



Parliamentary Monitor

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Parly Update

Last week on Tuesday, MDC-T and Zanu PF were literally at each other's throat, an ominous sign that the fourth session of the seventh parliament was likely to continue along partisan lines when Zanu PF declared Mbizo MP Settlement Chikwinya's (MDC-T) move to resuscitate a controversial motion condemning political statements uttered by serving service chiefs as unconstitutional and anti-national healing.

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The Bottom-line

The amount paid (for the vehicles) would cater for more than half a million people on ARVs, or feed 100 000 hungry families or drill 40 000 boreholes.

Profligacy Unabated!!!

1st, It was Ministers' Luxurious Cars, NOW MPs Have Joined In

Picture this: There are some women and children, in certain rural areas, who walk up to 5 kilometres to get clean water. Or this: There are clinics in Zimbabwe which cannot afford basic drugs for the communities. And this: There are schools which cannot afford classrooms or desks. Or even this, there are some people who are unable to get the life prolonging drugs because government cannot afford to import enough ARVs for them. And then imagine this: With all these injustices, the same government which is failing to make such basic rights, namely water, education and health, can afford to splash top of the range vehicles for the cabinet, directors and permanent secretaries. Then when the public is still searching for answers, the same government now wants to extent this profligacy to the Members of Parliament. These members, some of whom represent communities affected as mentioned above, have pushed for top of the range vehicles arguing that their cars were damaged when they were involved in the consti-

tution making process under Copac. The MPs have dried the roofs of their mouths, arguing that such profligacy can be justified. MPs from the three political parties have closed ranks demanding these luxurious cars. One MP told Parliamentary Monitor that they have pushed for the cars after realizing that the executive had been awarded such vehicles. "Imagine, any minister now owns three vehicles and our argument is that we should also have new ones. Our argument was buttressed by the recent batch that was released to the ministers and we negotiated with more determination. These negotiations were bordering on ransom as we referred to their vehicles and they had to give in. I am told the vehicles are already in the country but we have to check." One of the local dailies, Daily News, quoted the chairman of the Parliamentary Welfare Committee, Kudakwashe Bhasikiti, saying: "We made a request to government for the purchase of the vehicles and the MPs are awaiting their vehicles. The Minister of Finance agreed that he was going to buy the vehicles for us and we have been

advised that the vehicles are now in the country." The Daily News gave very interesting comparisons saying the amount paid would cater for more than half a million people on ARVs, or feed 100 000 hungry families or drill 40 000 boreholes. Such profligacy is a clear sign of a weak system of accountability. Would an MP driving a top of the range vehicle genuinely represent a community that is struggling to have a meal a day? It is clear from the profligacy which has been shown since 2008 that MPs have largely abandoned the people who voted them. This is not to say they should not get vehicles. It is the manner in which they fight for the luxuries yet do not take some of the communities' concerns which worries. One can argue that if the MPs were getting all these as a result of a job well done, then there would not have been any issues. However, some of the MPs enjoy the benefits yet they were last seen in the constituencies during the campaigns. Some of the MPs fighting for these luxurious vehicles are yet to account for CDF.



Drama in the august house as MPs play truant

By Prince Tongongara

PARLIAMENT on Wednesday last week sent wrong signals to the citizens of Zimbabwe by having the house automatically adjourn because there was no quorum during the debate on late General Solomon Mujuru's condolence motion. The disrespect for whatever reason will remain in the annals of history. For a house that started with over 60 members in the chamber to dramatically fall below the mandatory 25 in less than an hour during the motion is a cause for introspection among our MPs. For the record the debate was adjourned not only once but twice in the same sitting for failure to have a quorum. This sharply contrasts with the thousands of people from all walks of life who thronged the National Heroes Acre. For this first time this decade politicians from across the political divide came to the shrine to bury a hero who had died in a mysterious fire at his farm in August. Zanu PF politburo member Kudakwashe Bhasikiti who moved the motion was left seething with anger. It is understandable and most citizens would feel the same about such reprehensible behavior. On the other hand Zanu PF Mbire MP Paul Mazikana who played the devil's

advocate when he committed a tactical blunder by alerting the speaker that the house had no quorum soon after MDC-T's Settlement Chikwinya had started contributing to the debate will carry the shame for the rest of his life. The house was adjourned with 21 members in the chamber instead of the mandatory 25. Of the 21, 13 were from Zanu PF while the remainder was from MDC-T. Ironically, there was no chief whip on either side of the benches when the house was adjourned. Bhasikiti is expected to swallow his pride and seek leave of the house to resuscitate his motion at the stage it was when it adjourned. However, questions would remain if the tainted motion would excite debate once more after its dismal failure when introduced for the first time. Probably it is high time MPs are reminded to take the duties seriously especially when dealing with matters close to people's emotions.

As ZANU PF Notifies Parly of Mutinhiri's Expulsion

ZANU-PF has notified the House of Assembly of its decision to expel Marondera East MP Mrs Tracy Mutinhiri and that she can no longer repre-

sent the party in Parliament, making her the fourth legislator to be fired by a party in the last three years. Mrs Mutinhiri won the March 2008 parliamentary seat on a Zanu-PF ticket and like three other House of Assembly representatives under the MDC-M (now only MDC) she was fired for going against the party. The MDC legislators were fired for going against the party position requiring them to vote a chosen candidate for the Speaker of House of Assembly post. What is worrying though is the growing list of constituencies which have no representation. They now number more than 20. other constituencies have lost representation through death and one unique one being the one that lost its House of Assembly, rep (Lovemore Moyo) after he was elected the speaker. The Constitution allows a party to fire a sitting member of Parly by writing to the speaker. The Speaker informs the President of the development and the constituency is declared vacant. A by-election to fill in the vacancy should be held within 90 days of the declaration of the vacancy. However, after the 2008 election, many seats have fallen vacant with no by-elections. Reasons for this failure has mainly been financial. However, it can also be argued that this is a case of misplaced priorities.

Last week we carried a discussion on the above topic. We thought the debate had come to an end but alas, see below the last post for last week and how the debate continued

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira ok so wat do u think shld be done since with tsvangirai change is premature.

And for this week the debate continues as.....

Mutambara J Mutambara Lets usher in new Zimbabwe with Tsvangirai, quantity favours him. The Quality ones will have their chance to sell their programmes in a democratised Zimbabwe. 20 September at 20:48 via Mobile .

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira Mutambara- do pple lyk tsvangirai or mdc..i bliv tht ther is a lt of quality at mdc bt it sims tsvangirai is surrounding himself wit gas bags. i min hs advisers. 20 September at 21:42 via Mobile .

Mutambara J Mutambara I would not want to delve much into his leadership since he is answerable to party congress resolutions and the NEC. At the same time I would not want to comfort myself with the idea that he has bad advisers like people do sometimes with mugabe.

Birds of the same feather flock together. A skoro-koro is better than walking. He can get us there then we talk of choice vehicles. 20 September at

22:22 via Mobile · Like

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira bt the most important thng is tht tsvangirai is nt a strategist so he shld hv surrounded himself with strategists... he always meks u-turns, hs a cry baby and in mdc they r violent jus lyk mugabes. We cnt trust skorokoro anymo cz we dd b4 and nw luk wher r we.our prblms r a result of skorokoros, nt anotha 30yrs in a skorokoro again! 20 September at

Mutambara J Mutambara This one is to cross the bridge only. It happened with ANC at Polokwane. He is a compromised popular figure that garners votes in the next 12 months period. If we go for split vote again then we are playing in the hands of Zanu PF. Since the party resolution stack to chirangano, asking him to step down will be ill disciplined. We need to make some compromises. Zuma's popular mushini wami song and dance saw ANC membership increase though they are having serious fights than ours amongst themselves. Anyway his rule will be under the new constitution and reforms which part of the election roadmap. Please dont take it too personal on Tsvangirai. The Executive President or Prime Minister are offices with job descriptions in the constitution. If he meets the job requirements then lets judge him against his delivery in that office. Even though ANC and Zuma would have wanted to have the information bill to sail through, a

vibrant democratic environment stopped them, which exactly will happen to Tsvangirai. 20 September

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira u knw wat man in politiks am nt loyal. 1st wen i wz young i admire mgabe so mch, hs programs are super bt i disagree on the execution. 2) he fail 2 cum up wit meaningful policies 3) corruption...i divert 2 tsvangirai then again hs prt split why? they fail 2 agree on senators bt tha nxt election he participat.he faild 2 recgniz zim history..he apoint hs kitchen cabinet again ..etc.chance 4 hm cm, tha gnu nw wher is he.mdc mps, councilors and ministers are fused with zanus nw u cnt spot tha difference and mst important he is nt capable of dislodging mgabe thts wy he cald 4 libian style..i wnt agree wit hm on tht cz its givin tha wests anotha opp of scavenging on us.i dnt tek politiks personal neva..thn i listen 2 Simba i thnk he cn do it if we gv hm chance cz i trace hs history whereva he serves he lft marks of sucess. 20 September at 23:54 via Mobile .

Jones Musara The Politics of Ideas, Issues and Policies (PIIP) is what Zimbabwe needs right now and we got to work hard right now to entrench it. And once we are able to entrench this fastly emerging Politics of Ideas, Issues and Policies(PIIP), we will be able to make irrelevant and obsolete the old politics of division, violence, hatred and destruction which has troubled and traumatized us for far



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.

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira We are going 2 introduce PMT Awards.who will be the MP of the year?.a...Justfy your selection. 19 September at 19:49 · Like · **Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza** and 3 others like this.

Nyamutatanga Makombe can we suggest criteria. For example, commitment to the constituency. so that people would know what they are looking @. 20 September at 09:12 · Like · Photo3 · Remove

Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza In addition to your suggestion Makombe, i propose that members in constituencies should comment about their MPs as they are the ones who are directly affected by the actions or inactions of these MPs 20 September at 09:48 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Thupeyo Muleya i don think any Mp will win they are all missing in action 20 September at 11:35 · Like · Remove

Nyamutatanga Makombe @ Thupeyo, I like that. I take it to mean NO WINNER. Am I correct on that? 20 September at 12:51 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira Makombe and mukonza- thts ryt guys.pple shld recomend MPs 4rm their respectiv constituencies. @Muleya- negative or positiv. minor or major we wnt 2 hear it all so we cn select. if ts posible we cn choose the bottom 10 instead. 20 September at 17:25 · Like · Photo1 ·

Thupeyo Muleya I agree with Mukonza the people from the constituency can tell us abt their Mps and hw they are faring 20 September at 17:28 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Brian Mubariki can anyone tell me who my mp is, zvimba west. i have neva heard of him, i want him to win ths competition.. 20 September at 19:15 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira @mubariki- did u vote? 20 September at 20:20 · Like · Remove

Brian Mubariki i ddnt coz mkd was not there at that time.. 20 September at 20:35 · Like ·

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira ok so r ther any changes in yo constituency i min negativ or positive 20 September at 21:50 · Like

Brian Mubariki all negative, nothing to write home abt, bt at least someone inboxed his name to me, wat a development... 20 September at 22:30 · Like · Remove

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira u knw am 4rm zvimba central bt i dnt knw ma mp 2. they jus sit and pump out gas in parliamnt.mdc and zanu mps are one and tha same.gas bags. its a NO WINNER.. 20 September at 23:05 · Like · Remove

Hugh Ndakaporeswa Mupfunya lol Muzira..... Whts wrong with Zvimba guys, pple from ther dnt knw ther leaders... 22 September at 16:56 · Like · Remove

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira Mupfunya ther are no leadrs ther..mayb they are 2 comfrtble. manje ths tym thy are going 2 run 4 their money. 22 September at 20:27 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Hugh Ndakaporeswa Mupfunya Muzira, hw are yu gona do it..... 22 September at 22:47 · Like · Remove

Juju Mampara In budiro people have no idea who heneri dzinotywei is.he has done absolutely nothing for his constituency.he is the worst Friday at 08:54 · Like · Remove

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira Mupfunya- u knw wat pple in ma constituency r fed up bt opp mps r afraid 2 go ther..nw zvirikutanga neni vakasandibirira Friday at 10:03 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira Juju - ts bcoz thy r 2 com4table thy knw u r goin 2 vote nyangwe zvidii.nw i advise u budiro pple 2 shok thm, luk 4 anotha and decampaign thm. Friday at 10:08 · Like · Photo2 ·

Remove

Nyamutatanga Makombe @Tichatonga, are you telling us you will be a candidate? if so what do you promise? what are you going to do before and after election, different from what the incumbent is doing now? Friday at 11:14 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Hugh Ndakaporeswa Mupfunya lol..... Its nolonger time for party politics, its tym to vote for those who can deliver, be it me who was not ther kuChimoyo or Tongogara who was ther. We need people who can lead not wolfs in sheep..... God bless us all. Friday at 12:07 · Like · Remove

Gilbert Kagodora I think we will have a tie. There is Mushonga Shephard and Chindori Chininga. Friday at 12:21 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Hugh Ndakaporeswa Mupfunya lol Friday at 12:22 · Like · Remove

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira Makombe- am goin undr the ticket of mkd bt if zec says i cnt cz of ma age then i wil be leadin the campaign 4 whomeva ma party choz...i bliv tht the first step 2 change is eradication of fear.i also bliv in botom-up typ of politics wher the ordinary pple hv a say in leadrship.so am goin ther and tok with old men,pals and vry1 in ma vilage and remov tht fear in thm.if i gt supprt of ma pple thn i knw am in... thn afta, if i win undr ma own name then tqa 1st thng am goin kunogara kumusha ikoko so tht it wil be easier 4 me 2 atend prblms and also wil be working with xul heads, masabhuku and chiefs regardles of their political affiliation 2 use cdf more efectivly...thts prt of ma drim Friday at 14:34 ·

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira Thts it ma bro mupfunya- tym 2 act z nw lets do it 4 our future. Friday at 14:35 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira kagodora- r u 4rm their respectiv constituency?tel us mor abt them. Friday at 14:39 · Like · Remove

Christwish Majojo my M.p wil get the award bcz i last saw him b4 CDF was disbursed.Highfield west Friday at

Tichatonga Manfred Sunganai Muzira Thts hw they r. vachambodya cdf kana yapera vodzoka vachikukumbirai kuvhota zvekare.



Voter Registration Notice Sign of Impending Elections?

Last week, the registrar general's office flighted an advert reminding the public that the "registration and transfer of voters is a continuous exercise throughout the year." This announcement would have been nothing out of the ordinary as it is what is expected of the office of the registrar general which also doubles as the registrar of voters. However, coming as it did hard on the heels of the announcement less than three weeks ago by President Robert Mugabe that election would be held "by March," this announcement may be a clear sign that elections could be held any time soon. There are some very important issues raised in the advert which the public has to bear in mind. One important thing is that voter registration and transfer is a continuous process. It can be done at the Registrar General's Office nationwide, (that is Provincial Registries, District Registries and Sub-Offices.) As the ad clearly spelt out, the said offices handle three types of registrations: Initial Voter Registration - any Zimbabwe citizen who is 18 years and above and has not registered before, transfer voter registration -

any registered voter who has changed residence and death registration - Relatives are encouraged to register the death of their deceased relatives to enable the office to remove them from the voters. It is important for members of the public to make sure that they take part in the registration processes. This is important in that it minimizes manipulation of the voters roll. It also ensures that voters would not be turned away should they realize that they were not registered, omitted or had changed constituencies. The Zimbabwean electoral system remains ward based thus it is important to make sure that one is properly registered. It is unlike a referendum where the entire country is reduced to a single constituency. It is also important to note that the RG's office advised the public that for one to be registered, they need a Zimbabwe national registration identity card (metal or polythene - synthetic or a legible national registration waiting pass with the picture of the holder on it, or a valid Zimbabwe passport. It is worth noting that a driver's licence is not acceptable for registration purpose. One worrying

thing though is the documentary evidence one has to present as proof that they are currently residing in the ward/ constituency in which registration is being done. These include for urban dwellers a certificate of occupation/ title deeds, or lodgers permit/ card or rates/ water statement in applicant's name; electricity statement in applicant's name or credit store statement showing the physical address of the applicant, in the respective ward/ constituency or written statement from landlord, parent or friend confirming the applicant's residential address accompanied by a house card, electricity bill, rates bill or any similar document in the name of the landlord, parent or friend staying with the applicant. There are cases where a sworn statement by employer of applicant confirming applicant's address and any other information can be used. Rural voters need a confirmation letter from the chief, headman or village head, farm owner or mine owner. These requirements could turn away potential voters. It is our wish that a more relaxed yet secure system be introduced.

....and @ the back!

SPEAKING IN FORKED TONGUES

I was really shocked to discover that, 31 years after independence, we still have children learning in cattle pens... anyway, the luxury vehicles for shes were budgeted for way back.

Look, there is no money to pay civil servants' salary increases... anyway, we have decided to reintroduce duty on most imported foodstuffs.



This is a cartoon that was posted by cartoonist Tony Namate on facebook last week. There was a variety of responses to this cartoon. Some accused the cartoonist of supporting one party others the other party and this is interesting in that one cannot support two parties at once

Witty Indian Politicians

Former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president M. Venkaiah Naidu, known for his witty one-liners, is not the kind to be intimidated by a pushy media. On the contrary, he loves to charm journalists with his sense of humour. Talking to reporters at the Parliament House Monday, Naidu reprimanded a journalist who intervened when he was making a point about the budget. When the reporter cornered him on an economic issue, Naidu said: "This is not the house. Let me complete what I am saying." When another journalist argued that he spoke like a quintessential politician, the BJP leader quipped: "Yes, I am a politician. And I am proud to be a politician." But soon after, he was laughing, explaining the "difference be-

tween FD (fiscal deficit) and RD (revenue deficit). Fiscal deficit is like you borrow money and build a house from it. Revenue deficit is you borrow, eat, drink and spend it all." <http://www.thaindian.com>

When the House took up matters of urgent public importance on 30th November 2007 Shri P.C. Thomas hon. Member, raised the issue of ice cream and vanilla and said: "Mr. Speaker, Sir, ice creams are sweet and palatable. But they will be sweeter and better for health if artificial ingredients are not used in them....". Since Shri Thomas was making a long speech instead of making a short submission, the hon. Speaker said: "Now the ice cream is becoming sour" and the House enjoyed the witty remark. <http://www.lawyersclubindia.com>

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