



Parliamentary Monitor

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our parliament
our voice

paramende yedu
izwi redu

Ipalamente yethu
ilizwi lethu



Souvenir Edition August 15, 2011

Introducing PMT Zimbabwe

PMT Zimbabwe's mandate is to give voters a platform to engage elected representative through organizing and operating projects that ensure that the general citizen have access to information on what is happening in parliament. By making information more accessible, PMT Zimbabwe seeks to empower the voters so that they would be able to hold Members of Parliament accountable. In carrying out this mandate PMT Zimbabwe is an open and non-partisan organization that seeks to connect with all concerned Zimbabweans using ICTs and social media

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The Bottom-line

The electoral vacancies are a sign our representative democracy is not taken seriously.

By-elections long overdue

Electoral vacancies, since the 2008 general elections, continue to increase with no mention on when by-elections will be held a sign that the affected constituencies are not taken seriously. The death of Gutu South House of Assembly representative and Minister of Public Service, Professor Eliphas Mukonoweshuro, brings to 20 the electoral vacancies in both houses. There are more electoral vacancies in local authorities. It has been three years since the last parliamentary elections were held and some of the Members of Parliament passed on before they were even sworn in. While death is part of nature, what has become worrisome is the failure to fill in the vacancies, something that is unacceptable in any democracy. This failure, while a travesty of representative democracy, is also in violation of the country's constitution as well as the Global Political Agreement which gave birth to the government system currently prevailing in the country. Under the GPA, the three political parties, MDC-T, Zanu PF and MDC, agreed that: "....for a period of 12 months from the date of signing of this agreement, should any electoral vacancy arise in respect of a local authority or parliamentary seat, for whatever reason, only the party holding that seat prior to the vacancy occurring shall be entitled to nominate and field a candidate to fill in the seat subject to that party complying with the rules governing its internal democracy." The rationale for such a provision was to allow national healing as the competitive nature of elections had given room to violence especially in the run up to the run-off in 2008. However, while this provision was subject to abuse by parties as they could force down a candidate, other political parties not part of the GPA could field candidates thus making the elections competitive which is healthy for representative democracy. Under the constitution, electoral vacancies should be filled within 90 days. Thus almost three years after signing GPA and the increasing electoral vacancies, one wonders what has happened to our democracy. Whereas debate has been on when the next general elections would be held, it is also important to have the more immediate by-elections for the reason that they will be more of a trial run on the measures undertaken to have free and fair elections. They may not be as representative as a general election but they would give pointers to the electoral bodies, the police, civic society, political parties and the voters' preparedness. Another reason why these elections should be held is that we are a representative democracy and one wonders who has been carrying the concerns of the affected constituencies. Filling the electoral vacancies may require as much as US\$20 million, and the argument has been the country does not have such resources. However, democracy is valueless and when one looks at the figures involved and say it is too expensive to have the people represented, then they should be accused of cheapening democracy. A lot has happened in the last three years and three years and the affected constituencies may have lost out on the Constituency Development Fund. While the affected constituencies were represented by their senators, it goes without saying that the House of Assembly member knows the area better.



Monitoring Parliament : An imperative for democracy in Zim

By Ricky Mukonza

The *trias politica* doctrine posits that a democratic society needs to have three pillars namely the executive, judiciary and legislature. Ideally each needs to operate independently and thus create checks and balances within the system. In this piece my focus is on the legislature, Parliament. A well-functioning Parliament in democratic state is of paramount importance. In theory Parliament is expected to play two critical roles which are making laws and monitoring the executive. In other words its second role implies policing the executive. The major question becomes; who police the Parliament? It is essentially the above question that the Parliamentary Monitoring Trust – Zim-

babwe (PMTZ), *inter alia*, seeks to address. It must be stated categorically that PMTZ does not seek to compete with Parliament nor usurp its powers, but rather complement its work and assist it to become more accessible and relevant to the people that it serves. By implication, PMTZ will in some instances collaborate with Parliament and parliamentarians to ensure that democracy is enhanced. More importantly, PMTZ will become a link between Parliament and Parliamentarians and the people. It will clarify and simplify

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some of the seemingly complex parliamentary processes, which most of the time

leave the ordinary people perplexed. This will help demystify

the view widely held by ordinary Zimbabweans that Parliament is a remote institution that is located in the middle of the capital city and that parliamentarians only interact with them during elections when they will be soliciting for votes. PMTZ guided by its values and driven by its desire to build a society that is well informed and actively participates in parliamentary processes, will no doubt play an important role in enhancing democracy in Zimbabwe—**Mukonza a Public Management Lecturer at Tshwane University of Technology—SA**



Ricky Mukonza

Obituary—Prof Elphas Mukonoweshuro (June 22, 1953 - August 5, 2011)

An academic, scholar, politician and civil servant, these words describe the late Professor Elphas Mukonoweshuro. He was the Public Service Minister at the time he passed on, a position he held since the inception of the inclusive government in February 2009. Minister Mukonoweshuro was born on 20 June 1953 in Gutu. Prof Mukono, as he was usually referred to by fellow lecturers and student at the University of Zimbabwe took graduate classes under the

Department of Political and Administrative Studies. He taught masters student in International Economic Affairs before he became a parliamentarian in 2005 after defeating Shuvai Mahofa of Zanu (PF) to win the Gutu South seat. One of Prof Mukono's former student said he remembered him as a very incisive scholar with an unusual ability to distill complex issues. He did his primary education at Shumba Primary School in Gutu before going to Zimuto High School for secondary education.

He did his A Level at Thekwane High School before enrolling at the UZ. One of his former students said he remembered him as a very incisive scholar. "He was also humourous, asking us why we took the graduate class, he answered himself: 'You wanted to delay unemployment by 18 months?' to which we all laughed."



Late Flash: Marondera East HA Rep Tracy Mutinhiri fired by her party. What are the implications to Parly? Should she lose her seat ?



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.

Below is an engagement , we have kept the date, number of people who like etc to show the virtual interaction

Martin Chinyanga Da William POLITICS, OF ZIMBABWE WAS suffocated by robert mugabe's egoism, most of the true heroes were killed before they could make zimbabwe a better place.

24 July at 21:41 · 2 people like this.

Martin Chinyanga Da William I WONDER why the zanu-pf extremist, have a doctrine of hating the Americans, British as imperialist, yet they did great things as said by the hero in the video...

24 July at 22:41 · Like · 1 person

Ruzvidzo G Manyika ZanuPF does not hate americans per se @Wiryamu ,but despises imperialism as espounded by the anglo-american states, it's not the same as hating americans. It,s a simple thing, you don't have to wonder at all. 24 July at 22:46 via Facebook Mobile ·

Martin Chinyanga Da William you will never see this video being shown to the people of zimbabwe, since .. but we are thriving to see all the documentraies.. to make a better understanding of who was who... then if these people were fighting against oppression as said by zvobgo, and you can see tekere himself , was always against mugabe's authority , cause mugabe was doing the opposite way,, as to what he told these leaders what they were fighting for. 24 July at 22:53 · Like

Ruzvidzo G Manyika That's democracy in action @Martin, disagreeing is a part of the engagement process in a vibrant organisation like ours. That is how ZanuPF has sur-

vived to this day and will outlive your grandchildren. It is not there kwenyu KWEKUTI MUKAPESANA MAFUNGIRO NEMAONERO YOU END UP WITH MDC WILLIAM AND SO FORTH. 24 July at 23:01 via Facebook Mobile ·

Mutambara J Mutambara Macomrades the issue raised by Chinyanga require us to abstain from mud slinging. A sober approach might indicate to us a trend in our political history. We tend to venerate our leaders to a point where we hold them as gods, beyond reproach. By and large the social transformation policies succeeded in the first 10years. Those successes should not be credited to one man, it was team effort including a willing population. Mugabe has some very good leadership attributes which he, unfortunately failed to turnaround Zimbabwe for the better in the 90s. He metamorphosised into a cancer for Zimbabwe from 1999 to date. Oh how the great one has fallen! The stench of the septic cancer wounds fill the whole world, what a desolation. DRIVING A CAR DOES NOT MAKE IT PERFORM ANY BETTER, IT IS THE STATE OF THE MACHINE WHICH MATTERS. MUGABE is followed by a flock, which does not ask pertinent questions. Those who dare have left like me or are counted in the register of the dead. 25 July at 12:09 via Facebook Mobile · Like · 1 person

Ruzvidzo G Manyika exactly my point. The fact that you left is a democratic process action. Allow others to exercise theirs by disagreeing with @martin's analysis and conjecture. Thank you. 25 July at 12:40 via

Facebook Mobile

Ruzvidzo G Manyika A leader without followers is not a leader, therefore allow us to follow our leader, Cde RG Mugabe too.

25 July at 12:41 via Facebook Mobile ·

Martin Chinyanga Da William A cult leader,,what comes of them obvious genocides. 25 July at 12:54 via Facebook Mobile ·

Mutambara J Mutambara Mugabe stalled Zanu PF renewal by sticking to scotched earth policies of retaining the old guard at all cost to the nation. Those closest to him exactly what I am saying. Members of Dare reChimurenga who did not agree with him either left or sidelined. Opportunists who were willing to be used in dirty political games for some wealth remained. Most of them cannot debate effectively why they support a man with so much blood in his hands. Though political party policies and methodologies differ, Human Rights are universal. Blood is red whether you are Shona, Ndebele, Black, White or munhu asina mutupo wekuMbare. Life is the red blood and his hands are bloody red! 25 July at 14:20 via Facebook Mobile · Like · 1 person

Ishmail Kauzani Othwise zanu pf is not bad as we think what is bad the systme of Gukurahundism which Mugabe and others use to silance the voice of people. **For more join us on**

Don't miss the next issue where we carry a post by MDC President Prof Welshman Ncube and the responses!

Feedback? info@pmtz.org



Origins of the word PARLIAMENT

Date of Origin 13th c. The French verb parler 'talk' has made a small but significant contribution to English. Amongst its legacies are parlance (16th c.), parley (16th c.), parlour (13th c.) (etymologically a 'room set aside for conversation'), and parliament itself. This came from the Old French derivative parlement, which originally meant 'talk, consultation, conference', but soon passed to 'formal consultative body', and hence to 'legislative body'. French parler was a descendant of medieval Latin parabolāre 'talk'. source: <http://www.word-origins.com/>

Did you know?

The First Session of the First Parliament of Rhodesia was held on Friday 30 May 1924 at Meikles Hall (corner Speke and Third) in Harare. The colonialists avoided the Parliament Building: "In order to accommodate the vast number of spectators.." Prior to constituting the First Parliament, a Legislative Council met at the current Parliament Building from 1899. There is no prize for guessing that this was an all white meeting! More than half a century latter (56 years) the first multi-racial Parliament in independent Zimbabwe convened on May 13 1980. There may have been other multiracial Parliaments in between but they were all under colonial rule.

Depressing statistics

Nothing is being done to disseminate info on Parly and when it is done, the audience does not trust it, results by PMT Zimbabwe have shown. The online survey which may not be representative of the generality of Zimbabweans due to certain limitation, however showed that those with a particular interest on what happens in Parly were either starved or feared being lied to. Since the link to the questions was sent to those linked to PMT Zimbabwe, the sample was biased in a positive way as it was representative of those with a particular interest in Parly. The findings show gaps in info dissemination. About half of the respondents are aged between 26 and 35 and those 18 – 25 constituted 41.7%. In a clear sign that the print media no longer dominate audiences, 25% of respondents said they relied on dailies for info on Parly while 16.7% used weeklies. At 41.7% the print media competes with other sources such as Veritas, PMT Zimbabwe and general discussion (33%). Online newspapers have a 25% share. Of note here is the 0% access to the Hansard a sign it is not widely distributed. There is equal distribution between those who access info on Parly for professional reasons and general information. In a clear sign that most respondents have an interest on what happens in Parly, 45% said they do it almost daily while another 36% on a weekly basis. In a clear vote of no confidence in the sources of information, 50% said they double check the info while close to 0% definitely trusted the info. 91.7% of respondents said Parly was not doing enough to disseminate information while 58.3 said the same of NGOs

....and @ the back!

Parliamentarians out of order...into the ring



1 Mexican Parliamentarians taking debate to another level (google pix)



2 Bolivian lawmakers (google pix)



3 Left uppercut—Ukrainian legislators fight over issues (poyi.com)



4 I speak first..a Ukrainian law-maker seems to say (wondrous.com)



5 Taiwan legislators (glitz blog)

