



Parliamentary Monitor

www.pmtz.org

info@pmtz.org

our parliament

our voice

paramende yedu

izwi redu

Ipalamente yethu

ilizwi lethu



10 January, 2012. issue 18

Ordinary Voices

Xtraordinary Impact

Dear Friends

As an organisation founded to monitor Parliament, we would like to engage concerned Zimbabweans so that we would be able to highlight on what the Legislature should do. In pursuit of this, we are launching a very simple campaign, "Ordinary Voices, Extraordinary Impact" where we would like to highlight on any problem or success in our constituencies. This simple campaign seeks to keep the Legislators informed and alive to what is happening

Inside this issue:

Village Observer	2
Legalise Prostitution	2
Virtual Gallery	3
Quotes	4
Cartoons	4
@the back	4

The Bottom-line

The said bills could still be rescued if they were reintroduced as it is allowed to do so after a bill has lapsed without being concluded.

3 bills dormant

In a clear sign of how paralysed the current parliament has become, three important bills have stagnated and now await reintroduction when Parly resumes on the last day of February. The three bills have a direct impact on human rights and electoral issues in the country. This is a serious drawback on the little reforms that have been initiated by the august house and may mean the next elections, whenever they are held, would be carried out without some of the necessary and anticipated reforms. The said bills could still be rescued if they were reintroduced as it is allowed to do so after a bill has lapsed without being concluded. The three bills that have become hostage to the political bickering and paralysis in the august house are: The Public Order and Security Amendment Bill, the Electoral Amendment Bill and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Amendment Bill. These bills lapsed after

President Robert Mugabe opened the Fourth Session of the Seventh Parliament in September last year

It is quite interesting and informative that of the three bills, the POSA amendment bill has been a victim of the hung parliament. POSA Amendment Bill was introduced as a Private Member's Bill by Innocent Gonesse (MDC-T). After it had passed through the House of Assembly and reached Second Reading stage at Senate, it was then blocked by Zanu PF senators. The move to block was based on a technicality as the party argued that Justice and Legal Affairs minister Patrick Chinamasa had said it was not relevant to discuss it in Parliament as it was a Global Political Agreement outstanding issue. The dormancy of the bills at a time when the nation is being told of the impending elections is assign that things are not well with the GNU, parliament and the general politics of

the country. There are those in Zanu PF who are arguing that reforms, though necessary should not be used to bar the holding of the next elections. In an opinion piece in the Sunday Mail of January 8, 2012, Professor Jonathan Moyo (Zanu PF) argued that it was possible for the political parties to include the said reforms in their manifestos and then sale the idea to the electorate. Professor Moyo, who is arguing for the elections minus the reforms, gave an allegory of a hospital and patients saying it made no sense to deny the patients treatment, the impeding elections arguing that they would only be treated after a hospital, reforms, had been built. Whichever way one looks at it, it is clear that the politics of the land is poisoned and the legislature has avoid drinking from the poisoned source.



Constitution making on TRACK?

By the Village Observer

I had a very enjoyable holiday. I wished I could have visited one of the resorts but it turned out to be too bourgeois for me. However, I enjoyed the serenity of the village. With the urbanites coming home for the annual spiritual regeneration, there was plenty of food, drink, fun and stories to tell. I met this young chap from my village. He works for one of the government departments where he says his work is not complicated as such. "Even you mdala/mudhara can do the work. To say I went all the way to varsity to stamp people's passports!" He however, said he would not resign. Not until the system stems out corruption, he said. I wanted to further probe him but then when he started bragging about how he had been taught about politics and politicians, I tarried, thinking maybe I would drink directly from the fountain of wisdom. I asked him, brandishing a pull out

from The Herald, where do you think we are going in terms of the constitution making process. The pull out was the one that has caused so much problems after it was published as some of the members of COPAC dismissed it as fake. I asked the political scientist what he thought about the document. He started by saying the constitution making process was necessary but the method was flawed. His argument was that the political parties were bound to bicker and they were doing so since 2009. I was getting more enlightened and in my schoolboy awe, asked what was supposed to be done. He said the issue was simple, the constitution making process was supposed to be withdrawn from parliament. Let a commission do that and then let the legislators debate what would have come up and then go for the referendum. I then brought him back to the question on the pull-out. He was a bit jumpy. My question, I said to him was not on the authenticity or otherwise,

but the spirit guiding its publication. I told him that my suspicions were that the publication, as well as the denial were more of a dramatization. Politics, I have realised, was all about drama. In the case of the constitution making process, the drama had been acted to an awed and expectant audience but they were getting bored. One by one they were going out. The actors, drunk in their self righteousness had not noticed the emptying auditorium. The few in the audience who had remained had something to gain in the short term. All in all the constitution making process had lost its way. One would shudder to think what the final document will be like. Maybe it would have helped to publish the views at every stage and then see what the people thought. As it stands, it would take a genius to rescue the process.

Legalising Prostitution? AN OPINION

By Buhle Dlamini

MDC-T BULAWAYO EAST MP THABITHA KHUMALO's call to legalize prostitution has yielded a spat of criticism

Its deplorable how so many known figures berated the legislator's humanitarian call, across the political divide and the religiously mollified. I was left in awe by the superfluous generosity of vitriol by the general public and mostly the Human Rights activists and others stake holders in the Freedom of Expression realms. I buried my head deep down in melancholy seeking desperate and rare meanings of the topic. I started by looking for the clauses in the Universal Human Rights to see how many clauses were being violated. Article 1., 2, 5,18, 20 cited by the author, omitted by the editor due to space constraints)

I also rummaged to see what Human Rights Defenders are. A human rights defender is anyone who works non-violently to protect and promote human rights. Human rights defenders are lawyers, judges, journalists, bloggers, students, religious leaders, trade unionists and any others who work to combat human rights abuses.

By challenging injustice and raising awareness about human rights, these local activists are essential in bringing about positive, lasting change within a society. Because they challenge government actions, human rights defenders and their families are harassed, detained, interrogated, imprisoned, tortured and even killed.

I went forward to implore what it means if one is a Woman Human Rights Defender. 'Women human rights defenders' include women active in human rights defense that are targeted for who they are as well as all those active in the Defence of women's rights who are targeted for what they do. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists participate in many human rights struggles, including the advocacy for sexual rights. They become vulnerable to violence because of who they are and the work they do, especially when that work is directly related to sexuality. Women human rights defenders put themselves on the front line in the promotion and protection of human rights. In doing so, they face risks that are specific to their gender and additional to those faced by men. Frequently, the violence or threat against them is sexual in nature, or they face restrictions in their work

on account of their gender. Furthermore, prejudice, exclusion and public repudiation by both state forces and social actors weigh heavily in their lives. Harassment and attacks against them may themselves take gender-specific forms ranging from verbal abuse directed exclusively at women because of their gender, sexuality or gender identity to sexual harassment and rape. These human rights abuses can, in turn, have repercussions that are, in and of themselves, gender-specific. For example, the rape of a woman human rights defender in custody can result in pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Other gender-specific consequences could also include forced abortion or forced childbirth. Since the abuses against women human rights defenders are generally not classified as human rights violations, one serious consequence is that the atrocities against them are given lower priority. Sometimes they are not considered 'serious enough' to merit response or redress, or they are simply ignored in favor of those committed against 'recognised' human rights defenders who are usually male. As a consequence, women defenders are deprived of protection afforded to their male colleagues in the movements. (to be continued)



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.

Nyamutatanga Makombe

The year is coming to an end and am wondering who the MP of the year will be. So there we go, Parliamentary Monitors, lets see who is the MP of the year and possibly give reasons.
Like · · Follow post · 13 December 2011 at 21:04

Christwish Mushure Majojo

Mwonzora Douglas is the best nd the worst Simon Hove
14 December 2011 at 07:02 via Mobile · Like · 1.

Justice Muvengi @Christwish. I didn't know we have an MP by the name Simon Hove. Nde vapiko ivavo?

On Douglas Mwonzora, i give a nod!
14 December 2011 at 10:52 via Mobile · Like.

Addmore Makunura Chindori Chininga rools the roost whether you are Zanu or MDC the guy does his job hey!
15 December 2011 at 16:17 · Like.

Thupeyo Muleya thats a tough one bro
16 December 2011 at 10:02 · Like.

Tandem Nkulumane Tapera I think its Obert Mpofu. For his constituents yes he has done extremely the best
16 December 2011 at 22:07 · Like.
Nyamutatanga Makombe Personally I will look at the MPs who worked hard in Committees, In their constituencies and also contributing to debates in Parly. Those who have a knack of making noise should not make it
17 December 2011 at 15:21 · Like.

Tandem Nkulumane Tapera Mind you some MPs have got more tasks than others. Some travel long distances to attend parliament, while others have constituencies that even covers the parliament. Their educational levels are very different. Their source of funds are also very different and a lot more. I wonder how you can compare them to choose an MP of the year fairly. TELL MZALA.
17 December 2011 at 20:19 · Like.

Tichaona Lawrence Chinyuku the mp from kwekwe, settlement chikwinya
18 December 2011 at 11:12 · Like.
Sharon Tawuya i will name the worst, **Tamsanqa Mahlangu**, Nkulumane legislator, he is always passive in the House
18 December 2011 at 12:28 · Like.
Avtomat Kalashnikova the worst heneri dzinotywei
18 December 2011 at 19:21 via Mobile · Like

Gilbert Kagodora

The ZANU PF MP for Shamva South have passed on. Nematambudziko vari kuZANU asi ini zvangu handizivi kuti ndotii. The man was a terrorist chero dai ari teacher zvake. Asiwo ahhh, hanzizi wafa wanaka. May his soul rest in eternal peace.
Like · · Follow post · 19 December 2011 at 17:00

Simba Dexter Mwaingeni likes this..

Nobosi Chamukwira Aaah nematambudziko chokwadi, ainzi ani zviya?
19 December 2011 at 17:56 via Mobile · Like.

Nyamutatanga Makombe Afa anaka. quick mathematics, how many electoral vacancies are there now? is there anyone with a bio of the guy?
19 December 2011 at 19:12 · Like.

Douglas Mwonzora What is his name?
Sent from my iPad
21 December 2011 at 06:05 via · Like.

Gilbert Kagodora Hon, ainzi Ziteya.
3 January at 13:04 · Like.

Victor Mukanda Nematambudziko vari kuZANU. Kwatiri tose tongofarawo mutumisodzi itwotwo kuti at least one terrorist down
3 January at 13:09 · Like.

Betty Makoni Hanzvadzi dzangu ndi-

noziva hangu people dont see eye to eye politically. But from what I know Zimbabwe is a country with most loving people. Musadzore msoko kana zviito zvakashata nezvakashata. pasi pano vazhinji vakatongwa tichiona saka imi dzorai moyo yenyu, mugoono kuti kutonga ndekwaani. Kana muchava kana kuti kuri vatungamiri ingodai vese. Musadzore zvinotwa neavo vamunoshora nokuti munozvishoresa. masoko edu ngaapore. tisatuke kana kuponda, ndine urombo kupindira pahurukuro iyi asi dzidzisa anotadza nemasoko anoita kuti iye anyare
4 January at 15:20 · Like.

Nobosi Chamukwira @Betty hapana amutuka apa tese tati nematambudziko kunevari kuzanu nekuti ndiwo wafirwa. Kutaura mabasa emufi hakusi kutuka hadzvadzi.

4 January at 16:07 via Mobile · Like.

Victor Mukanda Taura hako Nobukosi. Munhu wese tongomuti anga akanaka nekuti afa.

4 January at 16:08 · Like.

Betty Makoni ah ndazvinzwa ndanga ndichiedza kuti let next generation of leaders know that we got unkind words and lets hope they wont be repeated. Ndatenda hangu ne explanation.
4 January at 16:45 · Like

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



Our Condolences to the family of Gladys Dube (MDC-T)
Veneranda Langa

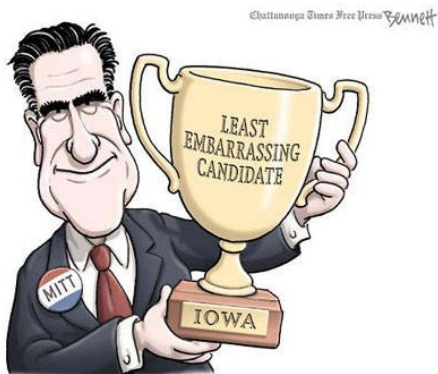
May the Honourable Senator Gladys Dube's soul rest in eternal peace. You played your part well in Parliament mad-am. Like · · Follow post · 5 January at 11:56

McLlynton James Chidakwa, Kurauone Chihwayi and Vusumuzi Sifile Sibanda like this..

Chidza Sachidza yep sh fought a gud fight 5 January at 12:41 · Like.

Gilbert Kagodora Tinovachema. Tinovarangarira. She fought a good fight.

5 January at 13:00 · Like



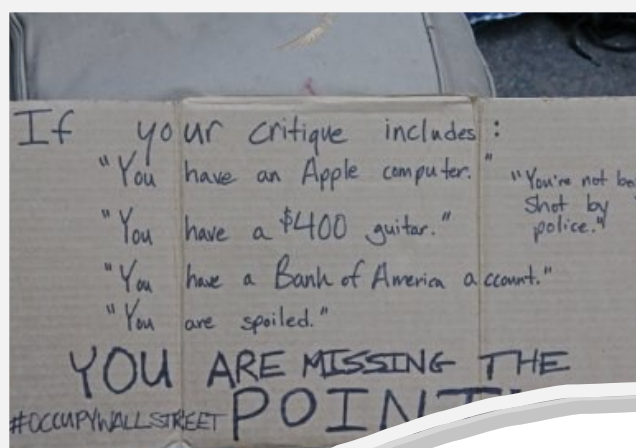
Who would get this award in Zim?



...and @ the back!



These are some of the placards which the Occupy Wallstreet demonstrators wielded. What interests about Occupy Wallstreet is the ability of the people to organise themselves and make demands.



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/ info@pmtz.org/

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/parlymonitor>

