

ChiTonga language gathers momentum, as dozens of ChiTonga books were purchased from Zambia.

Luumuno Mudenda

Nelson Mandela once said, *"If you speak to a man in English he will understand you but if you speak to him in his own language he will reason with you."*



For almost two decades after independence, most languages were not recognized in the country. In all the ten provinces of Zimbabwe, Shona and Ndebele were the only officially recognised languages, while ChiTonga and other formerly marginalized languages were regarded as minority languages and not used as a medium of instruction in schools.

The constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) of 2013 ushered a new dispensation for ChiTonga and other marginalized languages by according it an official status.

After the ChiTonga was accorded an official status, the Tonga speakers through TOLACCO and Basilwizi, in collaboration with Zimbabwe School Examination Council (ZIMSEC) and Curriculum Development Unit (CDU) assisted schools to purchase ChiTonga novels from Zambia. These novels included *Mubekwabekwa*, *Ayuma Malweza* and *Nyoko Ngumwi*.

"The whole process of

purchasing Tonga books for schools from Zambia was a huge relief in overcoming the previously insurmountable challenge of lack of teaching and learning material for the Tonga language. Historically, it has been proven that, using mother tongue as medium for instruction inculcates deeper cultural understanding and provides fertile true basis for communication.

"I salute Basilwizi, it has a program that is unique and relevant to the people that have been marginalized for years" says Maxwell Munenge, the officer responsible for the purchase of the books.

The Schools that benefitted from Zambia book scheme, only paid for the book fee and the rest of expenses which included transport, fuel, upkeep of the driver and duty was funded by Basilwizi Trust.

A total sum of one thousand and forty-eight (1048) books were bought, Nyoko Ngumwi, three hundred and forty two (342), Mubekwabekwa, three hundred and sixty six (366) and Ayuma Malweza three hundred and forty respectively (340).

Schools greatly appreciated Basilwizi's efforts in promoting the teaching and learning of the ChiTonga language. "It would have been very difficult if schools individually bought from Zambia considering the expenses involved. Basilwizi have truly represented us as far as the teaching of Tonga is concerned and we do hope they continue to support us" says Albert Chaguma, Tonga teacher at Pashu Secondary.

INNOCENCE

By: Onesmas Mudenda - Tyunga ward

She carried herself around with vigour
Like a diva with an attractive torso.
Like a princess with young pricking breasts.
Indeed she was a princess

Deep in the valley of Zambezi
An eagle for a dove
A lion for an impala
She was prey

Kinship of a lifetime blessing
Robbed in a minute
Grabbed by the right hand
Pressed down by the other

A hulk over a black blonde
A beast over a rose
A tangerine treated like a coconut

A billy goat chooses its own to mate
She just lay there
With utmost pain...
Threatened not to say a thing

She tries to close her legs
To cover up the remains...
Of what was love

Of her true identity...
She had kept it sealed
For her prince
Now unsealed...
By the masked

She does not cry...
But looking deep into her eyes you see
Lost hope... shattered dreams
A heroin of rape

Her name goes into history
For being raped
A heroin of our time...
Paid daily with a swallow of ARVs...



Promise foundation
ploughs back pg 1



Tonga lessons on
the upsurge -
back pg



TWAABANE

Free Newsletter

"Let the story be told"

September 2014 volume 1 Issue

Former pupil ploughs back

By Luumuno S. Mudenda and Jacob Mumpande

Former Kariangwe Primary School pupil, Promise Simwinde Muleya who is based in Belgium donated a water supply and reticulation system in September 2014 which is powered by solar energy as a social responsibility to ease water problems at the school. The donated water system includes a borehole, solar panels, 2 x overhead 5000l tanks and supply pipes.

Muleya did his primary and secondary education in the same village which is believed to be one of the most remote parts of the district before enrolling with Midlands State University for his first degree. He later got a scholarship to study for a Master in Crop Sciences in Belgium and is now studying for his PhD in Agronomy in the same country.



Top Right: a Promise Foundation Austria beneficiary; Left: Picture of Mr. Muleya in a pamphlet

The community and school authorities were elated and expressed excitement at a handover ceremony graced by other former students and school heads from neighboring schools; for the kind gesture done by the ex-pupil.

The former student is determined not only to uplift the school which had made him who he is today but also is supporting the community at large. Not only did the Belgium based "good Samaritan" donate the borehole,

but offers education assistance to 129 primary pupils (64 boys and 65 girls) in form of school fees at the same school. Children supported by Promise Foundation Austria are mostly orphaned children faced with perpetual financial crises.

"We are certainly short of words for what Promise did and the saying which goes

"do not forget where you came from", really got fulfilled today, it is excellent and marvelous" said the school headmaster Mr Siansali who was visibly jubilant.

Muleya went further to buy the school a variety of exotic plants which include avocado, guava, mango and other fruit trees. According to the agriculture teacher, water availability at the school assures them a green environment.

"The availability of water in the school has certainly boosted agriculture as it has enabled the plantation of different trees and flowers while the orchard and the garden are under development. "The next time you come to this school I assure you that there would be lawn in the football ground" said Alman Mweembe the agriculture teacher.

Notification

Watch the next publication for an exciting event that shall permanently twist the linguistic landscape of Zimbabwe to the advantage of the people of the Zambezi valley.

Buntibe will forever exist



Mucheni primary Buntibe group in the middle of a scintillating performance

Buntibe is a Tonga cultural choir constituting 40 or more people joined in a rather topsy-turvy looking dance yet very rich in meaning and rhythm. The singing group is named after the bass drum (Buntibe) which rumbles and reverberates along with other drums and horns.

This practice could have died a natural death, given its acoustic complex nature that involves 5 different drums and 24 different animal horns. To the shock of time, the practice is still vivid among the BaTonga people. Most august events in Binga District are graced with various buntibe teams. Most impressing of all is the fact that the Ministry of Education Sports and Culture has adopted this practice in its curriculum in such a way that some schools have Buntibe clubs.

The prominent juvenile Buntibe group is Mucheni Primary Buntibe choir. The group has garnered a good trail of fans along the Zambezi valley. This is impressive at it ensures the continuity and sustainability of this practice.

"Buntibe bulimuganzibiya, nkaako tunobuyimba kusikilatukafwe, alimwi batobela tuyeyela kuti abalabo ngabalakonzya kunonezegwa akwambuzanyanya mukwiinda mubuntibe," wakambau mwiwabana aba.

(Buntibe is now part and parcel of us, hence we will practice it until death and we hope that even after we have passed on, our successors may be able to proudly carry over this adorable practice in sharing ideas and entertainment).

Amid cultural decadence and extinction of some cultural practices in various ethnic groups in Zimbabwe, Buntibe has bloomed and boomed to the present day.

Basilwizi is a registered Trust founded in 2002. Its vision is "a sustainable people driven socio-economic development in the Zambezi valley." The mission of Basilwizi is "a commitment to building the capacity of the Tonga and Korekore communities – men, women, young and old, able disabled – for them to realise improved and sustainable well-being and free themselves from poverty." Basilwizi operates in five remote north-western districts of Hwange, Binga, Gokwe South, Nyaminyami and Gokwe North in Zimbabwe and Sinazongwe in Zambia. Basilwizi works on four thematic areas of Governance, health, Education and Culture, and

Children's column

Sustainable Livelihoods. The organisation mainstreams child protection, disability and Disaster risk reduction in all its programs. To this end, Basilwizi developed a child protection policy that protects the rights and interests of children. Given the above facts, this section will educate you on child related issues. This publication will concentrate on:

CHILD EXPLOITATION

Child exploitation includes the following:

Sexual exploitation - This is the use of a child for sexual enjoyment by an adult or significantly older child/adolescent.

Child labour - This does not mean helping your family in the fields for a few hours. A child is being exploited if they are working full time and are below the legal age of 18

Child trafficking- This when a child is moved within a country, or across borders, whether by force or not, with the purpose of taking advantage of the child in some way.

Child used for begging or criminal activities

If you are aware of a child who is being exploited, call the following numbers and get advice on how to save the child.

Call: (015) 313/373
OR
(015) 356

Call: (015) 313/373
[Social services]
OR
(015) 356 [Basilwizi]



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TWAABANE

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Dreadful Cockroft Bridge

By Luumuno Siangoma Mudenda and Jacob Mumpande



Cockcroft bridge at Siachilaba is one of the most dangerous and hazardous bridges in Zimbabwe. It is named after Ivor Gwynn Cockcroft, who was District Commissioner for Binga and Gokwe during the colonial era.

Mr. Cockcroft pioneered the construction of the road from Binga to Kamativi.

The bridge is very narrow and it does not have any continuous supporting pillars and guides which by law is one of the mandatory requirements when constructing bridges.

The sight of plane-ended surface induces panic among many drivers. To make matters worse when descending from the direction of Kamativi, the bridge has got a pothole which poses a hazard at the entrance having the ability to make a vehicle to lose control and slip into the river.

The bridge allows passage of one car at a time. Motorist and villagers alike have noted this with concern that it is not safe considering the fact that school children use the same bridge when going to school. There is no space for pedestrians on the extremes ends of the bridge hence if school children are already on the bridge and there is an oncoming traffic, a horrific accident is bound to happen.

"Whenever I approach the bridge, I feel nervous, I am never comfortable despite the fact that I have crossed the bridge a hundred times, it always scares the hell out of me. Something should be done to the bridge so as to ensure safety of the people"...said Erastus

Bulawayo - Binga route is commonly known for going off the bridge twice, landing on the river bed. This was to no surprise as people considered the bridge to be too narrow for heavy duty traffic usage. The bus has now diverted its routes although it has not been established the reasons for the diversion.

"Why is it that all bridges in Binga are narrow compared to other districts and towns? The Ministry of roads or whoever is responsible for constructing roads should really build a safe road infrastructure. When was the last time they checked strength of the bridge?" said an upset motorist only know as Peter.

"We endure difficulties when we cross the bridge, it is too small" said Elton Shumba, an inter-link heavy duty truck driver.

To some local elders at Siachilaba, the bridge is built on a sacred place which were elders appeased their spirit mediums and ancestors. Traditionally this explains the reason why there has been a lot of accident at the bridge. To the local people, the place is known as *kumizimu yemvula*.

"Imizimu iyanda kupiilwa, ikuti tekwachitwa obo takwe cibotu Nkambo balinyemene Nkambo takulokupilwape" That is to say, the ancestors need to be appeased; if not, bad things are bound to happen several times each year", said Josias Mungombe a local elder from chieftainship.

Quiz

Get it correct and win Big!!!!

Prizes to be won in this competition will be provided by Kabuca uleta tunji Holdings.

NB: competitors are supposed to be within the age range of 10-18. Include all your details in the answer (name, in school/out of school)

Q^N 1: What does TOLACCO stand for?

Q^N 2: What do you know about Basilwizi Trust?

Q^N 3: Who is the Minister of Media, Information and Broadcasting services?

Q^N 4: What is January in Tonga?

Q^N 5: When is the day of the African Child celebrated?

The competition has the following prizes for the winners:

Twaabane has great prizes for you!!! Enter the competition now and be a winner!!!!!!