



THE WEEKEND READER

"Your Weekly Read on Debt, Development & Socio-Economic Justice"

PARLIAMENT PROCLAIMS DATES FOR CITIZENS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE 2025 NATIONAL BUDGET

Budget consultations remain a key instrument of transparency & accountability while ensuring ownership of the budget by citizens. 'Budget consultation season' is hence one of the most critical time periods in any delivery of meaningful development and participatory democracy. This is due to the fact that consultation narrates and supports the actual priorities of leaders versus what citizens want. On the 10th of September, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee (PPC) on Budget, Finance and Investment Promotion proclaimed the dates for Budget consultations into the 2025 National Budget starting on the 29th of September to the 4th of October.

Four teams will be deployed through the week, servicing a total of 26 locations/ venues. Therein lies the first question as far as fair reach is concerned. From a Zimbabwean population of 17 million, how feasible is it that the allocated teams will be able to reach a representative enough portion of the nation? While impossible for budget consultations to reach everyone, they should at least reach a representative number of citizens. As such, supporting mechanisms should be adopted to bolster the effort by the PPC on Budget & Finance.



As an institution, ZIMCODD is engaged in our annual #PeoplesBudget campaign which calls on all citizens to participate in the formation of next year's annual expenditure. This is in compliance with the Constitution of Zimbabwe's Section 141 which demands that Parliament involve the public in their oversight processes, ensure that interested parties are consulted and to conduct its affairs in a transparent manner. Following, this process is not a mere box ticking exercise but should be a sincere effort to receive comprehensive contribution from members of the public. Citizens can send in their Budget Asks to our social media, email zimcoddzimcodd@gmail.com or use the hashtag above.

Why are Budget Consultations important?

The National Budget provides the Executive with an opportunity to improve the lives of people by allocating resources to high priority areas to restore desired outcomes for citizens. Further, breaking down budget spending into easily understandable information bits helps citizens understand where money is being spent and encourage them to think about where they might need to redirect to.

Citizens don't always have access to their Members of Parliament and interface with the PPC on Budget and Finance gives them an opportunity to debate as a group while receiving accurate expenditure data.

Key Issues/ concerns from the 2024 Budget

- Public funding for health care has decreased to 9.82% of the total budget from 12.35% in 2023. The Abuja Declaration (2001) calls governments to spend 15% of their total budget to be set aside for public health.
- Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) got only 34% of their total bids for funding in 2024.
- Notwithstanding low funding for public health, disbursement of funds from the Treasury is very slow. As of June 30, 2024, the MoHCC has received only 28% of its budget.
- The mid-year Budget Review highlighted the budget utilization statistics for the 2024 mid-term period. Only a total of 9 (nine) out of 39 (thirty-nine) sectors had utilized over 50% of their allocated resources.
- The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare only utilized 6.8% of its allocated resources yet this is the ministry that is responsible for the administration of social protection services such as Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM), Health Assistance, Harmonised Cash Transfer (HCT) for the elderly and vulnerable groups and Food Deficit Mitigation Programme.

How to participate in the 2025 Budget Consultations

Teams, dates, venues and times are available here: <https://x.com/ParliamentZim/status/1833502483252998283>

Opportunities

- Terms of reference for consultant: to develop a toolkit for quarterly budget tracking by the parliamentary portfolio committee on education: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UtEYTZMoJjk9pGUZJva6NF26xbE4_GtX/mobilebasic
- Research Coordinator– Branch Office (Full Time): <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7LicZSHmKkeXmlSatbokcNO7hfzQdlLv2uX4UTqbxxUMDFKWlcxVINBUTFNSUpFVU1KMkI3SEkyTyQIQCNjPTEu>
- Research Analyst- MOSAIC Project (Global Position): <https://vacancymail.co.zw/jobs/research-analyst-mosaic-project-global-position-60713/>
- MEAL Officer: <https://vacancymail.co.zw/jobs/meal-officer-60656/>
- MEAL Coordinator: <https://vacancymail.co.zw/jobs/meal-coordinator-60655/>
- Nominations Now Open for The List Awards 2024! Submit your nominations on our www.thelist.identitiesmedia.com



Are you passionate about Social & Economic Justice?
Do you believe in the movement for equality?

JOIN NOW!

Become a registered member of ZIMCODD today:
<https://fb.gy/ewz45>
Join our Mailing List by sending us your email address to stay caught up on our activities, weekly & monthly reading resources on the Social & Economic Justice movement.

SCAN NOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

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#Youth4Integrity pledge

Are you a member of the youth (18-35 years) with a passion for fighting social and economic injustice? Do you want to join the action for Integrity? Do You want to become an Integrity Icon? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, take the pledge today: <https://rb.gy/9ogzgx>

Watch Episode 4 of our #Youth4Integrity Podcast: https://youtu.be/LqiyXGftufg?si=PVqghnNppxgoOce_

Picture of the week: A winner from the Harare Polytechnic College poses for a picture at the just ended 2024 National Tertiary Institutions Debates Competition!



Quote of the week: Lord Byron

It is very iniquitous to make me pay debts, you have no idea of the pain it gives one.

ZIMCODD

We're inviting you to feature in our

BREAKFREE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3

(as an individual or organization).

The theme is **Natural Resource Governance**, and story length is a 1 pager including at least one image. Feel free to also use other art forms including pictures, poems, video and audio.

Submit your article to taurai@zimcodd.co.zw by the 29th of September 2024.

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