

# Dry spell lets farmers down

**Robson Mumpande**  
Kabuba Ward Reporter

An unforgiving scourge of harsh weather conditions that swept across the country has left Binga farmers with nothing to do but to lament over the catastrophe.

According to Binga Meteorological Services, areas in the 60km radius of Binga centre received an average rainfall of 76.6mm from October 2014 to March 2015. This was worsened by the plummeting rainfall patterns that saw March 2015 recording an average of 8.8mm of rainfall in the same area. As such most farmers were forced to abandon their fields by mid-March.

"There surely is no need for me to continue going to the fields when crops are being fried by the scorching sun and the sky is continuously blue with no sign of rains," said Edmund Munsaka a farmer from Sikalenge ward who lives in Siabbanga village.

Farmers in the breadbasket wards of Binga district, that is, Kabuba and Sinamagonde, also expressed disappointment over this dry spell.

"This year is a very bad one for us as we will hardly get food, let alone surplus maize to sell for our livelihoods. We fear for our lives and those of our children given the 2008 drought-triggered starvation which claimed lives," said Anderson Simunchembu of Kabuba ward.

Some farmers attribute this dry spell to



*Sun-fried maize crops in a Kabuba ward farmer's field.*

religious reasons. They believe that such a phenomenon could be a result of not appeasing ancestral spirits.

"In the past, we used to literally ask for rains from the spiritual world, that is, our ancestors, but the practice has died a natural death leading to constant droughts," said Luckson Vundu a peasant farmer of Sikalenge ward.

However, other farmers attribute this to climate change caused by deforestation and other factors.

"This could be a result of global warming that is scientifically believed to be

negatively impacting on the weather patterns. As such we have a task as people of Binga and Zimbabwe at large to reduce factors that lead to such a climatic disaster," said Mulimba Mudenda a farmer in Sikalenge ward.

Farmers who spoke to Twaabane, emphasised on how desperate they are in this situation which they believe is beyond their control. They foresee a disaster like that of the phenomenal 2008 starvation.

"Forewarned is forearmed, we have seen this impending disaster, hence we appeal to well wishers to rescue us from this disaster," said Vundu.

## Editorial



**Gilbert Machisa**

**BASILWIZI**

In an effort to enhance and support education in the Zambezi Valley, Basilwizi Trust has been sponsoring students in various schools that include Mola High School, Negande Secondary school both in Nyaminyami District and Siamupa Secondary in Binga District. Basilwizi Trust has been doing this under the auspices of the Jesuits education support fund.

Gilbert Machisa a former student of Moola High school is one of the beneficiaries of this programme. He wrote his 'O'level Zimbabwe School Examination Council (ZIMSEC) Examinations in November 2014 and came up with 6 good passes including mathematics.

Basilwizi Trust congratulates all the beneficiaries and wishes them well in all their future endeavours.



# Binga women achieve big

**Makwe Chumanzala**  
Staff Reporter

Self Help Group (SHG) is a self-reliance approach to development in developing countries. The approach was adopted by Basilwizi Trust in 2013 to implement a pilot project on SHG in Sinampande and Sinansengwe wards. The project targets women in these wards. Most women are already realising the benefits of this development approach. The following are success stories achieved through this approach in Sinansengwe ward.

## Selittah Siamubeze speaks out

Siamubeze (32) of Sinansengwe ward joined self help group in 2013. Through self group, she has since realised significant benefits.



"I am proud to say that because of the SHG program, I managed to buy three goats, some plates, some cups and an inflatable bed and also managed to buy some goods for resale for our family shops," said Siamubeze.

"My first goal was to buy a bed and I am happy to report that I have managed to reach my goal," she added. She told Twaabane that she borrowed money from the group to go to Harare and buy hair chemicals such as easy waves to resale to people in her community as there was a large market for it.

She commended the SHG concept saying, "Being part of the group has helped me to be a role model to young girls in my community and I really appreciate the effort which Basilwizi Trust has put in improving the lifestyles of women like me."



## Rosina Mumpande speaks out

Mumpande (32) of Sinansengwe ward joined the self help group in Mucheni in 2013. She is a mother of two.

Her kids are both doing their primary education currently.

Before joining the group, she could neither afford to send her kids to school nor buy school uniforms for them. Now, her children have enough food and dress well when they go to school.

"I also managed to buy some plates and buckets for my kitchen and after realising that there was a market for kapenta in my community, I intensified on buying kapenta in Binga Centre for resale here in Mucheni," said Mumpande with a smile.

Mumpande also said that SHG is a good and sustainable initiative that is likely to take women in her ward to greater heights.

IN Sinampande Binga women were looked down upon in our community. Basilwizi Trust an NGO brought great change in Sinampande area of Binga. They encouraged women to work as groups of 15 to 20. Siampongo was trained by Basilwizi to equip other women with skills in livelihoods. She teaches us how to save money and money lending. Women pay an affiliation fee of 50c per week. Life for women has greatly changed and our status has also improved. — Estery, Binga

'The Chronicle, 9 March 2015'

# Aaboole Mazin' echintu



Poem by Mathew Munkuli

Mazin' esu mwayita bumbi  
Mwachinchilaanzi mazin'esu?  
Kuba mwaalu mwakazezibotu  
Pesi kumulaka mwatujaya  
Mwaye mwaye mazin'esu mabotu  
Mwaz' ayenu mantuloko.

Mwakajana tukkede kumatongo  
Munkomwe yamulonga Kambabezi  
Mutwalikulya mapowe munyakawoonse  
Mutwalikulima nchelela munyaka woonse  
Mbumwakasika muuzika limbi zina  
Mwati Kasambabezi wabija- kamuli mwati ngu  
Zambezi.

Mwakajana tukkede kale mwaBinga  
Mubbooma muchisi chamwami Binga  
Swebo katuti nkukaani  
Nkutwalikuzubukila' maato  
Katuya kunzubo zyesu mutala  
Mbumwakasika mwati zyabija  
Kubota kakutegwa nkuBinga

Mwakajana tussyakale mabwe'esu  
Kuntibi zyamabombo kuli Kamatibi  
Mbumwakasika mwaz'elimbi zina  
Mwaamba mwati nku Kamativi  
An'esu mazina'bijayi?  
Mwatulemaninia bana besu.

Mwakajana tukkede kale ku Kalyango  
Kalyango kamaan'atontola  
Mwakuyaka nsond'echibbadela  
Kuba mwaalu mwakaz'ezibotu  
LyaKalyango mwati lyabija  
Muuzika lyenu mwati Kariangwe.

Mwakajana tutekakale mumulonga  
Mutwalikubuzyania biinda batuba  
Katubuzya kuti :sa Mulibezi?"  
Mwasandula zina lyamulongesu  
Mwaamba mwati NguMlibizi.

Mwakajana tukkede kale mutala  
Katusamba maanzi kukabila  
Mbumwakasika mwazabasuntwe  
Mwatala mugano mupati  
Mwati Iya Kabila lyabija  
Kubota katutegwa Kavira.

Amutuboozezye mazin'esu  
Mbulimbumwakachita kubuzwezuba  
BaGatoma bakaba ba Kadoma  
Ba 'Fort Vic' bakaba Masvingo  
Ba 'Mtali' bakaba ba Mutare

*This poem is an outcry arising from name distortion. The Poet bemoans such names as:*

*Kasambabezi now called Zambezi, Kaani now called Binga, Kamatibi now called Kamativi, Mulibezi now called Mlibizi and Kabila now called Kavira*

*The poet recommends the restoration of these names as it was done in some areas in Zimbabwe.*



# Binga Children to Dream Big: MP

**Luumuno Katiyatiya**

Manjolo High School in Binga District hosted a motivational Career's fare on Friday 20 March 2015.

The event was organised by Lecturer of Anatomy in the Faculty of Medicine's College of Health Science at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) Prince Zilundu and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Education Specialist Dominic Mutanga.

Various local universities, US Embassy and Joshua Nkomo Scholarship representatives supported the event.

It was held against the background that many children from Binga District get into temporary teaching soon after secondary education because of various reasons that include ignorance of other careers, failing to afford tertiary education.

"The presence of different Universities showcasing programmes they offer motivates children to dream big and pursue



*Great Zimbabwe representatives addressing Manjolo High School pupils.*

better careers," said Member of Parliament for Binga North Constituency Prince Dubeko Sibanda who was also present to witness the event.

"Most children think that after 'A' level since their parents can not afford university education their journey would end right there, not knowing that there are scholarships available. Scholarships like the Joshua Nkomo and some offered in United States of America. Knowledge about these scholarships will make our children work harder, bearing in mind that as long as they do well in their studies, they will be able to get scholarships and further their education," said Sibanda.

In an interview with Twaabane, Lecturer Prince Zilundu said it is how other tribes in Zimbabwe look down upon the BaTonga people that pushed them to organise for a career's fare so that they can promote education in Binga District.

He urged students to work harder and aim at achieving high academic results for them to compete with other students nationally.

"Some of our pupils do not know what they want to become in future even after completing 'O' level and those going to 'A' level don't know which subjects to do and why they choose them, they lack essential information on career opportunities. So it is very important to have more career fares so that they can make their choices earlier", said Headmaster of Manjolo High School Nodisho Ngwenya.

Chiiyo Siachilula a Manjolo High upper six pupil expressed gratitude to such an event and emphasised that such fares should be done every year so that as students they may stay guided in their academic pursuit.

The organisers of this event promised to serialise the fare by conducting it every year in different schools.

## A remedy for Kariyangwe

**Brighton Munkuli**

**Kariyangwe ward Reporter**

Besieged with various development problems, the community of Kariyangwe established an association in 2006 to spearhead development through churches.

In an interview with Twaabane, Kasambabezi Churches Association (KCA) patron Timothy Mweembe of Kariangwe ward outlined how his community established KCA after realising development problems that besiege them. Mweembe told Twaabane that the association is aimed at stimulating development endeavours even in churches.

"As an association we conducted a survey in churches and found out that most churches were distancing themselves from development and never saw it as part of their mandate," said Mweembe. "We did not stop at this, we went on to convening a meeting of church leaders to present our findings," he added.

The church leaders embraced this initiative.

KCA then went on to train these leaders in conflict resolution and transformation with a motive of enhancing a team-work approach to the target development endeavours. This was followed by an establishment of sub-committees in five more wards where the same training was conducted. The trained wards include Kariangwe, Chinonge, Lubu, Muchesu, Kabuba and Dobola.

As a consortium of wards with a common goal of development, the association identified key issues that need urgent attention.

"We identified the need to renovate the Detema Bridge

which is along the Binga-Lusulu road and Chilelema Bridge along the Binga-Kariyangwe road," "The bridge at some point detained an Econet truck that was carrying telecommunication equipment for two days," said Mweembe. He urged churches to actively partake in development endeavors by venturing into income generating projects to help alleviate poverty in the district said a church official.

In essence, the association hopes to push for the solution of the above issues through church leadership.



## Luumuno Katiyatiya



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**Online Publication:.....** website.....[www.basilwizi.org](http://www.basilwizi.org)  
facebook..... Basilwizi-bamulonga