

Parliamentary Monitor

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Ordinary Voices

Xtra-ordinary Impact

MPs can account for CDF funds. Who can manage the development of their constituency than themselves. But we should have a reporting mechanism for them. And this should be legally obligatory. CDF is good. It should not be abused. People should stand up to their MPs and make them accountable for their actions. Forward with CDF. Forward with development. Forward with transparency and accountability. Down with corruption and self-centredness.—A Parly Monitor's Comments on a PM survey last month.

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The Bottom-line

A more robust monitoring mechanism be adopted. Yes there should be audit but there should also be a monitoring and evaluating mechanism. It is one thing to account for and another to have an impact!

We Want Names!



These are the photos of the Members of Parliament who abused the Constituency Development Fund. We unfortunately cannot unmask them because...believe it, the issue has been referred to the GPA principals! Please read story on page 2.

The Good News

**Female
MPs 100%
Compliant**

**Matabeleland
MPs 100%
Compliant**

Bad News

**Ex-governor
fails to account
for CDF**

**3 other MPs also
abused the funds**

**Zanu PF—2
MDC-T—2**



Village Observer

I was told to take a sabbatical. Yes! Sabbatical, it is an intellectual way of saying leave or in more village terms off, from work. From time to time one has to appear like they ate BIG books! And that is what I intend to do in this instalment after a two week sabbatical. The reason for the sabbatical, I was told by the Parliamentary Monitoring team, was to spruce up something. I thought for a while it was my insipid articles which they meant but they said it was more of the outlook of the publication. I told them to make sure that they reserved space for me. For us in the village, we like space to express ourselves and that is why we went in drove when we were invited *nevanhu veconstitution/abantu beconstitution*. We sat under trees, in classrooms and at business centres and made contributions. We were told our contributions would be contained in the new constitution. Our village had very scanty idea of what a constitution is. We asked the school teachers, the businesspeople and the students and they gave us varying explanations. This did not put us off. Matigari, my friend as usual was naughty, asking what was wrong with the constitution. His observation was that in 1979, we had a constitution to end a war, in 2000 we

almost had another one, to end "one party state" he said and he hoped the new constitution was to end poverty. His contribution was "Can we legislate against poverty, ensure jobs, education and equal opportunity?" He was not fully answered then. It was last year. Each time he gets a few coins, Matigari makes a beeline to the watering hole and instead of drowning his sorrows, he spews out venom. He said there are times when one has to speak, not in tongues, but with acidic syllables if we want things done. He was like that last week. He asked me what had happened to the constitution. I stammered. He said he had the answers. The politicians were at it again. They were holding the nation at ransom. The drafters of the constitution had been taken to a secret location. How could that be? Was it not that we had made our contributions as public as possible. What was the use of asking us to make contributions and then take them for drafting at a secret location. When was the document going back into the public arena? How could you take a people driven constitution into a secret location. At least we should have been told where they were and make noise at them. What have we done wrong that they should run away from us? It is very rare for me to agree with Matigari but we found convergence on this one. As

he spoke, I started to see sense in what he was saying. The whole issue of constitution making should be made public. The elites as usual have used us villagers to do a public relations exercise of an elite document. How could people drive a constitution which is hidden from them. COPAC has failed to fully appraise the people on this one. I visited their website and one has to tell them that it was a window to what is happening but with archaic news articles/ releases and comments, then the website is dead. There should have been some information centres for keeping people updated. Why collect our views and then keep them as it they were yours? The drafters should come out. I propose that they use a very public place, Meikles Park here in Mutare or any other park and we observe. As it stands, we are putting trust in an elite that could be up to some mischief. The mischief is there to be seen. Have you noticed how they keep referring to Kenya? We are totally different. Our processes could have had areas of convergence but we are different. We want a Zimbabwean constitution not a hybrid and I thought that is what we wanted. Maybe we are getting it wrong but we run the risk of coming up with a brilliant document which is not owned by the people.

NO SACRED COWS

The latest on

Members of Parliament who abused CDF has shown that four male have failed to account. The names are being withheld as the issue has been referred to the Global Political Agreement Principals. There are problems with this move and some of them are:

This has nothing to do with the GPA. The elections of MPs preceded the signing of the GPA. It is wrong to use the GPA as an instrument to govern/regulate the operations of a constitutional body like Parliament. As it stands, the principals of the GPA, President Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and his Deputy Arthur Mutambara, are the executive thus referring an issue like abuse of funds by MPs is collapsing the frontiers of the three pillars of the state. We are deliberately obliterating these and the doctrine of the separation of powers. We may be creating our own dictators. While Zanu PF and MDC-T are undisputed principals,

anyone can see that the same cannot be said about DPM Mutambara. There are issues before the courts and until these have been settled, it may be wrong to refer an issue to DPM Mutambara. Imagine what would have happened if one of the MPs was from his party? The only joy is that MPs from Matabeleland have all been accountable. This means that for the other MDC, they could be mere observers. We could be setting a very bad precedence here. There are processes and procedure to follow should one realise that there has been fraud, theft, robbery or abuse of trust. The most logical thing to do is to take the issue to the police, they are the best people to deal with this. What would happen if the principals say pardon them? We are taking a very long route to clear people accused of abusing public trust. The funds they abused were meant for basic development. There are times when in pursuit of justice, action is taken not to compensate the injured but to deter those who may also want to do the same. One example is jailing someone for murder. Some of the facts, as we scanned

through the press clippings are:

The list has been whittled down from seven to four

All four are male MPs

One is a former provincial governor

The issue is not failing to account, as is the case with the other 20+ but diversion of the funds

The four are equally distributed between MDC-T and Zanu PF

What is CDF?

It is a fund that was established in 2009, and started operating under the 2010 fiscal year, aimed at making basic constituency based development projects. There was an upper limit of US\$50 000 per constituency.

Lessons learnt:

There should be a training of the MPs on how to handle the fund. A more robust monitoring mechanism be adopted. Yes there should be audit but there should also be a monitoring and evaluating mechanism. It is one thing to account for and another to have an impact!



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

To pay back or not to pay back, that is the question. After a US\$15 000 wind-fall, MPs are resisting to pay back loans for the vehicle they use. Is there justification? Like · · **Nyamutatanga Makombe** What was agreed on in the first place? Who is administering the vehicle loan? I think we need to dig deeper than this. What would happen if they refused to give back? These are questions we should seek answers among others
29 January at 21:44 · Like · 4.

Garikayi Dendera there is an issue behind everything. I heard the issue of their allowances and that of loans. Let's not look at the payment of loans only. Mari dzavo dzema allowance hadzikwane kutenga mota here? ane chikwereti chemumwe ndiyani.
29 January at 22:06 via Mobile ·

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29 January at 22:06 via Mobile · Like.

Christopher Chidarikire Depends with what the deal was.
29 January at 22:09 · Like.

Farai Muchemwa As long as its loan, u need to pay back.
30 January at 06:15 via Mobile · Like.

Fafa Dee Madzikura They can't use their allowances amana, there's better things to cater for in this country.

Cathbert Tapiwa Mashonganyika My take on this guys is slightly different. Politicians are people who define the direction a country goes by the policies they formulate. We must aim to attract the best brains to this field so that we have the best debates, resulting in good policies. If we don't make the re-

numarations attractive enough, we will attract monkeys as we will be paying peanuts. I for one would not leave my current job to be mp cause of the benefits.

30 January at 11:01 · Like · 2.

Nyamutatanga Makombe Cathbert Tapiwa Mashonganyika, well my understanding of the policy cycle is that there are lots of players involved. In the case of this one under discussion, we can see that politicians may have been dishonest. It is common law that u repay a loan. In terms of remuneration, MPs as actors in the policy cycle should be rewarded, in an orthodox manner not saying I hang on to what I already have. Let us say the loan was from the treasury, then they are stealing from us the poor because they are refusing to repay monies from our taxes. If it is a revolving fund, then they have broken the cycle which means the next parliament should source new funds. Whichever way we look at it, it shows that they may be wrong
30 January at 15:00 · Like · 1.

Cathbert Tapiwa Mashonganyika 15000 is not a lot of money if its for such a long backpay. I think we are lost a bit as we are being misled by the press. I would have hoped that if the money was coming from the same source, they had the capacity to deduct the money before giving them. That's how we were treated when I was a civil servant. So we are not being told the whole truth, so our judgement is incomplete.

To me I see a bit of zanu underhand, just like they are suddenly finding it necessary to encourage civil servants to strike. Now that mdc is in the majority, I feel they want to paint a picture of mdc being money hungry. They forget some guys left lucrative careers to try and help

the country. When zanu was alone in government, they sold themselves cars and houses at book value (almost nothing). To me there is a bigger picture guys. Mabasa e zanu ngwarai.

30 January at 20:07 via Mobile · Like.

Setfree N Mafukidze In other words are we saying we vote for them to make a living and forget about our needs? These guys are not acting on what we voted them for but are instead fighting for their own enrichment. We need people who can do what we require them to first and then benefit later. Look at how on top of the car loans and allowances some of them abused the Constituency Development Funds? These people are beyond doubt after self enrichment and are not for the people.
30 January at 20:13 via Mobile · Like.

Cathbert Tapiwa Mashonganyika While 50000 is very little money for projects in a constituent, this was a chance for mos to show that they are responsible. I understand they were meant to establish an office in their constituent. And pick on projects. Wonder how many picked on one of projects, and how many picked proper self running projects that may even generate more funds. Use it as seed money. My other understanding is the abuse of this fund is not widespread, and also it maybe just bad book keeping and lack of knowledge. They may need project management skills. Let's wait for the report.
30 January at 20:24 via Mobile · Like.

Pmt Zimbabwe Cathbert Tapiwa Mashonganyika u are spot on. training was necessary. however, should we wait for the report or call for the report as voters and citizens?
30 January at 20:27 · Like.

Feedback? info@pmtz.org



Below are Responses to a Survey Question:

Do you have anything to do with Parly you think needs attention and what is it?

Law breaking at Kenny Road. The Actor restaurant is illegal, but the ZRP to not enforce the laws of Zimbabwe. 1/20/2012 10:50 PMView Responses

CDF Should continue but be Audited. Commitment by MPS +complete developmental projects. 1/20/2012 10:48 PMView Responses

The youth it should focus with employment. 2 focus on empowering the youth and give the youth opportunity to open small bussines which is now dominated by foreigners especially nigerians and chinese 1/20/2012 3:03 PM

Feedback meetings by MPs should be monitored. 1/20/2012 1:49 PM

I have something to do with Parly. I am a citizen. I voted for this Parly to exist. MPs who abused CDF should be prosecuted. New blood should take charge. 1/20/2012 1:41 PM

We need to see our MPs more - not just when they want us to vote for them. What are they doing for their constituents in the mean time? 1/20/2012 11:02 AMView Responses

They need to update their contacts list. What is the point of having their information up if it cannot be used by anyone. They need to be approachable. Its their job to serve the country and not treat the ordinary person like a nuisance. Employees in Parliament require schooling in that. 1/20/2012 10:47 AMView Responses

TO BE MORE PRAGMATIC AND IMPROVE DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON THOSE WHO ABUSE CDF RESOURCES 1/20/2012 10:26 AMView Responses

Parliament must as a matter of urgency ensure that parliamentarians are taking programmes and consulting with their employers in the communities. 1/20/2012 9:25 AM

Everything! 1/20/2012 9:12 AMView Responses

It needs 2 open centres d whole country mo of resoce centres dat way we fully folow its progres we who r out of

Harare 1/20/2012 8:42 AMView Responses

MPs should not concentrate on their allowances but fight to see some change in the country's legal framework and for the good of the people who voted them into Parly. 1/20/2012 8:18 AMView Responses

Those from zanu pf must give us a break and retire.they have been in the hpuse over three decades but no meaningful dvelopment.The issue of Life Presidency must be abolished.Pliz table Mugabe's resignation immediately.Overplayed vinyl scratchy 1/20/2012 7:39 AMView Responses

in my area i dont even know the MP or the Senator.The CDF is new to me.I've just heard a little bit about it and dont know how it operates 1/20/2012 6:05 AMView Responses

should include our voices. 1/19/2012 9:46 PMView Responses

The press gallarey is now to small. 1/19/2012 9:42 PMView Responses

When are the elections. Who abused CDF 1/19/2012 9:31 PMView Responses

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These are some of the vehicles that the elected officials are driving. It raises questions. Some did not even contest. Is it justified or not? Should we use the money for critical area such as health and education if it is just being populist?



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