

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Wednesday, 19th August, 2026

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

PRAYERS

(THE HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. SPEAKER

VISITORS IN THE SPEAKER'S GALLERY

THE HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, in the Speaker's Gallery, we have the delegation from the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Lesotho who are on a benchmarking visit. The delegation is led by the Chairperson of the Social Cluster Committee, Hon. M. Makalanyani. You are most welcome – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*]-

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM MINISTERS

THE HON. SPEAKER: I have a list of apologies from the Executive: Hon. General Rtd. Dr. C. D. G. N. Chiwenga, the Vice President; Hon. Col. Rtd. K. C. D. Mohadi, the Vice President; Hon. Prof. M. Ncube, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion; Hon. Prof. Murwira, Minister of

Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Hon. M. N. Ndlovu, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Hon. E. Jesaya, Deputy Minister of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture; Hon. C. Sanyatwe, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage; Hon. A. Gata, Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education; Hon. R. Modi, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce and Hon. J. Sacco, Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HON. CHIDUWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Minister of Mines and Mining Development. The Government of Zimbabwe signed a Petroleum Production Sharing Agreement (PPSA) with the Geo Associates. The PPSA allows Zimbabwe as a country to benefit from the mining of petroleum. I want to find out from the Hon. Minister if there is a similar arrangement where we also have got a production sharing agreement, especially for strategic minerals. I so submit.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR OIL AND GAS

RESEARCH AND OTHER STRATEGIC MINERALS

EXPLORATION (HON. ENG. MAKWIRANZOU): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I also want to thank Hon. Chiduwa for raising that question. Indeed, the Petroleum Production Sharing Agreement (PPSA) was signed by the Government and investors for Muzarabani. It is a pioneering agreement. It is from this agreement that we have also finalised the policy and framework for other petroleum and gas extraction agreement, particularly for gas. We have agreements that are being worked on in the Lupane area, the Binga area, the Chiredzi area and the Beitbridge area. We are following that same policy framework that was garnered through the Muzarabani Petroleum Agreement. Thank you.

HON. KANGAUSARU: Thank you very much Hon. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development. E-hailing services such as In-Drive, Bold Riders and Tap and Go have emerged as an important source of employment and income for our youth. They have become a convenient and increasingly relied-upon modes of transport, particularly in our urban areas.

In South Africa, the Government has moved to formally bring e-hailing services within the public transport regulatory framework, requiring operators to obtain appropriate operating licences and comply with the prescribed safety and regulatory standards.

My question is, has the Minister considered a similar approach in Zimbabwe, including reviewing or amending the Road Motor Transportation Act to expressly recognise and regulate e-hailing services? If so, what progress has been made and when can this House expect to see the proposed regulatory framework? I submit
Mr. Speaker Sir.

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

Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Let me also thank Hon. Kangausaru for that very important question. As per the Road Motor Transportation Act, there is currently no provision for e-hailing services.

Recognising this gap, we have engaged in discussions and the Cabinet has directed us to explore this matter further. We also aim to include tricycles, particularly those operating in rural communities, in our registration process.

As a Ministry, we are committed to regulating this industry effectively. I kindly urge the people of Zimbabwe to be patient as we work through these developments. I have noted concerns raised in various forums where some local authorities are discouraging the use of e-hailing services. While this is understandable given the current legal framework, we must address this issue promptly.

In response to the concerns highlighted by Hon. Kangausaru, we recognise the importance of moving forward swiftly. Therefore, in the short term, we are preparing a relevant Statutory Instrument to address these concerns.

HON. KANGAUSARU: Given the rapid growth of the e-hailing sector, is the Government not potentially foregoing tax revenue, licence fees and other relevant income by allowing the sector to operate without a clear and comprehensive state framework? What measures is the Ministry taking to ensure that e-hailing services contribute appropriately to public revenue while continuing to promote youth employment and affordable urban mobility? I submit.

HON. MHONA: Indeed, we are facing a significant loss of revenue, particularly because the current e-hailing platforms do not operate through established systems. These platforms are merely applications that can be downloaded on mobile devices, which complicates revenue collection.

As we engage in discussions, Hon. Speaker, these are some of the critical issues we are examining. Our goal is to explore ways to collaborate effectively and ensure that we generate revenue through appropriate channels.

HON. JAMES: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would also like to thank the Hon. Minister for the insight. Can I say that punitive charges to In-Drive and the likes can only increase the cost of transport for the travelling public? Would they consider keeping these charges to an absolute minimum? Registration, I understand is necessary, but overcharging on taxes will only be passed on to the travelling public. Thank you.

HON. MHONA: The Government is advocating for ease of doing business. In our ongoing reviews, particularly in the transport sector, we have made significant strides by substantially reducing

several charges previously imposed. As part of this effort, we will also closely examine additional charges to ensure they align with our goal of facilitating a more business-friendly environment.

Thank you.

***HON. KANUPULA:** Thank you very much Mr. Speaker Sir.

I would like to inquire if there are any specific plans in place to provide notice to In-Drive operators before any arrests are made. Many individuals are benefiting from the services offered by In-Drive and it is important to consider their livelihoods in this matter.

***HON. MHONA:** Indeed, the concerns raised by the Hon. Member are quite significant. I assure this august House that this week, we will convene with councils and municipal authorities to address this matter comprehensively. This issue extends beyond the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development; it is an inter-ministerial concern that requires collaborative deliberation. We acknowledge the proposal put forth and we will ensure that feedback is communicated to the people of Zimbabwe. Thank you.

+HON. M. C. SIBANDA: Thank you very much Hon.

Speaker. I want to direct my question to the Minister responsible for

Local Government and Public Works. On the 15th, the Hon. Minister published a circular which addressed the issue of paying councillors. Does Government have a plan to pay councillors sustainable salaries because they are struggling financially and have a lot of debts? We have noticed that Government is paying village heads. Thank you.

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

With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, since he has referred to a particular circular written by the line minister, if he may indulge me so that we refer it back to the line minister so that he appraises adequately on the gist of that circular that he has actually written, so that I will advise the House accordingly. Thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: May Hon. Sibanda indulge the fact that you can submit your question in writing so that the Minister can do the research accordingly and give a fuller picture.

HON. M. C. SIBANDA: Thank you.

HON. MASHAVAVE: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Home Affairs. There is a dangerous

weapon in circulation in the form of a fake firearm. This fake firearm has all the characteristics of a real firearm. It has the potential to intimidate like any firearm and can make a sound more than a firearm. Now this fake firearm is being used by criminals for criminal activities and it is easily accessed over the counter. Hon. Speaker Sir, a person can just go and buy it. Is there any policy in place to ensure that this fake dangerous weapon is controlled before the situation gets out of hand? I thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: I thought you were talking about the fake ones.

HON. MASHAVAVE: Hon. Speaker Sir, this one is a fake firearm but it is a very dangerous toy. It can make a sound that will scare everyone around you. It is now being used to carry out criminal activities.

TH HON. SPEAKER: I do not know whether I should ask the Hon. Minister to give a fake answer.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):
Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. Let me also thank Hon. Mashavave

again. We have got a Firearms Act [Chapter 10:09] which actually stipulates how one is supposed to have a firearm. That is in the case of a genuine firearm. The fact that the Hon. Member talked about a fake firearm, I also want to appeal to the people that whenever it is pointed at you, you will not know whether it is fake or it is genuine. In most cases, it is advisable to comply. I am not saying people must always comply but normally that is the way you handle or respond to any dangerous weapon. I think there are standard procedures that you have to adhere to. One may think it is fake when in actual fact it is not fake and at the end of the day you die. I will appeal to my colleague, the Hon. Minister, to make sure that those who are selling dangerous fake firearms, if he can engage so that they do not continue selling those dangerous fake firearms.

HON. S. SAKUPWANYA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Maybe with regards to the question, there are toy guns that seem to be an exact replica of firearms. Now the question and the worry is to say, can we sell a toy gun over the counter. There could be an instance where someone could sell an actual firearm over the counter. Is there legislation or is there a policy that stipulates that

toy guns should have a certain feature that expressly states that this is a toy gun or shows the difference. This is because of the worry and because of the concern that sometimes toy guns can look exactly like a firearm just like Hon. Mashavave said in his original question regarding the sound and the same weight.

Is there a possibility of that being put in policy to say that the toy guns that are being manufactured nowadays must have certain features that distinguish them from actual firearms? I am not sure if that is clear.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. Let me also thank Hon. Sakupwanya. Hon. Speaker Sir, normally toys are just toys but if it is a major concern, I am sure I will share this issue with my colleague, the Hon. Minister, to say there are concerns relating to certain toy guns. I am sure he will also interrogate to see what actually at the end of the day endanger our citizens. I am sure he will come up with a position. Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir.

***HON. MHETU:** Hon. Speaker, looking at a number of people who are losing their precious possessions through robberies perpetuated by people who are using fake weapons, are there any

measures that the Government is putting in place to prevent this from happening? I thank you.

***HON. MHONA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker and I want to thank the Hon. Member for that question. Looking at crime and robberies, it does not matter whether it is a fake weapon or not. Robbers can even use knives, so any crime in any form is a criminal and indeed you can be prosecuted for that. So, whether it is a fake weapon or not, all these have similar penalties because they are crimes. I thank you.

***HON. MANANZVA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I want to direct my question to the Minister of Home Affairs. We have a lot of cultural heritage sites which are known to be sacred. We have a challenge that you find people mining in sacred areas. What is Government planning to do in terms of protecting such areas or handling such areas to the custodians or the owners of such places? I thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):**
Thank you Hon. Speaker and I want to thank the Hon. Member for

the question. Indeed, it is true the Second Republic is restoring such places which are sacred to us as a nation. Research is being done so that such places are honoured. The Ministry of Environment has a responsibility of carrying out an environmental impact assessment before any project is done. If there is such an area and there is no Environmental Impact Assessment, then whoever will be prospecting or mining is not allowed to do that without the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife. So, for such sacred places, I do not believe they will be given such a document. However, from what the Hon. Member said, it is important to inform us how this happened and why it happened so that we can carry out our research. I thank you.

***HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** I want to thank the Hon. Minister for that response. We have places like Matopos which is a heritage site where Cecil John Rhodes was buried. What Government programmes do you have so that we honour such places? Now, people go to tour and visit Rhodes' grave instead of us respecting and honouring our culture.

***HON. MHONA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I want to thank Hon. Zhou for the question. It is true, this is an issue which we have been discussing for quite some time but His Excellency, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa indeed says that yes, there is such a grave at Matopos. Those who buried their relatives normally come to tour and this grave is contributing to tourism. If we remove it, it means the tourists who have been coming to tour will no longer be coming. However, this is an issue which we will continue engaging so that it is determined whether it is removed or not in terms of tourism. This has been going on for quite some time. The discussion is ongoing because this is quite pertinent for our tourism. I thank you Hon. Speaker.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary to the original question relates to the question that in terms of issuing mining permits, you find that the process is centralised to an extent that certain cultural sites that are actually sacred to certain communities end up actually being demarcated for a specific business venture. My question to the Hon. Minister is that when there is a cultural conflict with the economic interests, how

does the Government come to a conclusion that this economic interest like mining supersedes the culture without consulting or involving the communities that are affected?

HON. KAMBAMURA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the supplementary question. Firstly, mining title is not centralised but it is decentralised. We do have some provincial mining offices in all mining provinces. If ever there are such cases, they are firstly attended at provincial level where our provincial officers engage with the traditional leadership and where consent is not granted, that title may not be issued. If ever it is issued in error, it will be brought forward and cancelled or revoked. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

HON. PINDUKA: My follow-up question to the heritage question that has been asked is that in line with decentralisation and devolution agenda, I would like to find out from the Hon. Minister how far the Government has gone in terms of clusterisation of these heritage sites. We understand that we do have national monuments and heritage sites. However, we do have other sites which may also form part of the provincial and district sites so that there are no

other sites that are being left behind in terms of recognition at district and provincial level. How far has the Government gone in terms of clusterising these heritage sites?

HON. MHONA: Let me also thank you for the follow-up question. Indeed, he has raised a pertinent question. Like I indicated earlier on, the Government is seized now through the Minister of Home Affairs, to identify such very important sites. This is being done per each administrative district, where such, whether they are shrines or heritage sites are being identified and given the due respect that they deserve. We have seen that these exercises are ongoing countrywide. So, not knowing really, the clusterisation the Hon. Member is referring to, but indeed what we know for now for certain is that wherever these sites are, they are being identified and being treated accordingly.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to ask my question, which is directed to the Minister of Health and Child Care. Hon. Speaker, in a lot of areas in our country, residents face a number of challenges in terms of accessing healthcare. They are just given prescriptions and they go to buy

medication from pharmacies. What is Government doing in terms of ensuring that residents get all the services from Government hospitals after getting treated, that they get their medication from the local pharmacy? I thank you.

***THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. KWIDINI):** I want to thank the Hon. Member for that question, a question which pertains to access to medication in hospitals and clinics. I agree with the Hon. Member that there are a number of medications which are not accessible in public hospitals. In the recent past, medication was accessible all over but we had a challenge in terms of getting a constant supply of medication. For now, it is true in hospitals, we do not have all the medication, we have some but we are in the process of establishing partnerships where we could access some medication which is manufactured locally for minor ailments. For other medication which cannot be manufactured locally, we are establishing direct partnerships with the manufacturers of such medication through NatPharm, being guaranteed by the Minister of Finance, so that when such medication is available, it becomes also available in public

hospitals. So, I believe that in the near future, our residents will have access to such medication. I thank you.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** My supplementary question pertains to a response that was given in the recent past by the Hon. Minister that medication was supposed to be available. However, such medication is not accessible. My question then is that the partnerships that are being highlighted by the Hon. Minister, do they assist or help our people in terms of buying affordable medication because we know that when they are private partnerships, the private companies are into business, they want to make profits. I thank you.

***HON. KWIDINI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for that supplementary question. Indeed, the medication that was mentioned is not found all over the country but the Hon. Member then alluded to chronic illnesses, which is a specific question. However, let me say that medication is distributed and it is used differently. So, our people who are on the ground for chronic medication would clarify that chronic medication is available; it is there. In terms of partnerships, for our residents to

get affordable medication, if the Government is in a public-private partnership, then it will subsidise such medication so that it is affordable to the ordinary citizen. At the moment, the Government does not have a company that manufactures medication locally, but we have Zimbabweans who are manufacturing medication who are paid to supply medication to our hospitals. So, the Government is going to assist such players so that medication is subsidised and affordable to our people. I thank you.

***HON. TOGAREPI:** Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing rumours that despite the shortage of medication, sometimes what causes this to happen when such medication has been distributed to hospitals is because of the pilfering or stealing of medication by medical personnel, by people who work in hospitals. Is there any control mechanism where the Government, after buying such medication, ensures that such medication is used to benefit patients instead of the medication going to private pharmacies? What control measure is in place to safeguard such medication?

***HON. KWIDINI:** Let me start by thanking Hon. Togarepi for that question. It is true, in every home there is a troublemaker;

there is no home without one. We note that but let me clarify by saying that Government is losing a lot of money through leakages. After buying medication, people steal medication from hospitals for resale in their pharmacies. As I am speaking, there is a company that we hired as the Ministry of Health and Child Care, to install a tracking system from the source, from NatPharm to Parirenyatwa Hospital, to those who will be receiving such medication and eventually going to the pharmacy.

We now have a tracking system that we have installed. In the near future, you will note that there are some who are going to come; whether they are in this august House or outside, they will be coming to negotiate on behalf of their relatives who would have been ensnared by the system and will be facing prosecution.

The President, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa said that those who steal should be arrested. So, let me say that at one point when people were stealing medication, the issues were not addressed properly but let me promise the august House that with the new system, we are going to ensure that our medication is protected in hospitals. Let me also say that people know that when you go to a hospital with a

patient, you buy medication and you clearly see that it is medication from the hospital. Sometimes when we try to investigate, people do not talk about such issues. Let me say that when you see people stealing property that belongs to a hospital, when you are called, please testify so that we protect our medication and equipment.

Thank you.

***HON. MUDEKUNYE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. It is true, people who steal from hospitals, you find them reselling it in their pharmacies. My question is that since the Government is responsible for buying medication in bulk, is it not possible to brand the medication, whether it is the tablet or whatever medication? Is it possible to brand it so that we protect such medication? If it is written Government of Zimbabwe, is that possible Madam Speaker?

***HON. KWIDINI:** I want to thank the Hon. Member for that supplementary question. This is something which is already in place. For example, when we buy medication from India, these are in batches with batch numbers directed to Zimbabwe or for the Zimbabwean market.

NatPharm normally puts a batch number for their business unit, from one batch number to a certain number to distinguish which medication is allocated to the private sector and which one is allocated to the Government. However, when repackaging is done sometimes, it is difficult to differentiate the medication. Now, with the new system that we are talking about, because those who steal do not steal at NatPharm, but they steal from hospitals and public institutions, some have cartels from NatPharm to hospitals. So, the tracking system that I am talking about is going to identify where the leakage happened, whether it leaked from NatPharm to Gumbonzvanda or to those who are supposed to dispense medication; are they dispensing properly?

Then, the issue of pharmacies that are near public hospitals, at the beginning of the week, we had a meeting with the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe to discuss that those who work in hospitals cannot open businesses where they sell medication next to the hospital because there is a conflict of interest. We spoke about the designated meters which are allowed or the actual distance from such a hospital. As I am speaking, the Medicines Control Authority

of Zimbabwe is in the process of promulgating such a law. Thank you.

+HON. MUJEYI: Good afternoon Madam Speaker Ma'am. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. What strategies are in place for controlling dump sites by Government? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON. A. MAVUNGA): Thank you Hon. Speaker. Let me thank the Hon. Member for that question which pertains to dump sites. Dump sites are identified by councils and each municipal authority is responsible for identifying dump sites using its by-laws in its particular town or city. However, when dump sites cannot be used, if they have been overused, then there are other strategies that are put in place in terms of dealing with them. For example, at the African Museum.

+HON. MUJEYI: Good afternoon Madam Speaker Ma'am. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government,

Public Works and National Housing. What strategies has Government put in place to control dumpsites? I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
PUBLIC WORKS AND NATIONAL HOUSING (HON.
GARWE):** Thank you Hon. Speaker. Let me thank the Hon.

Member for that question which pertains to dumpsites. Dumpsites are identified by councils and each municipal authority is responsible for identifying dumpsites using their city by-laws.

However, dumpsites cannot be used if they have been overused but can be dealt with in the same manner that they did with the Africa Museum.

***HON. MUJEYI:** Thank you Hon. Minister for that good response. My supplementary question is, what the Minister has said is indeed true but some local authorities do not have equipment because sometimes dumpsites are found next to residential areas, for example at Ngozi Mine next to Cowdry Park in Bulawayo. The Bulawayo City Council does not have the necessary equipment, so you find them burning waste. This affects children at the school next to the dumpsite and it has affected the students' health. If

Local Government does not have such machines, then what could be done as a solution? I thank you.

***HON. GARWE:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Ma'am. The Hon. Member's question is two pronged. He first spoke about Cowdry Park, which is a specific question. However, the other part regarding availability of equipment, there is no council at the moment which is not fully equipped. Councils are being assisted by Government in terms of having yellow machines and from our Ministry, we have the Local Authorities Technical Support Unit which leases equipment to municipal authorities, for example the Bulawayo City Council (BCC). Our Ministry is going to engage the BCC but from my knowledge, Bulawayo City Council has such equipment and if they are not fulfilling their responsibilities using the yellow machines at dumping sites, we will look into the issue. Every urban and rural council has access to equipment and even those who do not have their own equipment are allowed to hire such equipment. I thank you.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Hon. Speaker. The Minister told us that it is the role of local authorities to manage

dumpsites in their respective jurisdictions. My question to the Minister is, what supervisory mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the dumpsites and waste management within the urban and rural councils are done effectively. They may have the machinery as alluded to by the Minister but how does the Ministry ensure things are happening on the ground in terms of waste management?

HON. GARWE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. The Ministry of Local Government and Public Works is responsible for oversight of the 92 local authorities. Out of the 92 local authorities, 16 are in the rural district councils and 32 in urban areas. Under the Urban Councils Act which we administer, we have a department that deals with waste management, waste collection and waste related activities. If there are local authorities that you know of where dumpsites are not being managed properly, I humbly request that you write to us and give us the names of those local authorities. We are now under the Minimum Service Delivery Standards Policy which ensures that all local authorities adhere to

minimum service delivery standards policy as pronounced by His Excellency this time last year. I thank you.

***HON. SHONGEDZA:** My question is directed to the Minister of Home Affairs and in his absence, I will direct it to the Leader of Government Business. What is Government policy on repatriation of goods stolen from this country that are exported to other countries and can be identified in those countries, I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):** I would like to thank Hon. Shongedza for the question. It is true with regards to stolen goods, be it in this country or outside our borders, that we work with Interpol to identify and bring back stolen goods or wanted criminals. That is when you hear people being deported back to the countries where they will have committed crimes. This is to do with the relations that we have with Interpol. If you commit a crime in any particular country, you are supposed to go back and face justice in that country. As for the recovered stolen goods, they are also supposed to be sent back to the countries where they will have been stolen. I thank you.

***HON. MUJEYI:** I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for the response. My question is, does Interpol deal with specific crimes or they deal with any crime?

***HON. MHONA:** I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the question. Any crime that is considered criminal regardless of the magnitude, as long as it is considered a crime, it means it is highly regarded as important. Anybody is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The reason why they are supposed to be repatriated is so that they go through the justice system of trial and sentencing. I thank you.

***HON. MHETU:** My supplementary question is with regards to recovered stolen goods, especially from neighbouring countries which may not be under Interpol. If stolen goods are recovered in such a country, what do I do to recover the goods? What is Government doing to persuade our neighbouring countries to join Interpol so that recovered stolen goods can be repatriated back to our country? I thank you.

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

Every country has extradition treaties that stipulate how the countries relate when criminals are arrested across the border. So, those are the important things to consider. When a criminal is arrested, those protocols are followed. There were several agreements. I will give you an example of recovered stolen cattle or livestock. When they are arrested, they are repatriated back to those countries. So, this is what happens. Countries have various agreements and protocols. I thank you.

HON. MUSHORIWA: I wanted to find out from the Hon. Minister. Interpol has four regional offices and one of them is actually housed here in Zimbabwe. What are the challenges that we have as a country in terms of utilising our hosting of Interpol regional offices to ensure that what has been stolen from Zimbabwe and found in other countries is quickly retrieved once it has been found rather than the situation we have at the moment that most equipment, once they leave our borders, it is difficult to get those equipment especially motor vehicles?

HON. MHONA: I would like to thank Hon. Mushoriwa for that very important question. Like I indicated, in terms of issues to do with laws of a particular jurisdiction, it depends like he has indicated, the issues of motor vehicles which I do concur that in some instances it might be even difficult. At our borders, we might be having a number of vehicles that are in the custody of Zimbabwe and trying to retrieve those might also be a lengthy process. So, I do agree with him and I am sure as we also go through issues to do with engaging other stakeholders in terms of our neighbouring countries, if there are such issues, I will engage my colleague Minister so that they expedite the process of exchange in the event that there are assets that are supposed to be coming from across to another destination.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. My question to the Hon. Minister is, may the Hon. Minister inform this House on the integrated policy framework which is in place to govern inland waterways as part of Zimbabwe's transport systems, ensuring strict vessel safety standards, climate resilient infrastructure investment and equitable access for rural and

cross-border communities whose livelihoods depend on water routes for mobility, trade and tourism so that no ministry ducks on responsibility. I so submit.

HON. MHONA: Indeed, the ease of travelling through the waters is also one of the modes of transport the world-over. In our particular case, we have got Inland Waters Shipping Act, 13:06 that governs the operation of our maritime, whether they are vessels and there are prescribed ways on how one is licenced, one operates, how one reacts when there is a disaster. So, it is clearly stipulated in the Inland Waters Shipping Act. You find that the Act specifies the safety concerns like what is highlighted. It is something that we must embrace as a nation but it is not an anomaly to go through a ferry boat or a boat. It is given in the instance that it might be economic, it might be shorter and faster. So, at the end of the day, these are some of the issues that we then look at.

Normally when you look at our case, at times if one travels by water, then one might think that it is an anomaly. No, we have got such instances where people are living across and they rely heavily on the ferry boats. So, I really agree that yes, as we then have such

ferry boats, issues of safety are of paramount importance. They are well articulated in the piece of legislation that I have highlighted.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for that response. My supplementary question to the Hon. Minister is, recognising that inland waterways touch on transport, local government, environment, tourism and disaster management, I would like to find out the whole of Government mechanism that exists to coordinate policy and enforcement across these ministries so that our waterways are governed as a unified national system rather than left to fragmented mandates which operate in silos.

HON. MHONA: Let me thank Hon. Murombedzi for articulating very well the composition of the waterways that she has alluded to. Indeed, this is not an isolated sector like what she has indicated. If you approach a harbour, you get a ticket from the Zim-Parks, like I am giving you an example. So, already they are involving another ministry. As you navigate, there are also another ministry involved again. So, these are issues. In terms of this piece of legislation, it is not like we are fragmented. My condolences to

the Kariba boat disaster but you have seen the disaster management falls under Local Government.

You have seen the Local Government Minister coming in because this is a disaster management issue but it does not mean that it hinges on the Ministry of Local Government. All other departments, MDAs, will then fall into place but it is for coordination's sake that now since it is classified a disaster, then we feed into the Ministry of Local Government. It is not a silo approach. It is the whole of Government approach where we feed into the disaster management, get instructions on how we proceed. That is why you are not hearing Ministry of Transport speaking, Ministry of Environment speaking and Ministry of Home Affairs speaking. We have now collaborated ourselves in terms of the whole of Government that she is advocating for. So, indeed, this is the architecture of the waterways that yes, there are various players but whenever it is a disaster, we then fall under a ministry that superintends over disasters.

***HON. KARENYI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My supplementary question is based on the response by the Minister as

well as the condolences message. In the end, we are not sure which department must speak out, especially when a disaster is declared. What is the Government's plan to ensure that, instead of people regarding water transport as cheaper, it provides alternatives such as service roads whereby they can use road transport instead of people rushing to water as the cheapest mode of transport? Thank you.

***HON. MHONA:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Like I said earlier on, the Minister of Local Government and Public Works becomes the point Minister because it does not mean that this disaster lies on their Ministry only, but it is because of coordination from other Government ministries. This is not a single ministry's responsibility, but that is where Civil Protection comes in, be it an accident, cyclones or floods. If it is declared a national disaster, we cannot say it is a single person's responsibility. When the Minister of Local Government and Public Works speaks out, it means it is a matter of coordination.

From what Hon. Karenyi is saying, it is not out of desperation that people are using water transport. That is the means of transport. Let me give you an example of Kariba. When the dam was

constructed, there was Kariba urban and Kariba rural. This means the shortest possible transport is by water. If you use the road, you end up travelling 313 kilometres from Kariba urban to Kariba rural. Another road where you go via Karoi is 137 kilometres. If you use water transport, that distance is only 87 kilometres. It is not a desperation to use water transport, but it is because that is the shortest means of transport available. What we should ensure is that the transport is safe. Whether you travel by road, rail or by air, there are all forms of transport. If someone wants to go around 437 kilometres, it is their choice, but if that person chooses the shortest transport, it is their choice also. The problem is the perception that when one uses water transport, it is a mistake or it is desperation. The most important thing is to ensure that any form of transport chosen is safe so that people get to their destination safely. Thank you.

***HON. CHINANZVAVANA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My supplementary question to the Hon. Minister is, since using water transport is a choice, can we not say that because people are choosing water transport, it is because of poor roads? Is it not a

problem of the unavailability of buses? Is it because people are desperate or is it because they choose voluntarily, or they do not have options due to poor roads or shortage of buses?

***HON. MHONA:** I would like to thank the Hon.

Chinanzvavana. As I said earlier, I will repeat, the road is there.

When the road is bad, it is another story. If a person were to use the road to travel one or two kilometres, that person may end up travelling two or four kilometres. We are saying, even if the roads were good, nobody would choose to go 400 kilometres. Yet water transport is a very fast option. We are not saying people are using that transport out of desperation. Some of those people are business people, they go to fishing camps. Even if there was a road, they would choose to stop by the fishing camps.

Yes, we agree that the roads are supposed to be in a good state, but it is not that people have chosen to use the water transport out of desperation. It is by choice. I think it is important for this House to know that water transport is there, although people may choose to take the longer routes. I am glad that this question has been raised at a good time; where we are supposed to be debating

the budget sooner. The Karoi-Binga and Binga-Dete Road is 465 kilometres. I would be glad if the roads were allocated enough funds to rehabilitate them. The road that goes to Binga, Karoi, Siakobvu, and Chalala is 437 kilometres and should be allocated enough funds. Karoi-Binga Cross-Dete, there are 19 bridges on that road.

We also have Kalahari soils, which make it difficult to construct roads. When we send our experts to give us quotations, they say it is ZWL950 to one billion to finish constructing the roads, 950 million to one billion because of the number of bridges that are there, the Kalahari soils as well as the distance. As the Second Republic, we have since agreed already with the private sector to work on the road. We are saying the Government cannot carry a one billion road on its own. We need to collaborate with other partners to ensure that the road is rehabilitated.

Yes, coming back to Hon. Karenyi, fixing the road is a very good solution. That road will not only help the people from Kariba, but it will also help people from Zambia, where they will go straight to Victoria Falls from Karoi instead of going to Cross-Dete. Those

are some of the projects that we want to finish as the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development. Thank you.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. We see ministries dealing with women's issues being very active in the communities where we come from and assisting the youths. What plans do they have to assist people with disabilities, especially in the rural areas? People with disabilities are not getting assistance, like wheelchairs. Some of the people with disabilities cannot walk and cannot use restrooms on their own. We do not see the district officers in the communities where we come from, following up on people with disabilities. Do they have a database of people living with disabilities who need such assistance? We have met some people with disabilities who need wheelchairs and have not sat in wheelchairs in their lives. What is the Government's plan to ensure that they reach out to people with disabilities in the rural communities?

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

I would like to thank Hon. S. Tshuma. It is a very important question. We have our people with disabilities. Some get disabilities after getting older but through our Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, we have officers who are responsible for getting all queries from people. So, if there is a special place that the Hon. Member wants us to focus on, we are ready as Government because that is what we are waiting for. If it is not a policy issue, may the Hon. Member put it in writing so that we make investigations to find out why it is not happening that way? I thank you.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** Supplementary, thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Like the example I gave earlier, the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development or the Ministry of Youth or Sports, we see them on the ground. We see them assisting the people under their ministries. However, for this Ministry, we are not seeing them actively giving out, for example, wheelchairs because that is what they expect, because that is their basic need, especially those who may not be able to walk into the toilets. If that has been happening in the

provinces or districts, we could have seen that. Where I come from, I have not seen that at all.

HON. E. MOYO: Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

The issue of assistive devices, including wheelchairs, is coordinated by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. In the Ministry, we have a Disability Department under the Social Welfare Sector. Now, the disbursements are dependent on the availability of resources from the Treasury. However, we do give those wheelchairs and other assistive devices although it is limited.

In addition, we also have several partners who also give out. I will give instances where we are giving out. We run several exhibitions and also symposiums where these are also given. What is important is that we need to have a register of requirements in priority order, then those are honoured by our district offices. I thank you.

***HON. HAMAUSWA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My supplementary question is, looking at the method being used by the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development with regard to innovation, what are the

Government plans with regard to equipment like wheelchairs, which we do not think may be very difficult to make. Why do we not make them in this country so that they can be easily accessible to people with disabilities since we have iron or metal being made at Manhize. What is the problem with regard to making wheelchairs locally or manufacturing locally? I thank you.

HON. E. MOYO: Thank you Madam Speaker. That is a very good point where, if we manufacture locally, those will become cheaper and readily available. However, this also presents an opportunity for the private sector to get into the space and manufacture these. At the moment, we have very few manufacturers of say, for example, limbs. However, under the National Social Security Authority (NSSA), under the rehabilitation window, we have now started manufacturing these at the Bulawayo Rehabilitation Centre. So, that is going to make these available, but this availability of limbs and other assistive devices is going to be limited to those who are contributing under NSSA.

However, for the greater population of the country, it will be important to have a wider manufacturing base and the private sector could take advantage of that opportunity. I thank you.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Supplementary! Thank you Madam Speaker. I want the Hon. Minister to advise the House. The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare is one of the ministries, according to the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, in his mid-term budget, that had 8% utilisation of the 2026 budget. When it comes to the line on disability, it is at 0% up to 30th June. The question therefore is, Hon. Minister, can you advise this House where the problem is? Is the problem in the procurement processes within your Ministry or does the problem lie with the Treasury? This is because your Ministry is at 8% and the average is around 40 something percent. Where is the problem? Our people are suffering, the disabled and even those people who need to be assisted under the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM). Is the problem in the procurement and processes in the administration of your Ministry, or does it lie somewhere else? This is because 8% is just too little.

HON. E. MOYO: Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

The issues of the percentages are debatable. The figures that I have are slightly different. What is critical and what is true is that budget utilisation is still very low. That is a fact. However, on the 8%, I am not very sure about that. The issue of budget utilisation is dependent on two factors: firstly, disbursements or budget releases by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion and secondly, cash availability. So, if the releases are funded, then the procurement process is not really a problem. Procurement processes in the Government are standard and that should not be a problem. The problem comes when you get to financial support.

The real issue is to do with what we have to do to correct that scenario. Several measures have been put in place and discussions have come through. We have now created a platform where our Ministry, led by the Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and the Deputy Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, co-chair a committee

where these follow-ups are then done so that we can try and pressurise for these releases and then utilisation can then rise.

So, this is a matter of concern to us and we only wish that these could be honoured. We believe that with this new mechanism of co-chairing of a committee to deal with this budget issue, we are going to realise some success. I thank you.

HON. MUKOMBERI: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My question is directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. Allow me to commend the Government for the successful roll-out of the primary and secondary Heritage-Based Curriculum, which is actually producing learners with practical skills.

My question to the Minister is that given the 6.2% economic growth projection currently anchored on industry and agriculture, what is the Government doing to strengthen STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), agriculture and vocational subjects in primary and secondary schools to align with NDS2 and Vision 2030? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): Good afternoon Hon. Speaker Sir. May I thank Hon. Mukomberi for such a pertinent question. On the efforts that we are rolling out to strengthen STEM education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), as well as ensuring that agriculture is taught, I want to thank the Government under the astute leadership of Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa for introducing the Heritage-Based Curriculum.

The Heritage-Based Curriculum is very important because we inculcate critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills in our learners. We endeavour to give life skills to our students because of the importance of the Heritage-Based Curriculum. The African Union Commission on Education has recommended that the entire African continent should follow the example of Zimbabwe. Also, because of the significance of the Heritage-Based Curriculum, His Majesty the King, King Charles III, decided to invite one Minister to England in 2025 because of the similarities that exist between his harmony philosophy and the Heritage-Based Curriculum.

Hon. Speaker Sir, yours truly became an invited guest of the King of England, where I went and had interaction with the King. The Heritage-Based Curriculum is aligned with the national trajectory and vision of His Excellency the President, Vision 2030, of ensuring that by 2030 we have an upper-middle-income society.

Education is the only way we can improve our standard of living. It is an enabler that creates opportunities for the youth. It is also a driver of economic development and economic growth. We have embarked on several initiatives to ensure that education becomes an important tool with a transformative impact. I want to quote one statesman who says, “Education should produce goods and services that our people need. If education fails to produce goods and services that our people need, that education is useless.” That person is none other than the President of Zimbabwe, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa.

TVET is one of the major pillars of the Heritage-Based Curriculum where we are rolling out technical skills. We impart those skills to our learners from the infant school right up to upper 6 level. We now have Government technical primary schools. We

have the propensity to ensure that in every district, we are going to introduce those Government technical primary schools. Among the technical skills that we are offering in our schools, both primary and secondary, include agriculture, metal work, electrical engineering and motor mechanics.

A student in Form 2 can write examinations in electrical engineering and through HEXCO as an examining body. For any electrical challenges that do happen in the schools or their homes, they do not hire an electrical engineer or an electrician. Those electrical problems are addressed and fixed by our students. Motor mechanics is another discipline that we are offering in some of our schools. For example, if you go to Bulawayo, at St. Columbus, girls in Forms 1 and 2 are already doing motor mechanics. They are training to earn a living. When they complete O' level, those students may choose to proceed to a technical vocational college and may practise motor mechanics as a source of livelihood. We want our learners to be job creators and not to be job seekers because we have this Heritage-Based Curriculum.

STEM is very important. The Government, through the wise counsel of the President, in 2026, constructed 14 science laboratories in Matabeleland South. These were all commissioned by the President. As we proceed to Masvingo for independence celebrations, we are targeting to build not less than 50 science laboratories and 50 computer laboratories. STEM is very important and we value it. This is the only way we can bring about modernity, economic growth and economic development.

We are investing a lot in STEM and we are also investing a lot in...

HON. MUTSEYAMI: Thank you so much Hon. Speaker Sir. With all due respect, Hon. Speaker, while we really appreciate the question time period, is the Hon. Minister answering a question or is he now presenting a Ministerial Statement? I think there is need to respect the fact that he has been given the floor to respond to questions asked. If he wants to present a Ministerial Statement, then he must be allocated time not question time.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):

Thank you Hon. Minister. Maybe if you could cut your response a bit short.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): Hon. Speaker Sir, the question is, I should address STEM, I should address agriculture, I should address HBC, Heritage Based Curriculum, that is the question. Does the Hon. Member expect me to give a partial answer? Hon. Speaker, the answer is no – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, Order. You may proceed, Hon. Minister,

HON. T. MOYO: Hon. Speaker, we can only achieve the vision of the President before 2030 if we invest in STEM, if we invest in technical, vocational education and training. That is how we can achieve the vision of the President, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa and that is why the African Union Commission on Education has recommended that the entire Africa, the entire world should follow the footsteps of Zimbabwe.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Supplementary Hon. Speaker.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Go ahead.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for his response. He articulated that education is a driver to economic growth and they have been constructing a lot of laboratories for the sake of improving education.

My follow-up question therefore is, given a poor run-off result that we have seen previously, I can give an example. For June, all the ordinary level examinations, Zimbabwean students only got a 3% pass rate. How do we reconcile this? All the efforts that are being made to build laboratories and doing all these things, yet the results are not forthcoming. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

HON. T. MOYO: Hon. Speaker, we have seen an improvement in the results. Every year, we have seen a phenomenal rise in the pass rate at Grade 7, Ordinary Level and Advanced Level. The Hon. Member should not read much in the June examinations, because it is an exam for the repeaters. Very few students in the formal education category sit for those exams. So,

the 3% came from those students who are in school – [HON. MEMBER: *Slow learners.*] - You should wait until November, because in November, that is when our students will sit for those examinations and because of the investments we have done, rolling out 8 000 Starlink kits, introducing STEM, rolling out the Heritage-Based Curriculum. In fact, in 2026, we are going to witness the first examination under HBC and watch this space, there will be an improvement in the percentage. I thank you.

HON. JAMES: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development. We have heard that the bulk of money has been allocated to the railways. Could the Minister give us a quick resume on progress on the resuscitation of the rail system?

My main question is, some days ago there was a service, a railcar service, from Beira to Mutare and Mutare to Harare. Would his ministry consider reinstating this service? I thank you.

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

Thank you Hon. Speaker and let me also thank Hon. James. Indeed, he has posed a very important question pertaining resuscitation of railway, especially our railway line and our locomotives which are rolling stocks that we have on the railway line.

To start by the last part of his question, yes, we have started rehabilitating the line, that is, from Machipanda into Mutare, Mutare to Harare where we are almost done with the cautions. The cautions will then enable the locomotive to traverse at a much better speed than when there are cautions. This is what we have done and we have been working closely with CFM. CFM is just like National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) across Mozambique. So, we have been collaborating very closely. We have done that particular stage together, especially the problematic Machipanda-Mutare mountainous area, where we also assisted on that particular stretch.

Given the network of our railway line which is close to 2 700 kilometres nationwide, 9% of that particular coverage needs to be addressed in terms of cautions. I am happy that we have also engaged external funders to come up in terms of rolling stock so

that we procure the wagons and the locomotives. This is what we are doing through Mutapa.

As you know, the Railways Act is now administered under Mutapa and as a ministry, we are providing policy guidance and this is what we are doing but we are also being briefed by Mutapa that very soon we will be working and mandating some of the cargo that you are witnessing going through our roads being channelled.

Hon. Members having been making noise in the House.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order Hon. Minister. At the top there, what is happening? – [HON. MEMBERS: *Which top Hon. Speaker? You mean in the visitors' gallery?*] - Hon.

Mutseyami, Hon. Dhliwayo, Hon. Hlatywayo, what is happening there? If you want to converse your interesting stories, you may take them up to the second floor and then come back when you are done. Hon. Minister, please carry on.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Speaker and also to thank Hon. James. Indeed, we are also inviting the private sector to partake in the movement of goods through our railway line so that it

is not only to Government, but you come on board with your rolling stock and then we reduce on railage as you use the railway line.

These are some of the initiatives that we are doing. So, you will find that when we collaborate closely with the private sector, we then alleviate that burden from NRZ, of making sure that we re-capacitate in terms of rolling stock. I thank you Hon. Speaker.

***HON. HAMAUSWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I really thank the Minister for that comprehensive response. I wanted to ask the Minister, what is the Government policy on having locomotives to carry people, especially in Harare, where there are a lot of people who take at least two hours to travel to town from Warren Park? To reduce congestion, may we have trains which ferry more people? May the Hon. Minister respond on that issue? People will be happy to know when the trains which used to ferry people to town from their residential area are being reinstated.

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):**
Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I also thank Hon. Hamauswa for that pertinent question. He has indeed raised a very pertinent question

which allows us to clarify. The Ministry of Transport is working hand-in-glove with the Ministry of Local Government which looks at rural and town councils, which means that when we are seeing the movement of people in towns, for example in Harare, if you allow me, may the Hon. Minister of Local Government notify us, Master Plan, when he is going to present how people are going to be ferried, when he is going to talk about mass urban transport system. As many people know, if you go into the roads, those who fail to get to their homes in time know that it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport. It is not false, but it is pertinent for people to know that every town has its own plans for the movement of people from one point to another. As the Ministry of Transport, we have got plans to revitalise the rail from Chitungwiza to Harare.

There were some communications concerning that issue. However, when the proper work for reinstatement started, we found out that people had already constructed their houses along the way where the rail was supposed to be constructed. Hence, the Government is now sitting down and revisiting to look into the

issue to find out how best they can put it so that the Government can desist from demolishing houses and construct the rail system.

On the issue of ferrying people, the Minister of Local Government can also talk on the issue of massive transportation of people in towns.

HON. SAGANDIRA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Can the Hon. Minister clarify whether there is a legal provision in the Railways Act that prohibits the transportation of fuel by road? I thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. Let me also thank Hon. Sagandira. By nature, we also register fuel tankers and they are designed as fuel tankers with specific tonnage in terms of what they are supposed to carry. No law then forbids fuel from being transported by road. Yes, in terms of economic sense, you are talking of using a pipeline, rail and whether they are wagons, but there is no ban on fuel being moved by road.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question to the Hon. Minister is in response to his earlier statement that the Government has introduced a policy

allowing private players to use our rail system to transport goods from one area to another. Could the Minister advise this House whether the Government is going to set a timeframe to ensure that those people with heavy goods use the railway line, now that the private sector is also allowed to use the railway line? We cannot have a situation where you fix a road today and two years down the line, that road is no longer passable, primarily because we have trucks that are carrying heavy materials which should have been carried by the railway line. Now that the Government has announced a policy inviting private players to operate on the railway line, are we setting a deadline to ensure that these companies that deliver or supply heavy luggage or materials are forced to use the railway line?

HON. MHONA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and let me thank Hon. Mushoriwa for a very pertinent question. We are advocating in the Ministry, contemplating the same thinking where we are saying it has to be mandatory now to move certain tonnage from our roads to our railway line. In some instances, this is deliberate because you find that some of the mining companies have also acquired trucks to

move their minerals or their ores and this is a deliberate ploy to make sure and maximise their business. Going forward, it is something that we are also saying as a Ministry, yes, there will come a time when we will mandate, through State instruments, people to move certain tonnage towards rail. Now, it is basically through moral persuasion where we are saying we have got mining companies, we have to approach them and ask them to also direct.

However, we are having a problem which I must warn those transporters about again. It is quite saddening that last week, I can give an example, a 30-tonne truck was carrying 67 tonnes on our roads. You can imagine that kind of tonnage on our roads, damaging our roads, where again in this august House, you will be asked to explain why your roads are getting dilapidated soon after being reconstructed. Surely, a 67-tonne on a 30-tonne road, that cannot be condoned. This is something that we are saying as a Ministry and together with this august House, we continue appealing to our people to say, yes, if we are using the road, let us stick to the agreed limits on a particular stretch. To answer his question again, surely, very soon we will be working on the

mandatory movement of goods by rail and that does not stop any private player from also participating. As I indicated, it is not only through rolling stock, it can even be through construction. Where we also have concession agreements, and we have got one already known as BBR, it is a concession agreement, they constructed the railway line, they are using the railway line and this is something that we can also advocate to the private sector.

HON. MUTOKONYI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question goes to the Ministry of Agriculture. We have seen quite a lot in terms of the implementation of the agriculture food systems and rural transformation strategy. How far has the Ministry gone in terms of increasing the production of the national herd, particularly in the communal areas where we have seen quite a depletion in terms of the herd through various challenges and diseases? What is the Ministry doing to ensure that the country gets enough herd, particularly in the rural communal areas? Thank you.

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

Speaker Sir and also thank you Hon. Mutokonyi for the question. It relates to an important enterprise being livestock in the communal areas. About 90% of our livestock population of 5.7 million is in rural areas. It is a sector that Government looks to protect in order to grow the livestock herd, not only as a social status symbol but also for the potential economic transformation that the livestock enterprise, if commercialised, properly presents for upliftment of communities towards Vision 2030. It is in this context that the three major areas of attention by Government in terms of the agriculture food systems and rural transformation strategy have been genetics, disease and pastures. We are aware that there is major inbreeding within the communal sector. The bull-to-cow ratio is not optimal and therefore, we are also introducing artificial insemination by introducing elite indigenous breeds for the communal area.

We are also attending to diseases and in particular, we lost about 500 000 cattle between 2017 and 2021. Hence, the introduction of the Presidential Tick Grease Programme which has led to a very substantial reduction in tick-borne diseases. We are also introducing hay baling. Recently, the Government distributed

40 tractors with mowers and balers to the provinces to start the baling programme so that in the lean period, we can ensure that our livestock are provided with a supplementary feed programme. These are the interventions that have now started to bear fruit. We are beginning to see an increase in the livestock population.

Mr. Speaker Sir, last year ZimStat estimated that the 5.7 million cattle that we have have seen a modest growth of 2% from 2024. I expect that this growth trajectory will be maintained. However, livestock as an enterprise principally places the responsibility to grow on the communal people who should present their livestock for dipping, ensure that the livestock are treated as a commercial enterprise and in partnership with Government, we can continue on this sustainable growth trajectory.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Minister. Hon. Members from both sides, your voices are getting louder and louder. Can we please be organised and remember, only one Member should be standing in the House, please. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] - Order! Order! Let us have order in the House please. Let us keep our voices down. If there is a

serious need for heavy conversation, you are always allowed to go outside and do that. Please allow the ministers to be heard in silence so that we hear their responses and also allow the Members to ask their questions in silence so that the ministers understand the questions that are being asked.

HON. MUTOKONYI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Minister for the response. However, I think in most rural communities on the plunged dip tanks, there is a challenge of water shortages. What is the Ministry doing to ensure that there is consistent water supply so that the dip tanks are operational weekly?

HON. DR. MASUKA Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you Hon. Mutokonyi for the supplementary question. Of the 4 212 dip tanks in the country, many of them are functional during the rainy season. As we get into the drier period, many in the drier regions also dry up. What we are focusing on is the 1 620 wards that we have identified as at risk and in Regions 3, 4 and 5 where we would like to establish what we call ward drought mitigation centres.

These are centres where we will choose where to drill a more prolific borehole and we will have associated village business units, a spray race for cattle, but also a feeding trough. So that is the intervention that we are currently undertaking. The more prolific ones recently, from January to the end of July, we also solarised 210 boreholes associated with some of the more prolific dip tanks. We also recommend that under the Presidential Blitz Tick Grease Programme, which now involves a pour-on, the one million or so cattle-owning households will be able to access some tick grease or a pour-on which they should administer at the local level, at the household level, to try and mitigate this water shortage.

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

HON. MUSHORIWA: I move that the time for Questions Without Notice be extended by 15 minutes.

HON. P. DUBE: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker and thank you to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development for his response. My supplementary question is that the Hon. Minister told us that there are roughly 5.7 million herd of cattle in the country. I just wanted to check, in terms of the recovery and growth plan, the LRGP that was launched in 2021, the five-year policy framework up to 2026, would you say Hon. Minister, that this plan has actually been a success? If it had not been a success, what were the challenges that we have actually encountered in this plan for the past five years? My view was that maybe by now, we should have a herd of probably close to 7.5 million if the envisaged plan as it was launched in 2021 had been followed through.

HON. DR. MASUKA: Thank you Mr. Speaker and thank you Hon. Mushoriwa for the supplementary question. The simple answer to his question is, yes, the plan has been very successful and that is why we are seeing growth in the sector. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

***HON. MHETU:** My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Child Care. Looking at the issue of mothers who give birth in homes because they cannot afford maternity fees, what is the Government policy to reduce the maternity fees which are supposed to be paid by expecting mothers?

***THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. KWIDINI):** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I also thank Hon. Mhetu for that pertinent question. I do not know if he has places or health care centres which request payment for expecting mothers to register their pregnancy. According to Government policy, an expecting mother is supposed to register her pregnancy with a health institution for free. We also have some council health facilities that charge what they call delivery fees. Right now, we are in the process of sitting down with the councils to make sure that they join hands with the Government and remove the fees where an expecting mother is supposed to pay a delivery fee.

You will see that we have started here in Harare where we joined hands with the Harare City Council, including Mabvuku Polyclinic. Mothers who are delivering at Mabvuku Polyclinic are

doing so free of charge because we have Government employees who are now working at Mabvuku Polyclinic and are assisting the people. Right now, the programme is in Stoneridge. We are going to cascade the programme to all polyclinics in all towns. If it is in the rural areas, we do not have clinics that are charging expecting mothers.

Most of the clinics in the rural areas are under the Rural District Councils where there are Government employees, so there are no cost recoveries. What is being charged is the issue that was being discussed in this House, the money for fuel where expecting mothers were expected to pay for transport to ferry them to a health facility. The Government is working with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion on that issue and it was resolved to make sure that expecting mothers do not give birth at home due to the lack of funds. This will also help us as the Government to drastically reduce maternal mortality and neonatal mortality. Right now, if you see where people are being asked to pay, especially the expecting mothers, maternity cases must be free. If any health institutions are charging, let us know.

HON. MHETU: Supplementary.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Yes, proceed.

***HON. MHETU:** According to the research which I have done Mr. Speaker, rural health facilities are charging \$10 for expecting mothers. Then health facilities in towns are charging \$20 and most of these health facilities are Government health facilities. They are Government facilities, not council facilities only. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]

HON. CHAIMVURA: Point of order!

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Order. Yes, what is your point of order?

***HON. CHAIMVURA:** My point of order is, where we come from, Mr. Speaker, the expecting mothers are registering their pregnancies for free. May Hon. Mhetu say the truth?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: To make this easy Hon. Mhetu, the Hon. Deputy Minister stood up and answered that in Government policy, pregnant women should not be paying anything. So, if at all there is a particular case or particular hospitals or clinics that are charging, can you put this in writing so that the

Ministry can now go and do their investigations and probably correct what is being done there because clearly it is against Government policy?

Therefore, I do not think I will allow the supplementary question because the Hon. Minister has stated the policy of Government. However, if there is a particular clinic or a particular hospital charging, please put it in writing and put it as a written question or you are free to actually approach their offices with that information, it will help a lot. I hope you understand. Thank you.

HON. MHETU: Point of privilege.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Yes, what is your point of privilege?

***HON. MHETU:** My point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, is this: could the Hon. Minister of Health and Child Care please show me where the Government policy states that expecting mothers must not pay at health facilities? I would like to obtain this document so that I can provide it to these health facilities, ensuring that they understand that no payments should be required. Furthermore, we should ensure that this Government policy is formally documented

and displayed in all health facilities as well as at council offices and rural health centres.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Everything is in order. As I mentioned, their offices are readily accessible for you to approach and obtain the necessary documents. Additionally, it would be very helpful if you could provide them with the names of the hospitals or clinics that are not complying as they are already violating Government policy and need to be addressed. Therefore, I urge you to take this information to his office and ensure that it is implemented.

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

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Yes, go ahead.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Mr. Speaker, this august House is being helpful. If we are allowed, we would request the Hon. Minister to give us the Government policy document so that all of us can be assisted. It does not help for Hon. Mhetu to go to the offices. Even all those who are watching need this document.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** I have explained that the Government policy does not allow any expecting mothers to pay any fees. So, if you really need the document, you can visit the offices. We are not fighting or arguing about the issue. I am saying those who need the document must go to the offices and get the document in terms of the Government policy on expecting mothers.

HON. KARENYI: Supplementary.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Yes, proceed.

***HON. KARENYI:** My supplementary question is, everyone in this august House agrees with me that when we leave this House to go to a Government hospital, Mr. Speaker, we must confront the reality instead of hiding behind the issues. If you go to a rural area and ask for a card for an expecting mother, and that card is charged at \$10, it clearly constitutes a form of payment. If we claim that services for expecting mothers should be free, it means that a woman should be able to leave her home, go to the clinic and register without any payment.

I urge the Hon. Minister to clarify this issue. For instance, if women are expected to pay for a caesarean section which may cost

\$150, it creates a barrier. Ultimately, this situation can lead to tragic outcomes, such as mothers returning home without the necessary care, resulting in the loss of their children.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please take your seat. Hon. Deputy Minister, could you please, for the benefit of those that do not understand you, explain the Government policy on payment of - [HON. MADZIVANYIKA: *Inaudible interjection.*]

- Hon. Madzivanyika, may you please keep quiet; we want to give the opportunity to the Hon. Minister to respond – [HON.

KARENYI: *Mr. Speaker, before he clarifies, we embrace the issue of \$150 for caesarean section. He must answer the caesarean*

section.]- Order, order, order. Please, take your seat. This is not a beerhall. You cannot just stand up and talk. No, when you want to say something, you either rise on a point of order or a point of privilege; you do not just stand up and talk. No, it is not fair. It is not fair at all. You cannot do that. You are a seasoned Member of Parliament. No, I will not accept that. We only do that, yes, in beerhalls, not in this august House. Hon. Deputy Minister, please go ahead.

HON. KWIDINI: I would like to express my gratitude for the discussions and conversations taking place in this House. The goal behind all this dialogue is to ensure that our citizens receive better services and to establish a safer system. During the budget discussions, the noise we generate helps us secure sufficient funding.

Secondly, I would like to address the supplementary question regarding our Zimbabwean maternity policy, which is free of charge. No woman who is pregnant is expected to pay for these services. In every area where people reside, there are clinics where women can go to register their pregnancies at the nearest health facility. Once registered, health professionals will monitor and examine them throughout their pregnancy journey to ensure everything is progressing well. It is particularly important for every woman, especially those in rural areas where designated cards may not be available, to take advantage of these services.

You can purchase a book for either 25 cents or 50 cents, which you can take with you in your bag when you go to the clinic

for your antenatal visits. During this process, all services at the health facility will be provided free of charge.

Now, I would like to address the issue of the \$150 mentioned by Hon. Karenyi. We want to assure all expecting or pregnant mothers that you can go to the hospital for delivery, including for a caesarean section without any payment required. Additionally, if you are transferred from one hospital to another, there will be no fees incurred. However, we also have other women who now want the modern way, who do not want to go through the normal birth process. They argue that when a woman decides to deliver by caesarean section, she has chosen her preferred method of delivery. In such cases, she is expected to consult a doctor and enter the referral system and that is when the applicable charges arise. These are therefore not mandatory fees.

However, where a woman is transferred from facilities such as Mabvuku or Kuwadzana because her case is complicated, for example, the baby is improperly positioned, she may be referred to Sally Mugabe Hospital or Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals. Such patients are not required to pay. They receive the necessary

caesarean section or other operation and give birth free of charge.

Thank you.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

CONSTRUCTION OF THE MATEBELELAND NORTH

PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL

1. **HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE** asked the Minister of Health and Child Care to inform the House on the latest progress on the construction of the Matabeleland North Provincial Hospital in Lupane.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, Hon. Minister.

Hon. Members, with your indulgence, may we follow the approach of ensuring that all ministries present have an opportunity to respond to questions? Accordingly, I have requested the Clerk and the Whips' Office to identify three questions for each ministry represented here. We may therefore not follow the numerical sequence set out in the *Order Paper*. I trust that the House will indulge me in this arrangement, so that all ministries present may respond to questions.

HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. We say that experience is the best teacher. What you are proposing is becoming a system. So maybe that is something that should be considered for changing the system we are using in terms of our Standing Rules and Orders. About two or three times, it is happening. So, why not change the system so that all ministers are accommodated? Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Molokela. I think the administration will definitely look into that in the future.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. KWIDINI): Thank you. Lupane Provincial Hospital in Matabeleland North Province is currently 22.7% complete. Progress has been delayed primarily by severe cash-flow constraints, including outstanding payments of more than USD2 million owed to the contractor. Consequently, the contractor temporarily demobilised from the site due to non-payment, significantly slowing the works.

The Ministry continues to engage Treasury to facilitate the settling of outstanding payment certificates, restore the contractor's liquidity and enable full resumption of works.

Subject to improved cash flow and the timely release of payments, Phase 1 of the project is expected to be completed within 24 months of the full resumption of works.

It should be noted that construction of Lupane Provincial Hospital is being undertaken in two phases. Upon completion, Phase 1 will be fully operational, while Phase 2 will provide for the construction of additional buildings. I thank you.

HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE: Hon. Minister, it has now been two years without any construction activity at Lupane Provincial Hospital, which I have personally visited. Government policy is that no place and no person should be left behind. Yet, 46 years after Independence, Matabeleland North Province still does not have a provincial hospital. The province is being left behind. We therefore require a specific commitment from the Ministry, the Government and Treasury for the funding and completion of this project. The people of Matabeleland North are tired of promises.

May we also request a Ministerial Statement, following consultation with the Treasury, setting out a clear funding plan and timeframe for the completion of Lupane Provincial Hospital.

HON. KWIDINI: Thank you. I believe the entire Government remains guided by His Excellency's mantra that no place and no person should be left behind. As I indicated earlier, had the Ministry received sufficient funding to pay the contractor, the project would have made considerably more progress by now. Unfortunately, cash-flow constraints through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion have affected implementation.

We are also proposing to engage the Presidential Scheme Programme to explore whether it can assist with the project, while Treasury addresses the outstanding debt accumulated under the first contractor. We further hope that the original contractor will return to site to complete the works.

In response to Hon. Molokela's request, a Ministerial Statement will be issued following consultations with the Ministry

of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion. I thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: So, Hon. Molokela, your statement will come in due time.

RENOVATION OF CHIREDDZI GENERAL HOSPITAL

2. **HON. MAKUMIRE** asked the Minister of Health and Child Care to inform the House when Chiredzi General Hospital will be renovated.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (HON. KWIDINI): Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to thank Hon. Makumire for the question regarding the renovation of Chiredzi General Hospital. Indeed, Chiredzi General Hospital, like many other district and general hospitals across the country, requires infrastructure rehabilitation and upgrading to improve service delivery. The Ministry is aware of several areas requiring attention at the hospital, including critical support services such as the mortuary and other ageing infrastructure. The Government remains committed to the progressive refurbishment of health facilities throughout the country, subject to availability of resources.

In this regard, the Ministry welcomes the decision to host the 2027 Independence Celebrations in Masvingo Province, which presents an opportunity to accelerate investments in public infrastructure within the province. As part of preparations for the celebrations, the Ministry of Health and Child Care, working closely with the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, the Treasury and other stakeholders, is currently undertaking assessments to identify health facilities requiring rehabilitation and upgrading.

Chiredzi General Hospital is among the facilities being assessed for possible inclusion under the Independence Legacy Projects Programme. Our technical teams are mapping priority interventions and developing cost estimates to guide implementation. Subject to availability of funding and the completion of necessary approval processes, we intend that refurbishment works at selected hospitals in Masvingo Province, including Chiredzi General Hospital, commence ahead of the Independence Celebrations.

Let me take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Treasury, the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works and our development partners, for the support they continue to provide towards strengthening health care infrastructure across the country. I thank you.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you Hon. Speaker for the response given by the Deputy Minister of Health. We raise these issues because when we visit a hospital with a patient, the hospital itself does not give an environment which shows that there is life. If you look at the history of the restructuring of this hospital, since we got independence, this hospital has not been remembered at all. Like what the Minister has already alluded to, that most of the district hospitals are in this state, why are we letting our hospitals deteriorate to this state whilst we know that our people use these facilities? Bringing independence in Masvingo, we really welcome the initiative, but the hospitals which normally get benefits are the hospitals where independence celebrations are being done. So, like what is happening, help can be received from Mwenezi. The arrival

of independence in Mwenezi must also bring some renovations in Chiredzi.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I am going to allow the Hon. Minister to respond but that issue is an operational issue.

***HON. KWIDINI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I really thank Hon. Makumire for that supplementary question. I also think that the Hon. Member will agree with me that the Hon. Member and myself are people who are happy in the Second Republic. The Second Republic is less than seven years in existence, even some children may not be able to speak properly in a period of seven years. Hence, we want to thank His Excellency, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa that since he became President, there are a lot of referral hospitals which have already been renovated and equipment is there. The opportunities are there that all these hospitals are going to be renovated. Thank you.

RELOCATION OF THE MATEBELELAND NORTH
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT STAFF FROM BULAWAYO TO
LUPANE

4. **HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE** asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to update the House on the progress made regarding relocating the entire Matabeleland North Provincial Government staff from Bulawayo to Lupane and to explain whether there are any set deadlines or timelines for the full completion of the relocation process.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. DINHA): Thank you Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the question. Four officers have moved to Lupane so far due to limited office space at the Government Complex. If more offices are availed to the Ministry, more staff will be moved to Lupane.

Accommodation is another challenge. Only 55 000 housing units were availed to the whole Government and our staff who managed to be relocated are residing in some of the 55 housing units. Local Government has not yet come up with a set deadline to avail more office space and accommodation so that more staff can be relocated to Lupane.

HON. MOLOKELA-TSIYE: The Hon. Minister did not answer the second part of the question. It is 46 years after independence, we do not have a provincial administration system in Matabeleland North. Our officers are based at Mhahlandlela, when are we having the full complement based in Lupane which is our provincial capital? We are being left behind as a province. That is our concern, we want deadlines. When are you taking us from Bulawayo Province because we are not part of Bulawayo, we are part of Matabeleland North and Lupane is our capital? Thank you.

HON. DINHA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As I have already said, Local Government is doing the construction and it has not yet come up with a set deadline. So, the offices are availed to us when they are already built. The timeline or the deadlines are noted there. We are waiting for the Local Government to finish the infrastructure.

SETTLING OF THE ACTUAL BEAM ARREARS BACKLOG

5. **HON. MAKUMIRE** asked the Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to apprise the House on the

actual BEAM arrears to schools and how the Government plans to settle the backlog.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE,
LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. DINHA):** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Owing to the limited fiscal space, BEAM has accumulated arrears dating back to 2023. The areas are as follows:

In 2023, the programme assisted 1 856 996 beneficiaries. The fees were partially paid and left an outstanding arrear of USD62 583 089;

In 2024, the programme assisted 1 261 140 beneficiaries. This made the Ministry accrue an additional USD117 766 325.08 in arrears.

In 2025, the programme assisted 950 192 beneficiaries and USD112 142 942 was the total amount of fees, levies and exam fees.

Cumulatively, the programme has arrears amounting to USD292 492 316.46. This year, Treasury released ZiG84 876 800, which was utilised to partially clear arrears for a few mainstream and special schools; ZiG10 million went towards clearing exam fees

arrears with ZIMSEC. Treasury made a commitment to clear these outstanding arrears and once cash is availed, the Ministry will promptly move to settle the amounts. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir, I so submit.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** I would like to thank the Hon. Minister because the figures that they have availed to us, of children that have been assisted by the Government, show that they are trying. I would like to express my gratitude but the problem is, we want to look into it together, that for these to be assisted and schools do not suffer or struggle because if a school has a number of students whose fees are paid through BEAM, it means that the school will not go forward. So, the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion must interfere to look into the reasons why the money is not being paid. From the first quarter budget review that was presented, can they explain whether they received the money or not or they are not able to use that money hence they remain at 8%? We want to understand whether they are failing to use that money?

***HON. GATA:** It is true we are allocated a budget, a substantial amount. The money that is supposed to pay the figures that I have mentioned of arrears, if we do not get the funds, there is nothing that we can do. For the fund that were allocated to us, we used 80%. That is the money that would have been given. If the money from the Treasury was availed, we were going to be able to pay all the arrears for BEAM but the Treasury has promised that it is going to avail some funds to us so that we clear all the arrears. We are still waiting, as I mentioned that we are waiting for the funds but before the year ends, we are sure that we will have cleared all the BEAM arrears.

+HON. S. MAHLANGU: Maybe I am the one who did not understand but yes, I heard the Hon. Minister referring to the years. He said they paid in 2023, 2024 and 2025 but in each year, there were arrears remaining and now they want to pay for 2026 but still there are arrears. I think the Hon. Minister's response is contradicting the response given by the Ministry during the Mid-Term Budget last week. They indicated that they only had arrears for 2022 and they were not paid for 2023 and 2024 up until 2026.

So, maybe I am the one who did not understand because they indicated that for what was paid, it was only paid in special schools, not these other schools from 2022. Therefore, may the Hon. Minister explain in detail if the payment for 2022 was only for special schools or for the rest of the schools?

HON. GATA: Thank you Hon. Member for the supplementary question. As I said, our outstanding arrears date back to 2023. It is true because in 2023, the BEAM fees were partially paid. You say that I am contradicting the Ministry's statement whose response was that there were no arrears in 2023, 2024 and 2025 but there were arrears just for this year. Hon. Member, with all due respect, I think you did not quite hear the Ministry's statement because we are in arrears for all the other general schools, but there are special schools for persons with disabilities. These are the schools that were paid fully for 2023 and also, they were paid fully for 2024 and 2025. Even this year, they are also partly paid. There are no arrears for those special schools, but for all the other schools, there are arrears that are dating back to 2023. I have already stated

the amount of the arrears, which is around USD292 million. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I am worried about the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. My supplementary question is, is it that as a Ministry, you are not able to stand for your ministry at the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion so that you access the money or is it that the Government does not see the importance of your Ministry?

***HON. GATA:** As I explained, when we are allocated funds, we make payments. It is not that we do not have meetings with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, but we have a committee and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion is part of it. We discuss about these funds that have to be paid. As I have stated that in our last meeting, they promised that all the funds for the BEAM arrears will be paid and we believe that before the year ends, we will be able to access those funds. Children whose fees are paid by BEAM, before 2017, the number was little and the Government was able to pay for those students. After 2017, some other people

offered to assist in paying fees for children under the BEAM scheme.

The number for students who are under BEAM reached around five million. So, when that number reached there, those people who had volunteered to pay the BEAM arrears did not pay. These are the things that are drawing us back, the people who would have promised or volunteered to pay and yet they will not pay. The Government is trying by all means to pay that money. Even our Ministry is giving priority to the BEAM funds. It affects children who are under the BEAM scheme because some of them will be sent away. So, it is something that is in the pipeline. The arrears are going to be cleared and I believe everything will go well. Thank you.

HON. TOGAREPI: I am not satisfied with the presentation by the Minister because these schools largely are, whether they are council schools or Government schools, they are Government schools. How come those arrears that we are paying ourselves affect children who are supposed to be going to school? Why do we allow that? I want to be very frank: I have many schools whose students

are getting support through BEAM but 70 to 80 percent of students are sent home. What I just want to know from the Minister is: we run the schools; we pay for the teachers' salaries and everything in those schools. If we do not pay, say we have a cash flow problem, we fail to pay. How does it affect our children? Who then sends children home? What really happens? For me, it is like we are receiving a gift. This is our system; this is our school system.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon.

Government Chief Whip. I think that question that the Government Chief Whip just posed is a question that we will defer to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education because the Minister of Public Service's duty is to simply organise and pay BEAM money. When it comes to operational issues of children being sent back home for non-payment of fees, maybe we can ask the Hon. Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. If you are not ready with a response, you could even give us a written response on that because I think it affects almost every other Member of Parliament here. We have got school children that are being sent back home,

yet they are under BEAM. We would like to know exactly what is happening.

HON. T. MOYO: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I thank the Government Chief Whip for raising that question. Government policy does not allow exclusion of learners from school. Government policy does not allow turning away students from school as it violates their fundamental right to education. We have had cases of schools that turn away students. Every time we receive such cases, we deal with those culprits. We have instruments in place to suspend the headmaster. Sometimes Hon. Members do not tell us, nor does the general public. Sometimes they tell us and we act. Every headmaster in this country is aware that students are not allowed to be turned away, sometimes they just do it willy-nilly on their own, defying Government directives.

I know of cases of some headmasters in Nkayi North Constituency who were suspended after turning away learners. So maybe I would need, since we are opening the third term in two weeks' time, to do another press statement just to clarify our position and reiterate that students should never ever be turned

away. In some cases, even students on BEAM are turned away, yet it is the responsibility of Government to pay because it is a safety net. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I think to conclude this issue, Hon. Minister, maybe if you may issue that press statement to the effect that schools should not turn away students for non-payment of fees, whether under BEAM or otherwise, it could help. Then the Hon. Members can now be equipped with that kind of press statement to then deal with their situations in their respective constituencies.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** On a point of privilege Mr. Speaker. I see that most ministries complain that they are not getting funds but when the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Investment Promotion comes here, he says that he is meeting targets. How are these funds being handled? Let us agree as the House that he explains how these funds are being accessed because these ministers are begging for Government money. It does not give a good picture. Some of them are women and they will be begging someone's husband for money or funds.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I have heard you. If you may put that in writing so that it can be put in the *Order Paper* and the minister will come with a full or a clear response. If you do that in writing, if it fails, we will ask him or request him to do so.

PROTECTION OF RAPE VICTIMS FROM THE MEDIA

8. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs to inform the House of the Government policy to protect the identity of victims of rape from the media, ensuring they are free to report cases of rape without compromising victims' confidentiality.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. MAZUNGUNYE): Mr. Speaker Sir, in Zimbabwe, the protection of rape victims' identity and confidentiality is managed through a combination of statutory law, specialised judicial systems and media industry guidelines. The primary goal of these policies and laws is to create and also prevent secondary victimisation where the reporting process or media coverage causes additional trauma.

Firstly, the Constitution of Zimbabwe, Section 51 and Section 57 guarantee every person's right to human dignity and privacy in both private and public life, ensuring their dignity is protected and respected. Specifically, Section 57 (d) prohibits the violation of a person's privacy in communications. These rights are fundamental human rights that protect the victim's confidential information from being compromised. Secondly, the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act [Chapter 9:07], is the core piece of legislation that concerns the privacy of victims of sexual offences. It allows court proceedings to be held in camera, behind closed doors when cases of a sexual nature are being heard.

Furthermore, Sections 195 to 197 specifically prohibit the publication of a name, address or any details likely to reveal the identity of a victim of a sexual offence without their written consent or court order. Where publication is done, it is only done under limited circumstances. That is, when it is just and equitable and also in the public interest, subject to strict guidelines as provided for in the aforementioned sections.

Thirdly, the Cyber and Data Protection Act, [Chapter 11.12], is in sync with the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, where Section 11 of the Data Protection Act prohibits the media from releasing information about victims of rape unless they are given consent to be given in that regard.

Fourthly, the Victim-Friendly Courts, in Zimbabwe, we have set up Victim-Friendly Courts in all court stations. These are purpose-built, secure and private court facilities created to safeguard vulnerable witnesses, especially children or survivors of sexual abuse from further trauma during legal proceedings. They often incorporate closed-circuit television or protective screens, enabling victims to give evidence without having to face the accused in public or the public.

In addition, every police station in Zimbabwe has a dedicated unit with specially trained personnel to manage sexual assault cases with care and sensitivity. Reports are taken in private rooms rather than at public charge office desks.

Fifthly, the Public Service Sexual Harassment Policy of 2022; this policy mandates strict confidentiality for any civil servant

reporting sexual assault or harassment. It ensures that internal disciplinary or reporting processes do not leak to the public domain and thus, ensuring the identity of victims in the workplace.

Number six, the National Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence 2023-2030; the Government has adopted a clear policy framework to protect the identity and confidentiality of victims of rape and other forms of gender-based violence. This is embedded within Zimbabwe's National Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence 2023-2030. This policy offers a multisectoral approach that focuses on prevention, response as well as essential elements of survivor support.

Confidentiality in reporting; victims are guaranteed privacy when reporting cases to the police, courts or health facilities. The Zimbabwe Republic Police's Victim Friendly Unit is mandated to handle such cases discreetly.

Media restriction; the law prohibits the publication of names or identifying details of rape victims. Media houses are required to respect victims' anonymity to prevent secondary victimisation.

Legal Safeguard; the Constitution of Zimbabwe and related GBV legislation place obligations on the State to protect vulnerable groups, including survivors of sexual violence, ensuring their dignity and safety.

Support Services; the strategy emphasises psychosocial support, legal aid and medical care for survivors, all provided under strict confidentiality protocols

Awareness and Accountability; the Government works with civil society and international partners to raise awareness among journalists, law enforcement and communities about victims' rights and the importance of confidentiality.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe has established a comprehensive legal and policy framework to safeguard the identity and confidentiality of rape victims. Through constitutional protections, statutory provisions, specialised courts and policies, the State seeks to uphold the dignity, privacy and security of survivors while promoting a victim-centered approach that encourages reporting of sexual offences and ensures that survivors are treated with respect,

sensitivity and confidentiality throughout the justice process. I so submit Mr. Speaker Sir.

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

HON. DHLIWAYO: Point of privilege Mr. Speaker Sir. I propose that time for Questions With Notice be extended by 20 minutes.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

⁺HON. MAPHOSA: I have a supplementary question. I wanted to find out from the Minister about someone who is a rape victim from 20 years ago. She reported the matter and went to court but the perpetrator denied the crime. A child was born out of the rape and 20 years later the man has come back to claim his child yet he denied the crime in the courts. Now that the perpetrator had denied the crime, can the case be referred to the courts as the rapist

now wants to be responsible for the child that was born out of that rape which he denied?

HON. M. C. SIBANDA: Thank you for the elaborative response but my major challenge has been around the financing of such a policy. What has been done to ensure that the policy that he has elaborated is adequately financed because sometimes we even see some officers struggling just to get a piece of paper? How far have you gone in financing such a good policy?

HON. MAZUNGUNYE: I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question. Indeed, the issue of finance might be a bit of a challenge and as you have witnessed in responses even from other Hon. Ministers, that issue will be under the purview of the Minister of Finance. However, continuous engagement will still be done in liaison with the Minister of Finance to ensure that we support the policies of Government. That is progressive and we deal with issues as we go.

COMPENSATION OF VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE
FROM 1980

10. **HON. MAKUMIRE** asked the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs to inform the House about the Government's efforts to ensure that victims of political violence from 1980 are compensated.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. MAZUNGUNYE): I also want to thank the Hon. Makumire for the question. As Hon. Members of this House may be aware, the General Amnesty was declared under the Clemency Order Number 1, 1988. This amnesty granted retrospective pardons for acts committed between 1 January 1982 and 22 December 1987. Generally speaking, the laws of our nation do not impose an obligation upon the government to provide compensation for injuries, death or any other losses resulting from acts of violence unless the Government has been adjudged liable as a judgement data in a court of law.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** If you look into our history, we just want to say to those who have been afflicted, lost their lives or became disabled, during the time of political violence, people injure each other, kill each other due to acts of violence, we want the

Government and us to do it together and that the Government be responsible in assisting those who would have been afflicted during that political violence. So, the Government should be responsible in safeguarding issues to do with that. So, as Government, we should have such programmes for those victims who would have been injured during election time be compensated by the Government because all those victims or people are citizens of Zimbabwe.

***HON. MAZUNGUNYE:** It is true. The issue that you have raised is good. As a government, we will be able to sit down and find any policy that can bring all those issues going forward but what is it that the Government can do to those who would be victims of political violence during that particular time? I have heard you, we would discuss the issue appropriately or engage appropriate ministries so that we come up with a proper policy that will look into that.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** Point of privilege Mr Speaker! Since there is no time that they have taken, I think they should respond to those questions.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: By submitting those responses, they have worked because those responses will appear in the *Hansard*.

**COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF 1 KM OF A TRUNK ROAD IN
ZIMBABWE**

51. HON. MADZIVANYIKA asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to apprise the House on the average cost of construction of 1 km of a trunk road in Zimbabwe.

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

The rationale behind high motor vehicle access toll fees at Beitbridge, which is of February 2026 has high as USD375 for haulage truck. The fees at Beitbridge Border Post for a goods vehicle that is haulage are as follows; border access fee is USD221, bridge toll fee USD23, carbon tax (per trailer) USD10, insurance USD50 and road access fee USD20. The total is USD324 and if we remove the road access, it becomes USD304.

A foreign registered vehicle in addition will pay \$10/100km in transit fees unless they are registered in Malawi and Mozambique which have a different tariff that is higher. The Bridge Toll Fee and Transit Fee are Road User Charges. The Border Access Fee set at USD 221, constitutes the largest component of the payable charges. This fee arises from the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Agreement implemented under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) between Government and Zim Borders (Pvt) Ltd. for the modernisation of the Beitbridge Border Post. The levy is applied to enable Government to meet its contractual obligations, specifically the repayment of the project funds invested in upgrading the border post infrastructure from ZINARA for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Hon. Minister, for the good response. The Hon. Minister highlighted that the border access fee which constitutes the largest portion of these charges to truckers is USD221 and is intended to cover the private contractors who were employed to modernise Beitbridge. As such, the repayment is USD221 per trucker. My follow-up question is, can there be a plan

to reduce these fees so we benefit from economies of scale? Mr. Speaker, I am aware that before the implementation of this policy, the number of truckers was more than double the number of trucks that are coming through Beitbridge right now.

Does the Government have a policy to ensure that they reduce the fees properly, maybe by 25%, to encourage more truckers to use Zimbabwean roads? We used to have those Zambian truckers who carry copper. They no longer use Zimbabwean roads. We are losing as a country largely because of this policy. Does the Government have any policy to ensure that we reduce slightly and we benefit from economies of scale? We can still be able to pay those contractors the amount of money which they want. Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Let me also thank Hon. Madzivanyika for his follow-up question. Apparently, we have been doing numbers. We record trucks pre-COVID and post-COVID. We are now hovering close to 1 000 trucks. So, Hon. Madzivanyika, what you are saying compared to what is happening on the ground is different. Now, 1 000 trucks are crossing and any logistics company would prefer a shorter distance. You see

someone from Durban to Zambia coming through us would lessen that journey by over 200 kilometres. For anyone in logistics, consumption can be a litre for three kilometres, for instance. It will still be expensive to go through Kazungula Border Post. This is what we are witnessing now: that, yes, in terms of convenience and turnaround time, it is even quicker coming through these border posts since it has been modernised. However, to allay his fears, we continue monitoring this arrangement with our concessionaire, where we are saying this is a 17 and a half-year concession agreement. We are monitoring so that the moment the investment recoups its investment, we will continue engaging. This is something that we will continue assessing. Like what we did in the transport sector where we reviewed our levies, this is contractual, but we are engaging continuously with our investors. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

PAYMENT OF BEAM ARREARS TO SCHOOLS IN

BULAWAYO PROVINCE

3. **HON. BAJILA** asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to inform the House on the status of BEAM arrears clearance for the following schools in Bulawayo Province, and whether these schools have submitted all required BEAM claims for the current school term-

- (a) Matshayisikhova Primary School
- (b) Luveve Primary School
- (c) Josiah Chinamano Primary School
- (d) Mtshingwe Primary School
- (e) Emakhandeni High School
- (f) Inyanda High School
- (g) Luveve High School.
- (h) Thembiso Primary School
- (i) Fusi Primary School
- (j) Nzwanzan Primary School
- (k) Mbizo Primary School
- (l) Emakhandeni Primary School
- (m) Mafakela Primary School
- (n) Josiah Chinamano High School

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. MOYO): Thank you Hon. Bajila, for that question. The 14 schools you highlighted in your question have all submitted their BEAM claim forms. However, due to delayed disbursement of funds by the Treasury, these claim forms have yet to be processed. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion has committed to releasing funds for the programme. Once this is done, we will settle outstanding arrears for these schools along with other schools that are owed under the programme.

VOTING BY ZIMBABWEANS LIVING IN THE DIASPORA

9. **HON. BONDA** asked the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs to inform the House whether there are any plans to allow Zimbabweans living legally in the diaspora to vote in their respective countries of temporary residence during elections conducted in Zimbabwe.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. MAZUNGUNYE): Let

me begin by expressing my appreciation to Hon. Bonda for asking a pertinent question on whether there are any plans to allow Zimbabweans living legally in the diaspora to vote in their respective countries of temporary residence during elections conducted in Zimbabwe.

Our electoral processes are governed by the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13]. The Electoral Act presently stipulates that, subject to the Constitution and the Act itself, a person must be resident in a constituency on the date of making a claim to qualify for registration as a voter for that constituency. Consequently, this statutory residency requirement renders Zimbabwean citizens residing abroad ineligible to register as voters unless they return to Zimbabwe and establish residency at the time of lodging their claim.

Mr. Speaker Sir, where a person is already registered as a voter in a particular ward, Section 56 (1) (a) of the Act provides that, in an election for the President, Members of the National Assembly and Councillors, every voter whose name appears on a

ward voters' roll is entitled to vote in that ward for a Presidential candidate, a Member of Parliament and a Councillor.

Furthermore, Section 56 (1) (b) stipulates that a voter shall not be entitled to cast a ballot at any polling station other than one situated within the ward for which he or she is registered on the ward voters' roll.

An exception to the requirements of Section 56 is found in Section 72, which provides that a person registered as a voter in a constituency is entitled to vote by post if, on all polling days, he or she will be-

(a) on duty as a member of a disciplined force or as an electoral officer;

b) on duty in the service of the Government outside Zimbabwe;

(c) outside Zimbabwe as the spouse of a person on duty in the service of the Government outside Zimbabwe.

The Act, however, does not extend the facility of postal voting to Zimbabweans in the diaspora, including those who are only temporarily outside the country.

Nonetheless, this Hon. House retains full legislative authority, as conferred by the Constitution of Zimbabwe, to enact laws for the peace, order and good governance of the nation. Should this House consider it appropriate, it is within its constitutional competence to amend the Electoral Act to provide for the inclusion of Zimbabweans in the diaspora within the categories eligible for postal voting.

GRANTING OF MANAGEMENT RIGHTS OVER NEARBY WATER BODIES TO CHITUNGWIZA MUNICIPALITY

17. **HON. MAZHINDU** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to inform the House whether Government is considering granting Chitungwiza Municipality control or management rights over nearby water bodies and infrastructure, the Prince Edward waterworks and surrounding dams to improve water security. Additionally, to state what long-term interventions are being pursued to reduce the town's dependence on Harare, especially in light of recurring water shortages caused by low dam levels and supply disruptions.

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

MAVUNGA): Mr. Speaker Sir, Government notes that the Prince Edward Waterworks, which supplies Chitungwiza, is owned and operated by the City of Harare and therefore, there are currently no immediate plans to transfer management control to Chitungwiza Municipality. However, Government is promoting greater inter-local authority cooperation to ensure reliable supply and equitable access. In the long term, Government is pursuing measures to reduce Chitungwiza's dependence on Harare, including development of its own raw water sources, rehabilitation and expansion of local dams such as Seke and Harava, upgrading water treatment infrastructure, and strengthening alternative supply systems such as boreholes and distribution networks. These interventions are aimed at building a sustainable and independent water supply system for the town.

**BENEFITTING OF MABALE VILLAGE FROM THE
COMMERCIAL LAND AT GWAYI-SHANGANI DAM**

18. **HON. BONDA** asked the Minister of Local Government and Public Works to update the House on the following matters;

(a) How the community of Mabale Village will benefit from the commercial and prime land at Gwayi - Shangani Dam;

(b) Whether residents of Mabale Village will be given priority in the allocation of stands at Gwayi-Shangani Dam and

(c) When the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works will publish the Master Plan for the Gwayi-Shangani Dam Development Area.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP (HON. A. MAVUNGA): Mr. Speaker Sir, my response is:

a) The community will benefit from Socio-economic opportunities (employment, marketing of local products, improved infrastructure services, etc.) as follows:

Tourism opportunities

Retail and marketing

Fishing, fish farming and processing

Plots for Irrigation and agriculture support

Piped water schemes

b) The Ministry recognises the importance of safe guarding the interests of local communities, including Mabale Village residents.

In line with government policy on inclusive development and community empowerment, prioritisation has been emphasized to affected and surrounding communities in the allocation of residential and commercial stands at all the planned service centres. Specific allocation frameworks and criteria will be guided by the approved Master Plan and relevant statutory provisions, ensuring transparency, fairness and sustainability in the allocation process.

c) The Master Plan for the Gwayi-Shangani Dam Development Area is currently at an advanced stage of preparation, in cooperating stakeholder consultations and technical reviews. A Master Plan comprises of 2 documents namely a Report of Study and a written statement (i.e the documents that outlines planning and implementations proposal). Draft documents for both have been completed. Hwange, Binga and Kusile Rural District Councils are slated to meet on the 13th of May 2026 to adopt the Master Plan.

Thereafter, the plan will be put on public display for 2 months, inviting those who may have recommendations or representations or objections. After this publicity the plan will be submitted to approval by the Minister of Local Government and Public Works.

**ADDRESSING OF THE ENCROACHMENT OF INFORMAL
BUSINESSES AND WORKSHOPS INTO KWAYEDZA HIGH
SCHOOL**

68. **HON. MAVHUDZI** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to inform the House whether the Ministry is taking any urgent measures to address the illegal encroachment of informal businesses and workshops along the perimeter of Kwayedza High School.

**THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO):** Thank you very much, Hon. Mavhudzi, for asking this important question. Of course, the Ministry is encountering problems of vendors and informal business owners working along the perimeter of Kwayedza High

School. Although they mostly operate outside the school yard, they also vandalize the perimeter wall and sometimes encroach into the school yard to relieve themselves.

Normally, our schools do not have direct jurisdiction over illegal vending or informal businesses outside our school perimeters unless it affects teaching and learning programmes; as it is the responsibility of Harare City Council and the Zimbabwe Republic Police to deal with illegal vending and informal businesses in the city. However, due to vandalism of the security wall at Kwayedza High School, it has become a problem for us as these people also relieve themselves in the school compound.

As a Ministry, we have engaged Harare City Council to address the problem by either allocating these informal business people some space for them to operate and formalize their trade, or removing them from operating in the vicinity of the school. Previous efforts by school authorities resulted in Harare City Council engaging with the Messenger of Court, who was accompanied by the police to evict these informal business operators from trading along the wall of the school perimeter. Some

of them had their temporary tuckshops and structures removed but after some time, new informal traders are emerging and have erected structures and started trading.

The issue of vandalizing Kwayedza High School's security wall is also a criminal matter which is tantamount to malicious damage of Government property. Unfortunately, this happens from outside the school walls and during odd hours as our school security operates from inside. Consequently, it is difficult for school authorities to identify suspects when we report to the police. The issue of damage to government property is a police matter, which we often report, but no suspects have been arrested as yet. We are continuing to engage the police so that they work with our security guards on the School Development Committee payroll in order to alleviate the problem of vandalising school security walls.

Overall, the Ministry has engaged Harare City Council for removal and allocation of trading space for informal traders whilst continuously engaging with police to monitor and arrest persons found vandalising Government property. We hope our engagements will result in the removal of these traders through Harare City

Council, the Messenger of Court and Zimbabwe Republic Police to bring the matter to an end.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS IN HIGH DENSITY AREAS

69. **HON. MAVHUDZI** asked the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education to update the House on the Government's position regarding the establishment of schools for children with special needs, such as children living with autism, in High Density areas like Highfield.

**THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO):** Thank you Hon. Mavhudzi for raising this important matter. I will begin with the issue of autism; which is a condition in which pupils experience difficulties in speech and ability to communicate with peers. They also experience anxiety in social situations, find it difficult to socialise with others and often withdraw to themselves.

Severe cases of autism require Special Education teachers who are trained to facilitate teaching and learning for pupils living

with such issues. As a Ministry, and in the spirit of inclusive education; all mainstream schools can enrol children with mild cases of autism. The Ministry has teachers trained in Special Needs Education at various schools in Highfield; but we are appealing with the Ministry of Public Service and Social Welfare as well as Ministry of Finance to reconsider introducing the incentive for Special Needs teachers which used to exist before it was removed.

This is because Special Needs teachers have skills for teaching mainstream classes; and feel that they need motivation for going an extra mile towards teaching learners with severe cases of special needs. As a result, when they get an opportunity, such Special Needs teachers prefer to take normal mainstream classes rather than classes of learners with severe special needs. As a Ministry, we feel that restoration of the Special Needs Teaching Allowance would help to motivate Special Needs teachers and improve classroom delivery.

However, with that being said, the Ministry has schools with resource units and special classes within Highglen District which

are fully prepared to deal with serious cases of autism and any other special needs. They include the following:

1. Mbizi
2. Kundayi
3. Kudakwashe
4. Kudzanayi
5. Southerton
6. Blackfordy
7. Lord Malvin

Apart from the above, the following are also Special Schools for children living with different forms of severe special needs:

1. Ruvimbo
2. Jairos Jiri
3. Hupenyu Hutsva

I thank you.

PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES FOR ZIMSEC MARKERS AND MODERATORS FOR THE 2025 EXAMINATIONS

70. HON. BAJILA asked the Minister of Primary and
Secondary

Education to inform the House of the current status of the payment of allowances for ZIMSEC markers and moderators for the 2025 Examination.

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): Thank you Hon. Bajila for your question. The House may wish to note that the payment of allowances for markers and moderators for the 2025 examinations is currently in progress, subject to the availability of funds. ZIMSEC has already disbursed travel and subsistence allowances to markers using resources mobilised from examination registration fees to facilitate the smooth conduct of the marking process.

However, the marking fees remain outstanding, as their settlement depends on the release of funds from the Treasury. The Ministry is actively engaging Treasury and will continue to do so to ensure the timely release of the required funds.

Once Treasury funding is availed, ZIMSEC will immediately proceed with the payment of all outstanding allowances for markers and moderators. The Ministry remains committed to ensuring that

all examination personnel are duly compensated for their services. I
so submit.

*On the motion of **HON. TOGAREPI**, seconded by **HON.**
NYANDORO, the House adjourned at Eighteen Minutes to Six
o'clock p.m.*