

# Parliamentary Monitor

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## Ordinary Voices

### Xtra - ordinary impact

**There is nowhere the mass should be divided on the new constitution if people's views were considered in the first place. I am afraid that our shrewd politicians of the day will do everything to make sure their interests are protected by this document. Once we unknowingly vote yes without going through the document thoroughly its like voting for a certain party constitution. Pliz ma politicians ipaiwo povho nguva - Tawanda Nyahuye**

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## The Bottomline

Maybe it would make sense to start the new constitution by ..  
"We the principals to the GPA having usurped the powers of COPAC which we let defraud the people of this country have sat down to write a constitution on your behalf.."

## We are here, then where to?

This is how far we have gone in terms of the new constitution, more than four years after the signing of the GPA. What has happened is that each political party is thinking of its survival not what the constitution should do. Our humble opinion, to borrow a Shona saying is, all baboons are similar and we may not be able to pick which in particular ate our crops. Simply put, all the three main political parties are to be blamed for the mess in which we find ourselves in. It would take a political miracle to save the constitution now. Our Prophetic Souls!!



## Village Observer

First, my condolence to the Mudenge family. Dr Stan Mudenge was an academic and politician. Despite dropping out of school half backed, I really enjoyed reading his history texts. I understood half the contents and wished I had eaten very big books. Maybe I would have understood more about the Mwenemutapa Empire. There was a joke a fellow villager, who once worked for our sole broadcaster before he was retrenched in 2003, always told. It is said the learned doctor with his trademark slow speech was addressing a press conference. In the middle of the presser, this cameraman suddenly shouted, "Minister don't just say uh uh ah ah, because I am running out of film here!" This, it is said was in Shona, making the joke more punchy. This may have been an expose of the broadcaster's shoestring budget and at the same time it was an opportunity for us to look at our leaders in a light hearted manner. To be able to tell a leader how to speak, hopefully we will be able to tell them what to say also. This then brings me to the topic of the day. How the leaders relate to the people. And how we relate to our leaders. More on the former. Our leaders, especially political leaders, have this tendency of taking us for

granted. They think, act, speak, eat, accumulate and do everything on our behalf. We should however do the dirty work for them. The leaders, some of them very young think we owe them everything and they will come and cherry-pick from our open hands. Take for example how the PM handled his marriage and the other affairs. It is his business, but we have problems when suddenly they start appealing to us to be on their side on a very personal issue. What makes it even worse is this sense of entitlement. The people should, have to support me. I have seen the same in Zanu PF. You differ on an issue and instead of addressing the issue, you are addressed. It is often said the residue of democratic centralism has killed internal debate in Zanu PF but what is worse is the sense of entitlement these guys assume. It is time for the current leaders to learn that we the people owe them nothing. In fact they owe us a lot and should start acting in a manner that shows that they respect our power and intellect. Until they realize that we also have our entitlement to own opinions which may be different to their own, the better. This attitude of trying to take us for a ride should end!

### NO ROOM FOR INSANITY

We have been writing about the constitution making process. Our concerns, systematically have been to address the process. Our main argument was that, it is best the constitution making process be removed from Parliament. This was simply achievable through a Constitutional Commission, under a retired judge or even one still serving. This echoes the Chidyausiku Commission! Yes, something along those lines. The obvious benefit was to avoid a situation whereby an MP plays a significant role in COPAC and votes for the passing of the Constitutional Amendment Bill when it came to Parliament. Our other concern was that by leaving the politicians deciding on the supreme lay of the country, we are opening ourselves to a systematic elbowing out of marginal voices. Ultimately we, feared we were going to have a document which would be nothing but a fraud. We were very generous then. What we have now, not

the contents, but in terms of the process is a political chicanery by the elites. It is interesting to note that the political elites are not even agreed themselves on how far they should have gone in cheating the people of this country. There have been various suggestions including amending the document. Well it would have made sense to say this is what the people said, this is what is in the draft, this is what we suggest should be in. not that. What has happened is that the elites have gone a step further and reduced the whole exercise into a senseless drama where each of the politicians has a role to play. It is a senseless drama whole only effect is to teach we the people that these politicians cannot be trusted. If they can be trusted, then one should be asking how the three principals came to the conclusion that they can also have a feel on the document. They went on to say that the Second All stakeholders' Conference should not have an amending effect! This means

that the people will be called to dance and shout like they did in 2009 and go home after enjoying their per diem. Nothing more. No effect. This brings us to what we have always been saying. This constitution making processes was a fraud, leading to a document which even a convicted fraudster would hesitate to preamble "We the people of Zimbabwe..." Maybe it would make sense to start by .. "We the principals to the GPA having usurped the powers of COPAC which we let defraud the people of this country have sat down to write a constitution on your behalf..." There are people arguing that the mettle of the constitution should be proven through a referendum. However, why should we dignify this fraud by even giving it a modicum of sanity. This is an insane document, out of an insane process which only deserves a place in the lunatic asylum. As it was in 2000, so it will be in 2012, we may only look at the contents after we are satisfied with the process!

# 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.

18 September at 09:50 · Like · 1

**Sekuru Mutiro Mukanya Gudo**

Ashirai Ther is nothing like private life for an aspiring prNyamutatanga Makombe

With specific reference to PM Tsvangirai's "marriages" do Parly Monitors think there should be a division between private and public lives of Politician? Should we judge a politician's performance/potential based on their private lives? Are there other more relevant measures? Like · · Unfollow post · 15 September at 08:02 via Mobile

**Fungai Wilson Kadzima** likes this.

**Ashirai Mtirikwi Mawere** its as though he wants ol males to be gay that he can date ol females alone

15 September at 08:05 · Like · 2

**Precious Shumba** In my view the PM's marriage has provided lawmakers, political activists and civic groups in particular women's rights movement with a leading case study of zimbabwe's marriage laws- the un-recorded customary law and the chapter 5.11 marriage. More civic education is needed around these pieces of law. If a PM of a country is faced with such a complex scenario, the reasoning of analysts and commentators becomes clouded with political emotions devoid of a firm belief in systems that enhance good political governance, upholding of the rule of law and respect for our cultural

values. A public official has to a large extend be measured against their understanding of their positions in society, their appreciation of their public office and their performance indicators than on their personal life, which is sometimes messy. This tends to demean their offices in cases where they fail to appreciate the above. Ultimately their standing takes a knock and their public status is open to ridicule. But the expectation is that those who hold public office must be of high integrity and lead a nearly upright life, although this is highly impossible given that as humans we are bound to err.

15 September at 09:50 via mobile · Like · 1

**Tawanda Nyahuye** Prime minister Morgan Manyengavana Tsvangira.

15 September at 09:51 · Like

**Evans Murahwa** Nyamutatanga i think this shows that he is man enough he need a friend. People should learn not to interfere someone's private life, kuvhota tinovhota zvisineyi kuti anzi i gay or what, what we want is the nation to develop.

15 September at 10:25 via mobile · Like

**Ashirai Mtirikwi Mawere** manyenga mazanu

15 September at 11:49 · Like

**Sekuru Mutiro Mukanya Gudo** I think its his own personal weakness which affects his personal ambition. A good opposition leader gives opposition no ground to stand upon.apa patoita

nyaya.

15 September at 16:48 via mobile · Like

**Edgar Moyo** The man has failed

15 September at 19:01 · Like · 1

**Evans Murahwa** Dai mambopfuura neko mai withdrawer manzwi enyu he is a man of the nation guys

15 September at 19:08 via mobile · Like

**Ashirai Mtirikwi Mawere** sekuru define to m the difference btwn a leaders public lyf and private life?

15 September at 19:09 · Like · 1

**Nunurai Gutu** zimbabwean leaders and african leaders at at large do not have morals. were it an american country ... he should have resigned. the problem with zimbabweans is that when they go for something its hear no evil, see no evil. take madzibaba nzira for example(may his soul rest in peace), regardless of his scandals his followers remained loyal. check even with(with due respect) makandiwa's followers.. its hear no evil, see no evil.esidant in zimbabwe but for presidant in zimbabwe

18 September at 14:53 via mobile · Like

**Shuvai Chimbau Tsunga**

**Munyengwa** There is no distinction between private life and public life for a person like PM. Once one chooses to represent the nation then one has to watch his or her actions. Zvimwe zvinoitwa zvinotoratidza kuti a person is not fit for the position. Dai kuri kumusha kwedu varume vakadai ndivo vanovhiiswa mbudzi pamatare vamwe vachitonga mhosva because there is

Feedback? [info@pmtz.org](mailto:info@pmtz.org)



nothing positive that comes out of them.

26 September at 10:10 · Like

**Taungana B. Ndoro** When you are a PM you open your mind and shut your zip not the other way round. Remember Bill Clinton cost his party two consecutive election victories because of his Monica Lewensky blow delights.

28 September at 08:40 · Like

**Shepherd Matimbira** The Pm made error in judgement, but then who doesnt make mistakes. Iam sure he knows that, has learnt from it and will exercise better judgment than that when he becomes the country's new leader.

28 September at 12:01 · Like · 1

**Shishma Shymyeyey Jindwi** I do not think it is relevant to judge people by their love life and I even think it is not a measure of how a person may perform politically. Let sleeping dogs lie. All politicians have their scandals in their political lives. We are humans!

28 September at 12:15 via mobile · Like · 1

**Taungana B. Ndoro** The simple lesson for the PM is that good judgement is the result of experinece and experience is the result of bad judgement.

28 September at 12:19 · Like

**Sekuru Mutiro Mukanya Gudo** I think the

best way is 2 invite the pm 2 this post,yes its possible

29 September at 17:29 via mobile · Like · 1

**Evans Murahwa** Kule Mutiro mandipedza kkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkkk

1 October at 15:01 via mobile · Like · 1

**Sekuru Mutiro Mukanya Gudo** Admin pliz keep us bizy inject more issues and can u also make it possible for paliametary monitor members be able 2 post what ever they feel should be discussed.

1 October at 18:13 via mobile · Like · 1

**Evans Murahwa** You may say that again kule Mutiro, i think our admin need dzimwe nyika dzipindire so that parly members will always be busy isu we are just like chimunha Chamisa Nelson anomirira kuti mutaure iye azokwira pama table achiimba kana mataurwa nonsense. Pliz admin do something b4 me and sekuru Mutiro tisati tagumbuka.

1 October at 19:32 via mobile · Like · 1

**Sekuru Mutiro Mukanya Gudo** Murahwa thanx nemaonero mamwechete lets hear what the Admin has 2 say.

2 October at 08:38 via mobile · Like

**Ashirai Mtirikwi Mawere** Evans Murahwa , its sad to note that you think tha Zimbabweans will vote mdct nomatter wat?

the issue of vaTsvangira is not personal,because he is public material nd using our inhumane marriage act to abuse the ladies marrige rights is sad, again i warn you to no generalize reality nd the flow of logic. most Zimbabweans shun acts nd associations who treat a sin of homosexuality as basi human ryt. iwe uchizvida na vaTsvangirai go on ahead nd marry boy. but the two of you are not ol of us

2 October at 10:08 · Like · 1

**Evans Murahwa** Ashirai sorry kani haaa, i don't mean to say i will vote for tsvangison bt you know in politics we try by all sides to demote the great dictator to reduce number of votes, bt for us parly monitors we don't have to luk one side. Bob idhara rangu ndiye boss wangu. Ok

2 October at 20:09 via mobile · Like

**Evans Murahwa** Ashy clicker like

2 October at 20:14 via mobile · Like

**Tawanda Nyahuye** dont hide by your finger Evans.

3 October at 09:08 · Like · 2

**Evans Murahwa** Ayayaya Tawanda na Ashie

3 October at 18:41 via mobile · Like

# Back Page

## Madisnyongoro



Well well wel, after a lengthy absence, we were spoilt for choice, on choosing the villains of the week, or is it the weeks gone by. However, no matter how much we tried, we were left with not even an iota of doubt on who should win the award for this week. The so-called principals, beat all the other

competitors who included Members of Parliament mainly, with their three men act last week. These principals, in their wisdom decided to stage a putsch against COPAC, to become the sole authors of the law of the land. Hey! What is interesting is that we have shouting to the extent of getting the roofs of our mouths dry, that COPAC was wrong to stand in for the people because they were very partisan, representing the three represented political parties. Now it is like a vision of concentric circles, a more powerful eating the less powerful and smaller. COPAC ate the people's views, then when COPAC thought they had prevailed, the principals ate them. Oh BOY, what is next?

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