



Ballot Update

Bulletin

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Elections an expensive affair

Contesting in elections is expensive in Zimbabwe making it essential that political parties have funding for them to take part in the polls. Since the current threshold for accessing public funding in Zimbabwe only benefits two MDC formations and ZANU (PF), smaller political parties have to depend on other sources of support for survival.

The Political Parties (Finance) Act [Chapter 2:11] of 2001 makes it illegal for parties to receive foreign funding; hence they have limited avenues to source funds for their activities.

Even parties receiving public funding find raise privately to supplement their State grants, and this might include raising funds beyond the limits of the law.

Since Zimbabwe, is new to multiparty democracies, transition programmes meant to promote multiparty democracy should be encouraged.

In most countries where multiparty democracy is a new phenomenon incumbents use shortage of financial resources as an excuse to deprive small parties funding. *"As far as such rulers and their ruling parties are concerned, public funding of political parties, which also benefits the opposition parties, would amount to propping up the opposition while eroding the advantages that incumbency*

confers," quoted from a ZESN position paper entitled *"The Regulation of Political Parties in Zimbabwe: Registration, Finance and Other Support."*

"Healthy political parties are often well-resourced political machines and the more resourced they are, the more they are likely to be in electoral contests", says ZESN.

ZESN also adds that fortunes of parties are largely determined by the resources they have; their capacity to sponsor candidates and organise effective campaigns is largely determined by access to resources.

Democracy does not come cheaply and therefore, state funding is needed for all political parties in countries with fragile democracies where the governing party has inexhaustible access to state resources that it routinely abuses to bolster its party activities and to campaign in elections against enfeebled opposition parties.



Public funding of political parties contributes to the consolidation of democracy in the following ways, among others:

- Creates relatively equal opportunities for political parties to set up their structures and run

- election campaigns;
- Encourages all political players to channel their ambitions through the democratic process
- Promotes relatively equal strength for political parties and offers the populace choices.

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Voter education key ahead of elections



With referendum and elections coming this year, it is important that there is an improvement of access to information for Zimbabweans so that they effectively exercise their right to vote and make informed choices on the constitution and candidates they want.

Among things which are critical to make informed decisions include: voter registration information; that is requirements to register to vote and where to register and polling stations. Zimbabweans need to inspect the voters roll to check if their names appear and to ensure that they are entered correctly. The Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) Act prohibits civil society organizations from providing voter education to citizens unless they are accredited by the Commission. Hence according to the Act, ZEC has the mandate to conduct voter education. It is heartening to note that

last year, the commission invited willing civil society organisations to apply to provide voter education to augment its efforts. That was a welcome development given the massive voter education needed in Zimbabwe.

Ideally, civic education is a continuous process, not only provided a few months before elections are conducted as will be the case in Zimbabwe. This justifies the need for the civic organisations to be involved in conducting voter education in the country.

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Luyadula ukhetho

Harare: Ukuphatheka ekhethweni kweleZimbabwe kuyadula kakhulu okokuthi amabandla ezombusazwe ancintisanayo kumele athole imali enengi ukuze aphaheke ekhethweni.

Amabandla alosekelo oluvumela ukuthi athole imali esikhwameni selizwe ngama-MDC womabili leZANU PF kuphela ngakho-ke amabandla amancane sokumele adinge ezinye indlela zokuthola imali losekelo.

Umthetho ophathelene lezezimali lamabandla ezombusazwe, i-Political Parties (Finance) Act awuvumeli mabandla la ukuthi athole imali kuzinhlanganiso zangaphandle kwelizwe ngakho acina esesele lezindlela eziyingcosana kakhulu zokuthola imali yokwenza umsebenzi wawo. Amabandla athola imali kungebo zelizwe lawo ayidinga ngezinye indlela zokwengezelela njalo lezo indlela akucaci ukuthi zingabe zisemthethweni kumbe hatshi.

Njengoba iZimbabwe ingakakujayeli ukuba lamabandla ezombusazwe amanengi, kumele inhlelo zenguquko yokusuka embusweni kantando kayiphikiswa kuyiwa embusweni ohlonipha intando kazulu usekelwe.

Kuvele kuyinjayelo ukuthi emazweni asacathula kwezombuso wentando kazulu labo abaphethe umbuso bale ngelokuthi imali kayikho elizweni yikho nje amabandla ezombusazwe aphikisayo engayiphiwa. 'Abaphethe umbuso laba kanye lamabandla abo babona ukupha amabandla aphikisayo imali kuyikuzigwaza ngowabo njengoba nje kungaxegiswa intambo zombuso.'



kuhletshunwe egwalweni lwe-ZESN oluhlaziya kabanzi udaba lwemithetho ebona ngamabandla ezombusazwe eZimbabwe.

Kulolugwalo, i-ZESN iphinda ithi, 'Amabandla ezombusazwe aqinileyo' Abaphethe umbuso laba kanye lamabandla abo babona ukupha amabandla aphikisayo imali kuyikuzigwaza ngowabo njengoba nje kungaxegiswa intambo zombuso, 'kuhletshunwe egwalweni lwe-ZESN oluhlaziya kabanzi udaba lwemithetho ebona ngamabandla ezombusazwe eZimbabwe.

Kulolugwalo, i-ZESN iphinda ithi, 'Amabandla ezombusazwe aqinileyo

asebenza kakuhle kumele abonakale ngokuba lemali, nxa elemali ayenelisa ukuncintisana lamanye ekhethweni.

Imali kumbe eminye imihlobo yenothe yamabandla ezombusazwe yiyo eyenza amabandla la abe lakho ukwenelisa ukusekela amalunga awo ancintisanayo lokuthubha inhlelo zokudinga usekelo.

Umbuso ohlonipha intando kazulu awuzi kalula, ngakho-ke kumele amabandla aphikisayo emazweni alombuso kantando kayiphikiswa athole usekelo ngokusemthethweni ukuze labo ababusayo bangaqhubeki besebenzisa umnotho welizwe enhlelweni zabo lamabandla abo kungela mkhawulo.

Ukutholiswa imali kwamabandla ezombusazwe ngokusemthethweni kudala insika yombuso wentando kazulu ngezindlela ezilandelayo:

- Kwenza amabandla wonke abe lamathuba alinganayo wokubumba ingatsha zawo lokudinga usekelo.
- Kwenza njalo wonke amabandla angazami ukudinga umbuso ngodlakela.
- Kudalela uzulu amathuba amanengi okukhetha inkokheli.
- Ukuvota kulilungelo ngakho-ke isizwe kumele sivikele lelulungelo.
- Kuyadingeka ukuthi amabandla abusayo angabi lamathuba aphindiweyo aphikisayo wona engela lutho.
- Kuyenqabela njalo ukuthi amabandla ezombusazwe adinge usekelo ngaphandle kwelizwe khona okuvele kungekho emthethweni.
- Kuyenqabela njalo ukuthi amabandla ombusazwe acine esesephula umthetho ezama ukuziphandla.

Ngomnyaka ka-1997, amabandla ezombusazwe amanyana asa uhulumende emthethwandaba, umthethwandaba ophezulu (Supreme Court) wanquma ukuthi ukwabela amabandla la imali esikhwameni selizwe kusemthethweni njalo kuvulela wonke amazwi amabandla ezombusazwe, kuphinde kube yisiqoqoqela sombuso wentando kazulu.

Elections an expensive affair



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- Voting is a constitutional right so the state must subsidise the assertion of that right.
- The need to reduce the advantage some parties might have by receiving far greater support than others,
- To avoid reliance on foreign funding by political parties, which is in any event prohibited in many countries; and
- To discourage political parties from resorting to unlawful means of mobilising financial resources.

In 1997 after the United Parties took the government to court, the Supreme Court ruled that public funding of political parties was acceptable as it unhindered freedom of political expression essential to the proper functioning of a democratic system.

Voter education key ahead of elections

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In the past, ZESN discovered frustrations among some Zimbabweans arose from people being turned away because they tried to vote at the wrong polling station; or did not have the required identification documents. Such incidences can be avoided if there is adequate voter education in the country.

Apparently, voter registration which usually happens ahead of an election has this time been delayed on several occasions. It was set for commencement early January this year. But Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa said the Treasury was taking long to release funds. On the other hand, Prime Minister's office blamed ZEC for submitting its budget late.

Should voter registration start, there is another hurdle to jump: the Treasury says the country does not have enough funds for the referendum and elections. ZEC says it needs \$200 million to complete constitutional referendum and general elections exercises. This amount includes that for voter registration and education which is about \$20 million. It is therefore important that voter education and registration are provided soon to ensure that all eligible voters participate in the impending elections.



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Sarudzo dzinoshandisa mari yakawanda

Kukwikwidza musarudzo muZimbabwe kunoshandisa mari yakawanda zvokuru, naizvozvo mapato ematongerwo enyika anofanira kuwana rutsigiro rwemari kubva kuhurumende kuti akwanise kugadzirira sarudzo.

Parizvino mutemo wenyika unobvumidza ZANU PF neMDC chete kupihwa mari nehurumende zvoreva kuti mamwe mapato madiki anofanira kuzvitsvagira ega mari yekushandisa kuti akwanise kupindawo musarudzo.

Mutemo wemuZimbabwe parizvino unorambidza mapato ematongerwo enyika kupihwa rutsigiro rwemari kubva kunze kwenyika, naizvozvo havana nzira dzakawanda dzavanokwanisa kuwana nadzo mari zviri pamutemo. Zvakare mari inopihwa mapato nehurumende haikwani zvekuti vanofanira kushandisa dzimwe nzira dzekutsvaga nadzo mari.

Sezvo Zimbabwe ichiri kutanga kuve nehutongi hweruzhinji, zvakanosha kuti paiswe matanho anotsigira kuwanda kwemapato ematongerwo enyika.

Munyika dzakawanda dzinotsigira hutongi hweruzhinji vatongi vari pazvigaro vanoshandisa chikonzero chekushaikwa kwemari senzira yekushayisa mapato matsva mikana yekukwikwidza musarudzo.

Vanoona sekunge kupa mapato rutsigiro rwemari kunokurudzira kunyuka kwemapato akawanda zvoita kuti vabviswe pazvigaro.



Asi ZESN inoti, mikana yekubudirira kwebato rimwe nerimwe musarudzo ine chekuita nehuwandu hwemari iri muhomwe yebato.

Pfungwa iyi inokurudzira kuti hurumende ipe mapato ematongerwo enyika mari dzekushandisa pakugadzirira sarudzo. Izvi zvinobatsira kuti pave nehutongi hunomirira zvido zveruzhinji. Zvinopa mapato ematongerwo enyika

mikana yakaenzana yekugadzirira sarudzo neyekuvhoterwa, zvakanove nemapato akawanda zvobatsira kuti vanhu vasarudze mapato avanoda.

Kuvhota isarudzo yemunhu wese, saka hurumende inofanira kuita rupande rwayo kubudikidza nekupa mapato ese mari dzekushandisa kuitira kuti vanhu vese vakwanise kuvhota. Zvinobatsira zvakanove kuti mapato asatsvage mari kubva

kunze kwenyika pamwe nekuti asashandise nzira dzisiri pamutemo dzekutsvaga nadzo mari.

Mugore ra1997 mapato ematongerwo enyika muZimbabwe akaendesa hurumende kudare redzimhosva pakabvumiranwa kuti zvakanaka kuti mapato ematongerwo enyika apihwe rutsigiro rwemari nehurumende senzira yekukurudzira hutongi hweruzhinji.

Kupa mapato ematongerwo enyika rutsigiro rwemari kunokurudzira hutongi hweruzhinji.

Kana tichida kuve nehutongi hweruzhinji muAfrica, mapato ese ematongerwo enyika anofanira kupihwa rutsigiro rwemari kubva kuwanda yakatarisana nedambudziko guru rekushayikwa kwemari.

Mapato ese anoda kukwikwidza musarudzo anofanira kupihwa mari yekushandisa nehurumende nekuti zvinobvisa pfungwa yekuti bato rinotonga rinoshandisa rega mari dzehurumende richinyima mapato madiki.

Chikonzero chechipiri ndechinoti, muAfrica hamuna makambani kana vanhu vakazvimirira vane mari yakawanda vanotsigira zveematongerwo enyika, naizvozvo mapato madiki haakwanisi kukura kana kuwana rutsigiro rwevanhu vakawanda nekuti vanenge vasina mari dzekushandisa pakugadzirira sarudzo. Naizvozvo kupa mapato ese rutsigiro

rwemari kunoreva kuti mapato ese anowana mikana yakaenzana yekupinda musarudzo. Mapato ezveematongerwo enyika anogona kutsvaga mari nedzimwe nzira dzakaita sekugadzira nekutengesha mapepa nhau emusangano kana kuve nemabhezimisi.

Anogona zvakanove kupihwa rubatsiro kubva kunze kwenyika asi nzira iyi haishandi muZimbabwe sezvo paine mutemo unorambidza mapato ematongerwo enyika kupihwa mari kubva kunyika dzekunze. Izvi zvinoreva kuti nzira chete yekuti mapato aya kwanise kurarama kubudidza nekupihwa mari nehurumende.

ZESN inoti kushayikwa kwerrutsigiro rwemari inobva kuhurumende ichipihwa mapato kunotaridza kuti muAfrica vatungamiri vanombunyikidza hurongwa

hunokurudzira kuvepo kwemapato akawanda. Vanoona sekunge kupa mapato mari dzehurumende kunokurudzira kunyuka kwemapato anopikisa hutungamiri hwavo pamwe nekuvabvisa pazvigaro.

Parizvino, ZANU PF neMDC ndiwo chete mapato ari kupihwa mari nehurumende nekuti mutemo weZimbabwe unoti bato rinopihwa mari nehurumende kana rikawana mavhoti anosvika zvikanwa zvisihanu muzana (5%) yemavhoti ese. MuAfrica dzimwe hurumende hadzipi mari kumapato ematongerwo enyika asi dzimwe dzinopa.

Ko zviri kuitika muZimbabwe zvinotsigira here kuumbwa kwemapato akawanda zvichienderana nezvinotarisisirwa muhutongi hweruzhinji?

Election news quotes

"The President and the Prime Minister wrote to me and Minister Chinamasa instructing us to source money to fund elections from the international community," Minister of Finance Tendai Biti.

The Herald 30 January 2013

"Elections are around the corner and some political leaders will be tempted to employ violence in order to win votes. My appeal to youths, who are mostly used by politicians to perpetrate violence, is to refrain from these heinous acts as avenging spirits won't attack the politician who sent you or the party..." ZANU PF Mashonaland West provincial chairman John Mafa.

The Newsday 6 February 2013



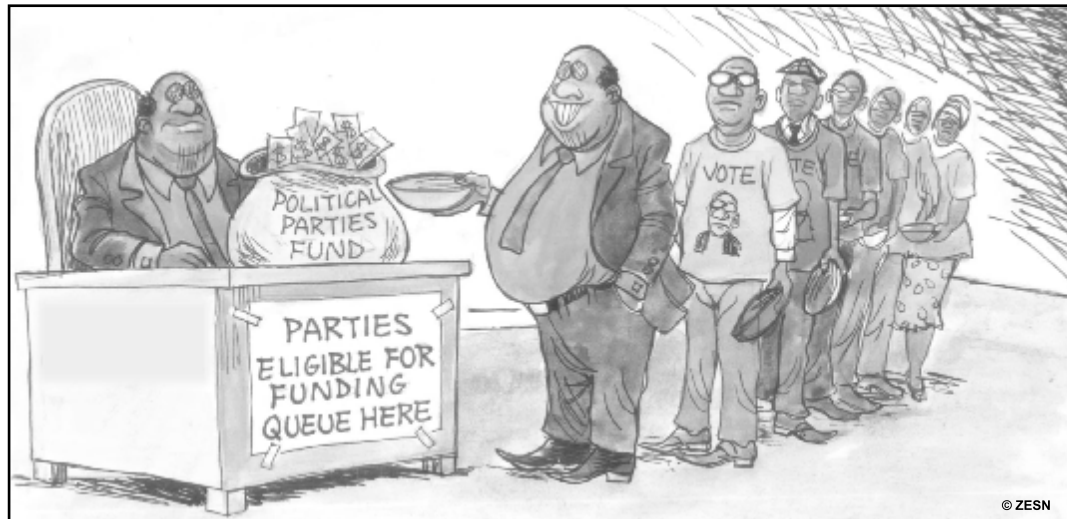
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Funding political parties promotes democracy

In Africa, where political parties exist in hard economic hardships, financing of all political parties is a critical factor for the success of multiparty democracy. Analysts argue that where African nations are attempting democratisation, political party funding is important for two reasons, namely:

- The widespread perception in some societies that the ruling party uses State funds to support its activities, to the disadvantage of opposition parties which do not have access to such resources; and
- The reality that many African societies lack a strong private economy, meaning that opposition political parties cannot rely on contributions from wealthy supporters to make up for any resource advantage which the ruling party may have."

That will result in the opposition parties enjoying state support if they are to compete on a relatively equal footing with the ruling party or other parties with considerable private funding. Political parties may raise funds from private sources, such as membership fees, subscriptions and contributions, donations by individuals or corporations, economic activities (such as establishing party newspaper/s or forming profit making companies), and loans. In some cases foreign funding makes political parties survive. Since the introduction of the Political Parties (Finance) Act [Chapter 2:11] in 2001 is illegal in Zimbabwe to receive foreign funding.



It is not clear if there are parties still receiving foreign funding. Given that foreign funding is not allowed, public funding becomes one of the ways a political party can remain afloat.

In a paper called "The Regulation of Political Parties in Zimbabwe: Registration, Finance and Other Support", ZESN suggests that the relative absence of public funding in respect of emerging multiparty democracies in Africa is a reflection of the extent to which the transition programmes towards multiparty democracy are directed and dominated by 'incumbent authoritarian rulers' who have no shortage of financial resources.

As far as such rulers and their ruling parties are concerned, public funding of political parties, which also benefits the opposition parties, would amount to propping up the opposition while eroding the advantages that incumbency confers.

Zimbabwean political parties get public funding if they receive at least 5 per cent of votes cast in a general election meaning that since 2008 only Zanu PF and MDC formations benefit. In SADC, political parties in parliament in Angola, Namibia and South Africa get public funds. While in Malawi political parties benefit from public funding if they receive more than 10 per cent of the vote in an election.

Lesotho government funds political parties to cover campaign expenses, while in Mozambique, one-third of the public funding is allocated to presidential candidates, one-third to parties in Parliament in proportion to their seats, and one-third to parties fielding candidates for Parliament in proportion the number of candidates fielded.

Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Mauritius and Zambia do not fund political parties. In Tanzania, public funding of political parties was abolished in 2000. Is the current situation in Zimbabwe good in the advancement of multi-party democracy?

Ukuphathiswa kwamabandla ezombusazwe ngemali kuqinisa umbuso wentando kazulu

Kuzwekazi leAfrica, lapho okulenhluho ezinengi eziphathelane lezomnotho, ukuphathiswa kwamabandla ombusazwe ngemali kuyinsika yokuwaqinisa lokonga umbuso wentando kazulu.

Abahlaziya ngezepolitiki bathi ukuncediswa ngemali kwamabandla ezombusazwe kuqakatheke kakhulu ngoba inengi lezizwe zibona engani amabandla asebusweni asebenzisa imali yesizwe ukwenza imisebenzi yawo etshieneyo.

Lokhu kwenza lawo aphikisayo ancidezeleke ngamandla njengoba wona engenelisi ukufinyelela umnotho welizwe. Esinye njalo isizatho sokuqakatheka kokuncediswa kwamabandla la ngemali ngesokuthi eAfrica akula mabizimusi anganika amabandla aphikisayo imali enengi engenza ukuthi lawo ancintisane lalawo asebusweni. Amabandla angenza amacebo okuthola izimali ezingaveli esikhwameni selizwe ezifana le mali

ebhadalwa ngamalunga awo leyokuncediswa ngabantu kunye lezinhlanganiso ezitshieneyo. Amabandla angaba lamabizimusi anjengokuthengisa amaphephandaba, njalo angaboleka imali.

Amanye amabandla ezombusazwe aphila ngemali zokuphiwa zinhlanganiso zakwamanye amazwe. KweleZimbabwe, lokhu kwaba lomthetho othiwa yi-Political Parties (Finance) Act (2:11) omumethe indlela amabandla ezombusazwe ameke athole ngazo imali, akuvunyelwa ukuthi amabandla la athole imali evela ngaphandle kwelizwe.

Akwazakali ukuthi lawo mabandla angabe ayayithola na imali evela ngaphandle kwelizwe. Njengoba kungavunyelwa-ke ukuthola imali evela ngaphandle kwelizwe kuleli, kubangceke ukuthi amabandla ezombusazwe sokumele athole imali evela esikhwameni selizwe ukuze aqhube umsebenzi wawo okusemthethweni.

I-ZESN, egwalweni lwayo oluphatha udaba lokubhalisa lokuthola izimali lolunye usekelo kwamabandla ezombusazwe, ibeka umbono wokuthi ukuswela usekelo kwamabandla ezombusazwe ezizweni zeAfrica yikho osokudale ukuthi labo abaphethe umbuso kantando kayiphikiswa bahlale bevimbeli inguquko ngoba amabandla abo elemali enengi.

Ontando kayiphikiswa laba babona engani ukuthola imali kumbe usizo amabandla aphikisayo kufana lokuzokhela amalale ekhanda. Amabandla ezombusazwe akweleZimbabwe atholiswa imali evela esikhwameni selizwe (public funding) nxa elamavoti ayisilinganiso esiya-5% ekhethweni lwezwe lonke. Lokhu kutsho ukuthi kusukela ngo-2008 iZANU PF lama-MDC womabili yiwo kuphela abelwa imali esikhwameni selizwe. Emkhonweni wezansi yeAfrica, emazweni anjengeAngola, i-Namibia leSouth Africa, amabandla ombusazwe ayayithola

kungelamgoqo imali evela esikhwameni selizwe. Kwele-Malawi, amabandla atholiswa imali nxa ethole amavoti ayisilinganiso se-10% ekhethweni.

Ilizwe le-Lesotho lona litholisa amabandla imali yokudinga usekelo, kuthi eMozambique imali iphiwa ngokulinganayo labo abancintisa ukhetho lukamongemali, amabandla asePhalamende kanye lalawo alamalunga ancintisa ekhethweni lokuya ePhalamende.

Kwele-Botswana, ele-Democratic Republic of Congo, iMauritius, Madagascar le Zambia, amabandla ezombusazwe awaphiwa mali.

Kwele-Tanzania ukwabelwa kwamabandla ezombusazwe imali yesikhwama selizwe kwamiswa ngomnyaka ka-2000. Kambe lokhu okwenzakala kweleZimbabwe kungabe kuyiqhubela phambili na intando kazulu?