

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Wednesday, 9th September, 2026

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

PRAYERS

(THE HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER

APOLOGIES RECEIVED FROM MINISTERS

THE HON. SPEAKER: I have a list of apologies from the Executive: Hon. Gen. Rtd. Dr. C. D. G. N. Chiwenga, the Vice President; Hon. Col. Rtd. K. C. D. Mohadi, the Vice President; Hon. B. Rwodzi, Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry; Hon. M. Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development; Hon. P. Kambamira, Minister of Mines and Mining Development; Hon. M. N. Ndlovu, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Hon. V. Haritatos, Minister of Lands and Rural Development; Hon. E. Jesaya, Deputy Minister of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture; Hon. C. Sanyatwe, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage; Hon. N. T. Mazungunye, Deputy Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs; Hon. A. Gata,

Deputy Minister of Primary and Secondary Education; Hon. Dinha, Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare; Hon. R. Modi, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce and Hon. Y. Simbanegavi, Deputy Minister of Energy and Power Development; Hon. M. Ncube, Deputy Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities; Hon. T. Kwidini, Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care and Hon. Tsitsi Zhou, Deputy Minister of Lands and Rural Development.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HON. P. MOYO: My question goes to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. If they are not available, I would like to direct it to the Leader of Government Business. We are experiencing storms with heavy rain and strong winds that are damaging houses and schools. How prepared is the Government to assist with weather forecasting and response to these severe weather events? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you so much Mr. Speaker Sir. I want to thank the Hon. Member who

asked the question in connection with the changes to the weather which has caused September to be what it is. We rarely experience rainfall in other areas like Matabeleland South. Many houses and clinics had their roofs removed by the wind.

On how the government is prepared, I say yes, we are very much ready. Whenever we do our budget, we have a certain allocation that is set aside and most of the time when we have such challenges, it is through those District Development Coordinators (DDCs) whom we used to call District Administrators (DAs) and are now being called DDCs who will be in all those areas to advise us on the situation in those areas. Whenever they hold their committee meetings, they have to notify head offices of all such issues if it is difficult for the district to resolve. If the Minister discovers that there is a need for all those things to be channelled to the President, that is when we advise His Excellency who will then declare a state of disaster so that we can assist financially, which sometimes will have been budgeted for in that area.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government is ready. We had some districts such as Chivi, Mwenezi and Matabeleland South where we

were told that all those hazards took place. We advised people to go to those areas being led by those from the Civil Protection Unit (CPU) so they could tell and advise us whether they could solve the challenge. If they could not solve the challenge, then they would bring it to the head office so that we could chip in. I thank you.

***THE HON. SPEAKER:** Thank you Hon. Leader of Government Business. Your Shona is so eloquent that you do not even know what you call grounds in Shona.

***HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** Thank you so much Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to thank the Leader of Government Business for his response. Hon. Minister, we know that whenever such disasters occur in those districts, sometimes you do not have the budget to resolve such challenges. What steps can the Government take so that we ensure a budget is allocated and set aside per district so that whenever these disasters happen, the funds can be channelled to the local Members of Parliament? I thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. It is now a bit easy to transact funds from point A to point B because we no

longer go around carrying hard cash. If such disasters happen, those people from the Civil Protection Unit take the issue up and that is when the Government will take action. Some of the things, they can actually rectify at the provincial level. If it is beyond their level, they will take the same issue to the head office. So, if such a disaster has occurred, that is when you hear the Minister of Local Government and Public Works stating that His Excellency the President has announced it to be a national disaster so that we can have access to funds which were not channelled for that constituency. Thank you.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

Government, through Parliament, set aside money for unforeseen circumstances, such as national disasters and that fund is called the Unallocated Reserve Fund. As it stands, the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, in his mid-term budget, has used three-quarters of that fund. The question that follows is how deep is our pocket assuming that a national disaster has come to Zimbabwe in the form of El Niño? How deep are our pockets in light of what is remaining in our Unallocated Reserve Fund? I thank you.

HON. Z ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Firstly, it is not correct that unallocated reserve funds are for disasters. It is as it says, unallocated. So, it can be allocated for anything depending on the need. Funds for disasters are budgeted for through the Civil Protection Unit which belongs to the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works. If the disaster is of such a nature that it requires the President to declare it a national disaster, then that would unlock more funding outside what is provided within the Civil Protection Unit. I submit.

HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question to the Hon. Minister is, I have heard his explanation in terms of the evaluation that is being done by Government to ascertain the level of damage. I also understand that there are immediate needs that arise when the disaster has happened. I wanted to find out what the Government is doing. I would assume that people need shelter for instance, and whilst we are waiting for medium-term and long-term plans there are short-term interventions that can be done by the government. I wanted to find out what those

short-term interventions the Government is undertaking to deal with issues such as shelter, etc.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question which is more or less the same as what others have been asking. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, in every district, we have the Civil Protection Unit to deal with matters of disaster, to deal with immediate needs as well as those needs that can be done later on. So, if a disaster happens, like if you lose your home, the immediate remedial action is to ensure that the family is taken care of and shelter is provided. That is the work of the DDC and the committee from that particular district, to ensure that all that is provided. That is what they are there for, to take care of the immediate needs initially as well as the long term. So, that is the work that we as Parliament here, budget for in terms of the Civil Protection Unit.

***HON. MATINENGA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My supplementary question is, what plans or sensitisation measures have you put in place so that all people in those areas are kept away from such disasters? I thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the pertinent question. The question is a bit difficult. Why did I say so? I am simply saying this because the people who work in the meteorological services are failing to predict what is happening. What happened in the previous month and part of September rarely happens in this month but what they do as Civil Protection is simply sensitisation and tell people when they have heard that there is a cyclone which is coming. They will simply sensitise or tell people before it happens.

So, for us to continuously have programmes in line with that is a bit difficult. Whenever they have such information, they will start to tell people before cyclones and disasters happen in the southern or eastern areas. The intensity of the cyclone is very difficult for us to predict. I thank you.

HON. MUKOMBERI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance, but first to commend the Government's commitment in the budget to clear arrears as well as funding for infrastructure development. The question is; what strategy does the Treasury have in terms of prioritising clearing verified

arrears to local contractors so that the ongoing projects under NDS 2 do not stall and at the same time, avoiding cost overruns on the same projects? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question. The general policy of Government is that when we enter into contracts of supply, we pay.

The specific question that the Hon. Member is asking is; what is the strategy to clear arrears in terms of those that have not been paid? I submit Mr. Speaker, that this becomes very specific outside the policy realm, which the Member can put in writing so that the Minister can then come in detail. If any contractors are owed, what is their strategy with a view to ensuring that is cleared? I thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Mukomberi, can you put your question in writing, citing those contractors that have not been paid for next week?

HON. MUKOMBERI: I stand guided, Hon. Speaker Sir.

THE HON. SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON. C. MOYO: Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development. We have seen flights going to Masvingo for *Sanganai/Hlanganani* Zimbabwe Tourism Expo. My question pertains to NRZ recapitalisation with a bias on modernising our rail networks. What measures are being put in place to have bullet trains in our country that will enable tourists' freedom of choice and mode of transport for every citizen? I thank you Hon. Speaker, Sir.

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

Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and let me also thank Hon. Moyo for that very important question, which actually then would give me time to articulate to the august House and to the citizens that indeed before we talk of bullet trains, we need a functional railway line which makes sure that we carry our cargo so that we do not burden our roads.

I am happy that the initiative has already started under the NDS2 drive, where we are also calling for collaboration from the private sector, where they can bring in rolling stock and we reduce

that on railage as they use the railway line. I am happy to say that in the next week, you will see us also commissioning where the private sector is coming to join NRZ to rehabilitate locomotives and provide wagons. I am happy that this is ongoing.

We also have a train, maybe to refresh the memory of Hon. C. Moyo, that indeed we have our tourist train which plies the Victoria Falls Road already. It is not a bullet train but it is there to service our tourists and we will continue having that but our priority now as Government is to make sure that we have got a vibrant railway line where we encourage our cargo to be directed on the railway line and make sure that we bring back the glory days of NRZ. Thank you Hon. Speaker Sir.

HON. NKOMO: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. What is the Government's position on the resuscitation of adult literacy classes across Zimbabwe, particularly in rural and disadvantaged communities, in view of the need to improve literacy, lifelong learning and economic empowerment in adults?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. A few weeks ago, Cabinet approved a policy on non-formal education that encompasses what the Hon. Member is speaking to. Within that policy, we want to cascade and ensure that those who did not complete school can then enroll and be able to be educated and continue with their education. Indeed, Government has a policy which we hope will be formalised and rolled out soon by the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education so that we resuscitate the programme that we used to have at Independence. You recall, Mr. Speaker, at Independence, when several of our veterans of the struggle came from war, they went through that informal education system. Our former President was one of those who was offering tutorials to some of our comrades. We want to revive and resuscitate that so that those who could not complete their education can then enroll into informal school classes and be able to continue with their education. Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

HON. NKOMO: Are there any timelines and a budget for that educational system?

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The programme is already in existence but we want to publicise the policy and ensure that we have a lot of publicity. The teachers that used to do the teaching outside of their working hours will be guaranteed that they will be able to claim for the hours that they give in when they are teaching the informal classes. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

+HON. MGUNI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife. I have noticed that there are a lot of pits that have been dug, especially by those working on the roads and those in mining. There are very large pits that are also dangerous to humans as well as livestock. What policy is there to make sure that they are reclaimed immediately, especially before the rains come? Some of the pits are near the roads.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Maybe I need a bit of clarity on why these pits are being dug? Is it mining?

+HON. MGUNI: I am saying some of those huge pits are left by those working on the roads as they dig gravel that they use to fix

the road. They dig very big pits. Those in mining are through opencast mining. For example, I saw that as I passed through Mberengwa, there are huge pits where I noticed that even this whole House can sink into those pits. Thank you.

THE HON. SPEAKER: The question is saying what the Government policy is to ensure that these huge potholes that are created by excavators looking for gravel to make roads and those that are mining in extractive industries leave behind huge earth mounds. What is the Government policy in ensuring that the issue is rectified?

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question which I believe is in two parts. I will request, with your leave, the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development to respond to the second part. Basically, concerning those that are in mining, the police and our laws are very strict that we must adhere to environmental impact assessment and land reclamation issues are given serious consideration. In other words, all those that are mining have to abide by a clear plan that will ensure that the environment is not damaged or they make sure that they reclaim the land and leave it the way it was. If there are incidents

of areas where these big pits have been left unattended, it is a question of policing whereby the local authority as well as our police and Environmental Management Agency should deal with those issues to ensure that our environment is kept intact. I would then request, with your leave, the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development because he is responsible for road construction and maintenance, to speak to the second issue on those pits that are left by those that are doing road construction. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Let me also thank Hon. Mguni for that important question. Indeed, I need to clarify that as much as we do road reconstruction and road rehabilitation programme, at times we can identify the type of gravel that we want to use on certain individuals' farm or farms and the Government is mandated to then excavate that gravel for road construction and we give notice. The policy of Government is that soon after extracting that gravel, we need to reclaim and rehabilitate back to the status quo of that piece of land. This is the policy of Government.

In the event that we have got such cases where pits are abandoned, the relevant contractor on that particular stretch of road is also obliged to make sure that he or she puts that piece of land back to its original state. I would humbly request Hon. Mguni, if there is such a piece of land that she knows, she can indulge. Also, going forward, even if we take a certain portion towards road rehabilitation, whether it could be along highways, we are also mandated to compensate adequately. For the betterment of our people, in the event that we take part of either a farm or a residential area, adequate compensation is therefore expected from Government. Thank you.

^^**HON. NDOU:** *[Question posed in Venda and there being no interpretation.]*

THE HON. SPEAKER: Ask your question in English. You can proceed.

^^**HON. NDOU:** In Venda or in English?

THE HON. SPEAKER: I think we have a problem. The translator for Venda is not available.

^^**HON. NDOU:** Should I ask in English?

THE HON. SPEAKER: Yes please.

^^HON. NDOU: What is the Government policy on the levying of taxes by the local authorities or rural district councils, particularly on the unemployed, elderly and other vulnerable groups? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Allow me to thank the Hon. Member for the question. Zimbabwe now has got 92 local authorities of which 60 are rural district councils. These 60 rural district councils are managed through the Rural District Councils Act which prescribes what needs to be done, what type of taxes and rates need to be paid. However, as it is now, Government is working on a very comprehensive ease of doing business initiative which has slashed a lot of these taxes and rates in all the 92 local authorities. We do not have a policy to tax the elderly or to tax those that are not employed because there is no reason why an unemployed person would be taxed. However, if there is a problem in a specific rural district council, I request the Hon. Member to give us that issue in writing so that we can interrogate and come back and report. Thank you.

HON. MACHANGU: Thank you Hon. Minister for your explanation but we realise that in the RDCs, they are now charging per capita instead of the household charges and yet Section 96 says per household, not per capita. Then if it is per capita, it means everyone above 18 is liable for the taxes, including the elderly and the disabled. This is what is happening in the local government. I should hasten to say we had a 24-hour debate on this issue within my constituency where there was this argument of per capita or per household. I thank you.

HON. GARWE: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. We do not have a policy in the rural district councils to charge per person or per capita. We charge per household. However, if there are any local authorities that are charging per person, we humbly request that information be brought in writing to the Ministry so that we can put in place corrective measures going forward. Thank you.

***HON. KARIKOGA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Mine is not a question but to emphasise on what is being said. Recently, as Transport Committee, when we were doing our business around the country, the same question was asked by residents and it was said that

is what is happening. Maybe the Hon. Minister can assist by writing instructions to the local authorities. I thank you.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I hope the Hon. Minister has noted that.

***HON. ZIKI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Energy and Power Development. Can Government possibly face losses, especially if fuel can be reduced slightly so that it is sold as unleaded fuel? Can this unleaded be sold at a higher price because motorists with vehicles that use unleaded fuel know that good things come with a cost and are prepared to pay higher costs? I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Madam Speaker. Government agreed at the beginning of the year, if I am not mistaken, to the sale of the petrol that is being referred to because some vehicles use that type of fuel. As far as I am concerned, right now that is what I know. If the Hon. Member knows something that is not happening, may that be put in writing so that we look into

it? As Government, as Cabinet, we have approved the sale of unleaded petrol. I thank you.

***HON. ZIKI:** There is no evidence that such fuel is being sold in this country. If there is any place where that fuel is being sold, residents or citizens want to know where it is found. I thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** Thank you Madam Speaker. That was not a question but he just told me that he has not seen where it is being sold. That is why I said if it is not happening, the Hon. Member should put the question in writing so that we assess what is stopping what Government or Cabinet agreed to be implemented by now.

***HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My follow up question is, why is that as a country we make laws and after a short period of time, we then nullify them? Why had we banned it in the first place and uplifted the ban 12 months later? I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Our Government in line with what is happening at international level which states that we should be going green, we all agreed that whenever we have petrol which is imported into this country, we then

blend it with ethanol using a certain percentage. That is what we agreed. Those who use expensive vehicles end up saying this will damage vehicles. The Government responded positively after the Minister of Transport said yes, vehicles will be damaged. We agreed to bring in and sell unblended fuel. Our Government is a listening Government. We listened to what was said by citizens but we were going along with the modern way of reducing fossil fuels and ensure that we go green. We should encourage people to buy electric vehicles.

***HON. ENG. MHANGWA:** My point of privilege is that, what we are discussing now with the Hon. Leader of Government Business is the same conversation when they had that same decision. We gave them these resolutions after our research findings and they said, does it show that we are only following other laws from other countries and do research after complaints from those citizens? We need assistance.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think the Hon. Minister responded.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** Our ethanol costs USD1.10 per litre. Petrol is even cheaper than ethanol. What is it that we are doing? Is it a positive deal for Zimbabweans? I thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** I think there is a misunderstanding somewhere. I did not say petrol goes cheaper after using ethanol. I simply said we are using the blending method to ensure that we go along with the Go Green programme. I did not say if we blend it with ethanol we have reduced the price or the taxes. I do not know where he is getting all that information.

***HON. MADZIVANYIKA:** I have asked this question so that we can clarify everything to the whole country. If we blend petrol and ethanol, how does that help Zimbabwe? If it is okay, I think it would be wise if we leave out ethanol. I thank you.

***HON. Z. ZIYAMBI:** The supplementary question should go in line with the initial question. The first one was not in line with ethanol. I thank you.

HON. BATITSA: My question is directed to the Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services. Following the passing of the National Child Online

Protection Policy, what concrete measures has the Government put in place to implement the policy and how will the Ministry monitor progress of implementation? Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, POSTAL AND
COURIER SERVICES (HON. DR. MAVETERA):** Indeed, we are so grateful that as a Ministry, through the visionary leadership of President, His Excellency Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa, as a country we now have our National Child Online Protection Policy which was launched by our President represented by the Hon. Vice President Mohadi. What we have done is that as a Ministry, we managed to do all the consultations in line with what we had put in place in the National Child Online Protection Policy. What we need to do which is now at implementation stage, is for us to continuously engage on finding out how we can best be able to policy what we have put in place. We are looking at working with a lot of partners, as you know very well that we are also working with the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education and the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. So, what we are doing is for us to continuously engage on

finding out how we can implement, mainly trying to ban. I know that is where your question is really, to find out how far we have gone in terms of banning our children to use social media online.

What we have done is just to set up the committee to put on measures, being able to come up with a policy which we are instructing all the teachers to also be responsive and again with our parents to assist us in being able to implement. What we need to do is for us to really consult more and further in terms of what we need to do as a country. We know Australia has banned the children online to use social media, we know even other jurisdictions have also done that and UK has also done that but Zimbabwe still needs to do consultations. For us to put in place the mechanisms to say we need at least one when we have got our free online hotspots even in terms of our free internet services, we need to make sure that at least we put some gateways so that our children will be able to access the right information that we expect.

At the same time, as Government, we have also put mechanisms within our schools to make sure that when our children are accessing any internet or any connectivity spaces, we make sure that they are

protected. More work needs to be done, something which is quite new for us but just the basis of knowing what we need to do, just being able to create awareness and being able to continuously engage with our citizenry in finding out the right policy which is conducive for Zimbabwe. We are still pushing on that. As a Ministry, all the framework which needs us to create the foundation on creating a child online protection, I am sure that is within our document, we have been able to do that but more work needs to be done and we have highlighted it in our National Child Online Protection Policy. Thank you.

HON. MUTSEYAMI: I would like to know, as a country, do we have the capacity in the meantime to manage all this towards our young children if they have the gadgets to access social media?

HON. DR. MAVETERA: Thank you Madam Speaker for this opportunity. As a country, we should be clear on how we need to monitor our children on online issues. This is a collaborative effort that needs parents, teachers and everyone to be involved. We are aware that some applications have parental control that let a parent

monitor a child's gadget and which sites they are visiting. In terms of WhatsApp, a parent can have a replica of a child's phone on his own phone. These are mechanisms that we think we need to publicise and raise awareness among parents.

Like I have mentioned before, what we can do as a Government is to make sure that when we set up these free Wi-Fi hotspots, it is important that we put gateways which will allow our children to access the right information. As a country, we believe that we continuously need to look at ways to address this problem. That is why I said it is something that we are still interrogating further as a Ministry to find out how best we can be able to monitor that.

In terms of monitoring our social media platforms, I think as a Government, through our cyber security mechanism, we have something that we have already put in place working together with our E-Government Unit. This will enable us to monitor all these social media accounts, even not only for our children but at least for us as a country. It is something that I believe as a Government we are doing to make sure that at least we will be able to control this problem. Madam Speaker, when we have that capacity as

Government, I am sure it will be something which is simple for us to address the problem by monitoring their social media accounts. I so submit. Thank you.

HON. C. MOYO: I know a policy is different from an Act. Yes, we have our Data Protection Act. Are we going to have a specific Act that is going to deal with the online issues? Thank you Hon. Speaker.

HON. DR. MAVETERA: Thank you Madam Speaker and I also want to thank Hon. Moyo for the question. Maybe, I need to know the online issues referred to because we have various policies and various Acts. However, I totally agree with the Hon. Member that we need an Act rather than a policy because a policy is not enforceable. We are working on that as a Ministry. We have been advised to make sure that we at least come up with an Act so that it becomes enforceable when it comes to child online protection issues. I remember very well that even our Hon. Minister for Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs also advised us that we should work towards that together with other Government ministries, which

include the Ministry of Public Service, Primary and Secondary Education and any other related ministries.

I believe that it is quite important that we work on an Act because it is enforceable. Of course, the policies are helpful in that at least we give direction on what we need to do. More work needs to be done. I will try to ensure that I will appraise Parliament on what we need to do in terms of child non-protection so that we are at least covered as a country.

HON. BAJILA: Thank you Hon. Speaker. When Hon. Batitsa asked the question, I tried to look for the policy on any online platforms. It is not there. Does the Ministry have plans to make this policy known to people because there is no way of implementing it at school level and at every level that has been mentioned. There is no way it can be found and be made known to people. The Ministry's website does not have it. The *Herald* does not have it and all Government portals do not have this policy. How does it get to be implemented if it is kept that much of a secret?

HON. DR. MAVETERA: Thank you Hon. Speaker. I was just about to go to our Ministry website before I was allowed to respond

so that I could verify that information. I do not think it is quite truthful. I need to check. I think it is there.

HON. TOGAREPI: On a point of order Madam Speaker. I think the Minister has every right to tell this House that she needs time to research and she cannot be forced to answer that question now.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are right Hon. Chief Whip.

HON. MASVISVI: Thank you Hon. Speaker. My question is directed to the Leader of the House. What is Government policy for a long-term programme which is funded to combat the rise of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension and cancer?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): I want to thank the Hon. Member for the question. Madam Speaker, Hon. Members recall that the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion, when he came to the august House, introduced the sugar tax which basically was looking at dealing with non-communicable diseases and among them he zeroed in on

ensuring that we also deal with cancer issues. That programme is tailor-made to ensure sustained funding of non-communicable diseases treatment. I thank you.

HON. MASVISVI: Is there any plan by the Government to provide free medication for non-communicable diseases?

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Madam Speaker, I think it is a noble proposal that the Hon. Member can put up for debate when we are doing the budgetary process this coming November, I thank you.

HON. MANGONDO: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. My question is directed to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development. Following the policy pronouncement and acceptance by the Hon. Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion to this House in December, 2025 during the National Budget debate that going forward, major projects such as the national highways will be put on public-private partnerships to reduce pressure on the national budget and to allow other minor roads, especially in rural areas, to be maintained, are there any challenges that the Hon. Minister is facing in implementing that policy position? I thank you.

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

Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. Let me also thank Hon.

Mangondo for that very important question. Indeed, this is the policy directive and also the trajectory of the Second Republic that yes, we need to encourage private sector participation, especially in our infrastructure development. Surely, if we are to tap into the fiscals, you find that the figures are quite frightening, especially when we talk of our trunk roads. This is what we are also pursuing as a Ministry and we have identified the private sector to partner with through Triple P's. We have seen that most of our major roads are taken and we are finalising a financial clause if we have done the concession agreement / financial clause not only on roads, but even the border posts will basically be catered for through the Triple P arrangement.

As for the roads in our rural communities that are done through RDCs, RIDA or even the department of Roads, we then have to rely on the fiscus. However, what happens when you talk of a budget is that this is an anticipation of us expecting to get funding. At times you see that competing factors will be at play during the course of the

year. When you are supposed to get disbursement other competing factors can come into play and then you might not end up getting that funding. There are also initiatives through the infrastructure bonds that the Minister talked about in the last month, which we are pursuing to ring-fence ZINARA funds to cater for some of these projects, high-impact projects, emotional projects from our constituents. This is an ongoing exercise which calls therefore, for patience from our citizenry. Most of our roads are in a sorry state after we received heavy rains and we need to make sure that we attend to those roads. I will call on Hon. Members to kindly debate as we move towards the budget cycle so that we get adequate funding for our road rehabilitation. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. MANGONDO: Thank you Hon. Speaker Ma'am. My appreciation for the response that has been given by the Right Hon. Minister. However, we have to accept that the national budget is in a position to finance some of these high-cost projects such as the national highways. The idea of the PPPs would have lessened that burden on the national budget so that the other areas that need maintenance, especially rural roads which are in such a deplorable

state under the Ministry of Transport's department of Roads. What is the Minister doing to ensure that this heavy burden is removed from the national budget so that these other roads can be taken care of? Thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker Ma'am. Once again, let me thank Hon. Mangondo. The initiatives that we are taking in the Ministry through ZINARA, we are capacitating our provincial road engineers so that they have adequate plans to make sure that they rehabilitate some of these roads. We also need to continue lobbying for fuel and also partner with other RDCs in the respective areas as well as RIDA. These are some of the initiatives but as I indicated, it might take time but this is what we are advocating for in our constituencies. Indeed, for some of these roads people are not asking for them to be tarred but normal re-gravelling and this is what we will be driving at. I want to assure Hon. Mangondo that we will not rest until we rehabilitate most of our roads. Thank you.

HON. MADZIVANYIKA: Thank you Madam Speaker Ma'am. I am very happy that the Ministry and the Government at large are actually indicating that they need to tap into the private sector to assist

in the rehabilitation of our roads. My follow-up question therefore is, does this PPP project's funding or recoupment only linked to toll fees or does it extend to the Government's national budgets? I thank you.

HON. MHONA: Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker Ma'am. I would also like to thank Hon. Madzivanyika for that important question.

We have got an array of funding models when it comes to toll fees. It can be a BOT, where you Build, Operate and Transfer or it can be through loan financing where the contractor will advance to Government and then Government is mandated to pay and in that case, it will come again through the fiscus. However, where it is a BOT, the funder who is the contractor, will come with equity and mobilise the structured finance elsewhere. Then, we agree on a certain tenure. For instance, I can cite 20 years and then they will operate for that particular period whilst they collect funds through tolling.

Thereafter, they hand over the asset to Government. Where it is a BOT, we are not expected as Government to pay but we give due consideration in terms of the timeframe. Where it is a loan facility, we

are also mandated to pay a certain deposit and payment is agreed in terms of the payment terms.

***HON. MALINGANISO:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My supplementary question is: I heard the Minister speaking about ring-fencing fuel that will be distributed to the road authorities. I also heard that the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion stopped the distribution of fuel to road authorities like RIDA and councils in the rural areas. As we are approaching the rain season, our roads in the rural areas that would have been constructed with gravel, what does the Ministry have to say about these local authorities and RIDA to get fuel so that our roads are constructed or maintained?

***HON. MHONA:** I want to thank Hon. Malinganiso for the question that he has raised. It is true, the previous season we emphasised that we would get fuel for the equipment that we use. This season, the Ministry of Finance has stopped that, but we did not stop. We are still engaging the Ministry so that we can rekindle the programme because it was assisting those who have machinery to get

fuel from ZINARA. I promise you Hon. Malinganiso that we are still trying to emphasise on getting the fuel.

Some departments and ministries would have their equipment working with departments so that we assist in maintaining our roads or rehabilitating our roads in the rural areas. Thank you.

HON. HADEBE: My question is directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. Information at hand indicates that a majority of rural schools, approximately 80% of learners are dependent on BEAM, yet schools have reportedly had prolonged periods without receiving the necessary BEAM support since 2022. This leaves the schools dependent on the small contribution from the minority of learners who are able to pay school fees. What measures is the Government taking to address the persistent failure to disburse Basic Education Assistance Module Funds to schools, particularly in rural areas where some schools have recorded 0% pass rates at Grade 7 and O level as a result of inadequate funding, shortages of learning materials and deteriorating learning conditions? Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. E. MOYO): Let me thank the Hon. Member for the question on BEAM. First of all, I want to acknowledge that BEAM arrears are acknowledged. BEAM has not been paid for quite some time. However, we continue to pay as we receive money from the Treasury. I can confirm that this year we have received just under ZiG90 million, where we have paid in the majority of cases to special schools and for special schools, I can confirm that we are almost 100% in terms of our payments to those schools.

However, for the regular schools, we are not yet close to that level. BEAM is really dependent on releases from the Treasury. So, we only pay as and when we receive the funding. We are engaging the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion on that very important aspect because as the Hon. Member has indicated, schools are indeed suffering. We have been engaging the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion and they have indicated to us that they are going to

accelerate disbursement towards BEAM so that schools are not disadvantaged.

Let me also inform the House that the numbers under BEAM are very high and currently standing at around 1.5 million learners in the country. There has been concern raised about the targeting of learners, that is, deserving learners. It has been noted that in some cases people who do not deserve to benefit from BEAM are benefiting. That has resulted in us instituting an audit of the BEAM programme. That audit is complete and a report is being prepared so that we can improve our targeting.

We are also developing a social registry, a platform where we are going to be uploading people so that the targeting is improved and is also digitalised, so that as we go further with the BEAM programme, we can eliminate issues of people benefiting when they are not supposed to benefit. Overall, the issue of BEAM arrears is acknowledged. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. S. TSHUMA: Thank you very much Hon. Minister for the response. My supplementary question is, given that BEAM was

specifically established to ensure that children from poor and vulnerable households are not excluded from education because of their inability to pay, when will the Government clear the outstanding BEAM obligations and provide schools with adequate and predictable funding to enable them to procure learning materials, support teaching and learning and improve examination outcomes?

Furthermore, will the Hon. Minister commit to investigating schools that have recorded 0% pass rates in rural areas, including measures to address teacher shortages, learning materials, infrastructure and chronic funding? I further seek assurance that no child in a rural school will be disadvantaged academically simply because his or her family cannot afford to pay school fees. Thank you.

HON. E. MOYO: Thank you very much Madam Speaker and thank you very much for the follow-up question. Yes indeed, BEAM was established to ensure that those who are unable to pay fees are assisted and this is why I am saying that we need to improve the targeting of those learners. At the moment, we have a lot of observations and complaints coming from the ground that the targeting is flawed and hence, this is why we have instituted an audit

to identify areas of weakness and come up with improved governance mechanisms so that the targeting is improved.

On coming up with the date for total clearance of the BEAM programme, I would not commit myself to that suffice to say the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion is committed to reducing these arrears.

I have indicated that this year, just around ZiG90 million has been disbursed and in our discussions with the Ministry of Finance which we do on a fortnightly basis, they have committed to accelerating disbursements towards a reduction of BEAM arrears.

On the 0% pass rate, that falls under the direct pay view of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to investigate and also appraise their findings. I will not delve into that area.

On teacher supply, there are a number of factors that influence teacher supply in schools. It is the teacher-pupil ratio that is one of the factors, but most importantly, it is the issue of Treasury concurrence because there is only such a number that can be employed after Treasury has concurred to say yes, we have the muscle to support that

number. So these are the factors and what also seems to exaggerate the problem of teacher undersupply is the issue of unviable schools where in some farming areas, you find that there are only 15-20 learners, but the school runs from ECD to Grade 7. In such cases, it becomes difficult to deploy adequate teachers following the established teacher-pupil ratios.

On that matter, I am sure the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education can give a more satisfactory answer, but on my part, those are the factors that influence recruitment of teachers, Treasury concurrence and also availability of those positions following the given ratios. I thank you.

***HON. S. TSHUMA:** I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for the response. I think you still remember that it has been long since we have been discussing the issue of BEAM in this House. We want to know when the Treasury is going to rectify this problem because those who are left behind are those in the rural areas, as those are the areas where we have many parents with difficulties in paying fees. So, from 2022, we have other schools that are saying that they are owed about 20 000 or more that has not been paid. Are you saying that from

2022, we are now in 2026, if that money has not been paid and the children are still going to school, who would have paid for the chalks and books? What is it that you can immediately do with the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion to rectify this problem? No one should be left behind as it is correctly put by His Excellency the President, that no one should be left behind.

HON. E. MOYO: I am not very sure if I am competent to answer that question because it seems to be so much related to Treasury. So perhaps we could give it to the Treasury to assist us in that area. The responsibility of my Ministry is that after we have received the money, we then disburse it. I thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Tshuma, you put that question to the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion.

+HON. MAPHOSA: Thank you. I would like to make a follow-up question on the teacher-pupil ratio in the primary schools, which leads to poor results. What efforts are being made to address that issue because in some classes you have 65 pupils? A teacher

cannot manage such a class and I think that is the major reason causing poor results. What is the Ministry doing to address that issue because one teacher cannot teach 65 pupils? They will only proceed with those who are quick learners and the rest will remain behind. I thank you.

+HON. E. MOYO: Thank you Madam Speaker for this opportunity. I would like to thank the Hon. Member for the question. Yes, the teacher-pupil ratio could be one of the reasons that is causing poor results but that is not the only reason. There are many other factors that contribute to poor performance of pupils. As I said earlier on, I cannot respond to that question on education because that is not my purview. May that question be directed to the relevant Ministry so that, that Ministry can address the issues of poor results? I thank you.

HON. MUSHORIWA: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

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

HON. MUSHORIWA: Thank you Madam Speaker. My point of order relates to what the Hon. Minister said concerning BEAM and the continuous questions that Members have been raising on the

BEAM. I am therefore suggesting that the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion needs to come here with a ministerial statement to explain to this august House whether or not the Government is still committed to BEAM.

Bearing in mind that in the Mid-Term report, this Ministry had only 8% disbursement rate and we are putting the responsible Minister to task for something that is beyond his control. We ask that the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion to come and issue a ministerial statement because all of us who come from constituencies know that the poor are suffering and we cannot continue pretending that things are okay. We request that the Minister should come before this august House and explain the answer on issues about the BEAM.

THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Mushoriwa. We have taken note of that.

***HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works, Hon. Minister Garwe. We have resettlement areas in the rural areas where there are areas that have been established for over 20

years, yet it is not clear under whose jurisdiction they fall in terms of chiefs.

I would like to find out from the Hon. Minister what is Government plans to address the jurisdiction issue because there are a lot of disputes with regards to chiefs. One chief sets up village heads and another comes and sets up their own. That is retrogressive in terms of development. I thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE):** Thank you Madam Speaker. I would also like to thank Hon. Zhou for the question that touches on issues to do with chiefs. The issue of demarcating or putting in place boundaries for chiefs is happening right now. We are aware that there are some chiefs who were putting in place some village heads in areas that are not under their jurisdiction.

May Hon. Zhou put that question in writing to specify where that is happening so that we can send our officials to address that? We know that some chiefs are putting structures in areas that are not under their jurisdiction, especially in commercial farms or A1 farms. That is where that problem is prevalent.

May the Hon. Member specify the problem? We have the law and the programme underway. We may delay because of insufficient resources but Government is addressing that. You may want to know that those under Chief Makoni wrote to us and we arranged a lot of meetings to ensure that the problem is resolved. Right now, we are going to send our officials to clarify the boundaries. I thank you.

***HON. TAFANANA ZHOU:** Thank you Madam Speaker. My question is not specific. It is about all resettlement areas in this country. What is Government policy with regards to these areas? Are they going to be placed under chiefs or remain commercial farms? I thank you.

***HON. GARWE:** Thank you Madam Speaker. I would also like to thank the Hon. Member. All areas, be it large-scale farms or small-scale farms are under chiefs. It was a colonial policy that said those areas are not under any chief. Right now, under the black Government, all fall under chiefs. I thank you.

***HON. MUWODZERI:** My supplementary question is, since you are sending people to teach the chiefs and headmen on certain things in other areas, it is said that if you want to do a ceremony of

bringing back the spirit of the deceased, the chiefs are making us pay USD40. Is it according to the law?

***THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GWARWE):** The question was about boundaries or perimeters. However, the question now is about taxes. It pertains to the issue of cultural ceremonies of bringing back the spirit of the deceased. This issue of cultural ceremonies has nothing to do with boundaries or perimeters. If there is anyone who is forbidding anyone from performing these ancestral cultural ceremonies, the Hon. Member has to mention the specific area where this is happening. If people want to do ceremonies, we have a Traditional Leadership Act that teaches us how it is done. I do not think this issue is happening everywhere. Thank you.

***HON. G. K. HLATYWAYO:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I think the Minister is not answering the question. He is on top of the question. The question asked was, what is the Government policy about that issue?

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, you cannot say that the Hon. Minister is not answering the questions. It is not a good phrase to use.

***HON. GWARWE:** I think I have explained that it is not taxable. No money should be paid to conduct such ceremonies. We are not violent and we do not commit acts of violence here. We do that at home.

***HON. MUWODZERI:** Supplementary question Madam Speaker.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are not allowed to ask two supplementary questions. I am addressing these two.

***HON. MUWODZERI:** The Minister allowed me and said I asked a new question and then he said that he will respond to it.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I did not allow you. May you please sit down!

***HON. MUWODZERI:** The issue is happening in our constituencies. We are paying money to drill boreholes and when we are doing these ancestral ceremonies, we are being charged USD40.

***THE HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** May you please put your question in writing.

***HON. MAKOPE:** I would like to go back to where this question emanated from. In rural places, the chiefs work together with the headmen but these headmen are different from the headmen that we had long back in rural areas. Some of them are known as substantive headmen. What plans does the Government have to make these headmen substantive? Thank you

***HON. GARWE:** Thank you Hon. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Hon. Member for the supplementary question. Each chief is the one who chooses the headmen that he works with. He then submits the names to us. If there is no one opposing, they will be reinstated or they will be substantiated. If that has not been done, it is in the pipeline for them to be reinstated or to be substantive headmen.

HON. MAPFUMO: My question goes to the Minister of Sports, Arts, Recreation and Culture. I am seeking clarity on the Government policy regarding the promotion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues in public spaces, social media and cultural or art spaces. Specifically, the policy position and its official

stance on public displays, artistic performances, sports events and social media content that promote homosexuality, given our constitutional provisions and cultural values as Zimbabwe?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Madam Speaker. Our Constitution dictates that we maintain our cultural identity and values and it specifically prohibits same-sex marriages. As such, within our cultural practices across the country, we do not condone such practices, be it in areas where we are doing sporting activities or any other activities. Even among our learners, it is a practice that we deter, do not encourage; we prohibit and condemn in the strongest terms. We hope that Hon. Members will take a similar stance and we do not associate but rather condemn with the same measure that everyone else does. I thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. MAPFUMO: Thank you Madam Speaker, it is quite deplorable according to our indigenous knowledge systems in Zimbabwe, that we now have phrases like *ngito* proliferating in the country. Is this enforceable? What measures are there, what

guidelines are there within the Ministry culturally to stop such behaviours?

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Madam Speaker. I am not a modern young man who knows those terms but what I know is, we do not have any legislation that supports homosexuality practices. We do not submit to it and we condemn it in whatever form that it comes. I thank you.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. There is a directive that has been put for all people doing vending to leave the CBD. My question comes in two parts. The first part is, what measures are there to mitigate the social damage that will happen to people who ordinarily lived from such activities considering that the designated places are far less than the people that are currently doing vending?

The second part is, what prejudice does the Government suffer by being patient with the vendors and having a roadmap that leads to formalisation? Accept that currently as a country we have a crisis of

employment and we need to help the people rather than to destroy their livelihood. I submit.

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker Sir and let me thank the Hon. Member for a very pertinent question that he has raised. All our urban areas are now very disorderly, they are a threat to health, a threat to safety, they are in a state of unacceptability and intolerable. We cannot continue to watch, particularly the capital City of Harare, the level of deterioration because somebody there has got some vested interest in seeing disorder prevail. We cannot do that as Government.

We have not caused any social disorder by advising the illegal vendors in the pavements, in the streets, in the avenue corners and also stopping those that are driving their vehicles to park at any place, start selling clothes, beer and other things. All these are not provided for in the Urban Council Act. They are not provided for in the by-laws that we use to run the local authorities. We have not caused any pain and suffering in terms of the programme that we have started today. We have engaged all the representative associations of vendors

and they are in agreement. We have consulted CZI, ZNCC and many other business organisations and they are very much supportive. The vendors themselves are aligned to this programme.

The issue that is there is, do we have spaces for these vendors to operate from? The answer to start with is yes. We have got spaces in every district. In Borrowdale, Mabvuku, Mufakose, Mbare, there are spaces but what these vendors have decided to do is to move out of those spaces and start operating from sides of streets, from verandas and from sanitary lanes. It is not acceptable. We are promoting illegality. We cannot do that and we have no apologies to make to anybody by bringing back order in the country. This must be understood. We want to ensure that there is order.

We started today in E. D. Mnangagwa Street. This is a street that was named after His Excellency the President of this country, in honour of his contributions from the liberation struggle to rebuilding the country in terms of vision 2030. We have cleared the street today and the vendors were agreeing with us.

Hon. Speaker Sir, let me take this opportunity to explain the market that we built in 2024 in Mbare. We built a state-of-the-art

market in Mbare. That market is empty as we speak. That market has got televisions, it is manned by CCTV, has got banks within the cantonment, has got running ablutions, running water, rooms set aside for mothers with babies to tend to their babies and that market has got everything that you can find anywhere in the world but people decided to move out of that market and went to sell in the street and somebody is advocating that the status quo must prevail. The answer is no. We must bring order in the country. Thank you.

HON. ENG. MHANGWA: Thank you to the Minister for the emphatic NO. My supplementary question then comes. Mr. Speaker Sir, even in the most developed countries, the Dairy Board is there but still there is a milkman who needs to come with the milk where the people are. The ice cream man is still a vendor. Hamburger Huts are there in London. What is the difference with Zimbabwe?

HON. GARWE: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and thank you Hon. Member for your supplementary question. Ice cream vendors are there anywhere in the world but they do not push their carts and station themselves in front of a hotel day in, day out. They push their carts throughout, along the streets, along the avenue, sell and go back

to the station. Here, people are pushing their carts from wherever they are coming from, park their carts in a specific street for example, Robert Mugabe Street. They push their carts, cover maybe 500 metres with carts and vehicles cannot pass. Roads are designed and constructed for vehicles not for push carts, not for vendors.

Vendors have got specific areas that they have to operate from. If those that are existing right now are not adequate, the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, ourselves and the local authorities are ready to construct additional vending spaces but we cannot start by constructing facilities when people are refusing to go there. The first thing is to put their psychosocial ideas, activities in order. Order is what we are asking for. Order, and we want you to be orderly as well.

***HON. CHIWANZA:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is not a question but to be grateful to the Government in relation to this project of making the city clean. Our President, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa says that a country is built by its own people -
[HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]-

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** This issue that has been raised by the Hon. Member does not allow us to appreciate but we have to hear the grievances from the people. Vendors are our people. We have to do our programmes in a proper way and you should allow a supplementary not a gratitude supplementary.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER (HON. J. TSHUMA):**
Order, order. Hon. Makumire, please allow him to finish.

***HON. CHIWANZA:** Our President, Dr. E. D. Mnangagwa says that a country is built by its own people. He always says that *chakanaka chakanaka mukaka haurungwi munyu*— [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] —

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Please, do not do that.

***HON. CHIWANZA:** No one wants dirt. We will have market stalls but in order. I would like to thank the Government through Minister Garwe. We should go ahead with this programme - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] —

HON. DR. MUTODI: My follow-up question to the Minister is, would it not make sense to the minister to first of all take a database of all the vendors that are on the streets? When the database

has already been taken, these people are engaged privately without Government directives or things like that and we have a conference with these vendors. The issue being raised by the Engineer from the opposition is that the current gap between our unemployment levels and people seeking employment on the streets is very high. If the Minister could give time for the vendors to be properly documented and once we have done that, we make sure that they pay tax and they also pay rent from council. What the Minister is also saying is that some of these people are pulling their carts in front of hotels. Once this database is composed and the people are properly managed, it means that there will be penalties for each offender who breaks the law on the street. This is a humble request that the Minister can take and because we are voted by the people and we still need their votes in future. We really need to be lenient and have a human face.

HON. GARWE: I would like to thank Hon. Mutodi for his contribution. We have no appetite to have engagements with illegality. We cannot glorify illegal activities in the city. We cannot do that. Hon. Mutodi, please go and revisit your books of law and

understand exactly what you were supposed to have learnt so that we move together.

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

HON. MUROMBEDZI: I request that this House extends time for Questions Without Notice by twenty minutes.

HON. MUWODZERI: I second.

HON. DHLIWAYO: I object Hon. Speaker Sir. - [HON.
MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order. Hon. Murombedzi stood up on a point of extension and it was seconded but unfortunately, it has been objected to. So, we move on to Questions With Notice.

***HON. TSVANGIRAI:** The Minister said that there are some markets which were constructed for vendors but the challenge that we are having - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*] –

HON. TOGAREPI: We cannot allow this. We are not in a beer hall. Once the Speaker has ruled - [HON. MAKUMIRE: *Mavendor*

ari kose. Kune vendors for E.D koita angori mavendor. Kose ariko dai tangoita kuti nyaya iyi yadzeiwa ipere.]-

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Makumire, can you please stand up and go outside? I will see you after 10 minutes. You are being disorderly. Please, leave the House. You cannot talk sitting down like that.

Hon. Mukumire having moved out of the House.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Tsvangirai, you rise on a point of what?

HON. TSVANGIRAI: I rise on a point of clarity on the question that the Minister just responded to.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Unfortunately, that session has been done with. It cannot go back. That session has expired.

⁺HON. GUMEDE: On a point of privilege. I was following up on the issue that we had talked about the title deeds. We were waiting for the Minister to come back with the Ministerial Statement. I was asking if we can follow up whether the issue has been rectified or not. Thank you.

***THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** We hear you. We are going to ask the Minister whether he has rectified that issue that we have asked in this august House.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Mr. Speaker, this is time for questions with notice. I am not sure whether you want to dispense with Questions With Notice and then you entertain the request.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: No, I did not want to. I just wanted you to just say dates only.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Mr. Speaker, it is unprocedural. We are in the middle of a session. Why do they not wait for the end of the session? Why is it arising now in the middle of Questions With Notice. It is unprocedural to me. Unless if you are saying in the middle of any session, I can stand up and start asking about anything that arose in the House which I do not believe. With the guidance of the Clerks, this is not procedural. I am not going to respond to it at this particular juncture.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Maybe, let me make it a bit clear to you, Leader of Government Business. We have not yet begun the Questions With Notice. Hon. Gumede stood on a point of privilege, that is why I entertained it but we have not yet begun Questions With Notice. We have not breached any rule at all Leader of Government Business. That is why I said, if you can indulge and just say the date. I have not gone into the session of Questions With Notice. We were about to go into it and then the Hon. Member stood on the point of privilege. That is why I indulged it. I thought we were going to do the same simple.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Mr. Speaker, I respect what you are saying...

HON. MUSHORIWA: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker Sir. This House is guided by the Standing Orders found in the *Green Book*. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of Government Business is not following that. Firstly, he has challenged the Speaker's ruling. That is a precedent which some of us, the backbenchers might actually think is the correct procedure. To then say that when the Speaker makes a ruling, one is to argue with the Speaker, Hon. Speaker Sir, if that is

going to be allowed, this House may actually be a House of chaos.

The Hon. Minister, with all due respect, needs to do the right thing, to abide by the decision that you earlier made. The point of privilege, if you read it, says that ‘at any period’. That is why it is called a privilege. It is not a point of order, it is a privilege. If you read our *Green Book*, it is specific.

The Hon. Minister truly cannot then manipulate changes to suit his demands. If we allow that to happen then let it be recorded because once you allow yourself to change the decision that you have made, we are also then going to do that in the future. We will be saying this is the precedent that was set by the Hon. Minister.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, can you approach the Chair.

The Hon. Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs having approached the Chair.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order, Hon. Gumede, the Leader of Government Business has indicated that the Statement is ready and he has got it with him, so we will first proceed with the Questions with Notice then after that, we can move to that.

HON. GUMEDE: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

**PROVISION OF SOCIAL SAFETY NETS FOR THE ELDERLY IN
CHIREDDZI**

1. **HON. MAKUMIRE** asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to inform the House on programmes put in place by Government to provide social safety nets for the elderly in Chiredzi and further provide statistics of beneficiaries in the rural and urban areas separately.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. E. MOYO): The Ministry has a constitutionally statutory mandate to provide social protection to vulnerable individuals throughout the life cycle, from infancy to old age. In fulfilling this mandate, the Ministry implements a range of social assistance and social welfare programmes aimed at reducing poverty, addressing vulnerability and improving the wellbeing of disadvantaged populations. For older persons, including those residing in Chiredzi District, the Ministry has put in place several

social safety nets to enhance their welfare and protect them from the adverse effects of poverty and other socio-economic shocks.

These interventions include the cash transfer programme which provides financial assistance to vulnerable households to enable them to meet basic needs, the Food Deficit Mitigation programme which provides food assistance to food-insecure households during periods of need, Assisted Medical Treatment orders (AMTOS) which facilitate access to essential medical treatment for vulnerable individuals who cannot afford healthcare costs and disability support programmes which provide assistance to older persons with disabilities through appropriate social welfare interventions.

Through these interventions, the Ministry seeks to promote dignity, improve access to basic services, strengthen resilience and ensure that no vulnerable individual is left behind. Statistics for Chiredzi District are as follows;

CHIREDDZI DISTRICT ELDERLY STATISTICS

SOCIAL PROTECTION	URBAN	RURAL	TOTAL
MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE	46	101	147
FOOD DEFICIT MITIGATION	0	5171	5171

PROGRAMME			
FOOD SUPPORT FROM PARTNERS	0	1812	1812
ASSISTED MEDICAL TREATMENT ORDER	54	132	186
EMERGENCY FUND FOR CHILDREN IN ELDERLY HH	25	53	78
ASSISTIVE DEVICES	0	4	4
BEAM FOR CHILDREN IN ELDERLY HOUSEHOLDS	105	1108	1213
PARTNER EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN ELDERLY HOUSEHOLDS	15	64	79
WASH SUPPORT AND OTHER NON-FOOD ITEMS	230	930	1160
TOTAL	475	9375	9850

***HON. MAKUMIRE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for affording me this opportunity to ask my supplementary question. I would like to appreciate the feedback that has been given but my view is that this programme is mostly done in rural areas but in the urban areas, some elderly people do not have the means of survival. Looking at the Government's programmes of vetting, they were given NetOne lines for them to be given money but most of them never received these funds.

Therefore, I am requesting that the Minister clarify to us what is happening to their beneficiaries who had been vetted but have never received any assistance from the Government. I thank you.

HON. E. MOYO: Yes, it is correct that the figures are not the same for rural and urban. Populations are also affected in this regard. However, in terms of our social assistance and social protection programmes, we have touched both rural and urban, although in different numbers because the populations are different. This, to some extent, is *pro rata*. It is to be expected. It is true, some people were given NetOne lines but did not receive the social assistance they were promised. I think several times we have indicated that due to budgetary limitations, we have done some of it and we have not done all of it. That is to be expected in a budgetary situation where we do not have all the resources that are expected. I thank you.

STANCE ON ABUSE AND POLITICISATION OF FOOD

AID

2. **HON. C. HLATYWAYO** asked the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to inform the House on the Government's stance regarding the continued abuse and politicisation

of Government food aid, including actions taken against those responsible for such abuse, particularly in Chipinge South.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE (HON. E. MOYO). Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. I would like to thank Hon. Hlatywayo for the question.

Government remains firmly committed to ensuring that food assistance is provided in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner. The distribution of Government food aid is guided solely by approved vulnerability and food-insecure targeting criteria, with assistance being provided to all eligible food-insecure individuals and households irrespective of their political affiliation, religion, gender, ethnicity or any other personal characteristic. Government does not politicise any assistance as evidenced by the allocation of rice for distribution to vulnerable communities by His Excellency recently. All MPs and Senators, irrespective of their political affiliation, received the same allocation.

Government maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards the politicisation or abuse of food assistance programmes. Any public officer, community leader or stakeholder found to have abused their

office, discriminated against beneficiaries or manipulated the distribution of food aid for political or personal gain, shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with the relevant Public Service regulations and applicable laws. Where such conduct constitutes a breach of the law, the matter shall be referred to the relevant law enforcement authorities and the law will take its course. Government will continue to strengthen oversight, monitoring and accountability mechanisms to safeguard the integrity of food assistance programmes and ensure that support reaches all deserving beneficiaries in line with established policies and procedures. Thank you.

<HON. C. HLATYWAYO: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for the opportunity that you have given to me to add my supplementary question. The challenge that I have put before this Hon. House is something that is really happening. I am grateful for the response but what is happening is that people are depriving other people of those commodities: Government foodstuffs, wheat from GMB, agricultural inputs, fertilizers, *et cetera*. So, when I asked this question, I asked because it is something that is really happening.

People are stealing and they are giving their relatives. That is why I have asked this question as to what should be done to these people since there is no action after such reports are put forward. My query is that after the reports, this is continuing to happen yearly due to politics. I thank you.

HON. E. MOYO: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Well, I want to say that if there are such transgressions, let us receive them. Yes, reports might be made to the police and so on, but I think the distributing authorities, be it ministries or whoever, should also know so that we can, in our monitoring, look at that specifically. I do not want to delve much into a lot of politics because in this field there are a lot of counter-accusations. So, if we were to follow this all through without specific issues being mentioned, it would be very difficult to conclude because people accuse each other across the political lines. However, the policy as it stands is that we should not politicise food or whatever is coming from Government to the people. His Excellency has demonstrated that through whatever he has done, I am sure we have not seen any discrimination whatsoever and we should also follow suit wherever we are. This is a message not only to us in the House

but to the nation as a whole that those who are charged with the responsibility of looking after such distributions, make sure that they do not discriminate in any form. I thank you.

**BLACKLISTING
OF WOMEN WHO ACCESSED LOANS FROM THE
ZIMBABWE WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE BANK DURING THE
COVID-19 LOCKDOWN**

69. **HON. MACHANGU** asked the Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises to explain to the House why some women who accessed loans from the Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank during the COVID-19 lockdown period remain blacklisted despite having cleared their arrears and when the bank will lift the blacklisting to allow them to access all financial services again.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WOMEN AFFAIRS,
COMMUNITY, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (HON.
MUTIMBANYOKA):** Firstly, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for highlighting such an anomaly as alluded to in the question. I have consulted with the bank in this regard and I am

informed that there were seven clients that were blacklisted in 2020, being one company, five females and one male. The five have since been cleared and are no longer on the list. The other two debts have been written off. The process for blacklisting a client involves the bank submitting a schedule to Financial Clearing Bureau, containing the client's details, including their name, address, identity number, gender and outstanding loan balance.

Once the client has fully settled their obligation with the bank, they would formally request the removal of the blacklisting. Upon verification and certification that all dues have been cleared, the bank will issue and forward an upliftment letter to FCB to facilitate the removal of the client from the blacklist. Clients were required to clear the loan obligation and pay a \$50 upliftment fee after which the letter is then issued.

Clients who had cleared their accounts or had made significant repayments to the micro-bank toward the previous unpaid loan balances would approach the bank to have their names cleared. The bank has always used...

HON. MAKUMIRE: On a point of privilege. Mr. Speaker, can the Hon. Member be heard in total silence? Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Was the ten minutes over? –
[*Laughter.*] - Hon. Minister, please go ahead.

HON. MUTIMBANYOKA: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. The bank has always used blacklisting as a last resort. After all efforts have been exhausted in its loan recovery efforts, it goes to the extent of restructuring loans to accommodate changing circumstances of its clients. For example, tractor loan repayments were restructured to coincide with agricultural harvesting periods. Thus, the micro-bank strives to always positively impact the lives of women and ensure their banking experience is memorable. I hereby invite any clients who are still blacklisted to approach the bank for application. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we seem to have no ministers to respond to the other questions. With your indulgence, I would like to ask the Leader of Government Business to

respond to the point of privilege that was raised by Hon. Gumede on the issue of title deeds.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ISSUANCE OF TITLE DEEDS

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise in response to the request that was made by Hon. Gumede about the title deeds, a matter that goes to the absolute core of economic security, wealth protection and the rule of law in our beloved nation. The ongoing nationwide implementation of the title deed validation and digitalisation programme is being spearheaded by my Ministry, through the Department of Deeds, Companies and Intellectual Property. Mr. Speaker, for decades, the bedrock of property ownership in Zimbabwe has rested upon a manual deeds registry system and before this digital transformation commenced, every single title deed in this country was drafted by conveyancers, printed on ordinary bond paper and manually filed within the depths of our deeds offices.

While this system served its purpose in bygone era, the vulnerabilities of ordinary bond paper have become a clear and present danger to our citizens. We have all witnessed with absolute horror the rise of unscrupulous syndicates, criminals who have faked the bond paper title deeds to brazenly defraud unsuspecting home seekers and dispose legitimate property owners of their hard-earned assets.

Mr. Speaker, looking no further than the shocking case involving the property of our former Cabinet Minister, Dr. Dzingai Mutumbuka, let us speak with absolute candour in this august House. This crime was not perpetrated by outside elements alone. Court records show it was enabled by internal collusion where an original deed was pulled from our archives and handed over to a fraud syndicate. This demonstrates exactly why a manual archive is a hazard to national security. This vulnerability ends now.

A family home in Zimbabwe is not just brick, mortar and corrugated iron. It is the sacred sanctuary where our people sleep at night. It represents a lifetime of sweat, tears and honest labour. It is the legacy that a parent builds so that their children will have a soft

pillow to rest upon in the future. We refuse to stand by while thieves steal the inheritance of our people. Through this validation exercise, the Government is taking absolute control of the quality of our deeds by introducing State-administered, highly secure paper complete with advanced, world-class embedded security features.

This new material is engineered to be highly water-resistant and fire-retardant, providing literal and legal fortress-like protection to the property owner. Beyond this thread of fraud, Mr. Speaker, the manual deeds registry has been a logistical nightmare that directly undermines our national drive towards the ease of doing business. Every day, Registry staff face enormous pressure, pulling heavy physical record books for every single routine inquiry and manually refiling them.

Hon. Members having been making some noise

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Order Hon. Minister. Hon. Members, you requested this ministerial statement and now you make noise. Hon. Members at the back, can you do it one person at a time, orderly? I do not know why you keep on allowing that, doorkeeper there. Please, have one person at a time there. Hon. Members on my

right as well, your whispers are too loud. We requested for this ministerial statement; please respect that. Please have order there. Can the Hon. Minister be heard in silence, please? It is a very pertinent statement. It is something that is worrying people back home, the people who voted and brought you into this House. So, please, pay attention and listen so that you are able to respond to their queries and inquiries. Please, go ahead Hon. Minister.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Transitioning to our new digital infrastructure, the Digital Land Administrative Platform widely known as D-Lab, we are establishing a verified central electronic database, accessible securely from anywhere at any time. This major initiative directly aligns with our ongoing national commitment to digitise public services and create a highly predictable, transparent environment for both local homeowners and potential investors. Transactions will occur in real time, drastically cutting turnaround times and eliminating human error.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, by shifting routine processes online, we are minimising face-to-face interfaces between clients and staff. This digital oversight injects absolute transparency into the registry,

allowing supervisors to monitor processing workflows and completely removing the familiarity that so often breeds corruption.

Citizens will finally be able to track their applications digitally and receive real-time feedback. Mr. Speaker Sir, let me clarify the unconditional scope of this mandate so that there is no ambiguity in the marketplace. Under the legal framework established by Statutory Instrument 76 of 2025, this validation programme applies to every single category of registered real estate property across the length and breadth of Zimbabwe.

Whether it is an urban freehold stand, a sectional title for modern apartments or agricultural land held under an individual title, all must be processed through the DLAP system to be digitised and securitised. No category is exempt because security must be absolute.

Mr. Speaker Sir, let me now address a critical question that is causing unnecessary anxiety among our members of the public. The question is, what happens after the deadline expires? What becomes of those citizens who might not have validated their title deeds within the prescribed timeline?

Mr. Speaker Sir, let me set the record straight and reassure the nation. Statutory Instrument 76 of 2025 gives title deed holders a clear window of 24 months from the date of its publication in the *Government Gazette* within which to validate their documents. The *Gazette* was published in July 2025, which means our citizens have approximately 11 months remaining to carry out the validation.

However, Mr. Speaker, let me emphasise this categorically. Failure to validate does not invalidate the title deed. It remains a fully legal title deed that simply needs to be taken through the validation process. No citizen will lose his or her property by failing to meet the deadline. Due consideration will be given to the issue when the time comes and appropriate, suitable policy options will be taken by the Government to assist affected citizens following the expiry of the prescribed validation period.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, Hon. Members after the 24-month deadline expires, the new digital registry system becomes the sole authoritative record of title in Zimbabwe. Unvalidated old paper deeds will face derecognition in formal transactions, meaning they cannot be used to sell or transfer land.

Therefore, I issue a direct statement-like directive to our banking sector, commercial asset managers, insurers and mortgage lenders to immediately audit your security and collateral portfolios. Ensure that paper deeds backing your mortgage bonds are systematically guided through validation, preserving the legal enforceability of securities and protecting the stability of our financial system.

To guarantee that this transition remains bulletproof against criminal elements, the validation process contains several strict safeguards to protect property owners and completely prevent fraudulent transfers. These measures include the mandatory verification of the original title deed as copies alone are strictly insufficient for the registrar's inspection, identity confirmation through cutting-edge biometrics, including both photographs and fingerprints, the submission of valid identification documents, a sworn affidavit and the mandatory involvement of registered conveyancers.

Furthermore, we have instituted specific legal protocols to cover complex ownership categories. For properties held within a deceased

estate, executors must immediately step forward, utilising the official death certificate and letters of administration to initiate the validation process, ensuring that the asset is secure before any inheritance distribution takes place. For our valued diaspora communities scattered across the globe, we have heard you and we have secured your interests.

Under Section 27 of the Regulations, a standard open-ended general power of attorney is explicitly rejected for real estate dealings to block cross-border identity fraud. Instead, diaspora owners must execute a special power of attorney prepared specifically for this transaction, signed in ink, accompanied by national identification, certified by a notary public in their country of residence and formally apostilled or authenticated through the nearest Zimbabwean embassy before a local conveyancer can lodge it on the DLAP platform.

The Deeds Registry conducts a comprehensive, exhaustive examination of all applications. Any discrepancies identified are immediately queried and must be resolved before any approval can be contemplated. Validation is only completed by the Registrar's formal

approval after which the securitised title deed is securely recorded in the National Deeds Registry.

Crucially, to ensure that retired or cloned documents cannot circulate back onto the black market, the new law empowers the Registrar to physically destroy the outdated paper records once the digital conversion is finalised. Let it be known that any person who attempts to obtain validation through fraud or misrepresentation will face the full weight of applicable civil and criminal penalties.

To help Hon. Members guide their constituencies, let me lay out the precise process law under Statutory 76 of 2025 which consists of seven clear stages.

First, we have document preparation where the property owner gathers all required documents, including the original deed, proof of identity and any category-specific supporting documentation.

Second, the appointment of a registered conveyancer whom the owner appoints to manage the validation process, verify documentation, prepare the necessary affidavit and ensure total compliance with legal requirements.

Third, affidavit and biometric verification where the applicant signs a sworn affidavit, provides biometric information consisting of a photograph, fingerprints and submits certified supporting documents.

Fourth, submission to the Deeds Registry where the conveyancer formally lodges the complete validation application, supporting documents and biometric records.

Fifth, examination and verification where the Deeds Registry carefully verifies ownership, identity, property details, supporting documentation and legal compliance, returning any deficient applications for correction before resubmission.

Sixth, validation approval where the registrar formally approves the application upon successful verification and full compliance with all statutory requirements.

Seventh, the printing of the securitised title deed where a new securitised deed with enhanced security features is generated, recorded in the National Digital Deeds Registry and officially issued to the owner through the appointed conveyancer.

Mr. Speaker Sir, let me address the elephant in the room, the financial implications for our citizens. Let me provide absolute clarity

on the financial structure to clear up misconceptions. The total cost of the validation and securitisation process, including of the Deeds Registry fee, the conveyance as professional fees and VAT is exactly USD215.

I must stress that this prescribed fee is completely comprehensive and covers the entire process of validation, including the conveyance as professional fees, protecting the public from arbitrary overcharging. Consents have been raised that this fee may still be unaffordable, burden for the vulnerable and less fortunate members of our society.

I want to state categorically to this House, Mr. Speaker, the Second Republic is a Government of the people, by the people and for the people. We are fully committed to ensuring that we leave no one and no place behind. Poverty must never be a barrier to security and the local funds must never be an open invitation for criminals to exploit our people. If a citizen cannot afford a private conveyancer, the State will step in as their champion. To this end, the Ministry is actively training legal officers within the Legal Aid Directorate and the Office of the Attorney General. These dedicated legal

professionals will provide appropriate legal assistance and procedural guidance entirely free of charge to qualify indigent homeowners who may be unable to afford the services of a private conveyancer. The Legal Aid Directorate ordinarily offers legal services to persons who cannot afford to pay for services offered by legal practitioners. This intervention ensures that Government does not leave anyone behind.

We will continue to assess the implementation of these measures and strengthen institutional support mechanisms to ensure that no eligible homeowner is unfairly disadvantaged in accessing the benefits of this programme. The initiative forms part of Government's broader commitment to promoting equitable access to justice and ensuring that all citizens are afforded a reasonable opportunity to participate in the validation programme. As we roll out this monumental initiative, we are met with a parallel challenge, the spread of malicious falsehoods and incorrect perceptions being circulated on social media platforms by mischievous people.

To counteract this mischief, the Ministry, together with the Department of Deeds, continues to carry out robust public outreach campaigns engaging stakeholders across Zimbabwe through

community meetings, workshops and extensive radio and television interviews. This effort is meant to set the record straight and correct misconceptions. This is a continuous exercise to keep citizens updated and to ensure that through feedback, adjustments can be made to ensure correct information on validation requirements and procedures gets to property owners. Mr. Speaker, we have also established a dedicated 24-hour call center working with technical partners. The toll-free number is +262-867-721-2400.

This centre provides continuous assistance to members of the public by responding to technical enquiries, offering guidance, recording complaints and facilitating the rapid resolution of issues. In addition, the Deeds Registry Office in Harare and Bulawayo provides in-person assistance to applicants, including guidance on the validation process, resolution of queries, submission of supporting documentation and consideration of matters requiring review or further verification by registry officials. I conclude by calling upon Hon. Members of this House to join hands with the Ministry, take this correct information back to your constituencies, inform our people that their investments are being secured, their properties are being

protected and their Government is building a transparent, world-class digital future. I thank you Mr. Speaker.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you very much Leader of Government Business for that comprehensive statement which I think demystifies a lot of issues that were brought in by Hon. Members to this House, emanating from our different constituencies. Well done for that, thank you.

HON. GUMEDE: Thank you so much to the Hon. Minister for the statement. It was indeed informative and I am sure that a lot of Zimbabweans are going to appreciate the new information that he has given us. Today, I came across something which stated a figure of 500. The figure is supposedly of those who have so far managed to go through the process successfully. I wanted to seek clarity from the Hon. Minister on the way that these figures look right now, only 500 property owners have managed to go through this process. How many properties are going to be processed within the 11 months? Is it going to be sufficient if we are to say that 11 months is left of the 24 months that were stipulated? Five hundred properties have so far been processed successfully. With the properties that we have in

Zimbabwe, is it reasonable to say that within 11 months every property will have gone through that process? I thank you so much.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think we are focusing on trivialities. What we should focus on is to go and tell our people that their investments are at risk. They must ensure that they digitise so that we remove all elements of fraudulent activities. When we get to the time when the Statutory Instrument is about to expire, we review but at this stage, if we focus on why you gave 24 months, why did you do this, we will never secure the investments that our people sweated for. I thank you.

THE TEMPORARY SPEAKER: Thank you Hon. Minister. I think it is quite clear, Hon. Gumede, that time is not of any effect. It is an open process. Let us encourage our people, for the sake of securing their properties, to go through this route. The good thing is, the Minister also articulated the point of the pensioners, those people who are deserving, that they can get reprieve from the Legal Aid Society under his Ministry. So this should be clear now.

HON. JAMES: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for a very comprehensive outline of what is

happening. My question was going to be, is there any indication of how many title deeds are in existence at the moment and how many have actually passed through the process? However, I think that question has been asked. What I would like to ask is that call centres are in Harare and Bulawayo. Can these not be extended to other cities such as Mutare, Gweru, Masvingo, *etcetera*? Thank you.

HON. Z. ZIYAMBI: I think it is a reasonable request which can be followed up so that we can see the feasibility. It is a very reasonable request so that those in those areas can also get to appreciate what needs to be done.

My last appeal is, I think this programme secures all of us. We are all vulnerable. We may sit here in the comfort that we have our paper or bond-based title deeds but you never know, tomorrow I may not be there. My children may delay, some fraudulent people may change that title deed but once it is digitised, a digital platform has a footprint. You will know exactly who entered the system at what particular time and you will be able to trace. What we have witnessed now is, you may go and want to search for a title deed at the Deeds Registry and you will be told we cannot find it, yet we will be seated

here debating that now this will affect our citizens. They are very indigent. If you are indigent and you have a house, you have a reason to make a plan either to visit the Legal Aid Directorate or to go and see your lawyer because we believe this is a real threat. We are not moving backwards, we are moving forward where our society is becoming so much sophisticated.

The other day I read about a student who knew IT so much and defrauded the CABS. What we are appealing to is, we want to have this digital database where we have several authorisation processes and people who have used the numbers at the Deeds Registry and authorisation codes so that you know that not every Jack and Jill can access the system. My appeal is, this is not about politics. We are responding to a real threat to property owners. We appeal to everyone that let us go and change our title deeds and have secure title deeds that we know that we can sleep and ensure that we have covered the properties that we got for our children. I thank you Mr Speaker for the indulgence.

On the motion of **THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI)**, *the
House adjourned at Nineteen Minutes past Five o'clock p.m.*