



Newsletter

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Makeni Ecumenical Centre

Sharing experiences and information with our partners

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Makeni Ecumenical Centre consolidates ambitious 3-year Strategic Plan

By Joe Silwenga

After the launch of the 2013/14 to 2015/16 Strategic Plan in November 2013, Makeni Ecumenical Centre held a consolidation meeting in March 2014. The meeting, which was convened and chaired by the

Executive Chairman, Fr Andrew Mukuyamba, addressed the issues of streamlining strategic focus for the first year, covering November 2013 to October 2014.

Some of the major targets outlined were consolidating staff skills in management, fundraising and marketing, and consolidating increased income generating activities under administration. The expected expenditure budget for these activities is K157,000.

Under the Adult Training Programme emphasis was laid on increasing enrolments, increasing productivity of income generating activities and replacing non-performing programmes. To achieve its aims, the Adult Training Programme has a budget of K203,000.

For the school, the need to construct two laboratories and a toilet was outlined, in order to improve enrolments and cater for the growing population of pupils (budget K338,750).

The orphanage's main emphasis was on creating the right environment for the children by improving safety, sanitation and room facilities (budget K34,300).

The HIV/AIDS Project emphasised the need to realign policies and strengthen

fundraising to support all HIV/AIDS outreach and Orphans and Vulnerable Children support programmes (budget K31,500).

The Agriculture Settlement Project, which is the biggest project for MEC, had its main emphasis on improving extension efficiency, developing ways of dealing with the environment and sinking more boreholes (budget K120,300).

The above undertakings will require MEC to mobilize K884,850, of which one third is projected to be raised locally. (Currently, 1 ZMW \approx 0.1 GBP.)

School roof blown away in Mwomboshi

By Sharon Zulu

Rainy season is a precious time and every one cherishes it, especially farmers. To a farmer, the rainy season comes with an assurance that there will be a harvest, an income and food for the coming year.

However, Mwomboshi Settlement Village felt the negative effects of the rains when the Settlement Village school had its roof blown off during a heavy storm. This was during the early part of the rainy season at the close of 2013. About 40 iron and 8 asbestos sheets were blown off and damaged. The steel trusses have become scrap beyond repair.



Mwomboshi community members and pupils gather for a meeting in the school hall

The cost of the damage is estimated at about K25,000. The damage was the most severe suffered by the school since it was established in the mid 1990s as a community school. The school may soon be handed over to the government.

It was fortunate that the incident happened when all the pupils were at home otherwise lives might have been lost. Despite the damage, learning has continued, since there is no alternative. Teachers and pupils interviewed said that they value their education and would rather continue with normal classes.

The community and school authorities are appealing for help from government and well-wishers to come to the aid of Mwomboshi Community School. The school has received help from the Friends of Makeni and the Office of the local Member of Parliament in the past.

MEC continues to score 100% pass rate for Grade 7

By Kandala Mwanangombe

Makeni Ecumenical Centre School has continued to excel in the Grade 7 national examinations, once again recording an impressive 100% pass rate. This result was due to the commitment and hard work of the teacher, Mrs Grace Zwani. Mrs Zwani has continuously committed her energies to the improvement of the school and the welfare of pupils.

Our thanks also go to Mrs Margaret Mulimba, who was responsible for the 100% pass rate for Grade 7s in 2012.

The headmaster and the entire school management have also been very supportive of the two hard working teachers and the pupils in their academic achievements.

Congratulations to all and keep it up!

Management staff receive training from consultants, Paul Jongeling & Vera Ootes

By Kandala Mwanangombe

In January 2014 Paul Jongeling and Vera Ootes conducted workshops for management staff to build capacity in strategic implementation. This followed their earlier facilitation of the strategic planning process in 2013, which resulted in the development of a 3-year Strategic Plan covering 2013/14 – 2015/16.



Some of the management staff attending a training session

The training sessions (dubbed MECademic Workshops) covered Financial Awareness & Planning, Developing Business Cases and Management Skills. The workshops were attended by line managers of the various departments of the Centre, including administration, training, education, HIV/AIDS, orphanage and settlement staff.

Awareness on financial management and costing aspects was improved, as well as critical analysis in planning, presentation of plans and management operations, and reporting and accountability among the participants.

Senior management has since developed a new framework with changes to institutional budgeting process. New project proposals will be required to provide robust business cases and weekly operational reporting is expected.

It is hoped that the strategy implementation process will result in the achievement of the six strategic targets, which are improving effectiveness and efficiency of administrative and maintenance systems; improving staff capacities

and competences; carrying out regular physical rehabilitation of infrastructure; developing, improving and sustaining MEC relationships with external partners; introducing and diversifying funding sources and developing and enhancing MEC's corporate image.

James thanks FOM as he starts Biomedical Sciences course

By Joe Silwenga

James Chininga was short of words when he was informed that the Friends of Makeni (FOM) in the Netherlands was willing to sponsor him for a course in Biomedical Sciences at Chikankata School of Biomedical Sciences, Southern Province.



James Chininga (extreme left)

In his letter to FOM Chairperson, Truus Veldkamp, James said, "May I take this opportunity to thank you for your sponsorship from the time I came to Makeni St Nicholas Orphanage to this far. You have provided all the necessary needs in my life, which have made me feel I have a father

and mother. Thank you very much for continuing sponsoring me up to college level. I promise not to disappoint you in any way. I am happy and really appreciate a lot."

James is one of the young people who were integrated with their families in 2012 after having spent much of his life and school at St Nicholas Children's Village. He was the second best student in the 2012 Grade 12 class of Makeni Ecumenical Centre School and has been focused on achieving the dream of his life.

In January 2014 James was admitted to Chikankata School of Bio-medical Sciences to study for a 3-year diploma in Biomedical Sciences. James says the course is challenging but interesting. He spends most of his time studying and researching for his assignments. The Centre is very grateful to FOM for all the support it continues to render.

Makeni Ecumenical Centre School hold Annual Sports Event

By Grace Zwani

On Friday 7th March 2014, Makeni Ecumenical Centre School held competitions in various sporting disciplines at an annual Inter-house Sports Competition between the four houses: Kafue, Luapula, Luangwa and Zambezi. (These are the names of the four largest rivers in Zambia).



Pupils at the car-park getting ready for sports

The programme started with all the competing houses gathering at the Car park with their banners.

Parents Teachers Association representative Mrs Chiwala attended along with willing parents.

The curtain raisers for the Athletics began with pre-school up to Grade 4 pupils, who started with ball picking and ended with water bottle filling. Teachers also participated in running.



Teachers competing as part of the curtain-raisers



The key track events were 60m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1600m. There was also long-jump, high-jump and tug-of-war for both boys and girls.



Pupils competing in the tug-of-war

The overall winner was Luangwa followed by Kafue. Zambezi was third and Luapula came last. The event was very exciting and pupils were very happy.

VISION

***Prosperity for All Zambians, God
Being Our Help***

MISSION

***To provide skills training, education,
settlement, health and community
services with the sole aim of
empowering people to live a decent
life.***

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