

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Thursday, 23rd July, 2026

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

PRAYERS

(THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM MINISTERS

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE (HON. SEN. KAMBIZI)): 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. Z. 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 and 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 Hon. V. Haritatos, Minister of Lands and Rural Development; Hon. P. Kambamura, Minister of Mines and Mining Development; Hon. M. N. Ndlovu, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Hon. B. Rwodzi, Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry and Hon. K. Kazembe, Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage.

Regrettably, in the House, we only have three Ministers, but I assume others will join us as we go. We now have a total of four Ministers; Hon. Matuke, Minister for State Security; Hon. Ziyambi, Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs; Hon. Marupi, Deputy Minister of Information and Publicity and the Deputy Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities Hon. M. Ncube.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

***HON. SEN. MAVENYENGWA:** Thank you Mr. President. My question is directed to the Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services. What is the Government policy on the issue of the places that are lagging like Chiredzi, Mwenezi and other provinces? These areas do not receive the ZBC signal. What are they doing right now? We have been asking the same question for a long time. We want to know the progress, on enabling the people of Zimbabwe to access information about their country. What can be done to make sure that the licences are accessible to them? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION,
PUBLICITY AND BROADCASTING SERVICES (HON.
MARUPI):** Thank you Mr. President. I would like to also thank the Hon. Senator for the good question. As a Ministry, we have rolled out a national programme. National in the sense that the issue of radio and television transmitters is an issue that is affecting the whole country because we are actually migrating from analogue to digital. In that process, we are actually trying not to disrupt communication and transmission. On the same token, the two along the way are a challenge

to be made compatible because it is from analogue to digital. As such, we have also in the same and parallel way, rolled out the issuing of licences to communities across the whole of Zimbabwe. There is no province without a community radio station, with provinces such as Manicaland leading when it comes to community radio stations because there are six community radio stations as we speak.

The other challenge is actually because of the terrain. In some other areas, even if we have the transmitters in the communities but because of the nature of our terrain, that is places like Nyanga or Mutare are very mountainous. If I may say, the periphery of our country is bordered by mountains, making it really difficult for other areas to receive transmission. As such, we are relying on community radio stations that have proven to be very good and, of course, preferred by the communities since they come with so many benefits because they promote our local languages. They also revitalise who we are as a country by promoting the languages and our culture and thus, promoting development since it allows people to express themselves in their languages.

We are behind in terms of digitalising our airwaves, as in enabling people in various communities to receive radio and television networks. We are promising that with the developments that have actually taken place, without identifying and naming particular areas in the country, we are looking at installing plus or minus six to ten transmitters. Why is it like that because there is this sharing of infrastructure with the telecommunication service providers so that at the end of the day, where we used to have three or four transmitters of different telecommunication service providers and with the Ministry or the ZBC as a broadcaster going there to install their transmitters while making them maybe three or four, we now have one. That has actually made it possible for us to actually say we are looking and anticipating a vast improvement by the end of the year. Thank you.

+HON. SEN. RITTA NDLOVU: Thank you Mr. President. Since in towns and urban areas our televisions no longer use the previous areas that were being used, what is happening in the rural areas? People also need to have the set-top boxes since they are the ones that we are now

using in the urban areas. What is happening in the rural areas? How are they receiving transmission?

⁺HON. MARUPI: Thank you Hon. Senator for the good question. The issue that you are talking about Hon. Senator, about set-top boxes, right now they may be mostly found in the urban areas but it does not mean that those in the rural areas are excluded. What is happening is that there is a shortage of campaigning and spreading the information so that they know where they can purchase them. As we speak, that is a very topical issue that we are running around. As you heard, the Hon. Minister is not around. We were in Mutare, where we met as a Ministry, evaluating the progress that we have made so far and what we need to achieve going forward so that there is no big gap, especially on such issues like the one that you raised, Hon. Senator, about people in the rural areas.

The District Information Officers as well as the Chiefs will be asked since they are the ones who stay close to the people so that they spread the information on where they can buy those gadgets, then we will also install them. Those gadgets assist them in receiving all the

radio stations as well as all the television networks available in the country. The other thing that we noticed is that we may be leaving out some people but we aim to ensure that people are free. That way, you will be able to receive the station of your choice. We are trying hard to push. As we are here, we are also representatives but if you have other ideas of how best those gadgets can be taken to the people easily, please come forward so that we help each other. I thank you.

HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI: Thank you Mr. President. My question is directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, in whose absence we are fortunate to have Leaders of Government Business. My question is to ask the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education what measures the Ministry is implementing to address the increasing incidences of bullying, violence and related deaths in schools.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. President. I want to thank Hon. Sen. Zvidzai for the question about bullying in schools. The policy we have is zero tolerance for bullying and all authorities, including headmasters and even learners, are

instructed that, should they witness such behaviour, it should be reported immediately to the authorities so it can be dealt with.

However, I am not competent enough to speak about the increase, which he speaks about but generally acknowledge that bullying has always been there and we have put mechanisms to ensure that the school authorities stem out that behaviour which we believe is not good enough for all our learners, I submit.

⁺HON. SIBANDA: Thank you Mr. President. Going back to the issue of children, about bullying, when we were at school, when you knocked off from school, you were not allowed to roam around in school uniform, especially when the school authorities did not know where you were going. These days it is very easy for school children in uniforms to roam around misbehaving, yet there will be police officers as well as teachers and parents.

Why do we not revert to that practice whereby the school remains responsible for the children after school, instead of letting them or leaving them like that? If we let them, the bullying issue becomes worse if it is not controlled. I thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. President. I want to thank the Hon. Sen. Sibanda for the follow-up question. We have to acknowledge that during the time that she refers to, learners were few, even schools. Nowadays, you find that learners are ordinarily not confined to the areas of their residence. They do not attend school where they stay, so it is a very difficult position to indicate that the movement of learners should be controlled. When a learner from Kuwadzana can go to a school in Mount Pleasant or Borrowdale and vice versa, that is now common in almost all our residential areas, so to speak.

Then the Hon. Senator speaks about the police intervening. Bullying ordinarily does not happen in the streets. It happens at school premises mostly. That is the way it occurs. Rarely do we get incidences of learners bullying each other when they are in town or within the streets, unless they are from the same school and a group of them from the same school going to a particular place.

I think the challenge really needs a whole-of-society approach, with parents teaching their children that bullying is bad and the school authorities impressing upon the learners that they should not engage in

such behaviour; it is not good for all the learners. That kind of education from everyone would help in reducing incidences of bullying. I submit.

HON. SEN. NDEBELE: Thank you Mr. President. My question was directed to the Minister of Health. With your permission Mr.

President, can I refer it directly to the Leader of Government Business?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Yes, go ahead.

HON. SEN. NDEBELE: Thank you. What is the Government doing to help the girl children who live in the streets with primary health care, like provisions of menstrual kits? I thank you.

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

Thank you Mr. President. It is a kind of tricky question where she is requesting authorities to go into the streets and do an identification and provide health care. What we do is that in the majority of our council-led clinics, Government-led clinics, anyone who goes there and they are indigent and seeking medical services, they will get it.

We also have social welfare; they also assist in ensuring that those indigent individuals can get assistance so that they can access health

care. We do not have a deliberate policy of going into the streets and then offering medication to those who are in need. Should any of our citizens, regardless of where they are, require medication from our Government-owned health care systems, we are there to provide that service. I submit.

***HON. SEN. SHIRI:** Thank you Mr. President. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Z. Ziyambi. Firstly, I want to thank the Hon. Minister for the job he is doing in the issue of making laws in the country. We have a law that we passed in this august House recently, which was the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill. Out there, many people are asking when this law is going to begin to work. Thank you Mr. President.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Mr. President. I also thank the Hon. Member for that pertinent question, that when the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill is beginning to be implemented, which was voted on by all people except children, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. Emmerson Dambudzo

Mnangagwa has signed this Bill. After appending his signature, this law is now in force and working. To those who were listening to the news and current affairs and also the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, which is responsible for the elections, they have already begun the sensitisation programme with the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Registrar and Home Affairs and is also making sure that they have started the process of migrating the Voter's Roll from ZEC to the Registrar General's Office.

Right now, they are working because there are committees which have been put in place to work together to make sure that all the things mentioned in the Constitutional Amendment (No. 3) Bill are done. Some of the things are being done through the people who were given certain tasks to do these things. I do believe that all the things which need to be fulfilled are going to be fulfilled. Thank you Mr. President.

***HON. SEN. MBOHWA:** Thank you Mr. President. We are happy the Constitution Amendment (No. 3) Bill is now law. I want to say congratulations. However, I wanted to know more from our Hon. Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, we are now near

2030. When we took the oath of office, we said we were going to end in 2028. Is there going to be another swearing-in for the additional years or are we going covered by the initial swearing-in? Thank you Mr. President.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. President. The swearing-in ceremony which was done in this august House was done until the dissolution of Parliament. However, no date has been set for another swearing-in. That previous swearing-in is the one that is going to continue to work unless Parliament is dissolved. That is how we are going to do another swearing-in. For example, when we have a new Senator, we see that a new member is going to do a swearing-in. Without a new Member of Parliament, we are going to use that previous swearing-in.

HON. SEN. ADV. PHULU: Thank you Mr. President. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister for successfully steering the passing of the amendment. My supplementary question is that one of the issues that is in the amendment is that the first function of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission would be passed to the

Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. How soon may we see an amendment to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Act to reflect that reality? Thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. President. I want to thank the Hon. Member. Mr. President, it is not only about human rights. We need to do several consequential amendments. What we are doing is that we are working on the modalities to see which laws we need to deal with. I can cite the Electoral Act and we need to amend it. We also need to come up with legislation to give effect to the Delimitation Commission.

So, all this is now work in progress and you will recall, Mr. President, the Act was only assented to by His Excellency two weeks or so ago. So, that work has started. I only cited one, which is a simple one, which needs just a transfer of functions without necessarily a lot of legislative issues to deal with it even though we believe also that we will need to amend certain issues within the Electoral Act. You will soon find us bringing several Bills to support the amendments that were made so that we give full effect to that. I thank you Mr. President.

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: Thank you Mr. President. Still on the confirmation of Constitution Amendment (No.3), does it also follow Hon. Minister, that currently, the Senate is not properly constituted?

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. President. I want to thank the Hon. Senator for the question. Actually, we constitute a quorum. So, the Hon. Senator should not worry. The quorum that is required to conduct business is there. I thank you Mr. President.

***HON. SEN. MDHLURI:** Thank you Mr. President for awarding me this opportunity to add my voice. My question was directed to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Since he is not in the House, I am directing it to the Leader of Government Business. My question says that in this country, we have our currency, which is the ZiG, money which has buying power. It clearly shows that this money has strength. The Government said this money must be a legal tender, but we do have other businesses in this country that do not accept the local currency, the ZiG. It is either you are using cash or you are swiping. They are refusing to accept ZiG.

My question is, what is the Government policy or what steps can be taken by the Government to make sure that the ZiG is accepted? Most institutions accept the ZiG, but some sectors of the economy do not accept it. For example, in the light industry, downtown, they do not accept ZiG. What are the steps being taken by the Government to make sure that ZiG is used well everywhere and that people have confidence in the money?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. President. I also thank the Hon. Member for that pertinent question that other people are refusing to accept our local currency. As a Government, we have two things that we have decided to do. We said when we are bringing in our money, we are not going to remove the currencies which were being used previously. We are going to bring in our local currency and the local currency will be working together with the foreign currency or money for other countries.

We have taken this decision because we were trying to build the relationship for all of us, or building a relation that people must accept

that our ZiG is going to be eroded and it does not have power so that people can have confidence that even if they have got their monies in the bank, they will be able to keep their money and they will be not be asking about the rate every day. Currently, where we are, the issue of asking about the rate and being agitated about keeping the money in the bank is a thing of the past.

Even the Hon. Members in this august House do understand what I am saying. Some of the Hon. Members who would have their ZiG were trying by all means necessary to dispose of the local currency. Right now, you can say, I leave my money in local currency; people can buy groceries and people are no longer agitated by keeping the local currency. That is the confidence we are building in people.

We also made sure that the rate does not fluctuate. If you look back, I think for the past 22 years, we managed to have single-digit inflation, which clearly indicated that our local currency has power and people are handling it very well. The local currency has power and we did not do what we did in the past. When we started to use our local currency, we flooded the market with money and this time we did not do

that. Currently, the circulation of our local currency is at 20% and other currencies have 80% in circulation, which means we do not want to put stiffer regulations. We are trying to build people's confidence in keeping the local currency slowly and also taking measures for those who do not accept local currency. We are currently requesting some of the taxes to be paid in local currency.

Sometimes you can see service stations taking ZiG when selling fuel, because they know that some of the taxes they are expected to pay, are paid in local currency. Our programme is going to be putting those taxes, increasing them gradually, using the pace of introducing ZiG and also taking the opportunity to reduce the use of currencies from other countries. We want to reach a point where people can say, I can use ZiG, I do not care about United States Dollars.

We must also reach the point where our foreign currency in the banks will be able to buy imports, maybe, which last for three months, which clearly indicates that we will be able to use our local currency, without using foreign currencies. The President started the programme of keeping gold at the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. We now have gold,

which has more value. If we are going to increase the amount of gold, maybe if we continue to increase the gold, maybe by December we will be able to import things for three months, under three months export cover.

What we are not doing is forcing people to use ZiG, but we are allowing people to use ZiG and foreign currency. Those who are refusing to accept ZIG will accept it in the future, because they will see the fruits of using ZIG. His Excellency is doing exceptionally well, that for the first time, our local currency is stable and the rate is not fluctuating. Thank you Mr. President.

***HON. SEN. ZINDI:** Good afternoon Mr. President. My question was supposed to be directed to the Minister of War Veterans of Liberation Struggle Affairs, but she is not in. May you allow me to direct my question to the Leader of the Government Business in this House, Hon. Ziyambi. The fighters of the liberation struggle are on a pension, which they are receiving USD153.00 every month and this has been happening for a long time without any increment.

I want to say, considering the cost of living in the country, what is the Government policy to cushion and also to increase the salaries of the war veterans? What percentage can be used to increase the salary, considering the cost of living in the country?

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Mr. President. Thank you Hon. Sen. Zindi, for asking about the issue of pensions for liberation war fighters, which she is explaining is USD153.00 and when the money is going to be increased.

Mr. President, the money for war veterans is also equal to the rank of the serving members. I can go and check to give you the rank- is it a Warrant Officer, but the pensions of war veterans have been pegged at the same rank of those who are serving, which clearly indicates that the money is not going to lag. When the salaries of those who are serving are reviewed, it automatically means that the salaries for liberation war fighters are reviewed.

The Hon. Senator is pleading with the august House for an increment of war veterans' pensions. The issue of salaries is being

reviewed equally or equated to the rank of soldiers who are serving, but the issue of an increase is a very different issue. I thank you.

***HON. SEN. ZINDI:** My clarification question is, according to Hon. Ziyambi's response, please assist me, Mr. President, because he showed that he is not sure when it was last increased or reviewed and by what percentage. He is also not sure about the rank. May you allow me to put it in writing?

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Mr. President, the pension of the war veterans is pegged according to the current level of serving members. I think it is a warrant officer. Each time that a Warrant Officer's salary is increased, the pension will also be increased, because it is pegged at the same level. It is not a question of I do not know when it was done. Each time that civil servants or members of the defense forces get an increment, the war veterans also get an increment. That is the reason why I said, it is a different argument to say it is insufficient, but to say it is not changing, is not correct, because it changes when a certain rank's pay is increased.

If it is a Warrant Officer, once all Warrant Officers' pay is increased, automatically the pension is increased. Warrant officers, ordinarily, also get pay increases when the whole of civil service gets increased. So, when everyone in the civil service gets a pay increase, the war veterans automatically will also get a pay increase. If the Hon. Senator is seeking a review so that they move from the rank of Warrant Officer, then it is a different issue. The issue of saying they are not getting an increase is false. I submit Mr. President.

+HON. SEN. R. M. NDLOVU: Thank you Mr. President. I wanted to direct it to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. In his absence, I will direct it to the Leader of Government Business. I am asking on behalf of Mahwatshu family which is so troubled and very concerned. It has been five years since the Ministry sent a Chief to research the lineage of their chieftainship. They agreed with the family that indeed they are the owners of that area. There are now three chiefs who have passed on who were there during that time. Now that we have seen other chiefs being installed, what is the issue regarding Mahwatshu's chieftainship? Where is the problem? What is

happening? We have sought answers from the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works. The family wants to know why the chieftainship of Mahwatshu is not being accepted and approved. Thank you.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Thank you Hon. Sen. Ndlovu. While the question sounds very specific, I will allow the Leader of Government Business to respond if he has anything to comment on that.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. President. I want to thank you for the comment that you made which was going to be my first observation. The observation that I made is that the Hon. Sen. Ndlovu knows that the Government policy is that where possible, we are restoring chieftainship. Hon. Sen. Ndlovu is also aware that something has been done. The family has been to the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works. If I heard him correctly, he is very much aware of the procedures and what has happened at Local

Government and Public Works, which is very specific but he did not open up to say where the challenges are.

My suggestion is that they need to exhaust that process of engaging the officials, which they have been doing, which is very good to present their issues. Should they fail to get answers, then I know Hon. Sen. Ndlovu is my elder; he knows how to tackle it from there. Rightly said, we have a policy that chieftainships can be restored. The procedural aspect and the issues that need to be dealt with are issues that I urge him to take to the relevant authorities should they not get sufficient joy within the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works. I submit Mr. President.

HON. SEN. ADV. PHULU: Thank you Mr. President. I am happy to hear that there is a policy for restoration and resuscitation of chieftainships. I note that the Constitution provides that there should be such a process and it says there should be an Act of Parliament that governs the resuscitation of these chieftainships. However, when you go to the Traditional Leaders Act as it is currently, it does not speak to how this is done. I do not know whether there is an intention to bring an

amendment to clarify the procedure in that area. I am aware that the Hon. Minister is in fact not the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. I am also very confident that he knows the terrain and the purview of legislation in that area.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. President. Hon. Sen. Phulu couched his response as a question but it is a suggestion to standardise this process, why not bring an Act that will regulate how the chieftainships can be restored. I agree; it is something that we should look at so that it will remove other collateral issues coming into play and people will follow and lay down procedural issues within the Act. I submit Mr. President.

⁺HON. SEN. S. MOYO: Thank you Mr. President. My question was supposed to be directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. In his absence, may I then redirect it to the Leader of Government Business? My question is, in Primary and Secondary Education, especially in the rural areas, learners are not getting adequate education because of a lack of adequate equipment, teachers, books, as well as furniture. There is also a shortage of almost everything,

especially for poor families in the rural areas. How does the Government assist since we realise that this country is well resourced? We realise that some countries are providing free education? What is the Government going to do to provide adequate equipment for education in the rural areas? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. President. I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question. In terms of ranking within the African continent, Zimbabwe has done extremely well and we are ranked very high in terms of education provision. You will recall that soon after independence, if you compare the number of schools that are there now with the number at independence, we are a success story. This is a journey Mr. President, where as Senators, you notice gaps and budgets are coming here. You motivate what you believe can also aid the successful programmes that have been implemented within our education sector. I will also point out that the Government, through the Ministry of Information, Communication and Broadcasting Services, in collaboration with the

Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, we are now deliberately moving towards the provision of ICT gadgets and Starlink because nowadays, you do not even need those hard copy books to learn with internet connectivity, everything is within your fingertips. So that is the new thrust that the Government is doing. I believe that is also a whole-of-society approach; as Senators and Members of Parliament, we can work together to ensure that we improve school infrastructure and improve the learning conditions of our learners. Having said that Mr. President, I believe the statistics will back this up that as a country, we have done very well in the field of education. Thank you Mr. President.

^^**HON. SEN. MOHADI:** Thank you Mr. President. My question to the Minister is about the returnees who are repatriates from South Africa. I want to know the number of people who have returned to our country and the reintegration measures into the country and our communities. Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** I wish to
thank Hon. Sen. Mohadi for the question.

Mr. President, according to figures provided by the Minister of
Local Government on Tuesday, the number of returnees currently stands
at slightly over 100,000, estimated at approximately 107,000.

As Government, we have been providing transport assistance to
facilitate their return from the countries in which they are based, their
entry into Zimbabwe and their onward movement to their respective
places of origin. We are also engaging local leadership structures in
administrative districts to ensure that returnees are properly received,
reintegrated and assimilated into their communities.

For example, when a person from Muzarabani returns from South
Africa, Government facilitates that person's journey from South Africa
to Zimbabwe and ultimately to his or her village in Muzarabani, where
the individual is then reintegrated into the local community.

Thereafter, returnees receive the same assistance and access to services as any other member of the community. Government deliberately decided not to create separate or special conditions for returnees. Our responsibility is to ensure that they are safely transported, properly received and adequately cared for during the reintegration process.

Where a returnee requires ongoing medication, the Ministry of Health and Child Care will ensure continuity of treatment until that individual is registered at the local health facility. The clinic will then continue providing the required medication, whether for hypertension, HIV treatment or any other chronic condition.

Similarly, where returnees have school-going children, the children are enrolled in local schools upon arrival in their communities and are afforded the same opportunity to attend school as other children in the area.

Where a family is unable to pay school fees, local leadership will assist it to access support through the Basic Education Assistance

Module (BEAM). Once returnees have been integrated into a village, local leaders will also facilitate their registration under the *Pfumvudza/Intwasa* programme so that, when the rains begin, they have access to land for cultivation and can begin to sustain their livelihoods.

For those who wish to establish small enterprises, the Minister responsible, Hon. Sen. Mutsvangwa, and her district-level teams will provide support by helping them identify and develop their existing skills, explore viable business opportunities and access available sources of finance.

That has been the thrust that we have been getting our people, assisting them with transportation, food on the way, giving them medication until they are registered at their own locality, I submit Mr President.

^^HON. SEN. MOHADI: My supplementary question concerns the education of returning children. For example, where a learner was completing matric in South Africa before returning to Zimbabwe, how

will that learner be appropriately placed within the Zimbabwean education system?

Will the learner be enrolled in Form 4, proceed to an Advanced Level, or be placed in the equivalent class based on the level attained in South Africa? Furthermore, what measures are in place to ensure that the learner's academic progress is not disrupted by differences between the two education systems?

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr President. Mr President, when you come with your children, our school authorities will assess and slot you into a class or level that is more or less similar to the one you were in. We do not have a matriculation system, but our authorities are doing a good job. We have not had complaints about the children being put in classes that they do not belong. We believe assessments are being done so that our children will get into the appropriate grade and continue with their learning activities. I thank you.

Questions Without Notice were interrupted by the HON.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE *in terms of Standing Orders No.*

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***HON. SEN. TONGOGARA:** Thank you Mr. President. I am asking for an extension of time for Questions Without Notice.

***HON. SEN. GOTORA:** On a point of order! Mr. President, we have over 40 ministers in the country and we have never seen some of them..

Coming to you now Leader of Government Business, through you, Mr. President, what is it that we must do to make sure that these ministers who do not come here, come? We are asking one minister all the questions here, as if he is the only minister in the country.

Hon. Minister, I need an answer. What is it that we must do through you, Mr. President? What is it that we must do in this august House for the rest of the other ministers to come here and do Government business?

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Thank you very much, Hon. Sen. Gatora. Indeed, this is a matter that has been raised in this House for a considerable period. I am pleased that it was raised again last week and I undertook to pursue it.

I am also pleased that the Hon. Minister and Leader of Government Business is present in the House and has taken direct note of the concern. I will not invite him to respond at this stage; however, the matter has been duly noted for appropriate action.

HON. SEN. ZHOU: On a point of privilege, every time during the question-and-answer session, I fail to reach the minimum threshold because I do not know what time other senators stand up to queue up. I have a problem with that, Mr. President.

HON. SEN. ZINDI: I want to take an opportunity as well in the presence of the Leader of Government Business, regarding the matter that has been raised by Hon. Sen. Gatora, particularly the issue to do with Committee Reports with recommendations; even some motions

moved by Hon. Members with recommendations for particular ministers or each individual minister related to that issue.....

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Order! I think I opened a can of worms at the wrong time. While I understand the concern of Hon. Members, this is not the right time to discuss this. All that I can do with the powers vested in me is to recognise the Hon. Minister to adjourn the House.

On the motion of **THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI)**, *the Senate adjourned at Eighteen Minutes to Four o'clock p.m. until Tuesday, 4th August, 2026.*