

Parliamentary Monitor

A Weekly e-Newsletter Published by the Parliamentary Monitoring Trust of Zimbabwe



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Ordinary Voices

Xtra-ordinary Impact

with the principals reportedly agreeing in perusing the constitution draft before the parliament what a bogus way to cap the year of retrogressiveness in as far as modern governance is concerned.



Tawanda Nyahuye

In this issue

What they said	2
Village Observer	2
Social Media	3
Back Page	4

The Bottom-line

Introduction of the principle of recall was and is a very vital piece of legislation, it protects the voter's vote from what we may call 'Vote Inflation' whereby our votes' meaning deteriorate with time—
Sibanengi Ncube

2012 Reflections

CDF
Abuse

Weird
Parly Con-
tributions

MPs
Gone
AWOL

A very elite coup. The route the constitution making process was nothing but a coup by the three political parties

Violence or threat of violence reported

Our hope for 2013 is a peaceful election, if they are held. We hope for elections that are a reflection of the will of the people of Zimbabwe. We want elections that rewards those with the best policies and at the same time reward or punish those who did not do well



Village Observer

The poor are rich in patience – it should be Ayi Kwei Armah in his captivating *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*.

The Parly Monitor team tested how poor I was by postponing resumption of this newsletter. They must have come to understand how poor I am. I must be very poor because I was very patient. Well, while PMTZ may have got away with it, I do not think our local MP will enjoy that luxury. When I called Matigari that March morning in 2008 to cast our ballots, we were very optimistic. Our is one new constituency, the candidates were all local products and they had shown a lot of initiatives for the area. My pact with Matigari is that we may not divulge our preference after voting but debate is allowed before, and as such our way to the polling both was a mini-lecture on political science. Other villagers joined in the discussion and what I saw was a mature electorate. We are intelligent in some way.

The villagers were articulate, they were precise on what they wanted from the MP. Matigari who is usually cynic, was uncharacteristically optimistic. He even said he had been at the same school with one of the candidates. I thought this was the source of his optimism but his short speech after this disclosure hit me like a bolt. "We were very immature, politically, not to know what our vote may do. Now we have seen the light. We now know what a vote, our vote can do. We thought it was meant to renew the terms of office of the MPs but now I know that it means something more than that. It is a weapon for us to make demands for policies which make our lives better. It is a weapon we use to hold these MPs accountable. It is a weapon with which we can leverage everything to our advantage. I will never use my vote to please someone. I will not use it to do things which will not bring change to me and the future generations," said Matigari. That was powerful. At least in the village sense. I had been swayed by one of the candidate's clever speech. I had not

seen beyond words words words. It was my Damascus moment. I had been hoodwinked by the clever speeches. I know we were many who had been cheated of the important weapon we had in our hands. A weapon we were supposed to sharpen for four years and use it once in the fifth year and wait again. Now that I have been sharpening my weapon since 2008, I pity my MPs. They drive by the dusty road, at full speed in their big cars. They tell us they will do us great things should we give them another chance. They forget that this is what they said in 2008. We are no longer looking for politicians who tell us that there will be a bridge built for people to cross. We are past that. We need a politician telling us that there will be a bridge that will be used by people from point A to B carrying X things for the betterment of their lives. Mere bridges, no matter how long or high may not improve our lives. And by the way the guy did not involve us in CDF but want our vote. They must be KAPUT.

Copac Draft- Yes or No?

By Mandla

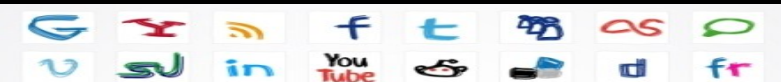
Those of us who have been in civic society for some time will remember the popular 2000 referendum. If my memory serves me well, the crux of the matter then was whether the process leading to the draft was 'people-driven' or not. It was the process argument and not the content that ruled the day and the consequences of such an approach are with us today. It is interesting to note that the MDC then in opposition led the charge against the draft on the basis that it did not reflect the views of the people as the composition of the constitutional commission was biased

against civic participation. Whether this allegation holds water or not is an argument for another day. Suffice to say that the argument then was that we wanted a people driven process. Come 2012 and a new referendum is upon us. The battle lines have been drawn with the MDCs calling for a 'Yes' vote to the Copac draft whilst Zanu PF has come up with a raft of proposed amendments to the draft. The question now is, is it about the process as in 2000, the content or both? It is important at this stage to make the following observations; there is a marked shift of positions. Whereas in 2000 the catchword was 'people-driven' at present it is 'international

best practices'. It appears there is now a new view that the people's input is immaterial for as long as our constitution conforms to what we are now told are 'international best practices'. It appears these practices have been elevated to overshadow the people's view as captured in the outreach programme. Now we are being asked to vote either 'Yes' or 'No'. The question is not 'yes' or 'no' but yes or no to what? The yardstick for the endorsement or otherwise of the draft should be whether it reflects the views of the people as captured in the outreach programme or not. Period. (Mandla is a political activist based in Tsholotsho)



Virtual Public Gallery



Using Social Media to Monitor Parly

PMTZ's facebook group Parliamentary Monitor is an interactive virtual public gallery where instead of being spectators, citizens raise issues and seek solutions. As part of the integration of the social media platform and this e-newsletter, we take excerpts of some of the posts on the facebook group and share with others.



Pmt Zimbabwe

2012 REFLECTIONS#1:How would you rate the inclusive Parliament in 2012 did they meet your expectations in regards to their mandate which is embedded in Oversight over the Executive, Representation and Legislation.Highlight your views in this regard.

- ☐ Excel-
lent
☐ Good **+2**
☐ Aver-
age **+3**
☒ Poor **+8**

[Vimbai Zinyama Mushongera](#) likes this.



Sugar Lionel Mpofu At least we should appreciate the little they are doing else Zimbabwe would have been closed for renovations.they should improve on the corruption part.



Tawanda Nyahuye with the principals reportedly agreeing in perusing the constitution draft before the parliament what a bogus way to cap the year of retrogressiveness in as far as modern governance is concerned.



Nyamutatanga Ma-kombe personally i think we have been expecting too much from the GNU in terms of how they would deliver on the new constitution. My conclusion is based on the following. While we acknowledge that the three political parties, given the politics of the day, were entitled to

make government, it was not proper for them to pursue the constitution making process in the manner that it was done. The constitution making process should have been withdrawn from Parly, given to a commission, maybe headed by a former supreme court judge or a serving one. this would have widened the participation of the people, encouraged robust debate and at least have a document that serves the country not those in power.



Falcon Amos The performance can best be described using a parabolic graph,an Exponential Decay Curve:~chu

Falcon Amos

Its pathetic if you go around the whole country,there are some big,great infrastructure lying idle,vast pieces of land owned by organisations and individuals alike,many educated patriotic people,numerous small businesses thriving in and around towns,mines with untapped minerals,great rivers with gallons of water flowing away to the oceans whilst people are starving for food.And yet we are crying for jobs,industries,poor service deliveries. Our MPs are our eyes and our mouthpiece who should voice our concerns in the Parliament.We dont really know the roles that are being played by our parliamentarians because I believe that every constituency is well represented.Do these Parliamentarians air out their concerns pertaining the areas they come from,and if so then why no action is being taken to address those issues. Zim is rich,we have the brains.How do we efficiently and effectively implement our policies as a nation? Whats going on?Whats the way forward?There has to be a system somehow:~chu

Top of Form [Like](#) · Follow post · [8 December 2012 at 09:58](#)

- [Sibanengi Ncube](#) and [3 others](#) like this.
- [Sibanengi Ncube](#) I think everything boils down to the calibre of not only MPs but

political parties we entrust with our destiny. lets deal with that and see what comes next. [8 December 2012 at 13:05](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Taurai Moyo What are the priorities of the elected members??

[8 December 2012 at 13:47](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Falcon Amos Sibanengi Ncube,the ideologies of some of these political parties leaves a lot to be desired.If Councillors and MPs are not performing why not bring them to task as a political party?Thats the big challenge we are having as a nation.You entrust your vote basing on promises made and you find out later that all was a big joke.The same potholes we saw in 2008 in our towns are still available in larger and bigger quantities.Before 2008 there were some water problems but the water reached our homes in a better state than it is now. [Taurai Moyo](#),good question.From my vintage point I think every member was given his/her mandatory duties as an MP or Councillor and I understand their performances should be reviewed periodically in line with their key result areas. My worry is,are the authorities from the political parties doing their duties of assessing performances of their members?:~chu

[8 December 2012 at 18:13](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#) **Taurai Moyo** One challenge we have is that no one is going to assess them. The members of parliament are employed through a ballot box and therefore the political parties have no mandate in assessing the mps. They can only be fired through ballot box. [8 December 2012 at 18:51](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Falcon Amos But truly these MPs have a reporting structure in their political parties.Can we surely say lets wait until election time so that we fire them through the ballot box?Authorities in some political parties are not doing their duties then.This has to be revisited and revised.:~chu

[8 December 2012 at 19:02](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Feedback? info@pmtz.org



Discussion on the new constitution cont..

Taurai Moyo Falcon Amos we seem to share same sentiments but look these politicians are shrewd man. They abused CDFs and nobody I mean not a single person was tried before a court of law. What does that mean to you? President Mugabe in his address to the just ended People's Conference he said he was told by former SA president Thabo Mbeki that we had bad crop among our ministers and he didn't name and shame them he just threatened to fire them and to me that was the far the President could go and no action is going to be taken. Surely Prime Minister Tsvangirai is moving around the country to convince the structures not to contest current sitting MPs but some of the MPs were alleged to have abused the CDFs and to me there is no reporting structure and there are no disciplinary measures against MPs in our beloved political parties.

9 December 2012 at 07:19 via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Sibanengi Ncube Some during the constitution outreach program had called for the introduction of the principle of recall. This is a scenario whereby constituents are empowered to recall their MP before the end of his/her term if they are convinced that he/she is not serving them well. To me it sounds good and may jolt the guys to work.

9 December 2012 at 07:34 · [Like](#) · [3](#)

Taurai Moyo Sibanengi Ncube i liked the idea.

9 December 2012 at 07:51 via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Falcon Amos Taurai Moyo words have power and I believe those involved in illicit deals have already repented after hearing what has been

preached at the just ended Conference **Sibanengi Ncube** that's what people want to be told, people need to be educated, this proposal, Introduction of the principle of recall was and is a very vital piece of legislation, it protects the voter's vote from what we may call 'Vote Inflation' whereby our votes' meaning deteriorate with time. I think people were not educated enough on such worthy proposal:~chu

11 December 2012 at 15:03 · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Vimbai Zinyama Mushongera We call them ghost towns, abandoned wealth or assets

12 December 2012 at 11:16 · [Like](#) · [3](#)

Pmt Zimbabwe

2012 REFLECTIONS#1: How would you rate the inclusive Parliament in 2012 did they meet your expectations in regards to their mandate which is embedded in Oversight over the Executive, Representation and Legislation. Highlight your views in this regard.

Excellent

0

Good

• [+2](#)

Average

• [+3](#)

Poor

• [+8](#)

When readers were asked what their take on Parly in 2012 was, we at PMTZ expected to see something that would cheer us up as we went for the Xmas break. It was so disturbing that from 20 quick responses that we got, 12 said it was POOR. Only five rated it average with three saying it was good. The data collection methodology, we admit, was not scientific, it was biased towards those who are members to our Facebook group and have interest in what happens in Parly. However, this does not discount the point that their views are to a greater extent a reflection of what people feel about Parly. There is a very strong possibility that even if we adopted a scientific approach with all its rigours, we will still get the same results. As such, for us at PMTZ, we say, as we start the new year, let's improve. There is room or the people will either reward or punish you through the ballot.

Madisnyongoro for 2012

2012 saw MPs going kaput, from bizarre recommendations on how to fight AIDS, to legislating prostitution to request for free electricity. In most cases the MPs were condemned by their parties and constituencies. We do not have a clear winner for 2012 because of stiff competition. But readers can help us on this one. Who is it?

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