



Andiamo Youth Cooperative Trust

NEWSLETTER

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Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2008

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Editorial

Happy New Year

Greetings fellow friends! For us who have successfully exited 2007, we have already experienced a couple of events unfolding in the few days we have lived in the New Year, 2008. Thanks be to God for his unconditional love and for making us see this wonderful year! Nevertheless, the past year had been mixed with both good and appalling events. Indubitably, many lives were lost and yet a lot more were created; jobs were lost and, unfortunately, not even half of them were created; about three months into 2007, Andiamo welcomed the founding trustees, padre Mario Pacifici and don Cesare Castelli who fully settled at Nankhombe House to complement their efforts of helping the youths of Balaka; in the wake of September 2007, Andiamo Trust's executive team was restructured and other new executive posts were created; significantly, numerous volunteers worked at Andiamo for specified times in 2007 and some made commendable donations to various projects; and the music school started and other numerous projects were successfully established.

Colleagues, the New Year is here. It is, therefore, important for us to enter into the New Year with changed hearts and offers to make to our organisation (Andiamo Trust). What are our resolutions in this New Year as regards Andiamo Trust?

To bring back our memories, New Year celebrations that are preceded by Christmas at the end of each year used to be extraordinary in so far as physical appearance, religious observance, and food consumption were concerned. In those days, at least every family would celebrate Christmas and New Year festivities in style. Families used to go to church, slaughter goats and chickens, and wear new cloths. Though it is true that Christmas and New Year festivities are matters of the heart, it is, nevertheless, horrendous to see the way the perception given to Christmas and New Year has changed. Both occasions have become something ordinary. People now use words such as "zinali kale" to describe Christmas and New Year festivities. This merely signifies that contrary to the way people used to prepare for the occasions, there is no much food, no new and decent clothing, and of course, secularism has increased.



For us here at Andiamo Trust, Christmas and New Year celebrations must be daily trends. The way we used to wear new clothes, the way we ate and drank, and the way we smiled to our neighbours on such festivities must not change in any way! For in putting on new clothes, having delicious meals, and of course, observing church services on such occasions are all manifestations of good will. It is by good will that all the resources that are bestowed to us will benefit every person at Andiamo Trust. It is by the same good will that we will live in harmony and prosperity amongst one another throughout the year!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us always in this New Year!

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING TRUSTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Greetings in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit Amen.

The year 2007 was a mixed bag. Interesting, amazing, joyful and sorrowful events took their turn in this year. Controversy and triumph were the order of the day in social, environmental, political, economic and religious arena. We have witnessed bumper yield, the sudden demise of her excellency madam Ethel Wa Mutharika, storm surrounding the passing of the national budget, prorogation of parliament, the interconnection bill scandal, M.S.C.E. exam leakage and at the very end of the year the wedding of Honorable Clement Khembo MP just to mention a few highlights of the year.

However, after 31st December, we can now stand and say good-bye 2007, welcome 2008.

The year 2008 poses a greater challenge on us to fight against poverty in the country. We are the generation who can stand and say Malawi is not a poor country but with our collective effort we can find a formula to stamp poverty out of Malawi.

Ladies and Gentlemen: We need to ask ourself if we are moving a step in development. If yes, then think of a way we can increase the pace in development. . If no, identify things that are posing a great threat to our development. Change where we need to change and maintain where we need to maintain.

As Andiamo means, *“moving together with one*

heart”, together lets fight hunger, disease and envy in the year 2008. God gave each one of us a special talent. We need to utilize them to make a difference then each one of us will stand and say the work of my hands are my witnesses (Ntchito za Manja anga ndiye mboni zanga).

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish you a happy and prosperous year 2008 as we look at issues with a different eye. An eye that will make us prosper and make poverty history.

Thank you.

Fr Mario Pacifici



...We are the generation who can stand and say Malawi is not a poor country but with our collective effort we can find a formula to stamp poverty out of Malawi...

PROFILE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Born thirty one years ago, the youthful Andrew Galeta is the incumbent Executive Director of Andiamo Trust. He has served in various posts of the Trust such as the Projects Coordinator and rising up the ladder to deputy Executive Director before attaining the current post.

Andrew has not yet found a part-

ner to exchange vows with.

If you prepare chicken for him, then you have missed the point. Andrew enjoys rice taken with peas and vegetables.

His hobbies are traveling, photography, and listening to gospel songs.

He advises the youth to refrain from indulging in immoral behaviour and to be focused to their future to make a better generation.



Executive Director: Andrew Galeta

ANDIAMO'S 'EXECUTIVE' WEARS A NEW FACE

By Eugenio Njoloma

Since its establishment some twenty years ago, Andiamo Trust formerly known as Andiamo Youth Cooperative has had different executive teams. Until its transition to Andiamo Trust some two years ago, all executive teams have been headed by the youths of Balaka Parish all of whom have served for more than half a decade each. Notable former heads of Andiamo include the late Abraham Naluso, Mr. Paul Banda, the late Luka Chimkwakwa, Mr. Jimmy Mtemangawo, Mr. Wailesi Line, and Mr. Lucious Kanyumba who has served up until September 2007. Though surreptitiously running errands of Andiamo Trust, Mr. Kanyumba has since been replaced by a new blood supported by a team of members. In October 2007, the founding trustees of Andiamo Trust padre Mario Pacifici and don Cesare Castelli announced the following executive team and committee:

1. **Executive Director**
2. **Deputy Executive Director**
3. **Human Resource Coordinator**
4. **Treasure**
5. **Financial Coordinator**
6. **Projects Coordinator**
7. **Andiamo Education Institutions Coordinator**
8. **HIV/Aids Coordinator and Music School Director**
9. **Comfort Clinics Administrator**
10. **Alleluya Band's Leader**
11. **Technological Pole Director and Website Developer**
12. **Tiyende Women in Development Coordinator**
13. **Technical School Principal**
14. **Head of Mechanic Workshop**
15. **Head of Carpentry Workshop**
16. **Head of Metal Workshop**
17. **Agricultural Coordinator**
18. **Youth Development Coordinator**

Andrew Galeta
Rosario Nkhoma
Bazilio Murowa
Anna Njoloma
Thomas Kapasule
Mark Njoloma
Ale Marchetti
Charles Sineta
Henderson Nlashi
Coss Chiwalo
Harry Walima
Ethel Phiri
Raymond Chagoma
Bertin Kamanga
Wireless Line
Julius Kapalamula
Clement Kulapa
Getrude Naluso



According to Andiamo Trust's organisational structure, the first six positions make Andiamo Trust's executive team which is responsible for making vital decisions for the running of the organisation. The new responsibilities took effect in October 2007.

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ANDIAMO PLAYS A ROLE IN MALAWI'S DEVELOPMENT

By Ronald Gundamtengo

In the year 2000, the international community pledged to attain by 2015 a set of objectives commonly referred to as the "Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)" with an aim of reducing poverty, fight hunger and diseases, educate children and give access to drinking water to a large number of people. His excellence the state president, Dr Bingu Wa Mutharika, in the year 2007 launched the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, from Poverty to Prosperity (2006-2011) with an overall objective to reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development. Both MDGs and MGDS emphasize social development as one of the key areas to development. There is recognition that human development is important if the country is to achieve its growth and development agenda. As such there is a need to prioritize building a healthy and educated population for Malawi.

Since its establishment (in 1984) Andiamo Trust has been working tirelessly in projects that would enable the surrounding populace (in essence the whole nation) to realize social, environmental and economic development. Currently the trust has also embarked in various projects as a step towards achieving economic growth and strategy.

According to the Projects Coordinator of the Trust, Mr. Mark Njoloma, they are

constructing Chikhulupiriro Clinic (Pang'ono Pang'ono project) at Kapandatsitsi Village, T/ A Nsamala, Balaka district. The Clinic is expected to service people from the area after realizing that the nearest district hospital from the village (Balaka District Hospital) is more than 16km away. He also said that the Trust has a dekho at the problem of maternal mortality rate troubling the country with a different face. They are constructing a maternity wing at comfort clinics to ameliorate the situation by providing better facilities.

MGDS calls on equipping students, especially at primary level with basic knowledge and skills to enable them function as competent and productive citizens. The trust has taken a step towards realizing this goal by having projects of constructing the following primary schools. Nancholi primary school (Nchenga village) and Matola primary school (Matola village).

A better foundation in education can be accomplished if we can give our toddlers a chance. The trust is therefore constructing the following nursery schools; Mbela nursery school (Mbela village), Chikondi nursery school (Toleza Village) and John Paul II (Mpulula village).

To provide a basis for gainful employment in the informal, private and public sectors and to produce high

quality professionals with relevant knowledge the Trust is extending Andiamo technical school to increase the intake. The school is currently offering the following courses; electrical installation, carpentry and joinery, motor vehicle mechanics and information technology. Since the key priority of MGDS is agriculture and food security the Trust will provide training in agriculture to all students enrolled with the college.

Maslow's theory describes shelter as man's basic need. Mr. Njoloma said that the trust has the knowledge that some people have problems in building their own houses. A project called "*Chifundo project*" is currently underway constructing 10 houses for identified elders in the district. Another project referred to as "*St Andrea Village Project*" is in the pipeline to construct 14 houses and a borehole to shelter the needy. Village headman Kaumphawi should be a happy man because both projects will be situated in his area.

According to Mr. Njoloma, the projects the Trust is embarking on will provide social and economic growth of the nation. They will create employment to a large populace. He also said that the trust is calling on all stakeholders to join hands and move together with one heart to develop the state and not holding oneself aloof from the strategy.



One of the houses constructed under St Andrea Village Project in Balaka.

Louis Michel, (European commissioner) once said that the challenges we face are huge. But today we no longer have an excuse not to act. We are the first generation that can look extreme poverty in the face and say "we have the money, we have the medicines, we have the know how" but do we have the will to make poverty a thing of the past? Despite the figures, which are alarming, despite an unprecedented level of awareness, development remains an issue that is hard to sell. The fate of the suffering people seems to us to be sealed already. Nelson Mandela said that overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is a protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom.

BALAKA SMALLHOLDER FARMERS SMILE AT LAST

By Eugenio Njoloma

In the demise of the most successful Chimanga Project that used to provide agricultural assistance to several smallholder farmers in Balaka, farmers have now a sigh of relief following establishment of a new Andiamo Trust's agricultural programme known as 'Get up, Stand up!' The programme that is being controlled by Alessandro Marchetti and Valeria Giassi is expected to run for three consecutive years during which farmers will benefit from agricultural loans in the forms of money and fertilizer.



The programme which intends to help smallholder farmers to realize food security has come at a very right time when Malawi, in particular, is also helping local smallholder farmers to purchase fertilizer at subsidized prices. All this is in concurrence with Malawi's MGDS and the Millenium Development Goals that stipulate on reducing severe hunger to half by 2015.

Elaborating on disbursement procedures, the programme coordinator, Alessandro Marchetti, pointed out that the programme intends to identify at least 800 beneficiaries. He however specified that the beneficiaries will be people of the Balaka region with those coming from around Andiamo having the priority to reap from the programme.

During the viability study, 'Get up Stand up!' gave out about 150 bags of fertilizer worth 7500 kilograms to

local farmers. This year, no specified number of bags of fertilizer has been established. However, it is speculated that the number of fertilizer bags is expected to increase following the increase in number of beneficiaries.

On top of giving out fertilizer, the programme will be disbursing non-interest loans to farmers. Speaking on this, Mr Marchetti clarified that when farmers get the loans, they will be expected to sell part of their produce and pay back the exact amount as loaned without any interests. This will help farmers to produce a lot of food for sale and reserve

Get up Stand up also plans to introduce Agriculture classes at Andiamo's technical college that will compliment Andiamo Trust's plans in education sector.



...During the viability study, 'Get up Stand up!' gave out about 150 bags of fertilizer worth 7500 kilograms to local farmers...

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ANDIAMO TRUST TO DRILL OWN BOREHOLES

By Eugenio Njoloma

In the course of 2007, three volunteers from Italy; Enzo, Aldo, and Alberto presented a drilling machine to Andiamo Trust that will be used to drill boreholes around the region of Balaka. This development comes following great and commendable initiatives currently run by Andiamo Trust. The three volunteers who all work with an Italian organisation known as *Oltre Confine* (Beyond Borders) come from Rieti in Italy and visited Balaka for three months to study the viability of the project.



Receiving the donation, padre Mario Pacifici expressed gratitude to the Italian community whose efforts to help the people of Balaka are complimenting Andiamo Trust's dreams. He described the initiative as the most suitable one following severe shortage of clean water for Balaka communities. In his remarks, padre Mario mentioned that the donation

...He described the initiative as the most suitable one following severe shortage of clean water...

was made in the honour of the late Andrea Pacifici who had plans to drill boreholes in Balaka. However, he urged the beneficiaries to take good care of the boreholes once installed.

After commending the viability of the project, the volunteers will be back to Balaka in February 2008 to train a team of local young men and women who will be fully responsible for drilling boreholes and managing the project.

In Balaka and surrounding areas, there is scarcity of clean water. As a result, a lot of people tend to consume water directly from rivers or unprotected wells. In the end, they inevitably catch all sorts of bacte-

rial disease.



Bottom Left: Side view of the drilling machine

Middle; The Machine in operation

Top Right: Aldo, Enzo and Alberto. The people behind the donation of the machine

WRITING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Objectives focus on the overall abilities or competencies to be acquired by the trainee at the end of a training programme. They indicate change in knowledge, skills and attitudes resulting from training activity. They guide the designer in selecting content and developing instructional strategy. If the objectives are available to the participants they give a clear cut guidelines for what

is to be learned and tested during the course, thus few students are likely to get lost and more are likely to master the instructions. They provide clear description of what the students will be covering, thus helping prevent instructional gaps or duplication.

There are characteristics of well written learning objectives; SMART this implies

to **Specific:** well written objectives should specify and expected outcome in clear terms. If objectives are vague or confusing, it may be difficult to determine the actual learning that has taken place in a training programme or session.

Measurable: an objective should show how one would observe that the desired behavioural change has taken place. Action oriented words such as explain, state, identify, develop, solve, demon-

strate, write read should be used.

Achievable: would be intended outcome be realized within the given time frame and resources available? Also consider the level of participants.

Relevant: the objectives should be relevant to the target population.

Time bound: The objectives should specify the period within which the behavioural change will be measured.

ANDIAMO TRUST HAS A WATER FILTRATION PLANT

By Ronald Gundamtengo

Water is one of the natural resources on earth. In fact it is the second most important element for man's survival thus after air. Absence of portable water can lead to man contracting diseases related to water. People who are not healthy cannot contribute effectively to the development of the country.



There are various water abstraction sources that include rivers, impounding reservoirs and ground water. Water used by Andiamo Trust for different purposes is abstracted from ground water. Ground water is characterized by very toxic substances like iron (greater than the recommended 0.1mg/l),

manganese (greater than the recommended 0.05mg/l), Chloride, organic substances etc. These substances cause diseases and affect cell metabolism in the human body. They also stain plumbing fixtures, utensils, and clothes and also increase water hardness among other devastating effects.

The Trust has installed a filtration plant that will reduce the levels of toxic substances to recommended standards. The plant is aiming at providing portable water to the surrounding populace at the cheapest and affordable price as one way of promoting the use of wholesome water in helpless areas. The operation is waiting for the recommendation from the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS), which will be done as soon as possible.



Stained plumbing fixture by groundwater.



The filtration plant

The plant is aiming at providing portable water to the surrounding populace at the cheapest and affordable price

HUMOUR

I will make the whole world happy

Bush, Brown and Mugabe were in an aeroplane in a reconciliatory trip to America. Each one of them had a bottle of wine. Brown said "I will throw this bottle down and make one poor person happy".



Bush looked at Brown, put his hand on his pocket and said "I will throw 1000 dollars down there and make 1000 people happy". Mugabe stood up, cleared the throat, held Bush by the hand and said "I will throw you down there and make the whole world happy".

You shout like her

A gentleman was in a pub drunk. He saw a blondy moving in the pub. He called her and asked if she was his wife. The blondy said, "I don't even know you how can I be your wife". The man replied, "Oops you even speak like her." The blondy was furious and shouted, "you drunken fool, your eyes are cheating you, get lost." The man rose, laughed and said, "you even shout like her."



HIV/AIDS AND GOD

By Eugenio Njoloma

It has been noticed that since the discovery of HIV/AIDS, the world has profoundly changed its face too in terms of reverence to God. It seems people have turned one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit; that is "fear of God" to "fear of contracting the virus that causes AIDS", in matters pertaining sexual morality. Nevertheless, fear of God is paramount to fear of catching the deadly virus.

When we attend various church services around the country, we always hear pastors and preachers campaigning against HIV/AIDS. Due to severity and rampage of the pandemic, pastors and preachers always call on people to get saved so as to escape catching the noxious virus. Though it is commendable to speak against sexual immorality, it seems, however, that none of the preachers calls to mind the importance of respecting the pre-eminence of God, the only remedy that would work against contracting the Aids virus. Suggestively, by respecting God's commandments, more especially the seventh one, people would be on the verge of getting salvation.

As we communicate among the fellow youths, we are made to understand that no youths would engage in fornication for fear of contracting HIV. However, other mal-sexual practices such as sodomy and the like are

plied as alternatives. No one, at least, has ever mentioned the name of God in their abstinence campaign. This also gives the reason why people living with HIV are viewed as depraved people who deserve no care and sympathy. Though medical scientists are in search of the cure, we are indubitably forced to speculate that upon acquiring the remedy, sexual impiety would be awfully high. This might be so because those who have feared the disease and have no fear of God as a reason for maintaining their moral standards will have nothing to fear.

More surprisingly, parents nowadays seem to have no any other ethical pieces of advice to tell their children apart from discouraging their lads against sexual delinquency. This can be a reason why youths constantly complain that the AIDS pandemic has prevented them from 'enjoying life'. This leads to the temptation of using the highly advocated condoms against the teaching of the Catholic Church, which in the end

increases sexual immorality and hence alarming rates of HIV infection.

Traditionally, the African culture has always forbade adolescent boys and girls to practise fornication primarily though, not for fear of any disease but as a religious and cultural virtue of purity. Today, this has changed since the virginity that was valued in the African tradition as a ticket to marriage has been replaced with questions such as "Are you positive or negative?" or "Are we going for blood test before tying a knot?"

As children of God, it is important that every one of us develop fear of God instead of talking big about the dangers of contracting the fatal virus that causes AIDS. When it comes to sexual probity, it is worth asking oneself a question that "Do I fear the disease or God? By doing this, we shall all have positive and meaningful abstinence bestowed to us by God. Importantly, the realisation of God's eminence will take away the world's brokenness and give us back the treasure field we are responsibly yearning for.



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ANDIAMO ESTABLISHES A MUSIC SCHOOL

By Charles Sineta and Ronald Gundamtengo



Have you ever wondered why there are few or no music schools and colleges in the Malawi or in the neighboring countries? Or have you ever wished you would pursue music lessons and be a real musician? If you tried, what problems did you encounter?

“Welcome to the long awaited Andiamo Music School, which will soon open its doors to every one who wish to pursue professional music lessons.”

The Andiamo Trust established in 1977 has helped youths in Malawi and other neighboring countries to learn and play music instruments among other things. Its Band, Alleluya Band, has modeled and taught music to various people some of whom became prominent in the music industry like Paul Banda (Malawi's music icon and the first band leader of Alleluya), his brother Lucius Banda (A renowned musician cum politician) and Charles Sineta, (The man behind establishment of Andiamo Music School) just to mention a few.

This music school is the first of its kind in Malawi to offer music and dancing as a career within the senior primary school syllabus. The Trust would like to develop the importance of music professional qualification at an early stage of education life. The School commences in 2009 (adopting the London College of Music (LCM) Syllabus as the testing board). In 2010, the School is expected to extend music lessons to Andiamo Secondary School (which is expected to be established soon). All lessons will be taught in English. They will be offered in grades 1 to 8 before introducing diploma, degrees later. However, interested students are free to enroll with the school at any level and write London College of Music examinations at the center.

The director of the school, Mr. Charles Sineta, who was studying Music at the Thames Valley University in the UK for three years as part of preparations to open the school will team up with fellow well qualified Italian tutors to satisfy and bring the music professional to a desired level. The school will be a kind of social institution where you are let to grow and develop your life career in Music. Andiamo Music School will make dreams (of candidates) of becoming a professional musician come true. Educational development strategies in any other country maintains and promote activities leading to preservation of culture through music, and Andiamo Music School is ready for the challenges by offering courses in cultural drumming, dancing lessons and other African percussions to students.

At the moment the school Director, Mr. Charles Sineta, Dr Chanunkha from the Arts Department of the University of Malawi and The Arts Department in the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture are developing an African music curriculum to be incorporated in schools.

The Andiamo Music School in connection with the London College of Music Examinations Board [Thames Valley University] United Kingdom is setting up an examination center through the director of London College of Music Examinations Board professor John Howard and Charles Sineta.



Charles Sineta