

PAF

ZAMBIA



5th Edition

2023

NEWSLETTER



HIGH - LEVEL DONOR VISIT BRINGS HOPE

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About People's Action Forum

Peoples Action Forum (PAF) is an indigenous organization that has supported rural communities and schools in Zambia since 1994 through community learning centres established in seven rural districts of Eastern (Chadiza, Chipata, Mambwe), Southern (Mazabuka, Monze), and Central (Mumbwa, Namayani) Provinces. PAF has provided direct project support to schools in 14 other districts of Chipangali, Isoka, Kafue, Kalomo, Kapiri Mposhi, Kasama, Kasenengwa, Kawambwa, Mbala, Mpulungu, Mungwi, Namwala, Solwezi, Vubwi.

OUR VISION

A peaceful society where people are empowered and have attained equity.

OUR MISSION

To promote empowerment through advocacy, education and other innovative approaches for sustainable development



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HIGH-LEVEL DONOR VISIT BRINGS HOPE



Key funders of the SHANTA foundation, made a historic visit to Siyowi, the area where the Community-led Village Development Project is being implemented.

With the objective of getting the real insight into the lives of the beneficiaries of the project, the donors camped for two two nights in Siyowi and interacted with the community members.

"The humbling effect this trip has on us is palpable. It's a life changing experience, something that has changed our perspective on life completely," one of the donors remarked after the visit.

During the two-day visit, they held fruitful open meetings with each Village Development Team (VDT) from Kabanje, Nachili and Siyowi villages.

The donors also visited the gardens, which form the economic mainstay of the people in the area before taking a daunting experience of crossing the Kaleya Stream through the makeshift foot bridges.

"It's heart-breaking to see how cheerful and generous the Siyowi people are despite having a lot of challenges making their living difficult. There is urgent need to start working on some of the challenges immediately, without waiting for the communities to raise developmental funds from the Community Bank.

"We need to pilot a project with the community involvement to give them hope that we can do something."

The donors were also extremely touched by the state of the clinic which only provide limited services to the community.

The eleven-donor team included three couples and individuals from the states of New York, Colorado and Alabama in the United States of America.

A photo with the Kabanje VDT after an interactive meeting

"It's a Life Changing Experience, Something that has Changed Our Perspective on Life Completely"



The Donors were treated to a thunderous welcome

Siyowi Traditional Leadership Excited



(From left to right seated)) Kabanje Headman, Siyowi Senior Headman and Nachili Headman pose for a photo with the donors

Siyowi Senior Headman is elated by the visit of the first donors made to his area recently. The Senior Headman said the visit has raised fresh hope for the people.

"This is a landmark visit which has raised fresh hope of seeing real development in Siyowi and I feel extremely energised.

"When the engagement started, we took things lightly thinking it was just another organization as usual passing time without having the plight of the people at heart."

"To our surprise, we have been visited by the actual people funding the developmental activities lined up in the project," the Senior Headman said.

The excited traditional leader, who is in charge of 28 headmen in Siyowi, further remarked, "I feel deeply humbled to be a senior headman at a time when the area is on the verge of experiencing practical development.

On behalf of my headmen and Siyowi people, I assure you that we shall do everything possible and have a sense of ownership to all developmental project activities."

And Kabanje Village headman, implored the donors to continue visiting them, "Continue visiting us because your presence gives us strength and motivation to work harder. "Your visit to Siyowi has marked the beginning of great things to come for our people who are struggling to make ends meet."

Meanwhile, Nachili Village Headman, disclosed that the Siyowi community has not had any tangible development since independence.

"This is the first time that we have seen such a thing as donors spending nights and interacting with villagers. It's a clear indication that you really care and mean well to help us develop Siyowi."

“The donars
had an
appreciation of
how challenging
life is for
the Siyowi
community”

Challenging Life



Part of the donor team crossing through



A challenging daily life

If you are in search of harmony with nature, Siyowi is a perfect place. It may appear green, serene, and pollution-free, however, life in this place can be quite challenging.

There are a number of serious problems being faced by the community in Siyowi. People in the villages are devoid of various facilities which are a hindrance to their development.

The infrastructure in villages is not good. The roads and bridges are not built properly and this hampers their connectivity with towns and cities which is a hindrance in establishing good business. The school and health post lack sufficient equipment as well as facilities. Many villages do not have a power supply. Water and sanitation facilities are below average.

The donors had an opportunity to have a real

MAYOR'S PARLOUR



TC, MAYOR NOD COMMUNITY-LED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



Mazabuka Mayor, Vincent Lilanda is thrilled with the Community-Led Village Development project which has started in Siyowi.

His Worship Lilanda is optimistic that the project will build a Siyowi community which is empowered, self-sustaining and proud.

"I would like to thank you for considering Siyowi, an area which has been disadvantaged in terms of resources distribution and development in the district. I welcome the project because the proposed interventions aim to lessen this disadvantage so that the people are empowered and able to take ownership of their own development," Hon Lilanda said.

"I have no doubt that this project will address the different people's lives including their education, health, shelter and other basic needs."

The Mayor was speaking when a team of donors from the United States of America, key funders of the project, paid a courtesy call on him at his office recently.

**“You Appreciate
the Value of
Water when You
Carry it on
Your Own”**

And Mazabuka District Town Clerk, Judith Mukwita Maambo, said she was excited with the water and foot bridges proposed plans in Siyowi.

“Water is life. There's a proverb which says “You appreciate the value of water once you carry it on your own.”

“Women in Siyowi carry 20 to 30 liters of water daily over a distance of more than 5 km. And they may not even use this water for bathing but cooking and drinking for the family.”

“I am excited that the project will address issues of water in the area.

The Town Clerk was responding to a brief report made by Shanta Foundation Executive Director, Wade Griffith.

Mr Wade disclosed that two American engineers came to Siyowi to assess the water situation in the area, with a possibility of setting up a water reticulation system and construct some foot bridges across the Kaleya Stream which transverses Siyowi.

Siyowi Primary School Receives Education Materials



The donors with Siyowi Primary School learners

Learners at Siyowi Primary School were the earliest recipients of the Community-led Village Development project. The donors put a smile on their faces by giving them some educational materials.

The materials included toys, funny games, crayons and story books.

Delivering an appreciation message through a song and poem, the learners were grateful to be visited and most importantly, having a project in the area with focus on improving the learning environment at their school among other objectives.

The visitors toured the school looking at the classrooms and other facilities such as desks, water point and ablution block.

A Conducted Tour of Vegetable Gardens



The team of donors at Mr Chikanta's garden

Vegetable gardening is the major economic activity in Siyowi. The source of livelihood for the majority of households is drawn from their gardens.

To have a clear understanding of how the communities earn their living, the team of donors visited some gardens where they interacted with the families.

"Our livelihood revolves around vegetable farming. We have been engaged in this activity ever since we settled in this area. The Kaleya stream provides water through out the year," Pama Chikanta told the entourage.

Mr Chikanta talked about how gardening has helped them to meet the basic needs. He also mentioned some of the challenges faced.

Health Facility Irks Donors

Siyowi Ward Councilor, Keith Malambo says health disparities are among the many challenges for people in his area.

Mr Malambo said the people in Siyowi have limited healthcare services and minimal specialized care.

"The clinic has insufficient equipment to provide quality health services. Expectant mothers travel long distances to town for delivery because we do not have a maternity annex. Some of them have ended up delivering on their way to town, a situation which threatens the lives of both the mother and baby," Mr Malambo told the donors. He further explained how they have been struggling to improve provision of health care services to the rural residents of Siyowi.

The visitors noted the situation at the clinic with sadness and mentioned the need for improving the facility



The team of donors at the clinic

Experiencing a Cruise on the Zambezi River



A memorable
Visit to
Zambia's
Tourism Capital-
Livingstone

