

Förderverein Chipunga / GRACE charity

GRACE = German Assistance for Chipunga Employees



VORDERE GASSE 10 · D-71254 DITZINGEN · GERMANY

Chipunga Development Committee
c/o Mr. Daniel Mthuti
P.O. Box 611
Mzuzu
Malawi

January 17, 2009

Dear Mr. Mthuti,
Dear CDC members,

Bernhard informed me via the phone on the dismissal of 24 employees at Chipunga Farms about a week ago. As a 50% reduction of labour force might influence the entire mode of our help the GRACE managing committee had an extended discussion about the possible consequences today. But, to fully understand what would be the best way to maintain our intercultural partnership we have questions and comments:

- 1/ We want to ensure to the CDC that for the moment nothing will be changed in the system of our help.
- 2/ Could you describe the mood about the dismissal within the CDC, the workforce and in the region to us?
- 3/ We are alarmed to hear that Mr. Morton Tindwa, local chief and your current treasurer was discharged too. Does this affect the work of the CDC or the progress at Chipunga First Primary School in any way?
- 4/ Has someone else from the 10 elected CDC members been discharged too? If yes what is the plan?
- 5/ Are there vital consequences for any of the discharged persons and/or their relatives? We heard that the fertilizer had been bought for the remaining 25 employees only (clearly because of the repayment system). Any feelings from your side what to do with those who calculated to receive fertilizer from GRACE but have been discharged now and got nothing?
- 6/ Students from discharged workers who have not yet finished secondary education should persistently be funded with 75% of their school fee till end of their school time. Does the CDC agree? Are there any cases?
- 7/ How is the progression of the renovation of the school blocks by the community going? Did you get an announcement from the German embassy when they want to come for a final assessing of their funding?
- 8/ According to our treasurer the outstanding budget for 2009 is MK 200.000,-. The money will be send to Malawi in the next weeks and will be paid in to your MSB account. Did you get the remaining MK 259.000,- from Chipunga Farms on your account? About how big is the loss of self-contribution due to the dismissal of 24 people (could you please estimate on that)?
- 9/ About communication: I send and received SMS to and from Mareike, Saskia, and Bastian through their cellular. Additionally I send an SMS to you Mr. Mthuti and to the headmaster of Chipunga FP Mr. J. Ngwira without getting an answer. Did you receive my SMS? How can we communicate?
- 10/ Micro Projects: Heard you are planning to produce chickens? Is it true and how is the budget and plan?

To ensure a quick forward this letter was distributed via email to Saskia, Mareike, Bastian, and Bernhard on a first see first print basis. I trust to that one of the 3 DED volunteers may put your reply and the outcome of the CDC advice in an electronic system and forward it to me till end of January (to have some time for more discussions and communications in between, as at 1st of March we'll have our general GRACE assembly). We are very much looking forward to get your statement, remarks and proposals about the situation.

Thanks for your kind help and take care,

Dr. Jens Diedrich
President GRACE charity