

SENATE – Thursday, 26 February, 2026

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HON. SEN. GOTORA: Thank you Mr. President. Let me start by congratulating the brand new Minister of Mines and Mining Development. I hope and pray that he has joined a team of the usual Ministers who always attend Senate. I have a very simple question. Yesterday morning, the brand new Minister of Mines and Mining Development made a very important announcement of stopping the export of minerals, raw minerals, without them being beneficiated. There is a bit of confusion; are we just talking about lithium or we are talking about all the minerals that include chrome because it is just a stone? If you look at it, it is just a stone. It does not make any sense to be a mineral - black granite, which happens to be mined from my home area in Uzumba. These two and other minerals are also included on the list of those that are not going to be exported. The mining of these two, chrome and black granite, is just leaving yawning holes in the mountains and people are not benefiting. I am not sure if the State is benefiting. My question is, are these other minerals in addition to lithium also included in not being exported without the beneficiation? Thank you Mr. President.

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING DEVELOPMENT

(HON. KAMBAMURA): Thank you very much Hon. President of the Senate. I would like to thank the Hon. Senator for his very important question. Yesterday, we gave a press statement with regard to the suspension of some minerals, namely lithium concentrates and unbeneficiated or unvalued minerals. The thrust of the Second Republic is to make sure that all minerals are beneficiated in the country for the benefit of Zimbabweans through the creation of employment and an increase in export receipts. The Hon. Senator pointed out that other minerals, such as granite, are still going out unbeneficiated. There is a ban that was put in place by the Government through a Statutory Instrument in 2020, to ban the export of raw granite. We have re-implemented that ban. Granite is part of the mineral that we indicated as any other raw minerals or unbeneficiated mineral, which means automatically, raw granite is banned for export. Chrome concentrates are not part of the suspension because that is the level of beneficiation that was approved by the Ministry but we will be engaging the sector so that they can further value add from that level of beneficiation to ferrochrome. Currently, there is not enough capacity to absorb chrome concentrates. That is why they were exempted as of now but for lithium, there are some issues that were noted

by the Ministry. That is why we came up with this suspension. We will be engaging the industry very soon on the new expectations for lithium concentrates and lithium sulphate. I thank you Mr. President.

HON. SEN. ZINDI: I applaud the decision by the Minister of Mines to suspend the exportation of raw lithium. Now, what plans does he envisage in terms of ensuring that the processing of this lithium or beneficiation is done in this country? Over and above that, what is the take by Zimbabweans in the process of beneficiating in terms of employment creation? I thank you.

HON. KAMBAMURA: Thank you Mr. President. Already, the subsector had set up some beneficiation plans to convert lithium to lithium concentrates. We felt the level of beneficiation is not good enough to benefit the country. As such, we will be engaging the industry on new Government expectations, which I will preempt after meeting with the industry tomorrow. For national interests and the benefit of local Zimbabweans, we will be looking at issues related to increasing export receipts and also mineral accountability, full declarations of what is being exported and also employment creation for locals in that industry. I thank you.

***HON. SEN. MUNZVERENGWI:** Thank you Mr. President. I

want to add on to what has been said pertaining to lithium. Way back, Mr. President, our country was well known for lithium mining, indicating that we have many lithium deposits in our nation. My issue is that, Minister, we want to improve our mining industry. Considering that we now have many people who want to venture into mining, including our youths, they might not have the capacity to then process. Are there any measures for people who would have claims of lithium? Are there any companies that might assist in value adding or beneficiating the lithium? Whilst improving on all these areas, is he also considering those who are venturing into mining, such that their lithium is beneficiated?

***HON. KAMBAMURA:** Thank you for the question. In the year 2023, Statutory Instrument 57 of 2023 was passed, which allowed young miners to mine lithium. After mining, they would then sell to those who have the capacity to beneficiate so that value would be added to the lithium. As Government, we still have that chance but what is now happening is that there were some people who would just take the raw lithium, crush it into small stones and they would export them without being processed. Those were young miners. We are going to consult big companies with processing plants so that they will put in place measures that in places where lithium is mined, they will put buying points where

they will be buying unprocessed lithium using the fee that will be gazetted by the Government. They will be using the cost that would be put in place by MMCZ and they would then process it. Thank you.

HON. SEN. C. MUTSVANGWA: Thank you Mr. President. I would want to start by congratulating the Hon. Minister on this very wise move concerning our raw materials beneficiation. I want to ask him to explore the possibility of upscaling his engagement beyond the industrial players he is talking about, to the level of his counterpart in China in the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, and also in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The question is to ask China to help in driving investment in the supply chain of the lithium industry.

This is because China single-handedly now has the overwhelming patents of lithium-ion batteries, which are the driver of the new electric vehicle industry which is overtaking the world. Fossil fuels are finished, electric batteries of which lithium is a major component in it. So, I am asking the Hon. Minister to do a bilateral engagement because this friendly country could support all the value chain up to the batteries themselves because it has a jugular hold on the lithium-ion battery industry. Even the United States of America and Europe are quaking because China is the king. I thank you. I am asking if the Hon. Minister

could upscale his engagement beyond the mining companies to go to their home country and ask for a bilateral engagement. I thank you.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Thank you very much Hon. Sen. Mutsvangwa. I am not sure whether this was a question or it was a piece of advice. A small comment, Hon. Minister, because that was not a question.

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING DEVELOPMENT

(HON. KAMBAMURA): Thank you Mr. President Sir. I would like to thank Hon. Sen. Mutsvangwa for his contribution and question. As the Government, our main aim is to make sure that we exhaust the whole lithium value chain in the country. That is from mineral extraction to the manufacturing of lithium-finished products. However, this is not going to be an event, but a process that we are going to be doing in phases. We started with the banning export of raw lithium. Now, we are on lithium concentrates. Last year, we announced that companies should go further to benefit by establishing lithium sulphate plants, something which the industry has embraced, with some already having set lithium sulphate plants.

We were not really impressed with the level of beneficiation, the stored capacities of those plants and also the efficiency of those plants.

The second phase will see us calling for those lithium producers to further evaluate the lithium battery, which is lithium carbonate. We will also be engaging experts in that field, not only focusing on China, but also on countries with the right expertise to manufacture batteries locally in the country.

Considering that we do have most of the ingredient minerals in the battery manufacturing circuit, we understand the expertise of China. So, we will also be engaging them to assist the country in building capacity for battery manufacturing. As I have said, it is a process which we are going to implement in phases and other phases are already in the implementation stages. We want to complete the whole lithium value chain in the country, considering that we do have all the ingredient minerals for battery manufacturing.

***HON. SEN. SHIRI:** Thank you Mr. President. My question is directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. Hon. Minister, what does your policy say in terms of Heritage-Based Education because here in Zimbabwe, we have private and Government schools? Thank you Mr. President.

**THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO):** Thank you Mr. President and thank

you Hon. Sen. Shiri for the question that you have asked. According to Section 63 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, everything that is learnt in the country is supposed to be taught under the same curriculum, which is given by the Permanent Secretary. So, if we are to look at the Constitution of Zimbabwe, we realise that the Heritage-Based Curriculum is the one that is supposed to be learnt in all the schools.

As of now, we have three curricula. The Heritage-Based Curriculum is taught in Government schools, council schools and church schools. Other private schools offer Heritage-Based Curriculum. We also have what we call Association of Trust Schools (ATS) and independent colleges and other private schools that offer Cambridge. We also look at Harare International Schools, which is for the children of ambassadors. They have what they call the International Baccalaureate, which they use.

So, if we are to look at this law, the Bill was presented to the Cabinet and we said that all the schools in the country are supposed to teach the heritage-based curriculum. To those who want to continue doing Cambridge, they will do it as an option. However, they have to first write a letter to the Secretary of Primary and Secondary Education explaining how they are going to do it. That is to say, Heritage-Based Curriculum will be the first and they will also be doing Cambridge. This is because

we realise that many schools no longer teach the history of Zimbabwe, where we came from and where we are going. Our indigenous languages, which include Shona, Ndebele, Kalanga, Shangani, Tonga are not taught in many ATS schools. They are now learning French, Chinese and no longer learn our local languages. So, we encourage that in the year 2027, all the children in Zimbabwe be taught Heritage-Based Curriculum and also learning indigenous languages. We are not saying they must not do international languages like French and German. We say that in 2027, because this term we are launching the Heritage-Based Curriculum, introducing it to those schools that were not teaching the Heritage-Based Curriculum. We are starting to train them this term, the Form 5 and the Grade 6 are all compelled to do the Heritage-Based Curriculum (HBC). I thank you.

HON. SEN. MDLURI: My question is directed to the Minister of Mines, though part of the question has already been answered through Hon. Members who were asking for supplementary questions. Minister, what mechanisms have been put in place to monitor compliance with the ban and to prevent smuggling and illicit mineral exports? To what extent or what assessment has been conducted on the short and long-term impact of the ban on mineral export earnings and foreign currency inflows? I

thank you.

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINING DEVELOPMENT

(HON. KAMBAMURA): I would to thank the Hon. Senator for the question. Currently, we are working with law enforcement agents and revenue authorities, ZIMRA and MMCZ, in the implementation of the ban to make sure that no paperwork is processed for those minerals that were listed on the ban and again, that no minerals are shipped out or pass through our borders pending finalisation of this issue. So far, everything is going very well.

In the short term, there could be some disruptions, yes, in terms of export revenue coming into the country but it is not going to take long before we agree with industry on the way forward and the beneficiation levels that are expected by the Government. So, it is not going to create many disruptions in the industry because, as I have said, I will be meeting with the industry tomorrow morning, agree on terms and the way forward but to make sure that they will be efficient in the future with regard to applications for exports.

We have made sure that there will be some recommendations from the province where those minerals are being exported from, so that our Ministry will go physically to inspect the level of beneficiation being

done on the ground. This will involve our metallurgists to check on the production line and also to check on the metal composition of the run-of-mine ores and also the final product to make sure that the concentration is to the levels of expectation by the Government. So, we look forward to increasing our export receipts because we will be exporting beneficiated metals as compared to those of now. Yes, there are 'concentrates', but not proper concentrates. So we are looking forward to improving on that after meeting with the industry.

On the ban of minerals, our minerals will not rot; they will not expire. When there is technology to process those minerals in the future, they will be processed in the future by future generations. That is sustainability. Thank you.

HON. SEN. MAVHENYENGWA: Thank you Mr. President. I want to ask the Minister what incentives the Government or the Ministry is offering to those who want to do beneficiation to our minerals, so that we get the investors who are encouraged to come because of certain benefits which they are going to get, which maybe they will work together with the Minister of Finance. What do they offer to our investors so that they are encouraged to come and make sure they beneficiate our minerals? Thank you Mr. President.

HON. KAMBAMURA: Thank you again Hon. Senator for the follow-up question. First, we are offering a good geology. Our country is blessed with a good mineral geology, which is unique from other mining jurisdictions.

Number two, we are offering a good human resource capital that we have in the country in terms of mining. There is a plethora of incentives that the Minister of Mines and the Minister of Finance have set aside for investors. Talk of free duty on capital equipment to the mining industry; talk of tax holidays, security of tenure and the peaceful environment that was brought by the Second Republic through His Excellency, President E. D. Mnangagwa. Those are not found in other jurisdictions, talk of DRC.

So, we are offering all those to investors who are coming so that they can come and enjoy the geology that we have and they can come and enjoy the minerals that we have that are not found in other countries. Talk of PGMs, Zimbabwe is the third PGM producer in the world after Russia and South Africa. Although the South African deposit is now depreciating, which will position us to be the second PGM producer in the next few years, we have Africa's largest lithium deposit and we are the fifth country in the world to have the largest lithium deposit. That is why we are number five in the world in terms of lithium resources.

So we are a unique nation and those investors that are coming will have a chance to interact with a lot of other minerals, critical minerals to talk of; talk of red and antimony. As I said, these are transition minerals, which are being sought after throughout the world. They are found here in Zimbabwe. There is no country in the world where you dig one metre and find gold except in Zimbabwe. So, investors are welcome. Thank you.

***HON. SEN. NDEBELE:** My question is directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. There are teachers in the rural areas who are no longer at work. In 2008, they left their country and came back in 2010 or 2011. They proceeded with school and found some places to teach. They took some months and they were suspended because they had left their country. So, my question is, for how long were they suspended? Should they really forget that they were once at a teacher's college and they were taught? Thank you Mr. President.

***THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO):** Thank you Mr. President and Hon. Ndebele, for the question that she raised. It is true that people who leave their work give reasons why they are resigning. Some of them leave work because they want to go and seek greener pastures. They find it difficult there and come back. They are encouraged to write letters to the Ministry

of Primary and Secondary Education and the Public Service Commission, asking for reinstatement to their former positions. Right now, we are taking those who are returning but we have been doing the STEM subjects.

The STEM subjects, once they write their letters and are recommended to come back, we offer them their employment back. However, what the Hon. Member asked about is if a person is allowed to come back to work and they are later charged, we ask that it be put in writing. On that issue, they are required to write letters stating that they were once retrenched but they are now re-employed. When she talked of those who are at home, I am glad to inform this Parliament that we are now employing them back this week. Some people finished their courses and they are at home. The Government has allowed us to start recruiting. We have written to all the provinces asking them the numbers of teachers they need from all the 10 provinces. They wrote to us before the 10th of February. Meaning to say on Monday, 2nd March, 2026, we will start recruiting.

HON. SEN. ZHOU: Thank you Mr. President. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. Persons with disabilities try to start their businesses under the Shop Licence Act,

[Chapter 14:17]. Under Section 6 of that Act, they say they will provide some exemptions. However, when you try to then apply so that maybe you can have some subsidised licence fees, that is denied by local authorities. Are there other policy windows that these people, especially persons with disabilities, want to be entrepreneurs, small businesses, use so that at least they have a subsidised licence fee regime? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. GARWE): Thank you very much Hon. President.

Allow me to thank the Hon. Member for the question that he asked. By way of background, Hon. President, you may want to know that towards the end of 2025, the Cabinet approved the slashing of licence fees across all local authorities, various centres and sub-centres of our economy as a way of easing business for everybody, people who live with disabilities included. The majority of the local authorities have adhered to the new fee structure that has been approved by the Cabinet. If there is a local authority that is not adhering to the new regime of fees, we humbly request the Hon. Senator to write to us so that we can put corrective measures in place. I thank you.

***HON. SEN. MUZODA:** Thank you Mr. President. My question is directed to the Minister of Energy and Power Development; however, in

his absence, I will direct the question to the leader of the Government business. Mr. President, we have a challenge that we are seeing in some areas where we come from on the issue of ZESA. There are companies that are given tenders by ZESA. I believe there are two or three. The work that they do is not perfect, especially looking at the ZESA poles which later fell, leaving our local people and animals at risk. My question to the Minister is that these people are given poles to pitch, which are different from the ZESA ones. I have a pole, which is close to a school where I learnt, which was pitched in 1995 by ZESA. Till today, there are no problems with those poles. There are poles that were pitched in 2005 and 2013, which are no longer there. They are on the ground, causing harm to the local people when there is electricity. So, Hon. Minister, I request that you ask these people where exactly they are getting those poles which are different from the poles that are used by ZESA. Thank you.

***THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE:** Thank you Hon.

Sen. Muzoda: I thought that you had your question, but you have a request. I believe that your request was accepted by the Minister, so the answer is coming.

***HON. SEN. CHIEF. CHIKWAKA:** Thank you Mr. President. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary

Affairs. What does the Government law say about the matters that are on trial in our courts, the magistrate's courts, considering the crimes that are committed by people who sell land unlawfully and the land barons and others who are now located in rural areas? They are on trial and they are given a penalty of community service. What does the law say about such issues? How could one go and clean up at an institution disturbing the lives of people? Also, what is the law saying in terms of increasing our police force? In many companies, we have a few police officers. We are no longer doing those frequent recruitments which we used to have, where police officers were recruited from time to time. Thank you Mr. President.

***THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (HON. Z. ZIYAMBI):** Thank you Mr. President of the Senate and thank you Hon. Member for the question. Mr. President of the Senate, there are certain guidelines that are followed when sentencing a person. I believe his question is directed to the land barons who are selling land not according to the law and they are given a penalty of community service. In our courts of law, the matters that are on trial in Magistrate Courts are reviewed.

Those who are not satisfied with the outcome can appeal to the

Superior Courts. Our courts have what we call 'checks and balances'.

Some cases may be taken for review but if you are not satisfied, the matter can be taken to a higher court so that it is reviewed and scrutinised as to whether the lower court tried the matter properly. We have many remedies for the lower courts, the penalties that would have been passed. Our higher courts will look at that.

Then on the issue of police shortage, he said that way back, we had a large police force, but nowadays, according to his view, there are few. I would want to say the leaders in the police are the ones who will write to the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion requesting the budget allocation so that the recruitment will be done. I cannot answer their question properly because I am not aware whether we now have a shortage of police officers or if it is still the same number. The Hon. Member can put it in writing so that the police can actually explain in such a year, how many police officers we had. The other year, we requested 500 and the current number is this, which will make it clear for us to know whether what he is saying is true or not, with documentary evidence.

So, I am asking that it to be put in writing, it will be clear to everyone in here, so that it will be discussed based on the current

situation. Thank you.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Thank you Mr. President of the Senate. Hon. Sen. Chief Chikwaka, may you put your question in writing so that everyone else will benefit. We have Hon. Minister E. Jesaya, the Deputy Minister of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture who has just joined us.

***HON. SEN. CHIEF NHEMA:** Thank you Mr. President of Senate. My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. My question is in the rural area where we come from, when we want our house plans drawn, they must be drawn by an architect. It is said that there was a secular policy from the Minister. My issue is that, if that is so, did the Minister consider what the President always says, the ease of doing business? Why am I saying so, is that in rural areas, we do not have an architect. I do not know what exactly they would have learned in school. Also, it is being said that they are supposed to be registered. In the rural area where I come from, it is said that they are found in Masvingo. From Masvingo to Jerera, it is 100 kilometres. In the area where I preside, it is 100 kilometres away. A person who is there wants to build their house. The amount that these architects charge for the stands in the rural area goes for \$2500-\$3000, did you consider us from the rural

area to continue doing our business? What are you doing to regulate their prices? Thank you.

***THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. DR. GARWE):** Thank you very much Mr. Prethe Senate. Allow me to thank the Senator Chief for the question. The mantra of our President is for us to build our nation, Zimbabwe, so that it will develop just like any other country. Development is not focusing only on building in towns, but also in our rural areas where we come from, so that the houses we build in the rural area will be in line with the development.

The law that is used by the Rural District Council Act explains in detail what is expected when a person is doing construction. I am mainly focusing on the houses that are being built in our rural areas. It is no different from the way we used to construct before; we would just cut some poles, use dagga and build the house. Now, it is done by professionals, those architects who have talked of the engineers working together. The Government said that the council is supposed to have different plans in place, which they give for free to those who want to build. Those who do not want the council plans will then look for the architects who would draw according to their funds. So, that is how we are doing it.

In the Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities, there is a Department of Rural Housing, which says that as people are constructing their houses, also looking at climate change, people are supposed to build strong houses so that if it rains or there are some thunderstorms, the house does not get damaged or affected. So, such plans are drawn by the architects, but we encourage our councils to have different plans which they give for free to Zimbabweans who want to construct in the rural areas.

I request that you write a letter to us stating the council where you come from, so that we can see how we can help you since you work with the Government. Thank you.

HON. SEN. M. NCUBE: My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government. Hon. Minister, we see that some local authorities, particularly urban local authorities, are struggling with service delivery. What steps or policy frameworks are you putting in place to ensure that local authorities align service delivery with national goals, particularly Vision 2030?

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS (HON. DR. GARWE): Thank you Hon. Sen. Eng. Ncube, my former teacher, for a very relevant and good question that he has asked.

We are very much aware of the challenges that our local authorities at the local governance level, as well as the central Government, are going through as a result of sanctions that were imposed upon us as a country.

We are aware of the impact of sanctions on the Government.

However, His Excellency, through his leadership and wisdom, did not just sit and say, let us wait for sanctions to be removed for us to move forward. He said, let us look inwardly; let us use our own resources to better our future and to develop our country from where it is right now, to an upper-middle-income economy by 2030.

Having said that, he then said we now need to focus primarily on local authorities, both urban and rural local authorities, in terms of ensuring that there is adequate service delivery in all the areas of service delivery, be it road maintenance, road rehabilitation, water supply, sewerage, waste collection, management and many others. He then said, our local authorities rely on Treasury disbursements for them to be able to function, therefore, invite the private sector to invest in service delivery. We started with the City of Harare. We are all aware that in the City of Harare, now the capital city, we have the private sector participating in waste management and collection. We also have the private sector working on our water transformation system to ensure that we move from

what we have been experiencing, leakages everywhere or no supply of clean water at all, to digitised water management systems.

He has actually, as a policy, directed the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, together with other ministries that participate in service delivery, to ensure that we invite both domestic and foreign investors to participate in service delivery. He started by calling for action, saying no compromise on service delivery. Last year in September, he pronounced two critical policies. The first one was the minimum service delivery standards. It is now a policy framework. Those who have not seen it, you are free to come to the Ministry and get documents so that you acquaint yourselves, particularly chiefs in your areas of jurisdiction.

There is also the Urban State Land Management Policy. This is how we are now going to be managing urban land, be it under local authorities or under State land in the urban areas, including the peri-urban areas. We have got policies in place already that speak to development, that speak to an upper-middle-income economy status. What is lagging is for the generality of Zimbabweans to join the Government in the implementation as directed by the National Development Strategy 2.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: We have been joined

by yet another Minister, Hon. Kazembe, Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage.

Questions Without Notice were suspended by THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE in terms of Standing Order No. 67.

HON. SEN. CHAPFUDZA: Mr. President, I move for the extension of time for Questions Without Notice by 30 minutes.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: When you ask for extension, you do not actually give me the time. You must get authority first. You get authority first, then I will ask you how many minutes, but you already said 30. I will use the powers vested in me and because today we have more than a dozen ministers, it has never happened since last year. Honestly speaking, I am very excited about that. However, it will not warrant 30 minutes. I will get down a little bit. I will allow 25 minutes.

HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: My question is directed to the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. Given the critical importance of skills development, especially in our quest to attain an upper-middle-income society by 2030, what relationship exists between your Ministry and the Ministry of Skills Audit and Development in the area of assessment and

evaluation of those critical skills necessary for our development and transformation?

THE MINISTER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

EDUCATION (HON. T. MOYO): We have just started implementing the heritage-based curriculum and in our implementation, we are working closely with other sister ministries through a whole-of-Government approach. We work so closely with the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, as well as the Ministry of Skills Audit.

Regarding the issues that he requested, assessment and evaluation, through a whole-of-Government approach, value the inculcation of critical skills in our learners. The Heritage-Based Curriculum emphasises the inculcation of problem-solving skills. We want our students to go the extra mile and dream big in as far as innovation is concerned. We do have programmes that we do jointly with the Ministry of Skills Audit insofar as evaluation and assessment are concerned.

In terms of assessment, because of the new curriculum, we had to replace (CALA), Continuous Assessment Learning Activities and replace it with a school-based project as an assessment tool. The problem with CALA was that students ended up writing as many as 30 or 36, which is why we had to remove. With the implementation of the heritage-based

curriculum, because we emphasise our students to discover new designs, to learn through discovery, to carry out research and innovation in digital libraries, in computer laboratories and science laboratories.

So, we emphasise the importance of students having to identify societal challenges and come up with solutions in order to proffer solutions to the challenges that they encounter. So, through a Whole-of-Government Approach, we have agreed that the way to go is to embark on the school-based project. A teacher is a facilitator of learning and we do not want teachers to do those projects for students. The projects must be unique; as such, each student should identify a challenge that is peculiar to the area where they stay, then try to carry out research and innovation. The issue of skills is important and that is why our President, in his wisdom, had to introduce a new Ministry named Skills Audit. As we offer our services, we evaluate everything, the board of knowledge, the teaching strategy, the pedagogy and so on. So, we work closely with our sister ministries, including the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education and we evaluate everything to look at the strengths and weaknesses of any of our programs that we intend to offer. In that regard, we have seen the new curriculum contributing in a big way to economic development and growth, because we have aligned the new Heritage-Based Curriculum

with the national trajectory of the President, Vision 2030.

If we align with the national trajectory, we can only develop and realize the vision of the President through the power of education because education is an enabler, a tool that we can use to develop and that is why we say, those people who invest in education, prepare for the future. That can only be done when we evaluate the skills that we are offering to our students today. I thank you.

HON. SEN. ZINDI: Thank you Mr. President. I stand guided regarding the Hon. Minister I am going to direct my question to. I am directing this question to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works. As I raise this question, I am raising it with a heavy heart in the sense that we are losing lives, particularly in the capital city of Harare, police chasing after *mushikashikas*. The *mushikashikas*, when they are running away from police, run over people and we lose lives. We are witnessing *kombis* and *mushikashikas* now driving along First Street, which, we all know, we do not have vehicles that move along this street, and this is what is happening today.

So, my question is, why have we deteriorated in terms of managing our local authorities to that extent and what plans are in place to curb the chaos that we are witnessing the loss of lives in Harare? I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC

WORKS (HON. DR. GARWE): Let me start by thanking you, Hon.

President and Hon. Sen. Zindi for a very pertinent question. The issue of our urban local authorities is a problem that we must look at as a whole of society approach, not the Government and local authorities and others. I do not want to repeat what I said in my earlier presentation but I want to say the deterioration in service delivery or the way the local authorities are being run is not the management of local authorities by the Central Government. It is the quality of people that we elected to run our local authorities - [HON. MEMBERS: *Inaudible interjections.*]

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Order! Proceed.

HON. DR. GARWE: It is the truth that will set us free. The quality of people that we chose to run our local authorities, particularly in urban areas, some of whom were working for us in the northern suburbs....

HON. SEN. MANYENGAVANA: Point of Order!

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: You must state the rule that has been breached in the standing order.

HON. SEN. MANYENGAVANA: Thank you Hon. President. I rise on a point of order to the Minister of Local Government and Public Works on his answer, which Zimbabweans are waiting for. Hon. Minister....

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Quote the section that has been breached, that allows you to say out your...

HON. SEN. MANYENGAVANA: Hon. President, I am not the first one to rise on a point of order and this is not the first time that ...

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Order, order! You can take your seat and switch off the mic.

HON. DR. GARWE: Thank you Mr. President. We have a variety of challenges that are facing urban local authorities which are as follows; It starts from the quality of management within the officers running the local authorities, the quality of elected officials that are in the local authorities for example in 2025, His Excellency put a commission of inquiry in place to investigate and recommend the course of action on City of Harare is being managed and that commission has finished its job, the document was submitted to His Excellency. We are going to be meeting soon to get guidance as to the way forward. What I can disclose here is that this is a local authority where one of the senior officials in that local authority even forgot his physical address where he comes from. These are the issues that we are talking about.

How on earth can I forget my physical address and I am expected to be managing a budget of a billion dollars for the city? The other

challenges are a result of the population in our urban areas having increased tremendously to the extent that when they were designed in the 1960s, the infrastructure that was put in place was to cater for people less than a million. For instance, Harare was to cater for about 600 people, the white community that was living in Harare. Now we have per family, three to four cars, yet the road was designed to cater for maybe 10 cars. The quality of our roads needs revisitation. The quality of water supply systems, which we are now working on and the quality of sewer management systems, every service requires rehabilitation. These are some of the challenges that we are looking at in terms of the infrastructure. However, be that as it may, in 2022, the President came up with a policy of densification. What we did not do when we looked at densification is that densification in terms of cluster development so that we could provide more accommodation for people.

As Minister for Local Government, we take responsibility to improve the attendant services in the areas where the cluster development was taking place, attendant services in terms of the road network, water, sewer and so on. Those remained at the stage where they were designed in the 70s. Yet where there was one house, we now have 25 houses, 25 houses where one house has a minimum of maybe seven people.

We are now working on what we are calling urban transformation, looking primarily to ensure that we upgrade the road network system, water supply, sewer and even the waste collection systems. This is how we are now tackling the problems that are there in the local authorities. As to *mushika-shikas*, police chasing *mushika-shikas*, I think we also have a challenge...

HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI: Mr. President, on a point of privilege.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Point of privilege.

HON. SEN. ZVIDZAI: Thank you very much Mr. President. I would like this House to understand and know that the Local Government Act which is administered by the same Minister who is speaking, the Minister of Local Government prescribes that the qualification of a Zimbabwean to be a councillor is X/Y/Z. The qualification for a Zimbabwean to be a mayor is X/Y/Z. It is perfectly within his realm to go back to the Act, revise it and recommend what would be best for the sector.

My question, therefore is, I am worried that he comes here to lament instead of bringing forth solutions that can assist, not only the urban local authorities but the sector and the nation as a whole. I think it adds no value to this House and to the nation, for a whole Minister appointed by a

whole esteemed President, to bring nothing to this House except tears. We desire ministers who bring solutions – [HON. SENATORS: *Hear, hear.*] – not ministers that bring dams of tears to this august House. It helps us with nothing at all. Mr. President, this is my presentation. I would love to hear the Minister presenting solutions rather than exhibiting copious amounts of tears. Thank you.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Your point of privilege has been noted perfectly well and I will allow the Minister to proceed.

HON. DR. GARWE: Thank you Senate President. I just want to correct the statement that was made that I came here to lament. I did not lament at all...

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Hon. Minister, proceed to answer the question that has been asked by Hon. Senator Zindi.

HON. DR. GARWE: Thank you very much Senate President. We need to increase our enforcement laws. Those who are responsible for ensuring that laws are enforced must enforce; *mushika-shikas* are not allowed to drive on pavements. They are not allowed to drive on certain streets, like First Street. It is an enforcement issue more than anything

else. Thank you very much.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Since this is a very important question, Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, would you have one or two words to say on that same question from Hon. Senator Zindi.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (HON. KAZEMBE): Thank you Mr. Senate President, and allow me also to thank Hon. Senator Zindi for such a pertinent question. I think the bigger part has been responded to by Hon. Minister Garwe. The other part was referring to the issue of the number of deaths or accidents, rather than as a result of police officers chasing *kombi* drivers. As said, it is regrettable that we end up losing lives in a situation that can be avoided. However, for us to lay the whole blame on the police, the law enforcement agency who we are expecting to enforce the law may not be very fair. By law, whoever is accused must cooperate with the police officer.

Whenever you are stopped at a roadblock, or for whatever reason, by a police officer, it is very clear that the law stipulates that you must abide by the instructions that you have been given and you must cooperate. However, why then do our *kombi* drivers decide to drive away, risking the lives of those they are driving? Then, at the end of the day, it is

the police officer who is lawfully and dutifully enforcing the law as per their mandate. It would appear that we now want to side with those who are breaking the law. Having said that, we do not expect our law officers or police officers to go that route if it is not safe for the people.

However, we should encourage motorists, pedestrians and everybody else to abide by the law. When a police officer stops you, just stop and cooperate. Why are you running away? Why are you risking the lives of those that you are supposed to be saving? Having said that, Mr. President, going forward, we realise that we need to do something about this situation. In my view, I believe that the best solution is technology. I have spoken about this before and I promise you, it is not a talk show. As a Government, we have now gone a step further in ensuring that we deploy appropriate technology to deal with this menace. Not only this, but any violation of the traffic laws. We are now deploying intelligence cameras on our streets and at all the hot spots. We are deploying what we call an electronic traffic management system. We have spoken about this before and I am glad to inform this House that this is work in progress. The Cabinet approved the project and the Zimbabwe Republic Police has already signed an agreement with our own local TelOne. TelOne has developed the technology, and they are implementing the technology.

As I am speaking right now, they have already been funded and they have procured the equipment which we are expecting to be in the country. The first phase, that is, maybe May thereabout and by mid-year, we should have deployed the first phase of this system. The beauty of it is that it will take care of these issues. It will detect and record any violation of the traffic laws without any human interference. If you are driving in the opposite direction, in the wrong lane, the cameras will detect that and they will be able to identify your vehicle and who is driving in the opposite lane and instantly issue a ticket without the involvement of a human being. That way, we will ensure that nobody runs away from the offence they commit or the laws that they are breaking and most importantly, there is no human interference and that way, we believe we will have dealt with corruption. I so submit.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Despite my having a very long list of Members who wanted to ask questions, we have to end here. What is left is for me to thank the Hon. Ministers who were here. Honestly speaking, this is the first time that we have had such a large number of ministers, despite the normal phase that we have always. Today, it has been very pleasing. No wonder I ended up going up to 30 minutes extra. Thank you very much.