



PARLIAMENTARY

ROUND UP: BULLETIN NO. 18 - 2010

Bulletin for Tuesday 12 October 2010



INTRODUCTION

Both Houses of Parliament adjourned today barely 20 minutes of their sittings. The Senate resumed its sitting today after a 3-months long break occasioned by the COPAC outreach programme whereas the House of Assembly resumed its business last week.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY PLENARY

The House of Assembly adjourned without any debate on the 5 motions on the Order Paper. The only business it transacted was the presentation of notices of the 3 following bills by Hon. Chinamasa;

- (i) *Criminal Laws Amendment (Protection of Power, Communication and Water Infrastructure) Bill [H.B. 1, 2010]*
- (ii) *Zimbabwe National Security Council Amendment Bill [H.B. 2, 2010]*
- (iii) *Attorney General's Office Bill [H.B. 3, 2010]*

As per procedure, the Bills were immediately referred to the Parliamentary Legal Committee (PLC) for closer scrutiny to ascertain if they do not violate provisions of the Constitution.

There were no takers on the motion in reply to the presidential speech, which was introduced on Wednesday last week by Hon. Mbwembwe.

The other 3 motions due for debate were the consideration of Adverse Reports by the PLC on the following Statutory Instruments;

- (i) S.I No. 102 - Epworth Local Board (Heavy-Vehicle Parking) By-Laws, 2010
- (ii) S.I No. 103 - Trade Measures (Fees) Regulations, 2010
- (iii) S.I No. 106 - Plumtree Town Council (Incorporated Area) (Rent, Service and Supplementary Charges) (Amendment) By-Laws 2010 (No.1)

However, the PLC Chairman, Hon. Mushonga indicated to the Speaker that his Committee was not ready to present its reports on the aforementioned 3 statutory instruments. Thus debate was deferred to a later day.

However, it was not clear why the committee stage of the Public Order and Security Amendment Bill was not done since Hon. Gonese, who introduced the Bill was present in the House.

As a result, the House had to adjourn just 20 minutes into its sitting.

SENATE PLENARY

It was the same thing in the Senate, as the movers of the only motions on the Order Paper, Hon. Senator Monica Mutsvangwa and Hon. Senator Alice Chimbudzi (both ZANU PF) were not in the House to move their motions. Hon. Mutsvangwa was due to wind up debate on the motion in reply to the presidential speech which she introduced in the House last session and carried over to the current session. Hon. Chimbudzi was expected to move her motion in reply to the presidential speech, which he presented to parliament at the official opening of the 3rd Session of the 7th Parliament.

Thus the Senate found itself without business to do and had to adjourn barely 15 minutes into its sitting.

The looming shown-down regarding the re-appointment of ZANU PF governors last week by President Mugabe, which the MDC-T Party said was in violation of the Constitution and the GPA, did not happen. MDC-T had threatened to disrupt the sitting of the Senate if those governors dared attend today's sitting.

It appears ZANU PF instructed its governors to stay away from the sitting as none of them attended today's senate business. It remains to be seen how this stand-off between ZANU PF and MDC-T would pan-out.

Waste of Public Resources

The fact that both Houses of parliament barely sat for 15 minutes, it boggles the mind why the two Houses had to sit in the first place given the huge expenses incurred by Parliament in the form of transport, hotel, and sitting allowance costs for MPs.

Adjournment of Parliament

The House of Assembly adjourned to 19 October 2010 to allow Members of the Liaison and Coordination Committee (A Committee made of all parliamentary committee chairpersons and chief whips) to attend a seminar in Bulawayo, beginning tomorrow until 16 October 2010.

On the other hand, the Senate adjourned to 9 November 2010.

Committees

Committees would continue sitting despite the adjournment of the two Houses. The Budget, Finance and Investment Promotion Committee will be carrying out public consultations for the 2011 budget as follows; 18 October in Gweru, 19 October in Bulawayo, 20 October in Masvingo, 21 October

Mutare and 22 October in Harare. Details regarding venues will be advertised in the press. SAPST will also circulate this information to its stakeholders.