

# SHARPENING THE FUTURE OF MALAWIAN YOUNG ONES



CHIRADZULO KIDS SMILING AFTER RECEIVING FEES AND BLANKETS

The report covers the period between June and August 2021, this was a period in which our kids received various items including blankets, fees and some school materials. As usual I visited the centres, i.e. Chiradzulu, Jali and Lirangwe on the same day, which proven to be difficult for Lirangwe centre to have pictures as I arrived a bit late.

## CHIRADZULU

I visited this centre to distribute school fees plus blankets as this was the month of June whereby the kids were to receive the blankets. Honestly this year's cold season was beyond measure as the temperature reached a situation whereby many people were highly affected especially those that had no opportunity. Upon receiving the blankets and school fees the kids were very much happy, and they thanked GEAMOC board for the consideration.

The supervisor again was thankful to receive her term allowance; she again appreciated as she promised to continue working extra hard for the affairs of the kids in the area. Of course I shared to her the story that the chances of GEAMOC to continue supporting the kids are very low, this was due to finance capacity of the organization.

Though dismayed but she still received the story.

Finally I encouraged the kids to continue working extra hard so that, at least we should have also a student from Chiradzulu who shall go to university just like Enock and Dalitso who are best examples of GEAMOC products and are doing well both at college and society as well. They all promised to adhere to the instructions.



The kids enjoying the blankets and on far right the supervisor showing her allowance too

## **MULANJE**

As indicated earlier, at this centre we just call the guardians and give them the monies for the necessary materials. It was also similar this time, when after I called the guardian, it happened that, one of them was already in Blantyre, so I just communicated to the members that, I have given the cheque of the total amounts to one of them, who in turn, gave them to their fellow guardians. Of course I talked to one of the beneficiaries through a friend after visiting their school, who later confirmed me that, he indeed got the support and they were all happy. But they insisted if, at one point, we could visit them and appreciate some of the challenges they were encountering regarding school, such as long distances. I asked them what they meant, he disclosed that most students live far from their schools so they have to walk, to reach their schools, as such they were requesting if its possible to assist them with bicycles. Knowing that I already presented this issue previously to the GERMAN GEAMOC Board and was not successful. I told him that, the chances for the support of the bicycles was very low, as the board wants to just support those remaining students thereafter; the centre should to be closed, as it was costly even to visit.

## **JALI**

As per plan, I visited the centre to distribute the blankets to the kids. Bearing in mind that the women requested for a loan, I also took the money and gave them so that they should buy the spare parts to replace the old ones, as per my earlier explanation. The women were happy and they promised to be paying the monies once the maize mill starts working effectively.

During the day of my visits, the women were also ready with their school materials ready so that they should also give the kids, and it was coincidental indeed. The kids were happy and they promised to continue working hard and school so that they benefit more from the support there were being given.

While there we also discussed with the women the gesture that GEAMOC showed to one of their own, Frank Matuto, whom was selected to go to Loyola Secondary school, and that the organization had supported him with school fees plus transport money. This pleased the women and extended their appreciation to the GEAMOC board for such rare consideration. They promised to incorporate the student in their plans. Of course with the challenge they faced on the maize plus the assists to the already available students, they still asked for few time, so that they repay the loan first then, they will be able to assist the student, frank Matuto.



The coordinator handing over the blankets and kids enjoying after receiving the blankets

As indicated earlier the women and kids were happy to both receive the loan and materials respectively. The women assured the coordinator that they see the benefits of the maize mill especially when they see that the kids were being assisted, this motivates them to work hard on the maize mill.

## **MAIZE SHELLER MOTOR BURNT**

After a week since my visit to the centre, I received a call from the chairlady that, the maize Sheller motor got burnt, and that I was required to go there and see. Indeed upon assessing the motor, I discovered that it got burnt, which requires total rewinding, I called the Chairman to inform him about the situation, and he advised to discuss with the women as to how much they had in their coffers so as I see how best GEAMOC can assist them.

Of course I called again the electrician, who is based in Zomba and he is an expert in his field, he told me that, rewinding a motor of such nature costs K350,000.00, because it involves buying the whole copper wire plus other accessories including labor. He stressed that; the whole task would take 5 days.

Upon inquiring from the women, how much they could afford to contribute towards the motor rewinding though they had already having another loan. They said, they would

manage to contribute 100,000.00 which mean they would need K250,000.00 extra as a loan to rectify the motor.

After finding out how, they would manage to repay 135,000 plus 250,000, totaling K385,000.00, the women agreed that, though it wasn't their problem since the motor has been used for so long, and it seemed to be a second hand one, but if they could be allowed, to repay within one and half year, they will manage. This is despite that they will also be responsible to assist the kids already on their lists with school materials. This means every month, they will be required to pay K21,388.89.

It should be noted that indeed using maize mills without maize Sheller's, it doesn't make good business as most people prefer to go to a maize mill which they will be able to do all the activities together, that's maize shelling and milling, as you know that here, people like GRAMILL than raw flour(MGAIWA)

As such I convinced the electrician to come and collect the motor, and that they women would give him their contribution, while the other monies will be given to him at a later stage upon requesting the GERMAN BOARD on the possible loan.

Fortunately he accepted and the motor was taken from the centre to his workshop in Zomba whereby after rewinding they brought it back to fix. Currently the maize Sheller is fixed and working effectively. Hence my requisition on the requests list to bail out the women.

## **FRANK MATUTO**

As per instruction from the GERMAN BOARD, fees and other necessities for Frank Matuto was paid to the school, this was after I talked to the School bursar on our commitment to pay school fees for him for this one year. I advised her that, all school reports should be directed to us, who will in turn share it with his guardians. I told her that if he will not be performing then the support would cease, but if he would be performing better, the chances of him being continuously assisted might be there but also this will depend on the availability of funds.

After informing the guardian about the new development, he appreciated a lot and promised that, they will also be encouraging him to work extra hard so that he should not lose the golden opportunity.

They assured me, that during holidays, he will be forced to study a lot so that, his results would be impressive to convince the donors.

Of course I will be meeting him so that I should give him his transport money when term 3 is about to start.

## **LIRANGWE**

All the kids at Lirangwe received their blankets, plus monies for school and exam fees. As indicated earlier since I had to travel all the 3 centres on one day, I arrived in Lirangwe late, and I couldn't capture the kids while receiving their blankets and monies. Of course the guardians requested me that during the next visit I should visit them during the day because some of the kids were coming from far places, hence they need to travel in good time. I finally assured them that, I would try next time to arrive there in good time indeed.

Those students who received both exam and school fees, thanked GEAMOC for the gesture and they promised to work hard at school to follow in the footsteps of Enock Banda, who is a good example of hard worker. They all assured me that, during holidays, Enock do encourage them to work hard because that's the only way they can show appreciation to GEAMOC.

## **ENOCK BANDA**

Upon receiving his stationary money for the three months till July 2021, Enock Banda sent a message to me of appreciation. He assured me that the money will go a long way in helping him to be buying stationary and other college materials. Of course he also reported that at each and every semester, he would be sending the results to GEAMOC office so that, we should be appreciating how he is performing. It is imperative indeed for GEAMOC to be having his grades as this will determine the future support. As part of my job, I do also encourage him to be working extra hard to so as to utilize the support he is getting from the organization, I further told him, that, his exploits at the University will be a role model to those other kids from Lirangwe so he should not relax but improve every time.

## **IDENTIFYING A NEW CENTRE FOR GEAMOC**

In one of my travelling in Chiradzulu district along Nasawa technical College, where I went to do government work, upon reaching at one of the trading centres in the rural area of Chiradzulu district, I noticed a building which was designed to be a maize mill but was abandoned. So upon inquiring from the people around, I was told that indeed the building was a diesel maize mill which was abandoned by an organization that was running it through a project similar to ours, but due to poor management, those that were running it, disbanded, hence the building plus its diesel maize mill were left unattended.

Of course the building lies 500m from where the transformer of ESCOM is located, whereby assuming GEAMOC wants to use it, then it may need to apply to the ESCOM for the 3 phase connection wire.

Now upon getting information from the people around the area, I was escorted to the Traditional authority, whom I was told must have all the necessary information and way forward, unfortunately upon reaching at his place of residence, he wasn't there, so I got his contacts that when ready I should link up with him to meet and discuss the nitty grities of the whole story. Hence my request to visit the area and meet the chief.



Side elevations of the abandoned building and the diesel maize mill inside

## 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.

Currently as outlined in my request for the borehole, the pandemic of Covid-19 is taking momentum, and we are losing more lives than before. Unfortunately the vaccine which Malawi was given has run out within few days. As such we awaits government again to procure more vaccines, but it seems many people now have seen the benefit of getting the jobs, as compare to previous situations.

We hope enough vaccine will be procured so that Malawians should be protected.

As per our financial cash-flow and bank statement, we don't have money in our accounts to fulfill the activities as outlined in the request list, hence we request the treasure for consideration. Of course the electrician for the Jali motor continually reminds me, but he has been advised to wait till all is approved and supported.

Stay Safe and Blessed!!!!



Benson Mongiwa (Geamoc-Malawi Coordinator)