



Parliamentary Monitor

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our parliament

our voice

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ilizwi lethu



23 November, 2011. Issue 12

Budget Today

Today is budget day and the pronouncements by the Finance Minister, Tendai Biti, will have far reaching effects on the general livelihoods of us all. One issue we all eagerly wait for are the tax brackets, especially on bonus. Some had already received bonuses and it will be sad if they re to pay some more. Then there is the issue of duty. We are aware that the reintroduction of duty during the mid term fiscal review was met with a massive price increase. Its massive because a 20% price increase when using a stable currency is a sign that business has gone KAPUT. What is needed is some reigning in. Not price controls but some sort of controls, for us THE POOR.

Inside this issue:

Village Observer	2
Committee Feedback	2
Virtual Gallery	3
Quotes	4
Cartoons	4
@the back	4

The Bottom-line

Whatever action is taken, it should protect the integrity of the portfolio committees.

The accusations by Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor, Gideon Gono, that the chairman of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Budget, Finance and Investment Promotion, Paddy Zhanda, sent emissaries soliciting bribes is a disgrace to the oversight role of the committees. We are not saying we are a jury, thus honourable Paddy Zhanda is VERY INNOCENT. It is however a disgrace in that the RBZ was appearing before the committee and given the role the central bank played in the economy between 2003 and 2008, the accusations have clouded the final findings. The accusations have diluted the committee and instead of focusing on issues, they have started fire fighting. There are many issues which are brought to the public forum by the accusation. One could be that Gono in trying to detract the pith of the committee, raised some frivolous accusations against the chairman of the committee.

However, this line of argument may lose strength when

one looks at possible ripple effects of the accusations.

Then the next thing that boggles the mind is the contact of the chairman of the committee. While he innocent until proven guilty, it is worrisome that he attempted to make contacts with the head of an institution that was under probe by the committee he chaired. Gono, in a clear sign of 'exposing' Zhanda, wrote him a short letter and copied it to the clerk of Parliament Mr Austin Zvoma. "Yourself and myself know a little bit about what is behind this unseemingly and embarrassing disguise as an innocent Parliamentary enquiry and the sooner we stop going round in circles the better. You know I do have evidence of your approaches to me by your emissaries to do certain things in your favour or else harassment will not end," read part of the letter. Already Gono has started shredding the committee's probe as "unseemingly and embarrassing disguise as an innocent Parliamentary enquiry." This

means that the behaviour of the chairman has killed all the work that has been done. Until it has been proven that Gono fabricated this, it will be very difficult to convince the people that the probe is for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe. It goes to show that either the Member of Parliament was selfish or Gono is so cunning that he has hatched a plan to kill the probe. If it is the former, then Zhanda should do the honourable thing and resign. If it is the latter, then the question will be how many other issues have been misrepresented to us. If so, can such a liar be trusted with the monetary policy and issues? Either way, wrong has been done. It is up to the Speaker of Parliament to look at the merits of the accusation and if there are grounds for a case against Zhanda, a Parliamentary Privileges Committee will be set up to investigate the allegations of corruption. Whatever action is taken, it should protect the integrity of the portfolio committees.



Encounter with the blood sucking aliens

Last week I came face to face with the profligacy of the Members of Parliament, leaving me wondering what Makhosini Hlongwane (Zanu PF Mberengwa East) was trying to put forward moving a motion that they, legislators, be exempt from bills. My encounter with the honourable members, was neither planned nor engaging. I was more of a voyeur, looking at how they go about their business. We were booked at the same hotel, somewhere close to the border with South Africa. Their presence was felt in all the public places at the hotel and one would not mistake the guys for anything else. Anyone could tell that these were politicians. I mean the extravagancy was synonymous with politicians. One thing that was so outstanding was the bus parked outside the hotel. It was a hired bus. It must have been a 65 -80 seater. But the MPs could only number a quarter of that. And as one person (she should be a Parliamentary Monitor) said: "If they were so few, why did they not use a smaller bus, or even use a kombi. Most of those guys were using Kombis before we

voted them." I only smiled. I could not ask another question as she was spotted. On further investigation, I was shocked to hear how the 'poorly paid' members of the august house received per day per outing. I could not verify the figure but someone said it was in the region of US\$350. While I could not verify the figure, there are a number of reasons which made me believe this figure. The MPs I met in the border town had spent the previous week in Victoria Falls. The motivation for taking consecutive weekends away from the 'demands of the constituency' are mainly limited to commitment to development of the country or personal financial gains from the per diem. Precedence and the famous Makhosini Hlongwane proposal leaves me with the latter as the main reason. I was then left wondering what I could do with US\$350 a day. It is a temptation too flatterer sweet to be resisted. And what would one do to keep the dollars and cents. This partly explains the aggression we have come to see during elections. It's all about power and the financial gains. I also stumbled into a young man who runs a community based organisation.

He also had a story to tell about, not only the extravagancy but the manipulation he has seen in the politicians. "They are cannibals, feeding on human meat! Imagine, one day we had a field day and the local MP, whom we had informed and had shown no interest bulldozed the event and started chanting slogans. We felt used. The people raised the issue with us saying we were using them for the sake of the politicians who had done nothing in the area." It was quite interesting to realise how much the politicians crave for attention. How much they crave for a gathering. I was left wondering how as the People of Zimbabwe we would be able to stand up and tell an MP to go to hell should they try to impose themselves on us. I learnt a lot from the trip to the border town and while I hesitated to introduce myself to the MPs, I was gratified that being near them would at least give us a sense of what others think of them. I will discuss these issues with my fellow villagers and see how we will react but for now I need to down my sorrow.

Parly Committee Feedback!

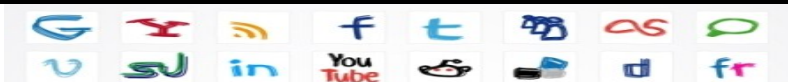
Hon Edward Takaruzza Chindori-Chininga PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON MINES AND ENERGY HELD A WORKSHOP WITH ZESA AND ZPC TO BE INFORMED ON BROWN FIELD AND GREEN FIELD POWER GENERATION PROJECTS BEING PLANNED BY ZPC AND GOVERNMENT. ON MONDAY NOV 14 THE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A HEARING UNDER OATH WITH THE GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ZESA MR J CHIFAMBA AT PARLIAMENT BUILDING SENATE ROOM AT 10.00AM. THE ISSUES WILL RANGE FROM BILLING, METER CHARGES, POWER GENERATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, DISTRIBUTION AND TRANSMISSION ETC. Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza and 4 others like .

Edwin Ndlovu thank you , your committee is doing a very good work !
11 November at 11:39 via Mobile · Like
Nominate White hon u'r dng a gret job,yo comit is meknng parly luk important! weldone,u knw im mdc t but i thnk u'v bn a gud mp to date!kp up the gud job!
11 November at 12:33 via Mobile · Like
Christwish Mushure Majojo ndosaka uchivengwa u are organised kudarika vamwe vako M.p.i appreciate it although am nt zanu pf
11 November at 12:59 via Mobile · Like
Edwin Ndlovu for sure , even at COPAC hon Chindori and hon Chidhakwa were the only two from Zanupf who knew what they were doing , their honesty and hard work would mislead you to think they were from the Green

MDC ! I respect them !
11 November at 13:10 via Mobile · Like
Ruzvidzo G Manyika Hon MP, keep up the hard work for the people Comrade. Unity, freedom ,work !!!
11 November at 15:09 via Mobile · Like
John Makamure Important meeting. Hope it will help resolve the power crisis...
Chofamba Sithole Keep on doing such good work Cde Chindori-Chininga, the national interest in your motivation shines through and history is ever observant even when colleagues choose to blink or blank out your efforts.
14 November at 10:36 via Mobile · Like
Addmore Makunura Thank you Hon. MP. Keep us posted on the outcomes it is in the national interest to know the details!



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.

Unpacking Sanctions

Lloyd Msipa

The lifting of the economic sanctions on Zimbabwe is the minimum requirement if we are to ever have a free, fair and credible poll. It is no longer a secret that the economic sanctions on Zimbabwe were put in place primarily to weaken the Zanu-PF led Zimbabwe government and push citizens of Zimbabwe to turn against their elected leadership. This strategy skews any election in favour of the MDC-T a...

See more

Like · Follow post · 19 November at 12:49 Ndudzo Tugwete and 2 others like this.

Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza I do not agree with you Lloyd, the problems of Zimbabwe goes beyond sanctions. Any attempt to portray sanctions as the salient issue in Zim politics is to belittle us. The main problem we have is that of a ZANU PF leadership that overstayed in power and failed to transform in dealing both its citizens and the outside world. It became an oppressive regime.

19 November at 14:57 via Mobile · Like **Ruzvidzo G Manyika** Sanctions lie at the core of Zimbabwe's problems. They may not be the only problem bedevilling our blessed nation but they are a huge part of the problem.

To dismiss the consistent winning of polls by ZanuPF since 1980 as overstaying, is to insult our intelligence with propaganda that borders on naivety.

ZanuPF has consistently won both parliamentary and Presidential elections since 1980 save for the single hairpin parliamentary loss to MDC in 2008.

Transformation is happening in Zimbabwe in the form of the land reform, economic freedom via the transfer of ownership of our mines and factories to indigenous Zimbabweans. It continues despite the crippling sanctions which severely curtail any plans to internationalise our growth and development.

To dismiss all that as not salient is to belittle

us!

19 November at 16:14 via Mobile · Like · 1 **Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza** ?@Ruzvidzo, i hope this will remain a contest of ideas not a platform to trade insults. In as much as it is your country Zim is also mine, so despite our differences in ideologies we have something in common and we must respect each other on that basis. Coming to the issues under discussion, i hear all you are saying and be assured its not my first time to hear or to discuss them. My take is that Zim has had problems of leadership at the core of its crisis, this point is even shared not only by other hard core ZANU PF supporters, but by high ranking Politibiro members. Was it necessary for President Mugabe to stay for so long in power? If you look at how Zim is perceived today, its like Mugabe is Zim and vice versa. We need new leadership that can chart the wayforward for our beloved nation. Lets also accept the will of the majority, if people choose PM Tsvangirai like they did in the March 2008 election, let it be so. All other issues can then be debated with a legitimate leadership.

19 November at 16:54 via Mobile · Like **Ruzvidzo G Manyika** I hear you too, and to apply an old adage, respect is earned. Let's earn each other's respect through our interaction and not as a given.

To reply your assertion that President Mugabe has stayed in power for too long and that some nameless and faceless politburo members and hardcore members (whatever that is) agree with you. My reply is, I can state as fact that President Mugabe is a President and first secretary of ZanuPF through democratic process. He was nominated and voted into that position at the last congress as it shall happen in the next one and has happened for a long time. Members of ZanuPF are comfortable with him and I cannot understand why anyone who is not a member of the party would have a problem with that ? ZanuPF as a registered legitimate party has every right to field whoever they want in any poll, that is an internal matter. On that note, I will not dignify the "views" of faceless and nameless politburo members on the topic.

The view that there are pockets who are of the opinion that President RG Mugabe is Zimbabwe and vice-versa is also something which one can allude to the over-active

imagination of an anti-ZanuPF media. It is a matter of public record that President RG Mugabe has earned many enemies in the western world and other fora for his efforts at leading the transfer of wealth and ownership to the indigenous majority via the successful land reform and currently the transfer of ownership in mines to the majority indigenous people.

Sunday at 02:23 via Mobile · Like · 1

Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza I think this debate is like chasing the whirlwind. Defending Mugabe's overstay in power is tantamount to defending the indefensible. If you want names of Politibiro members who clandestinely view Mugabe's overstay in power as retrogressive check the Wikileaks. To say Mugabe is democratically elected is to state the impossible because the words Zanu PF and Mugabe and democracy can not be placed in the same sentence. Remember Zanu PF views democracy as a western concept that has no place in its organisation. Let the elections come so that Zanu PF can be confined to its rightful place, the dustbin of history or being an opposition party.

Sunday at 18:15 via Mobile · Like

Ruzvidzo G Manyika Any debate where your view is opposed and disagreed with is certainly not enjoyable but anyway, we wait for the day. We have been ready for elections since day one. We brought democratic elections to Zimbabwe in case you forgot. We have no problem with that.

Thank you.

Sunday at 19:03 via Mobile · Like · 1

The issue of sanctions remains a hot topic. As a way forward, we are asking those interested to tackle the issue. Basically there are various opinions. Some say they are illegal, others say they are targeted, some say they hurt, others say they should not be removed, others say they are racist. There are many opinions around the topic as there are various experts tackling the issue. If there are any takers, please submit your say, essay, quote, a word to the email below. If you want to protect your identity log on to www.pmtz.org and fill the form

Feedback? info@pmtz.org



When a Nation Arms

Michael Ruva

As Mugabe preaches Peace, Tolerance and Reconciliation, His Army has just received a cargo full of rifles, firearms and thousands of HANDCUFFS as ELECTIONS looms.

Like · · Unfollow post · 14 November at 10:08

Simba Dexter Mwaingeni likes this.

Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza Thats exactly how they do it, indicate left and turn right. Hypocrites!

14 November at 10:09 · Like · 3

Ndudzo Tugwete Of Lenin: "What does it matter if 3 quarters of the world perish provided the remaining quarter is Communist!"

14 November at 12:01 via Mobile · Like · 1

Nyamutatanga Makombe Maybe I am from a different school of thought. Violence is deplorable. However, the state remains the only institution endowed with the legitimate use of violence thus rifles, firearms etc remain legal arsenal of a state. However, what we need as the people of Zimbabwe is to make sure that the arsenal is not used against citizens. Crying against procurement would not help, ask the anti-nuclear activists. What is important is a vigilant citizen, harnessing modern communication and info technologies to show the illegitimate use of legitimate arsenal!

14 November at 12:18 via Mobile · Like · 4

Michael Ruva Why do these weapons always need to

be ordered during or just before elections? remember the cargo from China-via South Africa last year and now when they is a talk of elections next year we have this. And like i said before, we all know what the job of the army really is during elections.

14 November at 13:03 · Like

Nyamutatanga Makombe ?@Michael Ruva, I am in agreement with you.

However, my worry comes with what is the way forward. I think we all agree that nations at one time or the other arm. Its a reality of the 21st century. The reason for arming may differ. But in the case of Zimbabwe, precedence has been set where a state has used arms against its own citizens. In this regard, we are justified to shudder each time we hear they are arming but we should also be alive to the realities i mentioned above and thus we should have mechanisms to monitor what the arms are used for.

We cant stop them from arming but if we publicise wht the arms are used for then we would definitely stop the abuse of the legitimate weapons

14 November at 13:24 via Mobile · Like · 1

Simba Dexter Mwaingeni Ammunition acquisition to an extend is a requirement of National Security unless we feel like its being overdone. I think election also "poses" security threats.....all that's needed is for parties and security staff to not engage in things that are outside the laid down agreed issues of the fora.

17 November at 12:13 · Like · 1

Ndudzo Tugwete Elections invite attention for and from everyone and everywhere. They raise emotions for and from everyone and everything. They open avenues for participation for and from everyone and everything in the political system . They justify or unjustify unjust invasions from unwanted elements who always want. The important thing is to expose there misuse. We require a standing army, armed to the tooth but standing to stand if they is no external threat. But standing to fight when need be.

17 November at 12:55 via Mobile · Like

Veneranda Langa thousands of handcuffs?????

18 November at 15:37 · Like

...and @ the back!



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