

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Tuesday, 8th September, 2026

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

PRAYERS

(THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE *in the Chair*)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF
SENATE**

**HALF-DAY WORKSHOP ON THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ON THE
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL
JURISDICTION**

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: I would like to inform the Senate that there will be a half-day sensitisation workshop on Thursday, 10th of September, 2026 at 1000 hours in the Multi-Purpose Hall. The workshop is on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine

Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and on the International Mangrove Centre.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICE

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: I would like to inform the House that there will be a Roman Catholic Church Service on Wednesday, 9th September 2026 at 1200 hours in the Special Committee Room No. 1. All Catholics and non-Catholics are invited.

SWITCHING OFF OF CELLPHONES

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: I would like to remind the Hon. Senators to put your gadgets on silent or better still, switch them off so that they do not disturb the business of the House.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND DEVOLUTION FOR HARARE METROPOLITAN PROVINCE

(HON. SEN. TAWENGWA): I move that Orders of the Day, Numbers 1 to 10 on today's *Order Paper* be stood over until the rest of the Orders of the Day have been disposed of.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON
WARD 14 OF CHINHOYI MUNICIPALITY AND WARD 6 OF
EPWORTH LOCAL BOARD BY_ELECTIONS HELD ON 2ND
AUGUST 2025

Eleventh Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of
the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission on Ward 14 of Chinhoyi
Municipality and Ward 6 of Epworth Local Board By-Elections.

Question again proposed.

**THE MINISTER OF PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND
DEVOLUTION FOR HARARE METROPOLITAN PROVINCE
(HON. SEN. TAWENGWA):** I move that the debate do now adjourn.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE DELEGATION ON THE OACPS AFRICAN
REGION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND 1ST AFRICA-EU

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AT EZULWINI PALAZZO,
ESWATINI

Twelfth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of the delegation Report of the OACPS African Region Parliamentary Group and 1st Africa-EU Parliamentary Assembly at Ezulwini Palazzo, Eswatini.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE THEMATIC COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND
SECURITY ON ENERGY SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE

Thirteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security on Energy Security in Zimbabwe.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: Thank you Mr. President. I rise to support the report of the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security on Energy Security in Zimbabwe. Energy security is not merely an economic issue, but it is fundamentally a national security and development issue. Reliable and affordable energy is essential for industry, agriculture, mining, health, education, communications and the general welfare of our people.

Zimbabwe has made progress in expanding generation capacity, particularly through Hwange Units 7 and 8 and the emergence of renewable-energy projects. However, our energy security remains vulnerable because of dependence on a few major generation sources, ageing infrastructure, transmission constraints and the effects of drought on hydropower. The Committee's focus on renewable energy is therefore particularly important. The fact that the Committee has undertaken oversight visits to renewable-energy projects, including the Great Zimbabwe Hydro Power Plant, demonstrates the importance of Parliament ensuring that investments in alternative energy translate into actual electricity on the national grid. We must move away from an

energy system that is excessively dependent on Kariba and Hwange.

Climate variability has demonstrated the risks of relying heavily on hydropower while ageing thermal infrastructure can also compromise generation. Zimbabwe therefore needs a diversified national energy mix comprising solar, hydro, thermal, biomass and other viable renewable technologies. I would therefore urge Government to:

- a. Accelerate investment in renewable energy, particularly solar, given Zimbabwe's abundant solar resource.
- b. Strengthen transmission and distribution infrastructure because generating electricity is meaningless if that electricity cannot reliably reach consumers.
- c. Create a predictable regulatory environment that encourages Independent Power Producers to invest.
- d. Expand rural electrification, ensuring that energy security benefits communities outside major urban centres.
- e. Strengthen maintenance of existing generation assets, particularly Hwange and the national transmission network.

- f. Reduce excessive dependence on electricity imports, which exposes the country to external supply and foreign-currency risks.
- g. Ensure transparency and accountability in energy projects, particularly major public investments.
- h. Develop adequate energy-storage capacity, especially alongside solar generation to address intermittency.

The July 2026 nationwide blackout was a reminder that energy security is also about the resilience of the national grid and not simply installed generation capacity. A transmission fault disrupted interconnections and caused widespread loss of supply. Energy security must ultimately be measured by whether a household can switch on a light, a farmer can irrigate a field, a hospital can operate essential equipment and an industry can run its machinery without fear of prolonged power interruptions. If Zimbabwe is serious about achieving Vision 2030 and becoming an upper-middle-income economy, reliable energy must be treated as a strategic national priority. Indeed, power shortages impose high economic costs thereby affecting productivity, mining, manufacturing, agriculture and investment.

I, therefore, commend the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security for bringing this important matter before the Senate. I urge Government to take the recommendations contained in the report seriously and to move from policy commitments to implementation. Energy security is economic security. Energy security is national security. Ultimately, energy security is development security. I thank you.

HON. SEN. S. MOYO: Thank you Mr. President for giving me this chance to speak on this report. This report is about energy in our country. Energy is power and without power our hospitals, mines and schools cannot work well. So, this report touches the life of every Zimbabwean.

The Committee found some good progress. Let me give three short examples: at Bulawayo United Hospital a new solar plant is now giving power to the hospital. This has cut down the use of expensive diesel. At Blanket Mine in Gwanda, a solar plant is now feeding power back into the national grid. This solar plant enabled the building of a clinic, school and science laboratory for the community. At Kariba South, the hydro

station superseded its power target by more than a quarter this year and had no system breakdowns. There are signs that renewable energy, solar, wind and small hydro are helping our country. We must not celebrate too fast. There are serious problems that we must talk about.

What the Committee found Mr. President, is that three problems stand out. Firstly, some solar plants were built but are not working. At Nyika and Maphisa District Hospital, solar was installed but to date, it has not switched on. That is money wasted while our people are suffering.

Secondly, our two biggest power stations, Hwange and Kariba South are old and break down often. Kariba is working at only 68% of its full strength when the world standard is 85%. This is dangerous for our energy security.

Thirdly, thieves are stealing solar panels and copper cables. At Turk Mine, 72 solar panels were stolen soon after they were installed. This crime is now crossing our borders and needs stronger action from our police and neighbours.

Mr. President, behind all those problems is one big problem, which is money. ZESA, our power company, owes USD616.6 million in old debt. Government ministers and councils alone owe Hwange Power Station USD180 million. If people and institutions do not pay for power, the power company cannot fix its plants and we all suffer together.

Mr. President, I stand here to support the recommendations made by this Committee and I add my own voice on behalf of the people of Matabeleland South. Firstly, I ask the Government to fix and switch on the solar plants that are already built but sitting idle, especially at our district hospitals. I ask the Government to speed up the repair of Hwange and Kariba South so our power stations can work at full strength. The Government should help ZESA collect the money it is owed and make sure ministers and councillors pay their power bills on time.

The Government should strengthen the fight against vandalism and theft of power equipment, working together with the police in neighbouring countries. I ask the Government to support community

solar projects like Soti Source in Masvingo and Hakwata in Chipinge because they are changing lives in the rural areas.

In conclusion, Mr. President, energy security is not a small matter. It is about our hospitals saving lives, our minds creating jobs, children learning with light at night and peace and stability in our nation. I, therefore, urge this House to adopt this report and urge the Government to act on the recommendation without delay. Our people in Matabeleland South and across Zimbabwe are waiting for reliable power. Let us not fail them. I so submit. Thank you President.

HON. SEN. C. MUTSVANGWA: Mr. President, I want to use your office to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Committee which went on to tour the country and give us this important report about an indispensable commodity for national development which is reliable energy. They covered the full portfolio of the energy potential available to Zimbabwe. From solar, they went to hydroelectricity, to thermal power and they even touched on gas. This Committee worked very hard and I would like their report to be supported and adopted.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my gratitude to the two speakers before my intervention. They focused on the salient aspect that reliable electricity is, as I said, the indispensable tool for national development. The President has enunciated Vision 2030 and the focus and definition are on the income status of Zimbabweans at that particular point in time. To realise Vision 2030 means Zimbabwe must be a full participant in the global village in terms of trade of goods and services of comparable or higher quality produced in Zimbabwe for the global market.

We are only 16 or 17 million people. If we look inward, we will never prosper. Only by becoming part of the global village can we prosper. How do we get to that level of income? The first requirement is energy. We must have energy on a scale unprecedented in the history of this country and even on the African continent.

Yes, solar and perhaps wind and biogas have addressed energy security at the household level but for the ambitions which we want in metallurgy, in particular smelting ferrochrome, blast furnaces for steel,

lithium smelters and perhaps trains to transport, we need reliable energy, baseload energy on a scale which is commensurate with the resources which God gave us. You cannot have such an abundance of commodities, mineral mining commodities in particular and at the same time, try to address the issue of energy with a kindergarten-like response. It is not possible. What we need is creative funding avenues that will match the billions which are coming into the country for the minerals which we have.

This is private sector money on a grand scale. We have billionaires doing lithium and steel. This kind of investment requires a similar response by the Government in terms of funding so that we can match what God gave us and our aspirations and the response to the open for business mantra that the President has elicited.

So, how do we get there? It means more investment in thermal power because of the endowment of Hwange in Matabeleland North and I want to salute that province. It has been the major source of reliable power for this country for ages because of coal. We need more coal

stations generating electricity. Luckily, we had a President who was futuristic when there was that foolish goal to remove coal under the guise of green energy in Glasgow. He said no, we will stick to coal because God gave it to us and developed countries went up the scale of production because they used coal. Why are you trying to deny Africa an opportunity to develop the way you did? So, coal is very important.

I also want to salute Mashonaland West because of the hydroelectricity power which we generated from the largest dam in the world. I want to remind Members of the Senate that Kariba Dam was not built to supply electricity to houses during federation. That dam was built because America wanted to smelt Zimbabwe's ferrochrome so that it could build its aircraft carriers in its confrontation with Russia. That is why Kariba was built. That is why the Rhodesian Iron and Steel Company (RISCO), Zim Alloys and Union Carbide which later became ZIMASCO and Silo Steel came about.

Reliable energy is very important for smelting the minerals God gave us, which are on a world-class level. How do we give a response

which mirrors what was done during the federation by supplying power from Kariba on a scale which is global class?

I want to highlight that in the last three weeks, our President has been busy with regional neighbouring diplomacy in South Africa and at the Durban Summit. What the President is talking about is value chains. Value chains mean linking with each other on a sub-regional basis so that we can produce goods on a large scale and those goods must be world-class. It requires collaboration between Zimbabwe and South Africa on a tighter scale and the two Presidents professed this during the Binational Commission.

I also had the opportunity to meet President Chapo. This House needs to take note that Mozambique will compete against Russia, Iran and Qatar in the production of natural gas in Cabo Delgado; USD4. 7 billion was sent to Cabo Delgado by President Trump and that also signalled less support or in fact, cutting of support to the guerrillas who were being sponsored as terrorists in that province.

What has since happened is that a lot of modern infrastructure is coming into Mozambique and out of that infrastructure, it is destined to

supply the whole world; China, Asia and India. These are big population industrial countries. Our neighbour now has world-class infrastructure for natural gas. All we just need is to be near Cabo Delgado and build thermal gas stations. From that cheap gas in Mozambique, we will sell it to South Africa and Zimbabwe. Our target is to beat China's price. If China can supply three cents per kilowatt-hour to its metallurgical industry, we should be able to beat that price. If we do that, we will take advantage of the proximity of all the minerals which are critical to the transition to clean energy.

These minerals are lithium, cobalt, copper and nickel. These are the important ones. All the batteries you use are made up of those minerals. These are the same batteries that drive electric vehicle mobility which is coming around. If you see Harare, it is no longer Salisbury with the European cars anymore. It is new energy electric vehicles coming to displace the ones that are on the road which are fossil-powered. This is a big opportunity for Zimbabwe to cut its energy bill from importing fossil fuels. It means we must also build the generating capacity for new energy electric mobility in the country.

Therefore, the challenge before us as a Senate is to accept this Bill but to call for a deeper engagement on a sub-regional basis so that this well-endowed region can be the driver of steel prices on the global market. We should be able to take on China in terms of steel production and deliver steel to the global market at a cheaper rate than any other region in the world. If we do that, we will do something great for the region. We will become the forefront of the industrial revolution in the fourth and fifth generation of economic development. This is the challenge before us. I do it with a caveat. We have Morocco further north across the Sahara Desert. It has become a major producer of electric vehicles destined for the European market. It has outstripped our neighbour, South Africa.

If South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique do not respond accordingly to this new challenge, we will have our young people as diaspora crossing the Sahara Desert to go and look for jobs in North Africa and Morocco because there is no industrial development at home and that industrial development requires energy.

I now want to say to this House, think big because God gave you very big resources. You cannot have small solutions to a big problem. No, we must have an appropriate solution, which means vertical integration on a regional basis. I want to salute as I stand down, the late Chairman of ZESA, Dr. Sidney Gata. He founded the Southern Africa Power Pool. As you drive to this place in Mount Pleasant, you will see the Southern Africa Power Pool. He gave us the physical platform where transmission of electricity on a sub-regional basis can be used to trade power, demanding and paying from the Congo up to South Africa, Mozambique up to Zambia and very soon, from Tanzania up to Namibia.

We need to use that platform as a financial anchor for more investment in the region, particularly in transmission as has been indicated. If transmission is not there, then you are wasting generation. This is a big challenge which requires big solutions and that is the only way we can meet the expectation of Vision 2030. Otherwise, I am very happy with the report and I will stand to support it for the good work.

HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI: Thank you Mr. President for this opportunity to contribute to this debate. The report presented to the House by Hon. Sen. Zindi on issues to do with the centrality of energy for livelihoods, development, *et cetera*. As I start my debate, I also wish to thank and appreciate the contribution by Hon. Sen. Mutsvangwa, particularly the invitation to the nation and to ourselves as Senate to think big and widely about the opportunities that are resident in the endowments given to us by the Lord.

Mr. President, I must also preface my debate by appreciating the serious progress around energy done by the New Dispensation. We have got fewer power outages now. Industry has got more energy than before. I think it must be appreciated. However, more should be done as Hon. Sen. Mutsvangwa said.

Zimbabwe is gifted with a lot of energy resources. We have got a lot of water. There is a threat of climate change but we still have a lot of water. The Zambezi is flowing. The Pungwe River is untapped. The Zambezi River is flowing. Where I come from, the Lundi River is rich with water. We have got an abundance of water Mr. President. Water is

an energy resource. We have got wind. We have coal which introduces some sort of a paradox in that we have so much coal.

In Hwange, we have got coal in the lowveld. We have got plenty of coal in Gokwe. The paradox is that on one hand, we are talking about a reduction of greenhouse gases, yet on the other, we must push for investment in thermal power because this is the resource we have. We need to balance that apparent paradox.

I have said before that indeed, the President took the right decision by saying we must push for even more investment in thermal power. Our generation of greenhouse gases is nothing. What we generate is smaller than one bomb that is detonated by America in the Middle East. So, we indeed must make sure that we do not get the interests of other people wagging us and failing to take full advantage of the God-given resources such as coal. We must keep investing in there, stubbornly so, to make sure that we are fully energy self-sufficient and have more to export to our colleagues in the region.

We have got biomass which is also working well. The people in the Lowveld, Triangle for example, generate a lot of electricity for their

own use from biomass. So, all that is indeed very important. We also have these important minerals. We have got potential for uranium in the Zambezi Escapement and we have got rare earth minerals which work together with the lithiums of this world. We have got so much lithium which unfortunately at the moment we are not exploiting to the fullest potential by exporting so much of it in raw form and increasingly making sure that the future energy security is compromised.

Mr. President, the one important thing that Senator Mutsvangwa talked about is the need to think big, wildly and outside the box and throw away all the boxes available and begin to think. In this particular case, I am thinking that whereas we all talk about scarcity of water, we have got serious investment that we made in the DRC. We lost people in the DRC war. We lost resources in that war and we could actually make use of that investment to make sure that this country gets more than enough of cheap energy generated from the Inga Dam, for example. There is potential there to generate between 40 and 70 gigawatts of energy if we cooperate and we must because we have already invested

so much in the DRC. So, it is time for us to scheme, to reap from our investment, from the dangers that we faced and the losses that we made. We must now reap so that we can get again energy that is cheap Mr. President.

Yes, indeed, it is energy and agriculture and again as Senator Mutsvangwa said, cheap energy which cleverly was invested in to make sure that we benefit from the other resources like the smelting of our minerals. However, in addition, we had enough energy from Kariba to be able to crack water and manufacture ammonium nitrate in Kwekwe and support agriculture. If that happened, but today you cannot do it at the cost of electricity, you can no longer crack the waters of the Munyati River and move on to synthesize ammonium nitrate for agriculture. So, if we get cheaper energy apart from smelting, we will also be the breadbasket again because we have this important ammonium nitrate cheaply on the market so that every farmer, including a farmer in Dotito who has got one hectare only, will have available and affordable ammonium nitrate and improve our yields.

So, Mr. President, I thought thinking big would be, apart from our domestic dynamics, looking at the regional integration issues so that the DRC can come into play and we can have very cheap electricity. We must not be alarmed or listen to alarmists. We must listen to ourselves, our needs and our clear interests, not interests of anybody else. We must refuse to be managed by the interests of other people, the foreigners. We must just say no. We are carrying on like this and we carry on and then we will not talk small things that we keep talking about. We need disruptive things. We need to disrupt the status quo and move forward. Thank you Mr. President.

HON. SEN. MUZENDA: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. GOTORA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE JOINT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE,
LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE THEMATIC
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND HERITAGE ON THE PETITION
RECEIVED FROM DANDE CONSERVATION HERITAGE ON THE
RECOGNITION OF THE KOREKORE LANGUAGE AS AN
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Fourteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Thematic Committee on Culture and Heritage on the petition received from Dande Conservation Heritage on the recognition of Korekore language as an official language in terms of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. S. MOYO: Thank you Mr. President for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on the report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the

Thematic Committee on the Culture and Heritage on the petition for recognition of the Korekore language.

Before I give my speech, let me first explain what I found when I studied this debate closely. On the 2nd of September, 2026, six Hon. Senators spoke on the motion moved by Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo. Five Hon. Senators; Hungwe, Ngwena, Nhema, Gotoru and Fanuel agreed with the Committee. They said Korekore is the dialect of Shona, not a separate language. Their main fear is that if Korekore becomes a separate language, then Karanga, Zezuru, Manyika and many other dialects will also demand their own separatists. Their fear is, this would divide the country instead of uniting it Mr. President.

One Senator, Hon. Sen. Mupfumira disagreed. She said Korekore has its own identity in history and that is a small language like Barwe which is already recognised, so Korekore deserves the same chance. All six Senators, even those on different sides agreed on one thing that Korekore culture and heritage must be respected and preserved. Nobody

spoke against the Korekore people. The disagreement is only about the legal and constitutional label.

The background research I reviewed claims that Senate already passed a Constitution Amendment adding Korekore on 24 June 2026 but the actual *Order Paper* record from 2 September 2026 shows this motion is still under debate and the Committee itself recommended against separate status. I have relied on the official Senate record and not the outside claim in preparing this speech.

The core of the debate Mr. President, when we strip away the long speech, the debate comes down to one simple question. Does giving the Korekore its own cultural heritage help the Korekore having its own constitutional status benefitting the Korekore people or is there a better way to protect their language without opening the Constitution to every dialect in Zimbabwe? That is the real question this House must answer.

Mr. President, I thank Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo and the Joint Committee for their work on the petition. I also thank the Senators who

have already spoken. I have listened carefully to both sides and I rise to give a balanced view and then ask this House for concrete action.

I agree that Korekore is a dialect and not a new language and I support the Committee's findings. Korekore is part of the Shona family, the same way Karanga, Zezuru, Manyika and Ndau are part of Shona. If we open the Constitution to every dialect, we will never close it. Today it is Korekore, tomorrow it will be another. Our Constitution already lists sixteen (16) official languages. That list must stay stable or it will lose its meaning.

Respect must be shown in deeds and not only in words. Coming from Matabeleland South, I know this story well. Kalanga, spoken in my own constituency in Bulilima, fought for years to be recognised. Today, Kalanga is on the list of 16 official languages. Being on the list is not enough. Our Kalanga children still strive to find teachers, books and the radio time in their own languages. When I hear the Committee say Korekore is a dialect and not a separate language, I ask this House, what will you now do to protect it so that the Korekore people do not feel forgotten twice once they are excluded and again by silence?

I, therefore, ask the Government to move from words to deeds. I make three requests. Firstly, community radio stations in Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West where Korekore is spoken must be guaranteed time to air their Korekore programmes, the same way it has been done in Matabeleland for Kalanga and Nambya.

Secondly, schools in Korekore areas must be allowed to teach and examine using Korekore words and stories, while the language of instruction is Shona so that children are not laughed at when they speak their home language as Hon. Sen. Mupfumira rightly warned us.

Thirdly, the Government must publish a clear national language policy with clear rules on how any community, be it in Korekore, Chikunda, Doma or others, can ask for support. This will stop the same argument from returning to the House year after year without a clear answer.

In conclusion, this debate is not about which words are grand. It is about whether the Korekore, the Kalanga or Bulilima and every child in the country can grow up proud of the language their grandmother speaks. I support the finding that Korekore is a dialect of Shona but I ask

this House to match that finding with the real support so that unity does not become another way for neglect. I thank you.

***HON. SEN. SHIRI:** Thank you Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on the motion which was raised by Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo. The issue of language is very important. When a child is born, he or she starts to hear the language from the mother. This is the language which we use to communicate with every day. I am happy that we have got 16 official languages in Zimbabwe. These languages came to be recognised after we had done nationwide consultations. People agreed that these languages are the ones that are supposed to be there because they are the most spoken in the country. For example, Shona is one of the languages which is used by many people. About 70 to 85 percent of the people in Zimbabwe speak this language.

If we are looking at our population, they can converse in Shona. After Shona, Ndebele follows. Fifteen (15) to 50 percent of people use English. There are also other languages which were added. These would assist minority groups to communicate. I am also happy that sign

language was recognised as one of the official languages of Zimbabwe. The Government leaders and even the Members of Parliament (MPs), must have basic skills of sign language. May you clap your hands for me – [HON. MEMBERS: *Hear, hear.*] -

Knowledge of sign language will ensure that there will be no knowledge gap in terms of accessing information because each and every person will be able to communicate. I am happy that I am debating in my language, which is Karanga. I am able to speak out from the bottom of my heart. These languages are very pertinent for us because we can learn a lot of things using our own language.

If you go to countries like South Korea, they learn using their languages up to degree level. The same applies to countries like China. May we take pride in using our languages. I am happy that during the marking of examinations, if a child writes an answer referring to maize meal, saying *Chibage* or *Chibagwe*, the answer is marked correctly. Yes, Chikorekore is a dialect of Chishona Language but when it comes to learning, that is why you see that the examiners are being taken from different areas of the country.

This will help to make sure that our Zimbabwean students are able to write their examinations and also explain in their languages because the language is important. The language that you first hear from your mother, from birth is the most important language. As Zimbabweans, we must take pride in our language because our languages are carrying a lot of history and heritage which are pertinent for the growth of the country. Even where we move around throughout the country, you see that people are proud of their language.

I have friends who are in South Korea whom I met during the disability awareness. They write to me saying, *wamuka sei* and some in France appreciate saying *waita basa*. This shows that they are proud of our language but as Zimbabweans, we take pride in using languages from other countries and we feel inferior when using our language. As Zimbabweans, we must also take pride in using our own language. We should be proud of our language. I really appreciate and support that Chikorekore is under Shona. Also, I am happy that our fellow Hon. Senators who spoke Tonga can converse in their language and are understood. Although they are coming from far away from where we

are, they are able to take pride in their languages and converse. May we continue to communicate using our local languages and be proud of our languages. Thank you Madam President.

***HON. SEN. CHIEF CHIKWAKA (BUNGU):** Thank you Madam President. I rise to add a few words on the motion which was brought in this august House by Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo. I want to praise and also applaud the previous speakers who have spoken about us as Korekore people. We are happy about the petition which was brought to Parliament but I have got a different opinion from the one who brought the petition to Parliament. If you look back, most Hon. Senators in this august House did their Grade Seven in the 70s going back and these languages were recognised. The Maungwe people would speak *Chiungwe* and they can write in *Chiungwe*. If one would say *wa*, the *Zezurus* would feel as if they are being looked down upon because they say *va* but it does not mean that it is a new language.

I strongly support the views and observations made and gathered by the Joint committees. We cannot say Chikorekore is a language because we have got the Buja people, *kunorira pfeni*. The Buja have

their own language. It is not a language that we can liken to Ndebele. A language which can be regarded as a barrier to communication is the one that can be recognised as a language in the country. A dialect cannot be recognised as a language because people can converse and understand each other. I am pleased with the petitioner because they have indicated that there are Korekore people. I am a Korekore but we cannot include it on the nationally recognised languages.

If we take Zezuru, Buja, Korekore and Karanga, we can communicate and understand each other. The only difference would be in terms of words like *gwendu gwangu* or *rwendo rwangu*, my journey. It is only a different dialect but we speak the same. They use the same words and language when referring to salt and they say *sauti* or *munyu* that are used in Shona.

Madam President, I strongly support that this petition be put aside. We cannot say *Chikorekore* is a new language. We are one people. We understand each other. We speak one language and it is our mother tongue. I am speaking as a Korekore. If it is mentioned that we must not speak other terms that we use to communicate, we must speak our

language. For example, if we say *ngoma isipambaurwa* or *ingungu*, you try to understand that term only and *ngoma* or *ingungu* simply means beating the drum at a high pitch.

Even those who want to go deeper, we might recognise Ndau because some of the Ndau words, like *tabonga yamo*, one cannot understand that. If you look at it, *tabonga* means thanking you but if you go there, it is the same language we understand each other. If you go to the Nambya, the Vendas and the Kalangas, you clearly need an interpreter because you do not understand what they are saying, which means that language needs to be recognised.

The difference in terms of semantics, we say the petitioner brought an issue which was very potent but we support the Committee findings that Korekore is not a language which can be rated as Nyanja, as Shangani. When it comes to Korekore, we understand each other. The Korekore, Mabuja, Mawungwe and Chinyika, we speak and understand each other. It is only the difference in terms of different words. When it comes to the syllabus, when the teacher is taken from Mt. Darwin to

come to mark, that syllabus maybe for Chikorekore and it becomes difficult.

We also have our syllabus, like *mu*, *va*, *mu*, *mi*, *ri*, *ma*, but if you go to Ndebele, there are no issues of *mupanda*, there are other things which are there which are totally different, which means those languages are the ones which need to be recognised. We can look at what the President has said, that all 16 official languages must be taught in Zimbabwe. If you go to Bulawayo and if you look at a child who is going to learn in Bulawayo coming from Mudzi, he or she can speak in Ndebele, even a child from China can come to learn in Zimbabwe or if the same child goes to China and is taught from early childhood, they will be able to communicate in the languages and it is very important to encourage people to communicate in their languages in our childhood.

We need to encourage ministers and Hon. Members to converse in particular local languages spoken in those areas. For example, when you are addressing people in Bulilima-Mangwe, you have to use the local language. Look at the Chinese, they use their language wherever they go. They are taking resources and developing their country while we are

busy speaking in English. English must be used in other areas but when we are in our rural areas, we must communicate with the local language of that area. If there is a need for interpretation, it must be done. Thank you.

⁺HON. SEN. SIBANDA: Thank you Madam President for giving me this opportunity. I want to thank Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo for moving the motion. I also want to thank the previous speaker. However, I want to correct the previous speaker from the perspective of an Hon. Senator from Bulawayo. It is called Bulawayo, not Bhuruwayo. I am just correcting that anomaly.

Let me continue by saying that I thank the previous speaker because the speaker comes from a Korekore-speaking area. For Korekore to be a language, he does not see it as an issue, which is contentious and we appreciate that. You would note that there are some words that we learned at our ages, words that we did not know as children. Then there are body parts which have different names, yet they are the same; we have noted that.

If we were to go back to school to teach Korekore, it would take us a long time. Those who support Korekore as a language see it fit. It is their democratic right. However, if others are saying that we cannot start to have that debate of having Korekore as a language, it would take time because there would be a need for teachers who teach the language. There would be a need for changing the curriculum. Also, a need when there are changes that we come across in life for things that were in existence. Some might have to change. As we discuss this issue, it is quite good and also, there is no tribe which is more important than the other. When we talk about languages and tribes, it might seem as if we value other languages. Maybe we are saying that Ndebele and Shona should be prominent. When someone speaks in Nambya or Shangani, even in this Senate, some would take it as if it is something which is not important because of the way people respond, their interjections. However, when someone debates in Ndebele and Shona, there are no interjections and this is true; we have seen this happening.

I will not take much time but I want to thank Hon. Sen. Chief Chikwaka who said that as the Korekore people, we believe that it

should continue as a tribe, not necessarily looking for people who are going to teach the language. I thank you.

HON. SEN. CHIEF NECHOMBO (CHIKUKWA): I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. CHIEF CHIKWAKA (BUNGU): I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

REPORT ON THE 70TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) HELD IN UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

Fifteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report on the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 70) held from 9th –19th March, 2026, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States of America.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MUZENDA: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. GOTORA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE

Sixteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the rampant abuse of children in the communities.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MUZENDA: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. GOTORA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE 152ND ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER- PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Seventeenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the delegation Report of the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MUZENDA: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. GOTORA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE JOINT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND THEMATIC
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE PETITION BY THE
POWER OF TOUCH INSTITUTION ON THE REVIEW OF LAWS
AND REGULATIONS THAT HAVE A BEARING ON THE SENIOR
CITIZENS

Eighteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and Social

Welfare and Thematic Committee on Human Rights on the Petition by the Power of Touch Institution on the Review of Laws and Regulations that have a Bearing on the Senior Citizens.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MUZENDA: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. GOTORA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE STREETS

Nineteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the increasing number of people living in the streets in Zimbabwe.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. NDEBELE: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

RESUSCITATION OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY

Twentieth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the collapse of the cotton industry in Zimbabwe.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. NDEBELE: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Wednesday, 9th September, 2026.

MOTION

**STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESPONSE TO NON-
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Twenty-First Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on increasing high prevalence and high mortality rate caused by Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: Thank you Madam President. I wish to thank all Hon. Senators for their valuable contributions to this important debate on the prevalence of NCDs. It is clear that NCDs such as cancer, diabetes and hypertension are a growing national concern. We therefore need greater emphasis on prevention, public awareness, early screening and access to affordable treatment.

I urge the Government to strengthen its response to NCDs and to ensure that the concerns raised in this House translate into concrete action. I thank you Madam President. I move that the motion be adopted.

Motion that this House:

NOTING with concern the increasing prevalence and high mortality rate caused by Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's) such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory illness and mental health conditions across Zimbabwe;

ACKNOWLEDGING that NCD's now account for a significant proportion of preventable deaths in both urban and rural areas, posing a serious public health and development challenge;

DISTURBED by the limited access to early diagnosis, treatment and palliative care services, especially in public health institutions and the high cost of medication and specialised care for NCDs;

ALARMED by the growing risk factors contributing to NCD's such as unhealthy diets, sedentary lifestyles, alcohol and tobacco abuse, air pollution and lack of public awareness;

NOW, THEREFORE, resolves to –

(a) call upon the Ministry of Health and Child Care to strengthen the national response to NCD's through increased funding awareness campaigns and decentralisation of diagnostic and treatment services;

(b) recommend the development and enforcement of public health policies that promote healthy lifestyles, regulate harmful substances and integrate NCD prevention into primary health care;

(c) urge Government to prioritise the training and deployment of health care professionals with skills in NCD management, particularly in underserved areas;

(d) encourage collaboration with development partners, civil society and private sector to support screening research and public education on NCDs; and

(e) further call for regular Parliamentary oversight on the implementation of national and international obligations relating to NCDs, including budget allocations and performance of prevention programmes, put and agreed to.

*On the motion of **HON. SEN. MUZENDA** seconded by **HON. SEN. GOTORA**, the Senate adjourned at a Minute past Four o'clock p.m.*