

27th December 2004
Chipunga Farms Ltd.

Report of Meeting with Chipunga Labourers

Opening and prayer by the field supervisor Mr. Alex Msisya
Welcome address by the Managing Director, Mr. Bernhard Schwarz

Issues introduced and discussed by Dr. Willi Ehret

Topic 1 Announcement of salary adjustments by 1st January 2005

Topic 2 Saving and credit scheme for farm labourers:

All labourers who have saved money over the year will get at least the same amount in form of credit to be paid back over the next months by deduction of their salaries

Topic 3 Assistance for farming for the 2004/05 season:

- All farm labourers will get 6 kg of Mucuna seed for intercropping with their crop for organic fertilisation
- All farm labourers will get a package for sunflower production; 2 kg of sunflower seed and 15 kg of fertiliser. The price to buy the sunflower seed in September 2005 will be MK 25 per kg

Topic 4 Assistance from “Friends of Chipunga in Germany”

The charity “Friends of Chipunga in Germany” (FCG) was introduced. The initiative of Jens Diedrich and the Schwarz Family were explained. The support will be in four components:

1. Support to health bills
2. Support to school fees
3. Support to livelihood improvement
4. Support to special projects

Each component was explained in detail.

Topic 5: Identification of needs for support by the farm labourers and their families

The methodology “Road to Progress” was introduced.

Two questions were asked:

1. What do we enjoy as a Chipunga community?
2. What are we suffering from as a Chipunga community?

Four sub-groups were formed:

- Women
- Young boys (unmarried men)
- Younger adult men
- Older adult men

Each sub-group discussed the two questions and came up with their answers. For each answer, a symbol was created to be placed on the ground for reporting the issue.

The reporting started with the women, followed by the young boys, young adult men and the older adult men.

For question 1, "What do we enjoy as a Chipunga community?", five areas were pointed out:

1. That we have an opportunity for employment
2. We have got Tumbuka Bibles as a gift from the mother of the Managing Director
3. We have a soccer club sponsored by the company
4. We have milk to buy from the farm
5. For each Christmas we get meat to eat

For question 2, "What are we suffering from as a Chipunga community?", the following areas were pointed out:

1. Health care
2. Specific loan scheme for women
3. Transport problems to and from Mzuzu city, especially for sick people
4. Maintenance of the labourers houses
5. Vocational training opportunities
6. Support to the soccer club
7. Heifer schemes to get cows for milk production
8. Water supply of the labourers compound
9. Limited availability of farming land on the farm for labourers
10. Hunger among farm labourers
11. Loan scheme for men
12. Private secondary school not operating well

For each issue, a symbol was placed on the ground.

Each sub-group was given the opportunity to identify the first three priorities. Each person was given three leaves which (s)he could place next to the needs (s)he gives priority to. The following results were observed:

Area of suffering	Young men	Men	Women	Total
1. Health care	17	7	17	41
2. Specific loan scheme for women	12	--	1	13
3. Transport problems to and from Mzuzu city, especially for sick people	10	13	17	40
4. Maintenance of the labourers houses	7	--	4	11
5. Vocational training opportunities	--	2	--	2
6. Support to the soccer club	2	17	1	20
7. Heifer schemes to get cows for milk production	6	1	27	34
8. Water supply of the labourers compound	3	--	1	4
9. Limited availability of farming land on the farm for labourers	--	--	--	--
10. Hunger among farm labourers	--	--	--	--
11. Loan scheme for men	--	--	2	2
12. Private secondary school not operating well	2	6	8	16

For the top priority, health care around Chipunga Farm, a person was identified who is a teacher in the school and lives in the labourers compound. A committee was formed which will work out together with the health assistant how a system could be designed to provide first aid and primary health care to people on the farm and around the farm. A resolution was passed that by 15th January 2005, the health committee would have worked out a proposal and would have submitted this proposal to the MD of Chipunga Farms Ltd..

The health committee are comprised of five persons, three men and two women.

1. Mr. Watson Msisya
2. Mr. Anod Maondo
3. Mr. Mzozodo Ngwira
4. Mrs. Matrinda Longwe
5. Mrs. Morton Thindwa

The issue on the support to the soccer club could be solved immediately: the MD will get in contact with his friends in Germany to collect and send other soccer tricots for their various age groups and levels of the league.

For all other issues pointed out during the meeting, a "Chipunga Development Committee" was formed. The idea to join in with the Local Government structure of having Village Development Committees and Area Development Committee was rejected violently. Several farm labourers are members of such committees. They

commented that for years they are discussing issues and fulfilling their obligations as requested by the authorities, but not a single response has been coming forth so far. Therefore, an independent Development Committee for the Chipunga Farm only was suggested supported by all participants of the meeting.

The members were chosen in such a way, that the four sub-groups could nominate one representative each, the women group even two.

1. Young boys: Kelvin Msisya
2. Young men: Donald Kalua
3. Adult men: Morton Thindwa
4. Women Mrs. W.M. Jere
5. Women Mrs. M. Pias

This newly constituted Chipunga Development Committee will meet during the month of January 05 and will develop proposals on how the issue of transport and the linking up with a project of a heifer scheme could be designed.

The CDC (Chipunga Development Committee) also will approach the headmaster of the private secondary school highlighting the unsatisfactory level of education the children receive in the school.

After two hours thirty minutes, the meeting was closed with a prayer.