



# VOICE OF HABAKKUK TRUST

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Influencing biblical transformation of communities through advocacy, research, information dissemination and capacity building

**M**y name is Maria Mawisha from Matikiti village in Bubi Ward 12. As the Habakkuk Trust Community Advocacy Action Team, we went around all villages giving community members feedback on what we had learnt during the two-day Local Level Advocacy Programme training workshop we attended in October. We asked people who attended the feedback meetings if they had toilets in their households, over 20 people said they did not have. We took down their names and asked them to be digging toilet pits and once they are done they should inform us. Twelve of them came back to us after they had finished digging the pits, We then told them to mould bricks for the toilets and once they are ready they should inform us again.

## COMMUNITY WORKS TO IMPROVE SANITATION

### Voice of the community

By Maria Mawisha, Bubi W12

We encouraged them to build their toilets because we should all be responsible for our own hygiene. They thought there was a donor that was coming to build toilets for them but when they realised that they were going to do it themselves, they were not happy about it but there was no going back. We advised them to buy at least two bags of cement and kick off the building process. Some told us they can't afford cement which is about \$15 a bag. We then further advised them to sell either chickens or a goat in order to raise the money to buy



Bubi Ward 12 Action Team Organising Secretary Mrs Maria Mawisha

the cement. Development starts in the mind. That is what Habakkuk Trust always emphasises that we keep in mind. Community members keep domestic animals, but they prefer to suffer,

live in abject poverty yet they can sell those animals to improve their livelihoods and living standards.

Currently, there are ten people in my village that have completed their toilets and the others are still in the process of building one. Our wish is that by mid 2016, every household in our Ward should be having proper sanitation. We have realised that people can afford to do some things on their own without being handed donations, but because of lack of knowledge, apathy and a dependency syndrome most people fail to uplift their living standards.

## NKAYI WARD 22 VILLAGERS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

by Information Department



Nkayi Ward 22 Action Team

Villagers in Nkayi Ward 22 have impressed the local authority after they started paying household development levies, in the process, collecting the highest amount compared to other Wards in the District.

Lack of knowledge and growing apathy were some of the reasons cited as to why most people in this Ward and the entire District at large failed to pay levies which currently stand at \$3 per household a year.

Nkayi Ward 22, was trained by Habakkuk Trust on human rights, budgetary, advocacy and participation in economic processes.

Ward 22, which has been known for collecting annual levies ranging from \$150 to around \$450 has made history after it became the best Ward in revenue collection this year. The community now has the moral ground to exercise their rights and make a follow up on how their money is being used to develop the community.

According to the local authority's income statement on household development levy for January to October 2015,

the Ward collected \$1 817 which is almost five times more than the amount collected last year in 2014.

A remarkable improvement has also been recorded in Ward 26 which became fifth after collecting a total of \$1 144 compared to about \$150 collected during the same period in 2014.

In an interview conducted at the sidelines of a policy dialogue meeting in Nkayi recently, Nkayi Rural District Council Chairperson Mr. Sicelo Mpofo, who was visibly impressed by this improvement said Ward 22 had never exceeded \$500 in household levies collection for a very long time.

"This has never happened before, this shows the great work Habakkuk Trust is doing in the communities through the Community Advocacy Action Teams," He said.

Mpofo said much of the money was collected between the months of August and October hence attributing this to the capacity building and advocacy work Habakkuk Trust has been doing in the area during the same period of time. He requested the organisation to conduct capacity building trainings in more Wards, if not all Wards so that the whole district realise development.

Ward 22 Action Team Secretary Mrs Sibongile Tshuma said after the advocacy training they received in July, the Action Team went around the community encouraging village heads to encourage the people to pay development levies.

"We did not care much about paying household levies but after capacity building trainings, we knew how important it is to pay these levies so we shared the information with others," she said. "When we were doing researches on our issues, we also urged village heads to encourage their people to pay levies."

She said the Action Team was happy that their advocacy efforts were finally bearing fruits.

Council Boardroom recently, a representative from the district Ministry of Health and Child Care, Mrs Ngole Nyaladzi urged villagers to be on the lookout for those who perpetrate the unhygienic practice in the area. She called on the villagers to set standards and create systems that would discourage open defecation as well as ensure that those who don't comply face the consequences.

"If a single household does not have a toilet, it doesn't mean it only affects that household alone, it affects the whole community," she said. "People should come together and discuss what measures they will take for those defecating in the open and what systems they would put in place regarding toilets for every household."

She said it was usually easier for communities to comply with the mechanisms they put in place themselves than the policies created by people from outside. She encouraged communities to take responsibility of their environment.

The policy dialogue meeting is part of the Habakkuk Trust Local Level Advocacy Programme cycle which gives Community Advocacy Action Teams an opportunity to meet various stakeholders to share their advocacy issues, interact and get knowledge on how these issues can be addressed.

## FROM THE C.E.O'S DESK

**G**reetings to all our valued readers and May I take this opportunity to wish you a prosperous New Year. In this edition we were highlighting the views of grassroots communities on various developmental issues and decision making processes. Habakkuk Trust values grassroots work and this is reflected in the content of our publication. We firmly believe in making an impact at a local level since this is the strata that people interact with at a daily level. Our publication extols the virtues of our gallant Community Advocacy Action Team and Core Team members who have spearheaded community activism and triggered developmental processes under

very difficult conditions. I wish you, our valued readers all the best in the coming year.

Mayibuye



Habakkuk Trust C.E.O Mr Dumisani Nkomo



The Late Councillor Jeremiah Langa

### OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

We are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our esteemed Action Team member and Councillor for Insiza Ward 2 Mr. Jeremiah Langa. Councillor Langa was one of the many Councillors who were capacitated with advocacy and lobbying skills so that they can effectively develop their areas. May God comfort his family and friends during this time of loss.

## Chief Ndube defies the odds

Chief Ndube, born Nonhlanhla Sibanda, is one of the seven female Chiefs in Zimbabwe. She is 30 years old and was installed as Chief in 2007 at the age of 22 following the death of her father in 2003. Since she was the only child left in the home with all her sisters working in South Africa, she had no choice but to assume chieftaincy of the area covering Wards 1, 2, 14 and 15 in Insiza District.

It has always been a norm that the eldest son succeeds his father and if there are no sons, the chieftaincy moves to the uncles. However, social, constitutional and policy advancements in human rights empowerment in Zimbabwe have allowed women also to be considered in traditional leadership.

Chief Ndube, like many other women who get into powerful leadership positions, faced a lot of resistance especially from the politicians, business people, and from male chauvinists. She was brave enough to fight the patriarchal system until she earned respect of everyone in her area of jurisdiction.

"At first it was hard because of people from different political parties who were a problem, resisting my Chieftainship. Though it has not completely gone away, it has become a lot better than before," she said. "People really appreciate me now and women are excited to have a female chief in the area."

Currently, Ndube's area has 30 villages and some more villages will be added once the resettlement areas have been demarcated and traditional leadership chosen. There are three headmen in her area at the moment.

"I preside over a lot of different cases and other community elders help me when we have problems. I also work closely with the District Administrator's office."

Chief Ndube, who has been capacitated by Habakkuk Trust in Local Level Advocacy, encouraged women to boldly take up leadership positions and never let people undermine their authority because of their gender. She

said a good leader needs to be bold, brave, trustworthy and be loving towards others.

Chief Ndube is one of the traditional leaders Habakkuk Trust has trained on human rights, good governance, development and community transformation.



The Late Councillor Jeremiah Langa handing over a certificate of attendance to Chief Ndube after the two-day workshop

## Communities urged to set own sanitation standards

by Blondie Ndebele

**C**ommunity members in Nkayi District have been urged to set standards and systems that would solve sanitation related problems especially open defecation in their community.

This came after the Habakkuk Trust Action Team in Nkayi Ward 26 conducted a research on sanitation which established that about 90 per cent of Households in the Ward use fields, bushes to dispose of human waste thus exposing others, especially children to serious health hazards.

Section 73 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe recognises the right to a clean environment that is not harmful to the health and well-being of the people.

Speaking at a Habakkuk Trust organized policy dialogue meeting held at the Nkayi Rural District

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# Public consensus building meetings a resounding success

**H**abakkuk Trust Community Advocacy Action Teams in Nkayi and Insiza Districts recently managed to mobilize hundreds of people to attend community consensus meetings held to discuss advocacy issues that affect their communities.

These public meetings are meant to create platforms for community members to actively and openly participate in community development, decision making and prioritization of key community advocacy concerns through consensus building.

Many communities in the drought-stricken Matabeleland region rarely participate in local governance, economic and

development processes that do not have immediate tangible solutions to their perennial problems. Most community members usually partake in meetings where handouts in the form of food and farming inputs are being distributed and thus lack the capacity to create sustainable solutions to their problems without external assistance. This dependency syndrome has made people fail to effectively participate in identifying and responding to community issues to complement the work done by development organisations and the government.

Habakkuk Trust Community Advocacy Action Team in Nkayi Ward 22 mobilised 267 people

for a public consensus building meeting at Katasa pre-school and they agreed to work on development of village plans. 214 villagers converged at Marumbana Business Centre in Insiza Ward 2 and agreed to prioritize the building of a secondary school so as to ensure children access secondary education in the Ward.

189 villagers who attended a consensus building meeting at Mdengelele Primary School in Nkayi Ward 26 decided on tackling perennial water problems and poor sanitary facilities in the Ward while in Insiza Ward 15, a total 80 people gathered at Mthwakazi Community Hall in Filabusi and resolved to focus on solid waste

management at Filabusi Centre. More than 70 per cent of the participants in all the meetings were women underlining the fact that men generally shun taking part in development projects in their areas.

Habakkuk Trust Community Advocacy Action Teams in these Wards were trained on the importance of citizen participation in decision making and on how to mobilise community members to participate economic processes. They shared the knowledge with other community members hence the increase in the number of people who attended the public consensus building meetings.



Some of the traditional leaders at public meeting at Katasa pre-school in Nkayi Ward 22



Insiza Ward 15 Action Team preparing for public meeting



Some of the community members gathered at Mdengelele Primary School in Nkayi Ward 26



Gathering at Marumbana Centre in Insiza Ward 2

## COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

Habakkuk Trust Community Advocacy Action Teams in Nkayi and Insiza Districts are starting to apply practical skills to the knowledge Habakkuk Trust gave them during the capacity building and advocacy trainings. Here is what the Action team members had to say:

### Mrs Sehlulekile Moyo, Habakkuk Trust Insiza W2 Action Team Information Secretary

After the policy dialogue, we visited the offices of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and obtained the Minimum Functionality Standards document which has guidelines for the setting up and construction of a school. We have also identified the three sites for our Secondary School and we are currently waiting for the local authority surveyors to inspect the sites and tell us where our school can possibly be located before we start actual work. If it wasn't for the policy dialogue meeting we had in Filabusi Centre, we would not have known about the relevant procedures we should follow when starting a new school. Habakkuk Trust also taught us lobbying skills and how to engage certain officials on our issues hence we will continue using that knowledge even in other programmes we want to implement in our community.



Mrs Sehlulekile Moyo

### Mrs Sibongile Tshuma, Habakkuk Trust Action Team secretary, Nkayi w22

We would like to thank Habakkuk Trust for giving us an opportunity to meet different stakeholders who can be of immense help in capacitating our development structures.

We wish all Wards could receive capacity building training as we did so that they may encourage fellow villagers to participate in development projects. It is only through that way that the whole district would be able to realise meaningful development.



Nkayi Ward 22 Action Team Secretary, Mrs Sibongile Tshuma presenting position paper at a policy dialogue meeting in Nkayi



From Left to right: Habakkuk Trust Programmes Officer Rodwin Sibanda chairing at a policy dialogue while Acting District Administrator Mr. Moses Mbewe and DWSSC chairperson Mrs Sibusiso Ndlovu follow proceedings

### Mrs Miriam Sibanda, Habakkuk Trust Nkayi W26 Action Team Vice Organising Secretary

The policy dialogue meeting gave us an insight on the state of water in our Ward. We now know that part of the Ward has no underground water and drilling boreholes would be a useless exercise. As an Action Team, we have set down, agreed to redo our research and find alternative ways of increasing access to clean water in our community. We are thinking of advocating for piped water and once we finish our research, we will engage relevant stakeholders and the community to assist in bringing clean water to this area.

### Habakkuk Trust Insiza W15 Action Team Information Secretary Nkosiyalinda Sibanda...

The policy dialogue was really an eye opener. We were happy to hear that Insiza Rural District Council has come up with an Environmental Strategic Plan to address the issue of solid waste disposal in Filabusi Centre. Our work as the Action Team has been made easier, our role now is to make a follow up on what the local authority has promised in an effort to keep the business centre clean and sensitise people on the importance of cleanliness.



Action Team Secretary Pastor Reynold Mugadza presenting Insiza Ward 15 position paper on solid waste management

## KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION

### Chapter 15

#### Traditional Leaders

280 Traditional Leadership

1) The institution, status and role of traditional leaders under customary law are recognised.

2) A traditional leader is responsible for performing the cultural, customary and traditional functions of a Chief, head person or village head, as the case may be, for his or her community.

281 Principles to be observed by traditional leaders

1) Traditional leaders must-  
i) Act in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of Zimbabwe

ii) Observe the customs pertaining to traditional leadership and exercise their functions for the purposes for which the institution of traditional leadership is recognised by this Constitution; and  
iii) Treat all persons within their areas equally and fairly.

2) Traditional leaders must not-  
i) Be members of any political party or in any way participate in partisan politics;

ii) Act in a partisan manner;  
iii) Further the interests of any political party or cause; or  
iv) Violate the fundamental rights and freedoms of any person.

282 Functions of traditional leaders

1) Traditional leaders have the following functions within their areas of jurisdiction-

i) To promote and uphold the cultural values of their communities and, in particular, to promote sound family values;

ii) To take measure to preserve the culture, traditions, history and heritage of their communities, including sacred shrines;

iii) To facilitate development;

iv) In accordance with an Act of Parliament, to administer Communal Land and to protect the environment;

v) To resolve disputes amongst people in their communities in accordance with customary law; and  
vi) To exercise any other functions conferred or imposed on them by an Act of Parliament.

2) Except as provided in an Act of Parliament, traditional leaders have authority, jurisdiction and control over the Communal Land or other areas of which they have been appointed, and over persons within those Communal Lands or areas.

3) In the performance of their functions, traditional leaders are not subject to the direction or control of any person or authority, except as may be prescribed in an Act of Parliament.

4) An Act of Parliament must be provided for the regulation of the conduct of traditional leaders.

## Where we operate

#### Gwanda District

- Datata-Silikiwe
- Dambashoko
- Zhukwe
- Nkazhe
- Bethel
- Sengezane
- Nsindi
- Bhalula

#### Insiza District

- Filabusi Centre
- Marubamba

#### Bubi District

- Enaleni
- Dromoland

#### Matobo District

- Bidi
- Gohole
- Tudi
- Dwaleni
- Sontala
- Nathisa
- Silozwi
- Phakama
- Sigangatsha

#### Tsholotsho District

- Siphepha
- Jowa

#### Bulawayo Metropolitan Province

#### Mangwe District

- Phakamani
- Mahlabazihlangene
- Mthunduluka
- Makorokoro
- Maninji
- Zimnyama
- Madabe
- Macingwana

#### Umzingwane District

- Shale
- Bezha

#### Nkayi District

- Mdengelele
- Zenka

*Empowering Communities*

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