

News from Fascinating Projects

New Zimbabwe Parliament Project Progresses

Chinese government funded new parliament construction project ahead of schedule

Reported by [Tasiyana Siavhundu](#) in Zimbabwe

2 October 2019 – Gweru, Zimbabwe - Allegedly necessitated by the need for a more spacious complex to accommodate the large number of parliamentarians (currently totalling 350), the new parliament of Zimbabwe building is under construction. The complex shall replace the current 100-seat colonial-era parliamentary building that is situated at the heart of the capital. The project is being financed by the US\$100 million grant from the Chinese government.



Current (to be old) 100-seat Parliament Building

The new parliament building is a six storey and circular state of the art complex sitting on a total floor area of 33,000 square metres. The architectural design of the new parliament building borrows heavily from the historic Great Zimbabwe Monuments, The project, which is located on Prayer Hill in Mount Hampden (North West of Harare), includes two conference centres each with a capacity to accommodate 350 people, a banquet hall capable of accommodating 1,000 people, offices for parliamentary officers and many boardrooms for parliamentary committee sessions.

Shanghai Construction Group, which is believed to be among the top 30 Chinese construction companies, is the contractor of the new parliament project. The project is said to be the largest Southern African project to be financed by China Aid, a Chinese government-owned global development aid agency, and also the biggest to benefit a single African country (The Zimbabwean Independent, August 2, 2019).



Approved Design of the New Parliament of Zimbabwe

The new parliament project, situated 25 km north-west of the capital Harare, is anticipated to give birth to a modernised Harare that will attract more visitors and businesses. The project kick-started on the 30th of November 2018 and is expected to be completed in the second half of the year 2021, the project schedule spanning to about 32 months.

Despite the good progress that is reported about the project, there are however a number of constraints hampering the momentum of the project. One such constraint relates to fuel shortages gripping the country. Thousands of litres of fuel are required monthly for the project to smoothly progress.