

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of GRACE

Chipunga, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2008

## Agenda:

1. Opening prayer
2. Report of CDC leadership of 2007
3. Proposed activities for 2008
4. Election of CDC
5. Any other business
6. Closure by prayer

Attendance: 32 GRACE members; Managing Director of Chipunga Farms and his wife, Willi and Ruth Ehret, Martina Rebmann

Topic 1 Justin Menenyenbe opened the AGM with a prayer at 10.30 am

Topic 2 Report of CDC leadership of 2007

Secretary Mr. Waston Msiska presented the annual report

1. 2007 was a good and successful year for GRACE throughout
2. Fertiliser scheme: it was very well received; but it was also observed that some members did not use the fertiliser on their own fields; 75% of members made full use of the fertiliser supported by GRACE; CDC will take measures for the coming season and monitor the use of the fertiliser closely.
3. Health: all was well appreciated including the health teachings received whenever Mrs. Ruth Ehret was on the farm. However, it is observed that the health budget is increasing due to more sickness among farm families and the need to get treatment in a hospital.
4. Education: 12 students were in the support programme for secondary education, 2 girls and 10 boys. Most of them have passed their exams.
5. Water point for water supply close to the farm workers' compound: unfortunately the well was not finalised. The rings were purchased and rolled to the site and are awaiting further improvement of the water point.

6. Renovation of houses: still pending; however, an ablution block has been built for workers which is also an improvement of the infrastructure and hygiene around the farm.
7. Mattresses: for many of the farm workers and their wives it is now the first time in their lives that they sleep on mattresses. It is very much appreciated. A good number of families have now also proper beds made by local carpenters.
8. Dairy Goat Scheme: distribution of the female off-springs has started as female goats were born.
9. Cows through World Vision: first the Chipunga farmers were included in the cow scheme of World Vision for the Chikwina area. However, after long discussion and money already submitted in form of a cheque it was decided that the Konga river is the boundary and thus the farmers of Chipunga are excluded from purchasing a subsidised cow. The cheque has been returned to the CDC.
10. Training of women for starting businesses: a 10 days training was conducted by the Government Community Development Officer. 40 women participated. Unfortunately the submitted business plans targeted buying and selling of small items such as soap, cigarettes and other grocery items. It was stressed that productive businesses are aimed at through the loan scheme. After some time two women came up with business plans for poultry production (broilers). The beginning of the operations is still pending.

### Topic 3

#### Proposed activities for 2008

1. Continuation with the fertiliser scheme; report was given that the purchase and distribution went well this year. All farmers are more than happy to have got two bags of fertiliser. The new CDC will have to monitor closely the use of the fertiliser to avoid misuse as observed in the previous year.
2. All farm families got a 5 kg package of improved seed variety which was available in time and is sown already.
3. Education: in January school fees are due. Unfortunately it had to be reported that there are no new students for secondary education since all children failed graduation of the local primary education. Thus, those who graduated last year are not in the scheme any more and no new ones are joining.
4. Health: the budget for health needs an increment due to higher costs of hospital bills.
5. Continuation of health: blankets and mosquito nets should be included into the budget of 2008.

6. The maintenance of the houses need to be completed in 2008 as well as the water point, which probably should be located at a new site and not rehabilitating the old one.
7. The groundnut scheme for women and men on the Chipunga Farm was welcomed wholeheartedly! It is seen as a unique opportunity to have an income generating activity which is profitable beyond any other so far suggested activities in the proposals submitted to CDC. Detailed outlines for management and monitoring of the scheme are in place. Sowing should be done before 20<sup>th</sup> January 2008.
8. Since a new market for poultry products has emerged through the Uranium mine close to Karonga (where up to 3,000 persons will be fed every day) it is seen as an opportunity to produce broilers on a rotational basis so that the catering firm for the mine can be supplied regularly. A resolution was passed to plan such a poultry scheme during the next 3-5 months. The women groups need to be formed and the operation calculated, managed and monitored – all by the groups themselves with some support from the farm management and local extension workers as available.
9. Protective clothes: during the rainy season, the rate of sickness is always increased since people do not have protective clothes such as rain coats and gum-boots. A resolution was passed that each family should get a set of rain coats and gum-boots. The 25% self-contribution will be applied. With all the women included in this project, the number of rain coats and gum-boots will be 110 of each. The newly elected CDC will provide a list of sizes and will purchase the protective clothes locally.
10. Nursery School: it is alarming that non of the students passed the local primary school successfully. On one side the school extension project which was launched by GRACE and the inclusion of the CDC in selecting additional teachers is one measure towards improving primary education in the Chipunga Primary School. As a second measure the launching of a pre-school class could assist that students come to school already more alert and awakened for learning. A resolution was passed that the CDC will select 5-6 ladies who will be send on attachment to already well established nurseries to learn how to conduct nursery schools. Parallel to this the CDC will identify a suitable location on where the nursery school will be operating from. Options are the building of the Chipunga Youth Organisation which is not used or some of the buildings in the workers' compound on the Farm.

1. The CDC resigned and made way for election of the new CDC
2. The previous decision was confirmed that no office persons of the farm could be elected into the CDC.
3. Justin Menenyembe and Mr. Msefula were appointed as election committee.
4. It was decided that 10 persons should form the CDC, 4 men, 3 women and 3 young persons.
5. Election for chairperson: Nominations
  - a. Mzozodo (7) Vice Chairperson
  - b. Morgan (2)
  - c. Dany Tuti (19) Chairperson
6. Election for Secretary: Nominations
  - a. Watson Msiska (4)
  - b. Mavuto Phiri (11) Vice Secretary
  - c. Mercy Msiska (15) Secretary
7. Election for Treasurer: Nominations
  - a. Morton Tindwa (29) Treasurer
  - b. Jameson Msiska (3)
  - c. Malos Banda (4)
8. Members elected:
  - a. Radgers
  - b. Mrs. Jere
  - c. Jamango
  - d. Fanwel
  - e. Collin

The outgoing members congratulated the incoming ones and wished them success. The Managing Director also congratulated the new CDC and reassured that his door is always open for issues of the CDC and as much as possible he will support the ongoing activities of GRACE and the CDC.

Topic 5 Any other business

In the absence of any other business the meeting was closed

Topic 6 Closure by prayer

Justin Menenyembe closed the AGM with a prayer at 1.30 pm