



Parliamentary Monitor

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our parliament

our voice

paramende yedu

izwi redu

Ipalamente yethu

ilizwi lethu



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MDC Problems

There were unconfirmed reports that some Members of Parliament belonging to the Professor Welshman Ncube led MDC had left the party. This was prompted by the firing of one of the MPs (Tabitha Khumalo) on allegations that she was working hand in glove with the other MDC factions. There are political implications of a move to either fire or desert a party. In Zimbabwe one, unless if they stood as independent, cannot change parties. They cease to be elected officials when they are fired. However, it is still not clear what actually is taking place. We will keep you informed and ask fellow monitors to update us.

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The Bottom-line

Now they have moved from the self serving people's representatives to elected officials who stand for the constituencies which elected them. For that we say BRAVO!

MPs Rediscover Their Voice

BRAVO!!!!

Parliamentarians have at last rediscovered their voice. That is if the events last week are anything to go by. They were expected to approve the 2012 budget. This has been the case in most cases. But the Parliamentarians told Finance Minister that they 'needed more time' before they could pass the budget. Up until now, budgets were passed without much scrutiny. The result: The use of a budget as an instrument of public policy was lost. And this resultantly saw the yawning and widening gaps between what the Parliamentarians expected, as representatives of their constituencies and what came out. To say that only last week we were lambasting the same Parliamentarians for holding the country at ransom, declaring that they would approve the budget if their issues were resolved. Now they have moved from the self serving people's representatives to elected officials who stand for the constituencies which elected them. For that we say BRAVO! What is needed now is to have the budget fully analysed, identify the gaps and make recommendations. This is what a mixed model type of a democracy like ours should always be like. The MPs should not be deadwood. And to rubber stamp everything that came the Parliament's way would be a throw-

back to the issue of separation of powers. The executive should not always have its way when dealing with the other. It is a tragedy that the country has a very weak civic society with a special interest in the budget. It is equally tragic that the media which should have helped in analysing the budget for the ordinary person for them to contribute to the national debate has also dismally failed. The think tanks and the academia are nowhere to be found. A simple analysis like: If I were earning US\$300 in 2011, what did the budget do to my earnings in 2012? A simple question like, from the budget, what is there for the pensioner, student, farmer, cross border trader or a peasant has not been answered. There is also another disturbing trend where our budget has been reduced to an event, there are no monitoring mechanisms from the civic society or from Parliamentarians. This is important if looked at the figures released with the budget. There was very big variance between what was allocated and what was consumed. The question is: What happened to the funds? Most probably, the ministry chose not to use the funds or they were not allocated at all. This needs further probing as it is a very important issue to our democracy. Our Parliamentari-

ans need assistance. They cannot be masters in everything. They should be our voice in Parliament. We should be their ears and eyes in the constituencies. This will make the use of the national budget as an instrument of public policy effective. It should never be something passed on a 'my bosom buddy' basis. It should be passed on its merits and like the law requires, the budget can be passed 30 days before the start of a new fiscal year or the same period after. As a country we still have time to perfect the budget. The civic society has a role to play. The Parliamentarians have shown that they are serious about debating the budgeting and approved a motion to suspend the automatic adjournment of the House. This motion, moved by Eric Matinenga (MDC) allows MPs to debate the budget beyond the 630pm time limit on any other day and 1330 on a Friday. There may be some grey areas in the conduct of the MPs but we do not hesitate to say, we are proud of what you have done. Policy review sharpens and shapes policy implementation and the Budget is no exception. As such we hope we enter into the new year in that spirit and mark your territory as the legislature. But meanwhile we reiterate: BRAVO TO MPs.



When Tribalism Rears its Beautiful Head

Heading—Tribute to Professor Masipula Sithole who wrote an article under the same heading more than a decade ago.

The Village Observer

Disclaimer: *I was a great fan of Professor Sithole. He wrote his articles in a very simple and straightforward manner. One would have thought he had not read BIG books. You only realised he was very sophisticated when you read what he wrote in journals, book chapters and his analysis in Zimbabwe: Struggles within the Struggle. I was thinking of him when I was thinking of what to write. However, he is light years ahead in terms of pinpoint analysis, humour and originality. I am not even trying to copy him. I only copied the headline.*

I was in Bulawayo last week, on very private matters or else you would have thought I was the advance party for the Zanu PF Congress/Conference. I am very apolitical. I was fortunate that I attended a Bulawayo Agenda organised review of the Global Political Agreement. The two speakers were Priscilla Misihairambwi-Mushonga and Sipepa Nkomo. They are both ministers. As a villager I was thrilled to be close to power. It was an experience especially when elections are still far, yes far as we are yet to get the exact dates for elections. While the topic the two ministers were asked to address was the implementation of GPA, it was interesting

how they steered debate to their own political views. It was bound to happen. What interested me mainly was their take on tribalism and devolution. Speaking for Matabeleland, the two ministers were very unapologetic about the issue of development. The argument was that while we can talk of economic growth, is it evenly distributed. Does it mean an 8% growth for Zimbabwe, means Bulawayo and all the Matabeleland regions also grew the same? The audience was in total agreement. I then started thinking of tribalism and realised that this was a case of TRIBALISM REARING ITS BEAUTIFUL HEAD. My wish was to have every region of the country claim its share of the national cake. For long the development patterns have been following a certain geographical trend. Development is concentrated in Harare and surrounding areas. Harare was built on the resources of the entire country and every corner of the country should also benefit. However, it is sad to note that some of the resources have been extracted for the benefit not of the entire country but certain areas. For example, the discovery of diamond in Maranga has been made a very national issue which is OK. But should the diamond cutting be made in Harare? Why not use the discovery of the diamonds to start developing Manicaland. The timber in Matabeleland would also be used to develop the areas within the region. The state would superintend the development. This was the argument for devolution, the argument went. I was, to a very

larger extent, convinced that this trust was worth an attempt as what we have been doing since 1890, at colonisation, has largely led to uneven development. One has to leave the main roads veining across the country to see that our development follows the main road, Mutare to Vic Falls and Kariba to Beitbridge. This then set me thinking what Parliament would do in such a situation. I realised that, despite their plethora of problems, Welshman's MDC had at least made an attempt by pushing for moving Parly to Bulawayo. This will be a bit expensive for Parly but at least it there are some economic benefits which will trickle down to the City of Kings and Queens. This trickledown theory would work if all governmental departments were to do the same. It would also make sense for companies to devolve. There is no reason why all headquarters should be in Harare. Why not have HQs in the areas you extract resources? Maybe I am wrong, after all the wrong journey to Bulawayo had sapped me of the energy I have but I thought it makes sense. By the way, the two ministers agreed that GPA had not been well implemented in 2011. It was very predictable, if you asked me. You needed not be a player in the game. It is clear as day. The GPA, from my village analysis cannot be stretched further than this but what is important is to make sure reforms are carried out.

Monthly Income Tax Bands 2012

Monthly Table

Following the announcement of the 2012 budget, we have extracted a section that deals with income taxes. Something that affects the majority of the working people. Please find the table.

2012				2011			
Tax Band		Tax rate		Tax Band		Tax rate	
0	To	250	0	0	to	225	0
251	To	1000	20%	226	to	500	20%
1 001	To	2000	25%	501	to	1000	25%
2 001	To	5000	30%	1001	to	1500	30%
5 001	To	7500	35%	1500	and	above	35%
7 501	To	10000	40%				
10 001	and	above	45%				



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.

One Parly Monitor raised an interesting issue and please find below the responses.

Hugh Ndakaporeswa Mupfunya

Gbagbo at the Hague....the question iswas the ICC made for the Africans, Sudan, DRC, Kenya, Libya, Chad and Ivory Coast has all been probed..... Is the Hague not just a scape goat that is only used to victimise Africans....had there been transparence dnt you thing Bush and Blair should be also facing justice at the same court.??

Like · · Follow post · 30 November at 09:51 via Mobile

Mussie Mbanje I truly agree with you,besides Miloshevic(sp) of yugoslavia and his generals,it has focused on finding crimes against humanity in africa yet its an open secret that bush and blair should be taken to the same court. Interestingly bush's vice,dick cheney is on record of being afraid to be taken to the hague yet the judges and prosecutors there have been turning a blind eye to this.

30 November at 10:00 via Mobile · Like · 1

Hugh Ndakaporeswa Mupfunya I wonder why We are still quite about it..... The "two unseparable" monsters should face justice aswell

30 November at 10:06 via Mobile · Like

Addmore Makunura Welcome to "Real Politique" my friends. The concept of justice is a bit of an aberation because of the Unipolar world order in existence. Thankfully the rise of the Asians, Russians etc will change all that in the next century.

Friday at 07:39 · Like · 2

Hugh Ndakaporeswa Mupfunya Lets hope that way Mr Add

Friday at 08:52 via Mobile · Like

Kudakwashe Ignatius Munyoro that

is a point. well done bra

8 hours ago via Mobile · Like · 1

Charles Mtetwa Sanctions cause untold suffering among the povo. So in reality this is an area that needs examination

7 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Hugh Ndakaporeswa Mupfunya I agree Mr Charles

4 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Jato Jay Justine Fr shoo ol thse Leaders Africans n Americans committed crimes against humanity.

3 hours ago via Mobile · Like · 1

Then to the Parly issues. One member asked if the MPs deserved the allowances they are owed.

Nyamutatanga Makombe

Do you think the MPs deserve to be given the outstanding allowances?

Like · · Follow post · Friday at 08:34 via Mobile.

Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza likes this..

Goodwill Ngirishi Jus 4 peace en stability sake'let them hv allowances.

Friday at 11:34 via Mobile · Like.

Paidamoyo Muzulu ?@Makombe, this is nt an issue for what we think. it a matter of the law. these MPs deserve allowances from the day they are sworn in according to law. The quantum is however decided by the president. until the law changes .. we should pay them. Friday at 11:53 · Like.

Jeffrey Gogo they deserve, its due to them, lazy and undeserving as some may be. Others work as MPs full time Friday at 15:55 via Mobile · Like.

Nyamutatanga Makombe but guys i thought my wording was direct. I used

DESERVE deliberately as it has no legal force. They are entitled to the allowances but am saying do they deserve it. lets use allegory: u are in a race, one person is eaten by a lion, another trampled by an elephant and the third takes the wrong turn. if you reach the finishing line would you say u deserve the prize. t raises issues of morality not entitlement. Pesronally i do not believe in rewarding mediocrity and the latest parly was worse than that. In fact if I had the power I would make them pay for abusing us. wht happened to CDF? Friday at 22:02 via Mobile · Like.

Jeffrey Gogo CDF was clearly abused, few MPs could account for e funds. If u talk about deserving MPs, then only a handful are deserving, since 1980, 23 hours ago via Mobile · Like.

Godwin Mangudya Yes, the deserve and those who abused CDF must be arrested.

10 hours ago · Like.

These discussions were copied and pasted on Sunday 4 December at around 1800. You can also take part find details below. Or if you are on facebook, you request to join the group Parliamentary Monitor.

WEB Feedback Subject*: zesa issue

Message*: its a pity that MPs who where meant to be the voice of the marginalised and the voiceless are clamoring for zesa to exclude them from paying zesa bills at the expense of the very people they claim to be representing. what a shame africa my mother land. the land of my birth.

Feedback? info@pmtz.org



Parly Jargon (2)

Private Members Bills – Follow the same stages as other public Bills and can be introduced by any MP or Peer.

- **Scrutiny** – the standard term to describe the close monitoring and examination of the work and actions of government.
- **Select Committee** – a permanent committee that scrutinises the work of a Government department, holds enquiries, and produces reports.
- **Shadow Ministers** – a shadow minister is a member of the Opposition who has the job of checking on what one of the government departments does, and also outlining what the Opposition thinks ought to be done.
- **Speaker of the House of Assembly** – the Speaker or one of his or her deputies chairs debates in the main Commons chamber, sees that the rules of business are observed
- **Standing Committee** – a temporary committee that is set up to consider a new Bill clause by clause and accept or reject proposed amendments to it.
- **Whips** – MPs who coordinate the timetabling of business through Parliament, and who try to ensure that backbench MPs of their own party vote with the leadership on key votes.

- **White paper** – offer a detailed outline of a policy, which gives Parliament and outside organisations the opportunity to comment on future legislation. White papers will often become the basis for the actual Bill.



The Mace & Black Rod

These are some the import symbols used in Parly. We will discuss their origins and use next week



...and @ the back!



A Parliamentary session in Ukraine. This is the other side of democracy. A debate that had gone awry had to be quelled by the tear inducing smoke.



PMT Zimbabwe promotes openness, active participation, debate, engagement and respects divergence of views. In view of this, PMT Zimbabwe encourages the posting of stories, commentaries, reports, documents and links (embedded or otherwise) on its site and facebook page. However, these postings do not in any way, shape or form, implied or otherwise, necessarily express or suggest endorsement or support of any of such posted material or parts therein. In some extreme circumstances, our monitoring team may be compelled to pull down or delete offending postings. www.pmtz.org/
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