

Kelvin Msiska

We are not sure if Bernhard pays him money because of the issue with the trees. He just told me that he won't pay him the money. This has happened because his father and mother are the responsible people in the community. As you probably know is his mother the chief of Chipunga and his father the VDC chairman. When we want to discuss the issues of development in the community these two play a very important role and should always be there. So i am wondering why they are not willing to solve the issue in time. It was last month on 14th of may 2014 when Bernhard and myself met chief lady Kayuni, chief Mphyoka and chief Nyaluwanga, but up to now none of them is interested to come and solve the issues with the trees. But what they did is that they removed the trees from field 2, put them somewhere else to start sawing them.. The time we met the chiefs Bernhard asked them these following questions: Who is the owner of the trees? Why have they to cut the trees? Why did they fall in the field and damadge macadamia trees? After removing the trees which were fallen in the field we saw that some of the macadamia plants and one plant of coffee are damaged. Since we started talking about this issue Kelvin Msiska has not been in Chipunga and we didn't communicate with him. We just heard from Bernhard that he planed to come on 14.06.2014 but he was not here. And we dont know the reason why he failed.

Apart from this they have also cut another five trees on the right side of the street which is going to Chikwina in between field 1A and the soccer ground. This is a very serious issue because someone can even go to the police if they won't handle the matter accordingly. Bernhard is in Mozambique this time. So we reported the issue to his wife and discussed with the chiefs. The chiefs said that the trees belong to Chipunga Farms and so to Bernhard. We asked them why they have cut these trees again. They were failing to give us a proper answer and just said that the people who bought them cut them by theirselves without a proper go. Again the chief Nyaluwanga recieved our phonecall but he responded that he is fade up with the chifes because she is not cooperative. I don't know what will happen when Bernhard comes back. As of now he has refused to pay money for Grace as long the first issue is not solved out. So everything for Grace which is concerning money has been stoped.

Chigwere projekt

The building is still not yet finished. I can't explain more about this project because the last time we were at Chigwere has been at your visit. The STA Nyaluwanga said that the building should be finished in 45 days. But up to now the building is in rofing level. When i asked the chief of Chigwere about that he responded that the pproject will be finished in July 2014. They have the materials they need and Bernhard is ready to give them the last materials to finish the building.

25% outstandings of the community

Everything goes slowly in this community. The CDC is trying their best to adress and tell them what they are supposed to do. The answers are always yes but to do the actual work is always a problem. They only finished one toilet at the under-5-5clinic and dug a whole for a toilet at the primary school. We don't know when tzhey will build the actual toilet. For sure this community is good in recieved but not in doing. At the Pre-School nothing has been done. Taking too long wrinting a report we thought that the things will be done. We had several meetings discussing the issue of 25% self-contribution but the answer were as always only „Yes we will do it“. Now the CDC also starts getting tired with the people oft he community. We don't know wether it's because of changes of the VDC.

Primary School

Out of the three teachers from Emanuel college, one has gone to another Primary school in Lilongwe after posting. We had a meeting together with the people from the community and tried to talk to him and came up with the point he should stay as long a new teacher is found. But the next morning he left to start his journey to Lilongwe. We even told him to pay back the money for the last 5 months he received because of the first MOU. The other teachers are posted now and will stay at Chipunga. We also have a new teacher from Chigwere who is posted in Chipunga who replaces the old one. These are Noel Nkolokosa and Bridget Mwandira. For the second MOU we paid these two 3 months from March to May and the one who went to Lilongwe only for March. That has happened before we knew that he wants to leave Chipunga. He was also claiming to get the salary for April but we refused, although he worked in the month of April but didn't fulfill the MOU he was signing. Out of the total money of 540.000MK we have already paid 180.000MK to the two teachers and 30.000 to the one who ran away. We have also paid the transport for the headmaster and the two teachers to go to Nkatha-Bay, which was necessary to get them posted in Chipunga (to speak to DEM). What should we do with the remaining money which is with Bernhard? The total amount is 283.700MK. We spent in total 256.300MK which contains 220.000MK for salaries and 36.300MK for transport.

Lighting for Chipunga

During your visit in Malawi you already saw how the thing is during handing over the small dilight and sunking for the staff. Now we came up that all the workers are interested in getting the sunking which now only the staff members have. And a lot of people in the community are interested in the small lamp. This shows that the demand is very high for this project. The CDC comes up now with the question to you if there will be a special offer from you according to the 10 years anniversary of Grace or what will happen next. Do the people from the community also pay 25% like the workers? How many d.lights are you planning to buy? How much is the budget of this project? And where is it? Sorry for asking such questions. Is it true that we should give you ideas „but if we do so“ sometimes it is just end up in vein. So before we come to the point buying things we should exchange ideas between Grace in Germany and in Chipunga. We can write you how we think or how we want to handle this project. Just because it is a special project I have said so. Please!! Answer us in time because time is near to August when the visitors from Germany will come.

Chipunga borehole

On behalf of all the CDC members I should recommend Jonathan Hunter with what he did. Though people are not drinking water from the borehole we should really see the difference with the first contractor although he was also part of the first drilling and the contractor borrowed his tools which got stuck here at Chipunga.

The report from the survey says that the best place is next to the temporary shop. The report said they will find water there at 22-30 meters. So they started boring there. But the water is not enough that they can install a pump there. They said they could install the pump but there will only be 20 litres in 6 hours available. Therefore he thought of choosing another side after reporting to you. The new borehole should be down that hill because at the hill at the primary school there is no way to find water in less than 71 meters and it's impossible to drill a hole like this there. At the primary school area you would have to drill up to 120 meters to find stable water. The new borehole should be down the hill near the old borehole where we went during your visit. If that doesn't work

you can maybe think about piped water from the farm to the primary school. But this solution would be very expensive because there are pipes which need to be bought and people who can do the work properly. So did you not get a report from him and Bernhard? The time we met them during their last day of drilling we agreed that he will send you an email which contains everything they have done and the new ideas. Hannah was there during their work. So she can also add on what I have said. They can drill the new borehole but it will need some extra money about 2.5 million MK. If they go down the hill and drill there they will use the same money. Two ways I think the decision is yours.

Renovating of the headmaster's house

The community people have started gathering river sand. They are waiting for the response for the proposal that I have sent you. As of now the brick layers are not so busy. They can finish their work within 2 weeks if they will be working everyday. If you can send us money to buy materials like cement, brick force wire and paint they can start their work. The 25% self-contribution for this project is already known by the community people. That's why they have already started with the river sand. The headmaster Mr. T. Mkandawire has recommended that the solar system which we have borrowed them has helped Std 8 learners this year a lot. He has assured us that this year there will be a good result. A student from Chipunga Primary school has the best result in the final exams out of 8 schools. The one who got that position is a boy and number 2 is in Chikwina with a lot of learners.

Porridge system

It has started with a high morale so that even the surrounding schools were admiring. This is the best way to attract many kids to come to Chipunga Primary school. If this year we had 250 learners we hope that the number will increase next year. Nowadays the community people are not coming regularly to cook the porridge at the school. We are trying to solve this problem. If we fail we will report you before the summer holidays begin at the end of July. Mona has also recommended that.

Coming of the visitors from Germany

Thanks for all your letters which were about your coming to Malawi especially here at Chipunga. The members of CDC and I look very much forward to your visit. I have already announced in the region of Chipunga that in August we will have 10 from the side of the donors in Germany who want to visit us in Malawi. I know for sure that it will be the first time for some of you to be in Africa and especially Malawi. I hope that you will enjoy your stay. I have started together with the other members of CDC to arrange a program for your stay. That means it is not yet finished. It needs us to think proper so that you don't have to be worried about anything. We agreed that one point should be to learn more about the Malawian culture. We thought you should learn how the people live in the village and something about traditional dances. You will hear short stories from the students for whom Grace is paying school fees and poems from the learners of the primary school. We try to combine all parts of Grace which means health, agriculture, education and life hood. I hope that anytime from this week we can send you a detailed arrangement for this time.

Note: I have a lot of proposals in my office which I want to send you, but I would like to wait till the things in the community are sorted out, especially the issue of Bernhard trees and the outstanding self contribution.

Kind regards

Daniel Mthuti
CDC chairperson