analysis to urgently address any technical glitches that may have occurred during the transition from the previous remuneration framework to the current one developed for implementing the new grades from the job evaluation exercise. Some of these glitches may have resulted in the disaffection expressed by the nurses.

The Government is further evaluating a submission made by the health workers to increase health-specific and risk allowances applicable to health workers according to prevailing economic conditions and available fiscal space.

Further engagements to consider the workers' position will be addressed through the best negotiated package (BNP), a platform for negotiations between the employer and health workers. The Government

is committed to addressing legitimate concerns by its valuable employees who should engage the employer in a lawful manner through the established frameworks. I submit Mr. Speaker Sir.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Mr Speaker, we saw most of our nurses crying. They were saying that when transport allowances were gazetted, commuter omnibuses cost 50 cents. Their plea is now outdated because the commuter buses are now \$1 but during that time their grievances were very clear. So, we want to know what the Ministry did to assist them, especially on the transport allowance that I gave as an example. I thank you.

HON. DR. MOMBESHORA: I think discussions are in progress. Proposals have been made and the first proposals of allowances that were made were adjusted and now we await the new proposals because when we have new proposals which are discussed between the Health Service Commission and the health workers, they are put together and presented to the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare who in turn will present them to the Minister of Finance, Economic

Development and Investment Promotion. I think that is the stage where we are at now for the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to have the discussions with the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, with the comprehensive list of allowances which were last reviewed in 2022. The Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion was happy to have discussions on the new proposals and those are the results that we are awaiting.

*Questions With Notice were interrupted by **THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER** in terms of Standing Order Number 68.*

*On the motion of **HON. KAMBUZUMA** seconded by **HON. NYANDORO**, the House adjourned at a Quarter past Five o'clock p.m. until Tuesday, 21st July, 2026.*