

Fishermen work together for better conditions

Staff Reporter



Paul Muleya explaining the kind of scale he needs for the warehouse in Binga.

PAUL Muleya (45) is a fisherman from Nsungwale village in Binga district. He has made the seven hour long journey to meet with Basilwizi and search for equipment for the group of fishermen he is representing as a member of the local Ware House Management Committee in Binga(Kujatana Kwesu Union).

Muleya lives with his wife Lucia Siambanda (33) and their eight kids. Together they grow crops to sustain the family and

Paul goes fishing to earn extra money for the kids' school fees and other necessities. The family lives in huts with no electricity and with the open fire in the kitchens there is always a fire risk when cooking.

"I dream of having a real house. I would like to have a proper stove and be able to have visitors and invite them into a living room and maybe even have a bed for them to sleep in," Muleya explains.

As part of the project the committee will be provided with a refrigerated truck to transport fish from the many fishing villages around Binga Center to the warehouse with a big cold room able to hold consolidated fish stock. The fish will be kept in the cold room prior to its transportation to bigger cities for a broader market. "We need to be able to get fresh fish to buyers in the bigger cities," said Muleya in an interview with Twaabane.

Basilwizi staff drove Muleya around Bulawayo, the city of Kings and Queens, to give Muleya an opportunity to carefully look for the warehouse equipment.

Chief among the implements the Union needs is a scale that

can measure up to 300 kg and is approved by the authorities in the fishing business. Muleya also needs plastic bags for bringing ice to the fishing villages and a machine to seal the bags.

Muleya explains how the management committee of this ware house is working hard to improve the situation of all the fishers in Binga.

"We (the committee) are working for better conditions for 17 fishing co-operatives which comprise ten to fifteen fishermen in each," Muleya explains as he paints the picture of the difficult work the committee is carrying out.

The group of fishermen is impressively hardworking and united towards a common goal and vision.

Apart from procuring warehouse equipment, the union is sponsoring school children with school fees and stationery in various schools.

In an interview with Twaabane, Kenias Chigwagwa, the Union chairperson talked at length how various co-operatives are also endeavouring to improve the academic situation of selected pupils in various schools.

"Buumi bwesu fishing co-perative is assisting 55 pupils in various Schools in Binga District, while Tyunga co-operative has 60 pupils under its auspices," said Chigwagwa.

This speaks volumes about the impressive social responsibility of the fishing co-operatives in the district. If the fishermen's working conditions are optimised, more great and impressive ac



Kujatana Kwesu Union warehouse -Binga

"We (the committee) is working for better conditions for 17 small fishing corporations which comprise ten to fifteen fishermen in each,"

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Drought stricken villagers resort to flood planes

Staff Reporter

WHILE farmers in most parts of Binga District live in daily fear of the impending drought-induced starvation, Luunga ward villagers seem to have found hope and food security in flood plains commonly known as *mabbonze*.

'Mabbonze' is a Tonga word that refers to flood plains. Flood planes are usually damp fertile agricultural areas with sediment rich in nutrients.

In Binga District, *mabbonze* are found in Luunga ward on Nsengwa river banks. Nsengwa River usually floods during the rainy season leaving deposits of sediment on its banks which the villagers exploit agriculturally to improve their food security.

Considering the drought that swept across the country in the lapsed rainy season, Luunga villagers have taken advantage of their geographical location to exploit the vast plains at their disposal. The flood plains have become their only source of food security.

"Mabbonze are surely our solace and source of food security this year given the callous drought which destroyed our crops in the just ended rainy season that never was," said Tongai Mutale, one of the *bbonze* plot owners, pointing at one field close to the flood plains with dried maize crops.

"We hope to boost our food reserves and push through to the next rain season with the crops we are growing in these plains,"

added Mutale with a nuance of hope in his voice.

Luunga flood plains are considered as the



Luunga woman cultivating in her bbonze family plot

breadbasket of the ward as most families in the ward have a share in it. *Mabbonze* are divided into family plots.

"Without *mabbonze*, the entire ward would be destined for severe starvation," stressed Mutale.

The *bbonze* farmers are however faced with some challenges which may make their expected harvest to deplete. Their biggest threat is that of hippos and stray livestock which break into their fields at night. To

curb this problem, some some farmers have temporarily relocated to their *bbonze*

plots where they spend nights manning their green crops.

"Our *bbonze* plots are our only solace, hence, we cannot afford losing a single mealie cob to any pest of any kind, thus most of us have seen it fit to leave our homes and stay in our plots," said Samuel Mwiinde with a plot adjacent to that of Mutale.

Such starvation mitigation methods are impressive.

Editorial

The deplorable state of Binga-Kamativi road

Dusty and fatal gorges in the name of *potholes* have become a common feature of the Binga-Kamativi road. The deplorable state of the road is slowly becoming a nightmare for both passengers and motorists as carnage continues to increase on this road.

Motorists have made makeshift roads that veer-off the porous tarred road in an effort to circumvent the fatal potholes that have become a common death trap on the road. It is shocking and disturbing that this is the state of a road leading to one of the country's tourism resort. It should therefore go without saying that something



Honourable chief glorifies Tonga

Staff Reporter

OUT of 17 Traditional Chiefs in Binga, Chief Sinakatenge (53), family name Mukonka, has been Chief in the area of Tyunga since 1996. The Chief is married to two wives and he has 14 children. Chief Sinakatenge highlighted that his ward is dependent on natural rainfall received during the rainy season. This encourages the traditional leadership to engage into traditional rainmaking ceremonies every year. They usually go to a sacred area called Malende (Tonga name for the traditional and cultural shrine) for their rainmaking ceremonies. The place was identified by the traditional leaders in the 1950s after the relocation of the Tonga people from Zambezi valley to pave way for the construction of the Kariba Dam. The leaders accompanying the chief to the shrine to perform the rituals are those related to the Chief (especially from the mother's side) as Sinakatenge ward is largely dominated by a matrilineal tradition. "Dry sorghum grains are taken to that sacred place and after they germinate, without being watered; they are taken and mixed with more grains from home in preparation of brewing a special drink for the rainmaking ceremony," the Chief explained. During the whole rainmaking ceremony, Chief Sinakatenge ensures that all the proceedings are done accordingly so as to please the ancestors and be assured of getting enough rainfall that year.

Mega donation for school infrastructure development

**Given Siakwambwa
Kabuba ward Reporter**

SINAMAGONDE villagers in Binga will live to celebrate the day a British well-wisher visited and donated thousands of dollars for G w a g w a P r i m a r y s c h o o l infrastructure development. Ceidre Heatherwell from Britain blessed Gwagwa Primary school with a donation of \$5 500 on the 26-of March 2015. The well-wisher, who was visiting the school for the second time, was impressed by the progress the school had made since its establishment in 2010. Elisha Makamu, the chairperson of the School Development Committee (SDC) expressed gratitude for the donation and encouraged the community members to work together to improve the school infrastructure. "With this donation we can go a long way in developing our children's learning institution, but this calls for our commitment as parents," said Makamu in appreciation of the donation. The donated money is intended to be utilised in completing a three roomed classroom block which was initiated by the community. It will also be committed to building toilets and a teacher cottage which is currently at window level. Gwagwa community members promised to continue supporting the school with voluntary labour.



Poem by Mathew Munkuli

Mpindu Yabulozi

Malweza'atalikila kule
Mane chuungw'andikkalamutwe
Wo sansina Sianene wakaamba
Uzokabona kale kakaamba Mlochwa
Nketi mbunene bwamuduba
Sunu ngaya ndaabona
Aaza kutungene mulongo.

Malweza musyobonz'aya?
Bana ndakalizyede musanu
Ndakati mbibazondilela
Anu ndaboola maya

Kutaziba kwelene akufwa
Nsinga ndakalizi lyajuunza
Ndalikunowaala mulifufu
Ndakuziba kukkala katungu
Bandimwayika bana beenda
Te nkuzofwa chakokabwata
Mwaalu bechiindi bakaamba
Ndipwayila munsenye mwana mulombe
Andidokania malweza.

Wandilubulula musyobo wa Eva
Ninchobeni kuti tuyubw'awo
Nche nzibotu loko twaya mutala
Twakunywa kuli Choonzamponono
Wakezi kuti zizobbuka ngwani?
Twalikusekelela amwi mazubayo
Sunu bisowa'gilimende Bina Dene.
Mulomo nguwakandetelezya
mbundakabati mpama njeyo!
Ayilayo nsiswa labbu!
Ulachechi chiimbo
Maboko muchikungu basimbi
Balupandulula lwamutala lweendo
Zyandiloka nkumba ndemudayikko.

Bamwi balati ndanyanya bulozi
Benzuma muteyo ngomunzi
Kulalitabililwa nomuntu
Man'ukkalanga mwanakazi
Dolyo woonse kuchija
Balasanina'linduwe balombenyokwe.
Mposunu twasika muloodi
Amalambwa'akayuminina
Ani ntales iyokkalayi?
Amasemp'akasechela
Animpo Nengo iyoyusayi?
Maledio pungwe kupopota
Ani me nkazyanineyi?

Anu Malweza ndasyatamizye
Ndakalyuuma nkoli mumazwi
Mane ngekkale katunganu
Lutaanzi ndime ndakzichita
Mbuzyabija ndatamizya malweza
Mpindu yabulozi mbibede
Balamwayika bana'muunzi
mane nzobul'awundisowa.

Mother of five helps in classroom construction

Staff Reporter

JOICE Mutale (40) lives with her husband, Kainos (41), and their five children in Luunga village. Her latest child, Trish Tayanda, is only eight months old and therefore joined us for the interview in the traditional African way tied to the back of her mother with a towel. Joice has been a chairperson of a local lobby group since 2012. Basilwizi established lobby groups in Luunga ward and empowered the groups to work together with local leaders and



Joice Mutale explaining how she helped building the new classrooms.

politicians to push for development in their area. Joice wanted to improve the conditions for her two daughters and all the other children at Luunga Primary School. Together with her group, Joice, managed to make sure

that proper classrooms were being built at the school. With the guidance of the lobby group the community managed to raise money from UNICEF and donations from households in the area. "I'm happy that people come and seek our guidance. The village head, Samuel Mwinde, came to us asking for advice and afterwards he helped mobilise people to build the classrooms" says Joice. Now the school has a building with two classrooms and the children have a proper roof over their heads, school tables and big

Women Photographers venture into multimedia business

Staff Reporter

A GROUP of innovative and talented women well known as Simoonga Women Photographers has embarked on multimedia business.

The group which comprises of 10 members from Siachilaba ward in Binga was established in November 2013. It derives its origin from Simoonga Ngoma Buntibe group which promotes Tonga culture through performing at any big event.

S i m o o n g a w o m e n photographers' main aim is to document the contemporary life styles of Siachilaba ward through shooting pictures of the villagers' day to day activities.

Having realised the value of the skills the women have acquired through training workshops conducted by Austria-Zimbabwe Friendship, the women have seen it fit to establish a multimedia studio at Siachilaba business centre.

In the most recent workshop



Some of Simoonga women photographers viewing some photos they took of themselves in one of their training workshop

conducted at Siachilaba Secondary by Kelvin Dondo, the group sat down and drafted a proposal to be submitted to Culture Fund. In the proposal the group indicated its intentions of establishing a multimedia studio as an income generating project.

"As a group, we want to be a self sustainable entity through an income generating project, therefore, if our proposal goes through, our first priority is to procure more studio equipment in addition to the already existing laptop and camera," said Magret Moombe the group chairlady.

"Most of the group members are showing improved skills in shooting photos, hence, this gives us confidence that we can start and sustain a multimedia studio,"

assured the group spokes person Trinity Munkuli.

Women photographers were given a camera and a laptop which they intend to use as part of the studio implements.

In an interview, Munkuli confirmed that the group was given a laptop, however, she indicated that the group needs more skills in using the machine as most of the members have not yet grasped the basic skills of using a laptop.

"The women photographers greatly appreciate the assistance it is getting from various organisations but it would like to ask Basilwizi trust to conduct a training workshop on basic skills that may help us in the multimedia studio," said Munkuli.

Currently group members are working on picture stories which they capture during their spare time and hope to exhibit these pictures at the National Arts Gallery one day.