

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Wednesday, 2nd September, 2026

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

PRAYERS

(THE HON. SPEAKER in the Chair)

THE HON. SPEAKER: My House is very thin. Where are the children of the House, Chief Whip Hon. Moyo? Where are they? – [HON. C. MOYO: *They are coming.*] – I think this idea of having public hearings is becoming notoriously famous.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. SPEAKER

VISITORS IN THE SPEAKER'S GALLERY

THE HON. SPEAKER: I wish to recognise the presence in the Speaker's Gallery, of Members of Parliament and officers of the Select Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct, Immunities, Privileges and Pandemics Committees of the National Assembly from the Kingdom of Lesotho. You are most welcome – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] – Can you be upstanding so that we see you?

Visitors in the Speaker's Gallery stood up.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please be seated.

PETITION RECEIVED FROM SITHEMBILE ZIMBEVA

THE HON. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that Parliament received a petition from Sithembile Zimbeva, representing citizens, permanent residents, caregivers, health workers and persons living with diabetes in Zimbabwe, beseeching Parliament to conduct an enquiry into the health care services for diabetic patients and take legislative and policy measures for improved services. The petition has since been admitted and referred to the Portfolio Committee on Health and Child Care.

INVITATION TO THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE FUTURE

THE HON. SPEAKER: I wish to remind the Hon. Members that they are invited to the official launch of the Committee for the Future to be held tomorrow, Thursday 3rd September, 2026 from 0930 hours in the Multi-Purpose Hall. However, you are expected to be seated by 8 a.m.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM MINISTERS

THE HON. SPEAKER: I have received apologies from the Executive, the Hon. C. G. D. N. Gen. Rtd. Dr. Chiwenga, Vice-President; Hon. Rtd. Dr. K. C. D. Mohadi, Vice-President; Hon. M. Mavunga, Minister of Veterans of the Liberation Struggle Affairs; Hon. M. Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development; Hon. K. Kazembe, Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage; Hon. M. N. Ndlovu, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Hon. C. Sanyatwe, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage; Hon. C. Makwiranzou, Deputy Minister of Mines and Mining Development; Hon. A. Gata, Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education; and Hon. T. Zhou, Deputy Minister of Lands and Rural Development.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

***HON. MUNEMO:** Thank you Mr Speaker Sir. Good afternoon. My question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development. We are grateful for the roads being rehabilitated. However, we have a long-standing request that roads in rural areas be rehabilitated as they were destroyed in the last rainy season. They were

impassable and again this year we are almost in the rainy season. What initiative is in place so that people can use the roads without experiencing the same problems? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Thank you Hon. Labbany Munemo for the pertinent question. Indeed, most roads are destroyed or damaged during the rainy season, especially in rural areas, which means that when we are almost in the rainy season, we have to come together from the different departments that look after the rehabilitation of roads. In rural areas, we work with the Rural District Council (RIDA) and the Department of Roads.

As I speak, most people have been able to get equipment to use, especially the graders. We are going to sit down with the responsible departments to provide fuel for the graders so we can improve the roads. Not all roads need to be tarred; some need gravelling so they can be used properly. We are expecting all this in the upcoming season.

We are also appealing to the nation of Zimbabwe, as we have several in the rural areas; the Government initiative is that when we have the budget, we will consider improving all our roads since they need Government funding. When it comes to trunk roads, we also look for stakeholders we can partner with because these roads are very expensive to rehabilitate. So, we are going to use funding from partnerships to improve our roads in the rural areas. Thank you.

***HON. KASHAMBE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. The question asked by the original questioner concerns roads that were developed but not completed and will not be usable during the rainy season. Hon. Minister, what measures are in place to ensure that those roads are usable during the rainy season?

***HON. MHONA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Thank you Hon. Munyaradzi Tobias Kashambe, for this supplementary question. Indeed, we are aware that our budget is the same. We appeal for money for food and hospitals and again, when we convene in this House, we must also consider that some of the roads will not be completed this season.

Thank you for the questions you have raised. It is true. These are emotional roads and we will see how we can rehabilitate these roads promptly. These are some of the roads we expect to be rehabilitated in every jurisdiction and we will ensure they are not destroyed again in the next rainy season. We are going to run around so that all departments come on board. So, I am appealing for your support to this august House since we are approaching the budget season so that we are allocated a bigger budget. Thank you.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary is, we are indeed seeing roads being rehabilitated. Resources will be lost and may not be available but is it possible for the Bulawayo-Hwange Road to be given priority because I witnessed this with my own eyes? We spent 15 hours driving from Bulawayo to Hwange. Hon. Minister, are you also able to use RIDA or the Rural District Council to construct roads that may take us to the chiefs' homesteads? The Government allocated cars to chiefs but they are failing to drive up to their homesteads. Thank you.

***HON. MHONA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and thank you Hon. Remigius Matangira. You raised a very pertinent question which saddens the mind. Sometimes when we mention our jurisdictions, some people think that we are now getting into politics, but His Excellency the President says we must not leave anyone and any place behind.

The road you mentioned is very important because tourists who visit the country also want to see tourist attractions, whether animals or our falls. They also want to use that same road. This is also the same road which needs a lot of funding, but as I mentioned earlier, we have about eight companies in place working on the road. These companies are also supposed to be paid timeously, but if we look closely, this is not the only significant road. We have about three other roads like that; for example the one from Victoria Falls and the other from Beitbridge which we are almost completing. There is another road going to Chirundu which we also want to complete. However, as a ministry, with the funding we have accumulated, we want to pay for those rehabilitating the Victoria Falls Road. This will be done in the coming weeks. The

eight companies will work together. So, I promise you that we are going to start with this road.

We are not going to stop here, but we are going to use the funds we have in place to rehabilitate the Victoria Falls and the Beitbridge Road and then start working on the Chirundu Road. This is how we are going to be operating. Thank you.

***HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** Thank you Mr Speaker. My supplementary question to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development pertains to the issue of other roads and bridges which we say must be accommodated in the 2026 budget. I would like to know how long it is going to take for the budget to be issued in line with the bridges which we said must be completed this year. Thank you.

***HON. MHONA:** Thank you Leader of Government Business. It is true that we have some bridges that were supposed...

THE HON. SPEAKER: Order! The interpreter is referring to me as Leader of Government Business. I am deliberately putting on these earphones and some of the translations are atrocious, especially from Shona to English. I am not the Leader of Government Business.

***HON. MHONA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. Indeed, it is true, he alluded to quite pertinent issues which we find in our *Blue Book* which fall under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development. Indeed, sometimes some jobs might not be completed. It does not mean that when we have a responsibility and we are supposed to do a certain job that we eventually fail to do, it is because we may not have enough funding.

I want to refer to Jeka Bridge which I believe is now in a better state. We went through a tender process to identify a company that is going to be working on that project. This is the stage that we are at so that we can rehabilitate that bridge, especially as we approach the rainy season. So, I believe that the Hon. Member will see the good job that we are going to do. I thank you.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** I want to pose my supplementary question which emanates from the initial question and from the response that was given by the Hon. Minister, where he alluded to fuel because our councils have graders which are supposed to be used.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the first thing is that we are facing challenges with our councils because they say that they are not responsible for council roads. Also, on the issue of road rehabilitation, at times we face challenges. What challenges do they face during the road maintenance process? Sometimes you would find that there is one grader which is covering quite a long stretch of the road. I thank you.

***HON. MHONA:** Indeed, it is true. Under our Ministry, working with ZINARA, we have the responsibility of empowering rural district councils, our local authorities, so that they are empowered with the right equipment, whether they are graders, tippers and other machinery that the Hon. Member alluded to. So, whether it is a Rural District Council (RDC), the council should have adequate equipment, whether it is for carrying river sand and other material. This is a programme that is ongoing and working with ZINARA, we are empowering councils. I thank you.

HON. P. ZHOU: Firstly, I want to thank our Government, especially the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development for the good work that they are doing to improve road assets such as traffic

lights, bridges and others. Despite these efforts, there is destruction of these road assets, bridges and utility connections. It has become more rampant nationwide, posing a form of economic sabotage and national security. What measures is the Government rolling out to curb this disturbing surge? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

HON. MHONA: It is quite disturbing that as much as we rehabilitate our infrastructure, I do not know the kind of attitude within our people that has just started, of vandalising our infrastructure, whether we are talking of robots or signage. Those who can remember, last year or so, we had to explain to the citizenry the kind of signage that we now have, where we are no longer using metal poles but we have adopted wooden poles. Others thought maybe it was not proper but this is the standard practice, especially worldwide, where we are now resorting to plastic signs and wooden poles so as to mitigate issues to do with vandalism.

Hon. Speaker, what is disturbing again is that as much as we are endeavouring to do that, we see that our citizenry does not pay due respect, especially to infrastructure. I can cite a good example. If you are

coming to this august House along Nemakonde, you can see that someone actually runs over a robot and you wonder what sort of behaviour we are demonstrating.

However, we continue through awareness programmes, where we educate our people that this is our infrastructure and we must safeguard it. It is not only the signage, even if we talk of fencing along our major highways, as much as we erect fences, you see that people are taking them down and using them in their gardens. This is what we are advocating for, to say the infrastructure is ours and we will continue with the Ministry, through Traffic Safety Council of Zimbabwe, and also through our Department of Roads, to raise awareness in terms of signage. Thank you.

HON. P. ZHOU: My supplementary question is, of those assets being destroyed, the bridges are an eyesore because of the vandalism which has taken place. If you move around, you can see that all the balustrades have been cut down. How long does it take to repair those bridges because it is really bad driving around nationwide? Even for our tourists coming in, it is an eyesore because it is very ugly.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, can you deal with the ugliness of bridges?

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Speaker, and indeed it is very ugly and an eyesore, especially our bridges along major highways where the parapets have been destroyed, not only through vandalism, but also because of accidents. So, we have deployed our bridge teams to make sure that all our bridges along highways, you see us attending to those parapets and we now have a new model of rehabilitating our bridges. Where we used to put steel, we are contemplating applying concrete works. So you will see if the bridge has the capacity to accommodate concrete works, we will just apply the concrete works. So, this is what we are advocating to do in the Ministry and I want to assure Hon. Perseverance Zhou that yes, we do concur as a Ministry that now this is an eyesore and we need to continue rehabilitating our bridges. I thank you.

HON. TOGAREPI: Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister would need to clarify or give us details on the Government programme regarding roads. With these nice highways that have been done, there is a lot of

speeding along main highways. When you get to a bridge, it is narrower than the main road and many people miss the bridges and get killed in accidents. What programme has Government initiated in terms of widening those bridges or creating a second bridge, especially Masvingo Road and Bulawayo Road, they are now good roads, but the bridges are very narrow.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Speaker and let me also thank Hon. Pupurai Togarepi for a very pertinent question. If you see the way we were rehabilitating our Harare-Beitbridge Road, indeed we were not attending to the existing bridges in terms of expansion, but where there was no bridge, where we were putting a bridge, we would then accommodate a wider bridge. You will see us reverting. We have already widened those bridges that are narrow so that they now accommodate the 12-metre road that we now have, where it can actually accommodate even four vehicles going in the same direction. So the policy that we now have is to go through those relevant bridges, make sure that we expand, but the ideal scenario is dualisation. You know that it will take time but in the meantime, we will try to expand those existing bridges so

that they allow traffic to pass easily. This is the plan that we have in the Ministry.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I think an immediate measure is to put very high bumps before the bridges so that vehicles can slow down as they approach the bridges. Otherwise, they struggle to cross over each other. Thank you.

***HON. CHIDUWA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. We observed that in other jurisdictions, those that were found to be on the wrong side of the law and were destroying infrastructure are made to pay for such damages. Do we have policies in place or are we gravitating towards having laws so that the culprits can be held responsible for what they would have destroyed?

***HON. MHONA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would want to thank Clement Chiduwa. He has asked a pertinent question. As a country, we have a challenge in that people are destroying infrastructure and they are going scot-free without compensating the Government.

These incidents occur at night without anyone witnessing such destruction of infrastructure such as traffic lights. So we believe that because of the cameras that we are now installing, they will assist us in reining in the culprits so that whoever commits such an offence will be dealt with. We would want to come up with such a policy and we urge this august House to support us when we raise such an issue. In the majority of cases, those that destroy the infrastructure are going scot-free. We know that it is the Treasury that will in the end, have to pay for such destruction.

So it is envisaged that we come up with such policies so that those that are found on the wrong side of the law compensate for the destruction they have caused. I thank you.

***HON. MUJEYI:** I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for his responses. I would like to express my gratitude for the work that the Minister is doing along the highways. On the embankment of the road, the surface may be too high and they are trying to put in concrete.

The danger is that our tyres may be damaged when one crosses over that. These are being done in pieces. What measures are they going to put in place to ensure that the edges of all our roads are not too sharp so that other people may not lose their tyres? I thank you.

***HON. MHONA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Arthur Mujeyi. It can be observed that where our roads are not wide enough, they need to have shoulders. This means that if they do not have adequate width, we need to put in shoulders so that when one goes off the road, they have a chance to pass safely amongst other traffic. At times, when we have constraints, we are unable to do that. It is our considered view that in the future we will ensure that all our roads have shoulders so that our tyres cannot be affected. We would want our roads to be safe and that they have these shoulders so that motorists can enjoy their rides. I thank you.

+HON. NKOMO: My supplementary question is, what is the Government's position pertaining to a situation where there is a shortage of funding for a road under rehabilitation? Looking at the Victoria Falls Road, there are several detours. There is a detour that has been in place

for quite some time. If you have a breakdown, you might not be safe. I believe that when there is a breakdown, someone should be along the highway instead of in the detour. I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Thank you Hon. Nkomo for that very important question. I think it also comes to the issue of us moving with speed in terms of rehabilitating that entire road and I want to assure you that it is not the desire of Government to have detours and not finish the real work. Citing the same road that is Victoria Falls, yes, we are having some very long detours and as I indicated earlier on, we are going to be attending to those sections and she will witness tremendous progress just in the forthcoming weeks. Thank you very much.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I do not see any request for a supplementary question. Normally, Members of the Executive, Minister Kambamura, come to the front. That is where you belong. Thank you.

HON. NYANDORO: Good afternoon Mr. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Minister of Mines and Mining Development. What measures are being implemented to establish effective mine-to-market traceability and accountability for minerals extracted, processed and exported from Zimbabwe to curb the smuggling of our precious minerals?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING DEVELOPMENT (HON. KAMBAMURA): Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank you Hon. Nyandoro for the question with regard to measures that the Government is taking to curb mineral smuggling and to ensure that there is accountability from mine to market. Firstly, we are putting up tracking systems to see to it that we track our minerals from the point of extraction or from the mine gate to our port of exit. Some of the measures that we are putting in place are to change the manual way of doing things to an online or a computerised way of doing things.

We have worked with the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education to develop an online export permit which will be linked to the

mine where the minerals are coming from, the Minister of Mines, ZIMRA, the police and MMCZ. This system will also be checking how the exporters will be behaving, that is if they are compliant with their expectations or obligations, for example, payment of inspection fees, environmental compliance and other statutory obligations that are expected to honour. The other measures that we are taking, through MMCZ is increasing surveillance along our highways and also at our ports of exit. We are currently putting scanners at the borders to check that the minerals that have been declared are the correct minerals that are being exported.

Then of late, we noticed that people were actually under-invoicing or under-declaring. To that effect, we are working with the Ministry of Transport and MMCZ, again to put up some weighbridges and some systems where we will check the actual weight of minerals contained in an export consignment and hefty penalties will be given to those who give under-invoices. Some of the penalties include but not limited to withdrawal of mining rights. Nevertheless, we are also increasing surveillance along our borders through the use of drones and other

systems to make sure that we minimise smuggling of our minerals.

Thank you.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker Sir and I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for the response. Given the Minister's reference to surveillance on highways and ports of exit, can he clarify how these monitoring systems will be integrated with mine-to-market traceability tools for us to create that seamless chain of custody and what measures are in place to prevent smuggling syndicates from simply shifting the routes or exploiting weak enforcement points outside the surveillance zones? I so submit.

HON. KAMBAMURA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. The surveillance systems that we are putting in place, as I have said, include some routine checks along our highways. We are working together with the police, MMCZ and other Government departments to make some routine checks, which include some untimed stoppages along the highway to check the export consignment and also to check whether those that are exporting are carrying the correct cargo. We have also registered the trucks that will be carrying minerals. For example, if

Bikita Minerals has 200 trucks that will be shipping out minerals, the number plates of those trucks will be registered with MMCZ and known at the border. Before a cargo leaves the mine, they will go online and log that truck in and will check through that system at the border if it is the correct truck which has been logged at the mine and has reached the border for clearances.

The other measures that we are putting in place include installing scanners. These scanners can actually indicate the type of minerals contained in the export cargo and those scanners will be logged again to our export systems and it will be easy to check if there is any smuggling that is taking place. Other routes are not approved by the Government to be ports of exit. The police are surveilling those routes as well and so far, there are a few arrests that have been made, of people who have been trying to use those unapproved or undesignated routes to smuggle our minerals. Thank you.

***HON. MATANGIRA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. The country is losing through mineral leakages. We are having drug shortages in our hospitals. All the goods that are being carried are destroying the roads.

They have said that they are putting in place systems to survey. The guards themselves are the worst thieves. These people that monitor these goods, can they not also be surveying the leakages that are happening on illegal exit points?

The MMCZ who are the custodian of these minerals, are there policies or procedures in place to ensure that they are given the arresting powers to arrest these people although they are then released? I thank you.

***HON. KAMBAMURA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. I would also like to thank Hon. Matangira for his supplementary question. The issue that he raised about the damage being done on our roads, I agree. Some vehicles that are used for transporting minerals are destroying our rural, urban, trunk roads and highways. We have since sat down with the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development with a view to ensuring that we put a tax to be levied on vehicles that transport minerals in the rural areas. We are putting in place measures to ensure that large mines that operate in those rural areas can work hand in glove with rural

district councils and the community to repair the roads which they use daily.

On the issue that was raised by Hon. Matangira concerning the MMCZ so that it can be given arresting powers, this is a good idea but as I mentioned, he is not satisfied with those that are given the responsibility to police, guard or arrest the culprits. Since he has indicated that the guards are the worst thieves, I do not know if you then come back and say they are the ones that are stealing. However, I will take the matter to the powers that be so that we can come up with measures to curb this since we have the police and other agencies in the country that we can use in ensuring that we curb these leakages or smuggling.

I would like to thank Hon. Matangira as the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development, that we should sit together and come up with ideas on how best we can put an end to these things that are taking place. I thank you.

***HON. MUCHEMWA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. I thank the Hon. Minister for his response but let me suggest to the Hon. Minister

that the theft which is happening or the leakages that are happening in the minerals sector start with the rural district councils. I come from Mashonaland East where black granite is being mined. The mine and the processing plant are almost a distance from Harare. For each granite mined, the council has no means to count the number of stones that have been mined on a daily basis or monthly basis.

The miners are the ones who keep the records and declare to the council the tonnage that they would have mined. For the council to be able to get money out of this exercise through the mining of such minerals, it will not be possible. The mining companies are paying very little to the rural district councils. What measures do we have in place to ensure that our councils are empowered so that they can follow up these mining companies within their jurisdictions to find out the number or the tonnage of the minerals that are being mined? I thank you.

***HON. KAMBAMURA:** Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. The issue that is being raised by the Hon. Member is an issue worth considering. We need to keep our eyes open. I will sit together with my counterparts, the Minister of Local Government and Public Works, Hon. Garwe, so

that we work hand in glove and empower our people. Still on that issue, as a Ministry, we would want to put in place civil servants who will be under the Ministry of Mines in all these rural district councils who we call mining development officers, such as the agricultural extension officers that are found within the Ministry of Agriculture. They will be at the source of the mining so that they can give us correct information on the produce being carried out at the mine at the time when we ask for it.

I accept the contribution that you have made that we should work hand in glove with the rural district councils so as to stop leakages because they are paying very little in the form of tax; they must pay the correct tax. I thank you.

***HON. KARENYI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question is that I want to thank the Hon. Minister for his response. I have also introspected and observed that the majority of the people who are causing these leakages, it is illegal. I would want to suggest that instead of minerals being moved from point A to point B, why should the Government not come up with measures to ensure that we come up with value addition? What have you put in place as a

Government to ensure that we have factories that are closer to mining of the resources so that we have value addition occurring nearby? This will make it easier for other countries to come and buy our goods. I thank you.

***HON. KAMBAMURA:** I would like to thank the Hon. Member for her supplementary question where she talked about value addition of our minerals in our country. It is a matter that we are seized with as a Ministry, to ensure that our minerals are value-added before they are exported out of the country. It is our policy that we ensure that each mining location where we have minerals in abundance should have industrial parks or centres of excellence for value addition.

At the moment, where they are mining coal in Hwange, there are a lot of things that are happening there. There are a lot of vehicles that are being used and they are damaging roads by ferrying the coal. For such places, we are looking for investors to come and invest so that we have value addition for coal for us to have a profit out of that so that we can even have fertiliser, petroleum fuels, cement and other byproducts. If you look at Manhize where they are mining iron, we have places that we

have put behind to ensure that we value-add the iron that is being mined. In places where we mine a lot of minerals such as lithium or chrome, before chrome or lithium is exported, we need to have a value addition factory where Government has shares in these high-tech plants. In other places, we have already started it. We already have investors that are in discussion with the Government as to when they can start these operations. I thank you.

HON. MAPFUMO: In regard to curbing these leakages, what measures are they taking to educate those members of staff at the points of entry? You would find that members of staff at the points of entry do not even know what a concentrate is and what an ore is. They would just abide by whatever paper is produced by the truck driver. I think that is where the challenge is. We are lacking technocrats at the points of entry who can actually identify the minerals and concentrate contains other foreign minerals. What measures are there to educate those at the points of entry to identify minerals? Thank you.

HON. KAMBAMURA: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Member for his supplementary question. We have

been making those educative engagements with government departments who man our borders, including the Police, ZIMRA, MMCZ, the President's Department and other departments. It could be that officers who could be deployed there on duty would have been picked randomly or haphazardly without undergoing the mandatory training which we usually conduct with these government departments.

If ever there is a point of entry which the Hon. Member may remember, recall or came across, where there are some officers who are not knowledgeable about what will be shipped out, we are happy to engage him. We can get more details with regards to those areas or ports of exit and put corrective measures in place to make sure that those who man our ports know exactly the export consignments which will be going out of the country. Thank you Madam Speaker.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. When the Minister gave his explanation, he focused on base metals, leaving out an important mineral such as gold where there has been a lot of heap leaching. Can the Minister explain what measures they have put in place to monitor heap leaching of gold, because there can be leakages of

gold once the leached gold has been retrieved? Can they hide it in certain places and export it illegally or smuggle it out of the country? What measures do they have in place in line with heap leaching? I thank you.

***HON. KAMBAMURA:** Thank you Madam Speaker, Yes, the technology of heap leaching which is now being used by investors, the Chinese, the majority of us were ignorant of it. As a Ministry, we did not let them be. We have increased our surveillance visits for leaching to see what is being done in such places. They have put in place technology where they can harvest the gold after it has been heap-leached. We have agents from EMA to put in place locks for emission plants so that they will come and unlock when the leaching has been completed. We went a step further and we expect to ensure that we deploy officers on the ground to such places and learn about this technology.

Still on that point, we have a Committee that we have put in place that interacts with our external investors who are dealing with heap leaching and agree on their production and the expected figures. That

has helped to ensure that we curb thefts or leakages of gold because now we have agents who have their finger on the pulse in terms of what is happening on heap leaching. They observe what is being done on a daily basis. I urge Hon. Tshuma to come up with other ideas as a gold miner and I thank him for his views so that he can validate our opinion for us to be better. I thank you.

HON. THOMPSON: My question is directed to the Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education. What policies does the ministry have in order to deal with mental health challenges being faced by students in higher and tertiary education institutions? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me also thank Hon. Thompson for that important question to do with mental health. Not necessarily in the tertiary sector, but this is something that is bedeviling the entire nation. I want to concur with her that in most institutions now, we have psychologists to address that very sad development we are witnessing in the entire nation.

To relate to her question about higher and tertiary education sector, I am sure in terms of the different faculties under the purview of the ministry, they have also embraced issues to do with mental health issues and some of these issues are attributable to use of substance; not only substance, but several challenges that will then face our children in these institutions. I want to agree that, yes, this is something that the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education is focusing on to make sure that they address issues to do with mental health which are of very paramount importance. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. GUMBO: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Madam Speaker, most of the mental health challenges that students in tertiary education institutions face arise from the financial and upkeep challenges that these students face. What is Government policy in respect to restoring the old grant system that allows tertiary students to have access to Government support to aid their upkeep and eliminate the pressure of assignments, pressure with lectures and still have pressure with your upkeep?

Why does the Government not restore grants for students? Let us eliminate financial problems for our students because they are the very same people who will contribute to this nation's economy after they graduate. Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Madam Speaker and let me thank the Hon. Counsel for that very important question he has raised. It is also timely. We are discussing the budget and grants have been very topical and several of us here are beneficiaries of that system. We have seen that several universities have programmes in place where you work for your tuition and need to register to be considered. Contrary to the system of grants where everyone was mandated to receive a grant, I am sure that if this is also advocated through this very august House, the Hon. Minister will be very happy to have that in place. I thank you.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker Ma'am. I want to thank the Hon. Minister for his responses. Madam Speaker, while stress and anxiety among students are often discussed in general terms like what we are doing, the most pressing concern is the psychological tone of unemployment prospects after graduation. Madam

Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what deliberate policies the Ministry has adopted to ensure that universities and colleges do not simply produce graduates into despair, but actively integrate them with support and employability strategies.

Specifically, Madam Speaker, how are the institutions embedding career counselling as well as entrepreneurship and training so that our students are not overwhelmed by depression linked to joblessness, but are instead equipped with hope after graduating? I so submit.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let me also thank Hon. Mutsa Murombedzi. She has indeed highlighted the issues with the numbers we are producing through our universities, which is commendable. As you are aware, years back we used to have one university and we had to rush to the same university; but alas, now we have several institutions across all four corners of our nation.

The question she has posed is very important. However, if you look at the architecture of our education now, we are advocating for 5.0, so we are not only looking at employment opportunities but also at employers so that some of our kids from these various institutions, not

kids as such, but those who have graduated from these various institutions would also be in a position to start their own enterprises. This is the policy of Government to say, in as much as we will then seek employment, but let us produce a graduate who can go into the market, start a venture so that we do not just que for employment. As we continue panel beating our education curricula, we will come up with a vibrant policy where we will produce more employers than employees. I thank you.

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Mine is a foreign policy question directed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. My question is, what is the Government policy on advancing African agency and African common positions in multilateral institutions such as the United Nations Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am, with your indulgence, may I humbly ask the Hon. Gladys Hlatywayo to repeat the question?

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, please may you repeat your question?

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: Thank you Madam Speaker, I will take it again. My question is, what is the Government policy on advancing African Agency and African common positions in multilateral institutions such as the United Nations? Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am and let me also thank Hon. Gladys Hlatywayo for that very important question. If you have seen even the way our blocs are designed, where we are talking of SADC and where we are talking of the African Union (AU), in most cases, there is oneness in terms of the policy, in terms of how we approach issues to do with the United Nations and in terms of some of the tasks and assignments, that is where you see rotational basis where various blocs would agree to say if we are approaching a matter within the jurisdiction of that bloc, they will not compete against one another, they will come up with one policy to then move their agenda towards the United Nations.

So, I think it is about blocs working closely so that they can lobby or advocate for whether it is a position or a post, then they would have the element of oneness towards that agenda. I thank you.

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: Supplementary! Thank you so much Madam Speaker. My supplementary question is for the avoidance of doubt. When I talk about African Agency and African common positions in multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, I am talking about the 2005 Ezulwini consensus in the Sirte Declaration that formed a unified foundational framework known as the Common African Position on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council.

Now that Zimbabwe has secured a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, what strategies is the Government putting in place to push implementation of the Common African Position and in particular the Ezulwini consensus in the Sirte Declaration? Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker Ma'am. Once again, let me thank Hon. Gladys Hlatywayo for that very important question and with your indulgence, since this is now zeroing on a

particular policy, if she may kindly indulge me so that I will relay it to the Hon. Minister. If she may put it in writing so that she gets adequate response. I thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Minister.

Hon. Hlatywayo, please may you put your question in writing so that the responsible Minister will come to this House with a response. Thank you.

HON. G. HLATYWAYO: Thank you, I will do so Madam Speaker Ma'am.

***HON. NKANI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Child Care. My question is with regard to the movement of medicines or drugs from pharmaceutical companies or NatPharm and their distribution to various hospitals. What is the Government's procedure or policy regarding the medicines that come from the pharmaceutical company? Would the individual hospital have paid for the drugs or is it the Government that pays for these drugs? Once the Government has paid for these drugs, can they then come and buy medicines as hospitals?

I pose the question because if you go to one clinic, they will tell you that they have already placed their orders for medication and they have not received their orders. If you go to the next clinic, they have the particular drug. We would then tend to assume that maybe they would not have paid.

I would want a clear and concise answer as to who pays for these drugs. Is it the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion on behalf of all the hospitals or does each clinic or medical institution pay for itself? We have council clinics or municipal clinics. Do they pay for themselves and the Government hospitals, on the other hand, pay for themselves? May you please clarify this because one clinic has medication and the other does not have? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Thank you Madam Speaker. I thank Hon. Nkani. He has raised a pertinent question that requires an in-depth answer. As he was speaking, he was making reference to NatPharm, which is the storage for all our

medication nationwide. This is where those who need medication or drugs can buy them.

We have heard most of the time that people are not coming to NatPharm to collect drugs. At times, some of these clinics may not be going to NatPharm. You have asked an important question that if this is the national storage for our medication or drugs, what they would require is money, whether it is coming from the Government or from various hospitals.

I am grateful that as the Government, we intend for medication to be easily accessible locally. So, this is the drug storage for the nation. What I would then need to find out is who would have paid for the medication. If possible, may the question be posed directly to the relevant Minister as to whether they would have paid in advance or what is the *modus operandi*. I thank you.

***HON. MAJAYA:** My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Child Care. Why is it that PSMAS contributions towards diabetic medication and what one uses for diabetes testing are unable to pay for the fees? A lot of people are diabetic and that is why they would

have paid for their medical aid. How best can they be assisted? I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):** It is true that as a country, we use multiple currencies, which is legal. It could be the United States dollar, the South African rand or our own ZiG currency. If she is facing such problems, I will have a discussion with the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion that we now have this problem that a particular currency cannot be used because in a multiple-currency society, it is expected that all currencies should be used.

I will give the question to the Hon. Minister because those people who are diabetic, who have these chronic challenges are failing to raise medication. I thank you.

***HON. MUTSEYAMI:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. My supplementary question to the Hon. Minister is, may he please explain to us why the majority of doctors in this country do not accept the medical aid card that we have and that we subscribe to as PSMAS?

I am talking about the specialists in Zimbabwe. These medical doctors do not accept the use of the PSMAS card. As Government workers, we contribute monthly while the majority of these doctors do not accept it when people come for service. They want cash upfront. If you bring the card from PSMAS, they do not serve you readily. Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Madam Speaker. It is quite disturbing and it disturbs not only the Hon. Members in this august House but also PSMAS members. The problem arose when our currency lost its value because of rapid inflation during that time. We are happy that in the Second Republic, our local ZiG is now quite powerful. It is not easily losing its value. So, this is what led to the challenges that PSMAS is facing.

The Government is working to ensure that PSMAS is respected and the cards that they issue are respected because our ZiG has gained its value and is now a respected currency. You should expect to see in the near future, programmes being put in place by the Minister of

Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion where such medical aid cards can be received warmly.

In the past, if you used a medical aid card, the doctors used claim forms from the society which took time to process their cash. In the meantime, the currency was losing value. So, inflation is no longer eroding the ZiG. Measures that have been put in place will ensure that the PSMAS card regains its stature as before. I thank you.

HON. KANGAUSARU: Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Child Care. Hon. Minister, what concrete steps is the Government taking to address the growing gap between the identification of children with autism and their access to appropriate diagnostic, therapeutic, educational and social support? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Thank you Madam Speaker and let me also thank Hon. Chenjerai Kangauseru, Pastor. This has been a problem, the challenges of autism in our country,

where people maybe traditionally or within the African context, at times were not in a position to identify that one is suffering from autism.

So, there is awareness going on to make sure that at times you might find your child is very active and he or she is not paying attention to detail. It has been observed that a number of our kids are at risk of having autism, but parents are not aware. So the Ministry is moving aggressively to make sure that they raise and also conscientise parents to come forth if they have such children.

This is an ongoing exercise and yes, those with autism are being assisted so that parents will not just think that maybe my child is just active, but to seek professional guidance.

HON. KANGAUSARU: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I would like to thank Hon. Felix Mhona for his detailed response. My supplementary question is; has the Government considered developing a dedicated national autism framework with clear targets and responsible institutions and bilateral provisions? I thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon Madam Speaker Ma'am. Again, let me thank my brother, Hon. Kangausaru for that follow-up question.

If you may indulge me so that if we have it in writing so that we get proper and adequate information. I thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Minister, I think Hon. Kangausaru has taken note of that.

HON. L. SIBANDA: Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture. The Ministry launched the Sports for All Programme to identify and nurture talent from the grassroots level. May the Hon. Minister inform this House on plans in place as far as the 2026 roll-out plan is concerned, especially in rural provinces? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker Ma'am. Again, let me thank my brother Hon. Sibanda for that very important question. Indeed, to say the nation has been advocating for an academy policy from the grassroots which he has articulated to. As to the detailed plan, if you may indulge me so that I will not mislead this House, so that he can put it in writing, then the Minister can come with the detailed plan.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Acting Leader of Government Business. I am sure Hon. Sibanda has taken note of that.

***HON. NHARI:** My question is to the Minister of Local Government. When you look at our tourism, we have improvements in the number of arrivals, with some today. When they travel in most of Zimbabwean urban centres, we observe a lot of shops, toilets, offices, and such like have graffiti and some of the graffiti is vulgar. What is the Government's policy as regards graffiti on Government buildings as we gravitate towards the Vision 2030? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Thank you Madam Speaker. I thank Hon. Violet Nhari. We indeed have this sad development, this sad culture that is now on the rise in Zimbabwe. As a Government, we do not allow those that come with our visitors to use graffiti. This becomes even more difficult to erase. So it is illegal to indulge in graffiti on any buildings. I am in agreement that as we gravitate towards Vision 2030 where we will have an upper-middle income, this will tend to lower the value of our buildings. I am grateful

that a lot of our councils are sitting down with owners of these buildings so that they develop and modernise their buildings. Some are already in talks to ensure that their buildings are painted so that they look neater. There are bylaws that the councils have; the majority of these councils are now sitting down with their citizens so that the owners of these buildings can protect their buildings. I thank you.

HON. KARENYI: Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Health. The Government provides free health care for elderly patients. Could the Minister clarify whether this entitlement includes essential diagnostic services such as X-rays, CT scans, ultrasounds and MRI scans and when medically they are required, if an elderly person cannot afford these investigations, what is the Government's policy to ensure that they are not denied or delayed the necessary diagnosis and treatment? I thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):**
Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker, and let me also thank Hon. Madam Lynette Karenzi for that very important question, which will therefore

cause for detailed interrogation of the items that she has highlighted so that whenever the response is coming to this august House, it will be detailed. Once again, with your indulgence, if I may kindly ask Hon. Madam Lynette to put the question in writing so that we get a detailed response. I thank you.

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

***HON. KANUPULA:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development. We are grateful for the good work he is doing to reduce the carnage on the roads caused by accidents. My question is, what measures has the Government put in place to ensure that drivers who continually commit offences have their licences cancelled or when will a driver's demerit system be introduced so that culprits are removed from the roads? I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA):** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I thank Hon. Kanupula. It is quite sad that

we still have drivers on this road who are causing a lot of accidents, but they continue to drive. It is true that as the Ministry of Transport, we are conducting investigations into the law to come up with measures to address the issue of demerits for drivers so that in the end, should you reach a certain number of points, your licence will become null and void. At the moment, our courts can cancel your licence if they see that you are a reckless driver and you could have caused the death of people on the road. It is a law that we want to put in place and we will be coming back to this august House to come up with this particular act. As we have been urged by His Excellency the President, that is to ensure that all those that are involved in the transport sector should put their hands together so that we can come up with stronger legislation that will curb the carnage that is occurring on the road. I am grateful that we are carrying out investigations and as is our habit, before the law comes to this august House, there will be public hearings and public opinions will be sought. I thank you.

HON. CHIDUWA: Madam Speaker Ma'am, I want to applaud the Government for the technology that has been deployed on our roads as a

way of managing the traffic scourge and also to manage reckless drivers. I wanted to find out from the Hon. Minister what has been put in place to make sure that those who are captured by those cameras pay for the tickets. The mechanisms that are there, are they linked to ZINARA licences? What mechanisms are there?

HON. MHONA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let me thank Hon. Chiduwa. Indeed, that is a very important question. If you remember very well, we have got a system that has been adopted by the Government known as ZIMTIS, which synchronises all the stakeholders in that sector. We are talking of the vehicle theft squad, VTS, CVR, the Zimbabwe Republic Police in general and ZINARA, so that we can link. The moment you go to licence your vehicle, it will have been flagged if there is a ticket on it. This is the way to go. The ideal scenario is that the Minister of Home Affairs is going to link to the registry, so that as you commit crime, a ticket will automatically come registered on your phone through your number to say this is what you have done and you know that you have got a pending ticket. The system is developing. These are some of the safeguards that will be in place and you heard from the Hon.

Minister, that there are also provisions to dispute, in instances that you are not happy with the ticket that has been issued to you. They can also fall back on the database to retrieve it. It could be the image at a particular time that the crime was committed. These are some of the issues, but as the system is developing, I am sure you will be hearing more from the Minister of Home Affairs. Thank you.

***HON. NYAKUEDZWA:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My question is directed to the Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry. We are happy about the work that she is doing to develop the Ministry. A lot of visitors are now coming to Zimbabwe. Furthermore, we thank them for their gastronomy and the blitz to publicise it. If you go to tourist attraction areas such as Victoria Falls, we find problems that visitors do not have accommodation and there are no good roads. There is inadequate network coverage. What measures have been put in place to ensure that the visitors enjoy their stay, so that they have readily available standard accommodation and they travel safely on our roads and they have network coverage? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**

INDUSTRY (HON. RWODZI): Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I also want to thank the Hon. Member for his question. We thank His Excellency the President for his vision when he came up with wisdom, with a master stroke in NDS 1 and NDS 2. In his wisdom, we observe that the number of tourists has increased. It is correct that our visitors may have no accommodation, but these places are very few. The Victoria Falls City that he has made reference to, because of His Excellency the President's vision for Zimbabwe, is open for business. We have come up with the engagements and re-engagements. A lot of business people are coming back to build major hotels. Our biggest hotel in Victoria Falls, the Kingdom Hotel, is under renovation. They are expanding the rooms. However, because our Government is urging those small players in small to medium enterprises to start various businesses, we observe that people are now turning their houses into lodges. Our Ministry of Tourism and the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority is urging them to do so. We give them the thumbs up once they have done the renovations as we grow their tourism industry. As we grow this industry, we urge everyone to come

and live in our communal lands so that there will also be communal tourism, so that our rural communities can also raise income from tourism. We achieve the President's vision of an upper-middle-income society and in the process, leaving no one and no place behind.

We are having the *Sanganai/Hlanganani* Expo in Masvingo and we are going to have some people who are going to be living in communal homesteads as we gravitate towards that. As we look into the issue of road infrastructure through the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development, the Government has done a good job. They are attending to the major roads. The road from Bulawayo to Victoria Falls, as we speak, is now going to be widened because we have got the Cricket World Cup being hosted by our country and we would want our visitors and our local people to be able to witness this event and because of the whole-of-Government approach, the Minister Hon. Mhona is working hand-in-glove with his counterparts and he is looking at addressing major highways to ensure that they have been widened and they will go to the others.

In terms of network connectivity, the Minister of ICT, led by Hon. Mavetera, powered by His Excellency the President, is ensuring that they use Starlink to boost the current boosters that we have in terms of coverage. The majority of our places now have coverage. Even motor vehicles can use Starlink, you can be connected to those that have restaurants and accommodation. If they have accommodation, the boosters that are not out of place should use Starlink as we cater for these visitors. I thank you.

***HON. NYAKUEDZWA:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I want to thank the Hon. Minister for your response. She has also added the issue of the cricket stadium that is going to be used to host the World Cup, which is a good thing by our Government. This stadium is going to be visited by a lot of visitors from various countries for various sporting disciplines in that stadium. This means that we need accommodation. What measures have you put in place as Government to prepare for such sports? I thank you.

***HON. RWODZI:** I thank the Hon. Member for the supplementary question. Government has various programmes to cater

for those people who are going to witness the World Cup. This Cricket World Cup is being co-hosted by South Africa and Namibia. Not all of them will be coming to Zimbabwe. People might be apprehensive in terms of accommodation because we are co-hosting with Namibia and South Africa. The teams are going to be divided into groups and the groups will play in Zimbabwe and others in Namibia and South Africa.

From what we were given by the Zimbabwe Cricket Union in terms of the measures, we have adequate accommodation as we speak because the major hotel that we have, in addition, the Kingdom Hotel, the lodges and other two big hotels that will be coming on board, one will have been completed during that time. The Kingdom Hotel will not have been fully completed but partly completed and the rooms will be sufficient. We will have adequate accommodation for this competition. I thank you.

***HON. CHIDUWA:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. In terms of the visitors, observe that in other jurisdictions, if airplanes come into other countries, when they go back, they save local cuisine.

The majority of the planes that leave Zimbabwe, such as Qatar Airways, serve their own food which is not identified with Zimbabwe. I just want to find out from the Minister as to what measures have they put in place so that we have a gastronomic identity as Zimbabwe. We used to have Catercraft which used to prepare food for all the airplanes even up to Zambia, but these days we no longer have such arrangements. Do we have such measures to be put in place so that these airlines save Zimbabwean cuisine? I thank you.

HON. RWODZI: Let me start by saying the majority of the food that you observed being served in various airlines comes from their country because it is their plane. No law forces Qatar to serve Zimbabwean cuisine. In the same breath, we can prepare their food if they require it.

It is our Air Zimbabwe which should serve its own cuisine, whether they like it or not. Let me then say we have been given a chance for us to now work with the Ministry of Transport because they are the owners of the airports and infrastructure within these airports. We are coming up with a large kitchen to ensure that we have adequate food

prepared for all the airlines so that we cater in terms of food for all these airlines.

If they want Zimbabwean gastronomy, once we have prepared it and they prefer it, they can buy it. If they want us to prepare for them, we can do that. That is what is important. Plans are underway to ensure that this is done. Two weeks ago, I met with Hon. Minister Mhona and his team and we had discussions around this idea so that we can prepare food for airplanes that travel to this destination. I thank you.

HON. BONDA: I would like the Minister of Tourism to share with the House, measures in place to empower the communities around the stadium in Victoria Falls. For example, we have seen in South Africa during the 2010 tournament, the Government capacitated the people in South Africa to actually manage to assist or to augment the Government in as far as other services that come with the tournament were concerned.

What is it that is in place for the people around the stadium in Victoria Falls that is going to assist them to also benefit and have a share of that cake that is coming within their community? I thank you.

HON. RWODZI: Thank you very much Madam Speaker Ma'am and the Hon. Member. We have several programmes that we have in our ministry in line with the promotion of communities through tourism and in preparation of the cricket World Cup that is coming to our country. To start with, let me also applaud His Excellency for coming up with the programme for nutritional gardens, which is a low hanging fruit for us as the Ministry of Tourism, to connect the communities with the tourism value chain where we are encouraging communities to be having nutritional gardens that will feed into the value chain of gastronomy tourism.

As we speak right now, we shall start a programme in January in Victoria Falls that will accelerate the gastronomy programme in Victoria Falls so that the communities around will be the ones to provide our Zimbabwean traditional foods to those who are coming for this World Cup. Again, we have a programme that we are going to be enrolling with the Ministry of Finance. If all goes well, they shall be funding us to promote the construction of accommodation facilities within the rural settings. As I have just said, promoting rural tourism accommodation so

that we have many people, particularly internationals who are now enjoying residing within the rural settings. This programme is an easy one, it is not much complicated, there are not big buildings that are needed, but it is just converting the rural setting into affordable and to qualify the same setting to be facilities for accommodation during the tournament. I thank you.

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

HON. TOGAREPI: Madam Speaker, I move that time for Questions Without Notice be extended by 20 minutes.

HON. C. MOYO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

HON. TSVANGIRAI: Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me also thank the Government Chief Whip for extending the time. Our economy has been expanding over the years. Last year, we recorded 6% growth as measured by GDP. This year, our economy is also recording 6% to 7%. This means that our tax base has also been increasing. Madam Speaker, if the economy is expanding and the tax base is also expanding, why are

workers' wages not reflecting this economic growth? What measures is the government taking to ensure that economic growth translates into better wages and improved living conditions of ordinary workers like nurses, teachers and the Members of Parliament as well? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me thank Hon. Richard Tsvangirai for the important question where he is amenable to the growth trajectory of the country and has highlighted the growth trajectory that we have been witnessing in the country. When we are talking of GDP, we are talking of the performance of the entire economy. It does not translate to government officials in the end and how they are paid. It also factors in issues to do with the private sector.

When we are talking of Agenda 2030, an economic empowered nation, Upper Middle-Income Society, these are the issues we are looking at so that in terms of income per capita of our citizenry, this is what we will be addressing. In terms of growth, we are happy that we are in the right direction. The growth that we are talking of will then

factor in several variables. We are talking of increased production in terms of what we are producing as a nation. We are also talking of increased foreign direct investment into the country, thereby contributing to the growth of the nation?

I am happy that yes, we have stabilised even in terms of the stability of our currency. These are the fundamentals that would then give the impetus to what the citizen would get at the end of the day, whether you are formally employed or you are running your own project. In a nutshell, yes, the issues to do with remuneration may be at times bilateral, whether you are in government or you are in the private sector. I am happy that once the economy is performing, surely it will then translate to the grassroots. Thank you Madam Speaker.

***HON. TOGAREPI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I want to pose my question to the Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities. We note that a lot of Zimbabweans are interested in building their own houses and they are being taken advantage of by land barons who allocate stands in areas where they are not supposed to build houses. How can we sustainably use our land because we are running out of

land? Does Government have any plans to build high-rise buildings instead of single-storey buildings? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL HOUSING AND SOCIAL AMENITIES (HON. M. NCUBE): Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Togarepi for the question. We have a policy in place which guides us that in every construction that is taking place or land that is for housing, they should reserve 40% for high-rise flats. We are also encouraging those that have got land to construct houses using the high-rise method.

Madam Speaker, the issue of land barons is a serious issue and the Ministry of National Housing, with the whole-of-Government approach, working with the Ministry of Local Government, we are dealing with the issue because the land barons are issuing out land which does not belong to them. In some cases, the land will belong to the State which falls under the Ministry of Local Government. I submit Madam Speaker.

***HON. BATITSA:** My supplementary question is, what plans are in place to ensure that those who have been taken advantage of by land barons are refunded and get their money back? I thank you.

HON. M. NCUBE: Madam Speaker, I think that question is directed to the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works. Most of the land that the land barons are parceling to people, and at the end the houses are demolished, falls under the local authorities or urban councils. For example, the demolitions that are happening here in Harare. I think the Ministry of Local Government can be in a better position to answer that question. Thank you.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. MUGOMO):** Thank you Hon. Minister. Honourable, did you hear the Hon. Minister's response? – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

***HON. MUDEKUNYE:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order, order Hon. Members! Hon. Members, this was a supplementary. So, he will ask the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible*

interjections.] – Is the Minister of Local Government and Public Works in the House? – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – Order, order Hon. Members! You may proceed Hon. Mudekunya.

***HON. MUDEKUNYE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My supplementary question is, we won our country for our land. What empowers land barons is that people look for residential stands, have money and do not have land. What Government measures are in place to enable us to provide land to people who want to construct their residential stands so that we can disempower these land barons? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL HOUSING AND SOCIAL AMENITIES (HON. MUSA NCUBE): Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I would also like to thank the Hon. Member for the question. As I have said before, Madam Speaker Ma'am, the issue of land barons is a serious issue which needs all of us to deal with it, especially us as the Hon. Members of Parliament because some of the land barons are Members of Parliament who are in this House. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible Interjections.*] – Madam Speaker Ma'am, the

worst part is that most of the urban councils, for example, the Harare City Council, the councillors are the ones who are parcelling land to the land barons, which causes a lot of people to lose their hard-earned cash.

On the issue of the Government to give land to those who are in need to build their houses - [HON. ZVAIPA: *Point of order! Point of order!*] –

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order Hon. Minister. What is your point of order Hon. Member?

***HON. ZVAIPA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My point of order is directed to the Hon. Minister. The words she mentioned are very powerful that some of the land barons are the Members of Parliament in this House. Was it not good for her to mention the Members of Parliament who are land barons, because out there all the Members of Parliament are going to be labelled as land barons? So, it would be better for her to mention them.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: You may proceed Hon. Minister. – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] -

HON. MUSA NCUBE: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I was saying, as the Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities, I am mandated to provide affordable houses to the citizens. We have programmes where we are constructing houses for the civil servants and social houses. However, we face a challenge in financial resources to complete some projects because we are mandated to provide houses for our citizens and houses for our civil servants.

Madam Speaker, as I stated, only the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works can allocate land to people who want to build houses. As a ministry, we only apply for State land from the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works which falls under the ministry. For the benefit of this House, Madam Speaker, I encourage Members of Parliament to help our electorate because most of our people fall prey to land barons. Let us advise those who want to acquire land to follow proper procedures. There is no harm for us as Hon. Members, to advise our people to follow proper procedures and approach the local authorities to find out whether the land they want to acquire has all the papers in place while the Ministry of National

Housing and Social Amenities, in conjunction with the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, tries to enforce laws to ensure that people do not lose their money to land barons. I submit Madam Speaker Ma'am.

HON. MUDEKUNYE: Point of clarity Madam Speaker Ma'am!

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Point of clarity, you may proceed Hon. Member.

HON. MUDEKUNYE: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Given the buildings being destroyed by the council, it really shows that citizens have money to build houses. My question is, how do we increase the supply of land to build houses so we put land barons out of business?

HON. MUSA NCUBE: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Thank you Hon. Member for the question on how, as a ministry or as a Government, we can increase the supply of land to those who wish to build their houses. As I said Madam Speaker, that as a ministry, we are mandated to provide affordable houses to our citizens. We are working with all citizens to construct houses. Those who wish to build houses can

build houses for sale or they can build houses for themselves. We have a programme where we are working with private partners to construct houses. Some of the partners have got their own land. For example, WestProp has several houses that they are building around Harare.

So, in terms of how we can avail the land to those who want to build, as I said Madam Speaker, it is the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works that provides land to those who want to construct houses. I submit Madam Speaker. Thank you.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Madam Speaker, the Minister has explained fully that some of the land barons are Members of Parliament. Does this mean that the Government is also causing the demolitions of people's houses?

***HON. TOGAREPI:** Madam Speaker, let us be very clear. If there are land barons and Members of Parliament are associated with that, obviously they must be charged and face the law but to say the Government is involved, I think it is being too general and it is not correct. Go straight to those who are responsible for that.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Hon. Madzivanyika, can you please rephrase your question?

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Let me correct my question. The Minister has explained fully that some of the land barons are Members of Parliament. Does this mean that Members of Parliament who are also part of the Government are involved in the demolition of people's houses? Thank you.

HON. MUSA NCUBE: Thank you Madam Speaker. Allow me to explain this to Hon. Madzivanyika. If you are talking about land barons, there are some land barons who are forcing themselves onto land that does not belong to them. If I can give you an example. Here in Harare, the councillors are parcelling out land that does not belong to them, to land barons. As Hon. Members, you let them continue. You let your electorate continue constructing houses and at the end of the day, they are demolished and you blame the Government for that while you look at your electorate building houses, working with the councillors on land that does not belong to them. I submit.

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: Point of clarity Madam Speaker!

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Point of order!

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, Hon. Members! We have exhausted our time for extension. Order Hon. Hlatywayo! Hon. Madzivanyika, please sit down!

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: It is important for us to ask. It is a point of clarity. I need clarity.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Order, Hon. Members! Hon. Hlatywayo, may you take your seat – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: It is very unfair. Is it that you want to protect land barons? I have a point of clarity.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Our time has expired.

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: You are protecting land barons. That is what you are doing – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjection.*] –

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

HON. MAKUMIRE: Madam Speaker, I have a point of privilege – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] – It is allowed. I have a point of privilege, Madam Speaker.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: What is your point of privilege, Hon. Makumire?

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** My point of privilege Madam Speaker, is the issue which is in discussion. The issue of land barons is very topical in the whole country, so I am appealing – [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

HON. TOGAREPI: The Speaker has ruled. We cannot have somebody bringing...

***HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO:** Who has given you the go-ahead to speak?

HON. MAKUMIRE: We are allowed to request an extension at law and the Government Chief Whip is not allowed to just stand and...

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Makumire, order!

HON. MUTSEYAMI: Point of privilege, Hon. Speaker! I am appealing that, if it is possible, the Minister of Local Government and Public Works and the Minister of Lands and Rural Development bring us a joint Ministerial Statement in this august House and then Hon.

Members will be able to ask questions on the issue of land barons so that we can be assisted.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: We take note of your request.

UPDATE ON MEASURES TO ENSURE MEANINGFUL
CONSULTATIONS ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

3. **HON. CHIDZIVA** asked the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs to update the House on the measures being implemented by the Ministry to ensure meaningful nationwide public consultations on constitutional reforms, particularly regarding electoral processes. Additionally, to outline the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the independence of constitutional commissions, including the Electoral Commission and the Gender Commission from political interference.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: (HON. MAZUNGUNYE): I rise to update the Hon. House on the measures being implemented by the Ministry to ensure meaningful nationwide public consultations on constitutional reforms, particularly relating to electoral processes. I will

also address the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the independence of constitutional commissions, including the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and the Zimbabwe Gender Commission from political interference.

Section 141 of the Constitution provides in mandatory terms that Parliament must facilitate public involvement in its legislative and other processes through its committees. To ensure that interested parties are consulted about Bills being considered by Parliament, unless such consultation is inappropriate or impracticable. This provision entrenches participatory democracy as a constitutional obligation rather than a discretionary practice. In compliance with this constitutional requirement, Parliament, through the Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Thematic Committee on Human Rights, conducts public consultations across the country on all Bills that would have come from the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

These consultations are designed to ensure inclusivity, accessibility and national participation. These consultations also extend to Bills

containing constitutional amendments and reforms to the electoral framework. Madam Speaker, to ensure wide participation, dissemination of information relating to public consultation is undertaken through multiple communication channels, including national and community radio stations, television broadcasts, print media, official Government and parliamentary websites, and also online and social media platforms.

Furthermore, Hon. Members of Parliament have a representative duty to inform and mobilise their respective constituencies regarding public hearings. This will also strengthen grassroots participation in the legislative process. Madam Speaker, with regards to the safeguarding of constitutional commissions from political interference, Section 235 (1) of the Constitution guarantees their independence by clearly providing that independent commissions are not subject to the direction or control of anyone. This constitutional guarantee applies to all independent commissions, including the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and the Zimbabwe Gender Commission.

The protection of their independence is further enforced by their direct establishment under the Constitution and also clearly defined

mandates and functions, security of tenure of commissions and accountability mechanisms that are exercised through Parliament rather than through executive control.

In conclusion, Government remains committed, through dependence on Parliament, to ensuring meaningful public participation in electoral reform processes in strict compliance with Section 141 of the Constitution. At the same time, the independence of the constitutional commission is firmly protected under Section 235, with Parliament playing a central oversight role consistent with the principles of separation of powers and constitutional supremacy. So I submit.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Madam Chair. Section 235 (2) says that commissions must work without fear, favour or without fear of anyone. However, in the run-up to the Constitutional Amendment Bill (No. 3) public hearings, we saw that the Human Rights Commission Chairperson, the Hon. Jesse Majome, was removed from her position after giving a report on what they thought or what they observed during the consultations. Is this a clear indication that the removal was not in line with the tenure specified by the law of five years? Before the five-

year period expires, we saw her being changed to another commission. Does this indicate that there was some sort of unfairness in the manner in which this discharge was done? I thank you.

HON. MAZUNGUNYE: I would take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Member for the follow-up question. In terms of the Constitution, I would put it across that the President has a duty or has the prerogative of making any transfers or any assignments which he might direct. On that note, it is not clear as to what the reason was for the removal or the reassignment of the particular Commissioner.

So it is within the constitutional confines of the law that the President may exercise his duties. In that regard, we cannot pinpoint or connect whatever that would have happened and to connect it to his Presidential duties or Presidential functions that he has in terms of the Constitution. In light of that, there are no reasons which were proffered to the effect that, that is the reason why the Commissioner was being moved from one commission to another. So I submit.

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. May the Minister tell this august House if there is a Constitution that allows the President to act in the manner he acted? Thank you.

HON. TOGAREPI: Madam Speaker Ma'am, I think the Hon. Members want to play to the gallery. The issue they want to bring to the Minister now happened more than three months ago. They have been coming to Parliament, never raised it and they are raising it now. I think they want to bring back either a debate on the constitutional amendment or something else. I think we should not tolerate such type of nonsense being discussed in the House.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Point of order, Madam Speaker Ma'am.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: What is your point of order Hon. Madzivanyika?

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Madam Speaker, Order Number 98 (2) (d) of the Standing Rules and Orders does not allow belittling other Hon. Members. Hon. Chief Whip from the other side said we do not

allow nonsense because this came in after three months. Is it nonsense to ask what happened in the last three months? I thank you.

HON. TOGAREPI: I never said the Hon. Member was the nonsense. I am discussing nonsense that can be said, but not the Hon. Member. The Hon. Member is an Hon. Member, but I should not allow nonsense. Nonsense is not you, unless your name is changed to be nonsense.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Hon. Members. Order! Hon. Makumire. I have been tolerating you. May you take your seat.

HON. MAKUMIRE: Why should I take a seat when I have asked a supplementary question? You did not allow the Hon. Minister to respond and you asked me to sit down. Why?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Hon. Makumire. May you take your seat. Take your seat, Hon. Makumire. What is your point of order Hon.?

HON. CHIGUMBU: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My point of order is that, according to the rules of this House, when an Hon. Member asks a question, the responsible or the relevant minister is the

one who is supposed to be responding. I do not know why we are confusing roles here. Why is the Government Chief Whip standing up to respond to questions that are not directed to him? I think what you are supposed to do is make sure that we follow the rules. If you are handling issues like that, some of us will also start to misbehave and we do not want to see you then intervening. Since you are not intervening when the Government Chief Whip is also breaking the rules, he is not supposed to respond. He is not the Minister. The Minister is here. Allow the Minister to respond. If he has got something to add, he can rise on a point of order or a point of privilege, not for him to rise and respond to another Hon. Member.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Member.

Noted.

HON. MAKUMIRE: I have a point of privilege.

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

HON. MAKUMIRE: I have raised a supplementary question and you never said anything about it. You did not refer the question to the

Minister. You did not allow the Minister to respond. How are you managing the affairs of this House without allowing the Deputy Minister to respond?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: You were making noise. You and Hon. Madzivanyika were making noise.

HON. MAKUMIRE: Does that give you the power to just ignore the question?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order! Hon. Makumire. Hon. Madzivanyika, what is your problem?

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

41. **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 DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO):** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am, my apologies. I do not seem to have question number 41. My responses start from question number 42. If you

allow me next time to bring a response for that question. **THE**

TEMPORARY SPEAKER: It is okay, Hon. Minister. Hon.

Madzivanyika. Did you submit question number 41?

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Yes Madam Speaker Ma'am.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: I think you can resubmit it and then let us go to number 42.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Sorry Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let us defer it to next week.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: It is okay Hon. Madzivanyika.

CONSTRUCTION OF MAWUNGANIDZE ROAD IN MBIZO

CONSTITUENCY

42. **HON. MADZIVANYIKA** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to inform the House when the construction of Mawunganidze Road in Mbizo Constituency which is under the Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme will be completed.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO): Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I would also like to thank Hon.

Madzivanyika for asking the question. Mawunganidze Road is a local distributor road under the jurisdiction of Kwekwe City Council. The road is approximately 4.4 kilometres in length and forms part of the urban road network serving Mbizo Constituency. A total of 2.4 kilometres of Mawunganidze Road was resurfaced in 2024 under the Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme II, with the contract being managed by Kwekwe City Council. These works significantly improved the condition and trafficability of the rehabilitated section.

However, the initial scope of resurfacing the full 4.4 kilometres was not completed. Kwekwe City Council has prioritised in its 2026 budget, the completion of the remaining works which involves the resurfacing of approximately two kilometres of the road. The Ministry will continue to provide guidance and oversight to ensure that the remaining works are implemented as planned, thereby restoring the road to an acceptable standard and improving service delivery to the residents of Mbizo Constituency. I so submit.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I heard what the Minister has said. He said that Mawunganidze Road is

under the jurisdiction of Kwekwe Local Board. We also want them to assist us as they did with Lorraine Drive, because that road makes dust which causes people to get infections. Can they also assist us? Thank you.

***HON. SACCO:** I want to thank Hon. Madzivanyika for his supplementary question. We want Hon. Madzivanyika to know that all the roads have responsible authorities. There are roads which are under the Ministry of Transport, RIDA, as well as urban and rural councils. This road falls under Kwekwe City Council. So, we expect these councils to have the capacity to mend this road. If they need any help, they will write to the Ministry so that they will get the help they need. However, from my knowledge, they are saying that they were given a portion in the 2026 budget so that the road is going to be repaired. I thank you.

REHABILITATION OF ROADS IN MASHONALAND WEST PROVINCE

53. **HON. MUROMBEDZI** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to provide an update to the House on the

status of rehabilitation of the following roads and bridges in

Mashonaland West Province:

a) Mhondoro road turnoff from Chivhu Road to Mubaira through Kadhani ("52")

b) Mupfure Bridge along Skyline Nyamweda Road

c) Dombojena Road from Nyatsanga passing through Karo Office and Rutara School, Chegutu RDC

d) Piriviri Bridge, Makonde RDC

e) Moleli turn-off to Dombwe in Msengezi

f) Siakobvu to Mola Road

g) Nyagambu Bridge, Mhondoro Mubaira Chegutu RDC

h) Nyundo Bridge, Mhondoro Mubaira Chegutu RDC

i) Kapfunde to Mudzi Road *via* Zvarai, including the bridge on Badze River in Magunje

j) From Kenzamba to Kamhonde Road, Makonde RDC

k) Kamhonde to Chirariro, with the Piriviri Bridge washed away many years ago in Makonde RDC

l) Kerk Street Bridge, Kadoma

- m) Buffalo Road Bridge in Mshumavale, Kadoma
- n) Hwadze Bridge from Mamvuramachena to Sawiramakwande, Nyaminyami RDC
- o) Zvimhonja Bridge near Zvimhonja Primary, Zvipani in Hurungwe West
- p) Road from Magunje to Kareshe Township, then to Kamhonde Township, to Masanga turn-off, then to Masanga and Kachegache Roads, Hurungwe RDC
- q) St. Michael's Kaponda Road, Mhondoro Ngezi RDC
- r) Bridges on Chinove River and Mahabha River, Mhondoro Ngezi
- s) Murombedzi to Madzorera Road, Zvimba RDC
- t) Guvamombe to Karuru Road, Chegutu RDC
- u) Nyadza Bridge, Ward 26, Hurungwe West

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO): Thank you so much Madam Speaker Ma'am. I also want to thank Hon. Murombedzi for the question. Allow me to go to the responses.

On the Chegutu Mubaira Skyline Road which includes the Mupfure Bridge, Nyagambu Bridge and Nyundo Bridge, this road is predominantly gravel, with short sections being surfaced. The total road length is 104 km and it provides major connectivity between Chegutu and Mhondoro districts and also provides the shortest access for surrounding communities to Harare. Whilst we acknowledge that the road now requires upgrading to a wide-mat surfaced standard, budget constraints have hampered the commencement of the upgrading.

However, during the last quarter of 2025, the Ministry, through the Department of Roads, initiated procurement of re-gravelling works targeting 10 km to date; the procurement processes have been concluded and a contract awarded for the works. We expect the works to commence very soon.

About the Mupfure, Nyagambu and Nyundo River crossings, there is a need to upgrade these culverts to proper bridge or shelved structures. In the interim, the Department of Roads will carry out repairs of existing structures, including back-filling of wash-aways to maintain or restore trafficability whilst funds to upgrade these structures are being sourced.

Allow me to move to Siyakobvu-Mola Road, which is the Binga-Bumi Road. The Siyakobvu-Mola Road section is part of the Binga-Bumi Road which links Binga in Matabeleland North Province to Bumi Hills in Mashonaland West and it has a length of 130 kilometres.

Government is currently attending to the roads under routine maintenance programme which to date, 36 kilometres has been graded and eight kilometres spot gravelled as part of the road works in preparation. This intervention has resulted in significant improvement in trafficability of the road between Siyakobvu and Mola.

Allow me to move to Kirk Street Bridge and Buffalo Bridges in Kadoma. These two roads are part of the urban roads taken over by Government and earmarked for rehabilitation under the Emergency Road Rehabilitation Programme 2, which was since extended to December 2026. The scope of works is three kilometres for Kirk Street and 2.3 kilometres on Buffalo Road, inclusive of culverts. The works had commenced in 2022, and significant progress had been recorded on site before the contractors moved off site due to budgetary constraints. Currently, the Department of Roads is engaging the contractors to

resume the project so that all outstanding work is completed before the end of the year. The Ministry remains committed to completing the project and improving road infrastructure within Kadoma and countrywide for the benefit of residents, businesses and the travelling public.

Allow me to move on to the Kapfunde-Mudzimu-Zvarayi Road in Hurungwe. The Kapfunde-Mudzimu-Zvarayi Road, Magunje, Kahonde, Masanga, Kajecheje are strategic primary roads within Hurungwe District that service agricultural communities and facilitate movement of farming produce to growth points and national markets. They are all under the purview of RIDA which have planned re-gravelling of 30 kilometres, Kapfunde-Mudzimu-Zvarayi Road with 50 kilometres of Magunje, Kahonde, Masanga under the ZINARA Road Maintenance Programme. The project remains part of RIDA's prioritised interventions aimed at improving accessibility, reducing transport costs and improving mobility for the Hurungwe community. Implementation will proceed progressively upon availability of funding resources.

Moving on to Musukwi, Nyaodza and Badze Bridges, these are critical road infrastructure in Hurungwe District intended to improve accessibility and ensure safer crossing for surrounding communities, especially during bad weather conditions. The rehabilitation of these structures remains under RIDA's Infrastructure Development Programme and implementation will proceed once funding modalities are concluded. Moving on to Dombo-Piriwiri Road in Makonde, these roads are critical roads within Makonde District as characterised by steep terrain around Chagumuka Mountain.

The roads are important for the movement of people, agricultural produce and service delivery to surrounding communities. The responsible authority RIDA, has prioritised the roads for future road maintenance once resources are available from ZINARA. Moving on to St. Michael's Kaponda Road in Ngezi, the St. Michael's Kaponda Road services both mining and agricultural communities within Ngezi District and plays an important role in improving accessibility to schools, clinics and business centres. RIDA has re-gravelling work plans covering 24km

to improve the road condition and trackability and works will commence once funds are made available.

Moving on to Murombedzi-Masiarwa Road in Zvimba, RIDA once again has planned rehabilitation works involving re-gravelling of 37km under the Road Maintenance Programme. Implementation will be undertaken subject to availability of resources.

We now move to Piriwiri Bridge in Makonde which is also critical infrastructure within Makonde District. Construction works for the proposed four-deck bridge are currently underway under the PSIP Programme, with approximately 10% progress achieved mainly on the approach works. RIDA remains committed to completing the structure to improve accessibility and public safety in the area.

Moving to Zvimusukwi-Zvimhonja Upper Bridge, it is important for maintaining connectivity. Once again, this is also under RIDA who have planned repairs but awaits funding. Hwadze Bridge in Kariba is also under RIDA who also await resources.

We now move to Chinove Bridge in Mhondoro/Ngezi which also falls under RIDA and implementation awaits funding. Mahava Bridge in

Mhondoro/Ngezi also falls under RIDA and will proceed once funding is available.

We now move to Dombojena Road to Mhondoro, scoping of works has been done and routine maintenance activities are being planned while awaiting the full rehabilitation, subject to availability of resources. Guvamombe to Karuru Road is another important rural district council road serving communities within Chegutu District. The road plays a key role in supporting agricultural activities, local trade, etc. To date, seven kilometres out of the targeted 17 kilometres were graded. Whilst grading has improved accessibility in some sections, the road requires further rehabilitation, particularly gravelling and drainage improvement to achieve sustained trackability. I so submit Madam Speaker.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: I thank the Hon. Minister for the responses, but I just want to highlight that there is a road that has been skipped. It is actually on No. 1, Mhondoro Road, turn off from Chivhu Road to Mubaira through Kadan. If he can just take note of that he has skipped the response.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Take note of the road that the Hon. Minister has mentioned.

HON. SACCO: Thank you Madam Speaker. I have taken note of Mhondoro Road from Chivhu to Mubaira.

Questions with Notice were interrupted by **THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER** *in terms of Standing Order No. 68.*

HON. TOGAREPI: I move that time for Questions with Notice be extended by another 20 minutes.

HON. C. MOYO: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

REHABILITATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF LINKING ROADS
AND BRIDGES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

54. **HON. MAKUMIRE** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to inform the House on Government's plans to rehabilitate and construct the following roads and bridges;

- a) Chivhu- Gutu- Chiredzi Highway
- b) Completion of Tanganda- Ngundu Highway
- c) Chiredzi-Sango

d) Chilonga Bridge

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO): Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I would like to thank Hon. Makumire for asking the question.

HON. MAKUMIRE: I think the Minister is responding to question 55 instead of 54. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, we are on question number 54.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO): Thank you Madam Speaker. I have a response for question No. 55. I think question No. 54 might have been left out by mistake. So, if you allow, I can respond to question No. 55 and then question No. 54, we can bring the response next week.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Okay, Hon. Minister, we can defer the question to next week.

AMOUNTS OF MONEY DISBURSED BY ZINARA TO CHIREDDZI
TOWN COUNCIL AND CHIREDDZI RURAL DISTRICT

55. **HON. MAKUMIRE** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to apprise the House on the amounts of money ZINARA disbursed to Chiredzi Town Council and Chiredzi Rural District Council respectively and how the funds were used.

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

ZINARA disburses funds to road authorities on acquittal basis, following the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. If one road authority fails to acquit the first disbursement received, it means subsequent disbursements will be withheld until the acquittal is done to reflect that funds were used for the intended purpose.

In respect of Chiredzi Town Council, during the financial year ended 31 December 2025, ZINARA disbursed a total of ZiG1.8 million out of an allocation of 4.96 million. This was due to delays in acquittal, with the acquittal for the first quarter 2025 being submitted in December, hence the low uptake of funds. So, they received 37% of the

allocation. In addition to funds disbursed to Chiredzi Town Council, ZINARA also disbursed 7,740 litres of fuel, which was 100% of the allocated fuel for in-house road maintenance works.

Moving on to Chiredzi Rural District Council, during the financial year ended 31 December 2025, ZINARA disbursed a total of 4.03 million out of an allocation of 4.03 million, thus accessing 100% of the allocated funds. Chiredzi Rural District Council was able to access full allocation because it was able to timeously acquit previous disbursements.

In addition to funds disbursed to Chiredzi Town Council, ZINARA also disbursed 6 400 litres of fuel, which was 100% of the allocated fuel for in-house road maintenance works. Madam Speaker Ma'am, I have appended tables that show further supporting information on these funds, the fuel disbursed and the road maintenance outputs achieved using the resources deployed. Hon. Makunire can refer to the *Hansard* as we will submit these detailed tables. I so submit, Madam Speaker Ma'am.

Road Authority	Allocation	Total Disbursement	0% Disbursement	Comment
Chiredzi Town Council	4,960,746.98	1.836.219.20	37%	Acquittal for 1 st quarter funds submitted 31 December 2025. Accessed all the funds allocated in 2025
Chiredzi Rural District Council	4. 030.402.96	4.030.402.96	100%	Accessed all the funds allocated in 2025
FUEL DISBURSMENTS				
Road authority	Allocation	Total Disbursement	%DISBURSEMENT	Comment
Chiredzi Town Council	7,742,04	7,740.00	100%	Accessed full 2025 fuel allocation
Chiredzi Rural District Council	6.401.91	6.400.00	100%	Accessed full 2025 fuel allocation

FUNDS & FUEL UTILISATION OUTPUTS

ROAD AUTHORITY	PROJECTS	SCOPE AND DESCRIPTION
Chiredzi Town Council	Inyathi Road	0.5km Reconstructed (project completed January 2026)
	ROADS GRADED	
	Subway	1.34
	York	1.25
	ZAOGA	1.19
	Citra	1.14
	Charcoal	1.14
	L14	1.14
	Master	1.07
	Ringbell	0.84
	Guava	0.78

	L3	0.76
	Swamp	0.70
	LAY 1	0.48
	Khomanani	0.43
	Sunshine	0.43
	Flamingo	0.26
	7742-7743	0.06
	Cavey Road	0.88
	Chadema Road	0.99
	Chaduka Road	0.26
	Cheetah Road	0.18
	Dahwa Road	0.14
	Dhliwayo Road	0.15
	Elephant Road	0.25
	Fukunya Road	0.20
	Gagwe Road	0.25
	Gatama Road	0.11
	Giraffe Road	0.26
	Gwaku Road	0.28
	Hilda Road	0.32
	Hoto Road	0.11
	Jamela Road	0.36
	Javangwe Road	0.32
	Justin Road	0.44
	Kondo Road	0.44
	Lumumba Road	0.37
	Magidi Road	0.21
	Marinda Road	1.55
	Maunda Road	0.49
	Nhengure Road	0.50
	Njonjolindo Road	0.34
	Rhino Road	0.18
	Sabi Drive	0.36
	Sengwe Road	0.24
	Wanga Road	0.15
	Zebra Road	0.24
	TOTAL	20.63 KM
	ROAD GRAVELLED	
	Warth Road	0.50
	Maunda	0.50
	Prayer	0.50
	Citra	0.50
	PG Sitole	0.50
	Hlupeko Road	0.50

	Javangwe	0.50
	Hilda	0.50
	Njonjolijo	0.50
	Curvey	0.50
	Zhou	0.60
	Chademana	0.50
	Sable	0.30
	Sweetvale	0.50
	Mangwengwe	0.50
	TOTAL	7.4KM
	ROAD PATCHED	
	Inyati	4.50
	Baobab	0.80
	Msasa	0.90
	Lion Drive	4.50
	Chironga	0.30
	Marula	0.60
	Impala	1.00
	Kudu	0.60
	West	2.10
	Warth	2.10
	Shineplus Drive	3.00
	TOTAL	20.6 KM
	Bush clearing and grass cutting	2.5 km
	Drain opening	40 km
	Culverts desilting	47 culverts cleaned
Chiredzi Rural District Council	Samba Nyabongwe	60 km
	Chilonga-Chibwedziva	10 km
	Chanienga-Mavhavaza	38 km
	Mbizi Road	17 km
	Damarakanaka-Old Boli	11 km
	Twiza Crook Corner	38 km
	Muteyo-Chisambiji Masekesa	11 km
	Rupangwana-Chitsa-Gotosa-Ndali	21 km
	Old Zaka Road	30 km
	Hippo Valley Road	7 km Pothole Patching
	Various Roads	45 culverts cleaned and desilted
	Samba-Jatala Road	9 culverts constructed

HON. MAKUMIRE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker Ma'am. From the response given, I have realised that one of the local authorities in my constituency, Chiredzi Town Council, is failing to acquit in time, thereby making it not eligible to get the next disbursement. It is worrisome, Madam Speaker, to note that Government has got the little funds that they want to give the local authorities so that our people can benefit but the people cannot access these funds simply because the local authorities are not acquitting. My supplementary question, Madam Speaker Ma'am is, what measures are being put in place by the Ministry to ensure that those who do not acquit in time are sanctioned, especially those responsible for the acquittals. Thank you very much.

HON. SACCO: Thank you Madam Speaker and I would like to thank Hon. Makumire for his follow-up question. Indeed, it is worrisome that many rural district councils and town councils fail to submit acquittals on time, resulting in prejudice where funds that are available from ZINARA are not disbursed, hence disadvantaging our people. We have noticed that in some cases, procurement processes are not followed

properly. Therefore, the need for training of procurement officers within our councils but also political will is required. As in some cases councils, especially urban councils use money that is supposed to be for road infrastructure for administrative costs, in some cases salaries and wages. Therefore, they fail to commit the acquittals because in some cases, they abuse these funds and do not use them for the intended purposes.

I appeal to all Members of Parliament to encourage our councils to be responsible. Please inform them that once we receive money for a particular purpose, in this case for road maintenance, let this money be used for the intended purpose and not deviate these funds for other purposes. I so submit Madam Speaker.

HON. TOGAREPI: Thank you Madam Speaker, a follow-up question as well to the Minister. ZINARA and the Ministry of Transport should oversee the distribution of these funds. We have proof because we have witnessed Members presenting reports about the abuse of these funds in this House. It is repeated everywhere and you continue to give them money. Why are you giving thieves money? Why are you not

coming up with a situation where you have an extension officer in Chiredzi?

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Chief Whip, may you address the Chair?

HON. TOGAREPI: Sorry, Madam Speaker, I hear you. My issue is that ZINARA and the Ministry of Transport are custodians of these funds. Why do they give these local authorities authority to use the money yet in many cases we have witnessed them abusing the funds and you continue to give the same culprits money whilst we want our roads to be rehabilitated? It now looks like you are urging them to steal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO): Thank you Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Chief Whip for his supplementary question. The question arose from Hon. Makumire on why Chiredzi Town Council only received 37% of funding. I think this in itself explains that funding was withheld by ZINARA and the Ministry of Transport until the relevant acquittals were done. If we did

not have a control mechanism in place, they would have received 100% of their funding.

Funds are only disbursed once the relevant acquittals have been done. Hon. Chief Whip, I would like to point out that in Chiredzi, the Rural District Council acquitted 100% and got their funds. It was the Town Council who abused these funds and therefore they were penalised.

So, we do have systems in place. We do not continue allocating funds to councils who are misbehaving and we will be firm. We shall not disburse funds where they are abused. I so submit.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: I would like to thank the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development. I think as a Ministry, they are doing very fantastic work in Parliament in response to our questions. I think we need to applaud them for that.

My supplementary question, therefore, is that the Hon. Minister alluded to the fact that there is some abuse that sometimes takes place, especially in urban councils where money allocated to them for

development of roads is actually used for payment of salaries. My follow up question, Hon. Speaker, is that if we refer to this as a criminal offence, it is actually abuse of office. Have you in the past referred this matter to the police for prosecution? I thank you.

HON. SACCO: I would also like to thank Hon. Madzivanyika for his supplementary question. If he would allow me, I could get more details to respond to that question since it is a specific question. I do not have a response at my fingertips. From the outset, if there is abuse of office and there is criminal activity, those people need to be prosecuted. I just need to get more details to give a proper response. Our position as a Ministry is, we do not condone any criminal activity or abuse of public funds. I so submit.

***HON. CHIDUWA:** I want the Hon. Minister to clarify, is ZINARA still allocating local authorities fuel because I once heard that this year Treasury issued a circular that stated that it is no longer giving local authorities fuel but it is now issuing them money to buy fuel? I need clarification on this. I heard him saying that in Chiredzi, he issued money and fuel but there is a circular to this effect.

HON. SACCO: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the question on issuance of fuel to road authorities. There is Department of Roads, rural district councils, urban district councils and RIDA. In the past, as I referred to earlier, we have through ZINARA, been allocating fuel to road authorities, which has been very successful as far as the Ministry is concerned, because this fuel goes a long way on maintenance works. It is true that Treasury has issued a circular where this has been stopped Madam Speaker, apparently due to the perceived abuse of this fuel.

It is our opinion, as the Ministry of Transport, that this fuel should be allocated to our road authorities as it helps us in many cases with road maintenance works. Therefore, as the Ministry, we are in negotiations with Treasury to allow this practice to continue. I so submit.

HON. MUROMBEDZI: On a point of privilege Hon. Speaker:

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: What is your point of privilege?

HON. MUROMBEDZI: My point of privilege is that the Hon. Minister wants to say something. She has only one question. Maybe she has a response. If you can just give her an indulgence. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Who told you that she has a question?

HON. MUROMBEDZI: It is stated in the *Order Paper*, so you allow her if she wants to respond.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAGISTRATES' COURT AT CHECHECHE

4. **HON. HLATYWAYO. C** asked the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs to inform the House of the Government's plans to establish a permanent magistrates' court at Checheche Town in Chipinge South.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS: I wish to inform the House that there is a circuit Court at Chisumbanje and Middle Sabi, which is serviced by Chipinge Magistrate's Court once every week. This circuit court serves Checheche Town and Surrounding areas.

However, it is important to note that the Judicial Service Commission, as part of its drive to decentralise court services, which resonates with the NDS2, Vision 2030 and the principle of devolution, has been constructing court houses in all provinces countrywide, including townships. Checheche Town is one of the areas that is being considered for the designation of a permanent court station as we continue embarking on the decentralisation drive.

In conclusion, the Judicial Service Commission is expecting to construct permanent courts in all districts to enhance access to justice for all by 2030 and beyond. I thank you.

ALLOCATION OF ROAD MAINTENANCE BUDGET TO NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

43. **HON. TSVANGIRAYI** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to explain to the House why Norton Town Council received only 94% of its allocated road maintenance budget from the Zimbabwe National Road Administration (ZINARA), while

other local authorities, such as Karoi Town Council, received 100% of their allocations during the same period.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO): In the year 2025, Norton Town Council received 20% of its annual allocation for routine maintenance while 80% was ring-fenced towards post-paid periodic maintenance works which were outsourced on a quantity measurement contract. By year-end, the contractor had submitted a claim amounting to USD109, 187.90 which was certified by Norton Town Council and validated and paid for by ZINARA.

The contractor could not finish the works constituting the 6% in 2025, hence the 94% utilisation. Outstanding works under the contract whose value is about 6% of annual allocation are continuing and will be paid under the 2026 programme and budget. While Road Authorities procure contractors based on the engineer's estimate, ZINARA pays for actual measured and validated works whose value sometimes can be below the contract sum.

TOTAL AMOUNT DISBURSED TO CHITUNGWIZA FOR ROAD
REHABILITATION

45. **HON. MAZHINDU** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to inform the House of the total amount disbursed to Chitungwiza Municipality for road rehabilitation and maintenance in the year 2025, and to state the timelines and mechanisms for such disbursements.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO):** In 2025, Chitungwiza Municipality managed to access 100% of its allocated funds and fuel. A total of ZiG8 040 245.00 and 12 500 litres of diesel were disbursed to Chitungwiza Municipality for road rehabilitation and maintenance. Disbursements were made as follows: ZiG2 678 485 was disbursed in question 2 and ZiG45 361 760 was disbursed in question 4, whilst 12 500 litres of diesel were disbursed in question 4. All disbursements were subject to acquittal of previous funds and fuel, approval of work plans and compliance with the standard funding guidelines.

RAISING OF BRIDGES DUE TO FLOODING RIVERS

46. **HON. MGUNI** requested the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to inform the House the plans in place to raise bridges in light of the flooding rivers currently experienced due to climate change.

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

Bridges form an integral part of our road network by connecting cities, towns, communities and people to essential services that are ordinarily separated by rivers. Bridges and other hydraulic structures are designed according to international standard codes for lifespans of 100 years and amongst others the design criteria will anticipate flooding levels that will determine the height of bridges. However, the effects of climate change on a global scale and in Zimbabwe in particular have posed significant threats to our bridge infrastructure driven particularly by intensified flooding and tropical cyclones.

These changes have led to accelerated structural deterioration, severe scouring of foundations and over-topping of bridges with recent examples such as Cyclone Idai in 2019.

To address these challenges of overtopping, bridges can be raised but this is done on a case-by-case basis that involves some investigations and analysis of the existing structure to be carried out to determine its feasibility. Emergency relief culverts can be constructed on existing bridges or other structures that have been prone to excessive flooding and overtopping.

In the same vein let me take this opportunity to discourage all the motoring public and the general public to desist from crossing flooded rivers and submerged bridges.

REHABILITATION OF OLD GWANDA ROAD

47. **HON. NKALA** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to apprise the House on the following regarding the Old Gwanda Road rehabilitation project:

- (a) the current status of the project, following Cabinet approval as previously announced;

- (b) the scope of works approved by Cabinet, including the specific road sections to be covered and the total kilometrage
- (c) the total budget allocated for the project and the source of funding;
- (d) the reasons for any delays, if the project is not progressing in accordance with the approved schedule.

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

(a) Current Status of the Project:

Following Cabinet approval of the Old Gwanda Road rehabilitation Project. The Investor and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development have been undertaking the necessary preparatory works to mobilise for implementation. The project is currently at the fundraising stage. The Department of Roads, the road authority responsible for managing and maintaining the national road network, is coordinating the implementation process.

(b) Scope of Works and Total Kilometrage

The scope of works approved by Cabinet covers the rehabilitation of the Old Gwanda Road from Bulawayo to Gwanda, with a total length of approximately 120 kilometres. The works include road surface point rehabilitation, drainage works, and road furniture. The approved scope is consistent with the engineering specifications and condition survey assessments carried out by the Department of Roads.

(c) Total Budget and Source of Funding

The total budget allocated for the Old Gwanda Road rehabilitation project is USD120million. The project is funded through a Public-Private Partnership concession arrangement.

(d) Reasons for Any Delays

The Ministry acknowledges that the project has experienced some delays, primarily attributable to fundraising delays. Remedial measures are being put in place by the investor, and the Ministry is committed to ensuring that the project is returned to schedule at the earliest opportunity.

RESURFACING OF THE GOKWE-NENYUNGA HIGHWAY

48. **HON. TSHUMA** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to inform the House of the plans in place to resurface or gravel the Gokwe- Nenyunga Highway, particularly from Masakadza Township to Nenyunga Centre and also to repair the bridge at 100km peg along the same highway.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. MHONA): Mr. Speaker Sir, allow me to respond to the question raised by Hon. Tshuma as follows:

Gokwe-Nenyunga Highway, officially known as the Gokwe-Siabuwa Road, is a 133 km road located in Midlands Province. The road is currently in a severely deteriorated state, requiring extensive rehabilitation, with some sections needing complete reconstruction. The most affected stretch is between Masakadza and Nenyunga, which has experienced numerous wash ways and gully formations that are threatening to cut off the road at several points.

In addition, a six-barrel culvert at the 100 km peg collapsed due to heavy rains experienced late last year. This damage has effectively

rendered the road impassable for heavy vehicles and buses, significantly disrupting transportation.

The Government, through the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development, has acknowledged the urgency of the situation and prioritised the rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure, given its critical role in facilitating mobility and service delivery in the region. Rehabilitation works have been scheduled for year 2026 and the procurement process is already in progress.

REHABILITATION OF BULAWAYO-MAPHISA ROAD

52. **HON BAJILA** asked the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to inform the House of the Government's plans to complete the rehabilitation of the Bulawayo–Maphisa Road, which commenced in preparation for the 46th Independence celebrations.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT (HON. SACCO): In response, I wish to inform the House that the rehabilitation works (63km) on the Bulawayo-Maphisa Road are ongoing and the project was not specifically intended for the 46th Independence celebration, but is

part of Government's broader road infrastructure development and rehabilitation programme, and the current rehabilitation programme continues as scheduled. The project remains a priority in the Ministry's 2026 Infrastructure Development Plan, and resources have been allocated towards its continued implementation. The Government is committed to ensuring the full completion of the rehabilitation works, in line with our vision to improve connectivity and promote socio-economic development in the region.

**POSITION REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF TITLE DEEDS TO
RESIDENTS OF MESSENGERS' CAMP IN HIGHFIELD**

83. HON. MAVHUDZI asked the Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities to clarify the Government's position regarding the issuance of title deeds to residents of Messengers' Camp in Highfield who entered into rent-to buy arrangements and have fully or substantially paid for their houses, but remain without legal owners.

**THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HOUSING AND SOCIAL
AMENITIES (HON. J. MOYO):** All residential properties situated at

Highfield Messenger's Camp are reserved as Government Pool residential properties for current serving civil servants.

Government, through the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities, has never disposed of residential properties at the Messenger's Camp to the sitting tenants.

Ministry only facilitates title transfer for sold properties, not properties on lease. Hence, the request for title transfer on leased-out properties to sitting tenants is misplaced since houses are reserved for current serving civil servants.

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