



Chitungwiza Community Bulletin

For community development and poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship

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From the editor

Hope you have enjoyed all our previous editions of the Chitungwiza Community Bulletin. We hope to continue providing you with thought provoking news and information on what is taking place in Chitungwiza regarding the town's the political, social and economic activities.

The organisation continues to add its voice among other youth formations, youths, development stakeholders who have been calling upon the government through its various arms to provide land for the construction of production/factory shells for entrepreneurs in Chitungwiza and the country at large.

It is the view of the organisation that if young entrepreneurs are provided with premises for manufacturing and marketing their products they will be able to realize income which can enable them to feed their families thereby reducing the social problems affecting communities in Chitungwiza and the country.

Providing young entrepreneurs with working premises will boost production in the informal sector, increase the number of people who are employed in that sector and this lead to increased income among families, households and the greater Chitungwiza community at large. In these trying times where formal employment is 15%, there is great need for concerted efforts among municipalities, government and development stakeholders to really think on ways of boosting employment in the informal economy.

The organisation is going to seriously campaign, lobby and advocate for the provision of land for youth entrepreneurship with Chitungwiza as enshrined in the national and international instruments that seek to promote youth participation in the economic empowerment which leads to financial independence and self dependence.

CCDN launches website

Chitungwiza Community Development Network has launched its website using the free web-hosting and designing services offered by Webs.com and the awesome IT knowledge possessed by the staff. Our website address is www.ccdnzim.webs.com.

We hope that the website will go a long way in promoting communication, debate and engagement between the organisation, its membership and other stakeholders that include development partners, decision and policy makers, citizens, youths and the diaspora on issues affecting Chitungwiza.

We will continue working on improving its appearance; hence your comments will be of great value and are greatly appreciated. CCDN members can also post articles onto the blogs section on the website.

Please share with your comments on the following platforms
www.ccdnzim.webs.com, Email chitungwizacommunity@gmail.com,
 facebook page: Chitungwiza Community Development Network,
www.ccdn.blogspot.com.

Nothing great will be achieved without great men, and men are great if they are determined to be so ~Charles De Gaulle.

Young entrepreneurs need operating premises.

The spirit of self-reliance, self-dependence and entrepreneurship is very much alive in the town of Chitungwiza, situated some 30 kilometers to the south of Harare. A drive around the town reveals that the residents are actively defying the area's residential tag with small-scale industries, open-air showrooms and backyard factories juxtaposed side by side with homes turning the sprawling township into a hybrid industrial-residential place.

Known colloquially as Chi-town, the bustling high-density residential area was established as a dormitory town to house mainly workers from Harare's industrial areas, relieving the congestion in the capital's townships. The third largest and fastest growing urban area in Zimbabwe, Chitungwiza has grown tremendously since attaining full municipal status into a huge people's town with an estimated population of nearly a million inhabitants.

Entrepreneurs drawn from all walks of life ply their diverse trades under trees, backyards, by the roadside and on any open space available in the town. The common denominator and defining feature of these business-people and their enterprises is that they are trying to provide for their families and alleviate unemployment through businesses like carpentry, welding, hairdressing, catering, motor mechanics, shoe repairs, vending, sewing and dress-making among others at street corners, backyard and open spaces.



Finished products on display along the main road in Chitungwiza

Emmanuel Nyamakayi is a 32 year old young entrepreneur who is into carpentry, manufacturing items such lounge suits, wardrobes, kitchen units, dining suits among others in Unit O, Seke, Chitungwiza. Emmanuel stays at the family's home along Muchongoyo Street and operates from under a big tree along Nyamaropa Street which is the main road in Unit O.

Emmanuel's family house is hidden inside the neighborhood and if he use that place for manufacturing and marketing, his products will not be seen by people and will not realize enough income to look after his family thats why he uses the big tree along Nyamaropa street which provide shade to him and his products during the day.

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He wakes up early at six o'clock in the morning and start carrying his finished products and work in progress to his workshop and showroom. At the end of the day, Emmanuel also carry his finished goods and work in progress back home for security purposes during since he operate from open air.

“As you can see I operate from open air and the weather can just change and start raining making me incur losses as I have to rework on my products again. I ask Chitungwiza Municipality and the government to provide land for entrepreneurs to build operating premises” said Emmanuel

At the most basic level, these young entrepreneurs are hardworking Zimbabweans who chose self-employment as their response to the nation's unemployment problems which are estimated to be around 90% by some experts. They did not sit back and complain about the lack of employment opportunities and their miserable condition. They did not demand anything from anyone but they took whatever was available; be it an open space in their backyard or by the roadside, utilized it and created income-generating opportunities for themselves and their families.

Most of them are former factory workers, skilled and experienced in their trades, who were retrenched during the country's decade-long economic recession as companies closed down or downsized. Some are graduates and qualified artisan's who could not find employment in the formal sector and decided to start business with little in terms of capital. All of them are driven by self-belief and a 'can do' attitude that has seen them develop the income generating projects against all odds in a hostile economic, legal and operating environment.

They are resourceful, resilient, innovative and independent thinkers who deserve to be applauded and supported, not harassed and intimidated by society for seeking to meet their needs after realizing there was demand for goods and services which they could meet .It is a glaring injustice under any circumstances to punish these entrepreneurs for being too poor to buy or rent proper premises from which to operate their businesses from. In fact, these laws/ by-laws violate the poor business people's right to work and participate in economic processes.



Finished products on display along Hombarume road in Zengeza 1, Chitungwiza

Zesa adhering load shedding schedule

Residents of Chitungwiza have given thumbs up for the current load shedding this winter period as compared to previous years. During this winter season residents of Chitungwiza are enjoying electricity either in the morning schedule which starts at 5 am and ends at midday or the evening schedule which start from Midday to 20 00 hours.

During the previous winter seasons it was very difficult to access electricity during the day as power was switched off at 5 am and would be restored at around 11 pm when people are asleep. This made life very difficult for entrepreneurs who would want to use electricity in their productions.

A survey among the residents of Chitungwiza from St Mary's, Manyame Park, Zengeza 1-5 and the whole of Seke revealed that every part of Chitungwiza is now receiving electricity during the day and people can now plan for their activities as they now know the load shedding schedule.

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CCDN met the Acting Town Clerk for Chitungwiza Municipality

Chitungwiza Community Development Network met with the Acting Town Clerk and Chairman of the Resuscitation Team for Chitungwiza Municipality Mr Fungai Mbetsa on the 5th of July 2012 at 12 30 hours in town clerk's office at Chitungwiza Municipality head office.

The meeting was attended by Mr Eddington Shayanowako, the Director (Coordinator) and Mr Daniel Madzinga the Programs Officer for Chitungwiza Community Development Network.

The fundamental reason for the meeting with the town clerk was share ideas on how entrepreneurs can be provided with production and marketing premises which will also help the entrepreneurs' access markets. CCDN was dismayed by the response for Mr Fungai Mbetsa that council does not have land and CCDN must approach government and private sector players who own vast amounts of land in Chitungwiza.

The meeting discussed a number of ideas that were brought by CCDN which include the creation of Mega-Micro-Enterprise Industrial Park (MMEIP) which meant to provide young entrepreneurs with production and marketing premises for their products, refurbishment of the sporting facilities like the swimming pool at Aquatic Complex and Tennis courts near Waterland opposite Unit J which are now white elephants, creation of a garden park to make the city more habitable to the young generation and provide safe playing environment, creating factory shells for entrepreneurs in the Municipality's loss making beer halls which have a lot of idle space that was not being used.

The acting town Clerk unequivocally stated that the Municipality no longer has any land or open spaces to create the MMEIP and urged the CCDN to approach the relevant ministries like Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and Empowerment, Ministry of Small to Medium Development and the Ministry of Local Government and Urban Development.

CCDN is convinced that among the ideas that we suggested there were some brilliant ones that need to be developed so that they see the light of the day rather than to die a still birth.

We approached him as the city father and who is supposed to listen to children's grievances and carry them to the elders if he sees that he cannot solve them. The Town Clerk is the one responsible for day to day policy and decision making in the Municipality and must also think in terms of providing an enabling operating environment for entrepreneurship growth and development so as to fight high unemployment rates and pervasive poverty obtaining in Chitungwiza.

As CCDN, we will not rest until young entrepreneurs in Chitungwiza have been provided with land for production premises as enshrined in the African Union Youth Charter to which Zimbabwe is a state party and signatory to. Article 14.2(c) of the African Youth Charter clearly states that State Parties must "Provide grants of land to youth and youth organizations for socio-economic development purposes" and the young people of Chitungwiza are demanding their fair share so as to have safe and reliable operating environments.

In light of this development CCDN is mobilizing young entrepreneurs for action so that they acquire working premises which can protect their products against adverse weather conditions and also access markets which are pre-requisite in selling one's products to get income.

He also stated the Chitungwiza Aquatic Complex belong the government and CCDN must approach the Ministry of Education, Sports, Arts and Culture or the Sports and Recreation Commission for a partnership in renovating the swimming pool.

On the issue of the tennis courts he said the council willing to enter into a partnership with CCDN in renovating the tennis courts and provide youths from Chitungwiza with the opportunity to learn and develop their talents in the game so that they may earn sustainable livelihoods using the income derived from playing the game professionally.

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Service delivery failure hotspots

Chitungwiza Municipality has dismay failed, time and again to solve once and for all the leakage of raw sewage onto the streets posing a serious health risk to residents. The municipality through its arms of implementation and management like the engineering department and the sewer and reticulation services have clearly failed to solve the sewage problem at the corner of Hombarume Drive and Rufaro Road which divides Zengeza 1 and St Mary's.

For almost a decade, year in and year out there is always sewage from that hot spot and the council have been there for several times to the extent that I have lost of the number of times that I have seen council workers and their machinery there. Pits and trenches have dug on several occasions but the problem still continues.

In fact, the whole of Rufaro Road and Dumukwa Street are sewerage hotspots as sewage always flow in these roads. This is also the same with Chitungwiza Road in St Mary's where residents play with sewer and faeces on a daily basis increasing their vulnerability to diseases like typhoid and cholera among others.

CCDN urges residents to identify problem hotspots, document and report them so as to increase monitoring of service delivery by the municipality. The community needs to play a more active role in helping the local municipal authority to tackle these problems. CCDN is also thriving to encourage the residents and the local authority to share responsibility on service delivery and create a channel of communication where residents report on faults and they are attended to by the relevant authority



Municipality workers and their machinery at the corner of Rufaro and Hombarume

From page 2: **Zesa adhering to load shedding schedule**

Edward Murowa, a welder in Unit O, Seke Chitungwiza said “ Now I can plan for my work and use electricity when its available and do other duties that does need electricity when its not available”.

CCDN continue to urge residents to use electricity sparingly this winter period and encourages residents to wear warm clothes when it's cold than putting on their electric heaters which draw large amounts of electricity. CCDN also urges housewives and others who do not go to school and work to put their bathing water on the sun during the day than heating on stoves and geysers

From page 2: CCDN met the Acting Town Clerk

CCDN will continue to urge the Municipality's leadership to really think about the plight of young entrepreneurs in their land development issues and set aside land for the construction of production shells and marketing showrooms for entrepreneurship in this era where Small-Medium Enterprises are the major employers in developed and developing world

Jobseekers conned by training agents and retailers

CCDN reporters in Chitungwiza have unearthed a scam where desperate job-seekers are being duped of cash and made to work without remuneration for up to one month. The well-thought out and highly organized scam involves bogus training and employment agencies and unscrupulous retail shop-owners in Chitungwiza.

The bogus training and employments agencies bait their victims by supposedly offering training in short courses like till-operation, merchandising, customer care and guaranteed job placements after training and a two week/one month a workplace internship.

The con-artist behind the training and employment agencies place advertisements in the press and in posters around Chitungwiza with messages like “ Twenty shop workers wanted asap”, 10 Till operators- trained and untrained wanted!” together with their addresses and contact details. When job-seekers approach them, they are made to pay up to USD\$50 as training and service fees. The job-seekers are then made to copy notes on subjects like Marketing, till operation, customer care and then offered rudimentary practical training in these areas using old computers and till machines.

Once the group of students grow in number, their Tutors quickly organise internships for them with retail shops, wholesalers and fast food outlets before training is concluded. The attachment is meant to equip the students with work experience and references letters which their tutors allege are a prerequisite to securing employment in the retail sector. Their tutors then mislead them by lying that they are actually ‘vacancies’ at these stores and urge to work hard in order to impress the owners and get hired at the end of their attachments.

The workplace attachments which last between two and four weeks come with stringent conditions and no pay. A copy of the attachment letter from a still-unemployed job-seeker who was a student at a training and recruitment agency (name supplied) seen by our reporter had the following conditions:

1. The trainee shall come in black and white uniform.
2. The trainee shall not demand any salary, allowance or benefit unless he/she has been made permanent by signing an employment contract.
3. The trainee must fulfil the number of days and hours including week-ends allocated to them by the employer.
4. On completion the employee will receive a reference letter from the organisation.

The hapless job-seekers are then made to work under slave-like conditions for the duration of their ‘attachment’ which may be extended by the ‘prospective employer’ who will be exploiting their labour without paying for it. The shop-owners overwork the interns and verbally abuse threatening to fire them for being lazy or incompetent. Most of them are actually ‘fired’ after some days of unpaid work and the few who complete the attachment receive their attachment letters and are promised permanent jobs before being referred back to their ‘colleges’ for further training. The promised ‘call’ to work never materialises and the employment agencies pretend they are organising other jobs or blame the job-seeker for failing to impress during attachment.

After parting with USD\$50 training fee, money for transport, uniforms, food etc and several weeks of training and attachment, the job-seekers still found themselves without employment. Mary Mubaiwa who resides in Unit K and has been a victim of this scam was furious with the agencies owners for wasting her time and money. “ These people are thieves!”, She shouted. “We suspected that something was amiss during our attachment when the whole wholesale had three permanent employees including the manager and rest (ten workers) were on attachment”. She did her attachment at a huge wholesale at Makoni Shopping centre (Name supplied) owned by a prominent Chitungwiza businessman who also runs night-clubs.

Together with a group of other victims, they have been besieging the now abandoned offices of the Recruitment and Training agency located at Makoni shopping centre.

Efforts to get comment from the Agency through its cellphone numbers and from the wholesale owner proved fruitless.

Around Chitungwiza in Pictures



Left: Inside a makeshift entrepreneurs workshop and (right), young entrepreneurs ply their trade under a tree on an open space.



Left: A man walks along a sewerage flooded road while an old man ponders how is going to cross, Right: Sewerage at a house in Zengeza 1 risking the lives many souls water borne diseases



Window frames on display outside the entrepreneurs workshop and a young man works on his piece of cloth



Vending has become one of the most entrepreneurship ventures by many in Chitungwiza and the country



Finished lounge suit on display at entrepreneurs back yard workshop and showroom