

Binga RDDC members lock hands in commemorating world wetlands Day

Staff Reporter

THE future of humanity depends on wetlands as they are the main source of water for domestic and industrial use, accentuated a government official.

Speaking at the ecologically hyped world Wetlands Day commemoration held at Nzovunde area on the 19th of February 2015 in Binga, the District Administrator (DA) Banda Ndeti told the people present the significance of wetlands.

"Inland wetlands that include rivers, ponds, lakes, mushes and dams perform a vital function of purifying water for domestic and industrial use through locking up pollutants in their sediment soils," said Ndeti. "Wetlands help purify chemicals that maybe harmful to aquatic life," she added.

Ndeti highlighted that wetlands are a vital economic base for people of Binga who apparently depend on fish for a living not to mention that they are also tourist attracting sites.

This year's commemoration which was organised through concerted efforts of Basilwizi Trust, Environmental Management Agency (EMA), National Parks and Wildlife, Forestry Commission and Binga Rural District council was celebrated under the theme: "wet lands for our future join us."

Thus the main aim of the commemoration is to raise awareness among the public on proper conservation and utilisation of all wetlands. On the same vein, the DA encouraged the communities to conserve wetlands and keep them healthy amid



RDDC members pose for a photo after planting Vertiva.

mushrooming facts that in the past few years gross wetlands degradation has been noted mainly because of water pollution through discharge of raw and partially treated sewage. Community members and institutions like Basilwizi Trust who utilise wetlands were encouraged to advocate for the protection and conservation of these water sources.

Giving a speech at the same event, Basilwizi Area Co-ordinator Danisa Mudimba said, "Basilwizi and its partners implement among other activities fish farming and conservation of natural resources with a special emphasis on conservation of

wetlands and education on impact of upstream conservation and also emphasise on growing of vertiva grass, use of wetlands for food production and fish farming."

In ardent response to this call, community members and organisations present planted vativa plants to help conserve the valuable sites. Basilwizi Trust is not leaving this exercise at this, but going an extra mile in protecting and conserving these sites through a series of activities lined for other wetlands in the wards in which the fisheries project is being implemented.

Editorial

The Education and Culture Project in Basilwizi Trust has established synergies with teacher-training colleges in the country. It is therefore, encouraging interested applicants to write application letters and leave blank the addressee and date section in the letter for later completion. These applications should be submitted to Basilwizi Trust in no time so that whichever college advertises for vacancies, the project officer can complete the address of the college and also put the date to contextualise the letter. This is done to alleviate loss of opportunities by potential trainee teachers who are stationed in schools remote from the CBD.

The project has already made significant strides in this direction by facilitating Bondolfi Teacher's College applications which recorded 56 applications. Currently, the project is facilitating UCE Teacher's College applications whose due date is 17 March 2015. So far, the response from applicants is also impressive and the number is almost double that of Bondolfi applications.

Basilwizi Introduces Citizen Journalism

Mathew Munkuli
Saba Ward Reporter



Paul Maketani in the midst of a session on how to identify stories

A TWO-DAY workshop was held at Mupambe pre-school from the 5th to the 6th of March 2015 in a bid to train saba youths in citizen journalism.

The facilitators were Bbaido Ndlovu from Basilwizi Trust and Paul Maketani of the Zimbabwe Information Services.

A total of 26 Saba youths were trained.

Conducting one of the workshop sessions, Maketani said, "Citizen journalists are the voice of the voiceless in the communities they live in, hence, they have to write stories that enhance development."

Asked for comments on the programme, Charles Muzamba the ward councillor who was also in attendance said, "This workshop

was very educative and we wish Basilwizi Trust could even extend the number of workshop days since the concept is new and it is pro development."

Edward Mumpande, the ward Youth Officer was also in attendance. He expressed his own opinion on the introduction of the journalism concept in the ward.

"Thumbs up to Basilwizi for such a unique and informing workshop and I urge the youths of Saba to take this concept seriously for it can go a long way in assisting us as a ward."

In an interview with one of the newly graduated citizen journalists, Vincent Muzamba said, "I am pleased with this citizen journalism concept and I feel I can now go back to my community and write stories that may put my ward on the zimbabwean media map."

The workshop ended with the selection of a steering committee made up of eight members. The ward is made up of four main villages hence, two members were selected from each village to sit in the committee.



Poem by Mathew Munkuli

Zyandijaya zinono

Ndakalikulyum'akango
Nketi ndime mupampu mugundu
Bamwi boonse nzifulente
Bayowa mudim'utakwe suntwe
Amundileke ngambe zyandijaya zinono
Baama bakaliswini kundilaya
Kabati mwanaangu boola
Eyi nzila njuwatola tilomene
Ilizwide mamvwa amanchenya
Pesi me tendakaswilila
Ndakati 'masalu'takwe pulani.
Amundileke ngambe, zyandijaya zinono.

Ndiswe twakali kwaambwa
Twakali bawisi Mukali
Kabatunyw' akanchoncho
Katakwa' achiti choko
Wamvwa chati choko ndikkoswe
Amundileke ngambe zyandijaya zinono
Lyangu IyaBaamalyakali lyafwa
Ndakali ndaba 'Sponono'
Ndakalikwitwa' amutupo
Bamwi kabati kafana kalimaka
Nkinga 'Sithabile' mwaneZimbabwe
Amundileke ngambe, Zyandijaya zinono

Nguuli musyobo ngwetazi?
KuWankie bakalanga balindizi
Mavenda kubbilichi balanditilana
Mpaali mpundakatasika?
KuGoli balaamba bati 'era munha'
Amundileke ngambe, zyandijaya zinono
Ku'Disco'abwasanu
Walikundijana nkelaabo
Bensafu zyamasingamasinga
Mbuli bbodela lyetarino
Wandibona kati mbaama
Anu ndisimbi lyangu
Amundileke ngambe, zyandijaya zinono

Anu chilalweza chitamani
Sunu ndime ndachaaloobu?
Bazolani tabachiwo
Do munyama wejwi nguwachaaala
Egodo lyamutwe mpulichili
Inkosya kiti ukasiyeni?
Amundileke ngambe, zyandijaya zinono.
Zinono ndalikulya' endikke
Sunu baama ndabeetela penzi
Ndabaziba kuti mbaama
Kubalanga kumenso misozi
Tazichitegwa kaambo boola
Kwafwiimpa kuyigwa – Kwalampa
musule
Amundileke ngambe, zyandijaya zinono

False Prophet on prowl

Karen Nyoni
Tinde Ward Reporter

A FORM four sixteen year old student gave birth to a six months old premature baby girl at Tinde on the second of February 2015.

Sandra, a pseudo name for fear of defamation, is currently out of school owing to this unfortunate situation.

A prophet who recently opened a church at Tinde centre is claimed to be responsible.

Sandra is said to have been attending night church services at the prophet's church where it is believed she was, like many more

other girls, abused sexually. This saga saw the light of the day when the girl gave birth.

The parents who were apparently unaware of the pregnancy were shell shocked when Sandra gave birth at their rural home at ungodly hours of the night. She was immediately carried to Tinde clinic where she was further referred to Binga rural district hospital.

Prior to this occurrence, the prophet had budged to the responsibility but later denied having had anything to do with this after it came to his attention that the girl had given birth under eyebrow-raising conditions.

Many girls in Tinde are falling prey to this prophet's insatiable adulterous quest as they desperately seek for divine providence in their academic ventures.

This incident comes at a time that most of these prophets are being accused of destroying marriages.

The pseudo men of the cloth are believed to conduct night

prayers which they use as opportunities for sleeping with whoever falls prey to their adulterous tricks.

It is however a shocking phenomenon that followers of these prophets seem to be increasing on a daily basis despite the accusations loaded on these tricksters.

Certainly, such people have to be held accountable for their mess. This prophet is still scot free even after being embroiled in such a heinous act.

'Young People We Care' Launch massive HIV and AIDS Campaign

Staff Reporter

On 21 February 2015 'Young People We Care' from Sinakooma and Sinansengwe wards launched a massive HIV and AIDS Campaign in a bid to mitigate the spreading of the deadly virus in the district of Binga.

Young People we care is a group of young people who spearhead healthy lifestyles in their respective wards, especially among their fellow youths. The groups were established by Basilwizi Trust in three wards, that is, Sinakooma, Sinansengwe and Nabusenga wards. The project runs under the auspices of UNICEF through National AIDS Council (NAC) in partnership with Basilwizi Trust.

Addressing participants at the one day event, Norman Muleya the Health Project Officer in Basilwizi Trust lucidly told the gathering the objective of the campaign.

"We are here gathered to teach each other and share healthy life



Sinansengwe ward 'Young People We Care' in an HIV and AIDS march.



Sinakooma ward 'Young People We Care' after receiving IEC material.

styles amid disturbing statistics on the spread of HIV," said Muleya.

The event was characterised by series of inspirational speeches, dramas, songs and ardent dance from participants. Information, Education and

Communication (IEC) material in the form of t-shirts, charts and banners were distributed in order to give the campaign a comprehensive context.

Asked for comments on the benefits of such an event, the ward Councillor Elmond commended such efforts made by Basilwizi in partnership with UNICEF and NAC.

"Such events serve as reminders to people on healthy life skills in the age of HIV and AIDS."

Chief Sinansengwe also encouraged the people present to take heed to the messages in the songs, dramas and those inscribed on IEC materials for their own healthy living.

A march on similar objectives was conducted on the 4th of February 2015. A video on this campaign is being compiled and will be distributed to various wards for further sharing.

Women Empowerment Programmes by NGOs yield positive results.

Staff Reporter

IN what could be attributed to NGO efforts on Women Empowerment Programmes, women in Binga can now at least stand a chance of being village heads.

In the past it was unheard of for a woman in Binga to assume a leadership role in society as they were relegated to child bearing machines and kitchen queens. Women were exposed to all sorts of what is in modern day termed as oppression. This oppression was manifest in the form of unrelenting abuse, domestic violence and deprivation of basic human rights.

As if this were not enough, the discrimination and oppression of women was embedded in the cultural and gender norms which perceptibly left them out of the leadership realms of society. Their mobility was restricted, hence, had adverse effects on their interaction with other members of the society. This even went further to impinge on their right to receive formal education, access information, institutions and markets.

With the advent of civilisation, the government of Zimbabwe has made significant strides in averting this phenomenon. Among such efforts is the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other International and regional agreements on gender equality and development, enactment of the Legal Majority Age Act, and National Gender Policy.

These policy frameworks created an enabling environment for NGOs, CBOs and government arms to carry out women empowerment programmes. To this end, it is encouraging to note that six women were elected as village heads under Chief

Siansali's Chiefdom.

Below is a brief interview by Potter Muzamba (PM) Project Officer of Basilwizi Trust with one of the female village heads Mary Munkuli (MM) during his visit to Siansali Chiefdom.

PM: Who is Mary Munkuli?

MM: I' am a happily married woman with children and currently I'am the village head of Siamazeme 4 in Siansali.

PM: How did you become a Village Head?

MM: I was elected by the people after the village was divided into two due to increased population.

PM: How do you feel to be a Village Head and in the decision making position?

MM: I feel great and very excited, to be accorded such an opportunity after a long time of being left out in decision making position. The community and our government now recognise the importance of women in the society.

PM: What contributions do you think you are making as a Village Head?

MM: There are feminine cases which could not be tried by men. The inclusion of women into Village Heads position has greatly assisted in handling such cases.

PM: Do men recognise and respect you?

MM: Yes, they respect us as their leaders; they listen to us and support us.

"I feel great and very excited, to be accorded such an opportunity after a long time of being left out in decision making positions. The community and our government now recognise the importance of women in the society."



Fourth lady from the left is Mary Munkuli the Village Head of Ward Siazeme 4 Siansali

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