



Chipunga Development Committee
cc: Health Committee
P.O. Box 611
Mzuzu
Malawi

February 27, 2006

Ref.: Annual General Meeting of the Chipunga Employees on GRACE issues / December 2005

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

We received a report of your annual general meeting kindly written by Dr. Ehret. With this summing up the managing committee got a fine outline of the steps forward, new and constant wishes, and in particular of the observable bottlenecks within our supporting system.

Unfortunately one can read between the lines of the current report that our pact is suffering in some cases. For example the reluctance to provide manpower to the water well and house improvement projects. Sorry to say, but development is not in one direction only. We collect and transfer money with quite a lot of efforts to support your community – as a countermove your community must be willing to put one's shoulder to the wheel. If you want Chipunga to develop the people should recognize that they have to get involved in doing something. This is rule to mutual help all over the world!

Please consider on how our members and donors may imagine if your society is unavailable to accomplish projects which are real improvements to the entire Chipunga community. It is the task of the CDC and HC to make the people understand about the way of our support. Without a doubt we support in a different way compared to NGOs but let me stress one more time: GRACE doesn't intend to tutor you people! If our development aid should be progressive and successful, all ideas and needs, all necessary application labour, and all subsequent controlling work of the projects must come from your site, respectively the outcome is in your hands and under your influential supervision.

It seems that the application process is not entirely understood by the CDC and HC. Thus please go ahead and provide all below commented projects with well thought-out application plans in written (just a short and sweet narrative plus a tiny budget plan). Guess this is the minimum we can expect from your site. Consider about how can we plan, how can we collect funds, how can we convince donors, and how can we assess your wants without descriptive applications from your site? Together with our request for more communication we plead to increase the transparency of your work. The committees should determine a person who is controlling and reporting the financial flow to Dr. Ehret and to GRACE. If we don't get your applications and if the community don't act as a team our self-help driven aid system will collapse before it started working.

Respond to the points arose in your annual meeting:

School fee control: Were wondering that in some cases school fees didn't go to the school. At this point we proclaim to stop paying school fees to parents who embezzle or cheat. There is no justification for such occurrences and the CDC shall withdraw the school fee support even in case of hard consequences to the affected pupils. The CDC must find a way that pupils show evidence on their participation before they get support for the next term (e.g. reports or a written confirmation of the school). According to your comment the school fees have about doubled. Consequently you have to recalculate the educational budget and thus we expect to receive a written proposal for how many pupils you need reimbursement and which total you want us to cover. Please include an action plan regarding the above mentioned withdrawals too.

Courses after the secondary level: Fundamental a good idea. So provide us with facts on who, where, the limitations, estimated costs, and the type of courses in written including a financial statement.



Blankets and mattresses: Ok to distribute blankets with an elevated quality and Ok to include mattresses to the supporting program. Please submit a written application (we will cover 75% of the costs as usual).

Nursing school: We agree to such an idea. Probably the parents who bring children for nursing should pay an amount which has to be determined by the CDC. According to your proposal GRACE might pay 75% of the costs for the person who is going to run the nursing school. The left over 25% shall be paid through the parents or other sources. Please submit your proposal.

Loan scheme for starting small business for women: In principle a good impulse. Please check for a local organisation in Malawi which is doing such schemes. There is a need for you and GRACE to get familiar about how such a system is working. If there is a good plan and if you recommend a local partner who is experienced in doing such schemes GRACE is prepared to give you the start-up capital. So, please provide for yourself and for us comprehensive background information.

Under 5 clinic: As the Chikwere clinic is a about 1 hour walk the wish for something similar at Chipunga is reasonable. The HC shall act in view of that to obtain information from to the responsible people. If there is a possibility to run such a clinic at Chipunga the HC shall submit an application to GRACE about who can run a clinic at Chipunga (have you asked the organizing church who is doing the job at Chikwere?). Further your application shall include a rough budget and of course persons who possibly will supervise the project.

Maize storage of need: With respect to the last food crisis's this is a pretty good idea to support. GRACE is willing to give start-up capital to the project. CDC shall write a sum up application including organisational details and the principles of this storing / loaning scheme. The goal should be to increase the given start-up capital to buy further maize to run the system even in bad seasons. Please consider carefully and address all details to Dr. Ehret and to GRACE.

Football world championship 2006 and related issues: Clearly GRACE can't maintain the young men's transportation wishes. We advise that the youth address their needs proactively via letter to our football club in Heimerdingen, Germany. GRACE will hand over such a letter (if emailed through the MD) to its recipient. We are sure that ahead of the 3 young peoples visit such a letter could awake our football team to sponsor boots, tricots, and perhaps your transportation dilemma. We recommend to write an explanatory and comprehensive letter including descriptions of the Chipunga youth club and your inconveniences. Bear in mind that a short note only might be not enough to convince the German football team!

We expect an assembly push when the 3 young people are back from their visit in Germany. At that point the youth of Chipunga is in a strong position to share their freshly gained and unique experience with young people even from the surrounding communities. Doubtless the Chipunga youth club can expand the sphere of influence to get the strongest youth club in the entire region. However, in this case you are going to have more everyday jobs and probably more needs to run your youth neighbourhood. Therefore, GRACE is open to any handy ideas from the young people. Requests shall be addressed with authorization of the CDC/HC.

With best wishes to all of the people at Chipunga,



Dr. Jens Diedrich
President