

# PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

*Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2026*

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

## PRAYERS

(THE HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. SPEAKER

### VISITORS IN THE SPEAKER'S GALLERY

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I wish to recognise the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of teachers and pupils from St. John's College, Harare; you are most welcome.

### APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM MINISTERS

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** I have received the following apologies from the Executive: the Hon. Gen. Rtd. Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga, Vice- President; Hon. Col. Rtd. K. C. D. Mohadi, Vice-President, Hon. M. Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women's Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development; Hon. Dr. Soda, Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Hon. E. Moyo, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Hon. E. Jesaya, Deputy Minister of Sports, Recreation, Arts

and Culture; Hon. S. Sibanda, Deputy Minister of Higher Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development; Hon. A. Gata, Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education; Hon. M. Dinha, Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare; Hon. R. Modi, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce; Hon. Y. Simbanegavi, Deputy Minister of Energy and Power Development and Hon. V. Haritatos, Minister of Lands and Rural Development.

## **ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**HON. MURECHU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works but let me start by applauding His Excellency the President, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, on his visionary leadership in the introduction of the Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme in our towns and urban areas. This has played a pivotal role in addressing the perennial water challenges bedeviling our urban dwellers. My question then goes to the Hon. Minister: our people are using much more water from boreholes than they are using the water from our taps but they are still being billed on fixed charges. What is

the Government doing in order, or how far has the Government gone in rolling out the smart prepaid water meters in our country? Thank you.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Unfortunately, your question is very much statistical and I do not expect the Leader of Government Business to have the necessary numericals to answer that question. Perhaps you can put it in writing for next week.

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

**HON. KARIKOGA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. My question is directed to the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage and in his absence, the Acting Leader of Government Business may respond to my question.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Why do you not leave that to me?

**HON. KARIKOGA:** I am indebted Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Please proceed.

**HON. KARIKOGA:** Thank you. We see in the districts that we come from, most of the districts are very large in size and we have the Registrar General's Office but, it is not well-equipped in terms of vehicles, stationery and other materials that officers use to do their

work. I want to find out, what is the Government policy in ensuring that those offices are resourced for efficiency? Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE (HON. PROF. MURWIRA):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank Hon. Karikoga for that question. When it comes to vital documentation, it is Government policy to make sure that the vital documentation is accessible to the population. For us to give good delivery of service, we always endeavor to equip our officers and offices with the required equipment. Yes, it is a journey but the policy is very clear on what we have to do. So, at policy level, our objective is to make sure that the Registrar General's office is well equipped in personnel, equipment and all the infrastructure that is required and it is a movement. I thank you.

**HON. KARIKOGA:** I think the Hon. Minister gave a philosophical answer. My question was, when are we going to get vehicles for the Registrar General's Department?

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** From philosophy to numericals –  
[*Laughter.*] -

**HON. PROF. MURWIRA:** Policies by nature are philosophical. When we do annual budgets, which are passed through this august House and we are going to have the mid-term budget that is going to come. It is during these times that the main budget and the mid-term budget that budgets are allocated for this kind of activity. So, it is during the time that we do the budget and we are making sure that we purchase the equipment.

When we reviewed our laws through this House, one of the issues has been to assign more duties to the Registrar General and whenever duties are assigned, the equipment and infrastructure have to be assigned as well. We are looking forward to doing it as soon as is possible, which is either starting from this July or in the November budget but it is a continuous process as I said.

**\*HON. MAKUMIRE:** I would like to ask a supplementary question; why is this Ministry always given little money to do what they need to do in the districts? This question was asked before and not enough money was given to them because people cannot get IDs and birth certificates. So, I wanted to ask, why is it difficult when ZIMRA surpassed their revenue collection target?

**\*HON. PROF MURWIRA:** I wish to thank Hon. Makumire for the supplementary question. The law is very clear on what we need to do. We would like our people to get enough equipment to make birth certificates, to make IDs and passports. This is the law of the Government that we call policy. We do not have a lot of money but we very much like to do everything that needs to be done. So, because we do not have funds, that could be the problem because the money is needed in different ministries. We hope to give people in different departments enough money. So, when we talk about what we would like to do, our policies will be assisting us on how we can go forward. I thank you

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I wish to thank the Hon. Minister for his response. My follow-up question goes on to say that, as Parliament, we have demonstrated the appetite for particular programmes. In this case, we have identified the programme on the civil registry and we allocated the money. ZIMRA collected more than enough for half a year, so what is the problem? The answer is not very clear Mr. Speaker. The answer must be clear because we have

surpassed the targets. We have budgeted as Parliament. Who is wrong here?

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** You could have added who is right here as well.

**HON. PROF MURWIRA:** As we said, the Government policy as to what we want to achieve and as oversight is provided by this august House, we want to make sure that our people get the documentation and that the civil registry is accessible to the whole population. When it comes to exactly where the logjam is, that becomes very specific and if it is asked specifically, we will come with a very comprehensive answer, which identifies the logjam if there is any. I thank you.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Well, there is a commitment Leader of Government Business. Please get us the statistics on where is the logjam so next week the august House can have a comprehensive response.

**\*HON. MUWODZERI:** My question goes to the Minister of Mines and Mining Development. We are seeing that the Government is drilling boreholes and establishing village business units and

building schools such as what we saw in Maphisa and laboratories as well. What about the investors that are coming to mine in Zimbabwe, what are they doing to give back to the community to assist the Government on what it is doing to develop communities?

**\*THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR OIL AND GAS RESEARCH AND OTHER STRATEGIC MINERAL EXPLORATION (HON. ENG. MAKWIRANZOU):** I would like to thank the Hon. Member who asked the question. About investors from outside, what happens is that before they start mining, we talk to them and agree with EMA that they build clinics for us, construct roads or classroom blocks. What was known as corporate social responsibility was not compulsory. It was voluntary. We are working on that because that was voluntary. Sometimes, it takes many years to build even a small project. When we inquire about the delays, we often hear that they are facing financial constraints. To address this issue, we propose making the construction of these projects compulsory. We will provide them with a designated timeframe to

complete the work, enabling them to build more efficiently and allowing the community to reap the benefits sooner. Thank you.

**HON. TOBAIWA:** Supplementary.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, proceed.

**\*HON. TOBAIWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my gratitude for the response provided by the Hon. Minister. However, I would like to know what the Government plans to do while we wait for these issues to be resolved, especially since the roads have not yet been constructed. Additionally, it appears that the councils have also made little progress and many towns remain stagnant.

What actions will be taken in the meantime? We cannot simply wait for them to reach an agreement while the construction continues to disrupt our communities and damage the environments in which we live.

**\*HON. ENG MAKWIRANZOU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would also like to thank Hon. Tobaiwa for this important question. These roads can indeed be severely damaged and we have witnessed

this firsthand. Currently, the Government is working with local district councils, which have received some money from miners. We are urging them to consider canceling the mining licenses in their areas.

While they express intentions to stop the mining activities, we must recognise that these miners are only contributing a minimal amount. Therefore, we propose that we allow them to pay a percentage of their earnings, making it compulsory for them to contribute fairly to the community.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Can we respect the mother tongue, please. Let us not mix the vernacular and the English.

**HON. S. THSUMA:** Supplementary.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Alright, you may go ahead.

**\*HON. S. THSUMA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my gratitude for the response we received from the Hon. Minister. It is important to note that we have two distinct categories of miners: investors and local miners. As the Hon. Minister mentioned,

the requirement for payment is compulsory; however, it does not differentiate between the contributions of investors and locals.

My question is: what measures are in place to ensure that investors are held accountable for their mining activities, particularly in comparison to local miners? The local miners in Zimbabwe must be supported in their efforts to develop our country. How will we ensure that the obligations imposed on investors reflect the different impacts of their operations compared to those of local miners?

**\*HON. ENG MAKWIRANZOU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Hon. Member for the question. Yes, the Government indeed recognises the presence of local miners. We are currently developing laws to distinguish between investors and locals in the mining sector.

For instance, we will categorise artisanal small-scale miners who extract gold below 5 kilogrammes. If a miner extracts more than that, they will be classified as a foreigner. Another distinction is that if a foreigner is mining on more than 10 hectares, we require them to submit their audited financial accounts for monitoring purposes. This

process, known as due diligence, ensures compliance with regulations. In contrast, local miners will not be subjected to the same rigorous auditing requirements as investors.

**HON. NYANDORO:** Supplementary.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, proceed.

**\*HON. NYANDORO:** I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for the response. However, I would like to ask: if we are distinguishing between investors and locals, what measures are being implemented to ensure that foreign investors who are benefiting more than local miners are held accountable for their financial obligations? How can we prevent them from evading their responsibilities to pay what they owe? Thank you.

**\*HON. ENG. MAKWIRANZOU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank Hon. Nyandoro for the question. Yes, an investor from afar and a local miner can operate together. However, we are concerned that if our locals permit joint mining with foreign investors, it could lead to complications.

As a Ministry, we actively monitor this situation. Our inspectors conduct monthly checks to review the paperwork submitted, ensuring we have accurate records of what has been mined each month. We are aware of issues of trespassing and the fact that some foreigners may exploit locals to minimise their costs. If these situations are reported to us, we will take appropriate action to address them.

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

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

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My point of order is that, upon reviewing the question that was asked, it has sparked significant interest among many Hon. Members who wish to understand how our minerals are being managed in the country. I would like to know more about this issue...

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order; it is a question now. How do you come through a point of order and then ask a question? No, that is not right.

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** No, I ...

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** No, I cannot allow that. Do not come through the back door.

**HON. MAHLANGU:** Supplementary?

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, go ahead.

**+HON. MAHLANGU:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is this; while we appreciate the response from the Hon. Minister, what programmes are in place to ensure that, each time mining agreements are made, there is a review of what the miners are contributing back to the community?

What specific initiatives are being implemented to guarantee that these miners not only extract resources but also give back to the communities in which they operate? Do they have established programmes to facilitate this?

**HON. DR. MAKWIRANZOU:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. We would indeed like for everything to go on well according to the law. That is why now we have so many inspectors. We are increasing the inspectors and we are waiting for the law to be passed; we will say that for each district there should be someone from the Ministry of Mines and another thing is that we will be joining them with the councillors. They will be able to tell what is happening in their wards.

So, I can safely say that we have plans on how to solve that problem in the short time that we have. We are hoping that it will be solved. We will be catching all those people that are doing unlawful things. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

**\*HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for the response he has given that we will have councils that will be checking on the districts to see if they are getting enough of what they are supposed to receive.

My question is that we have Hwange Colliery mining coal from Hwange, Mvuma or Bulawayo. Those roads have been damaged because of that kind of mining and the trucks – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] - As a Ministry, what are we doing to fix the roads that have been destroyed?

**\*HON. DR. MAKWIRANZOU:** Thank you Hon. Speaker and I would like to thank the Honourable for asking the question. Yes, the roads were destroyed and they are still destroying them but I would like to let the Parliament know that we sat down as a Government and agreed with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development. We are trying to get those people that are destroying

the roads and they want to catch those people. We are still agreeing and they are still looking for the money. For now, we can fix the roads so that those loads that are too big should move by rail. I also heard that they will be putting weighbridges for those big vehicles that will be carrying heavy loads or not. I thank you.

**+HON. F. NCUBE:** I have a burning question that has been sent by my community to this Honourable House.

**+THE HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, we have quite a number of Hon. Members that have already asked questions. It will add up to what other Members have asked. We need to follow our Rules and Orders of this House. Thank you.

**HON. MABURUTSE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development. What is the state of preparedness for agriculture as we anticipate the dry season for the 2026-2027 farming season? I thank you Mr. Speaker.

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,  
MECHANISATION AND WATER RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT (HON. DR. MASUKA):** Thank you Mr.

Speaker. I thank the Hon. Maburutse for a question that relates to Government's preparedness for the anticipated dry 2026-2027 summer season that has been referred to by meteorologists as a possible super El Niño.

Let me just give the context that there is a convergence of opinion among world experts in climate that there is a 100% chance of a super El Niño occurring in the world. That super El Niño has different effects but for Southern Africa and Zimbabwe specifically, these super El Niños ordinarily translate to 88-92% drought and elevated heat waves during the summer season. So, at this stage, Mr. Speaker, we are 100% certain that there will be below-average rainfall. What we are not yet 100% sure of is the magnitude of that El Niño season.

That will only be known when the SADC meteorologists meet in Namibia from the 19<sup>th</sup> of next month, at which we will expect, as a country, a definitive regional and country seasonal outlook from about the last week of August. That notwithstanding, Mr. Speaker Sir, Cabinet has approved a very comprehensive mitigation plan and it is anchored on six pillars. I will just mention these and when the

appropriate time comes, the nation will be fully informed. The six pillars for the drought plan 2026-2027 are number one; enhanced strategic grain reserve that Government will accelerate the purchase of these SGR to build up to 600 000 metric tonnes by mid-2027. You will recall, Mr. Speaker Sir, in the worst drought in memory in 2024, Government mobilised 328 000 metric tonnes for social welfare for 6.5 million people.

The second aspect is accelerating climate-smart agricultural production and that climate-smart agricultural production is anchored on two aspects. The first being the sustainable intensive conservation agriculture model, popularly known as *Pfumvudza-Intwasa*, and which must be matched and accompanied, complemented by agroecological tailoring. What is grown by a farmer must be determined by the exigencies of the region and not what the farmer wants. At a national level, we will be accelerating irrigation development. We are now at 280 200 hectares of irrigation developed by 2030, 496 000.

The third aspect of the third pillar of this mitigation plan is enhanced financing architecture for the 2026-2027 season. That also

includes an insurance aspect at two levels; a sovereign risk insurance for which the Minister of Finance is working with the Africa Risk Capacity, but also individualised insurance, especially for the *Pfumvudza* into us programme.

The fourth aspect, Mr. Speaker Sir, the fourth pillar relates to livestock drought mitigation. We now know that from the scenario plans in the 2024 experience, 2.5 million cattle would be at risk out of the 5.7 million cattle and we are putting in place mechanisms to ensure that we will have the feed, medicines and that these wide drought mitigation centres will be established throughout the country.

The fifth pillar is enhanced imports. These plans should be complemented by imports at two levels; that households be allowed to continue to import basics to April 2028 and also to encourage and motivate corporates and millers, feed manufacturers, to see business in our hunger, but not to profit here from our hunger.

Then the sixth pillar is enhanced coordination, early warning and capacity building. So, these are the six pillars that the Government is now amplifying and at an appropriate time. An announcement will be made at which these six strategic interventions

will be distributed widely so that we all, as the Government, society and all of the sector approach, will ensure that even in the midst of the worst drought, we can emerge stronger as a country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

**HON. MUROMBEDZI:** Supplementary.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, Hon. Member.

**HON. MUROMBEDZI:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for the response. Mr. Speaker, now that we are talking of El Niño, I would like us to explore systemic resilience rather than concentrating on siloed interventions. Therefore, my supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is that, given that this super El Niño will not only affect agriculture, but also water supply, nutrition, as well as public health. what mechanisms are in place to ensure effective inter-ministerial coordination, particularly with the Ministries of Health and Water Resources, for us to deliver a unified national response? I so submit.

**HON. DR. MASUKA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I thank the Hon. Member for a very pertinent question. The Government has a very elaborate architecture for response to droughts and is a living act

in the Civil Protection Act, administered by the Minister of Local Government and Public Works and there is a Standing Cabinet Committee that deals with this matter. There is a very strong Government-wide coordination mechanism to be able to respond to these ongoing aspects, but the issue of actually planning and mitigation is critical, which is why I said that there would be accelerated *Pfumbvunza/Intwasa*, agroecological tailoring of crops to regions, there would be accelerated irrigation development. There would also be measures to establish permanent wet-drought mitigation points so that Zimbabwe emerges stronger from each drought, we saw this in 2024. The Government has very robust plans to respond to these emergencies.

**HON. MATANGIRA:** Supplementary?

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Supplementary. Yes, Hon. Matangira?  
Is that Hon. Matangira?

**HON. MATANGIRA:** Sir?

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** You look very much Nigerian today.

**HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you Sir.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** You owe me a visit in my office when I leave my Chair.

**HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you Sir.

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Proceed.

**\*HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is; climate change is something we have always had. Mr. Speaker, as the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development and the Government, what is it that we have done that is going to assist us as a country for irrigation when the rain comes? We might not get any rain. Now, the question is, what have we done to get ready for the farming season? Is it not better, Mr. Speaker, that those who stay in Hwange or the Zambezi Valley, farm trees like mangoes do not need a lot of water? As a country, as a ministry, we can say that every household should farm some trees, maybe ten a hundred trees. There are not many trees, but people will just pick the fruit. The NDS 2 is saying that rural industrialisation – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible Interjections.*] -

**\*THE HON. SPEAKER:** What is the question saying?

**\*HON. MATANGIRA:** The question is what the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development doing so that those in the rural areas plant trees that will assist them when there is no rain?

**\*HON. DR. MASUKA:** Thank you, Hon. Matangira, for the question. That is a very important question because the Government is already doing that. If we can recall that programme that is called Agriculture for Rural Development 8.0, which has eight goals that we agreed for each household to get maize, meat, other vegetables and fruits from the Presidential Rural Development programme. There is a programme called *Miti gumi pa musha wega wega* and there is another programme where we would plough sweet potatoes for each household. That is what is called resilience. So, what he is suggesting is not new. That is something we are already encouraging as the Government and you will see that as the Government, we are in the process of building silos for the country so that we will be able to harvest when we have a lot of rain..

If we can plough and irrigate in winter and in the rain season, we will be able to receive a lot of harvest, just like we are doing now.

If we surpass 125 000 hectares, that means that in winter, we will be receiving 600 000 tonnes. If we have those hectares in the rainy season, we will be getting the same. Going forward, it is expected that from now until around 2050, it will be warm and experts are saying that maize farming will be reducing from 100 to 30. What is encouraged is that we have to farm well and we have to irrigate and include different types of farming such as poultry, goat farming and ploughing sweet potatoes so that when the drought comes, we will be ready.

**HON. JAMES:** Supplementary,

**THE HON. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Hon. James.

**HON. JAMES:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for a very comprehensive plan for the upcoming possible droughts. Could I ask the Hon. Minister what he estimates our current maize crop to be? What are we likely to import this year? Would the importation of maize by millers and anyone else be done by permit only? Will there be a cost per tonne to the importer for importing the maize? Thank you.

**HON. DR. MASUKA):** I did say that in terms of the six pillars, the fifth pillar is enhanced imports and those imports will be two levels. Household level, which means basic commodities for use by households will be allowed for importation. I did say also that the corporate world, those in the mealie-meal business and also the feed business, should see business in our hunger. At that stage when an announcement will be made, the parameters associated with the importation will be announced. For now, the country estimates that our harvest for maize is 2 685 000 metric tonnes.

We also estimate traditional grains at 390 000 metric tonnes. So, cumulatively, just around three million metric tonnes against our estimated food and feed requirement of between 1.8 million and 2.2 million metric tonnes. We should have sufficient to generate a surplus and that surplus, we estimate as a Government, to be between 500 000 and a million metric tonnes. We are seeing already that in terms of purchases into the Strategic Grain Reserve and purchases by the private sector, they are already at over 285 000 metric tonnes for this season. So, there will be a substantial carryover into private millers but also into the Strategic Grain Reserve. As of yesterday, Grain

Marketing bought at 227 000 metric tonnes in the Strategic Grain Reserve. So, these are the statistics but a more detailed announcement will be made once this declaration for the El Niño is made when we have a clearer picture from the meteorologists from next month's meeting.

**\*HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for the clear response that the Minister has given. We have so many dams that have been built in this country but they are not being used for irrigation. I will not speak of the dam in Masvingo where I come from, Tugwi-Mukosi, but I am speaking of all the dams in the country. So, my question is, what is the Government doing to use those dams for irrigation when it comes to this difficult time? Thank you.

**HON. DR. MASUKA:** Let me first speak of Tugwi-Mukosi before I speak of other dams in the country because most people do not have knowledge that Tugwi-Mukosi is currently in use. If you recall, we used to irrigate sugarcane, which is the crop that we irrigate the most as compared to other crops, which has more than 70 000 hectares that we use for irrigation. We used to get water from

Mutirikwi Dam and it was not passing 33% but now it is overflowing. That is why we have electricity supplies coming from Mutirikwi. When Mutirikwi Hydro started, we had five megawatts and we will be adding six megawatts. That is only possible because the Government is giving sugarcane farmers water from Tugwi-Mukosi. So, water in Tugwi-Mukosi is being given to the sugarcane farmers. That is what is making Mutirikwi Dam to increase so that it can supply electricity but it is not working to the extent that we would like for us to irrigate.

Tugwi-Mukosi is able to irrigate 40 000 hectares and now it is taking 15 000 to 20 000 hectares that are getting irrigated. Then the dams that we have are about 10 600 hectares, how can we use them? Most of them are already in use but it is not only the Government that can give permission to use these dams because we do not have a lot of funds, so let us all come together and contribute to the irrigation. We published in the magazine/newspaper what the President said, which is called the Dams Economy and then we said those dams, which are 106 dams, can irrigate 118 000 hectares. Let us invite citizens of Zimbabwe so that they can see that irrigation can be offered and they

can do business. So, that is what we are doing at the moment so that we can get to 496 000 hectares. For those that know and those that wish to use irrigation, the door is open. We can work with individuals as the Government.

**\*HON. NYABANI:** My question goes to the Minister of Agriculture. I would like to thank the President of this country, Dr. E. D Mnangagwa, for giving farming equipment to those in the rural areas to farm so that they can sell and eat what they plough and harvest. My question is, what is the Government doing to prevent the farmers from getting less income because they would have spent a lot of money on fertilizers but now, I can see that some people are exporting maize from South Africa and they are GMOs, which means the farmers in Zimbabwe cannot sell their maize and recover the money they would have used. What can the Government do to protect agriculture in Zimbabwe rather than buying cheaper maize from South Africa?

**HON. DR. MASUKA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker and thank Hon. Nyabani for the question. In 2020, the Government noticed that the GMB should not be the only ones that buy maize and other crops

because the GMB had a monopoly. We said those that want to buy can come and buy but when they are buying, they should give that money to the people that would have given those loans or equipment to farm. That is when we started contract farming. Now, we have many farmers that have five groups. The first one that gets help from the President through the Presidential Input Scheme is that we give to those in the rural areas. The second ones will be the ones that do Command Agriculture that we call National Enhanced Agricultural Scheme, that is done by AFC, CBZ, NMB and all those banks that partner with farmers.

The third group is the private sector farmers that are called the Food Farmers Contractors Association (FFCA). Then lastly, there are farmers that we work with, ARDA and those farmers that use their individual funds. So, those five different groups should be able to sell and get money so that they can continue farming and can benefit regardless of which group they will be a part of. When the Government is buying crops on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April each year, they sit down with farmers from these different groups and they discuss the price of the maize that they would have ploughed; for example, we

said the price will be USD364 per tonne for maize. So that means when the Government buys from the GMB and Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA) they buy at USD364 per tonne; they will be looking at other farmers as well. We saw that in 2024 and 2025 they did not do that. The Government gazetted Statutory Instrument No. 7. It states that if a person wants to import maize from South Africa, the person will charge the same price charged here in Zimbabwe.

We are also speaking with those who represent farmers, if that does not happen and if some people are buying at USD364 per tonne, it will be reported. We also have GMB, which is the buyer of last resort. That means if someone refuses to pay the agreed amount, you can tell them that you are going to sell to GMB.

**\*HON. NYABANI:** My supplementary question is; the Government is allowing people to buy maize from South Africa, bringing it in here. Is there famine here? Why is it that they are allowing those people to buy maize from that country? For the agricultural sector to be uplifted, is there any famine that makes us buy maize from South Africa? Thank you.

**HON. DR. MASUKA:** We do structured market liberalisation and policy predictability and policy consistency. When we sit down with those millers, when doing that programme, they must know that the Government policy will be there today and tomorrow. We have policy consistency. The Government policy states that if you want to buy here in Zimbabwe, you can buy but if you want to buy outside, the maize will still costs the same price, so you will see that it is useless to purchase from outside. If the Hon. Member has a specific place, he can give us written documentation informing us of where they are buying in South Africa a. Government said that if you buy maize from South Africa at USD200 per tonne and by the time it gets here, it will cost USD300 per tonne, so you cannot say you are buying cheaper grains because the price will be the same.

**HON. S. TSHUMA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and I also want to thank the Hon. Minister for the response. The price from the GMB was attractive but it is no longer attractive for many reasons. The biggest one being that GMB does not have money to pay there and there. Mr. Speaker, still the opportunity or opening doors for other companies to buy from the farmers, it has challenges, as these

companies are in Harare and Bulawayo and other big cities only.

Hence, those who go there and buy at four dollars -those are the selling prices in the rural areas. What contract do you have with those who go ahead to buy maize from farmers without a reason? Are they giving loans? How are they assisting farmers? I think there has to be a policy from the GMB, that they should buy straight from the rural areas, not that they buy whilst in Harare. As Government, we should force these companies to buy directly from the farmers so that they get the money that has been regulated by the Government. Thank you.

**\*HON. DR. MASUKA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker and I want to thank the Hon. Member for the good question. GMB was allocated ZiG 315 million for maize and yesterday ZiG 227 million was paid. USD87 million is the balance and 27 million is the one that was directed for the grains, where 19 million was paid, leaving a balance of 7.9 million. On my way here, I was speaking to the people from Finance; they said they want the pay run. I believe it is being done this afternoon. GMB and the Government are paying very well and on time. GMB has 1 804 collection points where they buy grains, meaning that each ward has a GMB point. Then the Government

approached these companies and we said we do not allow them to buy using lower prices; maybe they go there during the night.

Hon. Speaker, together let us go to the rural areas and inform the people that they should not sell their grains at a lower price, yet the Government is buying at a very good price. Everyone should just wait and take their grains to GMB. We will tell the GMB officers to go there and also negotiate with those who do with finance to pay on time.

**\*HON. MAPIKI:** I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for the response that he has given us. My supplementary question is, Zimbabwe does not allow the growing of GMOs but allows imports from other countries like mealie meal that is written not good for children under 18. Are we saying that in Zimbabwe our soil does not allow us to grow GMO yet we allow imports from other countries?

**\*HON. DR. MASUKA:** I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the question. We have to assist each other. What is GMO? It means we have taken something that is not there and put it in there. Let us say maize BT, BT maize means that there is an

organism called *Bacillus thuringiensis* that is what we have put to prevent the worm that destroys the maize; that is the genetic modification that is done. There is none in this world that has been found that can increase your harvest. It is the worm that destroys the maize. What the GM does is, give you a bumper harvest because no worms will come near it when chemicals have been applied. No effects from GM have been recorded on human beings since they started consuming GM products. We started GM products in 1998. We are the ones who first implemented it, so GM products are allowed in Zimbabwe. I do not know why or who is spreading the news that we do not allow GM. We allow the growing of GM. We allow them to be consumed but we want a yeast retraceability so that we know which type of GM our people are consuming. So, they bring it from South Africa and it is stored in certain silos to enable us to trace who has consumed it and what happened to them. So, all those people who are into genetic modification were told to do research, look for GMs, bring them here, grow them and we research on those together. Thereafter, we can then decide where exactly this can be grown.

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

Unfortunately, our supplementary questions have reached the maximum allowed. We will not break our rules; you should have stood up earlier and I would have recognised you and given you a chance to speak. Let us continue; if we go back to the same issue, then you can stand up and take the floor. Thank you.

**HON. KUKA:** My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. We are seeing that many retired people go and live in their rural homes where they will be doing farming. My question is, what measures has the Government put in place to enable pensioners to get their monies without incurring deductions on the little that they are getting? It could be getting their money through EcoCash or One Money so that they also do not have to spend money on transport to go and get the money from their banks.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon Minister, did you get the question?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION (HON. D. K MNANGAGWA):** I did hear the question Mr. Speaker Sir, but I

was not completely sure if it was the Ministry of Finance's question or Public Service. Maybe the Hon. Member can repeat the question and I can answer those relevant to our Ministry Mr. Speaker Sir.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Yes, I think it is okay Hon. Deputy Minister. Hon. Kuka, please may you repeat your question so that it is responded to accordingly.

**HON KUKA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. We are seeing that when most people are on pension, they relocate to their rural homes. Whilst there, they are supposed to come to towns to withdraw their money from the banks but because the money is little, what measures has Government put in place to enable the pensioner to access their money through EcoCash or One Money? We are seeing that most of this money is spent on transport and yet it is so little. Thank you.

**HON D. K. MNANGAGWA:** The question that has been asked shows that if one is on pension, it means that he was working for a company and was being paid that money through a bank. If you were being paid through a bank, I believe that because of the technology that is there these days, you can easily transfer money from your bank

to EcoCash or One Money wallet. Can the Hon. Member please clarify what the problem is? Is it that the money should be transferred from the bank to the phone wallet or are there people who are not able to access that money from the bank such that they are forced to go to the towns to withdraw cash? That has not been clarified. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

**HON. KUKA:** My issue is that as much as the money is little, it must be valuable. To transfer money from the bank to EcoCash and then withdraw it means more expenses. It is a way of trying to run away from walking up and down and for it to be transferred straight into your account. It is a way of trying to save that little money from charges, that money, the pension that is given to an employee by the employer. I thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):** Hon. Kuka, I do not think this is Government policy between employer and employee because this is pension that is given to an employee by the employer – [HON. MAKUMIRE: *Inaudible interjection.*] -Hon. Makumire be very careful. I do not think the Hon. Minister is going to respond to that.

**\*HON. TSVANGIRAI:** On a point of order Mr. Speaker Sir.

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

**\*HON. TSVANGIRAI:** My point of order is in terms of Standing Order Number 67 – [*Laughter.*] – Hon. Speaker Sir, I think the Hon. Deputy Minister did not respond to Hon. Kuka's question properly.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon. Tsvangirai, please sit down. I have already ruled, nothing will change. The Standing Rules and Orders state that if the Chair has ruled the decision is final. Take your sit.

**\*HON. NYAKUEDZWA:** Good afternoon Mr. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development. We received lots of rain during the last season, bridges and roads were damaged in many areas. For example, in Masvingo, Bikita West there is a bridge called *Fambidzanayi* in Ward 9 that was damaged by rain. In Midlands

in Chirumanzi, Zibagwe, there is a bridge called *Dangarendove* that was also damaged. In Manicaland...

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon.

Nyakuedzwa if you start mentioning specific places, the question must be put in writing so that investigations can be made. So, way forward is to ask policy questions.

**\*HON. NYAKUEDZWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I was just trying to alert this House that the places are different. If you go to Rushinga, Chimanda and Kapiripiri – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order Hon.

Member, please ask policy questions.

**\*HON. NYAKUEDZWA:** My question is what is Government policy regarding the rehabilitation of roads and bridges before the next rain season because the damaged roads and bridges are inaccessible. I thank you.

**\*THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):**

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I want to thank Hon. Nyakuedzwa. It is very true that we had good rains but this was a disadvantage too because roads and bridges were damaged. I want to thank the Hon. Member for his question. When we look at the amount of money allocated to us, this money is too little to cater for all roads that were damaged. We sat down as the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion and discussed ways of mobilising resources to rehabilitate our roads and bridges.

I am happy to enlighten the House that we now have an Infrastructure Fund to cater for this problem of road rehabilitation and construction of damaged bridges. Starting from this week, we will resume the rehabilitation of our roads under the theme of Road Rehabilitation Programme 2, with our urban and rural councils and the Department of Roads. This will cover a lot of bridges and roads; you will begin to see improvements. All projects that were not completed will be completed; we call these projects ‘stalled projects’. I thank you.

**\*HON. SANGANDIRA:** I thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for the response. I want to know what Government policy is regarding the awarding of tenders to a lot of companies that will repair only a few roads rather than awarding tenders to a few companies that will repair many roads. I thank you.

**\*HON. MHONA:** I thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I thank Hon. Sangandira for his supplementary question. It is Government policy that we do not award tenders to individuals; we advertise and companies will compete. Those that are the best are the companies that we give tenders to. I urge those who are into road and bridge rehabilitation to also compete when we advertise. We have guidelines on what to follow before we advertise and who to award tenders to.

**\*HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity. The Government started a lot of programmes under ERRP 2 in urban and rural areas. This programme is not yet completed. My question is what is the

Government's policy regarding the completion of these 2021 programmes. I thank you.

**\*HON. MHONA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Makuvire for that question. The problem is that the budget that is allocated to us is not sufficient for us to rehabilitate all our roads, noting that many roads need attention in our country. That issue is raised by people whom we represent. We have a programme that is going to look into those projects that were not completed, which includes RIDA and councils, as mentioned by the Hon. Member. They are the ones that we are going back to so that they foresee that the projects are completed. Thank you.

**\*HON. MATINENGA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. My supplementary question pertains the issue of roads and railway lines, which we would want to be resuscitated. I think the Minister mentioned that a few days ago when he spoke about the resuscitation of our railway. My question is, at what stage are you thinking of doing that since we know that the issue of roads can only be attended to if the railway has been fully resuscitated? Thank you.

**\*HON. MHONA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. Indeed, some things that we ferry by road are indeed causing damage to our roads. That is why you would see that most of the transporters are being arrested by the VID. They will then come to us when you are caught transporting heavier goods by road, begging or pleading to us because that is what is damaging our roads. If you were watching television, our Hon. Minister from Matabeleland South and our company, Bulawayo-Beitbridge Railway line (BBR), that they constructed, carries goods from Victoria Falls to Bulawayo going outside the country.

We are encouraging that we work with private companies, even those who are into mining; if they bring their wagons, we come together, we ferry their minerals. That is what we are encouraging whilst waiting for the policies that have been enacted in this House. We have not stopped there; we have got a Mutapa Investment Fund that is overseeing what is happening in the National Railways of Zimbabwe. We are saving money to buy what we call rolling stock, like wagons, so that we improve what we have. That is the programme that we have to improve our railway network. What is

good is that our railway is there but in other countries, you would have to construct. Here in our country, we have got our strong railway.

We only have very few things that we have. Manicaland, they use what you call cautions to improve our rail for our goods trains to start moving. We are trying to improve our railway so that most of the things that are being carried by roads are transported by rail. So, we are trying to enforce that most companies make use of the railway.

**\*HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank the Second Republic that is being led by His Excellency, Comrade E. D. Mnangagwa, pertaining to the issue of devolution funds that is assisting the rural areas for development. My question is directed to the Ministry of Finance. What is Government policy for our councils to get devolution money on time? At times, you hear that councils did not get devolution money to the extent that they even failed to pay employees' salaries. The employees then end up attaching the council property, graders and vehicles. What programme can be implemented so that these assets are not sold because of a lack of money in councils? Thank you.

**\*THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT  
PROMOTION (HON. D. K. MNANGAGWA):** Hon. Speaker,

let me respond in two parts. If we are talking about the issue of policy pertaining to devolution, it is there in the Constitution. We have 5% of the money that the Government would have collected that should be directed to devolution. A few years ago, sometimes we would fail. As of now, I can say that we have still not succeeded. However, whenever the Minister comes here, every time he has promised two things that we want to try. Firstly, it is that the money for devolution be fully paid to all the councils. Secondly, that the farmers be paid their money on time. Those are the two things that we are looking into, seeing that the money that is coming goes straight to these two programmes.

Looking at the council, there is money that they collect from the rates, whether urban or rural. They are expected to use that money for the works that are being done by the council. The devolution money is directed to the projects that would have been budgeted for, not to pay employees. There is a manual that is there for the Inter-Governmental

Transfer Programme that gives guidelines for the council on how to get this money. Most councils are failing in this. There is a process that is supposed to be done so that the money for devolution goes to where it is intended to. Therefore, we encourage that the Minister of Local Government and the Minister of Finance be there to ensure that the money has been accessed by the council. The money for devolution is the money that we have seen working well. Like in line ministries, we have noticed that, that money has more impact but we cannot just disburse that money to councils without a process. That is where there is a slowdown. Thank you.

**\*HON. MATANGIRA:** My supplementary question is, a house is on fire. For us to say that a hose pipe be used to put out that fire, it may take a lot of time and the house will be destroyed. As I am speaking, machines that provide service delivery in Bindura Rural District Council have been attached so that it be sold because they owe the employees money. What steps can be taken to save that situation? If those machines go, there would not be anything to talk about.

**\*HON. D. K. MNANGAGWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

He has raised the issue of Bindura Rural District Council or municipality. It is the issue that we are hearing in this House. Minister of State from Mashonaland Central is here. If it has been raised, it is something that we have to investigate or look into and see that what happened. We do not usually want to override the law, especially if there are leaders in that area but if there are some steps that we can do as the Minister of Finance, yes, we can sit down with the Minister of State and Minister of Local Government so that we can correct that.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. It is a common cause that since the year 2020 up to the year 2025, the Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Finance has consistently failed to follow the Constitution in line with devolution. The crucial provision that not less than five percent of what is collected must be channeled to devolution has not been made.

What assurance can we have from the Hon. Minister that they would do the correct thing going forward from 2026?

**HON. D. K. MNANGAGWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I think I addressed this issue in my first response that there is

acknowledgement that in the past we have failed to meet our constitutional obligations due to fiscal constraints.

To date, I will not say that we are up to date but the powers are there Mr. Speaker and we will continue to make sure that, as far as devolution is concerned, we work together with the relevant parties.

The constraint that is there, is not just a matter of throwing money at local authorities or rural district councils, but to meet a constitutional obligation with the desire to have a qualitative rather spending of these resources. We have seen the impact that comes from devolution spending.

It is an area that we wish would channel through most of our infrastructure projects but there are processes which a lot of councils are failing to follow to make this more efficient and more impactful. Therefore, it is something that we need to work alongside the Ministry of Local Government and the local authority. However, the acknowledgement is there but the desire and the willpower to make sure that we have impactful projects through devolution is there.

**HON. NYABANI:** Supplementary.

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

**\*HON. NYABANI:** My supplementary question is this, we have heard what the Hon. Minister has stated. If you say that this year you will begin paying Devolution Funds to upgrade our areas, I would like to know if these funds will be allocated for this year only, or will they also cover the previous years for which payments were not made?

**\*HON. D. K. MNANGAGWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. If the budget has been finalised here, we must consider that last year has already passed. Therefore, when we look at the funding, we are focusing on moving forward.

If Government fail to achieve the five percent allocation that we are expected to meet according to the Constitution, we will start from the year in which we will collectively work together in this House alongside the Ministry of Finance.

Next week, during the Mid-Term Budget Review, we will assess what we have accomplished regarding that five percent. If we find ourselves falling behind, this House will determine what steps can be

taken to ensure that by year-end, we are on track. While we aim for that five percent, if we do not reach it, we should not be too far off. However, we cannot dwell on the previous years; our focus must be on the future.

**HON. MAKUMIRE:** Point of privilege.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I hope you are not trying to ask a question.

**\*HON. MAKUMIRE:** This issue concerns the entire country, and I was hoping for more time to discuss it. I would like to ask if a Ministerial Statement can be raised to explain why it has been difficult for them to adhere to the Constitution and the devolution framework they have established. What specific challenges are they facing?

We seek this statement to understand how the Devolution Fund has significantly assisted various initiatives, yet it appears that those responsible are not speaking up. There seems to be lack of communication and this statement is crucial for us to address these concerns.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Makumire, write a question and the Ministry will respond there.

**\*HON. MAKUMIRE:** I have understood what you have said. Is it very difficult for the statement to be provided in this House? We have raised that in *Order Paper*. It has been there for some time. Nothing satisfying...

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order! When the Chair issues an order or gives a ruling, it is final. You must follow it; it will not change, regardless of the circumstances. Please submit your written concerns and you will receive a response. Now, go ahead Hon. Mahlangu.

**+HON. MAHLANGU:** My question is directed to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. Firstly, I would like to thank the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, which made a statement to the fact that those of our relatives who brought children with them from South Africa, those children should be enrolled without any questions being asked.

Now, turning to the Ministry of Social Welfare, what measures have you implemented regarding the payment of fees and provision of

books for children? It has been stated that all children should be enrolled in school, yet there are concerns that some may not be. What steps are being taken to ensure that every child has access to education?

**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. The position of Government is that all returnees, are registered, then directed to go to their homes, where they must fit into the community they used to be. Therefore, if you have children and you need assistance, then you follow the normal route that is being followed by anyone in that particular locality and make your application for BEAM assistance.

If you need any other assistance approach our offices, be it Social Welfare or the DDC office for assistance but we are not coming up with a so-called special programme for returnees, but we have general programmes to assist our citizens who are coming back.

However, the directive is that all children must be absorbed into school; that is the first priority. Payment of fees, parents must follow

the normal processes. Mr. Speaker, we must not always make an assumption that every returnee is in need of school fees assistance but those that need assistance go through the normal system that we have in our administrative districts. I so submit.

<sup>∞</sup>**HON. BONDA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for affording me this opportunity to ask the Hon. Minister a question on the citizens who are being repatriated from outside the country. When the Minister responded, he focused on the children, leaving out how parents could be assisted to take care of their children.

You mentioned that the Government will assist in education; what about food, blankets and shelter? What is the Government's position?

*There being no interpretation*

<sup>+</sup>**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Sorry Hon. Bonda, there seems to be no interpreter for Tonga to English. Hence, I am afraid that maybe your important question may not be responded to correctly because the Minister will not understand what you are saying, my apologies.

**HON. BONDA:** Thank you. I will use the language that the Minister will understand. Can I put it in English, that the whole day today, we have been listening to all contributions that have been made in here in different languages. What is the problem really that is there that makes this House not have interpreters for Tonga? Are we saying one language is more important than the other? I have been listening here the whole day, even without the microphones, for interpretation – I have been listening to these languages that have been spoken here, what is wrong with speaking Tonga?

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Sorry, Hon. Bonda. When *isiNdebele* was being spoken, there was translation and people understood. So, it is just a misnomer that we are going to look into and fix. There is no need to sensationalise that kind of issue. We are not at crossroads. That is why I ask for your indulgence in this particular moment.

**#HON. BONDA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will speak in Chewa. I am asking that on the issue that we are talking about, the issue that children will be assisted, be it going to school, issues to do with school fees, these children were returned. There are parents who

brought them from South Africa coming here; what are you going to help them with? What help are they getting for them to get food and have a proper home? Thank you very much.

**#THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** We have understood. Let us see if the Minister can speak in Chewa or if he has understood.  
Hon. Minister, have you understood?

**\*THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and thank you for protecting me because I never said there was a language that was more important, but he was also speaking in several languages, not one. I do not know why he was complaining.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, to come to the question. This question has been asked over and over again in this House. Even in our media, it has been answered by the relevant Minister. Last week, Hon. K. K was here. I do not know where the Hon. Member was, but it was clearly indicated that all our children, when they come, whether they were born in South Africa or even adults, if they lose their documentation, the Registrar General is issuing documentation. So, if

there are children that were born to Zimbabwean parents in South Africa, they can go to their village; they are easily identifiable. They will have the Registrar's office to issue birth certificates to their children so that learners can go to school. I submit Mr. Speaker.

**#THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. Thank you for the response that has been given on the issue of documentation, but we are still coming across problems at the Registrar's office; people are being charged \$15 to get a birth certificate or an identification card. Is it not possible to suspend this policy so that the children are able to access these documents?

**\*HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. The Government is saying that all those coming back are being assisted to get documents. We have not heard anyone who has been denied access to get an identification card, especially those coming from outside the country and asked to pay \$15, as he has mentioned. If there is someone who knows where it is happening, supply us with that information so that we can rectify that quickly. The Government

did not say that those coming from outside the country are supposed to pay. Thank you.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Bonda! I am informed that we actually have two Tonga translators in this Parliament. I am not quite sure where the challenge was today in terms of the translation. It could be the machines maybe, but definitely I have been assured that the Tonga translators are there and there are two of them - our apologies for today.

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

### **ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, Hon. Members! With your indulgence, we have had questions from you, Hon. Members, to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works that have not been responded to for quite a long time. So, with your indulgence, can we allow the Minister of Local Government and Public Works today to respond to most of these questions? We can even give him up to seven to ten questions because there are quite a number of them that

have not been responded to. Is there any objection to that? – [HON. MEMBERS: *No.*] - Thank you very much.

## INSTALLATION OF PREPAID WATER METERS BY THE CITY OF HARARE

23. **HON. MAZHINDU** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House on the following issues relating to the ongoing installation of prepaid water meters by the City of Harare:

- (a) what benefits Government expects residents to derive from the introduction of prepaid water meters, considering that there has been no significant improvement in the supply, reliability and quality of water services.
- (b) what measures have been implemented to ensure that residents are not required to pay in advance for a service that is frequently unavailable, intermittent or inconsistent?
- (c) how Government justify prioritising the installation of prepaid water meters ahead of critical investments in rehabilitating the dilapidated water and sewer reticulation

infrastructure, particularly to reduce losses arising from non-revenue water?

- (d) what safeguards are in place to protect vulnerable and low-income households from being denied access to water due to inability to purchase water credit?
- (e) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of the potential impact of prepaid water meters on access to water as a basic human right and, if so, what the findings were, including recommendations of that assessment.

**THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE):** Mr. Speaker, the Government acknowledges the concerns and policy questions raised regarding the proposed smart prepaid water metering system and the broader water PPP programme. The following responses provide clarification on the design, intent, safeguards and institutional rationale underpinning the project.

The introduction of a smart prepaid water metering system represents a structural shift from estimated flat rate billing systems to

a transparent consumption-based model that improves both quality and efficiency in service delivery.

The second question, at the household level, the system is designed to ensure fair and accurate billing, where residents are charged strictly in line with actual water consumption. This eliminates historical inefficiencies associated with estimates and inconsistent billing practices, while strengthening trust between the city and consumers.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the system enables real-time monitoring of water usage, allowing households to track consumption patterns and detect internal leaks early. This supports better water management at the household level and helps reduce unnecessary expenditure linked to undetected losses.

Mr. Speaker, from an institutional perspective, revenues collected through the system are reimbursed within a jointly managed revenue account. These funds are explicitly allocated to the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of water infrastructure, ensuring a direct linkage between consumption, revenue collection and service sustainability.

Lastly, the broader system is further supported by operational contingency arrangements, including emergency distribution mechanisms during maintenance or transition phases to mitigate short-term service disruptions and ensure continuity of access. I submit, Mr. Speaker Sir.

ADDRESSING OF MALFUNCTIONING SEWER PUMP  
STATION NUMBER 3 IN CHITUNGWIZA

23. **HON. MAZHINDU** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to apprise the House on the continued malfunctioning of Sewer Pump Station No. 3 in Chitungwiza, which has resulted in the discharge of untreated sewage into the Manyame River and to further explain—

(a) what measures the Ministry has taken to address this situation;

(b) what assistance the Ministry has provided to Chitungwiza Municipality to facilitate the rehabilitation and restoration of the pump station;

(c) what are the timelines for the proposed interventions;

(d) the measures being implemented to prevent further environmental pollution and public health risks arising from the discharge of untreated sewage into the Manyame River.

**THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE):** The rehabilitation of sewer pump station No. 3 in Chitungwiza is a strategic initiative aimed at restoring and strengthening the municipality's water and sanitation infrastructure. The project is being implemented through a collaborative framework involving development partners and funding support from the African Development Bank under the Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

While the project has reached approximately 90% completion, progress was temporarily shifted towards upgrading the sewer reticulation system to enhance the overall functionality and sustainability of the station.

### **Measures taken by the Ministry**

The Ministry has continuously engaged Chitungwiza Municipality and the relevant stakeholders to implement emergency

interventions, monitor the situation and expedite the completion of repairs and rehabilitation works in sewer pump station No. 3.

### **Assistance provided by the Ministry**

The Ministry of Local Government and Public Works has provided technical guidance and oversight, facilitated inter-agency coordination in supporting the municipality in mobilising financial and technical resources necessary for the completion of the rehabilitation and restoration of the pump station.

### **Timelines for the proposed interventions**

Immediate containment measures are currently underway to minimise sewer spillages and environmental impacts. The completion of the rehabilitation programme is being undertaken in phases and remains subject to the availability of financial resources.

### **Measures to prevent further environmental pollution and public health risks**

The Ministry is overseeing emergency sewage containment measures, strengthening environmental monitoring mechanisms and ensuring that the municipality implements remedial interventions to safeguard public health and protect the Manyame River.

Furthermore, operational efforts have been intensified to reduce sewer spillages and mitigate environmental and public health risks during the rehabilitation period. I submit, Madam Speaker Ma'am.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** Supplementary!.

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

Supplementary, Honourable.

**\*HON. ZVAIPA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I heard the Hon. Minister explaining very well but, we, as the residents of Chitungwiza, have not seen the measures that he mentioned that the Government is doing, especially issues to do with sewage, because we are living in a sewer as before.

Can he mention what has been implemented because, as the residents, we are not seeing any improvements about issues to do with sewage?

**\*HON. GARWE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. When I was explaining, I said that in Chitungwiza, with the money that is from the African Development Bank, we have managed to refurbish pipes that allow sewer reticulation ; we have reached 90% and remained with 10%. We believe it is what he is seeing. Resources have been

gathered; by the end of next month, everything will be rectified and we will not be seeing any sewer flowing along the roads or into rivers.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Off-site infrastructure according to the National Settlement Policy of Zimbabwe is entirely the responsibility of central Government. To that extent, you will find that prior to that in the year 2000, we used to get funds from the World Bank and the IMF under what was normally called Urban 1 and Urban 2 to fund off-site infrastructure for human settlement. My follow-up question is, do you have any plans to engage those multilateral financial institutions to get assistance because the African Development Bank alone could not sustain this level of decadence that is happening in our urban settlements?

**HON. GARWE:** I want to thank the Hon. Member for the supplementary question. The International Finance Organisation that the Hon. Member has referred to is not the only organisation that we are approaching to finance, not only sewer rehabilitation but also urban road rehabilitation. We are speaking to various investors, domestic investors as well as international investors. You may want to know that as we speak, we have started that programme in Harare, our

capital city. We have privatised waste collection, waste management, water rehabilitation and water collection. We are now privatising urban road rehabilitation and Chitungwiza is going to be part of Harare in that rehabilitation programme. So, yes, we are speaking to the private sector and other international organisations to assist us with funding. Thank you.

**HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** Hon. Minister is talking about investments with intent on return on investment. Multi-lateral organisations are coming with grants. Is there a possibility of getting grants because if you look at sewer, there is very little scope for someone to make profits and to make sense to get grants instead of investments? Thank you.

**HON. GARWE:** Just to remind the House that Zimbabwe is going through some severe sanctions and some of these multilateral organisations that are being referred to are part of the sanctions-imposing basket. We have looked East to ensure that we look for new friends who are not imposing sanctions on us to deal with the issues that are before us.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Point of order Madam Chair. It is common cause that all executive order sanctions which hindered Zimbabwe's growth were removed in 2024. So, for the Hon. Minister to say that we are under severe sanctions, I do not think it is true Madam Chair. Can you confirm the sanctions that are affecting Zimbabwe right now? I thank you.

**HON. GARWE:** I think it is common cause that every Member of this House understands that the sanctions were not removed. There was an intention to remove the sanctions. The sanctions have not been removed.

## CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY

### DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT

28. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House about the policy on the conditions of service for local authority directors and management.

**THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE):** The Urban Council Act [Chapter 29:15] provides for the establishment of a Local

Government Board. Section 123 of the Act spells out the functions of the board and one of them is to make conditions of service for adoption by councils. As such, each local authority has its own conditions which are obviously determined by factors such as affordability, revenue collection base and industry averages. To ensure that these conditions do not go above the bulk of council revenues, the Minister has put in place a policy where one of the conditions for approval of their budget is that 70% of council revenues should be channeled towards service delivery while 30% is dedicated to salaries. This is also in line with international best practices. Further, for other perks like conditions of service vehicles, authority to procure is sought from the Office of the President and Cabinet in consultation with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development, specifying model and price that they may be allowed to purchase. I submit Madam Speaker Ma'am.

**HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I worry that when there was a Commission of Inquiry about Harare City Council, we noted that one of the directors was taking home around USD30 000 in this economy Madam Speaker. So, I worried that under our severe circumstances, in

terms of fiscal space and most councils are funded by those ratepayers. To see a director getting around USD30 000, to me, is a cause for concern. Does the Ministry of Local Government have some control? Yes, I have noted that the Ministry of Local Government said that the Local Government Board is the one which determines. My follow up question, therefore, what then happens when a CEO of a town also sits in the Local Government Board? Do you think there is no conflict of interest under the circumstances? Is there any regulation from the Ministry in terms of the salary tax, which in my opinion are too exorbitant in light of our circumstances? I thank you.

**HON. GARWE:** The Hon. Member has actually answered himself when he referred to the Commission of Inquiry. That was one of the reasons why we had to set a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the goings-on at the Municipality of Harare. Those salaries were not in terms of the law; they were more of T and S specs which they were giving themselves and to date, we have issued a circular to ban unnecessary attendance of workshops and conferences by local authority officials, particularly the Directors, Mayors and Town Clerks, Chairpersons and CEOs. So, we have also put in place

measures to ensure that the Local Government Board, in consultation with the Ministry, supervises the salary tax in all local authorities going forward. Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am.

## MORATORIUM ON CHANGE OF LAND USE

33. **HON. V. MOYO** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House when the moratorium on the processing of applications for change of reservations and change of land use within their jurisdiction will be lifted, as this delay is currently frustrating development in most local authorities.

**THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE):** Let me start by making the following clarifications. Whilst the moratorium generally remains in force throughout the country. The Ministry has started the process of lifting it on a local authority basis, in line with a planning and development control framework. The Ministry has recently refined;

a. The moratorium does not relate to the mainstream processing of development applications, which are compliant with operative master plans, local plans and layout plans. It relates to those proposals that seek to change what the said special plans provide for.

b) Whilst the moratorium was operative, the Ministry allowed local authorities and developers to apply for waivers and as a result, a lot of development proposals involving land use changes were processed. Madam Speaker Ma'am, by way of background, the moratorium was issued following the lodging of numerous complaints about land use conflicts, particularly those relating to residential areas. The reasons leading to these numerous conflicts of land use included the following:-

- a) Misinterpretation of development payment provisions and conditions by developers.
- b) Developers taking advantage of loopholes and inadequate controls relating to change of use payment provisions and conditions issued by local authorities.
- c) An increase in unauthorised and illegal changes of land use being carried out by some developers.
- d) Inappropriate institutional systems and inadequate capacity within local authorities to plan for harmonious development and mitigate against adverse impacts in their areas of jurisdiction.

Madam Speaker, the way forward adopted by the Ministry since the issuance of the moratorium includes the following:-

- a) Each local authority should establish a fully-fledged, well-mannered and well-equipped planning department.
- b) Until the moratorium has been lifted in respect of a particular local authority, the local authority may refer its change-of-use applications to the Ministry to be granted waivers and guidance for the processing of the relevant applications.
- c) The process of granting waivers and general guidance to local authorities will be gradually decentralised to the provincial level, with the provincial planning officer assuming a more active role regarding processing of applications even after the lifting of the moratorium in respect of each local authority.

As already pointed out Madam Speaker, the Ministry is not unduly frustrating development but harmonising and enhancing the process.

**HON. V. MOYO:** I want to appreciate the comprehensive report from the Hon. Minister. I have two supplementary questions. Firstly, in light of your response, I think there is so much that hinders

the approval of the Master Plan, if I heard the Hon. Minister correctly. I wanted to find out how far we are in terms of the approval of the Master Plan of the City of Victoria Falls.

Secondly, are there timelines you have set for establishing the provincial planning offices and when this regulation will be in place? I so submit Madam Speaker.

**HON. DR. GARWE:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I would like to thank the Hon. V. Moyo for the supplementary questions. The first supplementary question relates to whether Victoria Falls, among other local authorities, has its Master Plan approved; the answer is yes. The second question relates to whether the regulatory framework is in place. It is a work in progress and some local authorities are properly regulated. Thank you very much.

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker. I have two questions after Hon. Matara's questions; maybe we were reading from different pages. The *Order Paper* that I saw...

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MUGOMO):** Hon. Members, we are now allowing the Minister of Energy and Power Development.

**HON. HAMAUSWA:** Madam Speaker, my questions have been there since January, 2026. We have to agree.

**\*THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MUGOMO):**

Order, Hon. Members. You do not have the right to tell me what to do. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] - The Hon. Chief Whip, from my left side, can you approach the chair?

*The Chief Whip from the Opposition side having approached the Chair.*

POSITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY COMMUNITIES  
ON ELECTRICITY WIRES

57. **HON. MGUNI** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to inform the House on the Government's position on contributions made by communities for purchasing electricity wires to replace stolen copper ones, and on the promises by ZETDC to replace these contributions with electricity units that the communities never receive.

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER**

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. J MOYO):** I want to thank Hon. Mguni for asking me to comment on contributions made by communities for

purchasing electricity wires to replace stolen copper ones and on the promises of ZETDC to replace these contributions with electricity units that the communities never receive. My response is that Government acknowledges the existence of the customer-supplied material scheme that is being run by the utility. The scheme is a necessary intervention arising from historical funding constraints and a non-cost-reflective tariff environment that impacted on the immediate capacity of the utility to deliver its mandated service. The scheme allows customers to purchase materials to be used for electrifying their areas and obliges the utility to refund customers through power supply credits into their respective accounts. To maintain the integrity of this process and protect against potential fraud, it is mandatory that clients obtain prior written approval from the utility before purchasing any materials. This documentation requirement is not intended as a bureaucratic hedge but as a vital safeguard to ensure that every community contribution is accurate and can be traced, verified and fully credited to the rightful account.

ZETDC has been making energy-free funds for such transactions where all required procedures were followed. It is

acknowledged, however, that there have been some cases of undeserving and unauthorised or exaggerated claims, which were not processed. For those deserving clients who have faced delays in receiving their reimbursements, they are advised to retain original copies of their documentation and attach them to any formal inquiries to expedite resolution. For all such queries regarding client refunds or delays, clients are urged to engage ZETDC National Contact Centre on 704 or contact their respective commercial managers or sales executives who serve as the key account managers. Customers are also encouraged and urged to approach ZERA, the regulator for assistance if they are not happy with the service that they will be getting from the utility. I thank you.

**HON. BAJILA:** I am also one of the victims of very long delays around the same matter that the Minister has reported on. My supplementary question is, once all documentation is in place and has been submitted to ZETDC, how long should members of the public wait before they begin receiving? If it is a block, like in our case where several residents put their money together to buy electricity lines or transformers, if it is a block and everything has been

submitted to ZETDC, how long does it take for the reimbursement to start kicking in?

**HON. J MOYO:** I cannot give an exact time limit but what we are saying is, if you have further delays after you have submitted everything, use the National Contact Line 704 and indicate that there have been undue delays and you will be answered. Alternatively, you can go to account managers in your area and be able to complain. As usual, if any one of those two is delayed, please contact us either through ZETDC National Office or my office and we will be able to trace it for you.

## ADDITIONAL COSTS ON PRICE OF DIESEL AND PETROL

59. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to apprise the House on the additional costs added to the price of diesel and petrol that are borne by the final consumer in Zimbabwe.

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER  
DEVELOPMENT (HON J. MOYO):** Thank you Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Madzivanyika asked me to apprise the House on the additional costs added to the price of diesel and petrol that are borne by the final consumer in Zimbabwe and I am sure he is familiar with this. The fuel price build-up in Zimbabwe is legislated through Statutory Instruments which stipulate the components that make up the final pump price. These include the free on-board price at Beira plus pipeline transportation costs, financing charges, duty, the ZINARA levy, carbon tax, petroleum levy and the strategic fuel reserve levy. In addition, there are pass-on through costs for the industry such as administration and inland storage together with wholesale and retail margins. This full cost breakdown, cost build-up is here analysed.

1. The international costs, which include the plus price and the freight on-board that covers the refining of products from crude oil and their transportation to the nearest port: These costs reflect developments in the international petroleum markets and are the most volatile. As is happening right now, because of the war in Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, we are receiving on a daily basis the fluctuations and volatility of the price that we are obtaining. These are unavoidable baseline costs

tied to global oil markets. They are not considered additional in the local context since they reflect the international price of fuel.

2. Pipeline costs: The charges for transporting petroleum products from Beira to Harare are broken down into the one that is charged by the CBMZ pipeline, which is Mozambican and the PZL pipeline, which is Zimbabwean. These are additional costs because they are charges for transporting fuel inland from Beira to Harare. Consumers ultimately bear these costs in the final pump price.
3. Taxes and levies, including excise duty, the ZINARA levy, which is carbon tax, the strategic stock levy and petroleum levy: These are additional costs imposed locally. They are legislative charges that increase in the final retail price beyond the international cost.
4. There is ethanol blending which has the ability to reduce, especially on the petroleum price, by blending with a lower cost that is coming from our ethanol, which is produced inland through sugar planting that is agricultural. So, this is one that

reduces the actual price of petrol that could have been passed to consumers.

5. operating companies' costs and margins, covering overheads, administration, storage and the wholesale and retail margins of companies importing and distributing fuel. Administration, inland storage, wholesale margins and retail margins are additional pass-throughs for costs.

These cover oil company overheads and profit margins borne by the consumer. In summary, the additional costs borne by the consumer are pipeline charges, Government taxes and levies, ethanol blending, which actually reduces operating company margins and the international FOB costs are baseline global costs, while the rest are local and add-ons that directly inflate the final fuel price. Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am.

**\*HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Is it possible Madam Speaker Ma'am, that the Hon. Minister gives us a Ministerial Statement? I would like to know the actual price of fuel from Beira up until it comes to this place. All the surrounding countries are buying fuel from these countries but the price of our fuel is just too high. We want

to know where exactly we are failing as a nation. I need that explanation from the Hon. Minister to say the price per litre is so much.

**THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** The Hon. Minister, the Hon. Member is asking that you come and present a Ministerial Statement to this House.

**HON. MUROMBEDZI:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for his response. Madam Speaker, while the Hon. Minister has outlined the additional costs borne by the consumer, may he also clarify why the pump price of petrol remains high, even after the mandatory blending with ethanol, which is locally produced and expected to reduce costs, as he said.

What measures, Madam Speaker, are being taken to ensure that the blending policy that we have actually translates into lower prices for the motoring public rather than the continued pressure on our fuel costs? I so submit.

**HON. J. G. MOYO:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think after the earlier request, I can actually give the figures that will support

what she is requesting. Otherwise, I will give the numbers, which have been asked for. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICITY AT PUMULA SOUTH  
SECONDARY**

60. **HON. MAHLANGU** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to update the House on what measures are being taken by the ministry to facilitate the installation of electricity at Pumula South Secondary School, and when the school can expect to be connected.

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER**

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. J. G. MOYO):** Thank you Madam Speaker and I thank the Hon. Member for her question. My response, Madam Speaker is Pumula South Secondary School is located within a reticulated area with an 11 KV power line running along its boundary. ZEDC currently has 95% of the materials required to extend power supply to the school.

However, to date, ZETDC has not been approached by the school, Hon. Member, nor has any formal application for power connection been received from the school. School representatives are,

therefore, encouraged to visit Nketa Depot to formally apply for the connection. Once the application has been lodged and the requisite payment made, it is anticipated that connection of the school will be completed within 21 days. I thank you.

## RELOCATION OF INGANGULA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

62. **HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to inform the House about the plans in place to relocate residents of Ingangula Township, who are exposed to high pollution from the expanded Hwange Thermal Power Station, to Empumalanga Township and further clarify whether there are any specific timelines or deadlines for this planned relocation.

## THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. J. G. MOYO):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, I thank Hon. Mokokela for his question. Madam Speaker, the planned relocation of Ingangula Township residents to Empumalanga Township is intended to mitigate the impacts of high pollution from the Hwange Thermal Power Station expansion. The Empumalanga housing project is currently at a standstill on account of funding

constraints, which led to the demobilisation of contractors after ZPC failed to pay the full advance payments to the contractors.

The project faces a total funding requirement exceeding US\$100 million. The project is facing challenges in traditional bankability. However, ZPC is actively engaging local banks to secure the necessary liquidity

The contract for road, sewer and water reticulation remains at a standstill. Work will resume once PRAZ approves a split currency payment structure pending independent cost evaluation. There are no specific timelines or fixed deadlines for the final relocation. The move is strictly contingent upon the injection of adequate funding to sustain the project. Drip funding will only expose the organisation to additional costs. ZPC is currently engaging the contractors to revise the contracts so that a phased approach can be pursued.

**HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE:** Can the Hon. Minister clarify what is being done because I was at the township recently; there is physical dust from the power station that is affecting residents. They are inhaling dust and that could lead to diseases like silicosis. What is being done because the power station has been expanded, the

residents have not been moved? They were supposed to have been moved four years ago. Right now, they are inhaling dust and they might suffer from lung-related diseases.

**HON. J. MOYO:** Madam Speaker Ma'am, like I indicated, the reason why four years ago – because residents have to be moved is because of the damages that will happen to them due to dust which he is talking about. I have also said, unfortunately, ZPC does not have enough money right now to complete the project. ZPC is looking for money in the local market. Once they get it, they will start to move those people. Thank you.

**HON. KAPOIKILU:** My supplementary question is, do we do lung function tests on those people or pulmonary function tests to screen those residents that are affected by dust?

**HON. J. MOYO:** I am not aware of those tests.

**HON. KAPOIKILU:** Madam Speaker, we need to screen those people because if they are affected, they need to be compensated. They also need to be taken for treatment; we cannot just leave them like that. Maybe we can get a Ministerial Statement on that. Thank you.

**HON. J. MOYO:** Rather than a Ministerial Statement, may I request that the Hon. Member put the question in writing so that we can do research and I can become aware.

## **WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

### **BREAKDOWN OF THE FEE CHARGED FOR THE TITLE**

### **DEEDS VALIDATION AND RE-ISSUANCE PROCESS**

22. **HON. GUMEDE** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to provide the House with a detailed breakdown of the USD215 fee charged to the public for the title deeds validation and re-issuance process and to specify amounts paid to the Deeds Registry, the conveyancer, the digitalisation service provider (if applicable), and any other beneficiaries, and to justify the legal basis to these charges.

## **THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND**

**PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE):** Mr. Speaker Sir, the matter raised by the Hon. Gumede is under the purview of the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. The Provincial Planning Officer is assuming a more active role regarding the processing of applications even after the lifting of the moratorium in respect of each

local authority. As already pointed out, the Ministry is not unduly frustrating development but harmonising and enhancing the process.

**POLICY ON WATER BILLING IN LOCAL CURRENCY BY  
CITY COUNCILS**

34. **HON. MATARA** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House of the Government policy on water billing to residents by city councils using local currency.

**THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE):** Mr. Speaker Sir, Government has no policy on water billing using local currency. Use of currencies is determined by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion through the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. The Statutory Instrument which is operational now allows the use of multicurrency. Local Authorities can bill in both USD and local currency.

**ACTIONS ON FIRE SAFETY AT GLEN VIEW AREA 8  
INDUSTRY MARKET**

35. **HON. CHIDZIVA** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to appraise the House on the actions the Ministry

has taken to ensure fire safety at Glen View Area 8, Home Industry Market, including the establishment of safe market spaces and the enforcement of fire safety standards.

**THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE):** Mr. Speaker Sir, to address the recurring fire incidents and modernise the market infrastructure in Glenview, the Local Authority is implementing a strategic response focused on both immediate safety and long-term redevelopment, focusing on the following: Firstly, assessing the root causes of these fires through direct engagement with the people on the ground community members, traders, city officials, and relevant Government ministries. This is not just a high-level review, but a hands-on vulnerability assessment to understand the specific risks traders face and how their resilience can be supported. Secondly, looking forward, the goal is to move away from high-risk informal setups. We are working closely with council departments to design an organised "smart market" system, taking the successful model of the new Mbare Musika and adapting it for sites like Magaba and other Small and Medium Enterprises hubs across the city. This will transform these

areas into safer, more structured commercial centres. Thirdly, on the emergency response side, we are taking practical steps to equip the Harare Fire Brigade. This includes the deployment of Red Lion fire trucks and, crucially, addressing the issue of water shortages during emergencies. By providing the Fire Brigade with dedicated bulk water carriers and installing on-site water storage and strategic fire points, we ensure our first responders are no longer held back by unreliable hydrants. These combined efforts are about turning our markets into safe, modern workspaces for everyone.

#### ATTENDING TO FAULTS BY ZESA

55. **HON. MATARA** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to inform the House on the measures in place to ensure that all faults are attended to through easy reporting channels given that currently ZESA has centralised reporting to (704), not a toll-free line, for the Harare Region instead of decentralising to all provinces and districts across the country.

#### **THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER**

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. J. MOYO):** Decision to establish a

Centralised Contact Centre: It is important to clarify that the 704-

reporting line is not dedicated only to the Harare Region. Rather, it is a customer service line that serves the whole country. The establishment of the National Contact Centre in Harare was not an act of re-centralisation,' but rather an operational upgrade designed to improve service delivery and accountability. This "Centralised Support, Localised Execution" model ensures that complaints and information are transmitted in real time to all depots' dashboards throughout the country, which improves efficiency of operations in terms of attending to faults. Investing in such high-grade platforms at the provincial and District levels would currently be fiscally prohibitive.

Toll-free customer care lines: Establishment of toll-free customer care lines in all provinces and districts brings with it a huge financial burden on the utility due to high inbound voice traffic being handled by the contact centres, which is unsustainable for the utility given its current financial position that is very much constrained. By leveraging economies of scale through a central hub, the utility preserves capital that can be utilised in more currently needy areas like improvement of generation and transmission infrastructure.

Though with the current structure tools are shared, in line with the spirit of devolution, the authority and impact remain firmly within the hands of the local communities.

## DECENTRALISING OF REPORTING SYSTEMS AT ZESA

56. **HON. MATARA** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to inform the House what measures are in place to ensure that all faults are attended to promptly through accessible reporting channels, considering that the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) has centralised customer reporting line 704, which is not a toll-free number for the Harare Region, instead of decentralising the reporting system across all provinces and districts nationwide.

## THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. J. MOYO):** Decision to establish a Centralised Contact Centre: It is important to clarify that the 704-reporting line is not dedicated only to the Harare Region. Rather, it is a customer service line that serves the whole country. The establishment of the National Contact Centre in Harare was not an act

of re-centralisation,' but rather an operational upgrade designed to improve service delivery and accountability.

This "Centralised Support Localised Execution" model ensures that complaints and information are transmitted in real time to all depots' dashboards throughout the country, which improves efficiency of operations in terms of attending to faults. Investing in such high-grade platforms at the provincial and district levels would currently be fiscally prohibitive. Toll-free customer care lines: - Establishment of toll-free customer care lines in all provinces and districts brings with it a huge financial burden on the utility due to high inbound voice traffic being handled by the contact centres that is unsustainable to the utility given its current financial position that is very much constrained. By leveraging economies of scale through a central hub, the utility preserves capital that can be utilised in more currently needy areas like improvement of generation and transmission infrastructure. Though with the current structure tools are shared, in line with the spirit of devolution, the authority and impact remain firmly within the hands of the local communities.

## ELECTRIFICATION OF SCHOOLS AND CLINIC IN MASHAME

BC

58. **HON. NGWENYA** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to update the House on when Mashame BC and the surrounding schools and clinic will be electrified, considering that the power source reached this centre approximately five years ago but no connection has been made to date.

### **THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER**

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. J. G. MOYO):** Mashame Primary School and Clinic were electrified in 2003 and handed over to ZETDC for connections and operations. Mashame Secondary School was electrified in 2016. The Mashame Business Centre was not electrified, as business centres were previously not listed as public institutions at that time. Electrification of the business centre is planned for 2027, subject to the completion of all primary & secondary schools and clinics in the country this year. All schools and clinics are earmarked for electrification by the end of this year, 2026.

### **REPLACEMENT OF ELECTRICITY TRANSFORMERS FOR**

**SCHOOLS IN GURUVE NORTH**

61. **HON. PINDUKA** asked the Minister of Energy and Power Development to update the House on the status of the replacement of electricity transformers at the following schools, which have been without grid electricity connections for over five years.

- (a) Vira Primary School, Ward 24;
- (b) Chingwaro Primary School, Ward 18;
- (c) Chingwaro Secondary School, Ward 18;
- (d) Nyarusvisvi Secondary School, Ward 21;
- (e) Nyarusvisvi Primary School, Ward 21;
- (f) Muroiwa Primary School, Ward 21;
- (g) Kemutamba Secondary School, Ward 23;
- (h) Nyamuseve Secondary School, Ward 2;
- (i) Nyamhanji Primary School, Ward 2;
- (j) Kadzimwenje Secondary School, Ward 20.

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND POWER**

**DEVELOPMENT (HON. J. MOYO):** ZETDC currently has the requisite transformers in stock and is in the process of replacing broken transformers with new ones and doing new transformer

installations around the country. With a huge backlog countrywide, limited transport and manpower resources, progress has been slow.

ZETDC is, however, confident that the connection of the said schools in Guruve will be complete by the beginning of the third quarter of this year, 2026. However, it must be stressed that sufficient safeguards must be put in place by the beneficiaries to protect the transformers from vandalism and theft, as it is not sustainable for the utility to repeatedly replace stolen or vandalised assets.

### **FIRST READING**

#### **POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT BILL**

[H. B. 10, 2025].

#### **THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION**

#### **COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, POSTAL AND**

#### **COURIER SERVICES (HON. DR. MAVETERA) presented the**

Postal and Telecommunications Amendment Bill [H.B 10, 2025].

Bill read the first time.

Bill referred to Parliamentary Legal Committee.

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

***C. MOYO**, the House adjourned at Seventeen Minutes past Five  
o'clock p.m.*