

27 January 2017



INTRODUCTION

Parliament convened yesterday and the main business of the day was the 2017 Budget debate. A number of Portfolio Committee chairpersons presented their Post Budget Analysis reports.

Newly elected Bikita West Member of Parliament Beauty Chabaya (Zanu-PF) was yesterday sworn in as a legislator in the National Assembly.

Clerk of Parliament Mr Kennedy Chokuda administered the oath in terms of the Constitution, after Speaker of the National Assembly Advocate Jacob Mudenda officially informed the House of the election of Hon. Chabaya.

Meanwhile, the Land Commission Bill sailed through in the National Assembly with amendments to Clauses 7, 14, 61 and 62 after being steered by Lands and Rural Resettlement Minister Dr Douglas Mombeshora.

There was also the second reading of the Finance Bill

POST BUDGET ANALYSIS REPORTS

Hon. John Holder (ZANU PF – Zvishavane- Ngezi) presented the budget report on the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Media, Information and Broadcasting Services. Key recommendations were as follows

- Adequate funding should be made available so that the Ministry can completely migrate from analogue to digital transmission
- The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation should appoint a substantive Chief Executive Officer as a matter of urgency for timeous and progressive decisions to be made by the end of February 2017.
- Transmedia Corporation should retain some percentage of the revenue that it generates for self-financing so that it can capacitate itself.
- Laws governing the operations of the Ministry should be aligned with the

dictates of the new Constitution of Zimbabwe by the second quarter of 2017.

Hon. Biata Nyamupinga (ZANU PF-Goromonzi West) Womens Affairs Committee recommendations were as follows

- The Minister should increase the budget allocation to the Ministry to a minimum of 2.5% of the total budget, or retain the 2016 budget cap. In the absence of these increases, all the funds allocated in the 2017 budget to the Ministry must be disbursed by the end of the first quarter.
- The Ministry of Finance should ensure that all line Ministries reflect gender mainstreaming in their budgets, through gender specific budget lines that are adequately funded. In this regard it is imperative that the Ministry of Finance reject any line Ministry budget that does not comply with the policy requirements.
- The Gender Commission must be allocated \$1 300 000.00 for operations, and, at a minimum, there must be Treasury concurrence for the recruitment of the urgently required 20 members of staff with the requisite qualifications and experience, and funds to be availed for the 6 vehicles required for operations support.

Hon. Chistopher Chitindi (ZANU PF-Muzarabani South) presented the Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development committee and these are the key recommendations

- The allocated funds to the Ministry have to be timeously disbursed for the smooth operation of the Ministry
- Agritex needs to be fully capacitated so as be very visible in assisting farmers;
- Entities like Agribank must be capacitated through budgetary allocation whilst ARDA and CSC should be encouraged to identify and enter into joint ventures;
- Adequate funding should be allocated to agricultural colleges for training of more agricultural experts;

- There should be adequate allocation for the Department of Veterinary Services to enable it to combat animal diseases;

- In light of insufficient funding to irrigation and mechanisation, the Government should provide sovereign guarantees for the irrigation equipment from willing partners like Belarus and India.

CONCLUSION

The following are other committees that presented their reports Foreign Affairs, SMEs and Cooperative Development, Higher and Tertiary Education Science and Technology Development, Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, to mention but just a few. The Budget Debate will resume next week on Tuesday, 31st January, 2017.