PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Wednesday, 22nd July, 2026

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

PRAYERS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE

SWITCHING OFF OF CELLPHONES

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: I can hear that there are some gadgets which are on. I would like to remind the Hon. Members, once again, to put your gadgets on silent or better still, switch them off.

Are all the gadgets switched off now? Otherwise, if it goes on, I will ask you to leave the Chamber.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE (HON. E. NDLOVU): Thank you Mr. President. I move that Order of the Day, Number 1 on today's *Order Paper* be stood over until the rest of the Orders of the Day have been disposed of.

Motion put and agreed to.

SECOND READING

CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT BILL [H. B. 5A, 2025]

Second Order read: Adjourned debate on the Second Reading of the Climate Change Management Bill [H. B. 5A, 2025]

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MUPFUMIRA: Thank you Mr. President, for allowing me to contribute to this very important Bill. Allow me to thank the Minister for finally bringing the much-awaited Bill to this House. I rise as Chairperson of the Thematic Committee on Climate Change to support the Climate Change Management Bill [H. B. 5A, 2025]. Let me be candid with this House about what this Bill actually means for Zimbabwe. For years, our response to climate change has lived in policy statements, donor projects, ministerial circulars, things that can be reversed, defunded or simply forgotten. This Bill changes that. It takes climate change out of the realm of good intentions and places it into law with a dedicated department, defined powers, real money behind it and consequences for those who ignore it. For a country as exposed as ours to drought, to cyclones, to shifting rainfall that our farmers can no longer predict, this is not a technical statute. It is a survival tool for our people and I say this having served as Minister responsible for Environment, Climate and Tourism where I saw daily how much we needed exactly this kind of legal backbone.

Mr. President, Part 3 of the Bill establishes the Climate Change Management Department led by a director in four specialised units: Climate Transparency and Compliance, National Ozone Loss and Damage and Carbon Trading. This gives climate change its own institutional home rather than treating it as an afterthought within a broader environment mandate. Equally important is Section 5, which grants every citizen the right to information, to participation and to benefit from climate programmes and which instructs decision makers to give particular weight to the most vulnerable among us, women, children, the elderly, the sick and the disabled. This is a rights-respecting Bill and this House should be proud to say so. A law without money behind it is a wish list. This Bill establishes the National Climate Fund under Sections 25 to 30, Financing Adaptation and Mitigation Projects, capacity-building and critically loss and damage support for communities hit hardest by disaster. It is fed by real dedicated revenue, 15% of climate levies, 85% of carbon trading proceeds, 25% of carbon tax and shares of ozone unit funds and the tobacco levy.

Section 25 adds a national emissions trading system, giving heavy emitters the choice of buying carbon credits or paying a levy, rewarding cleaner practice while still generating funds for the fund. Honourable Senators, this fund has statutory teeth and this Committee will be watching closely to see that its promise is matched by its performance.

The shared responsibility across the nation; this Bill wisely refuses to let central government carry this burden alone. Every Ministry, Department, Agency and Local Authority must appoint a Climate Change Focal Officer within six months of commencement and provincial and Metropolitan Councils must produce their own climate change response plans, reporting annually to the department. Private entities are equally drawn in, facing emission reduction targets, mandatory sustainability officers and independent compliance audits. This is what a just transition looks like in practice. Government, local authorities, industry and citizens each carrying their fair share.

Compliance and the citizens' voice; Mr. President, Section 36 sets fines that are proportionate to the harm caused and the benefit gained by the offender, with directors and partners held personally liable where they knowingly allow non-compliance up to five years imprisonment, yet the Bill is not only about punishment. Section 40 obliges every ministry and Agency to hold public consultation forums before adopting climate plans and policies, giving our communities, the very people living this crisis daily, a formal seat at the table. That mirrors exactly the approach this Committee has taken in its own public hearings and this House should recognise that consistency.

Mr. President, Climate Change will not wait for our legislative calendar. This Bill gives Zimbabwe permanence, institutional clarity, real financing and shared national responsibility in the fight against a crisis at our doorstep. On behalf of the Thematic Committee on Climate Change, I commend the Climate Change Management Bill [H. B. 5A, 2025] to this House and I urge Hon. Senators to support its passage. I so submit.

HON. SEN. NCUBE: Thank you Mr. President, for allowing me to add my voice and full support for this important piece of legislation. It is actually a significant milestone because it is going to be the first legislation to legally regulate climate change in the country in a logical manner, cutting through many sectors of the economy. I see several objectives of this important Bill, which is really to establish a legal framework for climate change management, as was said by my predecessor here. Many instruments were disjointed; now they have been coalesced into a well thought-out Climate Management Bill. To promote the adaptation and mitigation measures which we must actually take seriously as a country, most importantly, this piece of legislation mainstreams throughout government institutions, local authorities and other sectors of the economy, climate-related issues and policies because in every setting there is always a climate issue and this Bill now makes it logical to monitor and implement climate policies. By improving the coordination of the entire array of policies that address climate. It also places Zimbabwe in a leveraged position in terms of accessing climate finance and it encourages investment in renewable energy and other low-carbon technologies. I think that is very important to note.

As a country, the Bill supports the achievement of Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 and it buttresses the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) in terms of our commitment to the Paris Agreement. There are several challenges which I take note of. Of particular note is the lack of guidance, particularly to local authorities, in terms of climate targets and other sectors of the economy. As we realise right now, energy is a big source of the economy in terms of input, but we are still building thermal power stations.

What does the Bill do to give those who are building thermal power stations clear targets in terms of emissions of greenhouse gases? I think it is silent in that regard. This should be an opportunity that we should have line items that refer and guide all sectors of the economy so that we can all converge towards the Nationally Determined Contributions as required by the Paris Agreement. We say by 2030, our emissions of greenhouse gases should have been reduced by 40%. That is a global holistic target for the country. What about other sectors of the economy, particularly those who are actually constructing thermal power stations, which we know emit greenhouse gases?

My view also is that the Bill buttresses the polluter pays principle. How does it coordinate with the fuel levy? Should the proportion of the fuel levy and I am not naive to say all of it, but the proportion of the fuel levy, be ring-fenced and go towards the National Climate Fund so that we can logically fund mitigation and damage and loss when necessary.

The comprehensive nature of this Bill requires comprehensive funding. This is the opportunity for the Minister to look at all the funding, including the carbon tax, which is actually captured. I think we know that the fuel levy is important in terms of constructing roads and other infrastructure. A portion of it should also be directed towards the National Climate Fund. I so submit.

HON. SEN. SHIRI: Thank you Mr. President, for affording me this opportunity. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for bringing this important Bill. The Climate Change Management Bill has several good aspects, Hon. Minister, including the comprehensive legal framework. It establishes a unified legal framework to strengthen Zimbabwe's national response to climate change, mainstreaming adaptation and mitigation into all sectors, as said by other Senators. It also has rights and participation.

The Bill enshrines rights for citizens to access climate information and participate in policymaking, ensuring intergenerational equity and accountability. Also coordinated action, aims to coordinate adaptation and mitigation measures across various sectors, promoting low-carbon development and climate resilience.

Again, on National Climate Funds, the Bill includes provisions for a National Climate Fund to finance climate-related projects, ensuring funding for climate resilience and green energy initiatives. There is also public engagement. It emphasises public and stakeholder engagement, aiming to involve citizens in climate governance and decision-making processes. These aspects collectively contribute to building a climate-resilient and sustainable economy in Zimbabwe. I therefore support the Bill. Thank you.

HON. SEN. TSHABANGU: Thank you Mr. President. I rise to support the Climate Change Bill 2025. I also rise to say that if we pass it as it is, we will have a law in name only. Climate change is not coming. It is here. Cyclones, droughts, heat waves and the Bill still have critical gaps that will make the people of Zimbabwe fail.

We cannot ask workers in coal, agriculture and transport to carry the cost of going green without a plan. This Bill is silent on retaining workers, social protection and alternative livelihood options. We need an amendment that guarantees no worker is left behind. Clauses 14 and 15 talk about data and Clause 33 says targets can come later in regulations. That is too late. The law itself must set clear science-based emission reduction targets and sectoral budgets. Otherwise, we will keep reporting but never reducing.

Clause 21 creates a national climate fund but where is the money coming from? Donations are vague and not sustainable. We need a dedicated climate levy, as alluded to by my friend Senator, to ringfence these funds with independent oversight so that the funds can reach communities, not the consultants. Clause 8 collects data and losses, but data does not rebuild a home washed away by floods. We need a statutory loss and damage fund so that when disaster strikes, communities are compensated and not forgotten. Mr. President, Clause 32 mentions offences but penalties are left to the Minister. That is not the difference. We need corporate liability, director liability and restoration orders for companies that pollute.

Safety and climate cannot be a cost of doing business. A department in the ministry cannot regulate the same ministry. We need an independent climate change commission with civil society, youth and the private sector having a round table. Clause 8 (x) mentions gender participation, but participation without power is tokenism. We need mandatory quotas for women and youth and legal standing to challenge climate and guarantee funding for grassroots adaptation. The Bill is a foundation, but a foundation without walls will not shelter anyone.

Let us amend it now to include just transition, binding targets, sustainable finances, loss, damage, corporate accountability, independent governance and real participation. If we do that, the law will just be about managing climate change. It will be about protecting lives, jobs and the future of Zimbabwe. I so move Mr. President.

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Thank you Hon. Sen. Tshabangu. You were a bit ahead in that you tied on specific clauses. I hope you will be able to present what you have just said in Committee, which is where that kind of thing should be presented.

HON. SEN. BVUMO: Thank you Hon. President for allowing me to add a few remarks on the Bill. I rise with profound conviction to lend my unequivocal support to the Climate Change Management Bill. This is not merely an environmental Bill. It is a national survival instrument. Climate change is no longer a distant scientific projection. It is a lived reality that continues to test the resilience of our nation. The recurring droughts, devastating floods, erratic rainfall patterns, heat waves and declining agricultural productivity bear eloquent testament to a climate in distress. History will not judge us by the eloquence of our declarations, but by the courage of our decisions.

This Bill, therefore, represents a decisive transition from police aspirations to legally enforceable action. It equips Zimbabwe with a coherent legislative framework to coordinate climate governance, strengthen adaptation, reduce vulnerability and safeguard sustainable development for present and future generations. I particularly applaud the establishment of the National Climate Fund. Climate resilience cannot be built on good intentions alone. It requires predictable and sustainable financing. Through this mechanism, communities, farmers, local authorities and institutions will be better equipped to invest in climate and not agriculture, renewable energy, water security and disaster preparedness.

In essence, this fund transforms climate action from an abstract aspiration into a practical national commitment. This Bill further recognises that environmental stewardship is a shared constitutional duty. Government alone cannot defeat climate change. The private sector, local authorities, civil society and every citizen must become custodians of our natural heritage. Climate justice demands collective responsibility because the consequences of environmental neglect look no more political affiliation, geographical boundary or social class.

Equally commendable is the Bill's provision for carbon markets and greenhouse gas regulation.

These measures not only fulfill Zimbabwe's international obligations, but also unlock opportunities for green investment, technological innovation and sustainable economic transformation. Environmental protection and economic development are not competing objectives. They are mutually reinforcing pillars of national prosperity. We have borrowed this country from no one. We hold it in trust for the generations yet unborn. To legislate for climate resilience today is to preserve food security, water resources, biodiversity and the dignity of future Zimbabweans.

I, therefore, submit that this Bill is not simply about protecting the environment. It is about protecting our economy, communities and national future. It is a legislative affirmation that development cannot be sustainable unless it is climate resilient. With these remarks Hon. President, I wholeheartedly support the Climate Change Management Bill and urge this august House to pass it without hesitation. I so submit. Thank you.

HON. SEN. S. MOYO: Thank you very much Hon. President for giving me this opportunity to add my views on this Climate Change Management Bill. I rise today to speak on the Climate Change Bill. This Bill matters and touches our farmers, water, health and future. Our Constitution says every person has the right to a clean and safe place to live. I thank the Hon. Minister today for holding to this idea. We agree that Zimbabwe must plan for climate change and help our people adapt. We also agree that pollution must be reduced. Hon. President and Hon. Senators, we have a serious problem. Let me explain my views.

Firstly, the Bill creates a new fee called the Climate Levy. It is like a tax on people or companies that pollute. It also forces companies to buy carbon credits if they emit too much carbon. Our worry is simple Mr. President. How will this affect ordinary people? If coal or fuel costs more, our power bill will rise. If fuel is taxed for carbon, bus travel will rise and food will cost more. Farmers who use fertiliser or diesel may pay more too. We must protect the poor and the rural families from this.

The Government must promise us clearly that the poor will not carry this weight. South Africa's carbon accounts for about 90% of its pollution, but it is applied with care and some are excused. We ask for some care here to define the levy clearly in law and protect the most vulnerable people. My second clear rules in the real check; this Bill builds a big new Climate Change Department with five new teams. This may help, but it also costs money.

We must know who will pay for it; our taxes or money from donors. The Bill also puts one person, the Hon. Minister, in charge of almost everything. Which companies must cut pollution and by how much? Too much power in one office is a risk. We need checks, perhaps a Parliamentary Committee to watch over this work and a rule that all climate spending is checked by our auditors.

As it stands, the Government can spend climate fund money by its own decision. This may clash with our constitutional rules on public money. We will ask for an amendment. This fund's accounts and spending must pass through Parliament and the Auditor-General must review them. That is why every coin is accounted for and our people can trust the fund.

My third view, the Bill says people can get climate information and must be consulted, but a law on paper is not enough. We remember Cyclone *Idai* and the long droughts. They taught us that local people must have a real voice in climate change. We will insist that the Government hold public meetings in villages and small towns, not only in Harare. Every province should have at least one public meeting spoken in local languages with the results written down and shared.

We also propose a new rule like Kenya's climate law. Every Zimbabwean should be able to go to court if a company or a Government office pollutes their area. This would give our people real power to enforce the law. Mr. President, Zimbabwe will not be the first country to pass a climate law. Let us look at what others did and what worked for their people. We look at Kenya. Kenya set up a climate council led by the President. Let ordinary citizens sue polluters in a special environment court. Request a plan that is adopted every five years.

As Zimbabweans, we need to give ordinary Zimbabweans this right to take legal action if a company or an office breaks the climate rule. This puts real power in the hands of the people. We are looking at South Africa. 2019 Carbon Tax takes about 90% of the country's pollution from fuel and factories. In Zimbabwe, a tax like this can cut pollution but it can also push prices up. Zimbabwe must add strong protection for poor and rural families before adopting this. The United Kingdom 2008 law, set one clear binding goal, cut all pollution to zero by the year 2050. It uses five years spending and pollution plan set by an independent expert panel. Our Bill has no clear final target and no independent checking panel. We should add both, so progress is checked by experts and not only by the Hon. Minister.

Botswana, close to us here, has no separate climate law at all. Climate ideas are simply placed inside its energy and water policies. Zimbabwe is choosing a bigger, bolder path than Botswana by building a full law. This is good but we must get every detail right since there is no mistake.

Mr. President, the clear lesson in good climate laws needs these three things. One clear final target, honest man control and ordinary people to enforce it. The Zimbabwe Bill right now is missing all those three things.

Mr. President, my fourth one, the Bill stipulates fair duties for councilors and businesses. The Bill tells city councils and the local government to write climate plans and even pass local climate rules. It tells companies to hire climate officers and meet pollution targets. Those are new duties.

Our councilors are already struggling with the roads and clinics. We must make sure the National Budget gives them money for this new climate work or they simply cannot do it. For companies, those strict rules should apply first to the biggest defaulters such as mines and big factories, not to every small company. We want fairness so small businesses are not crushed by rules built by big companies.

The fifth one, Mr. President, timelines we can actually meet. This Bill set tight deadlines. For example, councils must appoint climate officers within six months. We ask can the Government can truly do this so far? First, given our current skills gap, we propose longer and more practical deadlines. We also propose that Parliament reviews this law after two years to check that it is helping our people and protecting our environment as intended.

My closing remarks, Mr. President and Hon. Senators, in closing, we all want a better future for Zimbabwe. Climate change is real and we must act, but we must be honest about what the Bill does. It creates new rules and new costs. We must protect jobs, keep food affordable and be fair to our people even as we fight climate change. We ask the Government; let us improve this Bill together. Make the climate fund open and honest. Make the levy a proper law involving our communities for real. Let no one be left behind. If we do this, the Bill can be a powerful tool for our country. Thank you, Mr. President.

HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI: Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me this opportunity to contribute to this Bill and to appreciate the Hon. Minister for the effort spent in attempting to make sure that Zimbabwe complies with the international demands. However, I think the Hon. Minister would want to listen to some new ideas and this is what I intend to do. If that sounds like opposing it, so be it, but the idea is simply to bring to the table different ideas. The idea is to desist from making this House a monologue choir of senior people all singing, *Handei kudenga tese!*.

Mr. President, I do understand the need for climate action, but in its current form, I find it difficult to give total and unequivocal support to the Bill. It has elements, which need support, but some elements need to be criticised. The key thing is that the Bill seems to create more and more red tape. It is loaded with the creation of new offices, departments, registries, inspections and liaison committees. Yet, in my opinion, the right approach is to push for lean governance and lean Government systems, so we save money and deploy it elsewhere where it is needed more. Deploy it to increase the welfare of civil servants. Deploy it to improve the welfare of the old and deploy it in other fashions that can impact on the lives of the people in the short term. This Bill does very little to deal with the climate problems of now, the dictatorship of now. Zimbabwe's biggest climate issues are not the amount of greenhouse gases that we generate as a nation.

I will come to that later with statistics so that we can conclusively say, are we driving in the right direction? Are we giving the right thing the right priority or could we prioritise differently?

Mr. President, another cancer is developing. Each time we see a new Bill coming in this House and without exception, it is about increasing the powers of the minister. That is what I see in every Bill. The Minister wants excessive powers. I really do not understand why people want excessive power. Strong leaders, strong leadership does not push strong men's tools. They appear weak, but they are strong. They appear weak by making sure that the power resides not in them but in the people. I do not seem to see that in these Bills.

There is just an obsession with power; I wish we could just get our act together and reverse this attitude around absolutism around power. It is not necessary in my opinion. We need strong, weak leaders. Strong, weak leaders are those leaders who are prepared to look weak, who do not put durawalls around themselves so that no one reaches them. They are those leaders who destroy the durawalls so that they can interface properly with the very same people that they are saying they want to save.

The other disease or problem is the proliferation of funds. This Minister wants a fund to manage the next one, another fund to manage the third one. All 63 Ministers are looking for a loophole to create a fund that they will manage themselves. Concerning these funds, we know what these funds do Mr. President. We are old enough to know what these funds are intended to do. Half the time, these funds do not benefit the people. There are serious temptations for invitations towards feeding troughs. Not for the people. Be that as it may, I would think that if there is a serious need for this fund, we need to make sure that we inject vaccines to make sure that this fund is not abused.

Let me go to my point number five. This Bill seems to be driven more by international climate obligations than our own development needs. This is why I said, let me go to statistics. Zimbabwe generates about 31 megatons of greenhouse gases, which translates to 0.006% of the global greenhouse gases. This 0.006 is a very negligible number. It is smaller than one bomb that America sent to Iran. The amount of greenhouse gases that are generated by one single bomb is more than what we generate in Zimbabwe. Sometimes there are fights you really do not want to engage in. Fights where if you win, it means nothing. If you lose, it means nothing. A fight against 0.006% of global emissions, whether you win it, whether Zimbabwe decides that we are going to generate 0%, it has no impact at a global scale. So, why are we wasting time? If you look at the gas that we generate, it is generated through agricultural activities. That 0.006 is agricultural, it is our energy and a little bit of manufacturing. When we target to reduce 40% of our greenhouse gases, effectively what we are saying is that we want to reduce 40% of our electricity. Yet, we are already energy insecure in this country or you say, okay, let us go for agriculture.

The backbone of our survival, reducing emissions in the agricultural sector, means automatically reducing agricultural productivity. Who wants to do that and for what reason? What I am saying is, I bear with colleagues, particularly Hon. Sen. Mupfumira who has a serious passion around this. I bear with her. I understand the desire. I understand her passion around speaking what seems fashionable at a global level. That is fine. However, we must desist as a nation from being led by interests that are not ours. We are being pushed around. We are being waged by interests that really are not our real interests.

Our interests are not related at all to reducing our energy security, agricultural activity or the little bit of manufacturing that is happening in this country. What would I want to see in the Bill? I would like to see the Bill thinking outside the boxes of legislative activities because this is very ordinarily boxed in how legislation is developed. It looks fashionable. I would like to think that in terms of, for example, issues of carbon dioxide generation, if this Ministry is better positioned to address heat-related challenges, we may find that carbon dioxide, when properly captured, can be used beneficially in agriculture. This is the direction we should pursue. We must consider how to transform this apparent adversity into an opportunity. In collaboration with our research institutions, we should explore the use of captured carbon dioxide in fertiliser production and in greenhouse agriculture, where it can enhance plant growth and improve yields.

Mr. President, our focus should be on applying technology to capture emissions and mitigate, or even reverse, the effects of what might otherwise appear to be overwhelming challenges. The same innovative approach should guide our response to droughts and floods.

Floods and droughts are often two sides of the same climatic cycle. For three or four years, we may experience excessive rainfall and flooding; this may be followed by two or three years of drought. However, when viewed over time, the water balance may remain broadly the same. The challenge, therefore, is not merely the availability of water, but our capacity to manage, store and distribute it effectively.

We should draw lessons from the biblical account of seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine, which inspired the creation of institutions such as the Grain Marketing Board. Likewise, during periods of flooding, we must harvest and store water in preparation for the drier years that may follow. This is both feasible and necessary.

I recall speaking with some Chinese colleagues during a period of drought. When I explained that the country was experiencing drought, they asked: “Is the Zambezi River not flowing? Is the Pungwe River not flowing? Is the Save River not flowing?” Their question was thought-provoking: do we truly face a shortage of water, or do we face a shortage of effective governance, scientific planning and water-management infrastructure? In all honesty, I agree with that perspective. We must apply sound governance, scientific thinking and modern technology to ensure that our available water resources are captured, conserved and used productively for the benefit of our people.

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! You are left with five minutes, Senator Zvidzai.

***HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI**: Thank you Mr. President, for your generosity. In fact, I was about to conclude, but now that you have given me more time, let me add another topic.

Mr. President, climate action is undeniably important. However, this Bill appears to have misplaced priorities. Zimbabwe does not need another layer of bureaucracy; we already have more than enough administrative structures.

Indeed, Zimbabwe is one of the most heavily governed countries I know. If one is not governed through the church, one is governed by traditional leadership. If not by traditional leadership, then by a burial society; if not by a burial society, then by the local council. Beyond the council are provincial authorities and central Government, with the church again playing a significant role in community life. We are, therefore, already subject to extensive layers of governance, Mr. President. We do not require further bureaucracy.

What Zimbabwe needs is infrastructure, particularly dams. We must capture and store the abundant waters of the Pungwe, the Zambezi, the Sabi and the Runde rivers, as well as the substantial groundwater resources beneath our land. Our country possesses water in abundance; what is required is the vision, planning and infrastructure to harness it productively for national development.

We need irrigation schemes. We need energy, new renewable energy, in a big way. What Zimbabwe requires is resilient agriculture, not additional bureaucracy. We need climate-resilient infrastructure that enables us to withstand droughts, manage floods and secure food production.

Allow me to draw the attention of this House to the country's immense irrigation potential. If we were to harness water from the Zambezi River, convey it to Marondera, one of the highest points in the region and distribute it through gravity-fed systems, Zimbabwe could greatly strengthen its own agricultural production and potentially support the wider region, including Zambia, Botswana and South Africa. With appropriate investment, planning and regional cooperation, such infrastructure could help ensure that hunger does not threaten our people.

Our country experiences both periods of flooding and drought; the task before us is to establish the systems required to capture, store and distribute water effectively. These practical mechanisms are of greater value than further red tape and bureaucracy.

Mr. President, I support the Bill with the potential for some of these changes. I thank you for your time.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE (HON. E. NDLOVU): Mr. President, I listened with care to the debate in the House and really appreciate the debate that has been going on.

First, I wish to thank Hon. Sen. Mupfumira for her wholehearted support of the Bill. She clearly understands what this Bill means for Zimbabwe, both nationally and internationally.

The Bill responds to an important domestic and global concern. It addresses existing gaps in our climate-change framework, strengthens climate action and facilitates coordinated financing. In particular, it will enable us to consolidate resources held across various institutions, including our own national institutions and direct them towards climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

At present, much of this work is financed through external resources. However, I wish to advise this House that, at both national and international levels, there is an increasing need to mobilise resources from all available sources. Reliance on the international community alone can no longer provide a dependable solution, as external commitments may change without notice.

We have seen, for example, how a major contributor such as the United States can alter its support for international organisations and programmes with immediate effect. Such developments remind us that Zimbabwe must develop a more secure and self-reliant approach to climate financing.

This Bill therefore challenges us, as Zimbabweans, to consider what we can contribute, where we can mobilise resources and how we can establish a reliable national climate fund. Such a fund will provide a sustainable mechanism for financing climate action and will ensure that our response to climate change is not dependent solely on foreign assistance.

Mr. President, last week I was witnessing in Masvingo the equipment that I distributed in February – *zvigayo,* all sorts of equipment that is meant to mitigate and facilitate small grain processing in this country. All that equipment was funded by the GF7, which is the Global Environmental Fund. Global Environmental Fund is diminishing. This year, under GF9, they allocated us very little money and actually assigned Zimbabwe and other countries to look inward. So, this Bill is looking inward.

The Bill is coming with institutional clarity, with the Climate Change Management Department coming in to provide sector oversight. It is providing sector oversight. All those power stations that are currently polluting, we will be looking at them. We will be walking through with them. One of them is already adhering to our calls. They are actually using all the dangerous material which was polluting the Hwange area. They are using that to produce fertilisers.

Mr. President, they are also harnessing the gases that were burning in the air, polluting the air. They are harnessing it to make sure that they produce electricity to run their plants. So that is the beginning of a good story which we are bringing to this House so that this House can support this Bill.

On Hon. Sen. Ncube, I cannot agree with him that the Climate Change and Management Bill is coming as the first piece of legislation to regulate climate change. It is actually going to regulate climate change in the country and across sectors in a logical manner that is enabling the country to access international climate financing to complement what we are generating locally. The issue of lack of clear emission reduction targets across local authorities raised as a challenge by the Hon. Senator is covered under Clause 17 proposing the establishment of a national emission trading system.

Hon. Senator Shiri, I take note of your support of the Bill. Hon. Senator Tshabangu, I take special recognition of all the issues raised by the Senator and commit to making sure that the clause-by-clause issues raised will be addressed in the Bill by the Ministry. During the Committee stage, I think we can address that.

Hon. Sen. Bvumo, I cannot agree with you on the role that the establishment of the Climate Change Fund is going to play in addressing climate action. I agree with you that it is going to assist us. Hon. Sen. Moyo, I take note of all the clear issues that you raised, which are going to be continuously analysed and addressed during the Committee Stage.

Hon. Sen. Zvidzai, I take note of the worry from you in terms of the institutions being proposed under the Bill. The main objective behind these institutions is to enhance the contribution of both mitigation and adaptation actions. I think it is there even in my presentation last week. I gave it to the Secretariat. The main objective behind these institutions is to enhance coordination of both mitigation and adaptation actions.

The proposal to work through liaison committees is an effort to minimise and remain with lean structures, which costs less. I think already we have got a department within the Ministry. The staff members that are going to be redeployed will not cost much money. There are very few staff members that are going to be recruited to these institutions that we have talked about. Some of them are already in the Ministry. The structure is within the climate section and we will redeploy them accordingly, thereby reducing the cost of establishing new institutions.

Regarding the establishment of the Climate Fund, this is with an objective to make sure that climate action is financed. I think in my presentation last week, I mentioned that most of the money that we are given goes to mitigation and climate change adaptation in the developed countries. In our country, it only goes to mitigation. There is no adaptation. So, we have to adapt to the condition and for us to adapt to the condition, we have to come up with new financing for adaptation, which we have not been receiving. The equipment which I was sending to Masvingo was for us to just mitigate and not to adapt. I sent the equipment to Masvingo, Midlands and Manicaland. Masvingo was the biggest beneficiary, five districts because it is a dry region, followed by Matebeleland South and then followed by Midlands with one district; Manicaland also one district. The fund shall be governed by the Public Finance Management Act [Chapter 22:19]; which is an oversight from this House.

Regarding emissions reduction, Zimbabwe is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and thus, compelled to develop and communicate its nationally determined contribution. Every two years, we have to send our report. We are not just adhering to international agreements; it is an international agreement that all continents signed and we have to do it.

Regarding technology development and transfers, this is why we need a robust climate fund to drive all these innovations. I so submit.

Motion put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife having addressed the Hon. Senator sitting behind her.

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Address the Chair, Minister! That Senator behind you is not the Chair. I am the Chair. You talk to me.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE: I am green behind the ears. I need your assistance. I need help.

Committee Stage: Thursday, 23rd July, 2026.

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Hon. Minister, I have taken note of your moving that we adjourn until tomorrow for Committee Stage. That is accepted by the Chair.

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: Mr. President, I am seeking your guidance. Given that tomorrow, we have Question and Answer Session, what happens?

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Honourable, you should know by now. Which session of this 10th Parliament are we in? When we say tomorrow, it is not necessarily tomorrow. It could be next week or the day after or whatever it is. Hon. Sen. Tshabangu, do you have a problem?

HON. SEN. TSHABANGU: Yes, Mr. President. It has to be definite because tomorrow, we want to prepare for this properly. If you can say next week, Tuesday, that is better for us.

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: All right. Again, Senator Tshabangu, you may take your seat. You should also know by now that Thursday and listen carefully. Thursday is Private Members' Day. Thursday, we always, always start with questions, unless the *Standing Orders* have been suspended. It is for the Hon. Members. After that, we do private Members' Bills and motions. So, I can safely say this is not coming tomorrow but you should know that by now – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear*.] –

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING (HON.

MACHAKAIRE): Mr. President, I move that Orders of the Day, Numbers 1 to 16, be stood over until Order of the Day, Number 17 has been disposed of.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

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

Seventeenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of the Thematic Committee on Indigenisation and Empowerment on the Impact of the Youth Empowerment Bank on youth empowerment projects.

Question again proposed.

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING (HON. MACHAKAIRE): Thank you Mr. President. I rise to respond to the recommendations of the Report of the Thematic Committee on

Indigenisation and Empowerment on the Impact of the Youth Empowerment Bank on youth projects.

On recommendation 1, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion should allocate a once-off capital budget to Empowerment Bank to adequately finance the capital base and boost operations in the 2027 Budget. Mr. President, this recommendation is fully supported. The challenges the microfinance faces are premised on drib and drab releases of the capital, which affect operations and viability.

Recommendation 2, the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training should partner with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Road Development to secure land for youth projects as a youth empowerment strategy by 31st December 2026. Madam President, this recommendation is fully supported for adoption.

Recommendation 3, the bank should develop collateral alternatives such as accepting projects' assets by August 2026. Madam President, this recommendation is fully adopted for implementation. The microbank is fully implementing the Moveable Property Security Interest Act with effect from May 2026. The microbank has implemented flexible collateral arrangements for the youth loans, which include moveable and immovable assets, livestock, parental guarantees, youth group lending where youth across, guarantee each other and community system for the youth is also considered in the lending decisions. Where the youth loan involves the purchase of assets, these assets are insured and registered as collateral for the financed project.

Recommendation 4, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion should consider transforming the Youth Empowerment from a microfinance model to a development bank model where Treasury would put in more funding to meet the needs of the high level in unemployment youth by August 2027. In response to that, Madam President, this recommendation is fully supported for implementation by the Ministry of Finance, as youth constitute the majority of Zimbabwe's population.

Recommendation Number 5, the Ministry of Youth Empowerment Development and Vocational Training should ensure that the bank implements robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track project progress and identify early signs of distress by December 2026. Madam President, on the response, this has since been implemented with effect from May 2026, leveraging the Ministry's provincial and district structures.

On recommendation Number 6, the Ministry, with assistance from the bank, should come up with strategies to support projects such as Mutande's Piggery project to secure new land and funding for infrastructure development and restoration of the project by December 2026. In response, this recommendation is fully noted. The Ministry is assisting with the engagement at the inter-ministerial level. Since the visit of the Thematic Committee, Nyaradzo Mutande has accessed an additional 3 500 working capital facility. – [HON. SENATORS: *Hear, hear.*] – Through the intervention of the Office of the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs, she received a temporary permit for a farm at Mavula Mushandike and she is currently working on securing title deeds for that piece of land. She plans to relocate to the new farm by the end of this year. I so submit.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: Thank you Madam President for allowing me to respond to the Minister's response to our report. I wish to sincerely thank the Hon. Minister for the comprehensive response to the recommendations contained in the Thematic Committee's report, particularly regarding the operations and strengthening of the Empower Bank. The Minister's commitment to improving access to affordable financing, especially for youth, women, SMEs and other previously disadvantaged Zimbabweans, is commendable. We are encouraged by the measures being taken to enhance the bank's capacity so that it can effectively fulfil the mandate of promoting broad-based economic empowerment.

I also wish to thank all Hon. Senators who contributed to this important debate. Their valuable insights have strengthened the Committee's recommendations and demonstrated our collective commitment to ensuring that empowerment initiatives translate into tangible socio-economic benefits for the people. I wish to once more thank the Hon. Minister for his response.

I, therefore, move that this House considers and adopts the Report of the Thematic Committee on Indigenisation and Empowerment on the Impact of the Youth Empowerment Bank on Youth Empowerment Projects.

Motion put and agreed to.

THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE (HON. SEN. A. DUBE): Thank you very much Hon. Minister for coming to respond to the motion and for the clarity. We want to thank you very much for respecting this august House. Please keep it up and teach other ministers to come and respond.

HON. SEN. TSHABANGU: I will be grateful if the Minister stays because I have a motion that speaks to the youth as well. If he has time but if he does not, he will get it later on.

THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Is he prepared to answer?

HON. SEN. TSHABANGU: Not to answer, just to listen.

THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Okay.

MOTION

ENSURING FINANCIAL INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Adjourned debate on motion on failures by local authorities to provide basic services countrywide.

Question again proposed.

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

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Thursday, 23rd July, 2026.

On the motion of **HON. SEN. MAVENYENGWA,** *seconded by* **HON. SEN. TONGOGARA,** *the Senate adjourned at Ten Minutes past Four o'clock p.m.*