

From:
Chipunga Development Committee
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To:
Grace Charity
Friends of Chipunga
Heimerdingen
Germany

Commenting, reporting and asking some of the things

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the help that you've giving us.
Secondly I want to comment some points written in letter of 14th January 2012. I took so long without answering or commenting the point that was in the letter because I was gathering more information from various projects here at the farm and at the community.

Goat scheme:

We had a meeting last month to discuss and make short rules for how we are going to continue with the project but many people didn't come for the meeting. Therefore we are planning to do it again any day this month of April. Hope that if everything is OK, I will report to you this month end.

Bakery:

We talk to Kaunda mechanic, who is working here at the farm, to fix the iron device into oven barrel to make it possible to bake on several irons the same time. He has accepted and he will do it free because he is also getting more things from GRACE. So he is paying 25%. But what he needs is loads for welding we have to check and buy. Iron we have already.

Fertilizer:

Our idea to buy fertilizer when the prices are still low was good. But now the prices of fertilizer have also gone up and we are not sure where the prices will stand, because Kwacha is still going down. If anything, I will inform you as quick as possible.

Preschool:

For the candidate Evans Nyirenda, he was accepted by the community through the meeting that we had at the community. It was the community level meeting, so VDC, PTA school committee, GVH, VH and other people from the community. But first we discussed this issue with the chairperson of VDC at the house of MD together with volunteers and Dagmar. Although when people report to Dagmar, there was a problem between me and Dagmar, but we try to solve it on our own. It was just misunderstanding one another because some people reported to Dagmar the wrong story.

Borehole:

We are waiting forward from you. When, will third donor will give us OK.

Notebooks:

The headmaster is trying his best to look and check for cost, and he will come up with proposals in the next days. Then I will forward it to you.

Workplace visit tour:

The issue has been discussed in a meeting two weeks ago, and I am just waiting a proposals from the school. Because they had an idea how Dagmar did with the other learner last time.

School fees:

Everybody knows how things are working for the school fees for the worker sons and daughters and the scholarship grant. The time when we were discussing every CDC member agrees with what we have discussed.

Weltwaerts volunteer:

We have welcomed Rasmus Neseemann and we are working closely together with him. He is assisting me a lot because he is going there every morning, supervising as well as assisting some work at the primary schools. Not only working at the renovation of the two teacher houses, e.g. he maintained the broken desk at the primary school, he made shelf in the staff room. For his coming he assisted me a lot in some work.

Fertilizer scheme for teachers:

I have already sent a proposal to you, now I am waiting a respond from you.

Renovation of teacher houses:

The work for renovation of teacher houses are in progress. One house has finished, what is remaining is just to fix doors and glasses on windows. Well supervision of Rasmus and CDC, but the problem is with the community people. It's not all but some. Of course the community has contributed sand, bricks, poles for the first house. In the next house I want first that people should bring all the wanted things at the site is when we start, because we can start then people will not committed to work. Then the work will go slowly.

Reports

Fertilizer and seed maize:

Look at all the field of the worker who got fertilizer, it shows that this has been the year of successful whereby people will have more yield. This shows also that we have reached our goal of reducing hunger and malnutrition in our area. No news that some people has sold his or her fertilizer because they do fear that they will be deducted the whole amount of money as a penalty or as a punishment.

Baker:

The project has stopped, due to the people that we are working with has misused all the money that Lynn has given as to begin with the project. If we are asking them that they should pay us the money, they are just promising that they will bring the money, but they are not fulfilling the promises. Now we have a plan of doing the bakery on our own here at the farm and put on the money from GRACE, so that it will be easy to be controlled, and the people whom we will be working with are coming from the company.

Goat scheme:

We really want this project to continue, but because we didn't make rules of how we can go with the project, we can't buy the new goat to replace the lost animals. If possible we will continue this project as soon as possible. Because as of now there is a lot of people who are selling their animals to pay school fees and buy some food. Things are not working in Malawi because of inflation.

Preschool:

Both schools parents have paid school fees for their learner, though it takes too long. This happens because some people were not interested with the teachers. But as we have sent the teachers for training, now parents paid the school fees, and children started drinking tea at the school. The kitchen is not done at the primary preschool, but I am trying to talk to them that they should do it next term before we close the end term. There is a change for both preschools.

Primary school (Chipunga) renovation of teacher houses:

The work is in progress. The first house is about to finish, what is remaining is fixing the door and window glasses. Though the first house is about to finish or is almost finished, but I have faced a lot of problem from the community lack of commitment. Though 25% contribution is there, e.g. pole, sand and bricks and water, but it takes ages to come up with the things. Hope that it is because they are in the rainy season, whereby many people are busy in their garden. All those who are not busy with their that they were not guarding their field, they're the ones who are working a lot. Maybe now people have harvested their tobacco, and some of them they have harvested maize. This shows that people will be free hope that I will be working with them accordingly.

Questions:

1. How was the annual general meeting?
2. How was the election?
3. Did you change the GRACE management?
4. Who are those people?
5. We wrote many proposals. When are you going to answer us?

Lastly, I would like ask you that you should brief us how was the election and how many people attended the election. We don't know the system that you have followed.

With best regards,
Daniel Mthuti, CDC chairperson