



Chitungwiza Bulletin

for community development and sustainable livelihoods.

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EDITORIAL COLUMN

We welcome you to yet another exciting edition of Chitungwiza Bulletin. We would like to thank all those who are contributing stories and providing positive feedback within Chitungwiza and beyond, who read past publications of this e-newsletter. We have responded to cries from members of the community to broaden the scope of the organisation in light of our programs as we thrive to engage youths in building a brighter future for our beloved Chitungwiza community.

The term of the government appointed resuscitation team has ended and it has since been replaced by the new town clerk. What surprises most of the residents of Chitungwiza is that the findings of the resuscitation team have not been made public for residents of Chitungwiza to scrutinize them. The Shona proverb says "Nyika vanhu" meaning people are the nation, therefore Chitungwiza is for residents they need to be provided with information regarding developments taking place in their town. I urge the ministry of local government, rural and urban development, in particular Honourable Chombo to make the findings and recommendations public as he is the one who had appointed that commission.

It is only two months before the end of the year and the ministry of finance will soon be presenting the 2013 national budget. Other urban and rural authorities are also consulting their concerned stakeholders in preparing their 2013 rates and budgets, there is nothing taking place in Chitungwiza to indicate that the municipality is preparing for 2013. With only two months to go before the year ends, it is very difficult if not impossible for the municipality to consult their residents and other stakeholders, prepare a budget that will be used come 2013.

I continue to urge those in decision and policy making structures and organs of Chitungwiza to consult those affected by the prevailing challenges in coming up with sustainable solutions that are by the initiatives and momentum of the affected. Consultation gives those affected by the prevailing problems a sense of ownership and belonging to initiatives that sought to improve their livelihoods and promote community development.

Enjoy your reading.

Thank you.

A Chitungwiza man earn a living through plastic waste recycling

By Mutakiwa Shayanowako

A Chitungwiza man is earning a living through recycling of plastic waste materials. The man, Innocent Chasvinura (40) of Unit L, Seke in Chitungwiza is now relying on plastic recycling for survival. Innocent and his family collect plastic waste materials that include broken dishes, jugs, cups, plates and other plastic containers which they put into his home made chippers that are used to crush these used plastics into chips. The chips are sold in local market at US \$ 0.80 a kg. He can also process the chips to make pellets which are also sold at US \$ 1.20 a kg. He uses his home made extruder to turn the chips into pellets. The chips and the pellets are used to make irrigation pipes, dishes, bins, blow pipes and other plastic containers.

The recycling project is the source of income for his family. He has managed to buy residential and commercial stands using proceeds from the recycling project. "When its good season I manage to fetch more than US \$ 6 000.00 a month" said Innocent. He started his project in 2004. Innocent is welder and learnt his welding skills at home whilst working with his uncle who was also a welder in Chitungwiza. The recycling machinery is made up of a 20 -25 HP electric motors and scrap metal.



Plastic waste at Innocent Chasvinura's place in Masona village, Seke rural.

He is facing challenges of lack of market within Chitungwiza and sells his products among the few companies that are in Harare since waste recycling has not been fully embraced in Zimbabwe.

Innocent now wants to train others how to do it so that many people can venture into recycling as means of earning a living and also keeping the environment clean. "I want to train many people to start such recycling projects as they clean our environment and also bringing income to those involved. I also want to manufacture the machinery so that it becomes available on the local market so that those who want to venture into plastic recycling can do so with less difficulty" said Innocent.

Extra lessons prove costly for parents

By Farai Dauramanzi

Parents in Chitungwiza have expressed concern over primary school teachers who conduct extra lessons at their homes taming it as the highest level of unprofessionalism. Teachers at government primary schools are alleged to be making some extra cash by conducting extra lessons before and after school hours usually at their residences. Some parents have questioned the teachers' motives as the extra lessons are meant for the same group of students they teach at their respective schools.

Although extra lessons are regarded optional, but other parents thinks this apparently is no longer the case. Some parents have cried foul arguing that only those students who attend extra lessons appear to perform well in end of term examinations. Some have viewed this as a way of forcing parents to send their kids for extra lessons so that they would pass also. Teachers are allegedly neglecting their duties at school preferring to dedicate maximum effort to private lessons. In an interview with Mai Ruvimbo (32) from Unit E, she complained about the recent underperformance of her child. "My kid used to make it into the top ten every term but ever since their teacher called for extra lessons last year he has never been anywhere near the top ten in his class. I cannot afford to pay double fees," said Mai Ruvimbo.



Students having extra lessons at their teacher's house

These extra lessons are proving to be a heavy burden on some parents as they are forced to pay an average \$60 a term for extra lessons besides the school fees they pay. Most primary schools in Chitungwiza charge an average of \$30 a term which means parents will fork out a total of \$90 in school fees per child every term. In a survey conducted by this reporter it was noted that extra lessons are not being offered only to the grade sevens in preparation for their final exams, but across all grades.

Some parents have condemned extra lessons emphasizing that children are now being forced to endure long hours of schooling depriving them of their much needed time to play and rest. Students attend an average of two hours of extra lessons a day, and five hours at school making an average total of seven hours of schooling per day, leaving these children with just an hour short of an average adult's normal working day.

However, most teachers interviewed attributed this practice of conducting extra lessons as a way of survival. "Government is not paying us enough so extra lessons are a means of survival for us, we can only stop this when our employer pays us enough," said one senior teacher from Chitungwiza.

Drugs taking over our community

By Collin Mapfumo

There is a new scourge that has nicodemusly invaded our communities, our youth, and our future. Like HIV/AIDS, addiction to cough mixtures is slowly becoming a pandemic, particularly one called Broncleer. Commonly known as "Brongo or Ngoma" in "ghetto lingo", this sugary drug is meant to alleviate coughs but an overdose can cause devastating side effects that range from confusion to respiratory arrest. Chitungwiza, one of the most densely populated suburbs in Zimbabwe unfortunately has not been spared.



Empty containers of the cough syrup, Broncleer.

A quick survey by this reporter revealed shocking results on the extent of abuse of the cough mixture amongst male and females from diverse family backgrounds between the ages of 15-30. Two in every eight youths interviewed admitted that they constantly "get high" on "Brongo". Abuse of this syrup also appears to be on the rise amongst teenage girls which being attributed to peer pressure.

An overdose by a few milligrams is said to be enough to leave one feeling weak, hallucinatory and delusional all in a matter of a few minutes, a state commonly referred to as "kustika" amongst ghetto youths.

However, questions have been asked on how youths manage to get access to drugs that require a prescription from a medical practitioner so easily in the community. Continuous probing by this reporter in an interview with a self confessed addict who refused to be named exposed a complex network of drug peddling and smuggling. According to the young man Broncleer is smuggled from South Africa where it is readily accessible, through the Beitbridge Border post by cross border traders. In Zimbabwe it is distributed and sold by cleverly disguised peddlers in public places and residences only to known clientele.

In an interview with the reporter Admire Nhamoyevanhu (32), a resident of Unit O made allusion to the high increase in drug abuse to lack of meaningful economic opportunities for youths in high density suburbs. "More should be done to help our youths to work, these drugs are killing our society", said Mr Nhamoyevanhu.

Public toilets now a thing of the past in Chitungwiza

By Daniel Madzinga

Residents in Chitungwiza have raised alarm on the state of public toilets around the town which is now life threatening. Most public toilets are located at shopping centres but the municipality appears to have given up on maintaining these essential facilities since most of them are no longer functional and have been completely neglected.

A recent tour around the town by this reporter exposed a health time bomb that is just waiting to explode at almost all shopping centres around the town. Most of these facilities have their sewer system and entrances completely blocked by human excreta and have become prone to vandalism. At Huruyadzo shopping centre in St Mary's, the public toilet which is located next to OK supermarket has become a sanctuary to a mentally challenged senior citizen who has since closed it off to the public.

Retailers who operate flea markets and shops at most of these shopping centres feel that the municipality is short changing them since they pay rates every month yet they have no access to such vital services. In an interview with the reporter Mrs Matore (30) who operates a flea market at Huruyadzo expressed dissatisfaction with the council authorities. "I pay a monthly licence fee to council and their municipal police are very strict in making sure that you pay the money but we are not able to access such an important service. The toilet is no longer in use and we have to find alternatives and sometimes we are forced to go into bars so that we can relieve ourselves and these bars are filled with drunk men who mistake you for a prostitute", said Mrs Matore.



A public toilet at Zengeza 5 shopping centre.

role of maintaining the public toilets by making the public pay to use. Though the service has improved at this particular shopping centre some residents still feel the amount is too much when you consider the cost of leaving and the shortage of coins in country. Moreover the vulnerable and weak people in society also need to be considered."It's quite embarrassing and sad that we are being forced to relieve ourselves in public", said Simba Choroma of Unit D.

Attempts by the reporter to get a comment from the municipality on the matter were fruitless as their phones went unanswered

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our greatest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." - Nelson Mandela

"Winners are losers who got up and gave it one more try." - Dennis De Young.

Press Release:

Chitungwiza Youth Peace Ambassadors (CYPA) joined other forces and proponents in the pro-democracy movement in commemorating the 30th anniversary of International Day of Peace on the 21st of September 2012 under the theme, "Peace and Democracy: making your voice heard".

This year's commemorations come at a time when the country is in the process of drafting a new constitution which will pave way for elections. Previous elections have been associated with political violence in which most of the young people have been involved, either as victims or perpetrators. However it is sad to note that the violent participation of youths in socio-economic and political processes has not seen them positively benefiting but instead led increased challenges faced by young people.

Drawing from the 2012 theme, we remain committed to ensure informed and peaceful participation of young people in all national processes. Young people must peacefully contribute in the development of our country and must strive to make their voice heard as it counts, more so in elections which is a game of numbers.

As young people, let us not be caught on the wrong side of the law by influencing violent activities. Instead we have to ensure that we are members of the electorate who command influential stake in electoral processes. We therefore take the opportunity presented by this day to encourage young people to register as voters. All it needs is for one to have a national identity card, passport and proof of residence. Prepare to exercise your inalienable right to vote by registering as a voter.

We call upon the young people, the government and other stakeholders to be pro-active in promoting peace and democracy in our respective communities, countries and the world at large. Let us appreciate that unity is the acceptance of diversity, shun violence in all its forms and promote a Zimbabwe that is built on the foundations of peace, love and harmony. In addition there is need for us to promote peaceful dialogue in settling disputes, de-militarize state institutions as well as respect, promote and protect human rights.

In conclusion Chitungwiza Youth Peace Ambassadors will host a series of focus group discussions meant to deliberate on the significance of peace in our community and the nation at large. Be part of these activities and together let us work towards realising the ideal nation we want

Inserted by: Philemon Jambaya

Project Coordinator

The forgotten former mighty warrior

By Mutakiwa Shayanowako

She was born and bred in St Mary's, the oldest suburb of Chitungwiza. She joined Dynamos Queens senior team in 1988 at the age of 10. She later joined Arcadia queens from 1990 until 1992 and was called into the mighty warriors from 1993 and played until 2001. Her name is Ennie "Bonzo" Konje.

Ennie was born on 28 March 1978. She is the last born in a family of five boys and one girl. She did her primary education at Zengeza Main and attended Zengeza 1 high for her secondary education. She played in the mighty warriors alongside the current mighty warriors coach Rosemary Mugadza, Nomsa "Boyz" Moyo and Precious Mpala among others. She used to don the famous number 15 jersey and was a utility player who can play anywhere. "At Club level I used to play as a midfielder or striker but played as a left back in the mighty warriors" said Bonzo as she is popularly known in her social circles.



Ennie "Bonzo" Konje

cer with boys when I was growing up." Some of the boys she used to play with at Chemhanza Stadium in St Mary's, Chitungwiza include Stewart "Shuto" Murisa, Alois Bunjira and Alois Gotsi.

Ennie is a mother of 3, at the moment she is the head coach of New Orleans a young women's soccer club in Chitungwiza. She is a holder of a Level 3 coaching certificate. She was invited by the Zimbabwe Soccer Coaches Association to train for CAF C licence but does not have the money to pay for the course.

Chitungwiza town centre undergoes face lift.

By Mutakiwa Shayanowako

The Chitungwiza Town Centre bus terminus is currently undergoing refurbishment. The terminus which is part of the shopping mall and owned by Old Mutual has not been in full use as the number of visitors to the mall has dwindled over the years due to lack of meaningful services. The bus terminus is the largest in Chitungwiza and is meant to provide transport services to residents travelling within Chitungwiza and into Harare but has been slowly deteriorating due to neglect and inactivity. However some residents interviewed over the latest developments revealed that the bus terminus was being improved to accommodate long distance buses which ply regional routes such as Harare-Jorburg. "We heard that want to have a long distance bus station", said Simukai Rudanda (23) a resident of Unit D.

Poets for Human Rights host Dub Poet

By Collin Mapfumo

Youths in Zengeza had an opportunity to witness some of the best performances in poetry and drama when the Zimbabwe Poets for Human Rights hosted an exciting dub poet event at Mubaiwa Hotel in Zengeza 2 on the 27th of October.

The event was part of the groups' nationwide campaign against political violence which is targeting youths in high density suburbs. "So far we have been to Rimuka and Effiel Flats in Kadoma, Glen Norah, Glen View as we seek to mobilize youths against violence during the referendum and elections," said Isaac Shoes Lambada the National Coordinator.



Poets for Human Rights on stage at Mubaiwa hotel recently.

The event brought together Harare and Chitungwiza's finest in theatre and spoken word who included FlowChild, PSP, and the educational Mudzidzisi Muzavazi. The Zimbabwe Poets for Human Rights also made use of the event to promote their CD entitled "ALL PROTOCOLS RESERVED" which was distributed for free to all those who graced the event.

Youths also had an opportunity to speak on issues of freedom of expression and the importance of participating in national processes such as elections and the referendum. "Such platforms are important as they allow us to speak and engage in our own language as youths," said Admire Rugwadi a resident of Zengeza 2.

Chitungwiza town centre undergoes face lift

From previous column

Efforts to get a comment from the Old Mutual marketing department were fruitless as the lady who was in the Old Mutual offices referred all questions to the marketing department. At the marketing department who answered the phone just hung up after what this reporter was up to.

Bulletin in pictures



Wadada Arts Production entertaining the crowd during a CCDN road show



People for HIV testing whilst following proceeding at a recently held CCDN road show



An employee of Ofaclaim renovating Chitungwiza town centre bus terminus.



The neglected tennis court at Water Land, opposite Unit J, Chitungwiza.



Man selling their wares in Chitungwiza recently



Empty vending stalls are now a common on most shopping centres in Chitungwiza



One of the home made chippers used by Innocent Chasvinura in plastic recycling



Empress Nina at CCDN road show held at Unit L shopping centre recently