

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Wednesday, 3rd October, 2018

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

PRAYERS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

INVITATION TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

THE HON. PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: I have to inform the House that the Ministry of Home Affairs is inviting all Hon. Members from Matebeleland South Province and other provinces to a belated commemoration of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons to be held on Saturday, 6th October, 2018, at Dulivadzimu Stadium in Beitbridge. The guest of honour will be Honourable Vice President K. C. D. Mohadi. The event will be preceded by a march within the streets

of Beitbridge to the stadium. However, due to resource constraints, the Ministry is not able to meet the costs of attendance by Hon. Members

MOTION

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH: DEBATE ADDRESS

First Order read: Adjourned debate on motion in reply to the Presidential Speech.

Question again proposed.

***HON. SEN. MATIIRIRA:** Thank you Madam President for giving me this opportunity. Firstly, I want to applaud the President for his resounding success and winning the 2018 elections. I also want to congratulate you Madam President for being elected President of the Senate as well as your Deputy Hon. Nyambuya. I want to debate the speech that was presented by the President in this House.

Madam President, we are happy and appreciate the issues that were tabled by the President of the nation. If we look at some of the issues he mentioned, a lot of issues are biased towards the development of the nation. We want to thank him for that.

I want to say a little about the Mines and Minerals Act. That Act is important and we are happy that it will lead to peace in this country.

Different areas in this country are being mined for precious minerals.

We are hoping that the environmental challenges that we are facing will be addressed by this Act because people were mining everywhere and that was causing danger to people and animals in those areas. We hope that that Act will bring some sanity into the mining sector. I am also happy because we have women in this country who are into mining but could not venture fully into mining because of so many challenges.

Women want to fend for themselves and most of them source livelihood from mining but they were facing challenges that they could mine in a lawful manner and were literally artisanal miners. There are so many women who are looking after orphans and when they engaged in mining, it was declared illegal and could not fend for these orphans. This Act will address some of these challenges.

I am also happy about what the President said in this House. He introduced the Women's Bank. We are seeing results. Women are

getting loans from the Women's Bank and are borrowing in groups.

They can also get the loan as miners and mine in groups. This will assist them in sourcing some earnings to look after their children. I believe the women are very happy about it and to them it is a welcome development.

Lastly, I want to say that my hope is that as the upper House, we be united and pass laws that will lead to the development of the nation. I want to say that we will do our work for the development of the country. With these few words, I want to thank you Madam President.

HON. SEN. MATHUTHU: Thank you Madam President. Let me start by congratulating His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe for winning the July 30 harmonised elections. I also want to congratulate you Madam President and your deputy for being elected to lead this august House. I also want to congratulate my fellow Senators for making it to this House.

Madam President, may I take this opportunity to express my views on the Presidential Speech. The President touched on a number of issues

which, if fully implemented, would make the Zimbabwe we all want.

Madam President, I will touch on a few. You will all agree with me that agriculture is the mainstay of our economy in Zimbabwe. Therefore, it is important that our farmers need to be empowered and capacitated.

I would like to thank the President for coming up with the programme on Command Agriculture that has made a big difference throughout the country. Madam President, I would like to comment on Command Livestock; when this programme was introduced, we thought it was meant to assist those in our communities without livestock, but one requirement that, in order to benefit one must have a stock-record card has dampened the spirit of our people. Can the responsible department of Government revisit the requirements issue in order for those communities without the requirement to benefit as well.

Madam President, on the devolution of power, this is the best way to empower communities in all our provinces as this would see the total participation of these communities in various aspects of development, budget formulation, decision making and reduction of poverty. Madam

President, I would like to conclude my maiden speech by encouraging my fellow Senators in this august House to be united in order to make a better Zimbabwe.

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

HON. SEN. S. NCUBE: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Thursday, 4th October, 2018.

*On the motion of **HON. SEN. MUZENDA**, seconded by **HON. SEN. MOHADI**, the Senate adjourned at a Quarter to Three o'clock p.m.*