



To the Headmaster of Chipunga F.P. School  
c/o Mr. Daniel Mthuti / Mrs. Saskia Nakaten  
P.O. Box 87  
Chikwina / Mzuzu  
Malawi

March 14, 2009

## 1: Bridging the teacher allocation delay / 2: Repair status of the old school blocks

Dear Mr. Ngwira,  
Dear CDC,

As everybody knows for the moment the allocation of teachers finished their training college is not working at all in Malawi. According to my gut feeling the allocation will persist until the election is over and the initial assembly of the new built parliament is performed. To GRACE and certainly to the community as well this condition is unwanted as the houses of the teachers are set up and kids need to get better educated now!

On that starting point the idea about a short-term employment of the teachers "pre-allocated" to Chipunga First Primary School arose. We got informed by Dan Mthuti and Saskia Nakaten that the community is discussing whether they take our offer on a cost sharing employment of the teachers. Our bid is that GRACE pays the salary for one teacher if the community covers the wage of the second teacher. Another possibility would be if the community and GRACE contribute to the salary of just one teacher. If the second alternative comes real we would favour to find an agreement with Mrs. Patricia Silungwe who had an onsite visit some weeks ago and who lives more close to Chipunga. Maybe she accepts to work for a reduced salary in that time. Please find out the option the community favours and negotiate a compensation with the teacher(s). A short written contract which includes a clear time restriction of this commitment should be signed by the teacher(s). Mr. Ngwira have to talk to the DEM about the arrangement (with the ulterior move to show what great efforts the community is doing to get the ladies ultimately to Chipunga. So a contract would be best to show your drive and intentions to both: the DEM in Nkhatabay and the German Embassy in Lilongwe).

Second issue is about the renovation or repair of the old school blocks. According to Saskia Nakaten some things were done (painting, patching of rips at floors and walls, fixing of chairs and desks) and one thing is going to be done (change of beams which are damaged by the ants/termites). The obvious aim of this operation is to convince the German Embassy on the strong interest and self-contribution of the community to earn funds for a new school block. FYI: Last Friday I've send an electronic message to the clerk in charge at the Embassy in Lilongwe requesting their budget status and the next steps in the planning process of the project. To cause a soon and with a bit of luck a decisional onsite stopover at Chipunga I wrote to the clerks at the Embassy about the hard work of the community regarding the renovation and on the reflection to pay 50% of the teachers salary. To ease the communication I provided names and cell numbers of Mr. Ngwira, Mr. Mthuti, Mrs. Nakaten, and Mr. Schwarz to the Embassy clerks.

A third concern is the finalizing of the teachers houses (e.g. building of toilets behind the houses). Please keep us informed about the status of the teacher buildings. We would be happy to receiving information on teacher employment and the ongoing school block generating renovation. Thank you very much indeed!

Good luck and with kind regards,



Dr. Jens Diedrich  
President GRACE charity