Greetings from Habakkuk Trust. Young people are the hope of the nation and as Zimbabweans we have to make every effort to ensure that young people are afforded opportunities to be the best that they can be.

Unfortunately, a lot of young people have fallen prey to teenage pregnancies, drug abuse and child marriages. It is important for communities to address the root causes of some of these vices and this will help in ensuring that young people live in environments that bring out the best in them.

There is need for the government, local authorities, Non-Governmental Organisations and the private sector to partner in setting up vocational training centres in every District. In addition, micro finance mechanisms and business incubation facilities can be set up to ensure that young people have a means of livelihood. It has been empirically proven that youth participation in governance and decision-making cannot be achieved without ensuring secure livelihoods for young people.

This is a challenge we have to grapple with collectively as different sectors, actors and citizens.

Mayibuye

Nkayi empowers women, youths and people with disabilities

Nkayi Ward 22 has successfully incorporated women, youths and people with disabilities in their development structures, a move meant to promote social inclusion thus enabling better participation in local decision making processes.

Habakkuk Trust trained village development committees (VIDCOs) in Nkayi Ward 22 and 29 on their roles and responsibilities as development agents. The inclusion of women, youths and people with disabilities was emphasized during the trainings taking into consideration that communities are not homogeneous and the interests of all groups need to be considered in decision making processes.

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VIDCOs in Mtshatshane, Sigodini, Katasa, Dankamberi, Dandadema, Hompane, Ndikimbela and Zenka have since incorporated women, youths and people with disabilities in their structures.

Nondumiso M. Ncube

As youths in Nkayi Ward 29 we have compiled a skills database which is set to ensure that all youths in the Ward are provided with information relating to their qualifications. Unemployment is one of the challenges facing young people in Nkayi and

Youths compile skills database

By Nhlonipho Sibanda and Gracious Ndlovu

Cont. page 2

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Some of the women at a public meeting at Mpumelelo village in Nkayi Ward

Some of the youths who attended a sports and arts festival in Nkayi Ward 22 recently
Phatheka Munt’omutsha

**Composed by Ngqabutho Ndlovu**

(Nkayi Ward 22)

**Contacts:** 0713 852 077

Didizela njengoMadinda enkundleni yebhola
Ungene uphume sanyosi zobhalu
Zinhlelo lapha zinhlelo laphaya
Lahlela kude ingubo yokubudlala lenkani
Uphatheke enhleleni zentuthuko yesiqaba
Phatheka munt’omutsha phatheka

Osobhuku babiza imihlangano phatheka
Abalisa bebiza isigaba phatheka
Ezimfeni phatheke ungacilele
Ehambela muva iBansi nyizina
Imila yaswela um silica ngomlayezo
Akwaziwa okwanonisa ingulube phatheka

Sukuma munt’omutsha sukuma
Sukuma emthunzini kabathang’thini
lobhingo
Akukho okukulandla ihlazi ngaphandle kwendlela
Koze kube nini kukhala ikiwiwane eili-
odwa egumeni
Kunnyama ebusweni benkwawo kun-
zima lokubhekwa phezulu
Zingakhiwela ezhelena esiqabeni
sakho ngemizamo yokukuzama

Abezokulima ezokufuya, ezokuthunga
Sengitsho lezokufuya ingayo ezildonsi
Pho wena utholakala kuphi?
Abe Habakkuk Trust bayakuzame
awuzameki
Abe Human Rights bayakunqanda
awunqandeki
Pho ufunani wena?

Wahlala waduma sengathini uzobika
imfa engalindelwe nje
Sukuma emaqandeni asengamawumi-
l
Ngeke aphinde achamisele futhi
Vus’ikhanda welule izandla udonse
kanye labanye
Ungabi ngumayihlalela udonzel’emusa
Bhul’izidwaba uqond’indlela
akukud’ekhaya
Vuk’ukhanye munt’omutsha
Phatheka esiqabeni sakho
Isigaba sithembe wena
Isizwe sithembe wena

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**From page 1**

Youths compile skills database

**Gugulethu Moyo making a presentation at a Youth Leadership Camp**

Zimbabwe as a whole. We however noted that even when employment opportunities arise, local youths are not prioritized. We therefore decided to compile a database of skills for all the youth in the Ward where we recorded their names, their qualifications and their contact details. The database has been taken to the Member of Parliament Honourable Stars Mathe and the District Administrator. It is our hope that when vacancies arise in the District, our local young people will be prioritized.

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**Phatheka Munt’omutsha**

Composed by Ngqabutho Ndlovu

(Nkayi Ward 22)

Contacts: 0713 852 077

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Value addition set to unlock economic development

**Dumisani Ncube**

Value addition of locally available natural resources has the potential to unlock economic development in Nkayi District. Nkayi, rated as one of the poorest District in Zimbabwe is endowed with an array of natural resources that have the potential to improve the economic wellbeing of the District.

The District is home to indigenous timber plantation species, wild life and kalaga soils which are highly suitable for potter ware. By definition, value addition is the process of changing the product’s value by changing its current place, time, and form to characteristics more preferred in the marketplace.

Processing of timber into valuable products such as furniture has the potential to unlock economic development through creating employment.

On the other hand the creation of market linkages for finished products will place the district in the economic spotlight and attract investors.

The district is home to elephant species that migrate from Hwange National Park to feed on indigenous flora species in the Gwamba valley forest. Setting up of log cabins for safari camping in Gwamba Valley for the purposes of eco-tourism could be another way of adding economic value to the vast timber forests.

The District is endowed with kalaga soils which are used in pottery. Various wares which include vases, dinner plates and tiles can be produced from this type of soil. Further research on kalaga will help to unlock the economic value of this natural resource at the same time benefiting communities particularly women who are traditionally involved in moulding household wares.

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**Value addition of locally available natural resources has the potential to unlock economic development in Nkayi District.**

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**Gugulethu Moyo making a presentation at a Youth Leadership Camp**

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email: habakkuktrust@gmail.com / Facebook: Habakkuk Trust / Twitter: @habakkuktrust / 0779617926/ 0771730018
Govt urged to craft policy on traditional court assessors

Government has been urged to formulate a policy that speaks on the inclusion of assessors in the justice delivery system to improve access to justice in rural communities. The unbalanced traditional justice delivery system in most parts of Matabeleland region irked women as they lamented that dispute-resolution roles in their communities was a preserve of men, which is against Constitutional provisions that recognizes equality and non-discrimination.

Responding to questions during a regional indaba traditional courts, representatives from the department of Traditional Leadership Support Services in the Ministry of Local Government revealed that there was no policy of choosing assessors in traditional courts and communities should lobby for it.

“It is a noble idea to have a policy on the issue of assessors in traditional courts,” Loice Chakwakwama said. “We are failing to draw a line between chiefdom and assessors and we do not have a policy on assessors. However the issue should not be trapped in succession issues because it can be controlled unlike succession customs which are determined by the royal families and their customs.”

Chakwakwama acknowledged the gap that exists in communities as most men are not willing to move from historical patriarchal tendencies, failing to give women a voice and subsequently denying them fair hearing in courts. She urged communities to encourage their traditional leaders to include women in their courts and stress the benefits of that.

Sharing their experiences, participants at the meeting explained that the men tend to intimidate women into silence, women’s views are disregarded at any stage of the justice system hence need to have representation at the level of court adjudicators.

Traditional Courts with female assessors: Best practises

Traditional courts in Nkayi North are scouring successes in the local justice delivery system as a result of inclusion of women as assessors in traditional courts. This was said by Mr Thembelani Ncube, clerk of court at Chief Madliwa’s courts who applauded traditional leaders in his area for being gender sensitive.

“The inclusion of women as assessors in traditional courts has made it easy for women to freely express themselves during trials,” he said. “Having women as part of the traditional court is an enabling factor for gender sensitive and unbiased assessment of cases. This in turn helps to preserve the sanctity of the court as a result improving access to justice for all.”

She said, “In my court, we have a number of female assessors and we don’t only sentence but also provide counselling to the accused individuals.” She added, “At times all that is needed is counselling and this can best be done by women.

I have encouraged my headpersons and village heads to have balanced team of assessors and include women in decision making.”

Headman Nqindi from Matobo District echoed the same sentiments highlighting that her female assessors are active in court and are able to speak fairly on justice related matters. She indicated that she has confidence in her assessors and encouraged all traditional leaders to have female adjudicators.
Lantana Camara

Commonly known as Ubuhobe in Ndebele.

Reproduction and dispersal

This plant reproduces by seeds, which are readily dispersed by birds and other animals (e.g. rodents) that eat the fruit. Existing colonies may also spread laterally via the production of suckers or when branches take root after coming into contact with the soil (by layering). Stem fragments or pieces of the rootstock (crown) can also give rise to new plants after being moved by machinery or dumped in garden waste.

Environmental and other impacts

Lantana Camara is one of the most problematic invasive plants in many parts of the world. It is probably the most widespread terrestrial invasive plant in Africa. Lantana Camara forms extensive, dense and impenetrable thickets in forestry plantations, orchards, pasture land, waste land and in natural areas. The rapid spread of Lantana Camara is associated with human induced disturbances. The fallen leaves produce substances that prevent other plants germinating and growing beneath Lantana Camara. This results in no understory below the thickets and can continue to spread and adapt to drier conditions as well as invading medium to high rainfall areas.

Lantana Camara is poisonous to livestock and children have been known to die after eating unripe berries. It is also palatable, and in large doses is poisonous, particularly to cattle.

Lantana Camara serve no economic purpose and possess characteristics that are harmful to humans, animals or the environment.

Source: BioNET-EAFRINET

Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms

56. Equality and non-discrimination

(1) All persons are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.

(2) Women and men have the right to equal treatment, including the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social spheres.

(3) Every person has the right not to be treated in an unfairly discriminatory manner on such grounds as their nationality, race, colour, tribe, place of birth, ethnic or social origin, language, class, religious belief, political affiliation, opinion, custom, culture, sex, gender, marital status, age, pregnancy, disability or economic or social status, or whether they were born in or out of wedlock.

(4) A person is treated in a discriminatory manner for the purpose of subsection (3) if-

(a) they are subjected directly or indirectly to a condition, restriction or disability to which other people are not subjected;

or (b) other people are accorded directly or indirectly a privilege or advantage which they are not accorded.

(5) Discrimination on any of the grounds listed in subsection (3) is unfair unless it is established that the discrimination is fair, reasonable and justifiable in a democratic society based on openness, justice, human dignity, equality and freedom.

(6) The State must take reasonable legislative and other measures to promote the achievement of equality and to protect or advance people or classes of people who have been disadvantaged by unfair discrimination, and-

(a) such measures must be taken to redress circumstances of genuine need;

(b) no such measure is to be regarded as unfair for the purposes of subsection...