ECONOMIC LITERACY, A RECIPE FOR DEVELOPMENT

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2019 as we continue Developing our Community

Budget consultation meetings are a way in which community members together with their duty bearers can review the budget and influence how council funds are utilised in the upcoming budget process. These meetings require full participation of community members so that they can input into council levies and how the money is spent. However, these meetings have a history of poor attendance and this continually affects development.

Habakkuk Trust recently conducted literacy training workshop in Matobo District to strengthen economic literacy at grassroots level. Low attendance of meetings was attributed to lack of information on the importance of economic processes. The training centred on the budgeting process, public expenditure and gender responsive budgeting. Obligations and responsibilities of individual were also emphasized. The workshop was an eye opener enabling communities to link development actions and levies paid to the local authority. Lack of clear information on who is to pay levies and what is to be paid was identified as the major cause for non-payment of dues.

As way forward participants pledged to spread knowledge on the importance of participating in economic processes and encouraged all groups including women, youths and people living with disabilities to actively participate.

From C.E.O’s Desk

Dumisani O. Nkomo
Habakkuk Trust
Chief Executive Officer

Mabuyani! Great people of Maphaneni and Matopos. From the mountains of Dewe to the mopanes of Bidi, right up to the gullies of Chief Malaba, greetings to you all and a Merry Christmas even to the many returning sons and daughters of Matobo visiting from Berea, Hillbrow and Yeoville in South Africa. Matobo District is the home to many great sons and daughters who have contributed to the different facets of development; ranging from Dr Joshua Nyongolo Nkomo, Jason Ziyaphapha Moyo, Shambile Steven Jospeh Nkomo, Joseph Dube one of the first trained combatants in the liberation struggle, Makhubalo Nyathi, Mthobelo Ncube, Gray Mathabane Bango and one of the first African millionaires and former Highlanders patron Tafti Moyo. Beyond these legends, Matobo has produced the likes of legendary musician Ndux Maxia, Ndux Malax Jnr and Joyous celebration singer Mkhululi Bhebhe. In soccer, one of the greatest coaches ever Ali Baba Dube who created the famed Highlanders Junior policy as well as former Zimbabwe National Team and Highlanders defender Bekthembura Ndluvu. Great journalists such as Lovemore Dube and Mkhulu Bhebhe hail from Matobo. Indeed, Matobo is the cradle of these and many other people that have made a contribution towards national development.

I urge this generation of people from Matobo to take up the challenge left by Ali Baba Dube who created the famed Highlanders Junior policy as well as former Zimbabwe National Team and Highlanders defender Bekthembura Ndluvu. Great journalists such as Lovemore Dube and Mkhulu Bhebhe hail from Matobo. Indeed, Matobo is the cradle of these and many other people that have made a contribution towards national development.

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I urge this generation of people from Matobo to take up the challenge left by these people and to make a mark in their community and nation. In this edition of Voice of Matobo we look at some issues affecting the district such as drought, human rights, human trafficking and knowledge of economic issues. Please enjoy this edition of Voice of Matobo. You our valued reader are one of the great champions of Matobo District. Let us join together and be champions of development, empowerment and peace.

Merry Christmas.
Taboka!
**Planning for the drought**

By Daniel Nkomboni (Matopos Research Institute)

In Zimbabwe droughts and longer dry seasons have become a common phenomenon. These hazards do not set in suddenly; they can affect animals through the drought periods based on their situation analysis.

The amount of herbage available in February to March presents a suitable option for their situation. Performance standards then reduce stress on the animals and will assist the animals through the drought season. Feeding must be planned start early for effective results if supplementary feeding is required. Vaccines and acaricides to reduce worm burden, prevent prevalent diseases and avoid tick worry and tick-borne diseases respectively. These animal welfare matters need more of the scarce feed than when the distance is minimum. Water is also needed for the efficient utilisation of the feed in the body. Farmers should note that the amount of herbage available in the season is limited. Survival commercial feeding must be planned for effective results if purchase feed for the remaining herd.

Feeding must be planned start early for effective results if available grass in the season is limited. Survival commercial feeds (9% CP) could be offered at a minimum of 4kg per animal per day for animal to survive the drought period. Top browse branches could be looped for animals to access. Urea based supplementary blocks can be used where energy in the form of molasses and hay is available. Caution must be exercised when using urea as excessive intake of urea by animals may lead to ammonia poisoning.

Plan to minimise the distance to the water source to less than 5km. When the animals travel longer distances to drink, they spend more energy therefore would need more of the scarce feed than when the distance is minimum. Water is also needed for the efficient utilisation of the feed in the body. Farmers should note that most of the animals that searching for water in most droughts.

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