

31 January 2017 to 02 February 2017



## INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday the 31 December 2017, during the budget debate, Hon. James Maridadi (MDC-T Mabvuku Tafara) gave a detailed account of how corruption happens throughout the importation process of goods in the country with the aid of the Executive members. He denounced corruption at all levels and led calls that Members of Parliament should have one on one meetings with President Mugabe. He argued that President Mugabe was being misled and misinformed by his officials. Hon. Joseph Chinotimba (ZANU PF Buhera South) basically reiterated the statements stated by Hon. Maridadi. The presentation was quite long and time ran out for Hon. Maridadi but Hon. Chinotimba unexpectedly asked for an extension on his behalf.

On Wednesday 1 February, the Question and Answer session commenced with the Ministerial statement from the Ministry of

Public Service, Labour and Social Services.

The Deputy Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Services Hon. Tapiwanashe Matangaidze (ZANU PF Shurugwi South) gave a Ministerial Statement on the Government Food Deficit Mitigation Programme. The statement was largely in response to requests by some Hon. Members that the ministry shed light on the structure and implementation framework of the programme.

## QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Hon. Emma Muzondiwa (MDC-T Midlands) asked the Minister of Mines and Mining Development the initiatives Government is implementing to ensure that women in mining are adequately capacitated. In response Mines and Mining Development Minister Hon. Walter Chidhakwa (ZANU PF Zvimba South) indicated that they are looking for areas to ensure that women are legally provided

with mining concessions, training of women in mining through the School of Mines, and looking at various ways of supporting them with equipment.

Hon. Webster Maondera (MDC-T Glen Norah) requested Hon. Chidhakwa to give a Ministerial statement regarding the missing \$15 billion at Marange diamonds. In response Hon. Chidhakwa highlighted that a number of companies were still conducting a forensic audit and it was not yet complete. He said a report will be compiled soon after the audit is complete and he will then present it to the House.

Hon. Godfrey Sithole (MDC-T Chitungwiza North) expressed concern over the number of youths going out of the country seeking greener pastures and directed a question to Home Affairs Minister Hon. Ignatious Chombo (ZANU PF Zvimba North) on what Government was doing to create employment in the country.

Hon. Dr Chombo however said the issue of 2.2 million jobs was on course but this response sent the August House into a moot point. Hon. James Maridadi (MDC-T Mabvuku-Tafara) implored Government to take the issue of unemployment seriously.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Development Hon. Patrick Chinamasa (ZANU PF Makoni Central) moved a motion for the Second Reading of the Finance Bill 2017 and emphasised that the purpose of the Bill was to give effect to the revenue measures which were announced in the 2017 National Budget Statement which he presented to the House on the 8th December, 2016.