

Parliamentary Monitor

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Ordinary Voices
Xtra-ordinary Impact
i don't have everything
as a matter of fact I don't have anything
except dream of a better day in Zimbabwe
and you living the best life



Tinashe Nyatsoka

In this issue

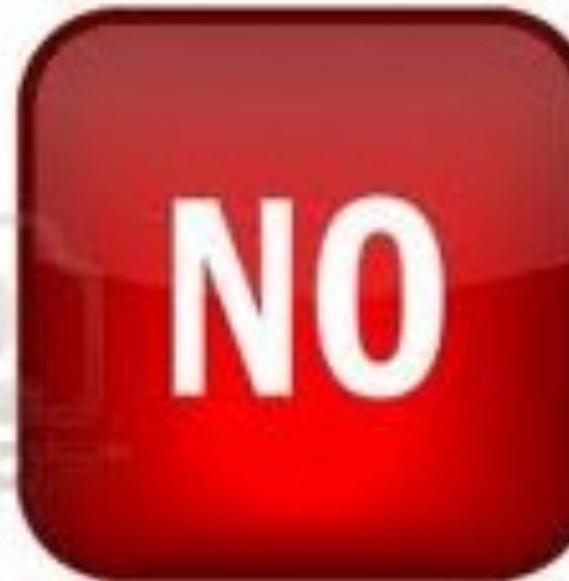
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The Bottom-line

whose constitution is it anywhere, theirs or ours!**Victor Tawanda Gwande**



March Referendum



Its either you are with us or you are against us. This binary approach to issues supposes that there is not middle ground and you are forced to make a cost benefit analysis and choose either. This is the dilemma most Zimbabweans will face when they go into the booth in March to vote on a new constitution. If you agree with half and disagree with the other half, you do not have a way of stating it. What is likely to make it worse is that the one month campaign is likely to focus on how you should vote and not what you will vote for. This was the most opportune time to tell the people about the constitution but it cannot be done in a month.

18°44'53.17"S 32°35'48.83"E elev.1209 m





Village Observer

I am neither going to campaign for a NO or YES on March 15 when the nation votes on a new constitution through a referendum. I feel duty bound not to campaign for either. I equally feel duty bound to campaign though. This seems paradoxical but as we will explain below, it is a very clear position that is informed by our desire for an open society. I said I will campaign for a neither YES or NO but will be campaigning because it is our strong position that the whole idea of campaigning for ei-

ther reduces the whole process to a fight between two opposing forces. The constitution making process has largely been a painful experience for most Zimbabweans up to a point that most have decided not to think much of it. This is the reason why debate on the contents has largely been within elite circles. Constitutions are by nature an elite territory but if the history of the country is anything to go by, there are times when the ordinary man and woman takes interest in the hard subject. Under colonial rule, there were times, like during the Pearce Commission of the 1970s

when people united and were mobilized around the constitution or say a constitutional issue. The same can be said about the 1999-2000 constitution making process. Though there was clearly a binary approach, it was clear that either side, those for it or against, there was a grassroots and shopfloor backing. The current constitution at the beginning had the same before the elites hijacked it. As such, for once I agree with Matigari, it is important that the one month campaign focus on the merits of the constitution and its demerits than goad people into a yes or no.

The Curse of the YES Vote

Rawlings Magede

The COPAC led process has been nothing but a circus so blatantly diverted by politicians leaving a lot of questions unanswered for the common man to question whether if the sole responsibility of writing this law of the land is for a few privileged politicians. Zimbabwe is ours too!

Many still question why the constitution has been reduced to a contest of just three political parties namely ZANU PF and MDC formations instead of the whole nation. This poison that has been injected into our nation must be eliminated because the people of Zimbabwean are not as docile as what the politicians take them to me. While this debate of who should write a constitution appears more poignant with each passing day, what lies ahead of us is not only an onerous task but an important choice to be made by the whole nation that will shape the next generation. It is a task that must be executed with caution by every Zimbabwean. It's high time we get over the politics of thinking that everything in Zimbabwe starts and ends with Mugabe and Tsvangirai. "Vote Yes" has been the ZANU PF and the two MDC formations war cry and they have been trying so hard to convince the people of Zimbabwe to support their party positions, they have continued to pursue various subterranean devices, they have gone on an offensive preaching green lies to their supporters about how good the constitutional draft is. If this is not a scandal of

untold proportions, then nothing is. But what's key to note here is that their supporters are not unthinking robots as they think, but they are human beings with reason and intellect and capable of making informed decisions not because Morgan or Robert advised them to vote yes. It is just political gibberish and daydreaming not supported by any empirical evidence to believe that any progressive Zimbabwean will hearken to the dictates from the political parties. Given the foregoing, the political parties have upped their game in their pursuit of the yes vote by sloganeering the yes vote whenever they get the chance, but the question is what exactly are people voting for when they vote yes? In the end who is going to have the last laugh? I was amused by the high levels of ignorance people have towards the constitution draft. Recently I had a discussion with a close friend of mine about the draft. He didn't know that in the new constitution the President may at any time remove the Attorney-General from office. What this means is that if the incumbent president chooses to protect his supporters or apologists from prosecution, the attorney general will have to comply with the presidents' directive, and failure to do so will result in dismissal. Having such a provision in the constitution allows or gives room for the selective application of the law. If we look at the prosecution of human right defenders and opposition supporters in the last decade especially under the current Attorney General, Tomana, results of



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.



Chibinge Wedemocracy

I'm worried nemasitting MPs anoti kana akakandirwa CV nemunhu ari kuda position yavari iyoyo vobva vatanga kufamba vachiti munhu wacho akanda CV yake is an urgent from a rival party. MDC-T is not private property but a democratic public organisation which is owned by the common man, the ordinary worker, the student, old women and men, rural and urban. No to elitism. Vanoda kunzi mashefu ngavaende kuzanu kwabob



Tawanda Nyahuye

The difference between the two parties is age of its senior members nothing else

8 February at 09:26 · Like · 1



Chibinge Wedemocracy

We'll fight to stop that nonsense then.

8 February at 09:27 · Like · 1



Tawanda Nyahuye

it seems the renewal from within is a very difficult task ask Simba Makoni,



Chibinge Wedemocracy

But renewal has always been the way forward. We cannot allow some people to behave as if they have the monopoly of wisdom. Ndzivo zvatakasiira Bob nembwa dzake izvozvo.

8 February at 09:32 · Like



Tawanda Nyahuye

The people's party, the party of excellence and the party of integrity is bending towards ZANU philosophy - something need to be done

8 February at 09:51 · Edited · Like



Charles Benz

Well said cde Chibinge

9 February at 08:26 via mobile · Like



Kumbirayi Chamboko Nyamasvis-

va Pamberi neZANU PF Pasi nenharadada kana makatidza bobo muchiti muchaina kusina organisational politics dzokai dziriko kwese. vana Job Sikala vakasara when it dawn on them. muZimbabwe wese anekaCharacteristic keOriginal aligency ie ZANU PF. Ndomakadzidzira mapolitician ese politics. zwichapera nenguva kwete nhasi



Bekezela Maduma Fuzwayo

We hate to say we told you. Those are exactly the things that made us remain in the MDC when Tswangirayi pulled out to form the MDC T. Guess its a call for you bro to think twice and join the party that remains in the truth.



Warship Dumba

Team spirit, patriotism and dedication to duty made Burkina Faso defy all odds and win a game where the referee supported

the other team. They trounced match fixing.

Like · Follow post · 8 February at 09:31

Kaziers Mukuru Tembo likes this.



Christopher Mahove Likewise, political parties in Zimbabwe can unite to defeat Dictatorship and help bring about change in Zimbabwe, even if the government rigging machinery is in place.

8 February at 11:28 · Like



Tawanda Nyahuye kikikiki, iwe Mahove did you take time to read your comment, which parties are you referring to and which government rigging machinery. what a contradicting comment.

8 February at 12:07 · Like



Christopher Mahove I know exactly what I am talking about, you and I know that this country is realistically being run by one party..and I am talking of other parties than the one that is currently running this country..which u and i know..and the rigging machinery that we all know..dont pretend as if you dont know what is going on MuZimbabwe !

8 February at 12:13 · Like

Feedback? info@pmtz.org



torture, kidnapping and killing by state agents has been on the prowl and it is sad to note that none of these perpetrators have been brought to book. For how long should the country continue stalking under the heel of oppression in as far as selective application of the law is concerned? Time would fail me if I am to talk about executive authority. The COPAC draft falls short in addressing issues that affect us on a day to day basis therefore the people of Zimbabwe should reject it by voting a big "NO". Many will ask what happens next if we vote no. What means is that the whole process will start all over again. This will send a direct message to the politicians to put people first.

Those in power and the ones aspiring to get into power are seeking to preserve their interests and the price or sacrifice for such a parochial goal is the ordinary Zimbabwean. This writer is aware that it is natural because of sin, for a robber to protect his loot. The murderer has to continue murdering so as to protect his own life and interest but generally there is a hangman, so is the eternal fitness of all human power has an end, today for him, maybe tomorrow for you. Zimbabweans have been taken for granted for

many years and if people can be honest with each other for a moment, we will find out that people have been sidelined from the onset. Firstly the politician tempered with people's views captured in the national report and replaced them with their own. It is also important to note that the additions and subtraction in the national report were effected during "closed meetings," far away from people. No one knew the contents of the deliberations.

It is true that the glamour of materialism has to a greater degree destroyed the innocence and purity of the national conscience in Zimbabwe given the suffering that people are going through, but, still beyond our politics, beyond our soulless industrialism, generations after us are going to pay for our careless and treasonous negligence if we always at according to the dictates of politicians. Why should the next generation suffer for crimes that we can solve today? Voting yes to such a treasonous draft will perpetuate the politics of patronage which will continue to haunt generations to come. Why should politicians rush people into voting for a draft that has shortcomings so that they protect their interests?

How can COPAC delay publishing the national report that has can people's views and yet it has come up with a draft that is meant to deceive people into believing that it contains their views captured during the outreach programmes. What lies! The shameful thing about this COPAC process is that the political parties are not even remorseful while doing such a treasonous and poisonous act. Common sense and remorse has suddenly disappeared even from the most parties that shamefully call themselves the "people's party."

It is against such a background that the same politicians, who have perpetrated unwarranted suffering on the people through demonic and moronic policies such as the indigenization and empowerment, are coming back to the people begging for a "yes" vote come referendum time to extend their looting schemes, yet when they were adding and subtracting the contents of people's views, they never cared to consult people.

The choice is yours Zimbabwe.

Rawlings Magede is a rural political enthusiast who writes from Nkayi, Matabeleland North province. He can be contacted on rawedge699@gmail.com

Madisnyongoro of the Week????



NO Contest. The Honourable members of Parliament win this week's madisnyongoro of the week after they demanded money for participation in the next phase of the constitution making process. They have a right to demand payment but we think they have milked the constitution too much!

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