



Parliamentary Monitor

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our parliament
our voice

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Parly Update

President Robert Mugabe will officially open the Fourth Session of the Seventh Parliament tomorrow. It is interesting to monitor the Government's legislative agenda. It would give pointers to what to expect during the next session of Parly. The previous session was largely a BORE, as many expected movement on amendment of AIPPA and the finalization of other important BILLS.

Equally important is to monitor whether MPs would follow up on the Minister of Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs on naming those legislators who had failed to submit returns on CDF and what is being done. The ultimate goal should be to NAME and SHAME those who have failed to be accountable as they should not hold any public office.

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The Bottom-line

"We cannot go beyond March next year (before another election). I will definitely announce that date. It does not matter what anyone would say." President Mugabe.

Election 3/2012! YES/NO?

Is Zimbabwe ready for another POLL in about seven months from now?

The word to be underlined in READY. What does it mean to say a country is ready for an election? This question was put to the fore again last week when President Robert Mugabe declared, when addressing the Zanu PF National Consultative Assembly, that: "We cannot go beyond March next year (before another election). I will definitely announce that date. It does not matter what anyone would say." President Mugabe then went on to attack Copac for "delaying" the constitution making process. The President's declaration is understandable, since he was pushing for elections this year though it was clear that the constitution making process would take long before finalization. Zanu PF resolved, at its annual congress in Mutare last December, to hold elections this year. It is clear from the President's declaration that the constitution making process has to be speeded up or there could be polls without a new supreme law for the country. This then brings in a new dimension. Should elections be held under the current situation and environment, would

they be deemed free and fair? If not what has to be done.

Waiting for the conclusion of the constitution making process may divert attention from other process which could be undertaken concurrently with the constitution making process. One such process is voter registration. In Zimbabwe voter registration is an ongoing process thus there is nothing that bars political parties and civic organizations from encouraging potential voters to register. Another issue is the cleaning up of the voters' roll. The Registrar General Mr Tobaiwa Mudede two months ago challenged those doubting the current voters' roll to come forward with proof. It appears no one has taken the challenge and this silence may mean either no one cares or there is no capacity to prove that the voters' roll is in shambles. The recent analyses of the voters' roll should be taken as the foundation for a proper challenge so that the voter's roll could be cleaned in time for another election. Then in terms of administration of the election, there has been movement in the right direction in terms of amending the Electoral Act, but it has been pointed out that more has to be done. In fact, the police

have challenged some of the amendments and it is yet to be found what balance would be struck so that the issue of security is addressed and at the same time ensure that the polls are free and fair. Another issue is voter education which is one grey area in our electoral history. Voter education entails emphasizing the secrecy of the ballot box, how to mark the ballot papers and the freedoms that citizens enjoy. It is thus important that while the main focus is on a constitution that would address the sticking points on elections, the building blocks such as voter education, registration, cleaning of the voters' roll and amendment of the Electoral Act are also acted upon to ensure free and fair elections. What is important at this moment is to make sure that there is support to build confidence in our elections. Elections are important in a democracy in that they are a mechanism to approve or otherwise a party/candidate's policies or reward/punish an incumbent for what s/he would have achieved since the last elections. It is only when the electoral processes are clear, transparent and the electorate have confidence in them that this can be achieved.



CDF As Discussed in Parly Last Week

Our last two issues (2 & 3) we highlighted the urgent need to audit CDF and also how it was implemented. We feel there are MPs who share our sentiments as discussed in Parly on 31 August. Below we extract the discussion as reported in the Hansard of the same date. Our emphasis is in bold.

MR. C. C. SIBANDA: My question is directed to the Minister of Parliamentary and Constitutional Affairs. It has been in the press that there are some members of Parliament who have not submitted the Constituency Development Fund. It was said in such manner that when you are in the Constituency even if you submitted, the people will say you did not. **Can you update us as to who are those MPs who have not submitted?**

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order, the correct title of that Ministry is Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs. Hon member the last part of your question seeks the minister to give a detailed account of the list of those people who have accounted and those who have not accounted and particular, those who have not accounted. **Therefore, I do not think that will be possible for the minister just to give you the list now. I would suggest that given the importance of the question, probably for you to put that question in writing.** If the minister feels that he can respond to the earlier part of the question, you are at liberty minister to do so.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (ADV. MATI-NENGA): I think I have always made a point in this august House that there are some Members of Parliament who have **properly accounted and some who have not.** I have been consistent in this respect. I know that there are certain reports in certain publications which meddle in the issue but I can assure members that I have never gave an impression that everybody has not accounted. **If hon. members remember when I was first asked this question, I indicated that 66 Members of Parliament had at that**

stage made their returns. That is not an answer to say that all members have not. That number has been increasing as time goes on. I appreciate the point you make Mr. Speaker in regards the second question that obviously, I am unable to tell this House who has made returns and who has not. **I can assure you that when I left the office today 133 Members of Parliament had been recorded as having filed their returns and if the hon. member so wishes I am quite happy to bring a list and to bring that list before this House.**

MR. KANZANA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Considering that we are only left with three months into a new budget, and I understand that your ministry officials have been going around constituencies auditing, I do not know whether with the remaining three months your officials are going to complete the auditing and whether there are enough resources to complete the audits so that all the members will access their funds in the next three months.

THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (ADV. MATI-NENGA): Thank you Mr. Speaker, may I thank the hon. member for the question. Let us understand the two concepts. There is the concept of an audit and the concept of making a return. The two are different. An audit is something which is on-going which is continuous, and whether there are going to be funds made available today to other members and not to others an audit will always be carried out. So, what my ministry is doing is to continuously carry out audits in respect of all constituencies whether a particular member has made a return or not because the two are different. When we are talking about making a return it is now the responsibility of a particular member to do so and that return is made whether there is a return or not. Let us distinguish between the two. An audit is on going and we have two teams in the ministry which do audits. **They are not sufficient and I have said before it is going to be impossible for the two teams to go through all the 210 con-**

stituencies for this year. It does not mean that we have done an audit this year so we are not going to do an audit next year or the year after because that is an on going process. In respect of a return the particular member is obliged to make that return. **I have said and I will say it again, if you do not make that return then it is up to your constituency to decide whether you are fit to represent them in the next parliament.....**

Our Response

We feel vindicated that there is an urgent need to audit CDF! We applauded the two MPs who engaged the Minister. However, we would like to urge the two MPs to pursue the issue further and follow procedure and formally write the question on who has not submitted returns. NAME & SHAME! Lots of issues arise from this brief discussion. One is that the media plays an important watchdog role in any society, thus the need to maintain freedom of the press. One of the MPs confessed that the issue of returns was highlighted in the media. The Minister's response also raises two important issues: They do not have the capacity to carry out the audit in time and also that only 133/210 members had submitted by 31 August 2011. Both issues are beyond the province of the Minister as he is more of an implementer with no powers to enforce say, submission of CDF returns. This is a very tricky situation that has to be addressed when CDF is in its infancy. It is one of the important lessons learnt. As such mechanisms should be put in place to avoid this. As we pointed out in the previous issues, lessons can be drawn from the Kenyan experience where CDF is not only indexed as a percentage of the national budget but there is also an executive authority that monitors its implementation. That is the route to go if we are to get to the destination of accountability and development. This will enable the authority to compel MPs to submit returns in time. Another route would be to legislate periods of returns. Tax returns are legislated, compelling companies to comply, and in a situation where 133/210 submit returns, such legislation could be a necessary tool. While we agree with the Minister that it is up to the constituencies to either reward or punish those who would have submitted returns or not, we think we may be leaving it until it is too late for the MPs to be accountable. While the constituencies may wield the necessary power to reward or punish, it is our standpoint that this should not be left to elections but NOW!

Members of Parliament going AWOL/Too Busy to Visit Constituencies

Itai Takana tel me guys what do u say about Mp wane more than 2 terms hatisasi here tawaku creator mafat cats ndinorewa wemdcLike · · Subscribe · 22 August at 23:55 via Mobile **Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza** and **Phillan Zamchiya** like this.

Chengetai Murimwa Vagarisa most of them and they do not want to go 23 August at 00:14 · Like

Marko Shoko VAZHINJI VATIRI KUTI MDC MAZANU AKAWANA MUKANA AMUSHAYA KUZANU,NDOSAKA NYAYA

YEBUMBIRO YAKADZOSWA BACK 23 August at 11:13 via · Like

Chitsama Shepherd not really, I think we should evaluate the development progress they have made in their respective constituencies, apart from the substance in the legal enactments which came into effect during their terms of office. People are more concerned about the good and progress MPs initiate than the terms of office they stay in office. how do you react a person who become an MP for one term

and destroy all developmental programmes in the constituencies?. 23 August at 11:19 via · Like

Walter Dongo lets work together to create a corruption free generation ,thru ZYM together we can make it?? 23 August at 15:08 · Like

Beatrice Tonhodzayi-Ngondo kikikikiki 24 August at 10:28 · Like

Walter Dongo @beatrice why laughing young lady 24 August at 10:41



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.

The Zanu PF Politiburo last week upheld the suspension of Marondera East MP, Tracy Mutinhiri and below are reactions to a discussion

Pmt Zimbabwe Zanu PF has fired Tracy Mutinhiri! Can someone explain what this means for the politician, her constituency and representative democracy? Like · · Unsubscribe · Thursday at 08:23 **Martin Chinyanga Da William** likes this.

Kobra Zvakwana what i know is da constituency is now vacant she is no longer an MP, neither can she represent zanu pf in anything anymore. Thursday at 08:27 via Mobile · Like

Grant Tabvurei For nw she is doomed bt her political future for sure is bright. Thursday at 08:32 via Mobile · Like

Nyamutatanga Makombe I think for the politician it means she is now unemployed. for her constituency, they are now in the group of orphaned communities, supposed to have representation but without any and they are now about 21 for both houses. Then for representative democracy, I think it opens an old question on how much freedom MPs have. The so-called party line has seen Gwisai, the three MDC MPs and now Mutinhiri falling by the wayside. It is a tricky situation though. A party may sponsor a candidate and maybe the candidate "fails to champion party policies" thus need to be fired. However, what if it is a matter of settling scores. the flip side is a constitution which allows a candidate to cross the floor, another minus on the communities they are supposed to represent. As such, I think this goes to show that representative democracy has to be supported by a strong civic society. One that pushes the people's aspirations, above party lines. Thursday at 09:10 via · Like · 4 people

Taurai Mangudhla i agree with makombe here.. this goes on prove that there is no room for individuals in zimbabwean politics.. Thursday at 10:27 · Like

Ruzvidzo G Manyika There is room for individuals in Zimbabwean politics, they can stand

as independents. What is sad, is the prevalence of those who use party membership and privileges to pursue contrary aims and mandates.haujoine church yepositori uchida zve masese. Remeber the electorate votes not just for a candidate but what he/she stands for politically. Thursday at 15:33 via Mobile · Like

Harare Residents' Trust Hrt When one joins a political party, the expectation is that you are bound by the values and principles of that party. If however, at a later stage one discovers that the party has values and principles that conflict with one's values and principles at that time, the best way is to resign than to wait to be expelled. She should have seen this coming given that she went to Prophet T.B.Joshua sometime back and obviously she came back a transformed person in terms of her focus. Now she has to simply move on and join another party of her choice without feeling obliged to try to defend herself against a party that no longer values her input. (Mr) Precious Shumba Friday at 09:19 via · Like

Nyamutatanga Makombe The question is what was on Tracy Mutinhiri's charge sheet? When she said she would expose all behind the ouster what did she mean? When Cde Mutasa said Zanu PF was in no hurry and less than a week the expulsion/suspension was upheld what does that mean? and for the media, i thought it would have served the reader better talking to Mutinhiri, looking at the charge sheet for there are a number of stories flying around and some include crossing the floor literally but in matters of the heart, calling names etc Friday at 09:32 · Like

Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza The issue of Tracy Mutinhiri is quite interesting and it raises questions on whether the Zimbabwe parliament should introduce floor-crossing. Why should a person be forced to stick to a party when he or she no-longer agree with their policies and decisions. It actually militates against one's freedom of association right.

Friday at 12:51 · Like

Elections 2012:

Ready or Not—people speak

Pmt Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe says elections by March 2012 and do you think we will be prepared to hold another election in terms of the administration, national healing etc? What of the three main political parties? And the fringe parties? What do you think should be done before another elections or between now and March? Like · · Unsubscribe · Yesterday at 16:28

Itai Pavel Mikondo First and foremost there must be a collective agreement on date fixing. If that happen to take place it means all problems would have been solved. Yesterday at 18:33 via Mobile · Like

Kaziers Tembo I think its 2 early because ther is stil violence in some parts of the country. Registration itself needs preparations as more youths are not registered voters. Jomic is doing nothing to enforce a non violent nation. Also we hear of outstanding issues???? Yesterday at 19:14 via Mobile · Like

Sam Chimhau If a roadmap to free and fair election is finalised within the stipulated time why wait!! Take the Bull by its horns. Yesterday at 19:41 via Mobile · Like · 2 people

Ronald Musorowenzou Yes the road map should be in place at least 3 months before an election coupled with an aggressive voter registration and education. Yesterday at 21:00 via Mobile · Like

Itai Pavel Mikondo Now that the date is announced may all parties mobilise themselves for the election. We do not want unnecessary delaying tactics to score personal interest. Youths let us organise ourselves now. Yesterday at 21:26 via Mobile · Like

Itai Pavel Mikondo I think the administration we have now is so viable as it consist of all the main political parties. About the national healing, those people had reasonable time to deal with it in such a way that there would have been some good results. It may mean that people should be changed fro that ministry as it will Yesterday at 21:37 via Mobile · ·

Feedback? info@pmtz.org



One word to describe Mr President

One of the *Parliamentary Monitor* facebook group members asked others to describe President Robert Mugabe in one word and below are the responses:

Kenesias Dambakurima: Describe President Mugabe in one word. 20 August at 23:16 via Mobile · Like · · Subscribe

John Mbiriri *harahwa*

21 August at 02:17 · Like

ZimRelax WithJewels *Careless.*

21 August at 07:05 · Like

Fortunate Patricia Masvaure *legendary*

21 August at 14:37 · Like

Edmore Maisvoveva *erratic*

21 August at 14:55 · Like

Paul Hove Makosi *ndodha*

21 August at 16:47 via Mobile · Like

Thupeyo Muleya *Nyanzvi*

21 August at 17:03 · Like

James Katso *puppet*

21 August at 19:15 via Mobile · Like

Precious Shumba *Radical*

21 August at 21:15 · Like

Chofamba Sithole *complex*

22 August at 09:03 · Like

Cde Alfred Seamus Ganyo *gushungo*

22 August at 11:04 ·

11 POLLS in 27 years!

If elections are held next year, Zimbabwe would have held **11** elections since 1987.

Year	What Elections	Main Parties/Candidates
1985	Parliamentary elections	Zanu PF/ PF Zapu/ UANC
1990	Parliamentary Elections	Zanu PF/ ZUM
1995	Parliamentary Elections	Zanu PF
1996	Presidential Elections	Mugabe/Sithole*/Muzoreva*
2000	Parliamentary Elections	Zanu PF/MDC
2002	Presidential Elections	Mugabe /Tsvangirai
2005	Parliamentary Elections	ZANU PF / MDC
2005	Senatorial Elections	ZANU PF / MDC**
2008	Harmonised Elections	Zanu PF/MDC-T/MDC-M
2008	Presidential Runoff	Mugabe/Tsvangirai***

*Withdrew but their names appeared on the ballot papers ** MDC split over the decision and only one faction participated

***Tsvangirai withdrew but his name appeared on the ballot papers

Parly Parlance

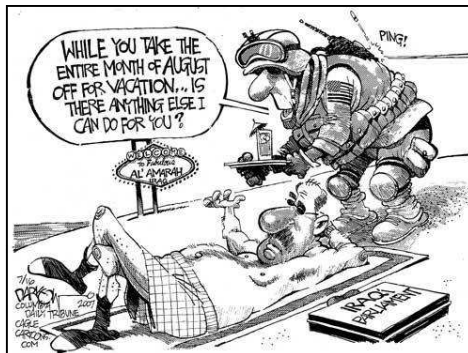
positions sit towards the back of the Chamber and are known as 'backbenchers'.

Frontbenchers and backbenchers

In both the House of Assembly and Senate, Government ministers and Opposition shadow ministers sit on the front benches and are known as 'frontbenchers'. MPs who do not hold ministerial

Crossing the Floor (Not a practice in Zimbabwe as the constitution does not allow it) Members of the House (or houses in a bicameral system) may change political party at any time - known as 'crossing the floor'.

....and @ the back!

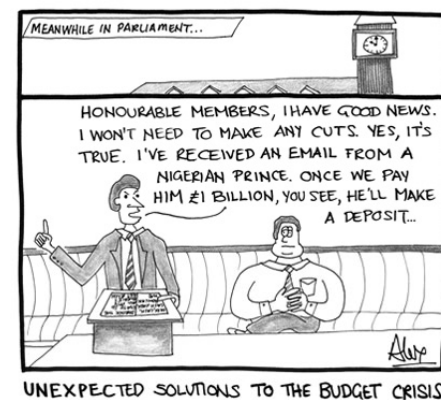


Iraqi Parliament's Summer Vacation: www.about.com



CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker



Take Cover! Security personnel protect with umbrellas Speaker of Ukraine's parliament Volodymyr Liytvyn during a fight at a parliament sitting in Kiev on April 27, 2010.

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