

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Wednesday, 29th July, 2026

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

PRAYERS

(THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER

NON-ADVERSE REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE

PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL COMMITTEE

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wish to inform the House that I have received a Non-Adverse Report from the Parliamentary Legal Committee on the following Statutory Instruments Numbers 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105 and 106 published in the *Gazette* during the month of June, 2026.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM MINISTERS

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received the following apologies from the Executive: Hon. General Rtd. Dr. C. G. D. N. Chiwenga, Vice President; Hon. Col. Rtd. K. C. D. Mohadi, Vice President; Hon. F. M. Shava, Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education;

Hon. M. N. Ndlovu, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Hon. Dr. A. J. Masuka, Minister of Agriculture Mechanisation and Water Resources Development; Hon. E. Jesaya, Deputy Minister of Sports Recreation Arts and Culture; Hon. S. Chikomo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Hon. Eng. C. Makwiranzou, Deputy Minister of Mines and Mining Development; Hon. S. Sibanda, Deputy Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education; Hon. A. Gata, Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education; Hon. V. Haritatos, Minister of Lands and Rural Development; Hon. Prof. Mavima, Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities; Hon. T. Zhou, Deputy Minister of Lands and Rural Development.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

***HON. ZIKI:** Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. My question is directed to the Minister of Energy and Power Development. Through advanced technology, we now have vehicles that operate using hybrid systems and unleaded fuel. What plans do we have to ensure that we restore the use of unleaded fuel so

that those people who use these latest models of vehicles do not experience mechanical challenges?

***THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO):** Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Ziki for asking such a pertinent question. The current situation that we have is that the Government allows those who import fuel, including the Government and other independent partners to import unleaded fuel. We have that law in place that allows fuel players to import unblended fuel. The Government has a law that we should increase ethanol, like E15 and E20 but those who are licenced to import fuel, are allowed to bring unleaded fuel. Even if Hon. Ziki goes around this country, he will find many facilities that are selling unleaded fuel. I thank you.

***HON. ZIKI:** My supplementary question emanates from the lack of unleaded fuel; therefore, my question is: if we are to import the unleaded fuel, does the Government set its selling price? I thank you.

***HON. T. MOYO:** Thank you so much Hon. Ziki, for the supplementary. If you import unleaded fuel, the Government pegs the price for it.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** I would like to thank Hon. Minister for his response in connection with unleaded petrol, which is not blended with ethanol. Madam Speaker Ma'am, service stations are not allowed to sell unleaded fuel. Initially, they had agreed but were later banned when ethanol was in excess. The question by Hon. Ziki is very important to those people with vehicles that require E20 or E15, which only requires unleaded petrol. I do not know how best you can help us, because the response from the Hon. Minister is not in line with what we have on the ground. I thank you.

***HON. T. MOYO:** Thank you Hon. Tshuma for the question. It is very true; this was tabled in the Cabinet. People were never denied permission to import unleaded fuel but what happened right now...

HON. MUTSEYAMI: On a point of order.

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

HON. MUTSEYAMI: Thank you Madam Speaker. I think it is important for the Hon. Minister to appreciate what is on the ground. Not all service stations are selling unleaded fuel; they are only selling the mandatory blended fuel. This is what is happening with all service stations. These vehicles, which are meant to use non-blended fuels, are having problems, because the only access to fuel as we speak now is the mandatory blended fuel, which is mixed with ethanol, so the Minister must address concerning that situation, thank you.

HON. T. MOYO: Madam Speaker Ma'am, we are in a crisis that is happening in the Middle East where we are experiencing a high increase in terms of the price of petroleum. We do not have an SI at the moment, banning the importation of unleaded petrol but because of the situation that is there, it becomes very expensive for people to import unleaded petrol. So, I would urge Hon. Ziki, to put that question in writing so that the Hon. Minister can respond. From the minutes that we have, there is no Cabinet directive banning the importation of unleaded petroleum. That is the situation. I thank you.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Ziki, kindly put your question in writing. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order Hon. Members! Hon. Ziki, please put your question in writing so that the responsible Minister will give you a written response.

HON. ZIKI: Noted Madam Speaker Ma'am.

HON. NYATHI: On a point of clarity.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, point of clarity.

HON. NYATHI: I want to clarify to the Minister; it is SI 17/2013, which came into effect on the 6th of September 2024. So, there is a ban on the sale of unleaded fuel. When the response comes, it must address these concerns. Thank you.

***HON. MUCHEMWA:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker, for according me this opportunity. My question is directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. Before 2013, if a teacher was going on leave, there would be a relief teacher who could take over during that time. After 2013, if a teacher goes on leave, the class is left without a teacher. What plans do you have to ensure we reinstate temporary

teachers who would take over and assist when some teachers are on leave? I thank you.

***HON. T. MOYO:** Thank you Hon. Muchemwa for this pertinent question. Yes, it is very true that when people go on maternity leave, their class would not have someone to take over. We used to have challenges of a shortage of teachers back then but right now, we have enough teachers and we recruited from other districts where we had a lot of vacancies. Teachers who are going to be on leave, be it maternity leave or any other leave, we are putting in place a relief teacher for that period. I thank you.

***HON. MUCHEMWA:** I would like to appreciate the response from the Hon. Minister. My supplementary question is, back then, teachers could say, I cannot leave my class unattended. So, from 2013 up to now, we have teachers who have not gone for leave. What plans do you have to ensure that you can pay those leave days for the teachers who did not go on leave from 2013? I thank you.

***HON. T. MOYO:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker, Ma'am. I would also like to thank Hon. Muchemwa for the question. We have a

time when those leave days reach the maximum. All the teachers have the right to go to their DSI. We have forms which can be filled at school through the district up until it reaches the head office. For those who do not want to go on leave, it is every worker's right to ensure that every teacher takes leave after a certain period. One must have enough time to rest. If the days have reached the maximum, they have the right to sell and ensure that they can be paid for those leave days. They can be remunerated in the form of cash, they can be paid in the form of salaries or they can approach those from the Commission; those are the employers. I thank you.

***HON. KARENYI:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My supplementary question is that yesterday we had a workshop here where we had those people who came from ZIMTA and they talked about having a shortage of teachers; they said Government froze those posts. Those people who recently completed their courses should be employed, so they were saying the teacher-to-pupil ratio is alarming. My question to the Minister is, is this challenge not being caused by teachers who fail to go on leave? If they go on leave, their class will be left unattended

simply because there are not enough trained teachers being recruited?

They simply said that for now, they have a ban where they froze recruitment of recently graduated teachers.

* **HON. T. MOYO:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker, Ma'am. I would also like to thank Hon. Karenyi for the question. We do not have a shortage of teachers in Zimbabwe. We have other teachers who graduated from 2019 to 2022 who are not yet employed. We are only saying they cannot be employed; it is only those who graduated this year and last year who cannot be recruited yet. We have those people who graduated in 2020; that is the rule that we have to employ those people who graduated earlier. If we take those people who graduated in 2025, it will be corruption, so it will not come out well to those who graduated earlier. As I am speaking, teacher-pupil ratio of late, it was very high but we thank His Excellency the President for allowing us to recruit a lot of teachers. Even where I come from in Gokwe North, where people used to say we could have five teachers per school, we have recruited a lot of teachers in those places, meaning that the teacher-pupil ratio is now quite admirable. Last week I was in Malawi; I discovered that one

teacher had 200 children and all the children were being taught sitting on the ground but here in Zimbabwe we have a ratio of 1:35 and 1:40. We have to thank our Government for the good job, which is being done by His Excellency. Thank you.

***HON. JONGA:** Thank you Speaker Madam Ma'am. I want to thank the Hon. Minister for that explanation and the good work that he is doing, led by His Excellency, the President. I come from rural areas, where from Form 1 to Form 6, science students are facing a challenge. The challenge is that there are few teachers for mathematics and science. I do not know what the Government is planning to do in terms of providing science teachers. For example, at a certain school there are no teachers for science subjects, and the President's mantra is that no one should be left behind. I want to find out the plans that the Government has for this situation. Thank you.

***HON. T. MOYO:** Thank you Madam Speaker, Ma'am. I want to thank the Hon. Jonga for the question. The Government policy is that where there are shortages, for example, in science subjects like physics, chemistry and biology, when teachers graduate, even in February this

year, we hire such teachers for STEM subjects, which augurs well with the Education 5.0 model. For physics, chemistry and other science teachers, they are employed as soon as they graduate. Where there is a shortage, we employ teachers to cover that gap.

HON. C. MOYO: Thank you Madam Speaker, Ma'am. My question is directed to Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development and the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Development. My question is, what measures are being taken to identify owners of stray cattle that are wandering on our highway roads at night and are we really impounding these stray cattle as well as fining the offenders? Thank you.

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

Thank you, Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let me also thank Hon. Moyo for that very important question, which is also saying that we are losing precious lives, especially on our highways, because of stray cattle. The law is very clear that we are mandated to keep our livestock well-kept so that they do not stray on our asphalt roads. This piece of legislation has

been in place since 1974, when it was mandated that, if you allow your livestock to stray, you are liable at the end of the day if anything happens. We have tried especially along our major highways, citing the Harare-Bulawayo Road especially as you go through Shangani towards Bulawayo with a perimeter fence along the highway but *alas*, our people have vandalised the fence this was a mitigatory measure so that we do not have cattle crossing but this has been ongoing and as we speak, we are also fencing the Shurugwi – Mhandamabwe, Chivi- Masvingo. We have already completed the Shurugwi – Mhandamabwe and now we are working on Chivi- Masvingo so as to make sure that the villagers' livestock is also protected.

It is again my humble plea to the people of Zimbabwe that we cannot continue losing precious lives because of animals that are straying on our roads. Therefore, we call especially our farmers to make sure that we have someone who is managing our cattle so that during evening times, especially in the evening, they are well kept in the necessary place so that they do not cross our roads.

HON. MAPFUMO: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I think it is imperative that this issue of stray cattle on our highways really gets taken with the seriousness it deserves. On the 12th of November 2025, I raised the same issue in this House when we were coming from budget after frequent accidents regarding this matter. If the Minister of Agriculture can actually come with a ministerial statement on the proposed timelines for penalties for anyone who contravenes this, because we cannot keep losing lives. We raised this issue last year and today we are in this House speaking about the same issue when we have just lost lives again. I thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your concerns have been noted, Hon. Mapfumo. We will convey the message to the responsible Minister.

HON. MAHLANGU: Thank you very much Madam Speaker Ma'am. My supplementary question is: do we have a monitoring system whereby, if cattle or other animals are seen on the road, there is a specific section of the police we should contact? Just yesterday, after the tollgate from Gweru, I saw many cattle on the road. Do we have a

monitoring system where we will call and I will come and attend? Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Madam Speaker and let me also thank Hon. Mahlangu for that very important question, of which I think we are talking of the whole-of-society approach where in such instances, I think it is also proper for us to take such measures where we also involve the town, whether we are talking of rural district councils, urban councils and the police, so that we are accountable at the end of the day.

Apparently, there is no contact person to contact if something happens. I think if we are to report because we are having several accidents, if we can report to the nearest police, then they can actually make sure it is resolved. They also identify the owner or owners of those cattle. I think that would be proper, but at the end of the day, it calls on all of us as a nation to approach this with a holistic mind so that we are accountable at the end of the day. I think to answer her question, I would also liaise properly with the Minister of Agriculture so that we see if there is a mechanism that can be enhanced to make sure that once we

witness such disturbing incidents, we can then contact each other with speed. Thank you.

HON. MURECHU: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. The reason why we are seeing these stray cattle and other animals like dogs and donkeys in our highways is because our roads are not properly fenced or the fences that we used to fence those roads were vandalised or stolen. My supplementary question to the Minister is: do you have any plans, maybe to come up with a dedicated fence specifically to just fence our roads? Maybe we can treat them as we treat copper so that whoever is seen with such a fence in his own backyard is arrested. Are there any plans to come up with a dedicated fence to make sure that we deter our people from stealing all those kinds of fences? Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am and let me thank Hon. Murechu for that important question which I can also clarify. Indeed, it was problematic to identify in the event that the fence is stolen. What we have now resolved is that we have colour coding of our fence so that if you see it, you can identify it. Above all, it calls again to the approach that I alluded to earlier on of the whole of society where, as

villagers, we are also mandated to make sure that we safeguard the fence. Normally, it passes through our villages and this is what we have been doing, raising awareness so that when we erect that fence, it becomes our property. I am sure that as we go on, you will continue that but no law would then say if you have got this colour because it is not there; these are just initiatives that we are making. I am sure that as we advance, if you are then found with that kind of wire that will be having a different code, then you will be accountable but as we speak, it is more to do with just raising awareness through villagers so that as we put that fence, you make sure that you have committees to safeguard that fence along your villages. Thank you.

HON. KARIKOGA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My question is directed to the Minister of Energy and Power Development. In this country, our fuel, that is petrol and diesel, is blended with ethanol. Is there a policy framework that guides compliance in the blending process?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, PUBLICITY AND BROADCASTING SERVICES (HON. DR. SODA): Thank you

Madam Speaker Ma'am and thank you Hon. Member for the question.

Regarding blending of our fuel with ethanol, yes, we have a policy, Hon. Member, which allows us to blend our fuel. It varies with the level of availability of our ethanol from 5% to 20%. It is mandatory that our fuel that is sold or available in our service stations is blended. From the request that has been made by the public, a mechanism is being put in place which will soon be implemented, where those who prefer to buy unleaded petrol that is not blended can be allowed to access it at our various service stations. It is something that is in progress and it will soon be launched and that fuel will be available as unleaded together with the blended fuel sold at different prices. Thank you.

HON. KARIKOGA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. In the presence of the existence of the policy, why then do we have differences whereby you go to one service station, let us say service station X, the quality of fuel is different from other service stations. When the same fuel is from the same pipeline, same storage, same blending ratios, why is that happening? Thank you.

HON. DR. SODA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I cannot confirm that the quality of the fuels is different from different service stations, but if that has happened, I may request the Hon. Member to give us the details so that we ask ZERA, which is the regulator, to do some investigations because there could be some issues of adulteration. Adulteration is where petrol can be mixed with other substances like paraffin to produce a substance, which can be availed on the market, but if that has happened and the Hon. Member has some information. I would request that he shares that information with us so that ZERA will investigate. Thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Minister. I am sure Hon. Karikoga has taken note of that.

HON. KARIKOGA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I will do so.

HON. MUTSEYAMI: What is the current position about unleaded fuel, bearing in mind that in this country we have vehicles that cannot access the blended fuel, which would affect the engines. On the ground as we speak, there is only the blended fuel which is put to the

market as a result of the mandatory blending policy and the unleaded fuel is not on the market. What is your position about the policy Hon. Minister? I thank you.

HON. DR. SODA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. This is the response that I gave when I responded to the first question from Hon. Karikoga to say that we have blended fuel and we will soon be availing unleaded fuel to take care of those vehicles that we are referring to that cannot take blended fuel. It is something that is in progress and the fuel will soon be available on the market. I thank you.

HON. NYATHI: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My supplementary question is from E5 to E20, we do not see a corresponding price change. Whenever there is E5 or E20 blending, the price remains almost the same. Why do we not see a corresponding variance when the blending ratio is increased? Does this not infringe on the consumer rights? Thank you.

HON. DR. SODA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I think it is just a question of making some observations. The Hon. Member may not have noticed the changes that have been influenced as a result of the

variations in the blending ratios. Usually, when blending is at its peak, which is at 20%, there is a price containment of around 18 cents per litre, which results from blending. When the blending mandate is also reduced and many times as a result of inadequate stocks, the prices tend to also then increase.

However, at a time like this, when most of our fuel pricing is resulting from the important effects, especially as a result of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which is the passage or the corridor that brings most of the fuel that we consume, especially here in Southern Africa. You may not notice the price containment but in essence, this is what happens when blending is increased; the price tends to come down. Because of what is happening, we are importing the influences and our price is also following what is happening on the international market side. I thank you.

HON. MACHANGU: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am for the opportunity. My question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Development. Is it the Government's policy to allow road construction companies to abandon road rehabilitation projects before

completing, leaving roads in a dangerous and deteriorated condition? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let me also thank Hon. Machangu for that important question, which will then give me a platform to articulate the Government policy whereby if you are talking of road construction, I think it is not in the interest of the contractor to tender and start works and then abandon. Also, for Governments to allow tenders to go through and not pay. I think the scenario that Hon. Machangu is referring to could be a contractor who has actually stalled projects.

In addition, there are several variables that could be attributed to delays in payment and therefore the contractor might not have the capacity to continue. In most cases, we have seen that with the advent of the Second Republic, where we are now saying we have to demonstrate capacity to do road construction first before you accede to a contract.

However, you find in most cases some contractors will say we have capacity and they will anticipate getting paid before they start

work, which is something that used to happen a long time ago. If you are then paid a deposit, some would then disappear. So, we have seen that several contractors have been capacitated, they can commence works and then we pay as we go.

I want to assure Hon. Machangu that if there is that contractor, yes, we do agree that we have several stalled projects and we have identified such projects in each province. Since we now have an infrastructure framework in place that has been agreed between the Minister of Transport and Minister of Finance to pay our contractors, I am sure such a contractor will also be one of those that will be paid. I thank you.

HON. MACHANGU: Thank you, Hon. Minister. Do you have any timelines for those stalled projects to be commenced? We observe that some of the roads have been under construction but now we have seen that even the construction vehicles are no longer there on the roads. The roads are just empty. So, do you have a timeline for them to come back and do the reconstruction? Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Madam Speaker. I think the Hon. Member is at pains to try to name the road. With your indulgence, I am

sure she is free to name the road, then I can respond accordingly. Thank you.

HON. MACHANGU: Thank you Madam Speaker. The road that I am referring to is the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls Road. Nothing is happening on that road now. You travel from Bulawayo to Lupane and there is not a single construction vehicle. You proceed from Lupane to Jotsholo and there is not a single construction vehicle there. Further towards Hwange, there is complete abandonment. Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker. Let me thank Hon. Machangu again for specifying the road that she is worried about. We have a 440 km road from Bulawayo to Victoria Falls. Initially, we had a PPP arrangement in place that was covering the road, which is almost 750 km if you are coming from Beitbridge. However, because the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls Road was in a sorry state, we then had to say, whilst we are working on the bigger project, we need to address sections that are in a sorry state. We engaged eight contractors, where each contractor has about 50 km. If you see the way we have done it on that particular road, some detours are divorced from the main road so that if

you go through that detour, you might not see what is happening along the sections.

For a number of those, two and a half weeks ago, we recently opened about 9 km. People who are using those roads can vouch for that. We are saying the 9 km; we had to redirect traffic. What we are doing now, as I indicated, this is one of the stored projects that I was talking about. We find that in this august House, if I can take it closer to home, in this particular year, you gave us the equivalent of 150 million to do our roads throughout the entire country. You are the owners of the place, this august House. You gave us 150 million and if we just apply it to that road, it is inadequate. So, it therefore, calls for the Ministry to think outside the box so that we also raise additional funding. That is why we are also advocating for other funding models where we were talking of PPP arrangements and loan facilities.

I am happy that this is one of the roads that we have earmarked and now we have funding to continue the works. So, I want to say to Hon. Machangu, yes, watch the space and as we move towards August, you will see massive rehabilitation again. Those contractors will be

mobilised again to their various sections. This is something that I say yes to. I do concur that the project was told that you will see an accelerated pace going forward. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Madam Speaker. My follow-up question to the Hon. Minister is, do they have a policy on quality assurance for the roads that are being constructed? This is because in some instances, you see a road that is less than two years old developing potholes. Is there a policy on quality assurance to ensure that we get value for money for the roads that are being constructed? Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker. Let me also thank Hon. Corban Madzivanyika for that very important question. I am sure going forward, it is also ideal, especially through our relevant parliamentary portfolio committee, so that in some instances, we also need to continue educating Hon. Members on how we construct roads. This is because most of us are just laypersons and might not understand the architecture of how a road is constructed. If we are talking about reconstruction, we are talking about building a new road, not just laying

asphalt on top of an existing one. So, you have seen that we have several roads that were built a long time ago and the roads are now weaker, that even if you apply asphalt, there will still be potholes coming up within a short space of time.

Wherever you have seen us reconstructing, I can give you a good example of reconstruction that is closer here. The Boulevard, the one that connects us with Bindura Road is a new road. On that particular road, if you see potholes developing within two years, there will be something that will be very disturbing. That particular road is supposed to last for 20 years. After every five years, we will resurface it as a way of maintaining it. You will not see potholes on that particular road.

However, if you take for instance, a road that was constructed 15 to 20 years ago and you just patch it without attending to the underlying structure, you might see potholes developing. This is something that I will say to Hon. Members, yes, you might see other roads where we also need to continue maintaining. The idea is to continue maintaining our roads. Even if a pothole develops on a new road, we need to move with speed so that it does not disadvantage our motorists. So, yes, there is

quality control. We have resident engineers on each particular project where they monitor, work with the contractor and also our resident engineer from the Ministry will be supervising.

I want to say to Hon. Madzivanyika, if we have such roads, contractors are accountable. They must make sure that they construct the road and it is in its best state so that at the end of the day, we do not just pay for shoddy work. Thank you.

HON. MAPFUMO: Supplementary, Madam Speaker. Firstly, I would like to thank the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development for his responses that are very good, especially on the Bulawayo-Victoria Falls Road, which complements our tourism. If they could also include the Karoi-Makuti Road. From Makuti to Marangora, they have done a good job. Marangora to Chirundu also needs that attention if we are to complement our tourism. I so submit.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Mapfumo please, may you ask your question again?

HON. MAPFUMO: My question is, what measures are there to resuscitate works between Karoi and Makuti and then Marangora to Chirundu? Thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your question, Hon. Mapfumo, is a specific question. Please may you put it in writing?

HON. BONDA: Thank you Madam Speaker. I just wanted to get clarity from the Hon. Minister on the contractors that are on the roads so that we appreciate what we are seeing. They are working and we need to appreciate the roads that are being maintained and reconstructed. However, there are other areas they have not reached that have a lot of potholes. Does the contract have an agreement that they should maintain those areas that they have not reached when they are working on the roads? I just wanted to know because some of the places are no longer trafficable, even though there are some detours, which we can appreciate that there is something that is happening along the roads.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker. Let me also thank Hon. Bonda for that pertinent question. Indeed, he has raised something that is important. As we do our procurement, we have taken

into account the need to maintain the entire section of the roads. This is what we are now doing in our contracts, to say yes, whilst you are working on a particular section and with the entire contract in place, you can also do routine maintenance of that particular section. I agree and I am sure maybe he is talking closer to his constituency in Hwange, where maybe he is saying the detours and also some sections are not yet maintained. The agreement is for the example that I cited earlier, where we had given them 51 kilometres. We are saying each contractor must continue maintaining their own section and this is something that we are doing. Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker.

HON. MAKUVIRE: Good afternoon Madam Speaker Ma'am. My question goes to the Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services. Following the launch of Zimbabwe's National Artificial Intelligence Policy in March this year, could you update this House on the progress made in implementing the policy since its launch and some of the key programmes or projects that have been initiated to promote the adoption of Artificial Intelligence

(AI) across Government, industry and educational institutions. Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY, POSTAL AND COURIER SERVICES (HON.**

DR. MAVETERA): Thank you Madam Speaker, Ma'am. Allow me to thank Hon. Makuvire for that very important question that she has asked. She wants to take stock of what we have done after we launched our National Artificial Intelligence Strategy on the 13th of March, 2027. Indeed, we want to thank our President, His Excellency, Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, for vision and leadership, as he has instructed us to craft a clear policy on the adoption of Artificial Intelligence in the country.

The National AI Strategy is based on six pillars, one of which focuses on AI talent and capacity building. Additionally, it addresses digital infrastructure, AI research and innovation, the transformation of services through AI, and collaboration. In light of these six pillars, our initial step has been to establish an AI office. This initiative is part of our phased approach to implementation. In phase one, we successfully established the AI office within the Ministry of ICT. We need to

establish a National Regulatory Committee, which will operate under POTRAZ. This committee has already been set up and our next step is to navigate the security processes through the Cloud Gateway Unit (CGU). We have submitted the necessary names and are currently awaiting clearance to formally constitute the committee.

In the first phase, we also addressed the importance of digital skills and talent development. The Ministry of ICT, in collaboration with other Government agencies and the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, has been actively working on this initiative. In alignment with their efforts, various higher and tertiary institutions have established acceleration centres to foster skill development and innovation.

We have engaged with various stakeholders to explore ways to upskill, reskill, and enhance the AI development capabilities of our citizens. Collaborative efforts with multiple institutions have been initiated to ensure effective implementation of these initiatives.

As the Ministry of ICT, we are developing a programme aimed at providing digital skills to our citizens. This programme will begin with

foundational digital skills, progressing to more advanced AI skills. We are utilising the Udacity platform to facilitate this training. To date, we have successfully trained over 100,000 individuals in the fundamentals of AI skills.

So, this is a course which is available on our digital software portals, which also assist us. Also, working together with the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, we have capacitated high-performance computing. We can never speak about AI when we do not talk about Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) and our graphics processing units. We also need to speak about our data centres.

We are upgrading our data centre. We are still waiting for resources, already, we have secured a place that is available for us to implement this programme. All these initiatives are meant for us to make sure that we add to the AI infrastructure. We also look into the skills, which I think are the basis of what we need to do.

Through our various initiatives in the Ministry, we are also looking at ways to enhance our broadband connectivity across all places. That is what you saw when we presented our first quarter report to Cabinet,

which was then publicised at the post-Cabinet briefing. We also spoke about how far we have gone in terms of bridging the urban and digital divide. These are some of the initiatives. I know there are quite many, but I thought it was important that you would know this.

In conclusion, as part of phase one, we announced the launch of the AI Grand Challenge, which commenced on Monday. I will officiate and present prizes this Friday in Nyanga. This initiative aims to empower our youth to develop ICT and AI-enabled prototypes and applications. By doing so, we hope to explore innovative ways to integrate Artificial Intelligence across the country and enhance our technological landscape. We tasked participants with exploring how AI can transform our Government and nation. We selected four key sectors for this initiative: agriculture, tourism, mining and a combined category of education and health. Our goal is to encourage young people to develop ICT startups that demonstrate how we can effectively integrate AI into our country's framework.

These initiatives represent just a portion of our efforts to promote the adoption of artificial intelligence. I can certainly elaborate on more

initiatives we have undertaken, as I am sure you have heard about some of our ongoing projects. Thank you for your attention.

HON. HAMAUSWA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am, for this opportunity. My supplementary question to the Hon. Minister stems from what she said, that there is going to be a grand AI challenge. I want to know whether there will be mini-AI challenges, specifically for policymakers such as MPs, whereby we have a programme that will encourage Members of Parliament to be champions or ambassadors for applying Artificial Intelligence in their work to represent their constituencies. If there are any plans for that, maybe through some online programmes where Members of Parliament can enroll and become part of these challenges, and they can actually be leading by example. In the end, they can influence many to appreciate artificial intelligence. Thank you.

HON. DR. MAVETERA: Let me thank Hon. Hamauswa for that very pertinent question. Indeed, it is quite important for us, especially as legislators and representatives of the people, to be at the forefront and become ambassadors of AI adoption. We had several meetings over the

last two months with Parliament, where we want to work together with Parliament. I think you are aware that when we launched the AI strategy, we had to come to Parliament for one reason. This was because our Speaker, Hon. J. F. N. Mudenda, and also the whole of Parliament, including our Clerk and Parliament staff, have been very deliberate on what we need to do.

Parliament has instituted what we call the Committee of the Future, which already outlines what we need to do. Whereas Government has designated Parliament as a centre of excellence, which is supposed to lead from the front in terms of AI adoption. We are going to come up with mechanisms already. We have got a partner whom we cannot disclose for now. We are already doing a feasibility study at Parliament, so that at least if we are going to speak on any other centres or sectors of the economy which are going to be AI, Parliament has to be the first one.

We aim to digitise the *Hansard* and enhance the way our Parliamentarians can utilise AI for research and information retrieval.

This initiative is part of our broader plan to upskill, reskill, and train our Parliamentarians effectively.

One of the key platforms involved is the 1.5 million Coding Programme, an initiative we have partnered with the UAE Government. This self-taught program allows participants to log in online and begin learning AI fundamentals, coding, and more. We must publicise this resource so that Parliamentarians are aware of the self-taught portal available to them.

Additionally, we have discussed with the Hon. Speaker and Parliament staff the development of a course tailored specifically for our Parliamentarians. While we initially hoped to launch this in the first half of the year, it is now scheduled for the second half. We strongly encourage all Parliamentarians to participate, as AI represents a revolutionary advancement and we do not want anyone to be left behind.

As a nation, we must lead in adopting artificial intelligence through the policies we have implemented. I urge all Parliamentarians to engage actively when we call for participation in this training, facilitated through the Hon. Speaker.

These initiatives are vital for ensuring that Parliament becomes a center of excellence in AI adoption. Thank you for your commitment to these efforts. I am confident that we will not be left behind in this transformative journey.

HON. S. SAKUPWANYA: Supplementary!

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, proceed.

HON. S. SAKUPWANYA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation to the Hon. Minister for her insightful responses and the initiatives undertaken by her Ministry. She mentioned the Udacity digital skills training platform and noted that 100 000 young people have benefited from it.

My question concerns the measures the Ministry is implementing to ensure that those who gain access, particularly in rural areas, have equal opportunities with their counterparts in urban areas. Naturally, when these resources are offered online, access is often limited to those with the necessary facilities, which are predominantly found in towns.

What is the Ministry doing to incorporate and support individuals from rural areas, particularly those attending schools that are not yet at the same digital level as those in urban areas? I submit.

HON. DR. MAVETERA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would also like to thank Hon. Sakupwanya for that very important question. It is indeed true that as a Government, we need to bridge the urban-rural divide. To achieve this, we have developed various initiatives and I urge Members of Parliament to be proactive on these issues.

We have established digital centres across the country. I kindly request Parliament's support in this endeavour. We have a geographical map of our digital centres and we have tasked our Deputy Minister, Hon. Phuti, with overseeing this initiative. We will compile a report on the performance of our digital centres and present it here in Parliament.

The digital centres are designed to create an environment where people in rural areas can access digital services effectively. We recognise the importance of making these centres truly functional. I am

aware that Parliament previously presented a report following a tour of the various digital centres we have established.

Our goal is to ensure these centres are effective because they serve as locations where individuals, both in rural and urban areas, can access digital services for free. Each digital centre is equipped with free Wi-Fi hotspots, allowing people to visit and utilise these services. This accessibility makes it easier for them to enroll in platforms like Udacity. We are committed to providing adequate bandwidth and the necessary digital tools to support this initiative.

In addition to that, we have also initiated the Presidential Internet Scheme to establish free Wi-Fi hotspots. As of yesterday, we are pleased to report that approximately 120 free Wi-Fi hotspots have been established. While this number is still below our expectations, we are eager to expand this initiative.

We recognise that resource constraints can be a challenge but our target is to reach at least 1 000 free Wi-Fi hotspots by 2030. This expansion will ensure that young people in both rural and urban areas have access to essential digital services.

Additionally, we are utilising our digital trucks, which travel across all provinces. For instance, last month, the digital truck was in Maphisa and it is now headed to Mashonaland West. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure that we reach out to young people, providing them with access to various digital services.

It is crucial for us to continuously work towards ensuring that young people can access these services. Furthermore, we need to bridge the rural-urban divide by expanding 4G and 5G connectivity and establishing more base stations. While this is a work in progress and resources are constrained, we are committed to ensuring that everyone is connected. I submit.

HON. SAGANDIRA: Supplementary!

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

HON. SAGANDIRA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am and thank you Hon. Minister for the answers. My supplementary question is going towards the issue of the 16 official languages. What are you doing as a Ministry to make sure that the AI adoption is in line with or speaks to the 16 official languages?

HON. DR. MAVETERA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Sagandira for that important question. We are collaborating with our universities and tertiary institutions to develop what we call national language processing. This system aims to embed artificial intelligence (AI) within our cultural context, enabling it to communicate in our native languages such as Shona, Ndebele, Tonga and others. This is our ultimate goal.

However, this initiative begins with the establishment of proper data sets that will ensure our AI can effectively communicate in our languages. To achieve this, we are collaborating with various institutions, particularly our universities, to incorporate our languages into the development of artificial intelligence. This way, our data sets will reflect this linguistic diversity. It is a work in progress and we are working closely with the Ministry of Higher Education to implement these efforts.

+HON. MURECHU: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am for giving me this opportunity. I would like to direct my question to the Hon. Minister of Local Government. I want to start by thanking the Hon.

Minister for the good job that he is doing. I read the publication in the morning, a letter that was talking about land barons and how the Hon. Minister is going to deal with that.

My question is, what Government policy is in place to ensure that prepaid meters are installed in our urban areas by our municipal authorities? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): May I thank Hon. Murechu for a very important question on the installation of prepaid water meters. It is a very good question which I believe if he puts it in writing, the Hon. Minister can respond accordingly. Thank you.

+THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA): Thank you Hon. Minister. Hon. Murechu, the Acting Leader of Government Business has indicated that your question is quite important. He requests that you please submit it in writing so that the responsible Hon. Minister can provide you with a satisfactory answer.

+HON. MURECHU: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I would like to inquire whether there is a policy in place regarding the installation of water meters and if so, what that policy entails.

+THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: The Hon. Member is inquiring whether there is a specific policy regarding the installation of water meters. Would you be kind enough to provide a response to that?

HON. T. MOYO: Mr. Speaker Sir, in my response, I indicated that for the Hon. Member to get a comprehensive response, he should put it in writing. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: All right, I understand. Hon. Murechu, it would be prudent for you to submit your question in writing. This way, the responsible Hon. Minister can provide us with a comprehensive response to your important inquiry. Thank you.

HON. MASVISVI: My question is directed to the Ministry of Health and Child Care. What is the current plan to reduce out-of-pocket costs for vulnerable populations who cannot afford basic medical care?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. KWIDINI): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to thank

the Hon. Member for asking a pertinent question which we are currently working on as the ministry. As you are aware, most of our population does not fall under medical aid schemes, so as the ministry we are currently working on what we call National Health Insurance, which is going to cater for each and every citizen in Zimbabwe in terms of affording health medical care, even those who are in medical aid schemes will also fall under that National Health Insurance.

This health insurance is not going to be individuals' contributions contributing towards the scheme but there are already existing taxes which are going to contribute to this National Health Insurance, which will actually subsidise the medical health care systems to all citizens of Zimbabwe. I thank you.

HON. MASVISVI: Let me thank the Hon. Minister for his response. What specific steps is the ministry taking to ensure essential medicines and medical supplies are constantly available in public hospitals and clinics?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I am not sure if it is a policy question. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – No, do not

Speak for me. Hon. Deputy Minister, can you indulge Hon. Masvisvi? It is purely administrative.

HON. KWIDINI: Okay, thank you. Yes, Hon. Masvisvi's question is an administrative one. How do we prioritise, how do we make sure medicines in our hospitals are available? This usually comes with the budget we have and the disbursement of funds we have to procure what is actually required by the hospitals, especially medicines and other supplies to use. I thank you.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question pertains to the issue of the Government struggling with the issue of supporting the health sector. My question is, why did we reject the USD365 million from the USA that was intended to buy medical supplies so that we reduce what we call 'out of pocket'? I thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: When you were talking, you were too close to the mic, so I did not get some parts of your question. You can come again.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I believe you can hear me clearly now. We have heard of the grievances that have

been alluded by the Minister that there is an outcry by our citizens about out-of-pocket expenses. This shows that the Government does not have enough funds to support the health department.

My supplementary question is, the Government of Zimbabwe rejected USD365 million from the American Government, I am saying, why did we reject those funds when we are still struggling on issues to do with health. I thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Firstly, what you have said is not true, for you to say that the Government is failing - the Government never failed. The Government is trying its best – [HON. MAKUMIRE: *Point of privilege Mr. Speaker.*] - No, sit down. [HON. MAKUMIRE: *I have a point of privilege Mr. Speaker.*] - I am still addressing Hon. Madzivanyika's submission, let me finish addressing the issue of Hon. Madzivanyika. [HON. MAKUMIRE: *You cannot perform two functions; you cannot be the Minister and also be the Hon. Speaker at the same time. Allow the Hon. Minister to respond.*] - You cannot tell me what to do. Take your seat. [HON. MAKUMIRE: *You*

cannot respond on behalf of the Minister.] - Take your seat. [HON.

MEMBERS: No, no, no, that is the correct procedure, allow him to submit.] - Take your seat. Take your seat. Allow him to respond.

I was saying to the Hon. Madzivanyika, we must not say wrong things because we are seeing cameras around us. We do not allow that.
[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

HON. MAKUMIRE: Supplementary Hon. Speaker?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Okay, go ahead. I thought the supplementary was gone.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. Revenue from ZIMRA shows that Government is collecting a substantial amount. Our worry is where those funds are going if we are not able to assist elderly people with medication for chronic diseases like blood pressure, diabetes and other related ailments that affect the elderly. This question is being asked all-over the country. The elderly want to know what is the Government doing about their fate.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** What is your specific question to the Hon. Minister? You said this is a supplementary question?

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** Why is medication for the elderly not available in hospitals? Why is it not sold at affordable prices? I thank you.

***HON. KWIDINI:** I would like to thank Hon. Members for the questions that seem to be causing chaos in the Parliament.

Firstly, for the issue that has been raised by Hon. Madzivanyika - *Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo*. Just as you have corrected Hon. Speaker the Government is not lacking funds; that it rejected funds, that is not correct, but we are formulating ways that enable us to be independent.

I will address the issue that has been raised by Hon. Makumire. Medication for chronic illnesses is available in hospitals, even in rural hospitals; even in Gumbonzvanda there where I have never visited, they call us saying their elderly people are getting medication for free. I thank you.

***HON. MAKUVIRE:** Hon. Speaker, the meetings that we hold with the elderly people show that there is no medication which is being availed to them. Again, the question that came from Hon. Members from your right says there is no medication. Now we do not know where we

stand as a country. We are seeking your intervention in that regard Hon. Speaker. I thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: The Hon. Deputy Minister spoke specifically for what he has seen and what he has experienced. So, if you have experienced otherwise, it is okay for you to also put it in writing and specify exactly where that kind of situation occurs, so that then the deputy minister and his team can go and do investigations upon that. There is absolutely nothing wrong with what the deputy minister said.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question to the Hon. Minister

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, order. Let us keep our voices down please, Hon. Members. Keep your voices down so that the ministers can hear properly and respond accordingly.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wanted to do a follow-up to the response by the Hon. Minister, where he said *Nyika inovakwa nevene vayo*. I wanted to ask the Hon. Minister; given his earlier statement that sometimes the displacement of money from the

Treasury is low and given the fact that the Government refused the USD 367 million that was coming from the USA, which money was made to deal with HIV and related illnesses, I want to find out from the Hon. Minister, given the erratic pattern from the Treasury in terms of displacement of monies which, as we talk, under the Ministry of Health is less than 50% as of now. What other measures is the Government taking to ensure that we will not have a problem in terms of treating those patients with HIV and related illnesses? Where is the money going to come from, given the challenges that we face with Treasury in terms of disbursing the money to the Ministry?

HON. KWIDINI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank Hon. Mushoriwa for the supplementary question. Yes, what Hon. Mushoriwa is asking is true but what transpired first is that as you are aware, before the American declaration on cutting some funding to Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe had to cover that gap to make sure that we have enough and adequate supply of all the funded programmes. As of now, it is something that was done abruptly.

Our Treasury is trying to make sure that it can cover the gap slowly but until we get there, in the sense that we refused the USD365 million, it was not refused *per se* but some discussions were supposed to be held to meet the agreements so that each party would be on the same page, especially on that particular financing model.

Definitely, as the Treasury at that particular time was trying to make sure to disburse the money, the Ministry was already ahead of prioritising what is needed to make sure that we are not going to have shortfalls in terms of these medicines, as the initial question was asked. I thank you.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: On a point of order Mr. Speaker.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: What is your point of order in terms of which rule?

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: In terms of Order 65, Mr. Speaker. My point of order relates to the response by the Hon. Minister. The Hon. Minister said that they did not reject the money. They are saying there are modalities in place to ensure that the MOU is agreed to but as of now Mr. Speaker, the United States Government has actually indicated that it

is winding up any further supplies of health support to the Government of Zimbabwe as a result of this failure of the MOU which failed.

The Hon. Minister must clarify to this House that we know the correct position because some of us read from the positions of the U.S. Government, also from the positions of Zimbabwe. There is no alignment, yet our people are suffering. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

HON. T. MOYO: Mr. Speaker, I realise that some Members in this House are quite keen to know why we declined the funding from the U. S. With your indulgence, can I ask the Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services to explain?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you, yes. The Minister of Information, please go ahead.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, PUBLICITY AND BROADCASTING SERVICES (HON. DR. SODA): Thank you Mr. Speaker. You may recall Mr. Speaker that we held a press conference regarding the discussion around the USD367 million which was extended by the United States of America Government and we had to abandon the discussions. Mr. Speaker, there were some conditions

which we did not like attached to the offer. One of the conditions was that we were supposed to provide samples, biological samples for research that was supposed to be undertaken in America as a condition for the money that was supposed to be given to us. We were also supposed to provide biological data of some people here in Zimbabwe that they needed, again as a condition for the money that was supposed to be given to Zimbabwe.

However, they were going to produce some vaccines for different diseases and ailments and the vaccines were not going to be shared with the Government of Zimbabwe. This is what they indicated to us and as the Government, we felt we could not put the lives of our people at risk because we did not know the intention as much as we required the money, but we could not do that at the expense of the citizens of Zimbabwe- [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]-

So, all we did was to protect our citizens by not taking money, by putting lives first. If we are to resume the discussions, these conditions must be removed first. Thank you Mr. Speaker – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Order. Please take your seats. Firstly, I am not opening this up for debate and secondly, you stood on a point of order and you sought that clarification, which the Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services has ably done. Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, please convey our sincere thanks to the President and the Cabinet for protecting and putting the people of Zimbabwe first, instead of money first - [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]-

HON. MUSHORIWA: On a point of order.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Mushoriwa, I have ruled. Please take your seat.

HON. KADEMAUNGA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Good afternoon.

HON. KADEMAUNGA: My question is directed to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Despite reported macroeconomic gains, including exchange rate stability and moderating inflation, the cost of basic commodities remains beyond the reach of many Zimbabweans,

with the family basket continuing to rise. It was revised up to USD616, or ZiG20 450 in March. Could the Hon. Minister outline what policy measures the Government is taking to ensure that these macroeconomic gains translate into lower prices for basic commodities, improved purchasing power and a meaningful reduction in the cost of living for ordinary citizens? Despite these indicators of significant macroeconomic gains, it has not translated to the shopping basket. What policy measures is the Ministry taking to make sure that it cascades to the shopping basket? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): Hon. Speaker, the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion is in the House. With your indulgence, he can articulate and give a response. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you Acting Leader of Government Business. By all means, Hon. Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, would you mind demystifying this issue?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION (HON. PROF. NCUBE): I thank the Hon. Member for that very pertinent question. Let us go through the numbers. If you look at month-on-month inflation in ZiG or in USD, it is about 0.1% change from month-to-month. If you analyse that or take the year-on-year inflation, the ZiG year-on-year inflation is 3.2% and the USD year-on-year inflation is 3.1%. Let me go back to the month-on-month. So, if the cost of the basket was rising month-to-month, that figure should be a lot higher than the 0.1%. I am not sure whether the assertion that the Member of Parliament is putting across is supported by the numbers. The numbers tell a different story. I would like to understand better but of course, we understand that inflation varies from city to city and it varies from region to region, even on a month-by-month basis. We are aware that; maybe that is what is being amplified but on an average annual basis, the assertion is not supported by the numbers on inflation. Thank you.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for that response. While the Hon. Minister has cited monthly inflation

figures, households are experiencing daily price shocks. Bread, transport and medicine costs are rising faster than the official numbers that he has told us here. What mechanism exists to verify the accuracy of these inflation statistics and how is the Minister ensuring that vulnerable households are not left unprotected by the data that masks their suffering? I so submit.

HON. PROF. NCUBE: Let us turn to the biggest source of potential price shocks in the economy. It is the fuel sector. As we know, fuel prices are being driven by global oil prices. When you look at the Brent price, it is volatile, going up and down mainly due to issues in the Middle East regarding the war in Iran. Before that, we would also have the effect of the Ukraine tensions as well. So, that has been the largest source of potential shocks in the economy, which would then affect the cost of living. What the Government has done, since the Hon. Member is asking for measures that we are taking, the one measure we have been taking regarding that specific shock is to continue to adjust the various levies and taxes on fuel in a manner that would then cap the potential increase in the prices.

Let us take, for instance, the latest price increase due to the increase in the FOB price and the Brent price of oil. We had to apply about seven cents from the levies and taxes to cushion citizens so that the price of diesel and the price of petrol do not go above USD2. We are quite sensitive that it really should not go above USD2 so as to signal that prices are about to run away. So, we have been using taxes to deal with shocks coming from the fuel sector.

When it comes to other prices across the economy, we do not really subsidise anything where subsidies are long gone because subsidies ought to be targeted. You ought to know who is being affected. They ought to be targeted and they ought to be budgeted for. That is our new principle of dealing with subsidies but on fuel, we are very clear, we are subsidising everybody. We have different subsidies for petrol and diesel at any point in time. We always try to make sure, as well, that for diesel the price is slightly lower because that is what drives commerce. We want to make sure that our businesses continue to produce and employ people and then keep the economy going. I thank you.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Hon. Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion for articulating that there has been a subsidy on fuel to try to cushion Zimbabwe. Hon. Minister, could you advise this House that when it comes to fuel, we have been imposing strategic reserve taxes all these years? Why should we be in shock when we have millions of dollars that we have paid for a strategic reserve? Where are our strategic reserves that were supposed to cushion us at a time like this? What happened to that money?

HON. PROF. NCUBE: There are two ways in which a strategic reserve is managed. You either manage it in the form of cash or you manage it in the form of physical goods or commodities stored somewhere. When you store it somewhere, you also incur storage costs. There is a cost associated with that. So, we decided to use the former approach, which is that the reserve is in the form of cash, whose equivalent in the form of taxes, we adjust whenever it is needed for that to happen, in order to cushion the increase in citizens. In a way, what we are doing is we are using the taxes that are collected from these levels to cushion citizens and the effect is the same.

This is why we have not seen any fuel queues when you look at the impact so far on Zimbabwe. Yes, we have had price increases. If you look around the region without naming countries, you have seen fuel queues and you have seen challenges. We are not having those challenges because we have managed things well. I think the Hon. Member should be pleased and congratulate us for managing things well so far without having to increase the amount that is in storage. I thank you for the question.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Mushoriwa, thank you for congratulating the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion and the Government. Did you have a point of clarity?

HON. MUSHORIWA: The Minister did not even answer my question. The question is, we have been displaying a strategic reserve in tax over the years and if the Minister is saying that we are keeping the money in cash, where is the money?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order Hon. Mushoriwa, the Minister was very clear that money is the money that enabled them to give out subsidies. Right. It was explained clearly.

***HON. KARENYI:** I would like to thank the Minister for his response. How I understood the question from Hon. Kandemaunga is that, the rising prices of commodities, what is there so that those people are cushioned? On the issue of fuel, what is the Ministry doing to protect those who are low earners. The commuter-omnibuses or buses that get to town fares have risen from fifty cents, one dollar or two dollars. Mr. Speaker Sir, since subsidising has been done, what has been done for those low-income people? Fuel has been lowered, so I urge the Government to lower fares to enable people to get into town so that low-income earners can benefit. I think Government should initiate this.

HON. PROF. M. NCUBE: Mr. Speaker Sir, we have a market responsible for that. We have got private players who are active in that market providing transport and really, as Government, what we can do, which is what we are doing, is to signal the direction of prices but then, we cannot go down there and impose price controls. I think that if we are

to go the route that the Hon. Member is proposing, it will mean we have to start instituting price controls and that is not palatable to say at that level you cannot charge above so much and so forth. We signal prices generally through the pump price that ZERA publishes. I am sure you see it in various garages but the impact in terms of fares is an issue for the industry, competition and an issue for private players. We cannot dictate that price. We cannot institute price controls. I thank you.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Some time ago we spoke about reserved sectors, looking at Chinese doing mining businesses, bringing their vehicles, doing everything on their own. The Minister said that is something that they are working on. Whilst we are waiting for the Ministry to work on it, we have noticed an increase in Chinese restaurants and Chinese supermarkets in the locations. Hon. Speaker Sir, it means that these Chinese do not want to give a chance to Zimbabweans to make money.

Mr. Speaker Sir, even if you visit their leisure areas, where they spend most of their time, the food that they eat there is from China.

What does the Government policy say about foreign nationals who would come to invest in our country because they bring everything? They bring in people who sell clothes and food from their country. What about our own businesses as Zimbabwe nationals? Who is going to support us as Zimbabweans in business? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO):** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to express gratitude to Hon. Tshuma for raising that important question. Foreigners are indeed doing business in our country. Zimbabwe is open for business but the situation is now getting out of hand. I think there is a need for Government to investigate that. It is not good that they bring everything; vehicles, food. By doing so, they are taking everything away from us, including jobs. It is an issue that needs to be fully investigated. I request Hon. Tshuma to put the question in writing and also ask what plans or steps the Minister of Industry and Commerce is going to take. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is an issue that needs attention that they are bringing in food, meat, rice, *et cetera*. I ask Hon.

Tshuma to put it in writing so that the relevant Ministry can look into this issue.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Tshuma, you are being requested to put your question in writing so that the Minister will clarify. When structuring your question, include that they are also starting up casino businesses.

HON. S. TSHUMA: Through you Hon. Speaker, we request the Minister to bring a Ministerial Statement because there are a lot of things happening in our country.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** You should put the question in writing first and if we do not get detailed information, then we ask the Hon. Minister to bring a Ministerial Statement.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training. I think we have sabotaged the future of tomorrow's leaders because of the state of the youth. Most of them spend their time in the streets taking drugs. Some of them graduated from universities but most of them are selling airtime. What measures is the Government

putting in place to empower the youth from the resources of this country? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO):** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the question that he has raised. There are many things that are being done by the Government to empower the youth. As of now, we have opened vocational training centres where young boys and girls are being enrolled and acquiring skills to run their own businesses, including manufacturing vehicles.

Also, the Government is disbursing funds to youth so that they are self-employed. Some were given lorries, mines, accessing loans and also assisting them in getting jobs. Our youth are the ones we are looking forward to so that we have a better future. Some are even given cattle and farms so that they will have a better future. We are grateful to the President for uplifting and empowering the youth and women.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** My supplementary question, Hon. Speaker is, the President is giving vehicles, lorries and farms to the youth but we are seeing that these things are being done at political party

level. What is being done for everyone regardless of their political affiliation? Are they benefiting from these programmes?

HON. T. MOYO: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Makumire for the question. What we are saying is the things that are being done by the Government of ZANU PF. They are the ones who are ruling, so the youth must go where they can be employed. If they are where they are, where they cannot get employed, they must leave and go where they can be employed - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, order, order.

Questions Without Notice were interrupted by **THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER** *in terms of Standing Order No. 68.*

HON. KARENYI: On a point of order Mr. Speaker. My point of order is that, if you check with previous sittings, most of the ministers are not attending. Today, they are here and I therefore move for the extension of Questions Without Notice with 15 minutes.

HON. KAMBUZUMA: I object - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

Motion put and negatived.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order - [HON.

MUROMBEDZI: *Inaudible interjections.*]- Hon. Murombedzi, order.

That is very dangerous. You are hanging on a very thin thread. It is

dangerous.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

BROADCASTING OF THE WEATHER FORECAST FOR HWANGE

3. **HON. BONDA** asked the Minister of Information and Publicity to inform the House why the weather forecast for Hwange is not being broadcast, given that it is a resort with municipal status and significant business activities.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, PUBLICITY AND BROADCASTING SERVICES (HON. DR. SODA): Mr. Speaker, I responded to this question sometime and indicated that we do not just show it on our television but the weather forecast is being obtained. We feel it is part of the weather forecast that is being broadcast for Hwange because it covers the whole area. For specific weather reports, that can

be obtained from the Ministry of Environment. With regard to Victoria Falls, it is covered under Hwange.

HON. BONDA: I have a supplementary question. I did not get the response well because Gwayi has its own weather forecast, which is about 70 km from Hwange town. Victoria Falls is 100 km away from Hwange. Definitely, the pattern of the weather changes. I am requesting through you, Mr. Speaker, to indulge me that the Ministry of Information should provide that weather forecast for Hwange town, which is central because there is now much activity. It is now a hub of activity. I do not think there is anything difficult to provide that weather forecast, really. Thank you.

HON. DR. SODA: I indicated that the weather forecast for Victoria Falls is obtained and is recorded through the Ministry of Environment. What is not just coming out is our broadcasting on television, where Victoria Falls is covered under Hwange. We are not able to show all the places around this country during the news hour with regard to the weather forecast.

If it is a request, we will see how that can be accommodated in the summary that we are providing. If the Hon. Member wanted the specific weather forecast for Victoria Falls, that is available and that can be obtained through the Ministry of Environment.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I think what the Hon. Member was asking specifically for Hwange Town, as much as Gwayi is flighted and then Victoria Falls is flighted separately. Maybe it is up to the Ministry of Environment to provide you with that so that you can then share it. According to his sentiments, Hwange is a big town, so they would also love to probably see their forecast flighted.

HON. DR. SODA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. The request has been noted.

POLICY REGARDING THE PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF CIVIL SERVANTS

4. **HON. MATARA** asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to explain to the House the Government policy regarding the protection and safety of civil servants, particularly

teachers, who face conflicts with community members in their areas of jurisdiction.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. DINHA): There are internal reporting mechanisms in place if civil servants conflict with the community. Members make use of established reporting structures at their station, district, provinces and head office. For teachers, issues are handled by school heads, district schools inspectors, and provincial education directors.

All the above-mentioned offices are responsible for protecting members within their jurisdictions and are well-equipped to handle and report issues affecting them. In addition, the Public Service Commission has offices at each District and provincial level, where all civil servants' matters are handled.

Above all, the Zimbabwe Republic Police plays an important role in protecting and handling matters involving all citizens. I so submit.

***HON. MATARA:** Thank you Hon. Minister for the response. The problems which you have mentioned must be attended to. We do

know these things happen but the procedure is that the teacher must report to the head and the head will take it up. If the teachers and the heads do not report this, then there is no way that they can get help. If these cases are reported on time, then appropriate action will be taken and the teachers will get the required protection before any harm is done. If these issues are not resolved on time, it is not good because they will only be addressed when there is harm. I so submit.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if can you allow me to give each Hon. Minister five questions on the *Order Paper* so that we try to cover all of them instead of following the *Order Paper*. Will you allow me to do that? – [HON. MEMBERS: *Yes.*] - I thank you Acting Government Chief Whip. Can you please give five questions to every Hon. Minister who is here so that we try and cover them all? Can the Hon. Deputy Minister now respond to the supplementary question?

***HON. DINHA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. Like what I have already alluded to, that if there is a dispute between the Government employees, especially the teachers and the community, they can report their grievances following the proper procedures. The teacher can report

to the headmaster and the headmaster will report to the district schools inspectors and the province.

If the teacher does not report, it is impossible for the head or authorities to know what is going on. Although I know sometimes it happens, the problem is that when the case reaches extreme levels, that is only when the teacher reports. If there are some disputes currently going on, the teachers must report to the headmaster before the issue escalates further.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if you do not mind, can we agree as well that we allow one supplementary question per Hon. Member so that we cover a lot of questions? – [HON.

MEMBERS: *We agree.*] –

EMPLOYMENT OF TRAINED NAMBYA SPEAKING TEACHERS

5. **HON. BONDA** asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to inform the House why trained Nambya speaking teachers are not being employed in Hwange District while non-Nambya speaking teachers are deployed to schools in Nambya-speaking

communities, thereby depriving the children of getting instructions in their mother language at the early learning stage.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. DINHA): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Hon. Member for the question. The Public Service Commission is responsible for the deployment of teachers in Zimbabwe, guided by available funded vacancies, staffing levels and the need to ensure the equitable distribution of qualified personnel across all districts.

Currently, only attrition posts are being filled, hence the limited number of teachers being recruited. Recruitment is done locally in Hwange District; since 2023, a total of 84 Nambya speaking teachers were recruited. Of that total, 30 were ECD (Early Childhood Development) teachers, 45 primary school teachers and nine secondary school teachers. However, the Public Service Commission remains committed to prioritising the recruitment, training and deployment of teachers with appropriate local language competencies, including Nambya, in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning. This

is stipulated in the Public Service Commission guidelines for the recruitment of teachers dated 4 March 2024.

HON. BONDA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I just wanted to correct the Hon. Minister, this beautiful language is called Nambya. If the Hon. Minister can say that after me, so that next time she will pronounce it correctly. – [*Laughter*]-

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order Hon. Bonda, pronunciation differs according to someone's tone.

HON. BONDA: Is it okay if I say that you are Matebele and not Ndebele because that is how I want to pronounce your language? You are Matebele and not Ndebele. Is it okay that, that is my pronunciation?

If you are happy with that, let me proceed with my supplementary question to the Hon. Minister. I want to find out if the Ministry has a policy that the students who are trained in Hwange, since Nambya is a minority language are actually deployed or only deployed because their first language or their first priority when they enroll at the college is Nambya. We find that most of them end up being in Tsholotsho or in any other area of non-speaking Nambya language that they would have

preferred. Their first preference is for them to enroll as Nambya teachers because they want to teach in Hwange.

HON. DINHA: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the supplementary question. As I have said, this question concerns Hwange District and recruitment is done in Hwange District. That means those who are trained in Hwange or who are speakers of the local language, that is Nambya, are given priority. As I said, since 2023, there were about 84 Nambya teachers who were recruited to date, which is quite a large number. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO OFFICERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE FOOD DEFICIT MITIGATION PROGRAMME

7. HON. BONDA asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to update the House on when the officers involved in the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme between 2023 and 2025 will be paid their allowances, considering the programme ended on 30 April 2025.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR
AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. DINHA):** Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I would also like to thank Hon. Bonda for the question.

My Ministry acknowledges support from Treasury to clear the areas of the previous food distribution cycles. This year, Treasury released funds to support the food deficit mitigation programme. The funds are used to clear the arrears owed to both transporters and the officials who worked tirelessly during this period.

The districts have started receiving funds and I hope that by the end of this quarter, all districts will have cleared the debt. Processes to disburse to individual accounts are currently underway and all verified arrears owed to officers under the programme will be settled accordingly.

The Ministry remains committed to honouring its obligations to staff and appreciates the patience and dedication demonstrated by officers during the programme's implementation. Thank you Mr. Speaker. I so submit.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I do not see any supplementary questions, so we move on. Hon. Members, with your indulgence, the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, who is our Acting Leader of Government Business today, has asked us to allow him to respond to his questions quickly. May we stand over all questions up to Question 85 and then go to Question 86.

HON. BAJILA: Point of order Mr. Speaker! My question to the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare is Number 8. I think if they have it written, they can submit.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: She does not have the response so we are going to defer it to next week. Thank you. So, Question Number 86.

JUSTIFICATION BEHIND THE EXCLUSION OF SUBSIDISED
EXAMINATION FEES FOR LEARNERS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

86. **HON. MAZHINDU** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to inform the House of the justification behind the exclusion of subsidised examination fees for learners in private schools,

as some learners attend private schools due to limited capacity in public schools.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Thank you Hon. Mazhindu for your pertinent question. It is the Ministry's policy that all learners in the school system should be considered in all decision-making under the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. However, the Ministry's policy to exclude private school learners from subsidised ZIMSEC examination fees is primarily based on strategic priorities and limited fiscal resources.

The Ministry acknowledges that infrastructure capacity deficits force some learners to attend private colleges. Public education funding models require strict differentiation between commercial, profit-driven entities and state-assisted institutions. For these reasons, our priority is, therefore, the less privileged so that no one or no place is left behind. I may also want to add, Mr Speaker Sir, that it is standard practice for those from lower classes to send their children to public schools.

Even in Western countries, private schools are for the rich, which is why the Government has decided to give a 55% exemption for ZIMSEC examinations and that is why private candidates are not given this subsidy. They are not beneficiaries of the 55% subsidy that is given to those attending public schools. I submit Mr. Speaker Sir.

***HON. ZVAIPA:** Supplementary! Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I thank the Hon. Minister for that response but we have many places without Government schools. For example, in St. Mary's there is no Government secondary school. The whole constituency of St. Mary's in Chitungwiza, does not have a secondary school. So, in those places, I do not know what the Hon. Minister is saying. What can be done in areas with many private schools?

Whether you are rich or poor, you end up sending your child to private schools. So, if you are saying the private schools belong to the rich, I do not know what can be done concerning St. Mary's. The Hon. Minister is aware that we do not have a Government secondary school in St. Mary's but only private schools.

***HON. T. MOYO:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also thank Hon. Zvaipa for that pertinent supplementary question. Currently, the Government policy, Mr. Speaker Sir, states that children who are learning at Government schools- if we are saying Government schools, we mean mission schools, church schools, council schools and all other Government schools that is the law which is there.

I requested the Chief Whip that from all 210 constituencies, every Member of Parliament write down three schools. Some Hon. Members have submitted their lists and others have not. If Hon. Zvaipa has a place in St. Mary's without a secondary school, may he submit the name before the end of this week so that we can construct a Government secondary school in that area? Thank you.

POLICY REGARDING GOVERNMENT AND COUNCIL SCHOOLS IN ENGAGING DEBT COLLECTORS

87. HON. MADZIVANYIKA asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to inform the House of the Government policy for Government and Council schools to engage debt collectors to recover

outstanding school fees and other levies, and the system of threatening parents with attachment of property.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Thank you Hon. Madzivanyika for seeking clarification on a very important matter affecting the relationship between schools and parents.

The Ministry's policy is unequivocal. School authorities should not send learners back home for non-payment of school fees and levies.

Every child's right to education must be protected, regardless of their parents' or guardians' financial circumstances. However, it must be acknowledged that the responsibility for paying school fees and levies rests with parents and guardians. Schools require resources to function effectively and deliver quality education to all learners.

The Ministry, therefore, encourages school heads and authorities to adopt constructive and non-confrontational approaches to fee collection, including:-

1. Non-negotiating flexible payment plans with parents based on their individual circumstances.

2. Maintaining regular, open and transparent communication with parents regarding fees and payment expectations.

3. Guiding parents towards available safety nets, such as BEAM programme, for which they may be eligible.

These alternative methods are consistently more effective and preserve cordial relationships between the parent body and school authorities. Nevertheless, it is recognised that there may be circumstances in which, despite all reasonable efforts and remedies having been exhausted, significant arrears remain outstanding.

In such limited instances, schools may, as a last resort, engage debt collectors or formal recovery mechanisms to recover monies lawfully owed to the institution. Critically, such engagement must occur without sending learners home. The attachment of property would only be considered in accordance with the due processes of law and as an absolute final measure.

The Ministry's position balances the imperative of protecting learners' access to education with the legitimate financial needs of

schools, always prioritising dialogue and mutual understanding. I submit
Mr. Speaker Sir.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question is, the Hon. Minister said, we do not encourage property attachment in schools when parents fail to pay school fees but some schools are going to parents' houses attaching property. There is a child whose school fees is being paid by BEAM but the school fees for that child must be paid by the Government. The school authorities are not sending people to attach Government property. The schools are only focused on the parents but forgetting that the Government is failing to pay school fees for those who are under BEAM.

***HON. T. MOYO:** I thank the Hon. Member for that supplementary question but he had already answered himself. As I have already alluded to, we do not encourage conflicts between parents and school heads. However, there are some situations where a parent can afford to pay school fees. There is a law that prevents school heads from sending children away for not paying school fees. The law says children must not be chased away for not paying fees but the law does not say the

parents must not pay the school fees. Payment plans are allowed, and the parent must ensure they pay the school fees as per the payment plan.

There are some situations where a child can attend school from grade one up to grade seven without paying anything and the schools end up without an option but to send those who attach property. What is not allowed is to send someone who attaches property to the houses of children whose fees must be paid by BEAM because it is the Government's responsibility to pay for the children who are under BEAM. I am happy to say that the Government is now paying the school fees under BEAM. The Government has paid for more than 500 million students who are under BEAM. Those who attach property are not allowed to go to the Government; they only go to parents' houses who fail to pay their school fees. Thank you.

IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN BINGA DISTRICT

88. **HON. CUMANZALA** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to explain to the House the following:

a. What steps are being taken to improve access to education in remote areas of Binga District?

b. What measures are in place to ensure the adequate deployment and retention of qualified teachers in rural schools within the Binga District?

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir, for the opportunity that you have granted me. I want to thank Hon. Cumanzala for his question. For your interest in the educational welfare of learners in Binga District, I am pleased to provide a comprehensive response to both parts of the question (a) on steps being taken to improve access to education in the remote areas of Binga District. Binga District currently serves a total learner population of 58 032, comprising 46 209 primary learners and 11 803 secondary learners. In primary education, the infrastructure to support these learners comprises 60 registered primary schools and 68 satellite schools. In secondary education, there are 21 registered secondary schools and 29 satellite schools.

The Ministry, in partnership with the local community, has pursued a deliberate policy of establishing satellite schools in virtually all communities within the district. This strategy is specifically designed to reduce the distances learners must travel to access education from Early Childhood Development (ECD), through to upper secondary level. I am pleased to report that 40 of these satellite schools have now met the minimum functionality standards in terms of infrastructure requirements for full registration, including standard classrooms, water, sanitation and hygiene wash facilities, standard staff houses and potable water sources. Additionally, communities in Binga have established village-based ECD centres, ensuring that even the youngest learners can access education at an appropriate age without travelling long distances.

Regarding support for vulnerable learners, the Ministry has ensured that orphans and other vulnerable children receive necessary assistance through various safety nets, specifically, 372 girls are currently receiving comprehensive support from CAMFED, including fees, payment and provision of sanitary wear and educational materials.

The BEAM programme is supporting 7 000 learners across both primary and secondary levels in the district.

Part B of this question; measures to ensure adequate deployment and retention of qualified teachers. The Ministry acknowledges that teacher deployment and retention in rural areas, including Binga District, present ongoing challenges. Recruitment and deployment of qualified personnel is continuous though the Ministry observes that many officers request transfers to their home district to join their families.

In response to this challenge, the Ministry has adopted several measures on community participation. Communities in Binga are making commendable contributions by constructing decent staff housing and providing potable water sources, which are critical factors in teacher retention. The Ministry acknowledges that while significant progress has been made, further efforts are required in many schools.

On local recruitment strategies, the Ministry has recommended and is implementing a policy of recruiting and deploying more teachers who originate from the local area as this has proven to be an effective

retention mechanism. Teachers serving in their home communities demonstrate greater stability and long-term attainment.

On continuous infrastructure development, the Ministry continues to prioritise infrastructure development in Binga District, recognising that improved living and working conditions contribute significantly to teacher retention. The Ministry remains committed to ensuring that every learner in Binga District, regardless of how remote their community is, has access to quality education delivered by qualified teachers. We thank the Hon. Member for his continued interest in this important district and assure him of our dedication to addressing these challenges. I submit.

HON. CUMANZALA: I would like to appreciate the response from the Minister, which is quite comprehensive. From the Minister's response, he mentions about 68 satellite schools, which I think is a big problem for the district. I visited some of these satellite schools and some of them qualify to graduate from being satellite schools. I was wondering whether something can be done to speed up the process of approving the graduation of these satellite schools into fully fledged

secondary schools or primary schools. The infrastructure the Minister has described is in those schools but for some time now, I can give several examples, but maybe there is no time for that. If the Minister commits, I can send a list of those schools that qualify that are still regarded as satellite schools. Thank you, Hon. Chair.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Cumanzala. I hope you have also submitted the names of three schools that the Minister was talking about, so that you have schools that are built as well in your constituency. Hon. Minister, do you want to respond?

HON. T. MOYO: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank Hon. Cumanzala for the question. If we get a list of schools that need to be registered, there is a procedure that has to be followed. The list is sent to the district office. They compile a file at every school. It should be sent to the district office, the PED and finally to the head office. We have a whole department that deals with the registration of schools. If he has some satellite schools that are not properly built, he can add them to the list of three schools. We may also give priority to rural constituencies. They may add maybe three new sites where new schools

are built and maybe one or two satellite schools where we can help them to build those satellite schools so that they can meet functionality standards and get registered. I thank you.

LEGALITY OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ENGAGING DEBT COLLECTORS

90. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to inform the House of the Government's position regarding the legality and morality of government schools engaging debt collectors and attaching property from parents who fail to pay school fees on time.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: It appears the same as the one that was answered by the Hon. Minister.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Sorry?

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: It is the same question that was answered by the Hon. Minister on question number 87. It was like duplication.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Ah, okay. Hon. Minister, that question has been dealt with.

COMPLETION OF THE CLASSROOM BLOCK AT PUMULA SOUTH SECONDARY

91. **HON. MAHLANGU** asked the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to inform the House what policy measures are in place to address the incomplete classroom block at Pumula South Secondary School.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Mahlangu for asking a very important question. Indeed, there is construction of classrooms underway at Pumula South Secondary School. One is being funded through the School Development Committee (SDC), which is at window level. Another is under the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP). The classroom block funded under the PSIP has had challenges in terms of contractor workmanship.

The contractor initially assigned to work on the job performed poor workmanship, which failed the test of civil engineers from the Department of Public Works. The contractor was directed by engineers

to correct identified structural errors, but he refused and challenged the decision, resulting in the matter being sent to court for further decision. Please be informed that the court decided that the contract between the ministry and the contractor should be terminated, with the ministry being given leeway to seek or to hire a new contractor to resume further construction. School infrastructure constructed under the Public Sector Investment Programme is funded by the Government through the Treasury. For the current year, funds are yet to be released, so that construction of the classroom block resumes at Pumula South Secondary School. The Ministry is in the process of engaging a new contractor upon termination of the contract with the previous contractor, as determined by a court ruling. At the same time, once funds are released for the current year, please be assured that the Government will resume construction of the classroom block at the school. I submit.

**PROGRESS REGARDING KWEKWE RESIDENTS WHO HAVE
BEEN ON THE WAITING LIST SINCE 1995**

29. HON. MADZIVANYIKA asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to apprise the House on the progress

made regarding Kwekwe City home seekers who have been on the City Council's waiting list since 1995 and are yet to receive affordable stands.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON.
MAVUNGA):** The City of Kwekwe housing waiting list was reactivated and updated to reflect only those applicants who were on the active waiting list with effect from the year 2000. This process required all applicants to maintain and renew their registration to remain active on the list.

Accordingly, if any applicant who initially registered in 1995 does not appear on the current waiting list, it indicates that their registration was not renewed as at the year 2000. They were therefore no longer considered active applicants at the time of the list's reactivation. As a result, such applicants were not eligible for any stand allocation as eligibility was strictly based on inclusion in the active waiting list effective from the year 2000. I so submit.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question to those who are on the waiting list in Kwekwe Town, we see that there are adverts that are out which are being sold on a first-come first-served basis. How does it work hand-in-hand with the issue of the waiting list which was renewed in the year 2000? I thank you.

HON. MAVUNGA: Thank you Hon. Madzivanyika for your supplementary question. First-come first-served basis on what?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Madzivanyika, do you want to clarify that?

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Yes, I want to clarify. Let me use English. We have seen adverts from councils indicating that the stands which are available from councils are on a first-come, first-served basis. How do those adverts align with the waiting list policy? I thank you.

HON. MAVUNGA: I would like to assume so, but I am not really sure how it is related to the 1995 issue which was clearly responded to. However, if it is in line with Kwekwe City Council, may he provide the

specific advert so that we can engage the local authority and give us a proper explanation based on that advert? Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Are you okay with that?

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Yes.

HON. MAKUMIRE: On a point of privilege. This was a specific question but if you check the local media, the newspapers that are advertising stands are for a range of purposes, for industrial and commercial across most of the local authorities. There is this condition that stands will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, which is in violation of the national policy and even the policy for most of these local authorities and there is no transparency in that system. I think that is where he is coming from. We may need some intervention from Government on this aspect. Thank you very much.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I think the Hon. Minister has already asked Hon. Madzivanyika to put it in writing specifically so that they can go and investigate the councils that are doing that practice and come back to the House with a comprehensive response to that.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF PENSION BY LOCAL AUTHORITY
EMPLOYEES TO LOCAL AUTHORITY PENSION FUND

30. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House whether deductions towards pension contributions made by employees of local authorities are being remitted to the Local Authorities Pension Fund (LAPF) in time.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON.
MAVUNGA):** Mr. Speaker Sir, while local authorities are required to remit employee pension contributions to local authorities' pension funds timeously, evidence shows that compliance has not been consistent. There have been instances where deductions are made but remittances are delayed or not effected, resulting in significant arrears owed to the fund.

The Government is strengthening monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that all local authorities remit pension contributions promptly and safeguard employees' benefits. I so submit.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Honourable Minister of Education, please approach the Chair before you go.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I brought this question because there is an outcry about the council workers. I am happy that the Minister explained well that sometimes the council deducts the money from their employees but does not put the money into the local authority fund.

The challenge which we have now is that we have council workers who are going on retirement but they are not being given their total money because they are saying your local authority has got arrears. I thank you.

HON. MAVUNGA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Thank you Hon. Member for the supplementary question. Indeed, it is not good for pensioners to go home and find out that their remittances were not done

on time or they are owing. As I stated in the response, we will strengthen compliance and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that our local authorities remit these funds to the pensioners fund for local authorities. We will surely look into it and ensure that if there are any arrears, our local authorities put in place measures to ensure that those funds find their way to the pensioner's fund. Thank you.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT WATER SUPPLY SOURCE FOR CHITUNGWIZA

31. **HON. MAZHINDU** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House whether Chitungwiza, now the third largest urban settlement in Zimbabwe with a population approaching one million residents, relies entirely on water supplied by the City of Harare, and what plans the Government has put in place to ensure that Chitungwiza develops its own sustainable and independent water supply source.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON.**

MAVUNGA): Chitungwiza municipality relies heavily on treated water supplied by the City of Harare, which is insufficient for its residents. Chitungwiza currently supplies an average of 14 megalitres per day against a daily demand of 70 megalitres, leading to chronic water shortages, severe rationing and high dependence on alternative sources, mainly private and council bottles.

The Government has put in place measures to ensure that Chitungwiza develops a sustainable and independent water supply. These include the proposed construction of the Muda-Nyatsime Dam project to provide a dedicated water source, alongside development of associated treatment and distribution infrastructure.

In the interim, Government is rehabilitating existing water and sewer infrastructure, expanding borehole capacity and mobilising investment through partnerships to strengthen local water systems and reduce reliance on supplies from Harare. I so submit.

***HON. MAZHINDU:** Thank you for the response that we have been given by the Minister. We want to know about the dam that he is referring to, that the Government is trying to build so that it will help

Chitungwiza. It was asked before and it was said the Government does not have money. We want to find out if the money is there so that we rejoice because things are now going to be better. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON. A.
MAVUNGA):** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Hon. Member from Chitungwiza. I think the House is aware that most raw water bodies fall under a different ministry. So, for me to delve into the funding of these projects would be irregular. However, I do know that there is also Kunzvi Dam, which is being constructed to also help solve the water issues in Chitungwiza. In terms of money for finishing these projects, again it does not fall under the purview of Local Government. I think the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion is here. The Minister of Agriculture, Water and Fisheries is also here to specifically respond to the financing of these projects. I think maybe you can then divert a written question to those ministries. Thank you.

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

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: On a point of privilege Mr. Speaker Sir. I saw some Hon. Ministers who are here who may have wanted to tend to their questions. They may not be here for the next four or five sittings, like the Hon. Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion and the Deputy Minister of Transport. We do not see them frequently. If you can indulge them by giving an extra 20 minutes to this session. I thank you.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: We will extend the Questions With Notice by 20 minutes.

INFORMATION ON RIVER BANK MINING

41. **HON. BAJILA** asked the Minister of Environment and Climate and Wildlife to inform the House on the following:

a) whether or not mining activities on river banks that supply water to the City of Bulawayo have the approval of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA).

b) Whether the City of Bulawayo is part of the stakeholders that were consulted as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE (HON. DR. E. NDLOVU): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Bajila. I was also looking for him, wondering where he had gone. Whether mining activities on the river banks that supply water to the city of Bulawayo have the approval of the Environmental Management Agency. My response to this question is that I want to thank you Hon. Bajila for your question. However, the question does not specify the particular mining projects or river system being referred to.

Bulawayo's water supply is derived from dams fed from Ncema, Umzingwane, Mtshabezi and Inyakuni, which are in Matabeleland South Province. It should be noted that the catchment of Umzingwane and Ncema rivers is among the principal mining areas in Umzingwane

district. Consequently, several illegal gold panning activities occur along these rivers and their banks. I wish to reiterate that the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) does not approve riverbed or riverbank mining as these activities are prohibited under Statutory Instrument 188 of 2024.

Against this background, EMA, the Bulawayo City Council and the Zimbabwe Republic Police continue to enforce environmental regulations throughout the catchment that supply water to Bulawayo's dams. My Ministry, through EMA, can confirm that there are registered mining projects within the broader catchment area that possess valid environmental impact assessment certificates and are operating in compliance with the provisions of Statutory Instrument 188 of 2024.

He asked in the second part of the question whether the City of Bulawayo is among the stakeholders consulted during the Environmental Impact Assessments. Mr. Speaker Sir, again I would like to thank Mr. Bajila for this question. The Hon. Member has not specified the particular project. - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order Hon. Minister. It is Hon. Bajila and not Mr. Bajila.

HON. DR. E. NDLOVU: The Hon. Member Mr. Bajila- [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Order! Hon. Minister, every Member in the House is addressed as Honourable, not Mr. or Mrs. Thank you.

HON. DR. E. NDLOVU: Hon. Bajila has not specified the particular project in question. However, EMA ensures that during the EIA certification process, in accordance with Section 10 (4) of Statute Instrument 7 of 2007, all interested and affected stakeholders, including the Bulawayo City Council, local communities and relevant Government departments, are consulted on projects located within the catchment supplying water to the City of Bulawayo.

Although the Hon. Member did not specify the project concerned, I will provide a summary of four medium-scale projects on which the Bulawayo City Council has previously raised concern. The first one is Alice A and B Mine. The project is located within the Ncema Dam

Catchment, approximately 500 metres from the dam. An EIA certificate was issued on 12 June 2024 for reprocessing of historical mine dumps.

During the EIA process, the consultant and developer reported that the Bulawayo City Council declined to provide comments despite several engagements. EMA subsequently engaged the City of Bulawayo in writing during stakeholder consultation verification, but no response was received from the city authorities. The project was therefore certified after all stakeholder requirements had been met.

Subsequently, the Council publicly alleged that Ncema Dam had been contaminated by cyanide from the mine. The Council later issued a statement retracting the allegation and confirming that no cyanide contamination had occurred. The mine remains operational and has not been found in violation of environmental regulations. Bulawayo South claims this project is a joint venture between Bulawayo Mining Company, trading as How Mine and Joy Prospect Private Limited, a Chinese contractor. The project is located within the Umzingwane River Catchment, approximately 15 km from Umzingwane Dam. The

Bulawayo City Council was consulted during the EIA process and did not object to the project.

An EIA certificate was issued on 14th September 2025. However, during consideration of an EIA addendum for project expansion, the Council raised concerns regarding potential river pollution. The proposed expansion was not approved because the affected community had not been adequately consulted regarding the proposed increase in project scope.

To date, no environmental pollution incidents have been attributed to the project. The other projects that are within the vicinity of Umzingwane are Barry Thompson Private Limited, Umzingwane and Peter Pet Mine. This is an opencast mining project with heap-leaching activities to be conducted off-site on existing heap-leached pegs located away from the river catchment and dam. The project involves mining three co-ops situated approximately 60 meters, 100 meters and 200 meters from the Umzingwane River and more than one kilometer from Umzingwane Dam.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate was issued on 26 January, 2026. The Bulawayo City Council was consulted and objected to the project based on potential water pollution through chemical contamination, notwithstanding the fact that the project is limited to open-cast mining operations. During road construction to access the site, the company obstructed the streams feeding the Umzingwane River, prompting concerns from the council.

Environmental Management Agency (EMA) intervened immediately and directed the company to install appropriate culverts and bridges to ensure uninterrupted water flow into the river system and ultimately into the dam. My Ministry, through EMA, will continue to closely monitor all mining operations within these catchment areas to ensure full compliance with environmental legislation and standards. I so submit.

PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN BINGA DISTRICT

42. **HON. CUMANZALA** asked the Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife the following:

The plans the Ministry has in place to develop and promote tourism in Binga District, particularly around the Zambezi River to enhance local economic development and create employment opportunities for residents.

The programmes being implemented to ensure that local communities in Binga District directly benefit from tourism.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND WILDLIFE (HON. DR. E. NDLOVU): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the question. Although this Ministry has facilities to start to venture into tourism, I will answer this question.

I would like to thank the Hon. Member for this important question. The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, ZimParks under my Ministry, is developing tourism infrastructure in partnership with the various stakeholders at key Zambezi River destinations, including Sijailila Beach, Binga Sand Beach, Chikatata, Hot Springs, Chiteme Islands and Mtsuna Islands.

ZimParks is also promoting lake-based tourism activities such as boat cruising, sport fishing and commercial fishing, to diversify tourism offerings and attract a broader visitor market. These investments are designed to cater for both domestic and international visitors across all market segments, thereby enhancing visitor satisfaction while generating economic opportunities for local communities.

There is a second question by the Hon. Member on programmes being implemented to ensure that local communities in Binga District directly benefit from tourism. My response to the Hon. Member is that the recently established Muchemi Community Conservancy seeks to empower local communities through wildlife management and tourism, revenue-sharing arrangements, creating employment and income-generating opportunities for our communities. Secondly, the issuance of boat cruise and fishing permits provides revenue streams that directly benefit our local communities.

Thirdly, the Kariba Raid Project remains one of Zimbabwe's flagship carbon trading initiatives. The project aims to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation across 784 987 hectares in

Binga, Nyaminyami, Hurungwe and Mbire districts. The project is managed by Carbon Green Africa in partnership with the four rural district councils and supported by South Pole Group. It promotes conservation agriculture, community gardens, beekeeping, fire management and the development of community infrastructure such as clinics and boreholes. The key benefits include funding for community gardens, schools and 19 health clinics. Rehabilitation of 241 boreholes, providing clean drinking water for more than 60 000 people, training of local farmers in sustainable agriculture practices and beekeeping. I so submit.

POLICY REGARDING THE MINISTRY'S AUTHORITY IN NEGOTIATING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP DEALS

68. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to inform the House of the Government policy regarding the Ministry's authority to negotiate Public-Private Partnership (PPP) deals and to approve them for practical operation without the approval of Parliament.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Allow me to respond to the question raised by Hon. Madzivanyika. Public-Private Partnership arrangements fall within the Executive arm of Government. Section 18 of the ZIDA Act establishes the one-stop investment services centre which serves as the primary gateway for investment approvals in Zimbabwe, including PPP investments.

Where a Private-Public Partnership arrangement involves a private investor, whether foreign or domestic, the one-stop investment services centre facilitates and coordinates all regulatory approvals, licences and permits required for the project to proceed. This streamlines the entry of private capital into public infrastructure projects. The approval of PPPs follows a multi-tier process within the dictates of the PPP Act, wherein the contracting authority which in this case is the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development initiates a project concept, conducts feasibility studies and prepares procurement documentation. Further, the project is submitted to the Business Development Unit within the

Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency for appraisal before being tabled before the PPP Committee. Cabinet approval is required for a PPP project of a prescribed nature or financial threshold before the execution of the PPP agreement.

However, the Ministry affirms its commitment to transparency and accountability. The Ministry ensures that:

1. All material PPP projects are disclosed through the National Budget and fiscal policies statements tabled before Parliament;
2. The relevant parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Transport and Infrastructural Development is briefed and kept informed on significant PPP projects, and
3. Value-for-money and public interest considerations remain central to all PPP negotiations, consistent with the principle of responsible stewardship of national resources. I so submit.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: On a point of privilege.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Yes, proceed.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: I am not quite sure if you can indulge me. Only one supplementary question can close this because what it

means is that I will bring the question again in the next session. If you can indulge only one supplementary question.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Unfortunately, the time rule will not allow me to do so.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: So, also indulge me to bring over the question to the next session.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Yes, you may do so.

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE
COMPLIANCE WITH REMITTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO
NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY AUTHORITY BY NORTON
BRICKS**

6. **HON. TSVANGIRAYI** asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to inform the House whether Norton Bricks is compliant with remitting contributions to the National Social Security Authority on behalf of its employees.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON.**

MAVUNGA): Norton Bricks is duly registered with the National Social Security Authority (NSSA). However, the company is currently not fully compliant with its statutory remittance obligations. The authority is actively pursuing enforcement and compliance processes to ensure that the outstanding obligations are regularised in accordance with the NSSA Act.

ACTIONS ON FIRE SAFETY AT GLEN VIEW AREA 8 INDUSTRY MARKET

22. **HON. CHIDZIVA** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to update the House on the progress the Ministry has taken to ensure fire safety at Glenview Area 8 Home Industry Market, including the establishment of safe market spaces and the enforcement of fire safety standards.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON.

MAVUNGA): 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:

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.

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 SME hubs across the city. This will transform these areas into safer, more structured commercial centres.

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.

ALLOCATION OF LAND IN URBAN COUNCILS

23. **HON. CHIDZIVA** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House on the following:

The measures being implemented to ensure transparency and accountability in land allocation in urban councils; and

The plans in place for the Ministry to publish comprehensive land allocation records for public scrutiny to curb corruption and political patronage.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON. MAVUNGA): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government has implemented several measures to ensure transparency and accountability in land allocation in urban councils, including:

- Adherence to established policies, such as the recently launched Urban State Land Manual which stipulates allocation guidelines;
- Use of updated housing waiting lists to ensure fairness;
- Strengthened ministerial oversight and approval processes;
- Regular audits and investigations into irregularities;
- Digitisation of land records to enhance transparency; and
- Enforcement of disciplinary action where misconduct is identified.

Government remains committed to ensuring that land allocation is conducted in a transparent, fair and accountable manner.

The Ministry recognises the importance of public access to land allocation information as a key measure to curb corruption and political patronage. To this end, the following measures are being implemented:

- Digitisation of Land Records: Ongoing development of electronic land management systems to improve accuracy, accessibility and transparency of allocation records;

- **Public Disclosure:** Local authorities are being directed to regularly publish land allocation lists and beneficiary details for public scrutiny;
- **Standardised Reporting:** Introduction of uniform reporting frameworks to ensure consistency and completeness of published information;
- **Strengthened Oversight:** The Ministry continues to monitor compliance and require submission of land allocation records for review; and
- **Collaboration with Oversight Bodies:** The Ministry works with the Auditor General's Office and the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) to enhance accountability in land allocation processes.

These measures are aimed at ensuring openness, restoring public confidence and promoting fairness in the allocation of land.

SETTLING OF THE MATTER INVOLVING THE SUSPENDED

TOWN CLERK

24. **HON. HAMAUSWA** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to update the House on the progress made to settle the matter involving the suspended Town Clerk (Eng. Hosiah Chisango) who for the past 17 months has been receiving full salary while on suspension.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON. MAVHUNGA): Mr. Speaker Sir, the local authority has gone through the following steps in an effort to conclude the matter;

- a. Current Status: The Town Clerk has been formally charged.
- b. Negotiation Phase: Midway through the planned disciplinary hearing, the Town Clerk requested a mutual separation.
- c. Deadlock: While council established a negotiating team and proceedings were initially smooth, the Town Clerk's lawyers recently rejected the council's offer and declared a deadlock.
- d. Next Steps: Consequently, the council is now resuming the formal disciplinary hearing processes.

e. No deadlock: Settlement was agreed and awaits approval by the local board.

**REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENTS WHO OPT FOR
ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF WATER AND POWER**

25. **HON. HAMAUSWA** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House when the Ministry is going to provide regulations that provide for the following:

Residents who opt to use alternative sources of water so that they will continue to pay fixed water charges as they are currently using council infrastructure?

Residents who opt to use solar-powered street lights so that are they not charged street light levies by councils?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES
AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON. MAVHUNGA):** Mr.

Speaker Sir, it is government policy that every household, despite having an alternative water source, should be provided with a water

connection and every connected household should contribute towards maintenance of water infrastructure.

Councils are empowered by section 217 of the Urban Councils Act [Chapter 29: 15], subject to provisions of the Electricity Act [Chapter 13:19], to install, provide, maintain and operate street lighting inside or outside the council area. It should be understood that such powers, among others, are conferred on councils as the Local Planning Authority, and in exercising the same, they work hand-in-hand with the delegating Ministry (in this case, the Ministry responsible for Energy and Power Development). The Ministry may, therefore, not need to develop a policy on issues that are not ordinarily under its ambit (that is issues relating to electricity)- however, those residents who opt to install their own infrastructure such as solar street lighting would need to engage with the Local Planning Authority who may in turn engage the responsible Ministry for guidance, for a possible partnership (the land on which the infrastructure has to lie belongs to councils, and not the residents). What needs to be made clear, however, is that for any proposals to take over the functions of a local authority, there are a

number of considerations that have to be made, including but not limited to sustainability; absence of danger/harm to other residents; observance of approved standards; responsibility for maintenance and replacement, *etc.* in essence, the powers/functions vested in councils may not be transferred to private players without some due diligence on the part of Central Government.

**BREAKDOWN OF THE 39% OF THE BUDGET SUBMITTED BY
MUTARE CITY COUNCIL**

26. **HON. JAMES** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House of the detailed breakdown of the 39% of the budget submitted by the City of Mutare under other expenditures.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES
AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON. MAVUNGA):** Mr.

Speaker Sir,

General expenses	
Advertising and promotions	4 778 674

Audit fees	3 295 076
Cleaning Materials and Detergents	410 653
Computer consumables	179 396
Consultancy	128 644
Discount Allowed	69 740 400
Electrical Equipment and Gadgets	51 762
Fuel, Power and Oils	18 166 833
Gender Awareness Campaigns	3 600
Insurance	1 988 859
Internet charge	477 993
Laundry Expenses	548 589
Legal fees	727 781
Loose Tools	1 317 178
Medical Equipment	1 844 077
Junior Council exp	67 368

LADS Africa	1 168 638
Protective clothing/staff Uniform	950 004
Rates Rebate	892 658
Rentals	747 140
Risk management	67 068
Laboratory expenses	753 872
Security and cit	382 212
Training and Development	3 765 981
Subscriptions	973 535
Transport, Railage and delivery charges	15 788
Drug purchases	59 856
Chemicals	969 565
Water chemicals	4 364 426
Water extraction charges	8 627 441
TOTAL	167 997 028

POLICY REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

27. **HON. JAMES** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House of the Government's policy regarding public access to the minutes of council meetings in terms of Section 88 of the Urban Councils Act [Chapter 29:15]

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON.
MAVUNGA):** Mr. Speaker Sir, minutes of council meetings may be accessed by anyone at council as per Section 88 (5) of the Urban Councils Act which states that the minutes of the proceedings of a council or any committee shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by any person, and any person may obtain a copy thereof or an extract therefrom on payment of such fee, not exceeding such amount as may be prescribed as is fixed by resolution of the council. In addition to that, members of the public are encouraged to attend council meetings as the law permits.

MITIGATION OF CHALLENGES IN REFUSE COLLECTION IN NORTON

28. **HON. TSVANGIRAI** asked the Minister to inform the House of the measures Government is taking to mitigate the challenges to refuse collection in Norton.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON.
MAVUNGA):** Mr. Speaker Sir, the Norton Town Council experienced a temporary disruption in refuse collection services following breakdowns of its two refuse compactors and a skip bin truck which required specialised repairs and importation of spares. During this period, service delivery was constrained, resulting in the accumulation of waste in some areas. However, the FAW refuse compactor and the skip bin truck have since been repaired and are now operational while the Iveco compactor is expected to return to service next week upon receipt of the remaining spares. With the restored fleet, refuse collection services have normalised and the situation has been resolved. Council is also making

an effort to procure an additional refuse compactor to strengthen service delivery going forward.

NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN CHITUNGWIZA

89. **HON TSVANGIRAI** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to apprise the House on the number of Government schools in Chitungwiza District that offer education to children with special needs, and to elaborate whether government has any plans to provide incentives or support to private schools that offer education to learners with special needs.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): Thank you Hon. Tsvangirai for raising this important question. Learners with special needs could be living with different kinds of impairment which vary from autism, dyslexia, intellectual disabilities as well as speech and language impairment. There is also sensory impairment, which includes visual or hearing impairment. As a Ministry, we have a division composed of specialists referred to as the Learner Welfare, Special Needs and Psychological Service (LEPS) Division which falls under the

Department of Primary, Secondary and Learner Welfare (PSLW). LEPS had decentralised units at provincial and district levels which are responsible for assessing and profiling learners before recommending appropriate educational interventions or referring serious or severe cases to Resource Units or Special.

Generally, in the spirit of inclusive education, all schools are expected to provide teaching and learning services to learners with minimal to mild cases after assessment and profiling by educational psychologists. However, the Ministry has established Resource Units or Special Schools which provide dedicated education services to learners with different special needs. In Chitungwiza District of Harare Province, we have the following public schools that offer special education services:

Intellectually Challenged Resource Unit Primary Schools

1. Seke 6 Primary School
2. Seke 11 Primary School
3. St. Aidans Primary School
4. Dudzai Primary School

5. Zengeza 4 Primary School

6. Chaminuka Primary School

Hearing Impairment Resource Primary Unit Schools

1. Shingai Primary School

2. Seke 11 Primary School

3. Zengeza 8 Primary School (temporarily closed as Ministry is seeking to replace teachers who left service)

4. Seke 8 Primary School (temporarily closed as Ministry is seeking to replace teachers who left service)

In addition, Chitungwiza District also has Special Classes for slow learners in the following primary schools:

Special Classes for Primary Schools

1. Dudzai Primary School

2. Seke 11 Primary School

3. Tamuka Primary School

4. Seke 5 Primary School

5. Zengeza 4 Primary School

6. Chaminuka Primary School

7. Seke 6 Primary School

8. St. Aidans Primary School (temporarily closed as Ministry is seeking to replace teachers who left service)

Resource Unit for Intellectually Challenged Learners at
Secondary Level

1. Zengeza 1 High School

2. St. Mary's High School

Resource Unit for Learners with Hearing Impairment at
Secondary Level

1. St. Mary's High School

In summary, Chitungwiza District has six Resource Unit primary schools dealing with learners that are intellectually challenges; four Resource Unit primary schools for learners with hearing impairment; six primary schools with Special Classes; two Resource Unit Secondary Schools for learners who are intellectually challenged and one Resource Unit Secondary School for learners with hearing impairment.

On the second part of your question, government does not provide financial support for private schools offering special needs education.

The general understanding is that private schools operate for profit and can therefore, charge fees and levies commensurate with their operational costs. Government, through the Learner Welfare, Special Needs and Psychological Services Division, can offer guidance to private investors who like to establish schools for learners with special needs.

They may contact our offices in Mount Pleasant or visit district and provincial office for guidance. For public schools, the Learner Welfare, Special Needs and Psychological Services Division provides assistive devices such as braille machines, purchase and repairs, braille textbooks and hearing devices amongst others through the Basic Education Assistance Model (BEAM).

TABLING OF TREASURY MINUTES

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION (HON. PROF. NCUBE): I have the pleasure of tabling some Treasury minutes. The first set of minutes pertains to the Audited Financial Statements for the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA). This

pertains to the Auditor- General's Report on State-Owned Enterprises and Parastatals for the Year ending 31 December, 2023.

I now table the second set of Treasury Minutes pertaining to the Public Accounts Committee's report on the National Handling Services' findings in the Auditor-General's Report for the Year ending 31 December, 2023, which was presented to Parliament in 2026.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. KAMBUZUMA: I move that all Orders of the Day be stood over until Order of the Day Number 42 has been disposed of.

HON. C. MOYO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

CONSIDERATION STAGE

BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CRIMES BILL [H.B.

9A, 2025]-

Amendments to Clauses 5, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27 and 28 put and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, adopted.

Third Reading: With leave, forthwith.

THIRD READING

BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CRIMES BILL [H.B.

9A, 2025]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (HON. BRIG.

GEN. RTD. MAYIHLOME): I now move that the Bill be now read the third time.

Motion put and agreed to.

Bill read the third time.

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

MOYO, *the House adjourned at Fourteen Minutes to Six o'clock p.m.*