**DISTRIBUTED BY veritas**

***E-mail: veritas@mango.zw Website: www.veritaszim.net***

**Veritas makes every effort to ensure the provision of reliable information,
but cannot take legal responsibility for information supplied.**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
PUBLIC DEBT MANAGEMENT BILL
TO BE MOVED BY THE
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

# SECTION 2 (INTERPRETATION)

On page 3, in the definition of "Medium Term Debt Strategy" insert the word 'Management' so as to read "Medium Term Debt Management Strategy".

On page 3, in the definition of "Medium Term Debt Strategy" delete the acronym "MTDS".

# SECTION 5 (FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE)

On page 4, in subsection (2), in paragraph (a), add the words "and publish" after the word “prepare".

# SECTION 5(2) (FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC DEBT MANAGEMENT OFFICE)

On page 4, in subsection (2), in paragraph (a) add the word ‘Management’ so as to read "Medium Term Debt Management Strategy".

On page 4, in subsection (2), after paragraph (1), add a new paragraph (m) and re-number subsequent paragraphs accordingly;

“(m) prepare balance of payments projections;"

On page 4, in subsection (2), after paragraph (p) add the following new paragraphs:

"(q) act as the principal adviser in the development of domestic capital markets and issuance of domestic and external debt securities on behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe;

(r) assess, monitor and report on any other implicit and explicit public sector contingent liabilities and advise on their management;"

(s) maintain and administer a secure computerised debt management information system;

(t) initiate, facilitate and monitor disbursements on borrowings and on-lending; and

(u) analyse requests from local councils and public enterprises for borrowings".

# SECTION 7 (EXTERNAL AND DOMESTIC DEBT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE)

On page 5, insert the following *proviso* to subsection (2) to read:

 "Provided that

1. the Chairperson may invite any other person whose expertise the Committee may require, to attend any meeting of the Committee and take part in the deliberations of the meeting.
2. the Committee shall meet at least once every calendar month".

# SECTION 8 (MEDIUM TERM DEBT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY)

On page 6, in the heading add the word ‘Management’ so as to read "Medium Term Debt

On page 6, in the subsection (1) add the word 'Management' so as to read "Medium Term Debt Management Strategy".

On page 6, in subsection (2) paragraph (d); delete and replace with "domestic and international economic and financial conditions"; and add the word 'Management' so as to read "Medium Term Debt Management Strategy".

On page 6, in subsection (2) paragraph (e) delete the acronym "MTDS".

# SECTION 11 (BORROWING POWERS AND LIMIT)

On page 7, in subsection (1), delete the words "for any purpose considered by the President to be necessary or expedient" and replace with the words "for purposes stipulated in section 12."

On page 7, replace the *proviso* to subsection (2) with the following *proviso:­*

“Provided that the limit fixed in terms of this subsection and section 300(1) of the Constitution may not result in the total outstanding public and publicly-guaranteed debt as a ratio of the gross domestic product at current market prices exceeding 70 *per centum* at the end of any fiscal year, unless the Minister obtains a resolution of the National Assembly to do so under the one or more of the following conditions—

1. occurrence of natural disasters or other emergencies requiring exceptional expenditure;
2. where a large investment project in the public sector is deemed by Cabinet to be timely and prudent; or
3. in case of general economic slow-down requiring fiscal and monetary stimulus.".

# SECTION 13 (MANNER OF RAISING STATE LOANS)

On page 8, in subsection (2), paragraph (b), delete the words "economic and fiscal policy" and replace with "economic and financial policies and the Medium Term Debt Management Strategy".

# SECTION 20 (POWER TO GIVE GUARANTEES)

On page 9, in subsection (1), delete the words, "with consent of the President" and replace with "on advice of the Debt Management Committee and the Office".

# SECTION 22 (LOANS TO DESIGNATED CORPORATE BODIES)

On page 10 delete section 22.

# SECTION 23 (BORROWING BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PUBLIC ENTITIES)

On page 11,in subsection (6), delete the word "external".

On page 11, insert a new subsection (7), to read:-

“(7) A local authority or public entity that procures government guarantees and/ or on-lending facilities shall furnish the Office with its annual accounts and any reports and documents as may be required by the Office during the subsistence of such guarantee or on-lending."

On page 11, insert a new subsection (8) to read:-

“(8) In this section "local authority" includes a local authority as defined in section 332 of the Constitution."

On page 11, in subsection (5), delete the words "upon request" and insert the words. "monthly, quarterly and annually" after the word "submit".

# SECTION 29 (POWERS OF MINISTER)

On page 13, replace the heading with "Other Powers of the Minister".

# SECTION 31 (ANNUAL, MONTHLY AND QUARTERLY REPORTS ON LOANS AND GUARANTEES)

On page 14, delete the heading and replace with "Monthly, quarterly and annual reports on loans and guarantees".

On page 14, in subsection (2), exchange the words "annual" and "monthly".

On page 14, in subsection (3), delete the words "Accountant General" and replace with "Office". Further, insert the words "and the Accountant General" after the word “Secretary".

On page 14, in subsection (3), delete the words "Accountant General" and replace with "Office". Further, insert the words "and the Accountant General" after the word “Secretary".

On page 14, in subsection (4), delete the words "Annual and quarterly" and replace with "The", and insert the words "at least bi-annually" after the words "House of Assembly" and delete the words "year and quarter" and replace with "period".

On page 14, in subsection (4), replace the words "House of Assembly" with "National Assembly".

# SECTION 37 (REPORTING TO PARLIAMENT)

On page 15, in subsection (1), replace the word "once" with "twice". In subsection (2) delete paragraph (b), and replace with-

“(b) bi-annual reporting of debt management activities covering an evaluation of outcomes against the debt management objectives;"

# SECTION 38 (AUDIT)

On page 16, in subsection (1), add “… and the Audit Office Act” after “Public Finance Management Act”.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_