



Chitungwiza Community Bulletin

For community development and poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship

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From the Editor

Welcome to the second edition of the Chitungwiza Community Bulletin. The first edition of this e-newsletter from the Chitungwiza Community Development (CCDN) was well received by our members, Chitungwiza residents, the Chitungwiza Diaspora and other concerned groups judging from feedback we received through email, SMS and on our Facebook account. I would like to thank all those who took their time to write back to us! Your valuable comments/suggestions were noted and I would like to urge all our readers to engage us through the communication channels listed below.

Dry tapes continue to become the norm rather than the exception in Chitungwiza and residents live in fear of water-borne diseases! Who is to blame? How are residents coping? What are the underlying causes of this untenable situation?

The hopes of many youth entrepreneurs in Chitungwiza and beyond are hanging by the thread as CABS dithers with their applications for Youth loans under the Kurera/Ukondla scheme. CCDN calls on CABS to speed up the disbursement of these much-needed funds or at least communicate the decision to the applicants were the outcome is negative.

CCDN reflect on the state of youth entrepreneurship in Chitungwiza by profiling the business ventures of two entrepreneurs who are members of CCDN. We hope their stories will inspire more youths to consider entrepreneurship as a career and a viable alternative to endless job searches, illegal migration or negative coping strategies like prostitution, crime and drug abuse.

Enjoy our second edition and remember we welcome feedback! Send comments/suggestions through the following channels: Email- chitungwizacommunity@gmail.com, SMS- 0776 358 933, 0773 552 933 or through our social media accounts: Facebook- Chitungwiza Community Development Network. Blog spot : ccdinfo@blogspot.com

Regards

Admire Mutize

Social problems prevailing in Chitungwiza: The Solution

The past decade there has been characterized by an economic meltdown in Zimbabwe. Many industries shut down during resulted in huge unemployment levels. The education sector continues to churn out graduates who cannot be accommodated by the shrinking number of employers. This has created many social problems in Chitungwiza, chief of them are alcohol and drug abuse, crime, violence and promiscuity by the youth. Youths are caught up in a difficult situation: employment opportunities are scarce and alternative livelihoods are compromised by a restrictive legal environment and lack of access to capital. This untenable economic environment has precipitated the above-mentioned social problems as youths adopt negative coping strategies creating a vicious cycle of poverty that, in our opinion, calls for a rights based approach to youth economic empowerment.

Youths in Chitungwiza have ideas! Creative ideas on how they can transcend their economic challenges and prosper through business ventures! Youths are prepared to work hard and invest their energy in their own businesses. What is lacking is the political will to improve the livelihood situation of these youths and their dependants. All they get are new bottle stores and night clubs. Youths need land for production premises! They need capital to acquire machinery and most of all they demand an enabling legal environment for youth entrepreneurship. CCDN calls on the responsible authorities to ensure that the right to work, to self-employment, to engage in commerce are protected and promoted.

Chitungwiza runs dry

Chitungwiza's water supply ran dry from Saturday 19 May until the early hours of Wednesday 23 May 2012.

The most affected parts were Zengeza 1- 5 which usually receives fair supplies of water. To compound the problems, there are few boreholes and protected wells in Zengeza.

Tens of youths, women and children were seen waiting for water at the borehole that is near Zengeza 2 shopping Centre and another borehole that is owned by EL-Bethel Christian Tabernacle that is located along Mupfuti Street in Zengeza 1.

"I was here before 5 am and it's now 11am and I still hasn't accessed the waster and my kid is still at home as there is no water for her to bath and go to school. After all there is also no one to bath and feed her as I am still to get the water!" said Mrs Elizabeth Vambe of Zengeza 1.

Asked what can be done to solve the water crisis, she said the number of boreholes in each ward must be increased to at least five so that we don't spent much of our productive time fetching for water as this reduces our ability to fend for our families.

Tawanda Mutyabasa from Zengeza 2 said they usually have running water on their taps for two days a week and this has compromised their livelihoods situations as they are into informal economy as way of providing for his family.

At the time of going to the press water was restored but Chitungwiza Community Development Network urges families and households to boil their water or use water purification tablets to treat water before use to avoid contracting water-borne diseases like Cholera and typhoid whenever they use water from unprotected sources during the crisis periods.



A queue of plastic water containers at the EL-Bethel Christian Tabernacle on the Monday 21 May 2012.

Dear Editor

Chitungwiza Community Development Network should produce newsletters that talk of development moving from lower lever to higher levels. Look at the roads let alone the others. Give information on what we should do as residents. Yes youths will move away from roads by joining but look at development for all generations. You do not have to leave out school children's safety talk in the newsletter.

Chitungwiza Resident

Chitungwiza Arts Centre hosted Harare Province Culture Week launch

Chitungwiza Arts Centre hosted the official launch of the Harare Province Culture Week on Tuesday 22 May 2012. Culture week is a world-wide weeklong event that is celebrated globally around the 21st May of every year.

The event saw a number of arts groups and arts lovers converging at the stone sculpture base in Chitungwiza opposite South Medical Centre in Zengeza 4. Mbira groups which included Madhonzha Makuru, Dzomoto, Ganda Masungu, urban groover Sly The Devil, Attacking Super Sounds, Dudzai Primary School traditional dance and Zandonda Nyau dance group performed at the event.

The event culminated to the Harare Province Culture Week that was held at the Africa Unity Square on the 25th and 26th of May 2012. Mr Clive Gomo from the Chitungwiza Arts Centre said the event was a collaboration between Chitungwiza Arts Centre, National Arts Council of Zimbabwe, Ministry of Education Sports and Culture, with the support from Culture Fund of Zimbabwe, Delta Beverages and City Night Club of Harare.



Dudzai Primary School traditional dance group being supported by Ganda Masungu

From page 1: Social evils prevailing in Chitungwiza

Further compounding the situation are politicians both the incumbent and aspiring ones. They take advantage of the desperate situation the youth face to use them to gain political mileage. Terence Fadzi a youth from Zengeza said, "I only go to political meetings for the money and alcohol distributed after the meeting but I see no benefit because all we do is to chant party slogans and sing and clap but our opinions are not considered" She said. "We are then given the worst tasks to threaten and Attack our neighbors and friends and this is disguised as defending our Candidate and the party". Youths are now synonymous with political violence in town".

Young women are not spared; they bear the worst humiliation for their unfortunate situations. They get to use their bodies to mitigate the suffering they face. The well to do older men use money to get sexual favors from these young ladies. Politicians are the worst offenders; they get to use these girls as if they are useless things because they are in a desperate situation. This results in most of them turning to prostitution in the mushrooming night clubs in Chitungwiza.

Youths in Chitungwiza get very little support and recognition. They are not recognized as citizens who have to be incorporated into development plans in the town, when land is made available it is grabbed by those in positions of power and influence, but none is made available for youths to engage in income generating projects. The few youths who are into business operate under trees and are continuously harassed by council police. Policy makers (councilors) only view youths as campaign material and they don't come up with policies to support the aspirations of the youth as they fail to come up with policies to empower them. Thus the youth have no meaningful role to play in society and no jobs are available to them and this results in them getting into negative activities such as drugs, crime, promiscuity, crime and violence and these have created social problems in Chitungwiza

Profile Corner: Rise and Act Recruitment and Training Services

Rise and Act Recruitment and Training Services firm is the brainchild of Kudzai Chineka –a young woman aged 25 years who resides in Zengeza 3 Extension, Chitungwiza. The firm was established in 2006 at the height of Zimbabwe's economic meltdown and has persevered over the years to become a shining beacon of youth entrepreneurship in Chitungwiza. The firm is based at Zengeza 5 shopping centre with offices at Shop No. 3 TJ Complex.

The firm services the Retail and wholesaling trade in Chitungwiza, Harare and surrounding areas by recruiting and training shop workers. It also serves as an employment agency for youths based in Chitungwiza linking them with employers in the retail and catering industry. Rise and Act offers training in the following short courses geared for the retail industry:

- Till Operation.
- Cash handling and security.
- Product knowledge.
- Introduction to Computers.
- Merchandising.
- Stock-taking.
- Debt-collection and tracing.

Kudzai came up with the idea of starting Rise and Act after working in the retail sector for five years, rising through the ranks to become an Administration Manager at Metro Peach Chitungwiza. She realized that there was a need for a firm offering training services for the retail sector after noticing that most of the new employees at her workplace lacked basic retail skills. As the administration Manager she was in charge of the in-house training and supervision and she garnered the much-needed experience in field.

As the Zimbabwean economic crisis peaked in 2006, supplies of groceries and other basic commodities which are the main stock for the wholesale trade dwindled up leaving empty shelves at the Metro Peach branch in Chitungwiza forcing the owners to close down. Kudzai found herself unemployed and she resorted to the cross border trading- visiting South Africa to buy in bulk basics like sugar, soap and cooking oil which she resold at the black market for profit.

In between her visits to South Africa, she started offering training in Till operation at her house to prospective shop workers. Through word of mouth, more and more unemployed youths approached her for training and her part-time job grew into a backyard shop workers academy. She would then use her contacts in the retail industry- especially her former employer, to find job or internship opportunities for her students. Seeing the huge potential for growth, She rented premises at Zengeza 5 Shopping centre and established Rise and Act recruitment and Training services.

Access to capital is kudzai's biggest challenge as she seeks to grow her business by acquiring more training equipment and hiring competent staff. Another challenge is to formally register Rise and Act as a training academy with the Ministry of education. Currently, she does not meet the requirements due to space constraints at her offices and lack of capital to pay the registration fees.

Rise and Act Recruitment and Training services is looking for an Angel Investor to inject capital for its expansion project. A detailed and bankable project proposal is ready! Can you be the one! Kudzai can be reached on the following numbers 0772 815 911.

Kudzai joined the Chitungwiza Community Development Network (CCDN) in February 2012 and has applied for the Old Mutual CABS Kurera/Ukondla youth funds. Her application is still pending

"People become really quite remarkable when they start thinking that they can do things. When they believe in themselves they have the first secret of success" ~ Norman Vincent Peale

From page 2

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A female student writing a test at Rise and Act Recruitment and Training Services.

PROFILE: Taurai Mupaso- The Owl man.

Taurai is a young stone sculptor based at Chitungwiza Arts Centre (C.A.C) in Zengeza 4. His forte' and passion is sculpting Owl figures! Many of which adorn his workshop.

Owls, being nocturnal bird are associated with witchcraft in the African tradition and are despised and feared by many Africans who regard them as harbingers of evil and death. Their large luminous eyes



and eerie cries seem to lend credence to these suspicions. As a result people attack and kill these beautiful birds wherever they are seen in broad daylight. Taurai seeks to demystify these misunderstood creatures by portraying them as friendly mythical characters in his sculptures evoking sympathy for these

birds of the night.

Lack of access to international markets is Taurai's biggest problem. "Locals appreciate my art but most cannot afford to buy luxuries like sculpture due to lack of disposable income". He said. Taurai is working on displaying his art on the internet in the form of an electronic catalogue together with other artists who are members of CCDN.

Taurai has more than forty captivating owl sculptures waiting for your eyes. Through his unique figurines, Taurai has carved a niche for himself in the local visual arts industry and earned himself the nickname "Owl-man". He can be reached on his cell phone number 0777 715 728.

CCDN courts Chitungwiza Municipality

Chitungwiza Community Development Network wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Resuscitation Team and Acting Chitungwiza Municipality Town Clerk Mr Fungayi Mbetsa requesting for an audience with him.

The aim of the meeting is to share information and find solutions to the problem of lack of production premises and marketing places for products being manufactured by young entrepreneurs of Chitungwiza in their backyard industries and along the streets.

The letter was also copied to the Minister of Youth Development, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment, Honourable Saviour Kasukuwere, Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises, Honorable Sthembiso Nyoni and the Minister of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development, Honourable Ignatious Chombo.

At the time of going to the press the Acting Town Clerk and Chairman of the Resuscitation Team for Chitungwiza Municipality has not yet responded to our request for a meeting.

EL-Bethel Christian Tabernacle repairs roads in Zengeza 1

EL-Bethel Christian Tabernacle which is located along Mupfuti Street in Zengeza 1 is repairing surrounding roads that include Chiwa, Mbira and Mugoti Street also in Zengeza 1.

Chiwa street is a tarred road but the road has become seriously potholed to the extent that it was now impassable using a vehicle. The other roads, Mbira and Mugoti streets are dust roads that are used in accessing the church.

The roads were now looking like water gullies and roads which are supposed to be used by vehicles and people.

When this reporter visited the church for more information, the youths who were at the church yard attending to their vehicle agreed that the church was repairing roads before referring all questions to Mr Muronzi. Mr Muronzi's phone was not answered when he was phoned.

Chitungwiza Community Development Network continues to urge all members of Chitungwiza Community to continue working for the development of the area as no one is going to develop it for them.



Heaps of sand put by the EL-Bethel Christian Tabernacle along Mbira Street in Zengeza 1

Upcoming event

Event: Youth Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign Road show

Venue: Makoni Shopping Centre

Date: 16 June 2012

Time: 12 00 – 16 00 hours

All are welcome. Admission is your presence

Entrepreneurship around Chitungwiza in Pictures



Young entrepreneurs manufacturing Lounge suits (left) and displaying finished products (right) under a tree at KP Furnitures backyard workshop.



Left: A barber and satellite TV technician wait for clients at their make shift premises in St Mary's while (right) a young woman prepares lunch at her make shift canteen at Makoni Shopping Centre. Lack of proper operating premises is the biggest problem facing young entrepreneurs in Chitungwiza.



Above (Left) Madendera ekuMabvazuva mbira group, (right) Zandonda Nyau dance group, (bottom left) Sly The Devil, (middle) a woman stone sculpture and (right) Attacking Super Sounds perform at the launch of Harare Province Culture week at Chitungwiza Arts Centre on the 22nd of May 2012.