

# PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

*Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2012.*

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

## PRAYERS

(MADAM PRESIDENT *in the Chair*)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MADAM PRESIDENT

### INVITATION BY ZIMBABWE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

(ZIFA)

**MADAM PRESIDENT:** I have to inform the Senate that the Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) will be hosting the 2013 and 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil Qualifier matches in June 2012. ZIFA is inviting all parliamentarians to attend the home matches. ZIFA has also requested Parliamentarians to take part in an exclusion match between Parliament of Zimbabwe and the

Captains of Industry select side on the occasion of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil Qualifier Match between Zimbabwe and Guinea on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2012.

All members who are interested in taking part in the exclusion match should register their names with Hon. Chitando, Hon. Saruwaka, Hon. Mpukuta and Hon. Senator Chief Musarurwa.

#### SWITCHING OFF OF CELLPHONES

**MADAM PRESIDENT:** May I finally remind hon. senators to please switch off your cell phones before the commencement of business.

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**SENATOR CHIEF NGUNGUBANE:** Thank you Madam President, I would want to direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister Prof. Author Mutambara. My question has to do with ZESA. Deputy Prime Minister, ZESA has just released a load

shedding programme that would see households, industries going for nine hours without electricity.

We want to find out what the Government is doing to seriously address the problems of ZESA; it seems they are getting worse by the day.

Secondly, what is the Government doing to address the pleas and the plights of the people who are complaining of high bills from ZESA? Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF.**

**MUTAMBARA):** Thank you Madam President. I want to thank the hon. senator for that question and the issues that he raised are being addressed by this Government at three levels. The first level is on short term measures to address those matters that he raises. The second level is medium term plans and then we also have a long term vision to address the challenges around energy.

In terms of short term measures, we are pushing for the immediate introduction of prepaid meters, these will ensure that

people are charged for the electricity that they do use and it also ensures that we can budget and manage our electricity better. We are also pushing for a better collective mechanism and billing mechanism, improving on our billing, improving on our collection of bills so that we can effectively manage the electricity situation in the country.

We are working on the demand side management in addition to addressing the supply side of our electricity. So in the short run, we are very concerned about the issues he has raised particularly the nine hours, but it is a fire fighting mechanism we have put in place so that somehow between households and industry, we can share the little power we have in the country.

For you to understand the challenges we have, our requirements are something like 2 200mega watts and we are only producing roughly 1 600 mega watts. So we have a shortfall of almost 50% of our needs, in fact when our industries are fully functioning, we require about 5 000 mega watts. So we have a

major challenge around generation, around the amount of power we have in the country.

In the medium term, we intend to optimize the thermal plants we have, work on Hwange South and Hwange North, and make sure that those plants – because they are operating at about 60%, some cases 40% capacity. So we want to improve on the capacity utilization of the existing generators and also improve on our inefficiency there-of in terms of transmission and distribution. Those are the issues around the medium term plan.

In the long run, the future is hydro electric power. The future is Batoka but Batoka has to involve us and Zambia. It will take 7 years to operationalise, but we are saying let us start today. Let us agree and start working on Batoka so that in 7 years time, we will be generating 600watts in new power. Those are the long term issues.

Beyond Batoka, there is great INGA DRC. The INGA project is very important to use because it will generate enough power for the entire region of the African Continent. Remember the future of

Zimbabwe is not Zimbabwe. The future of Zimbabwe is SADC, COMESA, is the African Continent. We will not make under globalisation as 12 million people, that is too small a number. We will not make it as Botswana 2 million people, even South Africa, it is chicken change, 50 million people, a GDP of 357 billion dollars. It is nothing compared to China's 5 trillion dollars, 1.3 billion people. What are we pushing forward now is to say let us understand our energy requirements, our economic requirements in terms of SADC, COMESA and African Continent. In SADC we are talking about 250 million Africans, in COMESA we are talking about 400 million people and in the triple FTA SADC, COMESA, EAC 600 million people. Those are the numbers that make sense under globalization in the African Continent, a billion Africans. The long term solution to energy in SADC, in COMESA and Africa is the INGA project. As you can imagine, it involves a lot of countries. It has been talked about for so many years and there is no traction.

I am coming back from the world Economic Forum in Addis Ababa where there is now strong emphasis at the AU and in NEPAD to say let us get our act together around Great INGA and Great INGA will be the solution for the African energy situation.

In summary, short term measures are going to be around demand sign management and to make sure that people are charged for what they have consumed. We also need to improve on our efficiencies within these generating plants. We need to work on our hydro power around Batoka and INGA. Of course we have coal in the country but coal power is very expensive and also with environmental challenges and climate change agenda, the migration is towards hydro power, solar power and also nuclear power. We have uranium, tantalite, lithium in this country we can, at some point, work on our uranium and have nuclear power, nuclear energy for civilian applications.

I want to thank the hon. senator for that question but the Minister of Energy will be able to give you more details about what we are doing to address that challenge. I thank you Madam President.

**SENATOR MARAVA:** My question is directed to the DPM. We are very grateful about the Grain Loan Scheme that is taking place right now across the country especially in the Regions IV and V where hunger is devastating there. My question is what plans are there to ensure that the little which is available right now reaches the intended beneficiaries and what plans, long term, are there to ensure that the nation will survive into the next harvest? Because right now as we speak DPM, there is very little that is reaching the people and we are only in May and hunger is going to take its toll as we go further towards August, September and November. It is bad already. What plans are there to avert this terrible disaster?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF. MUTAMBARA):**

I want to thank the hon. senator for that question. The challenges we are facing with the scheme is that, we call it a grain loan scheme, but in some cases people will not be able to pay back because they will not be able to generate enough grain to pay back. There is a flaw in the model at the beginning. Others yes, will get the grain and be able to raise some

grain and pay back. We must find some mechanism to have the grain go to people who are hungry, who are starving, who have no capacity to pay back. We must address that challenge. At the same time, we must make sure that there is an effective way of distributing the grain so that the grain reaches the majority of our people. In other words, whatever the little we have is equitably distributed among Zimbabweans.

The starting point is to understand the areas of plenty where we have managed to get a good crop and areas where we have not managed to get a good crop so that we can move grain from areas of plenty to areas of want and also now think differently and say in the situation where the people are not able to pay back, what system do we put in place to ensure that those without capacity to pay back are also assisted. We are now linking the Grain Loan Scheme to the scheme for the vulnerable because quite a number of our people are going to be vulnerable. Even those who were traditionally able to feed themselves might not be able to do so this year. We are working with the Ministry

of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Transport to find an effective way of addressing the challenge that the hon. member raises.

Beyond this, we need a long term solution. We must move away from this culture of fire fighting. Did we not know that we are going to go through a season? Did we not have the capacity to predict? We must have a 3 year rolling agricultural policy framework where we plan for agriculture in 3 years. Meaning, the money for 2014 must be discussed now so that come 2014, we deliver the cash. As opposed to say we are running around looking for seed, fertilizer just before planting. Right now we are talking about winter wheat, the date was 15 May but we are still discussing fertilizers. It is a travesty of justice in this country. It is a terrible indictment of my Government, guilty as charged. We have got to get organized so that we plan in advance, 3 years, a 3 year agricultural policy and also the funding mechanism to go with the 3 years.

Part 2, we must understand that we are an agriculture driven economy. We must put our money where our mouth is, meaning let us make the resources required for agriculture available. Why, because

agriculture supports 70% of our people, agriculture contributes 35% of our GDP. We are going to make sure that from a planning point of view, in the budget, in our calculation, in our planning, we put enough resources into agriculture so that we are able to produce enough food for ourselves as a country and actually export food. More importantly, even go into agro processing but these are now long term things so that never again in this country, do we have a conversation about hunger when it is happening. We must have enough grain, we must be able to plan and be proactive and make sure agriculture in this country is productive and we are producing enough grain for ourselves and for our export.

Beyond Government, we must make sure that we understand agriculture as a business. The model that says Government shall provide is a flawed model. Yes, we are going to subsidize, put some money as Government, but we must also encourage and facilitate private sector funding of agriculture. These banks, Barclays, Standard Chartered, MBCA, Stanbic must back agriculture. If they do not, we must take action against them. The banks in this country are very reactionary, they

are very conservative, in particular the foreign banks. They do not support agriculture. In fact, maybe they disagree with the land reform programme anyway, and their masters do anyway. I am coming from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, they do not allow foreign banks. Melez Zanabwi does not allow foreign banks. There is no Barclays, there are national banks and they are private banks owned by Ethiopians and that financial sector framework support their agriculture, supports medium, small enterprises, SMEs and micro small medium enterprises. Finance is made available for the small players.

One thing we are going to do is to find sticks and carrots to encourage the financial sector to support agriculture. When we say to support agriculture, we are not talking about charity when they put into agriculture, maize wheat, cotton, tobacco, there are able to make profit they do not know how to fund agriculture or they have no confidence in agriculture. Money must come from this Government, money must come from the private sector so we are going to be working on these things so that in the long run, we are not fire fighting for food security.

We are not discussing fertilizer for wheat just a day before the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. So the Government is seized with the matter and we are going to make sure that we put in this 3 year rolling plan for agriculture and funding is discussed 2 years before the year comes in. We are going to encourage our banks and have major financial sector reforms, new laws new statutes, new policy and new value in the financial sector so that this sector supports agriculture, mining, macro mining and micro small medium enterprises in our country. Madam President I want to thank you for this opportunity to answer the question.

**SENATOR MARAVA:** I do not know whether the Deputy Prime Minister is implying that we have got no funds set aside to avert this hunger or do we have something, if so what is it? What provision have we got now to serve Zimbabwe?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF. MUTAMBARA):**  
I want to thank the hon. member for that question; yes we do have a facility and cash they were using to fund the grain loan scheme. What I am saying to you is by definition, the grain loan scheme says you get

grain you pay back the grain. The state of affairs in the country is that some members of our society will not have the capacity so we must revise this. Part two, we must make sure that whatever we have in this bag is equitably distributed in the country because hunger is all over the country so let us not just favour one region and leave other regions. More importantly, let us remove politics from the distribution of the grain.

Zimbabweans are Zimbabweans there is no one who is more Zimbabwean than the other. We are all Zimbabweans and we must understand that. When we have grain loan schemes, they must not be partisan, it must be national in context, we do have the cash but it is not enough. However, we are going to address this issue of hunger I am challenging myself as the Deputy Prime Minister to say you are not doing enough, why are you fire fighting, did you know there is a potential for hunger where is your planning mechanism. Why are you providing fertilizer a day before 15 May, why are you discussing winter

wheat when this fertilizer is due. So in the long run we must do better planning. Thank you.

**\*SENATOR CHABUKA:** As legislators we get the opportunity to go around Zimbabwe to look at the places and the people that we lead. Through the Committees, we have visited the resettlement areas which are in a sorry state, and as Government do you get that chance to go around and look at the children who are in those areas. They do not have schools and the teachers there walk for 20km to go to schools, children there live in round huts and they sit on bricks and we are talking about education which is very important. As Government what are we seeing and what are our views because it is not a good for us parents who have children in that situation. We have so many minerals and our country is very rich as Zimbabweans. The children and teachers plight are in a sorry state. You find that even teachers do not have decent accommodation and do not even have beds and children are being raped in those areas because they walk long distances of 20km to go to schools.

Some children are HIV positive and they cannot walk for those long distances. As Government, what are you doing? Are there any plans for the good education of those children? Thank you.

**\*MADAM PRESIDENT:** Thank you for your question but I think we must make our questions short so that everyone can have the opportunity because we have limited time. I know you really wanted the Deputy Prime Minister to understand.

**\*THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF. MUTAMBARA):** Madam President, I want to thank the hon. member for that question. What we are saying is we are in a three armed State Government, the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive, they work together. As Parliament, if we see something, we must bring it to the Executive so that they should do their party. When you get your views, you take them to the relevant ministries and then they address those challenges. Thank you for your observations but when you observe such things, you must bring them to the attention of the Government. We must work together as one. You know that education is the only

way out of poverty because if you give a child education, you have removed that person from poverty because most of us are where we are because of education.

As a nation, we should make sure that we have availed the opportunity for each and every child to go through primary, high school and tertiary education because that is the only gate way from poverty. I am very happy about what you have observed, we will take it up with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance because if we deprive our children of education we would have killed them.

**\*MADAM PRESIDENT:** I thank the Deputy Prime Minister for the question because we are what we are today because of education.

**SENATOR CHIMBUDZI:** My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Prof. Mutambara. What is Government's position with regards to homosexuality where other countries in the world are sitting on the fence while others are still yawning?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF. MUTAMBARA):** Madam President, for those who did not understand the question, what is Government's policy on homosexuality where other countries are sitting on the fence and others taking positions?

I am a super democrat and I believe in democratic processes and defending our processes. We are in the process right now of crafting a new Constitution. We went to the people and they spoke and we are busy putting together a Constitution. Some of the issues that are being debated right now are around that subject, around devolution, structure of Government, dual citizenship. I think it will be prejudicial and irresponsible of me as a top leader, to start prescribing positions because if I declare that position right now, the Constitution will be changed because I have lots of influence.

So, I do not want to abuse my influence. I will speak after the people have spoken. I will speak when the draft has been published, as a super democrat. I thank you Madam President.

**\*SENATOR KATYAMAENZA:** Thank you Madam President. I do not know what you are doing up there concerning accidents because there are black spots?

**\*THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF. MUTAMBARA):** Thank you Madam President for affording me this opportunity to respond to this question concerning accidents. We are really moved by that because we are losing a lot of people on our roads. What we are saying is, honestly, is there anything that we can do, but what we are saying is that those who are involved in accidents can be provided with transport to go to the hospital - assistance by Accidents Mitigation Assistance. Some people die because there are no ambulances that could reach that place or the police did not have fuel to get to that place. What we are saying is, as a nation we should be ready for those disasters so that if we face disasters, people should be ferried to hospitals quickly. We are working closely with Minister Goche so that the Accident Mitigation Accident be put in place.

Secondly, we are saying why should we have accidents because our roads should be in good condition. We should prevent those accidents, that is the most important thing. What we are saying is that there should be good laws so that people who drive on those roads should be qualified. They should have licences. That is what we are doing as a Government concerning prevention. The Minister of Transport is working flat out concerning that issue so that bus drivers and car drivers should not be involved in accidents.

We are also looking at regional level, how our neighbours are handling situations like that because as Government, we are really saddened by accidents. Thank you Madam President.

**\*SENATOR MUCHIHWA:** My question is directed to Hon. Minister Goche but I think the DPM can answer that question. My question refers to the licences which were paid to the local councils but now it is being paid to the Ministry of Transport. So, are they paying the

councils so that they mend our roads? Are they putting anything to the councils so that they will be able to revamp our roads?

**\*THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF. MUTAMBARA):** That question is very pertinent. What you have talked about is all being done. Some money should remain at the centre because it helps all the people in Zimbabwe. Some of the money is disbursed to the district levels because some of the projects can be taken care of at provincial level and some at district level, but there are certain percentages that are given. When it comes to transport, it is taken care of by the Minister at head office, but it is the officers down there who look at it. Thank you.

**SENATOR A. SIBANDA:** I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister Prof. Mutambara. I would like to ask specifically for Bulawayo, where you can say Bulawayo is a dead City. Most of the industries have closed down. What happened to the \$40 million that was allocated to

reinstall all the things that are not working in Bulawayo? What exactly is happening to the City of Bulawayo?

**\*THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF. MUTAMBARA):** If someone can translate for me.

**SENATOR HLALO:** The gist of the question was that there was mention of \$40 million for the distressed industries and initially it was in Bulawayo but at a later stage, it was then spread all over the country. The gist of the matter is that Bulawayo is dying. She wants to know what happened to the money which was promised by Government that it would help Bulawayo industries so that children or people from Bulawayo could have jobs, which in turn would prevent them from going out of the country. This is about assisting Bulawayo's companies which have just gone under.

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF. MUTAMBARA):** I want to thank the hon. senator for that question. I will start by outlining the framework which Government put in place when they came up with

DMAF and then I will address the challenges that DMAF has had since its inception.

We are pushing a philosophy of development in the country where we are putting the country into clusters. Kadoma, becomes a cotton cluster, Chiadzwa, a diamond cluster, Ngezi/Chegutu, a platinum cluster, Hwange/Victoria Falls, a tourism and hospitality cluster and Bulawayo becomes a heavy industry cluster. We are doing these clusters to ensure that every part of our country has some industrial activity going on. Once we have identified, for example Chegutu-Ngezi as the Platinum cluster, we then say let us do whatever is necessary to ensure that the Platinum cluster is functional. The infrastructure required, the manufacturing required, the human capital development, the value addition required so that the Ngezi-Chegutu cluster works. For Bulawayo we have said Bulawayo is the center of heavy industries in Zimbabwe. Bulawayo must survive. If Bulawayo does not survive Zimbabwe cannot survive.

Having identified all these clusters, we have said that you cannot do everything, you must focus. Pick a particular area, do well in that area and then after that, move to another cluster. So we identified Bulawayo and said why not fix the companies in Bulawayo. Why not put money in Bulawayo so that Bulawayo can survive and be vibrant as the heavy industry cluster for Zimbabwe. That is how we came up with US\$40 million for Bulawayo, US\$20 million coming from the private sector and US\$20 million coming from the Government. And we said forget Mutare, Harare and Gweru. Let us concentrate on one aspect – Bulawayo. Once we are done and Bulawayo is moving, then we can move on to other areas because when you spread yourself too thin, you end up being unproductive. That was the philosophy and the psychology behind the DMAF strategy.

What has been the problem? The problem has been the slow delivery of that cash from Government and that from the private sector, I think CABS, Old Mutual and others have come with very stringent conditions which the companies which are in distress cannot satisfy. It

is almost like someone is in hospital and we say if you want to be treated, show that you can run a marathon, show that you are fit. It is an oxymoronic framework that is insisted on the companies to demonstrate a balance sheet – show that you are profitable. They cannot show that because they are in distress. So, we are trying to regularise that constraint that challenge which is being presented by those banks. I said our banks are very conservative and insensitive to the aspirations of our people.

So, we have had two problems. The first is the stringent conditions being put on the companies before they can access the money and then secondly, our Government has been very slow in making our US\$20 million available but we are very determined to ensure that Bulawayo is vibrant because it is the industrial hub of Zimbabwe and if we cannot fix Bulawayo, we cannot fix Zimbabwe.

After we are done with Bulawayo, we can move to the other clusters that I have indicated. That is the background and the challenges we are experiencing but the Ministry of Industry and the Minister of

Finance are working together to ensure that the money is made available. These draconian and unrealistic conditions are modified so that the companies in Bulawayo can easily access the cash they need and we can have the revitalisation of Bulawayo. I want to thank you hon.

Member for that question.

**SENATOR HLALO:** My question is about the image of Members of Parliament when they get out of the country, especially in South Africa. I have heard colleagues ask for diplomatic passports. Sometimes I would wonder how they could do that but I had a nasty experience where I was treated like a criminal despite showing them my I. D as a Member of Parliament. Can something be done to have that protocol which is commensurate with our status in the country?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF. MUTAMBARA):**

That is a very good question. I will go back to my framework. We live in a constitutional democracy where we have the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive. These three pillars are equal, there is no superior pillar because there are checks and balances between

Parliament and the Executive, the Judiciary and the Executive. So, what I am emphasising is that we must make sure that whatever benefits, whatever little we have is shared equitably between the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature. If I was to go into a discussion of which is superior, I would say that Parliament is superior. Why? Because the Executive is drawn from Parliament. Without Parliament there is no Executive. What I am emphasising is that we are going to take it up with Government. If Deputy Ministers have Diplomatic Passports, why can we not extend the same arrangement to the Judiciary, why can we not extend the same facility to Parliament? What would be lost? Remember we are in a constitutional democracy with checks and balances and those three pillars, in my mind, are equally important. So I think it is a question of reform on our part to ensure that even in terms of benefits or even in terms of the travel allowances, why can we not have a sensitivity to the supreme organ of state, to me, which is Parliament because the people have deposited their authority to Parliament. These are the people who are elected by the people. So, I have a problem sometimes when we in the Executive, because we control the pace tend

to be a bit disrespectful to Parliament. I want to personally take up that matter and see what is the problem, why can we not have a diplomatic passport for a Member of Parliament? What is the big deal? So, I will work on it, Madam President, within the confinements of my lots of powers and see what I can do.

**\*SENATOR CHIEF DANDAWA:** My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. From Hurugwe, from Karoi there is no hospital which can give assistance as Chidamoyo Hospital because the roads are bad, the ambulances cannot reach people around that area. So, I am asking you to approach the Minister that at least roads should be constructed so that people can go to the hospitals. People from Midlands cannot cross because there is no bridge. Some people are dying across the bridge. Do you have plans to construct a bridge?

My other question is about cotton growers. Where we are coming from there is a lot of outcry because the prices are not very favourable and so people are not happy. They cannot send their children to school because the money that they are getting from selling cotton is not

favourable. What plans do you have concerning those farmers? Thank you.

**\*MADAM PRESIDENT:** I think we want to help each other.

We should ask questions that have to do with policy because some of the questions that I am hearing do not have anything to do with policy.

Some of those questions are directed to specific ministers. So, I just have to remind you.

**\*THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (PROF.**

**MUTAMBARA):** Thank you Madam President, your question is very

wide. I think it has to be directed to the Minister of Transport because

what you have talked about is very specific, so the Deputy Prime

Minister is too big for that. What I can say is, we believe that our people

should have good roads because without good roads there is no

development. Hospitals and schools which are well equipped so, from

policy levels we make sure that all our provinces have access to road,

schools and good hospitals. So, I work very hard to ensure the ministers

concerned would look into those areas.

What you have talked about concerning cotton is very sad because we were talking about it very recently but tobacco we found that there are some improvements, but when it comes to cotton I think we have failed. I think the Minister Hon. Made, we have to sit down with the growers, the ginneries - all the players involved so that we can come up with a way, our cotton growers are paid well. This is what is happening in tobacco. If we have done it to tobacco growers why can we not do it to cotton growers?

We should take what we have done to tobacco and implement it to cotton growers as well. What we are saying is all the farmers should go to the market and get what is favourable. There should be fair play. In Ethiopia you will find that their growers whether it is coffee or wheat, they are getting a lot of money. So that is what we are talking about. We started on Tuesday engaging in those issues because we want cotton growers to get favourable cash.

**SENATOR CHIEF NGUNGUBANE:** Thank you Madam President, I will give the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister a break and direct

my question to the Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Advocate Matinenga. There is talk that there will be a draft Constitution that will be produced. I want to find out from the Minister whether this draft Constitution is going to be produced in all indigenous languages? Furthermore, are they going to engage experts and technocrats in those particular languages because what we saw during the outreaches, some of the languages were foreign and too abstract.

**THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (ADV. MATINENGA):** Madam President, I thank Chief Ngungubane for that question and observation. When you make a Constitution in particular you want that document to be available to everybody. Not only should we limit ourselves to a Constitutional document but this should apply to all laws in the country. There is desire by every right thinking person Zimbabwe that as far as possible let us make this supreme document available to all sectors of our society. I am aware that Hon. Chief that you have expressed concern about the manner in which the outreach documents were

interpreted and I think in the discussion that we had the other day, I indicated that we will be quite happy if persons who have got the expertise are suggested to us for this interpretation or translation.

We want to be able to capture the sense of the document in its letter and spirit. Indeed that is what we want to have. I am sure those persons with expertise are able to assist us in this regard. We actually invite any member of this House who believe he or she is an expert in these languages to approach us, during this process so that as we move we are moving not as individual entities but as a whole Zimbabwe. I thank you.

**SENATOR MAKUYANA:** Thank you Madam President. My question is directed to the DPM. I have two questions, the first one concerns rural roads. Are there funds set aside? My second question pertains to the industries. We know that in Zimbabwe we have freedom of association to join any trade union. As Government we are facing problems that you can join any trade union but our workers are divided due to unions. We are urging Government to be involved because there

is no productivity right now because workers are not seen from the same level.

If we look at the employment councils we see that councils have too many rights, too much freedom to do whatever they want, which is depriving the workers. So we are urging the Government to intervene. The first one concerning roads, yes we have funds which we have set aside for the rehabilitation of rural roads. These monies have been set aside to also look at the urban and the money is not enough and it is not being used efficiently.

The challenge that we are facing is that of funding so we have to look for more funding so that the roads will be maintained. As you can see the Government cannot do it. Also we should look at other funding as well like the private sector to chip in and help even if we extend that to district level. If donors are not willing to go to rural areas, then they can concentrate in the urban areas then the money will be used to correctly.

The question that you have asked is very difficult because if you want the Government to arbitrate in the unions, it will be very difficult but I think we should leave that to the workers as well. As you know even in our political parties we have factions but who is helping you? I think that one we should leave it to workers. It is their own baby because if Government chips in it means they will be interfering. The interference may look good for now but in the future it will be negative. I think workers should be independent, they should unite because if they are divided they will undermine themselves.

What we can do is to just persuade them. If we use our powers, I do not think it will work. I think we should encourage them to work out their differences. Factions are not good even in our political parties but the Government cannot dictate which is the good faction. So, we should help each other as Zimbabweans. As workers there should be one body, and as nurses there should be one organisations so that they negotiate.

ZCTU the same concerning policy we believe that our people should have good roads because without roads there is no development,

hospitals and schools which are well equipped. So from policy levels we make sure that all our provinces have access to good roads, good schools and good hospitals. So I will work very hard to ensure that the Ministers concerned look in those areas.

What you have talked about concerning cotton is very sad because we were talking about it recently in tobacco, there are some improvements in cotton. I think we have failed but the Minister Hon. Made I think we have to sit down with the growers, the ginneries, all the players involved so that we can come up with a way, so that our cotton growers are paid well just like what is happening with tobacco farmers. If we have done it with tobacco, why can we not do it to cotton growers? We should take what we have done to tobacco and implement it to cotton growers as well. What we are saying is all the farmers should go on the market and there should be fair play. In Ethiopia you find that their growers whether it is coffee or wheat, they are getting a lot of money. So that is what we are talking about. We started on Tuesday

engaging on those issues because we also want cotton growers to get favourable cash.

**MADAM PRESIDENT:** Thank you Hon. Deputy Prime Minister for having availed yourself to this House this afternoon. It has been our wish since 2008, to have people from the Executive, starting from the Prime Minister's department which is the two Deputy Prime Ministers and the Prime Minister. So, this is why today is a special day for us and we thank you.

*Questions Without Notice were interrupted by* **MADAM PRESIDENT** *in terms of Standing Order No. 34*

## **MOTION**

**FIRST REPORT OF THE THEMATIC COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE STATE OF PRISONS AND PRISONERS IN ZIMBABWE**

First Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the First Report of the Thematic Committee on Human Rights on the state of Prisons and Prisoners in Zimbabwe.

Question again proposed.

**THE GOVERNOR FOR MATABELAND NORTH:** I move that the debate do now adjourn.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012.

## **MOTION**

### **MEASURES TO CURB DRAUGHT**

Second Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the harsh climatic conditions in Region 5.

Question again proposed.

**THE GOVERNOR FOR MATABELELAND NORTH:** I move that the debate do now adjourn.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012.

## **MOTION**

### **FIRST REPORT OF THE THEMATIC COMMITTEE ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION IN RESETTLED AREAS**

Third Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the First Report of the Thematic Committee on Millennium Development Goals on the Provision of Education in Resettled Areas.

Question again proposed.

**\*SENATOR MANYERUKE:** I would like to thank the Report which was tabled by this Committee through their Chairman Senator Chitaka. This Committee shows that they have got a lot of work to do because they have to go around all the areas – the resettled areas.

Education is the backbone of our nation so that people will get good jobs. In Muzarabani, we have children who are still walking long

distances to schools; you will find out that our children are being raped because they walk through tall grasses. They walk a lot of kilometers about 10 to 15km. Now children are delayed to go to grade one because parents are afraid because of the long distances and the parents cannot accompany their children to schools, so no one is there to accompany them. Being resettled is not a problem at all but we are urging the Ministry of Education so that they build their schools near to the resettled areas so that children do not walk long distances and go to school at the right age.

Long time ago, children used to go to school around 9 – 10 years but these days you find that children are going to school between 4 – 5 years. So when they get to those schools, there are no proper classrooms, they use the former compounds which are dark and very small and it is very painful to visit those schools because you can only see by the flag that it is a school. When you go there, you are only satisfied that it is a school when you see the dedicated teachers who are

qualified. We are urging our Government through the Ministry of Education that those schools be brought near to the resettlement areas.

If you take a child from such schools, I took my grand child from such a school; you find that she was troubled because when she got into schools in the urban areas, she was afraid. She was intimidated because of the big classroom. We urge this Committee not to tire but to go around the whole country and not just focus on one area. Thank you Madam President.

**\*SENATOR MUCHIHWA:** Thank you Madam President and also the members of this Committee and the Chairman Hon. Chitaka. I would like to go back a little to the areas where I visited during COPAC in Masvingo area. You would really be saddened when you look at the distances that grade one pupils were walking to schools. If you wait for those children to give them a ride in your cars, they would run away because of the stories that they have heard that they would be killed for ritual purposes. You find that you get tired even from driving and it is the same distance that the pupils are supposed to walk.

We are not pleading with the Government but we are commanding them that they should bring schools near to the resettled areas. I am not happy with the current situation. Schools should be nearby so that our children, our grand children should go to school happily. Our life depends on education. If one does not go to school, during our time, it was a choice and some did not go to school because they wanted to herd cattle. Up to now, they do not know Harare because they did not go to school.

What we are saying is the Government should increase the number of schools and also clinics and medication instead of recruiting soldiers and policemen. Lots of them are not working but confined in their offices whilst we have children who are not going to school. This Government is ours, even those people in the rural areas belong to this Government. I am pleading on behalf of young girls because they are being raped. There are people who waylay these children, the girls on their way to and from the school. Parents are also being raped because some of them accompany their children to school and on their way back

they are raped. I think you read this even from the newspapers. We have habitual criminals. This is really affecting women. If children do not go to school, it really affects the women because you cannot just feed a person.

This is a serious matter Madam President. This is our livelihood, if you educate a child you educate the whole nation and if that child gets a chance to go to school, that child will end up doing well. Even here because we are educated, we are doing a lot in our families where we are married to because we went to school. If we do not provide them with good schools for education, we are depriving them of their rights. We might fail in other areas but when it comes to education, we must try our level best.

In this House we are not asking, pleading but the Government is commanded, mandated to put schools in the resettlement areas because children are walking long distances. My child is taken to school by a bus but I am pained because many times I visit the rural areas and pained by the situation in the rural area. The last time I was in Mtoko, I

met a very short child walking 15km, a zero-grade going to school. I think we should be compassionate to those children who walk long distances. Yes they cannot afford a car but at least the school should be brought near to them. Thank you Madam President.

**THE GOVERNOR FOR MATABELELAND NORTH:** I move that the debate do now adjourn.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2012.

## **MOTION**

### **BUSINESS OF THE SENATE**

**THE GOVERNOR FOR MATABELELAND NORTH:** I move that the Orders of the Day, Numbers 4 and 5 be stood over until Orders of the Day, Numbers 6 and 7 have been disposed of.

Motion put and agreed to.

## **MOTION**

RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT  
PROTECTION CONVENTION

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,  
MECHANISATION AND IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT:** I move  
the motion standing in my name;

THAT WHEREAS, SUBSECTION (1) OF SECTION 11B of the  
Constitution of Zimbabwe provides that any convention, treaty or  
agreement acceded to, concluded or executed by or under the authority  
of the President and with one or more states or Governments or  
international organisations shall be subject to approval by Parliament;

AND WHEREAS, the International Plant Protection Convention  
was revised and approved by the FAO Conference at its 29<sup>th</sup> Session in  
Rome in November 1997;

AND WHEREAS, the entry into force of the aforesaid protocol is  
subject to ratification by the signatory Member states in accordance with  
their respective constitutional procedures;

NOW THEREFORE, in terms of subsection (1) of section 111B of the Constitution, this House resolves that the aforesaid protocol be and is hereby approved.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an International Plant Health Treaty. The convention is deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) since its initial adoption in 1951. It came into force in 1952, superseding previous international plant protection agreements. The convention was revised in 1979 and amendments enforced in 1991. Further amendments were made in 1997 and came into force after acceptance by two-thirds of contracting parties.

In 2001, 117 Governments were contracting parties and as of June 2010, 177 Governments have become contracting parties across seven FAO regions. The convention aims to secure common coordinated and infective action to prevent the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products and to promote appropriate measures of their control. The revision of the IPPC in 1997 represented a major update of the

convention. The changes related primarily to the strengthening the IPPC through the provision of a mechanism for developing and adopting International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The revision aligned the convention with the agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (the SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

## **2. Functions**

The IPPC places more emphasis in three main areas of work which include international standard setting, information exchange and capacity development for the implementation of the IPPC and associated international Phytosanitary standards. The IPPC is a legally binding international agreement but the standards developed and adopted by the Convention are not legally binding under the IPPC.

Contracting parties participate in implementing the IPPC through:

- a. Involvement in standard setting activities;

- b. The implementation of standards and International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs);
- c. Involvement in Commission on Phytosanitary Measures meetings;
- d. Membership of international organizations;
- e. Membership of Regional Plant Protection Organisations;
- f. Participation through National Plant Protection Organisations;
- g. Involvement in phytosanitary capacity building;
- h. Sharing of technical information, experience and expertise; and
- i. Supporting the IPPC Secretariat by making financial or in kind donations.

### **3. Governing Body**

The IPPC is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), which meets annually to promote cooperation to help implement the objectives of the IPPC. In particular, the CPM:

- a. Reviews the state of plant protection around the world;
- b. Identifies action to control the spread of pests into new areas;
- c. Develops and adopts international standards;
- d. Established rules and procedures for resolving disputes;
- e. Establishes rules and procedures for the sharing of phytosanitary information; and
- f. Cooperates with international organisations on matters covered by the convention.

In the 1997 New Revised text, there is elaboration on systems to promote effective implementation of the convention which are:

- a. Emphasis on cooperation and information exchange;
- b. Harmonisation as much as possible of Phytosanitary measures throughout the world based on international standards;

- c. Description of the framework of a Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) that develops and promotes the use of the ISPMs; and
- d. Formalisation of the IPPC secretariat and procedures for standard setting.

There is an additional responsibility given to contracting parties to promote the provision of technical assistance to other contracting parties especially those of the developing countries.

The New revised text introduces modern plant protection practices such as Pest Risk Analysis to support Phytosanitary measures, the designation of pest free areas and Phytosanitary security of export consignments after certification.

The convention extends beyond and protection of cultivated plants to the protection of natural flora and plant products as it considers also direct and indirect damage by pests. The convention also covers research materials, biological control organisms, germ-plasm banks, containment facilities and

anything else that can act as a vector for the spread of plants pests for example, containers, packaging materials, soil, vehicles, vessels and machinery.

The IPPC framework allows countries to analyze the possible risk to their national plant resources and use science-based measures to safeguard their cultivated plants and wild flora. By protecting plant resources from pests and diseases the IPPC helps in:

- a. Protecting farmers worldwide from economically devastating pest and disease outbreaks; and
- b. Protecting the environment from loss of species diversity and ecosystem functions.

#### **4. IPPC and International Trade.**

The IPPC has always played an important role in international trade. The convention has encouraged countries to ensure through phytosanitary certification that their exports are

not the means for introducing new pests to their trading partners. Likewise, importing countries strive to ensure that measures they have in place for protection are technically justified.

The relationship of the IPPC to international trade is strengthened by the WTO-SPS Agreement which names the IPPC as the international organisation responsible for phytosanitary standard-setting and the harmonisation of phytosanitary measures affecting trade. Both agreements are distinct in their scope, purpose and membership. The two agreements are complementary in the areas where they overlap. The SPS Agreement makes provision for plant protection in a trade agreement and the IPPC makes provision for trade in a protection agreement.

Zimbabwe is already a signatory to the WTO SPS agreement and is a member of the National SPS committee and a member of the SADC Plant Protection Technical Committee. The

country has prepared itself to align with the requirements of the IPPC. There is already an established National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) known as the Plant Quarantine Services (PQS), which is within the structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development. The mandate of PQS is entrenched in the Plant Pests and Diseases Act [Chapter 19:08] which was enacted by the Parliament in 1958. The act provides for the eradication and prevention of the spread of plant pests and diseases in Zimbabwe for the prevention of the introduction into Zimbabwe of plant pests diseases, and for matters incidental thereto. Regulations in the Act provide for matters such as regulatory powers to eradicate pests and regulatory powers to inspect, disinfect and fumigate.

The NPPO has a National Enquiry Point on Phytosanitary issues, a Contact point and International Plant Protection portal (IPP) editor registered with the IPPC Secretariat for promotion of information exchange on the IPPC website ([www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)).

Zimbabwe, through the NPPO (Plant Quarantine Services), has of late been involved in several regional and international meetings on international standards organized by regional bodies such as SADC and COMESA. The status of Zimbabwe of having not yet ratified to the New Revised Text of the IPPC has been discussed as impending the harmonization of phytosanitary activities and standards and benefiting through assistance on research pertaining to phytosanitary issues.

## **5. Commission on Phytosanitary Measures**

Zimbabwe for the last two years, we have failed to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Commission on Phytosanitary Measures 6 and 7 basically because previously contracting and non-contracting parties had membership to CPMs on the basis of them being members of FAO. That has since changed and making those countries that have not signed to the membership of the CPM not being able to attend those meetings.

The CPM meets annually or as and when necessary to implement the objectives of the convention which include:

- 1) reviewing global plant protection needs;
- 2) developing and adopting ISPMs;
- 3) establishing resolution for dispute settlements that could rise amongst contracting parties or members countries;
- 4) the promotion of the the provision of technical assistance to develop the phytosanitary capacity of contracting parties;
- 5) and in the cooperative endeavour to implement the convention; Regional Plant Protection Organisations (RPPOs) play a vital role and currently there are 9 such organisations worldwide.

If Zimbabwe's NPPO was to be a contracting member, it could belong to the Inter African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) comprising to date of 51 of the 56 countries in Africa. Not all contracting parties to the IPPC are members of the RPPOs but contracting parties to the

convention can belong to more than one RPPO. The convention supports greatly, joint efforts to control trans-boundary pests so as to extend pest free areas. In light of this it is of great importance for the protection against invasive pests that Zimbabwe ratifies to the IPPC and becomes a contracting partner to the IPPC. I thank you Madam President.

Motion put and agreed to.

## **MOTION**

**RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN**

**CENTRE FOR FERTILISER.**

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MECHANIZATION**

**AND IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT (MR. S. MOYO):** I move the motion standing in my name;

THAT WHEREAS, SUBSECTION (1) OF SECTION 111B of the Constitution of Zimbabwe provides that any convention, treaty or agreement acceded to, concluded or executed by or under the authority of the President and with one or more states or Government or international organisations shall be subject to approval by Parliament;

AND WHEREAS, the entry into force of the aforesaid protocol is subject to ratification by the signatory Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures;

NOW THEREFORE, in terms of subsection (1) of Section 111B of the Constitution, this House resolves that the aforesaid protocol be and is hereby approved.

I will also try and give justification for the need for the ratification of the following convention. Senators may already know that the center for research on fertilisers is based here in Zimbabwe. The decision to establish the centre for fertilizers and soil fertility and

related issues was taken at the first economic Summit of the Organisation of the African Unity, OAU, now African Union held in 1980 in Lagos in Nigeria which adopted the Lagos Plan of Action for economic and social development as well as the final Act of Lagos which *inter-alia* stated the importance of food and agriculture especially in Africa.

The convention for the establishment of the centre was approved by the OAU Council of Ministers during their first Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa in March 1985. It was also decided that the headquarters of the Centre would be located in Zimbabwe.

Article XVII of the Convention states that:

1. All member states of the AU may become parties to the convention by the :
  - a) Signature of the convention followed by deposit of an instrument of ratification or

Deposit of an instrument of accession.

2. Instrument of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the African Union as Depositary. The

convention shall enter into force with respect to all Member States that have ratified or acceded to it, on the date when instrument of ratification or accession have been deposited by the Host Government and by the Government of at least five states. Any other Member State of the AU shall become a part to the ACFD Convention on the date of the deposit of its instruments of ratification or accession.

Under the erroneous understanding that the ratification process had been completed OAU set up a Board of Directors (in 1987) chaired by its Chief Executive of the Science and Technology Research Commission based in Lagos, Nigeria. The Board of Directors was set up in accordance with Article VII of the convention. The OAU also went on to appoint International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) as Executive Agency for the African Center for Fertiliser Development in 1987. The International Fertilizer Development Center appointed the Managing Director of the Centre in 1990 and activities started in 1991.

### **3. HOST STATE OBLIGATIONS**

Article XXII of the convention stipulates the obligations of the Host State. In this regard, Zimbabwe as a host did the following towards implementation of activities of the centre:

- a) An agreement was signed between the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe and OAU on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1983.
- b) The Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Ethiopia signed the Convention for Establishment of ACFD on 31 December 1986.
- c) A similar agreement was signed between the Government of Zimbabwe and ACFD on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1992 and in accordance with the Zimbabwe Law ACFD was gazetted on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1992.
- d) Provision of 27 hectares of land for the ACFD headquarters in accordance with Article XVI of the Convention.
- e) The Government provided the equivalent of US\$1 million towards start up funds.

- f) The equivalent of US\$800,000, counterpart funds from the OPEC Fund for International Development was also availed.
- g) When the Centre experiences serious financial problems especially in 1995 and 1996, Government of Zimbabwe agreed to provide bridging annual subventions. These subventions started in 1997 and have continued to the present day ACFD has since initiated its own programmes that will contribute to financial sustainability.
- h) In 2004, the Government of Zimbabwe provided additional land (375 ha) to the African Centre for Fertilizer varieties. The Government further provided two tractors, a disc harrow, disc plough and fertilizer distributor to facilitate seed production. Recently, the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe approached the Government of India to seek a credit line that will be utilized to develop infrastructure and provide additional farm machinery and equipment to enable the Centre to develop and utilize the new farm.

#### **4. RATIFICATION STATUS OF ACFD CONVENTION**

The ratification status of the ACFD Convention is found in the report of the African Union Secretary General on the status of the AU organs (as at 1 May 2002) which was presented to the Council of Ministers Ordinary Session 28<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2002 in Durban, South Africa.

**“paragraph 41 on section XII concerning the establishment of the African Centre for Fertilizer Development states that the convention has been signed by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Libya , Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It had been ratified by Libya and Mali only. Therefore it has not yet been entered into force.”**

According to Article XVII of the convention, at least 5 member states plus the Host State should ratify fully the convention before it enters into force. Zimbabwe is now in the process of finalizing the ratification process. A recent visit by a Senior Policy Officer

from the AU Secretariat urged the Secretary for Agriculture to speed up the ratification process.

## **5. BENEFITS TO ZIMBABWE**

Among the priorities of ACFD are the improvement of fertilizer supply, distribution and use. The achievements of ACFD so far are only commensurate with the level of resources the organisation was able to secure. The following programmes have been developed and benefited Zimbabwe and other countries in Southern Africa.

### **a) Agribusiness development**

ACFD developed a professional training and networking of rural entrepreneurs programme designed to building capacity to provide services to the rural folk. ACFD started activities in 1995 and has to date trained more than 3 000 agro-dealers in Zimbabwe. From Zimbabwe agro-dealer training and support activities spread to many other countries in Africa making it easier for rural farmers to access inputs at modest prices.

## **b) Sustainable Farming Management Systems (SFMS)**

The SFMS is designed to achieve the multiple goals of the farmers such as improved crop yield, cash income, nutritional balance, time and labour saving and enhancement of soil fertility. Soil and water conservation are central to the system. In developing this farming system ACFD has combined three practices,

- i) Proper and timely use of agri inputs,
- ii) Conservation farming
- iii) diversified cropping systems such as strip cultivation, intercropping and agro forestry.

The current activities promoting conservation farming throughout Zimbabwe started with ACFD working with a church organisation. The farmers realize many benefits such as:

- i) Improved crop yields and incomes,
- ii) soil and water conservations improved diets.

iii) time and labour saving.

ACFD is coming up with reached innovations which further improve on the benefits stated above.

c) **Development of drought resistant dwarf maize varieties**

Perhaps the most visible achievement of the Centre so far is the development of drought resistant fertilizer use efficient dwarf maize varieties which with good basic husbandry lead to bumper harvests even when the rainfall is below average. The varieties have already proved to be popular with farmers and started to make substantial contribution towards reduction of seed shortages in the SADC region. ACFD has linked with the private sector and the Agricultural Rural Development Authority (ARDA) to produce seed for farmers. The project among other benefits creates wealth and employment opportunities in Zimbabwe. It can be used in the drier parts of Africa.

d) **Regional Fertilizer Conferences**

In terms of the forth benefit that we see is that the centre for fertilizer development is here in Zimbabwe. Over the years it has held and caused for the holding of various international conferences here to promote our agricultural methods we practice here so that we put Zimbabwe's agriculture on the map. We see that the centre has also helped in terms of facilitating for holding and hosting of regional and international meetings within the SADC region. That has brought some benefit in terms of the world realizing the potential and opportunities that exists in agriculture in the region.

The centre has organised a series of SADC region conferences in order to achieve:

- i) Greater understanding of issues and constraints related to fertilizer policy, production, importation, distribution and use.  
Regional consensus on importance of collaboration in fertilizer procurement and distribution.
- ii) Creation of a framework for continued information exchange, resource sharing and networking.

Madam President, the ACFD has worked as a technical partner with private sector to companies to stimulate fertilizer production in Zimbabwe. Perhaps in this regard, the most successful example is the increased production of organic fertilizer. Those that live here in Harare may know a company called NICO ORGO that produces organic fertilizer. Before the partnership, the company produced 5 thousand tones of organic fertilizer. With this partnership, the company is now producing in Chitungwiza 60 thousand tonnes of organic fertilizer and they are working right now on programmes and plans to produce up to 100 thousand tones of organic fertilizer. That works very well in terms of farming systems especially in the areas where you have low rainfall in the country.

Madam President, the ratification of the ACFD convention should be taken as a matter of urgency as the centre has operated with difficulty for the past 21 years. It is our hope that completion of the ratification process by the Government will be followed by advocacy activities and ratification by other member states especially those in the Southern

African Region. Completion of the ratification process will enable the AU to strengthen the capacity of the centre which I have already said it is here. It will enable it to discharge its mandate on fertilizer development and related issues in accordance with the decision of the special summit of the AU on Fertilizer Development.

Therefore Madam President, it is in that light that it is of great importance that this convention is ratified.

Motion put and agreed to.

*On the motion of* **THE GOVERNOR FOR MATABELELAND NORTH**, *the Senate adjourned at Twenty-Nine Minutes past Four o'clock p.m. until Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.*