

ASK THE MP

mt pleasant
CONSTITUENCY
Newsletter

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Mt Pleasant
Public Outreach
Information Centre

Service Alerts

Alert us about:

- Burst pipes & water leakages
- Power failures
- Pot holes
- Public Lighting
- Security problems
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**We
will
do
our
best**

Call: 04-2918239
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Mt Pleasant Hall

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Constituency Development Fund launched

The Minister of Finance, Hon Biti, in his 2010 fiscal budget introduced for the first time in the history of Zimbabwe a Constituency Development Fund.

This fund is chaired by the MP with two of our Councillors for Ward 7 and Ward 17 as full members and the Senator as an ex-officio member. The fund which is administered through the Ministry of Constitutional & Parliamentary affairs has an allocation of USD 50 000.00 per constituency. Our MP Hon Jameson Timba has started a process of consultation with key institutions in the constituency to identify needs based on the broad government priorities as set by the Right Hon. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai in pursuit of his vision to create a prosperous and democratic Zimbabwe.

In launching the 2010 government work programme the Prime Minister set five priorities this year, namely: economic growth; the restoration of people's freedoms (return to rule of law, protection of property rights, basic freedoms; the making of a people driven democratic constitution); restoration of basic services (e.g. health, education, power etc); guaranteeing food security; and international reengagement.

In line with the above priorities, the MP proposes that the constituency fund be directed towards health and education as one of the key social service areas that can deliver real change to the constituency.

In health services, the proposal is to support the two clinics in the constituency by funding their priority needs as identified

by the Sisters in Charge and building decent market stalls at centres identified by the Vendors Association and approved by Council. With respect to education, the proposal is to support projects as identified by the management of all our public schools in the constituency including the children's library. In this regard, the MP in January toured all the public health and education institutions in the constituency meeting with the leadership of the institutions. The final decision on what will be funded lies with the Constituency Development Committee and proposals from the constituency are still welcome. Ask the MP will update you on progress regarding the fund and its projects.

Constitution outreach imminent

The Constitution making process is making slow progress. Public outreaches are now expected to start anytime now but most likely end of February or beginning of March all things being equal and will run for a period of 65 days. 17 thematic sub-committees had been set up and they consist of 70% civic society members and 30% parliamentarians.

Outreach teams will hold meetings in all wards and the dates and venues will be published. You are being urged to attend the hearings and make your voice be heard in the crafting of our supreme law. Ask the MP will keep you updated.

Mt Pleasant
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Services

Talk to us about:

- Parliament Information
- Newsletters (visit our information boards at 10 shopping centres in the constituency)
- Constitution making information
- GPA booklets
- The Transition: Public debates on the GPA
- Internet services
- Central & local govt service liaison

Our Service Team

Precious Gava:

Constituency Services & Information officer

Nason Mamuse:

Political & Parliamentary liaison officer

Constituency email database

Stay in touch by forwarding your email address to: askthemp@gmail.com

Legislative agenda on cards

There is still little activity in Parliament. The only significant development is the debate on amendments to the Public Order & Security Act. The Act has been a thorn in the flesh for most

civic and political activists who argue that it gives Police too much power which interferes with the people's freedom of assembly. The proposed amendments seek to introduce judicial oversight on the decision to ban a public

meeting. The Bill was introduced as a Private Members bill by Hon Innocent Goneshe of MDC-T. Parliament will soon be busy when the Prime Minister presents his legislative agenda for 2010 whose focus is on the restora-

tion of people's freedoms. The PM's legislative agenda is expected to be tabled in Parliament end of February or beginning of March. Ask the MP will keep you posted.

Indigenisation Regs to be revised

PM seeks real empowerment as Ministers go back to the drawing-board

Following an unprecedented outcry from trade unions, employers, and economists alike, Government Ministers yesterday agreed that the Indigenisation Regulations gazetted unprocedurally two weeks ago, must be reversed.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Investment, Elton Mangoma, and the Minister of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment, Savior Kasukuwere, agreed yesterday to go back to the drawing board to devise a true empowerment policy that will meet the needs of the people, and drive economic growth and job creation.

This is in line with Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's stated vision for real empowerment, based on providing incentives for all stakeholders to promote growth and create jobs, rather than enriching the elite through asset redistribution.

This policy would seek to build on the economic growth and gains of the past twelve months to ensure that the nation's economy flourishes.

James Maridadi, spokesman for the Prime Minister commented: "What Zimbabweans want is a real economy, with jobs, growth and food security. Instead, these regulations would have plunged us back into the sort of economic decline and wide-scale job losses we saw as a result of the corrupt farm acquisition programme. And all for the sake of further enriching the political elite who have already acquired millions through so-called land reform, at the expense of the rest of the population."

"The Prime Minister has always been a strong advocate of policies that empower the poor and marginalised. That is why empowerment was a central platform of the MDC manifesto in the last elections. But to the Prime Minister, empowerment means creating

opportunities for people: jobs, education, and hope."

"The proposed regulations would have achieved the exact opposite. That is why the Prime Minister has opposed them in the strongest terms."

The regulations were gazetted without any prior consultation within the Cabinet Committees or the Council of Ministers, in clear breach of Cabinet Rules and the Constitution.

As the Prime Minister commented following discussion of the matter in Council of Ministers this week: "I will not accept that some Ministers continue to act unilaterally and in breach of the Constitution. The central pillar of this inclusive Government is the need for consultation and consensus, and this is provided for in black-and-white in Constitution. Quite apart from the substance of these regulations, which itself is wholly unacceptable, I will not allow the law to be flouted in such a manner."

The business community and trade union movement have been equally vocal in their opposition to these draft regulations and are expected to welcome the news that they will now be dropped.

The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) president Kumbirai Katsande was quoted as saying that "the policy must not be done in any partisan manner that benefits individuals or certain people at the expense of the country". Echoing these sentiments, Economist John Robertson declared that "this bill will achieve disempowerment by taking businesses away from people who do not support the Government and giving power to those who do".

The Principal Director for Economic Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office, Moses Chundu, said, "no genuine patriotic Zimbabwean would be opposed to the principle of economic empowerment of Zimbabweans. We should however distinguish between looting and indigenisation."

"It becomes looting when the definition of 'indigenous' becomes so narrow as to mean a chosen few, when it becomes discriminatory either on the basis of race, colour and net worth, when it falls short of the basic principles of justice and equity."

Chundu said that an indigenisation policy should be judged on the basis of whether it is able to truly empower the targeted group.

"If we are really serious about genuine economic empowerment, why can't we start with our parastatals that have been a drain on the fiscus for decades now? Why can't we parcel out Government shares to citizens through a properly coordinated privatisation program that seeks to empower the indigenous people simultaneously? Why has it been so difficult to let go of our ownership in State owned enterprises? Would a Zimbabwean not feel empowered if given a chance to own shares of AirZim or NRZ?" Chundu asked.

Talks approach dead end

The negotiations on the implementation of the GPA are as good as dead unless South Africa or SADC intervenes to salvage them. Zanu-PF at its December Congress categorically stated that there are not willing to make any further concessions until what they refer to as 'illegal sanctions are removed'. The MDC on the other hand stated that the current negotiations are not about making concessions because all the concessions that any of the parties wanted to make were made before the agreement was signed. After the agreement was signed the issues that are outstanding are matters for

implementation and not negotiation. The international Community on the other hand maintains that restrictive measures against repression, in particular targeted bans on individuals will only be lifted when the GPA is implemented in full. The EU has since extended by one year the targeted individual measures and lifted measures on eight parastatals. What is likely to happen is that the talks will shift their agenda from outstanding issues to negotiations around the framework for a new election likely to be held in 2011. Ask the MP will keep you updated.

Notice Board

Constituency Boundary and District Office

Mount Pleasant Constituency covers the following areas: Avondale, Kensington, Belgravia, Alex Park, Gun hill, MT Pleasant, Borrowdale West, Vainona and Pomona up to and including the Sam Levy Village. This district is serviced under the Mt Pleasant District Office of Council. Our District officer is Mr Badze.

Email Database and Community online publication

For our constituency email database Please forward your mail address to askthemp@gmail.com or call the office. Our own community online publication: www.mtleasanttimes.co.zw, Electronic version of Ask the MP available on www.jameson@jamesontimba.co.zw.