

GEAMOC PROJECT REPORT-MALAWI OFFICE

Mar-Aug 2020



Chiradzulu beneficiaries showing their school materials and blankets

The report covers the period between Mar to Aug 2020, which is a period in which our beneficiaries were in third term in our school calendar, but due to CONVID-19, the third term was closed indefinitely. But, this was done after our kids were already given their materials including blankets plus school fees already paid to their schools.

CHIRADZULU

I visited this centre together with the chairman, as he was free on that day. As usual we got all the beneficiaries at the house of the supervisor whom upon seeing us, they were happy and enthusiastic to receive what we brought them. Before the distribution, the Chairman advised the kids to refrain from bad behaviors such as promiscuity and smoking of Indian hemp to girls and boys respectively as doing that could definitely affect their lives and their future can easily be doomed. He further commended the Supervisor for this centre for being in touch with the coordinator on all important aspects regarding the kids at the centre.

In their response, the kids promised the Chairman, that they can't allow other harmful effects to disturb their education, since they know the value of it. They cited an example of Dalitso and Tiyanjane who at one time visited the centre to motivate them, hence they were eager and fired up to follow their footsteps. Of course they requested if the Geamoc office could consider adding the number of beneficiaries in the area, since the numbers of vulnerable kids were many in the area.

On her remarks, the supervisor echoed the kids about adding the number of beneficiaries; she said some chiefs of the area were approaching her, whether a consideration could be made to add the beneficiaries

Regarding this request the Chairman promised that, he would deliver the message to GEAMOC through the coordinator whether that possibility might be there as this would also depends on the availability of funds in GERMAN.

She therefore thanked GEAMOC for the school materials, school fees and the blankets that the chairman brought, that they would assist the kids to excel in their education. She further outlined that, she would continue supervising the kids properly so that, none of them should fail school.

Finally the chairman distributed the



school materials, blankets, school fees and supervisor's allowance.

received blankets and school materials

Kids showing the



The chairman handing over school fees and school materials to beneficiaries

MULANJE

The kids at Mulanje as we have been doing before were given the school fees through mobile transfer. The blankets and school materials were sent to them through a known minibus driver whom I have been using because they are materials to be sent to Mulanje. As usual I communicated with one of the guardians, who promised to deliver the blankets to the beneficiaries; this was because travelling to Mulanje is not predictable, sometimes instead of finding the beneficiaries, you find guardians only.

So far, according to the list of kids 2019-2020, we have 7 beneficiaries at the centre, and 3 will be

finishing this year as they are in form 4, which means we will only have 4, under our project. I hope the gradual phasing out of Mulanje is being achieved.

Though the aspect of increasing the beneficiaries of Mulanje was not approved by the GERMAN board, hopefully the quietness means NO, as such if they will continue reminding me on the earlier request, I will just advise them that, the BOARD doesn't have funds for provision of addition beneficiaries.

TIYANJANE MBENDERA

Tiyanjane Mbendera is still doing her attachment at Mwanza Border, her bosses are then just keeping her because there is no vacancy. Of course they asked her whether, she would want to leave as the company won't manage to employ her. She sought advice from me and I talked to the bosses, whether that chance means GEAMOC, paying again, but they just said, it was ok, no payment would be required as they feel, they have created a good relationship with her, therefore it would not be necessary, but they gave her freedom that anytime, she finds work, she would be free to move out from them.

I therefore offered my appreciation, for their timely consideration to her. Of course the bosses complained a lot that business was heavily affected as more goods were not being transported to Malawi due to CONVID-19. They promised that, if business will pick, they she might be considered for employment.



Tiyanjane Mbendera receiving her allowance

I finally gave her, her allowance, and she appreciated a lot for the gesture that GEAMOC is doing to her. She said, without GEAMOC, she would not have imagined how her life would have been, bearing in mind the circumstances she was experiencing. She therefore promised to continue encouraging other girls in the centres to emulate her life. She requested me, to pick her on one of the journeys when distributing the materials so that she could advise other beneficiaries.

LIRANGWE

I visited Lirangwe centre on different occasion that's because some beneficiaries were not present during my earlier visits. All the kids available during those visits received their school materials, blankets and school fees. The kids were so much happy to receive the materials. Just like I outlined during the previous visits, some guardians when they heard that I have arrived to distribute school materials to their kids, they rushed and start again requesting me, whether a consideration should be made again to add the number of beneficiaries in the area. They insists that, there are many drops out students, due to lack of school fees in most of the secondary schools, hence if some might be taken under GEAMOC, then it would be of great help.

Since I already told them about the GERMAN'S BOARD decision of not adding the number of beneficiaries, in the area, I didn't bother but to explain to them the same response. They once again left while dismayed.



Lirangwe beneficiaries receiving blankets, school materials plus fees

ENOCK BANDA

Enock Banda, just like all the students in Malawi, were on holiday due to CONVID-19 pandemic, but since the government of Malawi has directed that schools should, open, he will be leaving soon for College.

He told me that, during his first Semester, he got credit, and he was much thankful for the computer plus allowance which is enabling him to excel well in his studies. He again promised that, he will continue to work extra hard so that, he should be the second one to Dalitso Gumbayera.

Am planning to take Tiyanjane, Dalitso and Enock along during this time of distribution to again encourage the existing beneficiaries.



Enock receiving his allowance

JALI

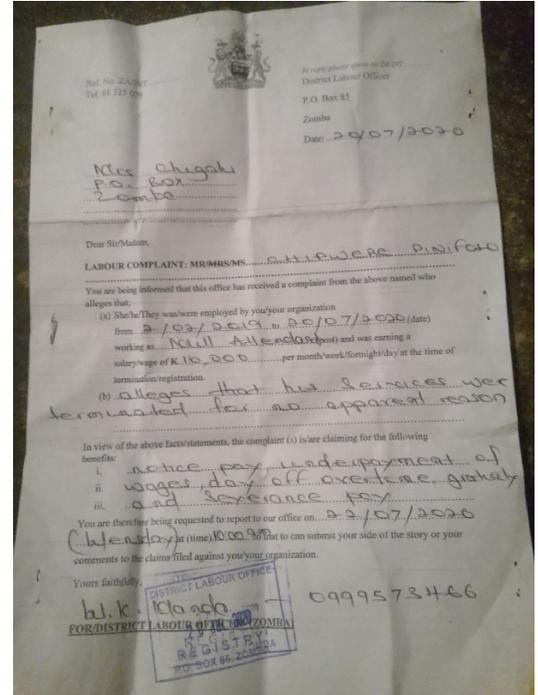
The maize mill at Jali is doing averagely well, that is because since the pandemic, business wise in all sectors have suffered including maize mills. The kids at this centre were given the blankets and school materials by the Chairman. He offered to go there alone in one of his free days so that, he should appreciate, how it's operating. As such, no pictures were taken, but the supervisor and the chairman informed me that all went well.

The maize mill building at Jali, needs painting and plastering in some areas, as such we have agreed that, the monies they are getting from the milling, must be used to paint the whole building plus the other rooms close by. Since they mill maize to flour, I advised them that health hygiene must be our priority, hence directing them to do that. As such I was requesting still the GERMAN BOARD to assist them with school amenities as their monies will be used to facelift the building both inside and outside.

The supervisor accepted and she told me that, they will do accordingly, as long as the organization helps them on the students requirements, hence my requests.

MAIZE MILL ATTENDANT CASE AT LABOUR OFFICE

I received a call from the supervisor that, a dismissed maize miller went to labor office to complain of unfair dismissal by the supervisor, the issue was that, on different occasion the maize miller was being caught installing his own units onto the maize mill so that, the money being generated should be his. And in those occasions, after pleading guilty, his salary was being deducted, until when he was caught again after being given a warning, that's when he was fired. This was my directive knowing that we couldn't have continued deducting him his salary. Of course I went there and meet the miller, because my plan was him to be arrested but he pleaded with me, together with his family, that he was a breadwinner and if he will be arrested then his family will suffer a lot. I therefore told him, if he would get a job somewhere then he should not steal again otherwise, his life would be in danger.

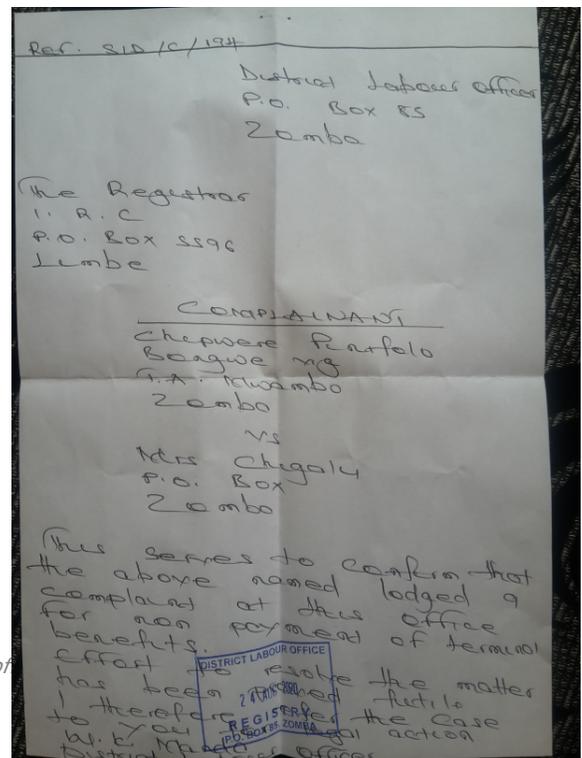


Since it was midmonth we advised him to wait till month end so that his balance of 8000.00 was to be paid. Within that period of waiting, that's when a letter from the labor office was to sent to the supervisor.

During our meeting with the labor officer, he directed that, the organization must pay the maize miller K97,500.00 as his dues, for the period he worked, as that includes, underpayment, gratuity, leave days and severance pay. I vehemently refused that the organization cannot pay those monies to a thief, as such I better take him to police to be arrested as we forgave him for the ordeal, then why should we pay again.

With my stand, the labor officer then advised us that the issue I was raising was a police issue therefore, he couldn't handle that one but police. As such he just gave him a letter to Industrial relations court for direction.

Upon coming out from the labor officer, I grabbed him and told him that, he would be arrested as he stole the maize mill monies meant for the orphans. And honestly I was serious on that considering the unnecessary travels I was making from Blantyre to Zomba to sort out that issue. When he observed that, things were getting out of hand, he pleaded with us, by going back to the labor office to withdraw the case. Since he had his family pleading with us, the labor officer, then directed that, we should sign an



agreement that the case was closed and that only the 8000.00 should to be given to him for consolation, but the industrial relations court letter must also be given to me.

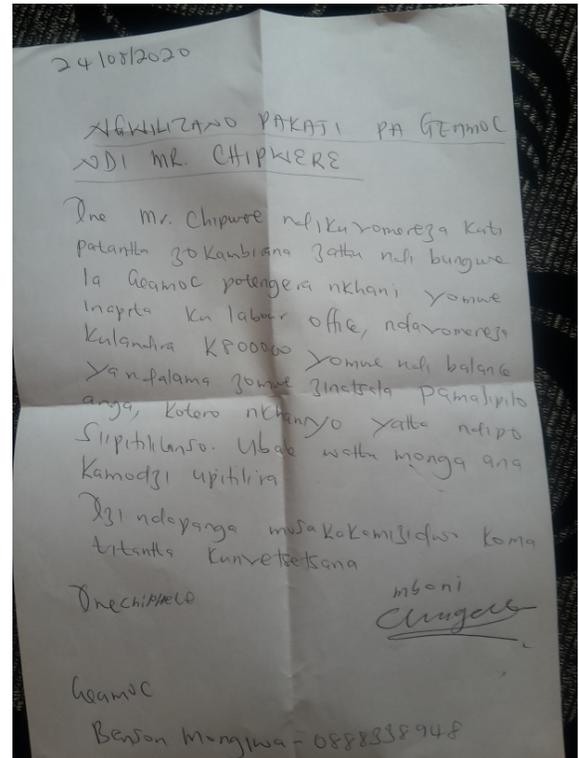
Therefore in the presence of the labor officer, an agreement was made, with the following conditions

- His balance 8000.00 would be given to him
- An industrial relations court letter to be given to me
- He should never come close to the maize mill
- He will never being given a chance to work on the maize mill again
- No more cases against the maize mill owners

with all these conditions an amicable solution was reached and the case was closed. Am having the industrial relations courts letter and his 8000.00 was given.

I consider this as part as part of my responsibility hence the GERMAN BOARD should not be alarmed, hence I didn't inform you in advance till I managed to solve this issue once and for all. Of course the Chairman was being briefed on each step taken and he was offering his advice.

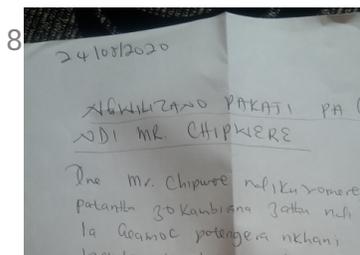
Industrial relations court letter



A withdrawal letter by the maize miller

ELECTING NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

After the labor case, and after some days, I received another call from the supervisor that, some people around the trading centre were threatening her that the maize mill was not benefitting the orphans in the area, but only her family and that they will dealt with her. I understand they went to the maize mill and confront her husband who was waiting for her to knock off. This did not amuse me, and I rushed to Jali, to meet her, for a better explanation, while I was on the way the people called me, asking me why only there was one person running the maize mill instead of a committee as



what normally happens to other projects. Of course they didn't know that I was on the way to the centre. They insisted that I should go there and seek an audience with them for a better clarification on the same. After seeking advice from the chairman, he directed me to go to police and report and see how best they will assist me, as it would not been ideal to meet those people alone.

I therefore went straight to police together with the supervisor to explain the ordeal, since it was already late, the police advised us to convene the following day at Jali Police station, and they promised to call the other people for round table discussions to map the way forward.

Upon meeting and each side bringing their side of the story for close to 5hrs, resolutions were made as follows:

Supervisor explaining to me

- i. The people must buy the shirt of the supervisor's husband which was damaged during confrontation
- ii. I should meet the chiefs in the area for a meeting as indeed , projects must be handled with persons more than 3
- iii. The people should not be found close to the maize mill premises till the meeting of the coordinator and chiefs has taken place
- iv. During the meeting of chiefs and coordinator, a committee of 5 people(3 women and 2 men) must be elected to be managing the maize mill
- v. The maize mill is under GEAMOC and its buildings, if the coordinator sees that, the committee is not operating accordingly, he will be free to consult the chiefs and police to remove them
- vi. The committee doesn't benefit anything from the maze mill apart from managing it, including maintenance plus assisting the orphans in the area as it doing now,
- vii. Rules should be drafted governing the committee and names plus physically the committee members must sign an oath at police station agreeing to the terms which will be drafted.
- viii. Finally the police cautioned the group, that had it been, they didn't apologize to the supervisor's husband and police, all would have been arrested because they didn't follow the normal procedures of seeking justice. They were advised that if they observed that something was not well, they would have consulted the chiefs who would in turn, consulted the coordinator for positivity rather than behaving as they did.

Later I met the chiefs, and we agreed that, elections of the committee members should to be done on 11th September 2020, but looking at the responsibility of maintaining the building of the maize mill, we all resolved that after the committee would be elected, they won't start working now but January 2021, i.e. next year, after all the protocols, like training, police issues have been done. This means that the current

supervisor will continue managing the maize mill till December,2020, so that she should make proper handovers and that the maize mill is in good shape because she needs to paint and maintain in other areas.

Due to the situation abuses she encountered during the confrontation, I would suggest we follow the Police advice so that peace and coexistence should prevail in Jali, thereby also making sure that our property is safe.

The rules and regulations on how to manage the maize mill have already been drafted in Chichewa and will be translated onto English for you to read and add if there might be any areas to be added.

I therefore promise to report the outcome of the elections and meeting of the chiefs. I have deliberately increased the number of women, as part of women empowerment.

Of course the Chairman is aware of the whole issue and has advised me to follow the police advise for the sake of securing our maize mill and continue helping the orphans around the area.

UNIFORMS TO ALL CENTRES

As the new year of our calendar is beginning, we need to procure uniforms for all our students, in all the centres. It should be noted that we buy the uniform once a year and the previous ones which they are using now were purchased last year in September. Due to the rising costs of materials for uniform, after consulting different tailors, the average value per uniform is K8000.00, hence my proposal on the same. With the reasons explained above regarding Jali centre, I would propose we include them, but there are high hopes that after maintenances of the whole building are done, they will continue buying and paying school fees for their students. Hence needing your approval

CONVID-19 PRECAUTIONS MATERIALS TO ALL CENTRES

Since the government of Malawi directed that schools must be opened, but with strict convid-19 precaution measures, I was discussing with the chairman, if the organization can assists 5 schools where our students go, with safety equipment such as washing buckets and basins plus masks to all our students. We believe that many students will be having challenges to procure masks as such it might be a set back for their education, hence this request. The procedures will be as follows:

- All GEAMOC beneficiaries will receive two masks for easy changing
- 5 schools where our students are learning will be provided with 10 sets of hand-washing apparatus (bucket and basin)
- 2 Cartons of soap each school

It is my hope that, this will also help these schools to take much care about our students, but also to publicize our organization. Distribution of these apparatus will be done together with the Chairman plus Dalitso, Tiyanjane and Enock. Hence needing GERMAN BOARD through you , the president an approval on

the same.

REMARKS

Let me take this opportunity to thank the **GERMAN** board for their trust in me and the chairman in running the organization here in Malawi. We don't take that for granted, we believe, the journey has been good because we are able to be heard, when we request your office for considerations in many aspects. The kids of Malawi will continue to work extra hard as they know that their needs will be met.

We have hope that whatever is being planted in these kids, some fruits are being seen, like the likes of Tiyanjane, Dalitso and Enock. We can proudly say that **GEAMOC** has tremendously improved their livelihood, as they are able to live and sustain their lives plus that of others.

As per required, we are ready to distribute covid-19 preventing apparatuses and school materials as soon as we receive the monies in our account. Despite his busy schedules, the chairman has promised to also accompany me in the centres just to appreciate the kids how they are fairing. It gives me zeal, honestly when I see the chairman being part of the journeys in the centres, this really outlines that he values the support **GEAMOC** is giving to the Malawians. Though he gets nothing at the end of the trip, it really shows that he has the passion for the kids of Malawi.

Schools have opened already on 7th September 2020, hence immediately we receive the funds, we will roll out our activities, I therefore request your consideration on the same.

Stay Safe and Blessed!!!!



Benson Mongiwa (Geamoc-Malawi Coordinator)