

Parliamentary Monitor

A Weekly e-Newsletter Published by the Parliamentary Monitoring Trust of Zimbabwe



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Ordinary Voices

Xtra-ordinary Impact

Surely if the MP is absent most of the time in Parly it goes to show that he is also absent from his constituency. His office is empty most of the time. He has no time to listen to local opinion. And address the needs of his constituency!

I would urge millions of wavering voters to use their X Factor wisely in the next General Election - by not sticking with MP's that will not safeguard Zimbabwe's future..—

Cynthia Martha Mafara

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The Bottom-line

This is a clear sign that the MPs do not take the business of Parly seriously.

Missing People (MPs)

AWOL!!

The people below have gone AWOL from their workplace. Please assist the people of Zimbabwe who have been short changed



Some have attended 1 out of 32 sittings

They could still be clamouring for perks

Image © 2011 GooEye



00:00

18°44'53.17"S 32°35'48.83"E elev 1209 m





Village Observer

My mom, two intellectuals and me.

Last week I was in Harare. I met some friends at an up-market restaurant right in the CBD and our talk

touched on a number of issues from general health until we got into politics. We were talking on top of our voices. We were four of us. From a general approach to the political situation, the discussion crystalised into a talk on what was on offer in the next elections. It was by chance that two of the people I had belonged, or were proffering positions that converged with MDC and Zanu PF. Without a moderator, the four of us continued talking, no foul language, intellectual engagement. It hit me that this was supposed to be the stuff that would make my week's instalment in Parliamentary Monitor. One guy, let us call him Kudzi, was convinced the next elections would be violence laden or Zanu PF would not pick even a single seat. His argument was: People in Zimbabwe do not vote along ideological lines. They vote to make sure that they made a statement and I tell you, without violence, nothing will come out of that party. They would be as good as gone. The other, his antagonist, call him Ncube, said: There will be no violence. President Mugabe has said so and this has cascaded to the ordinary people on the ground. We will see. After all Zanu PF does

not need violence to win the next elections. The two opposing views were further expanded, one giving the other a chance to explain what they meant. It was interesting. It was engaging. These were two intellectuals, still sober, saying completely different things. There was no sign this will degenerate into something nasty. I had a question for the two but did not ask. I wanted to know if they were registered voters. Then the other guy who had kept quiet came in saying that despite the promise to tap on the youth, both parties were doing absolutely nothing to urge them to register to vote. It partly answered my question. Then the next question I had was: OF the two political parties, which was likely to package its message in a more appealing manner. Zanu PF, I proffered, was likely to premise its manifesto on indigenisation and consolidation of the land reform. Then MDC-T was likely to come up with the agenda of routing out corruption, restoring the status of the country as productive and respect for human rights. Then this is where I suddenly realised that as a villager, the next elections could be hollow if the parties continue to think that we know what they are there for. With their MPs AWOL, the political parties are going to have a difficult time convince us to vote. It would require more work than has been done. Their MPs, have been a big let down. They have not been able to explain to the people what their policies are and what they

intend to do with our votes. My worry is that they continue to think that we will vote for a baboon if asked to do so. This is where I differed with Kudzi. I am yet to get a scholarly research on how and why Zimbabweans vote the way they do. Still on Ncube, I think his argument was not very deep as he did not explain what mechanisms were there to eliminate violence. Saying one thing is different from implementing it. Then as chance would have it, my mom attended a wedding in Harare and she came back complaining that she had seen very big houses. "And why would people build such big houses, covering this whole yard," she said waving across our big rural yard. She then said that she had been told that politicians lived there. "This has made me realise that we vote them so that they become rich. As such, I will not vote again. I will get into the ballot box to spoil my vote. I will mark 3 times, I know how to do it as we were taught to vote." The reasoning in my mom's argument was an eye opener. The intellectuals may continue to argue it is going to be difficult to get that vote out. Maybe the two intellectuals were wrong. They may have been arguing in the abstract. But for my mother, it was a resolution she could have made. We may have apathy. Or more spoiled ballots. The two may be a result of lack of voter education. But using my mom's argument, the spoiled papers are not out of ignorance but a protest.

MPs Gone AWOL

The table shows show many sittings some of the elected members of Parliament missed. If these Honourable Members failed to attend Parliament at such alarming rates, one shudders to think what they have done to their constituencies. There may be explanations as to why they failed to attend but the figures should be cause for concern for any Zimbabwean who takes the business of the legislature seriously.

MPs Name	Party	Constituency	Sittings Not Attended
Jonathan Moyo	Zanu PF	Tsholotsho North	31
Jameson Timba	MDC-T	Mount Pleasant	29
Kembo Mohadi	ZANU PF	Beitbridge North	29
Olivia Muchena	Zanu PF	Mutoko South	28
Didymus Mutasa	Zanu PF	Headlands	28
Moses Mzila Ndlovu	MDC	Bulilima West	27
Heneri Dzinotyiwei	MDC-T	Budiriro	26
Tapiwa Mashakada	MDC-T	Hatfield	25
Saviour Kasukuwere	Zanu PF	Mt Darwin South	24
Webster Shamu	Zanu Pf	Chegututu South	22
Joel Gabbuza	MDC-T	Binga	19

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

MPs AWOL Prof Jonathan Moyo, according to the NewsDay, only one out of 32 Parly Sittings. Dr Obert Mpofu, attended once and asked for leave of absence twice and the others are: MP Jameson Timba (MDC-T) (29), Binga MP Joel Gabbuta (MDC-T) (19), Beitbridge East MP Kembo Mohadi (Zanu PF) (29), Bulilima West MP Moses Mzila Ndlovu (MDC) (27) and Mount Darwin South MP Saviour Kasukuwere (Zanu PF) (24). Hatfield MP Tapiwa Mashakada (MDC-T) was absent 25 out of the 32 days, Mutoko South MP Olivia Muchena (Zanu PF) (28), Masvingo North MP Stanislaus Mudenge (Zanu PF) (28), Headlands MP Didymus Mutasa (Zanu PF) (28), Chegutu East MP Webster Shamu (Zanu PF) (22) and Budiriro MP Heneri Dzinotyiweyi (MDC-T) (26). Is there anyone out there from a constituency represented by any of these MPs? Do you think they are serving you? If these MPs are not from your area, what do you think those affected should do?

Like · · Unfollow post · 20 hours ago
Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza and 3 others like this.

Gerald Tichatonga Rubaya Just vote dem out

20 hours ago via Mobile · Like · 1

Cynthia Martha Mafara Surely if the MP is absent most of the time in Parly it goes to show that he is also absent from his constituency..His office is empty most of the time..He has no time to listen to local opinion..and address the needs of his constituency!

I would urge millions of wavering voters to use their X Factor wisely in the next General Election - by not sticking with MP's that will not safeguard Zimbabwe's future..

20 hours ago via Mobile · Like · 2

Johane J Khosa They must be out of their offices for they are there by mistake . Vote out

20 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Farai Muchemwa I would like see mps spent most of their time in their constituencies.

13 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Jedza Power They can only be seen towards elections oly to seek votes.

12 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Nombulelo Mazani They just have to be

voted out because they are not doing what pple voted them for.

11 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Weston Rufaro Kasiyandima U ar buying them nice cars let then enjoy them

11 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Mthulisi Noko they are not serious

11 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Sam Chimhau They are betraying us, not serving any purpose. We dnt want stooges. Next election its bye bye!!

11 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Kudakwashe Bhadharai They have simply failed to honour what the electorate entrusted them with,its betrayal to electorate and the only solution is voting them out.

10 hours ago · Like

Taungana B. Ngoro We need to be careful when dealing with statistics...can this really be verified? I think the angle taken by NewsDay is naive in spite of the responses given by Moyo, Mpofu and even the Clerk of Parliament Austin Zvoma. NewsDay's Veneranda Langa, the so called Senior Parliamentary Reporter has at best exposed that we have a dysfunctional parliament and at worst pathetically personalised his pride and prejudice against Moyo and Mpofu.

3 hours ago · Like · 1

Cliff Chidavaenzi Leave them alone.GNU expired longtime ago.

3 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Jedza Power Cliff but mps ar there not becoz of Gnu

3 hours ago via Mobile · Like

Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza I think it is wrong to be absent from duty without leave but we also have a pronlem of those who attend every session but do not contribute meaningfully to parliamentary debates, i think both groups of culprits should be punished

2 hours ago · Like

Washington Dube We as Zimbabweans are problem. Our politicians are always AWOL, check history since independence. ZESA has always been an AWOL we have cheered on as a nation. We demand value of our votes

Wal Ter

"Elections in 2012" Is this possible under the current political and socio-economic environment in Zimbabwe?

Like · · Unfollow post · 14 April at 18:17
 near Bulawayo, Matabeleland North William R Boyd likes this.

Respect Bangu yes it is very possible as long as its well planned and necessary communication is done

15 April at 09:50 · Like

Andrea Rambiyawo its nt possible bra

15 April at 19:46 · Like

Blessed Hove very possible wat we need to realise s dat we must hav one leader political and harsh economic env will be solved after d election not b4 1980 the socio-economic ang political was even worse than the current one dont.

19 April at 12:42 · Like

Taungana B. Ngoro Yes

19 April at 14:02 · Like

Kudakwashe Bhadharai yes elections are possible but not feasible.we cant hev constitutional referendum, national census and a general election in the same year with our snizzing economy.look at the annual budget and then try n factor in all the costs that come with these three national processes.its juss similar to wat happened wen war vets were given the 50 kgs on the black friday.yes it was possible but nt feasible coz yu cant then sustain

the economy after the processes.so in short run and from an uninformed political position,its possible,but from economic n humanitarian perspective we cant do that.its like pulling ones legs when he is already on a deathbed.our country is still fragile to do that. 19 April at 16:00 · Like

Andrea Rambiyawo You're right Kuda

19 April at 16:18 via · Like

Kudakwashe Bhadharai @ Andrea, true my brother.we are still on our path to recovery.we are still crippling so for anyone to overburden an almost sunk ship that is loaded to the tash,truely its as good as saying, Die My People.our country will sink bck to the chaotic 2007-08 tym.

19 April at 16:23 · Like

Andrea Rambiyawo Indeed Kuda and we cant allow that 2 happen.we cant be sacrificed by crazy politicians

19 April at 16:32 via · Like · 1

Kudakwashe Bhadharai i think

Feedback? info@pmtz.org



From page 3 that should be the position to take.lets serve n protect the people,lets not juss do things for political mileage.Zimbabweans need to b respected ,they hev sufferd enough,lets not mek them suffer for life

19 April at 16:34 · Like · 1

Wal Ter but it seems like all the political parties are on the election mode now and one leader ystdae was saying there is no going back on elections and thet they must be held this year without fail... and at times i gget to wonder, who these elections are meant to serve, the pple or the leaders. As the youths of this country seing that we are being held at ransom with these elections, what then should be our response?

19 April at 16:40 · Like · 1

Andrea Rambiyawo If the GPA is fully implimented & all these other reforms are sorted out & money is available then we can hve elections

19 April at 18:08 via · Like · 1

Kudakwashe Bhadharai @ Wal Ter ,note that as youuth of this country,this is a final test on us.politicians hev been on rampage.i think

we should be influencial in fighting for the stoppage of these elections if ever they are to b done this year without clear reforms in place.youth bodies n organisations should

stating clearly our position as zimbabweans.on the ground advocacy wek n no to forced elections campaign should also be done.we cant juss go to election to bring chaos back to the civilians.lets protect our pple

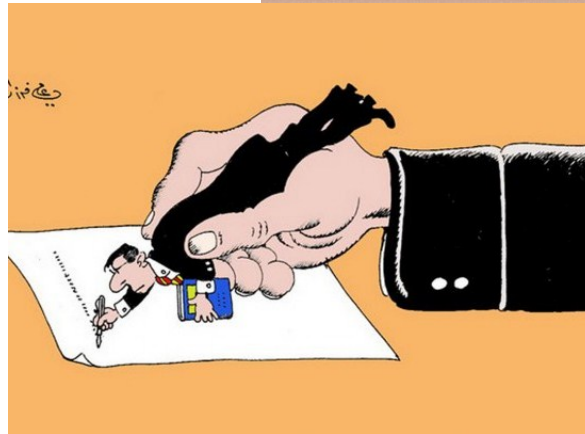
20 April at 09:44 · Like · 1

William R Boyd The chairman of the Electoral Commission is on record as stating that he is very loyal to the current ruling party, and as his appointment is definetly political, it will never be possible to have free and fair elections. With this in mind you need to look again at any suggestion of an early election. This whole system is rotten from the top all the way down to greass roots. The new draft constitution needs to be discussed and adopted, understood and supported by all people, then and only then will meaningful change start to come about.

10 hours ago · Like



write letters to sadc n au



which is tomor-
WAN-IFRA,

To mark, the World Press Freedom Day, May 3, row, the Parliamentary Monitor working with www.wan-ifra.org, has reproduced cartoons which were shared for this day. They are all around the theme of press freedom.

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