



Parliamentary Monitor

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our parliament
our voice

paramende yedu
izwi redu

Ipalamente yethu
ilizwi lethu



October 18, 2011 Issue Number 8

Parly Update

There are a number of 2012 budget consultative meetings that are taking place across the country. Please refer to page 2 for full details

We once again encourage members to attend. We continue to receive information on the alleged abuse of CDF. I think it is now incumbent upon the Minister or Parly to put this issue to a rest by doing a simple thing, that is publishing the accounts. Showing how much was drawn down by who and what it was used for.

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The Bottom-line

At the end of it, the other side felt that this matter cannot be competently handled by us here since it is a product of the GPA.

Zanu PF Blocks

POSA Amendment

Zanu PF senators, threw spanners into works, using a technicality to stall debate on the amendment of the Public Order and Security Act (POSA). Innocent Gonesse (MDC-T) had moved a procedural motion seeking that the Public Order and Security Amendment Bill be restored to the Order Paper at the same stage that it had reached before the end of the last session of parly.

Gonesse had been pushing for the amendment to the act through a private member's bill, meaning that it is not on the executive which has proposed changes to the act. "Hon. senators we recall that we had a debate on this Bill on the 2nd of August after which the debate was adjourned to the 3rd of August. On the 3rd of August the debate was further adjourned to the 30th of August, at that time Madam President there was an un-

derstanding that the matter was going to be discussed at the Negotiators Forum. However, it has turned out that there is no movement or any progress in that regard and as a result Madam President, it will be appropriate for all hon. senators to have an opportunity to debate the merits of the Bill."

Gonesse said it was important for the senators to debate the Bill and "give their thoughts on this piece of legislation." Zanu PF senator Kabayanjiri then stood up saying: "I think we should be given some more time to continue with our research. However before we go back to do some research, we had already been properly advised that we, as senators cannot continue to debate this motion in this House because it had been referred to our Principals, who are the ones who agreed to do more research on this Bill."

Senator Kabayanjiri further alleged that it was not only Zimbabwe using such a piece of legislation.

He was supported by Senator Mumvuri who said: "I also rise to complement what Senator Kabayanjiri has said because here we are dealing with a motion which was brought in by a private member, not government or a minister. At the end of it, the other side felt that this matter cannot be competently handled by us here since it is a product of the GPA." This was a clear sign that Zanu PF legislators were buying time or stalling debate on the amendments as the MDC-T is also represented in the GPA. It is interesting to note that the division in the house could be a sign of who stands to benefit or lose out should there be amendments to POSA.



By-Elections NOW! Why Wait?

The implications of the High Court Order, issued last week, that elections should be held in three constituencies are far reaching and could be a test on how much the bench is respected. This ruling was long over due. We have maintained as PMTZ that by-elections should be held, as per the country's constitution. What we have seen since 2008 has been a wanton disregard of the supreme law of the country. It looks like politicians, for some reasons, think that the constitution making process is important and have been complementing donor efforts availing funds. However, the same government has been very lethargic when it comes to by-elections, arguing that there is no money. What is surprising is that they we also expect a respect of the constitution yet there has been no respect of our own

constitution. By ordering the holding of elections, the High Court has shown the direction in terms of interpreting the constitution. What we now wait to see is how the government would respond to the order. We are tired of the tired argument that there are no funds for elections. As a nation, we should be prepared to pay the price of a democracy. If the cabinet argues that they need huge vehicles for their day to day running, then why would they not say the same about by-elections. This is a complete disregard for the rights of the people who no longer have representation. Our take on the issue is that the people should not fight to have the order expanded to all electoral vacancies. It is interesting that when a cabinet minister passes on, they are replaced yet their constituencies remain vacant. The three political parties in the GNU should not hasten to replace cabi-

net ministers yet look the other side when it comes to filling electoral vacancies. They have to be reminded that they do not need a High Court order to undertake such a routine yet very basic and fundamental duty. What has happened is a clear sign that the three political parties are focused more on the power dynamics and not representative democracy. Zanu PF appointed its non constituency members on the eve of the re-voting for speaker of the house of assembly and forgot about the electoral vacancies. As one observer put it: "It is important to realise that parties in the coalition government do not want the elections. If they hold the three then the rest outstanding have to be done too. That works out to 16 by elections and it will influence the voting patterns in the house because one party would come out with a clear majority."

Portfolio Committee Hearings

Tuesday 18th October at 10 am

Portfolio Committee: State Enterprises and Parastatals

Oral evidence on the operations of Air Zimbabwe

Committee Room No. 2

Chairperson: Hon

Mavima

Clerk: Ms Chikuvire

Portfolio Committee: Industry and Commerce

Oral evidence from the Competition and Tariff Commission on its mandate, challenges and successes experienced in executing that mandate

Committee Room No. 311

Public Hearings on National Budget

The House of Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Budget, Finance and Investment Promotion will be holding public hearings on the 2012 National Budget from 17th to 21st October. The committee will

operate in two teams. The team programmes are as follows:

Team 1 - Harare, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Manicaland and Masvingo provinces

Monday 17th October

Harare - Rainbow Towers, 9am to 4pm

Tuesday 18th October

1. Bindura - Kimberley Reef Hotel, 9am to 11am

2. Marondera - Farmers Hall, 2pm to 4pm

Wednesday 19th October

Mutare - Queen's Hall, 9am to 11am

Thursday 20th October:

Masvingo - Civic Centre Hall, 9am to 11am

Friday 21st October:

Chiredzi - Chitsanga Hall, 9am to 11am

Team 2 - Mashonaland West, Midlands, Bulawayo, Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North provinces

Monday 17th October

Chinhoyi - Cooksey Memorial Hall, 9am to 11am

Tuesday 18th October

1. Gokwe - Cheziya Community Hall, 9am to 11am

2. Gweru - Gweru Theatre, 2pm to 4pm

Wednesday 19th October:

1. Bulawayo - Small City Hall, 9am to 11am

2. Gwanda - Gwanda Hotel, 2pm to 4pm

Thursday 20th October:

Lupane - Lupane Community Hall, 11am to 1pm

Friday 21st October:

Victoria Falls - Leambe Conference Room, Kingdom Hotel, 9am to 11am

The chairperson of the Portfolio Committee is Hon Paddington Zhanda, MP. The committee clerk is Mr Chris Ratsakatika.



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.

Last week we carried a post on elections and when we thought the issue was concluded we realized we were wrong as shown below

Desiree Chikede @Pmt Zimbabwe the chickens are come to roost. Unfortunately, the Chicken Licken dagger is waiting for them...ha ha ha! 04 October · Like · Remove

Nyamutatanga Makombe @ desire, which chickens, which home, I am lost here, please help mate! 05 October · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Desiree Chikede Its meant to be like that! It's meant to be confusing. Otherwise if it was not confusing it would not have served its purpose. Now it has indeed served the purpose. The purpose of being confusing. This is what all media business is all about - CONFUSION and more CONFUSION! Again this is what we are doing here CONFUSING each other with mixed messages. So I agree with you. You are very right, "Which chickens, which home, I am lost here..." 11 October at 11:28 · Like · Remove

Ricky Munyaradzi Mukonza I personally am afraid of the threat posed by the security sector. They must be made to confess publicly that they will respect the outcome of our election, especially the President. 11 October at 13:41 ·

Oswell Jeranyama That is the price of putting criminals in strategic positions such as the army, police and the prison. It is not easy for the incumbents to let go of the looting they have been used to all these decades. 11 October at 13:47 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Desiree Chikede After decades & decades of name calling, mourning, shouting, ru-

mour mongering, talk-shops, sloganeering, toyi- toying, and all other gibberish, what have we really achieved? As a nation, how have we manage to acquire all the energy to talk and talk, talk and talk and yet fail to change things? 11 October at 16:54 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Pmt Zimbabwe @desire, hope this is not to confuse us. It is a political reality that politicians engage in name calling, i call it the politics of dramatisation. it is all over the world. however, above the dramatisation, there should be action. by engaging on this platform, we are disengaging from the politics of dramatisation, to a more engaging politics of solidarity, communication, horizontal engagement and empowerment. it would be a folly, however, to end here. we expect to take action after the engagement 12 October at 09:58 · Like · Photo2 ·

Desiree Chikede @ Pmt Zim, That's interesting! What action do you/we expect to take after the engagement? Otherwise if the action is not stipulated and elucidated clearly and concisely in practical terms, it would make your a fore stated point look like to me an 'argument of dramatisation' of which we concur we should be above that. 12 October at 16:11 · Like · Photo1 ·

Nyamutatanga Makombe Its not up to us or you but we the people. as such, we should get to the point where we engage, discuss, and only move forward when there is consensus, this could be the way to go. this is what we term the new politics. the politics of the possible 12 October at 17:02 · Like · Photo2 · Remove

Desiree Chikede @makombe, you are describing the process which should lead to the Action Pmt Zim implored we

should take after engagement. What you are describing is a tried and unworkable process of compromise and looking for a common denominator on important issues between/among people with different world paradigms- hence consensus. Winnowed wisdom has shown that outcomes of such a facetious and porous process are weak, diluted and can not amortize peoples' problems. My question to Pmt Zim is/was what action should you/we/us take after such consensus and engagements like the one we are currently seized with. Again you & me is us/we. You and me can be correctly referred to as people. So me & you can be the people to decide. The minimum application of WE in reference to people is two and after this number there is infinite reference. So try to manipulate facts and suggest that PEOPLE means hundreds, thousands or millions of heads is DRAMATISATION of the highest order. That is not new politics to me. That is not politics of the possible (whatever what those terms mean). So, What action? 13 October at 10:47 · Like ·

Nyamutatanga Makombe The WE, Mr Desiree Chikede is more of qualitative than quantitative! If i get you right, compromise, though i did not use the word myself, and consensus, do not work because they are tried and unworkable. I like it when u say winnowed wisdom. Who was winnowing, what basketry was used, what was the wind direction, in short be careful the winnowed wisdom could be a facade, a ploy to trick us into appealing to the so-called authorities who could be porous and facetious, thanks for teaching me the word. I am a bit postmodern and follow dialectics thus wisdom could be a thesis now, an antithesis tomorrow and a synthesis another day. it is equally interesting that i quote "That is not new politics to me. That is not politics of the possible (whatever what those terms mean). So, What action?", I thought Mr Chikede you are a brilliant communicator but on this one you have failed. How can you

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Parly Procedures: Basics

The following are the foundational concepts upon which parliamentary procedure is based:

- **One thing at a time.** Only one main motion is allowed on the floor at a time, but there is a system to put that motion aside if something more urgent comes up.
- **One person, too.** Only one person may talk at a time.
- **And only one time per meeting.** The same motion, or practically the same motion, can not be made more than once per session (the only exception is if a member changes his or her mind).
- **Enough of us have to be here to decide.** The group determines the minimum number of people (called a quorum) that must be present to make a decision for the whole group.
- **Protected even if absent.** The rights of the members who are absent are protected.
- **Vote requirements are based on members' rights.** The determination of what kind of vote is needed (such as majority, two thirds, and so on) is based on members' rights. If an action gives rights to the members, it requires a majority vote to pass. If an action takes away

rights from members, it requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

- **Silence = consent.** If a member chooses to abstain from voting, that member is giving his or her consent to the decision made by the group.
- **Everybody is equal.** All voting members have equal rights. The majority rules but the minority has the right to be heard and to attempt to change the minds of the majority.

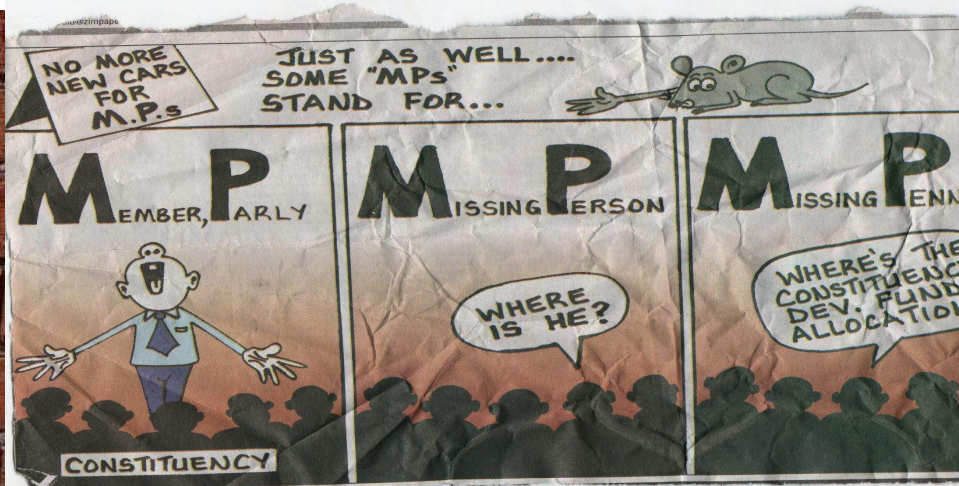


Parliament of Zimbabwe

...and @ the back!



Politicians are rarely viewed in high regard, especially in their absence. Here we have two images showing how politicians are viewed. One is from the facebook, thanks to a member in the Philipines for sending it through. The other is from The Herald



means not agreeing to things on face value

PMT Zimbabwe promotes openness, active participation, debate, engagement and respects divergence of views. In view of this, PMT Zimbabwe encourages the posting of stories, commentaries, reports, documents and links (embedded or otherwise) on its site and facebook page. However, these postings do not in any way, shape or form, implied or otherwise, necessarily express or suggest endorsement or support of any of such posted material or parts therein. In some extreme circumstances, our monitoring team may be compelled to pull down or delete



until you establish the verity of the matter. That is my understanding of the word. So it boggles the mind to be put in the dock by the very person, 'follower of dialectics', who supposedly should be more learned on the matters concerned. As for me, it only serves to expose the CHARADE in men and the zenith of DRAMATISATION and hypocrisy all this is. (2) CONSENSUS means general understand. I don't know whether is general understanding and common denominator are world apart. You be the judge. How do you reach a consensus/ general understanding with out compromise? Its not different from saying you can have rains without clouds! Or more drastically or dramatically, a sea without water! Which wisdom if not ignorance can inform that understanding which is against the cardinal principals of geography. (3) Winnowed wisdom is normative. Society or the public is the one which winnows. So if you believe in people power like you allege you do then you should be able to comprehend the importance of the public/society, WE, in winnowing wisdom. I REST MY CASE... 14 October at 17:02 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Oswell Jeranyama @Desiree, now I can see where your bread is buttered.I hope everybody sees that. 14 October at 17:09 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Desiree Chikede @ Oswell, 'Where your bread is buttered' is now al cliché used to scare provocative thoughts. For the record, I butter my own bread through my own sweat. I hate bread already buttered for me. I am an inquisitive person you know coz I will ask the batterer, why did you butter my bread before hand? Again my bread is always buttered both sides. So to tell me your bread is buttered this side or the other side is to merely state the obvius which does not require a rocket scientist or crystal ball divination to interpret. Now, if people can not see the obvius which is as openly obvius as my both sided buttered bread, then the whole world is blind. But I don't think the whole world is blind. I agree some people are very very blind. And in their blindness they pronounce on roof tops and tell me, I who has got two eyes to see, where MY bread is buttered. WHAT A MYSTERY? WHAT AN ACCIDENT?

14 October at 17:41 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Desiree Chikede "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." ROBERT FROST - American Poet

14 October at 18:01 · Like · Photo2 · Remove

Nyamutatanga Makombe The essence of dialectics from my pedestrian understanding is not to reach a logical conclusion but a synthesis. This synthesis, becomes a thesis and an antithesis comes and we get to another synthesis. this continues on and on. I may not be a student of Hegel but this is my understanding. I am also putting my case to rest because I have realised that should one raise a point which you disagree with, then the author is attacked. I like it when you post something and go on to like the post. Hope this is not a pointer to your personality! Finally a point of correction, If you do not understand anything, please ask. Benzi Bvunza rakanaka. Kuyanika haro hupenzi hwaro asi zviru nani. Do you know that the simplest thing in life is to ask not to dismiss. It interesting that you said the people are the winnowers of wisdom. I may be ugly, resembling an ape, but I am also part of that PEOPLE thus what I also put on this platform could be the winnowed wisdom maybe like I said the basketry used or the wind direction may differ and the expertise of the winnower, mamwe masero akarasa zviyo!!!!

Sunday at 21:47 · Like · Photo1 · Remove

Desiree Chikede Hegel was a philosopher. In philosophy or semiotics there is plurality to meanings especially of words. Your world paradigm, pre -occupation and environment defines/shapes the meanings sometimes you a portion to ' things'. So it is not wrong or taboo to have different understanding of certain things and no one should claim to have more understanding of certain subject given the plurality which inherently exists in defining 'things' especially words. On this earth everything can be challenged! (2) I don't attack people. However I believe in emotional engagement. That is my style of writing. It could be new to you! (3) My personality is like 'what you see is what you get'. I am an open book which you read and put your own meaning. I don't define myself I let people do that. I don't care whether their interpretation is biased, false and unrealistic. After all 'what you see is what you get'. (4) Lastly, I don't use self- pity or all other propaganda niceties to win arguments. I don't play VICTIM. I don't have the VICTIM mentality attitude. I don't accuse anyone of attacking me to make them look bad. After all debate is a bruising thing. It bruises your ego. It bruises your character, it provokes the inner you and makes you fell hollow/empty. It's ugly. That is why it is called debate. I LOOK FORWARD TO MORE ENGAGEMENTS WITH YOU...!