



Let us keep our school clean

The Environmental Management Act (Chapter 20:27), Section 83 states that;
"It is an offence to discard, dump or leave any litter on any land, street or road except in a container provided for such purpose or at a place which has specifically been designated for such purpose."

Therefore, Environmental Management Agency's mandate is to ensure that every citizen has a right to a clean and safe environment which is not harmful to health.

To this effect EMA encourages all Local Authorities to adopt effective waste management practices in line with the Act.

During the presentation of refuse bins and t-shirts at Mgoqo Primary School in Nkulumane by UCF Executive Director, Mrs. Inviolatta Moyo who said

all citizens were expected to abide by what government institutions like Bulawayo City Council (BCC), Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare advocated about waste disposal.

"It would save the little resources that BCC has if each one of us uses a bin

Mgoqo Primary School Health club patron, Mrs. Everjoy Moyo, expressed gratitude to UCF for the support and the innovative environment campaign that saw the school benefiting.

"The school has always wished to get support



to throw away litter and that would mean less work and refuse removal expenses.

It also helps to avoid household health care expenses by preventing disease and, incidents caused by dirt, said Mrs. Moyo.

EMA has revealed that municipal authorities should work with NGOs, International Agencies, the corporate world and other institutions so that they are able to provide adequate facilities for waste management services such as the provision of waste bins at strategic points.

from business and Non Governmental Organisations as we fall short of sufficient financial resources to sensitize the students and the community on what is expected of them in keeping the city clean," said Mrs Moyo.

UCF Executive Director handed over refuse bins and t-shirts to the 40 health club members and the 5 health club patrons.

The school has an enrolment of 1921 of which 928 are boys and 993 are girls.

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Poem

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

My name is **Health**,
My surname is **Hygiene**,
Many times people turn their backs on me,
I'm knocking on your door, make me your daily habit,
If I were a law, many people would be in prison for life.

My rules are simple,
Sanitize your hands always,
Washing them before handling food,
Make sure your environment is always clean,
All this make my surname **Hygiene**

Taking a bath everyday,
Brushing teeth after every meal,
Make sure your meals are balanced,
Ignoring me has a prize to pay:
Falling sick and some get the worst, **DEATH!**
Don't be one of them,
Take me as your friend,
I AM HEALTH AND HYGIENE

MGOQO PRIMARY SCHOOL HEALTH CLUB

A message from the Executive Director



Inviolatta Moyo
Executive Director– UCF

Believing in environmental stewardship, Uluntu Community Foundation (UCF) with the support of the Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF) launched an environmental awareness programme in selected schools in Bulawayo.

The project, involving five schools was launched in 2014 during which UCF donated 10 branded bins to the schools.

Each participating school was required to be represented by an Environment/ Health Club.

The clubs, led by teachers each have an average of 35 members drawn from the schools at grades 4 to 7. The clubs were challenged to come up with activities of their choice aimed at promoting cleanliness around their schools as well as promoting awareness about the importance of maintaining a clean environment.

Littering was identified as one of the major challenges facing the city of Bulawayo as people were now discarding their rubbish anywhere.

This practise not only presents a health hazard but destroys the beauty of our surroundings.

Taking up the challenge pupils came up with innovative ideas on promoting cleanliness. Some com-

posed poems that were presented during their meetings which are contained in this newsletter.

UCF is pleased to observe the high level of awareness among pupils about the problems of litter and the importance of keeping our environment clean.

We are confident that they will grow up with the sense of responsibility to maintain our environment free from litter and help promote the same spirit in their communities and in the cities too.

It is my pleasure to invite you to read our environment newsletter, detailing the outcomes of the environmental awareness campaign we conducted in cooperation with schools in the City of Bulawayo.

Inviolatta Moyo
Executive Director

Viva Uluntu Viva

***“Forward ever Backward never
Clean body is a healthy body
Healthy Body has a healthy Mind Viva Uluntu”.***

A beautiful slogan from Mqiqika Primary School Health club members in Nketa welcomed Uluntu Community Foundation (UCF) representatives at the presentation ceremony of refuse bins and t-shirts under the Environmental awareness campaign.

The Health club appreciated the work that UCF had been doing in the schools and in the

community. The donations were in line with UCF mission of facilitating sustainable community development through partnership in order to alleviate poverty and hunger in the targeted communities.

UCF Executive Director Mrs. Inviolatta Moyo said schools were considered as appropriate entry paths for behavior change.

“Children, the future heads of households and leaders are open and receptive to change. Uluntu had to partner with local schools in

Bulawayo by supporting the schools to address environmental justice issues facing the community,” said Mrs. Moyo.

Adding that, “UCF believes that the youth who are tomorrow’s leaders have the mandate to participate in the resuscitation of Bulawayo.”

Meanwhile, the Programmes Officer for UCF, Mr. Thulani Moyo encouraged pupils to keep their school, homes and surroundings clean.

“It is evident that the health club is present at this school because there is order

around this school. It is the duty of each club member to sensitize family members, school mates and the rest of the community on issues that pertain to cleanliness and environmental stewardship.

“Cleanliness at school begins with the health club members who in turn are going to be the role models to their peers as well as the society,” said Mr. Moyo.

Promoting environmental cleanliness through song and dance

Singing, poetry, dancing and ululating is part of our culture and that is us.

When that happens know that people are happy and they are in a celebratory mood. This was the mood at Dumezweni Primary school in Pumula South when Uluntu Community Foundation (UCF) presented refuse bins and t-shirts to the Health club members and patrons.



Health Club members received and wore the T-shirts with great joy and enthusiasm promising to sensitize their families and the rest of the community in the area.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony UCF

Executive Director, Mrs Inviolatta Moyo said the litter bins conveyed an environmentally friendly message appealing for better care and management of the environment around the schools and the city of Bulawayo.

“UCF has partnered up with schools in the campaign against littering of the City of Bulawayo,” said Mrs Moyo. “We have been authorized by Bulawayo City Council and the Ministry of Education to sensitize all citizens through Health Clubs in schools.

Health Club members were urged to teach their communities about waste management and promote the use of litter bins.

“Cleanliness at school begins with the health club members who in turn are expected to be the role models to their peers as well as their households and community.”

Issues of waste management that were discussed including the improper disposal of litter which may be a breeding place for disease causing organisms (pathogens). Litter may cause injury for example tins, broken bottles and banana peels.

Litter can also pollute the environment and wa-

ter sources, and some litter releases dangerous chemical substances as they decompose.

Dumezweni Primary School Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Absalom Richard Mahwede, thanked UCF and challenged the club members and the rest of the school to play their part and effectively spread the message about cleanliness.

“I am encouraging pupils to throw all litter they come across in the bins not on the grounds and hopefully this would make other pupils in the school do the same.”

Meanwhile, the health club patron Ms. Betty Ndiweni said there was behaviour change on litter dumping at school as pupils were now throwing litter in the appropriate places.

“Litter is now placed on proper dumping point ready for collection after every two weeks by the Bulawayo City Council garbage collectors. The club members are taking a lead in keep the school clean and we are grateful to UCF for the campaign,” said Ms. Ndiweni.

“ Charity begins at home!”

Senzangakhona Primary School in Emganwini Suburb of Bulawayo is one of the five schools in Bulawayo that were part of the Uluntu Community Foundation sponsored environmental awareness campaign.

The school received two refuse bins and t-shirts that were donated during a hand over ceremony at which UCF Programmes Officer, Mr Thulani Moyo encouraged club members and other pupils to address issues of cleanliness.

“I encourage you all too fully exert your efforts on cleanliness as it is the most important first to you, the school and the rest of the community. Charity begins at home; therefore cleanliness should start with an individual.”

Mr. Moyo said health Club members should recruit more members to spread the mes-



sage and get more pupils involved in keeping their school clean.

The School's Health Club Patron. Mrs. Ntabiso Bhebhe encouraged club members to be environmental cautious so as to keep their school and surroundings clean.

“I encourage you all to be environmentally cautious and pick up every litter that you come across and throw it to the bin not on the ground, and so doing you would encourage the other students in the school to follow suit resulting in clean school grounds,” said Mrs Bhebhe.

Mrs Bhebhe said the bins and T-shirts came in at a time when the club was working on achieving its goal of complete cleanliness at the school.

“The donation of bins by Uluntu Community Foundation (UCF) came in at a time when the school really needed the bins as they would help the club in achieving its goal of keeping the school clean,” she said.

Senzangakhona Primary School has an enrolment of 2070 of which 1007 boys and 1063 girls. The health club has 65 members between grade 4 and 7, and 4 patrons.

Who is Uluntu Community Foundation?

Uluntu Community Foundation (UCF) was registered in 2008 to provide a people centred mechanism for community development and empowerment in Matabeleland Provinces.

Uluntu is a SiNdebele word meaning people. The name embodies the spirit of gathering, sharing and expanding resources and togetherness. Uluntu Community Foundation (UCF) believes in fostering positive community change through capacity building, training and philanthropy in the area of education, women's economic empowerment, HIV/AIDS and protection of the environment.

True to the adage that 'Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu' (I am because

you are), UCF) is convinced that sound education and sustained livelihoods and care for our environment are the corner stones of human development, and be it indigenous knowledge or knowledge acquired through formal education.

UCF also believes in human development through the application of practical poverty alleviation strategies. This is so because community development is not an individual effort but a participatory process that embraces many people.

Community development is driven by the community and not by individuals. The Foundation is therefore committed to galvanizing community support in furthering sustained livelihoods in the Matabeleland South

and North Provinces of Zimbabwe.

UCF focus on the following areas specially to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit for the good of all communities in its areas of focus: Food Security and Livelihoods, Education, Research, and Social Entrepreneurship.

The foundation serves as a convener, a broker and catalyst for community empowerment through training and grant making.

UCF seeks to provide tools for the building of resources (financial, technical, material and intellectual) within and outside communities in the Matabeleland provinces.

The tools enhanced collaboration skills and seed resources to mobilize local philanthropy, build leadership and promote entrepreneurship at community level. Uluntu offers an accountable and direct channel to the people- the drivers of development in the region.

Our Vision:

Uluntu which means 'people' envisions independent and self-reliant communities (men, women and children) free from poverty and hunger in a sustainable environment.

Our Mission:

Facilitate sustainable community development through partnership in order to alleviate poverty and hunger in the targeted communities.

Our Values:

UCF shall abide by the value below:

- Integrity
- Accessibility
- Trustworthiness
- Transparency
- Inclusiveness
- Innovation

Waste, a threat to the environment

Wastes represent a glaring threat to the environment and to human health if not handled and disposed properly. Cities and towns, streets, roads, pathways, parks and public places, lakes, households and premises get highly polluted with the increasing wastes of every description.

Wastes include all substances that have no longer any use for people, and are either discarded or intended to be discarded or need to be disposed. Routine and daily activities generate a large quantity of waste, which is directly proportional to the standard of living and the rate of domestic consumption.

During rains waste can contaminate surface and ground water which has disastrous effect on the ecosystems. Waste may also generate leachate, the liquid that forms as water trickles through contaminated areas.

However, non-degradable wastes such as plastic bags and papers create maximum problem in waste disposal and cause damage to the environment.

It is against this background that Uluntu Community Foundation (UCF) partnered with

Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF) and Bulawayo City Council (BCC) to come up with an environmental awareness campaign on litter.

The campaign was held under the theme: "Do not be a litter bug!" and saw five primary schools within the City of Bulawayo benefiting, namely; Mgiqika, Mgoqo, Senzangakhona, Tategulu and Dumezweni. Each school got refuse bins with an environmental friendly message and also t-shirts were given to members of the health clubs with the same message as inscribed on the bins: "Do not be a litter bug".

Schools are considered as appropriate entry paths for behaviour change. Children, the future heads of households and leaders are open and receptive to change, hence the partnership of Uluntu and local schools in Bulawayo by supporting the schools in channelling and addressing environmental justice issues

facing the community.

This project seeks to strengthen the City Council's efforts in waste management by increasing awareness on environmental issues through Health Clubs in selected schools in the city.

The city is slowly becoming a site of waste and the BCC is unable to adequately function to its full capacity due to lack of adequate resources.

Improper disposal of solid waste material could be a health hazard. This increases risk of injury and infection. Flies breed in some constituents of solid wastes, and flies are very effective vectors that spread diseases such as malaria.

Uluntu believes that smart and healthy living environments are centred on community engagements, regulations, communication and education to promote safe environment and welfare of citizens.

The waste management strategy, thus, should focus on the "reduce, reuse and recycle" principle. Reducing wastes includes any process or activity that avoids, reduces or eliminates waste at its source or results in reuse or recycling.

Reuse may include repeated use of the item for the same purpose (plastic containers) or new-life reuse where it is used for a new purpose (paper first for writing and subsequently for packing).

Recycling involves the treatment or reprocessing of a discarded waste material to make it suitable for its subsequent reuse either in its original form or for other purpose. Recycling has twin benefits: it reduces inputs for the new product as also reduces the waste due for disposal.

Members of the School health clubs coined the messages and awareness workshops were held in the selected schools and memorabilia inscribed with relevant messages distributed to the teachers and pupils.

The campaign was to resuscitate the cleanliness of the City of Bulawayo starting from the city centre and advancing to their respective urban townships.



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Did you Know?

General effects of litter on health...

- Risk to human beings-discarded broken cans and cups can hold rain water and provide a good breeding place for vectors like mosquitoes resulting to malaria outbreak.
- 18% of the litter is carried through the storm water drains end up in our water sources, and toxins are deposited in water.
- There is clogging of the storm water draining system leading to pools that become breeding places for disease causing organisms.
- The cigarette butt may have disease carrying from the smoker's mouth and thereby transmitting pathogens.
- The cigar butt filter is a threat to organisms like fish, birds, whales which may mistake them for food.
- Hazardous substances contained in the litter and illegally dumped rubbish can leach into water sources, contaminate soil and pollute the air.
- Some people have had fractures and become disabled for life after having slipped over banana peels.
- Sharp objects like broken bottles, tins, needles, glasses have caused serious injury to human life.
- Siltation of water sources when excess litter is deposited in.