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A project of the Bulawayo Churches in support of aspiring Small-scale entrepreneurs.

## Nketa Business Incubation Centre update

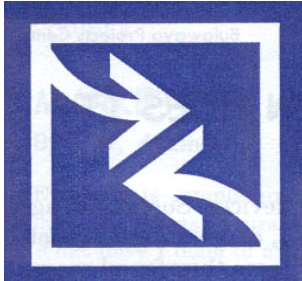


The residents of Nketa high density suburb are very excited because the construction of their Business Incubation Centre is finally underway. The design was modified to accommodate more business start-

ups, as well as space for training. Water, sewage and electricity connections have been partly done. A container was moved to the building site for temporary storage and

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*Picture above:  
The construction of the Business Incubation Centre in Nketa suburb is underway.*



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## International Youth Foundation (IYF): Entrepreneurship training



After many months of negotiations, an agreement was concluded with the International Youth Foundation (IYF) to train more than 1000 unemployed youth in entrepreneurship. The initial focus is on youth who are already involved in income generation activi-

ties. The project started on the first of September and will run for one year. During the first two weeks of September 80 youths, drawn from the 'catchment areas' of the 4 business incubation centres in Bulawayo, attended the course. A gender friendly and sensitive environment has been created, allowing young women with children to attend, while the children are taken care of and allowing women

*Picture left: The first group of young entrepreneurs who attended the IYF training course at the main Centre in Thorngrove.*

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# Nketa Business Incubation Centre continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

to facilitate an electricity connection before the completion of the main structure. The main structure is being funded by individual donations from the Netherlands topped up by the 'Wild Geese', who added 50%. The total amount raised was €90,000. Many thanks to our friends in the Netherlands for this incredible gift. However there is still a funding gap; it is estimated that \$50,000 will be needed to complete the project. We therefore continue appealing to the Bulawayo Churches to help us find resources to complete the project. The Rotary Club of Bulawayo South has generously contributed \$10,000 towards furniture and equipment. The manufacture of furniture has already started. This is done as a practical training project, involving members who are now running their own business, assisted by trainee's. When completed the Business Incubation Centre will be able to host up to 50 new start-ups per year. These new businesses will pay rent to cover the running expenses of the Centre. Once established, these businesses will be encouraged to move out and make place for new start-ups. But businesses who are involved in training and coaching new members will be allowed to stay. This recipe has proved successful over the years, especially as it creates an inspirational environment for new members who are being trained. More than 200 youths are expected to be trained in Nketa this year, even before the facility is completed. The Nketa Business Incubation Centre is the fourth such facility in Bulawayo, the other three centres being in Thorngrove, Njube and Cowdray Park.



*Pictures clockwise from top: The Nketa Business Incubation Centre construction site; A young trainee is assisting in the assembly of furniture; Calvinzia Chuma (left in picture) who is in charge of the furniture manufacturing project is assisted by 3 trainee's; Training and coaching the youth in a business friendly environment.*



**The mission of the Bulawayo Projects Centre is to provide encouragement, support and assistance to underprivileged unemployed members of society, who aspire to be self-employed. In doing so, we aim to create opportunities for development of the whole person, both materially and spiritually, recognising that each person has received God-given talents.**

## Rural farmer training program

The Rural Farmer Training Program had to be scaled down because of funding challenges. The two donor organizations OXFAM/Novib and ICCO, both based in the Netherlands, who have supported the 'Market gardening is a Business' training for several years, have indicated that they are leaving Zimbabwe, due to diminishing resources. An evaluation was carried out early this year of the training conducted at Silalabuhwa Irrigation project in Insiza District, a 400 ha scheme with just over 800 farmers. This is one of three projects that was supported by ICCO. The evaluation revealed that many farmers who initially showed little interest in attending the training course (since it required the payment of a small fee and it did not involve a free lunch), have changed their mind and now wish to be trained. The evaluation also brought to light the disappointment of many farmers in failing to get

paid in time for their produce or failing to sell their produce altogether. The Worringham factory of National Distributors in particular, delayed paying for the garlic crop prompting some farmers to decide not to plant garlic this year.

Despite the funding challenges the Projects Centre, continues to work with the rural irrigation farmers, to provide extension services and facilitate market linkages. The training program has been temporarily shelved, while efforts are made to raise financial support for farmer training. The cash flow challenges of the Worringham Factory have been solved and the factory is now looking to buy large quantities of groundnuts, butternut, garlic, tomatoes and other produce. The focus is therefore now on encouraging farmers to grow groundnuts during the rainy season for the production of peanut butter. One Tonne groundnut seed is currently being distributed to farmers at Siwazi and Silalabuhwa irrigation projects. For every kg of seed issued the farmer is to return 2kg.



Picture above: Two members of Siwazi irrigation project (Insiza District) received 10kg groundnut seed each for 0.1ha.

The factory is also keen to buy the garlic harvest, which will be ready in October through November.

## Global bags

There is an English saying that states fortune favours the brave. This can be learnt from a three member group of former Monarch Steel employees who were retrenched by the company and they decided to start their own bag manufacturing company called Global Leather. The business incubation facility of the Projects Centre at Thorngrove, was the answer to their business dream.

The 3-member group were trained in Micro-MBA (Business Management) and Financial Literacy. The two trainings courses equipped the group with both business and financial literacy skills needed for a successful small business venture. Global Bags have established an effective production unit and are producing high quality bags and satchels. The centre is assisting the members to formally register the company so that they are able penetrate bigger markets. To date the company has

**Global Bags**

For Quality & Genuine bags buy from Global bags, get value for your money.  
 For Enquiries & Orders, contact: Wilbert Dube-0775 232 482 and Francis Sibanda- 0773 661 944  
 Or Visit us @Bulawayo Projects Centre in Thorngrove

created jobs for five other retrenched from the same company. (By Beauty Macheka)

## Study Leave for Director

Mr Thabang Nare, who joined the Projects Centre as Director at the beginning of the year, has been granted leave of absence to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States for a period of 10 months. He left on the 1st of September. Mr Thabang was granted a Hubert Humphrey Fellowship, which he hopes will enrich his professional life, while he aims to establish new links and networks, to



generate support for the work of the Projects Centre. We wish him well and look forward to his return to the BPC in July next year.

## IYF training continued



(Continued from page 1) with babies to breast feed. Churches are invited to inform their young unemployed members about this opportunity to learn about how to run a business. The training will be followed up by skills training, mentoring and linking young entrepreneurs to micro-credit organisations (who are also supported by IYF).

Picture left: The first training session of young entrepreneurs at the Thorngrove Projects Centre

## Innovative businesses



I joined Bulawayo Projects centre in 2013 and was trained in Micro-MBA and taught the importance of 'finding a gap', marketing my business, record keeping and on the importance of producing high quality products which has helped me a lot. Before I joined BPC I

*Picture on left: A.B. Mataz putting finishing touches to one of his products.*

## A.B. Mataz welders

had challenges managing my business properly After I got work space at Njube Projects Centre my business became better as I got the chance to interact with other entrepreneurs where we shared ideas. My products are sold in the surrounding area and also through social media like

whatsapp although I wish to be able to advertise through television in order to reach customers nationwide. I manufacture the following products: door frames, window frames, scotch carts, sliding gates etc, I also provide training and employment to young people.

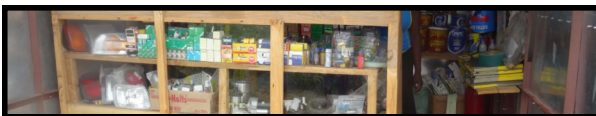
## Cowdray Park Motor Spares

I Knowledge Vengesai began operations at Bulawayo Project Centre in January 2016. I sell motor spares. I order my stock here in Bulawayo and some of it in Harare. Like any new business, it was not easy during the first

months of operations. But after marketing my business I have a different story to tell now because I have a significant market. I am able to pay my rentals as they fall due. I find positioning of my business at the Bulawayo Project Centre a big advantage because I am exposed now to a lot of cars especially the Kombis that pick and drop off people a few metres away from my shop.

I can be contacted at: 0777640072

*Picture on left: Knowledge Vengesai in her motor-spares shop at Cowdray Park.*



*Picture on left: A sewing class in session at Cowdray Park Park. Business Incubation centre*



## How to contact us

### The BPC main centre and offices are in Thorngrove suburb of Bulawayo:

Acting Project Coordinator: Beauty Macheke, mobile: 0733822287;

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Administrator: Busi Ndlovu, mobile: 0718399662, email: [busiendlovu@gmail.com](mailto:busiendlovu@gmail.com)

### Business Centre managers:

- Nketa Business Centre is at Agape Mission Church: Nhlanhla Ncube, mobile: 0712915842; email: [nhlanhlancube45@yahoo.com](mailto:nhlanhlancube45@yahoo.com)
- Njube Business Centre is at the old John Dube market: Charles Goora, mobile: 0734818908; email: [charlesgoora@yahoo.com](mailto:charlesgoora@yahoo.com)
- Cowdray Park Business Centre is adjacent to the Brethren in Christ Church: Lindiwe Moyo, mobile: 0775874191; email: [lindwemoyo73@gmail.com](mailto:lindwemoyo73@gmail.com)
- Thorngrove Business Centre: Maxmillion Moyo, mobile: 0733896273; email: [maxmillionmoyo8@gmail.com](mailto:maxmillionmoyo8@gmail.com)

### Board of Trustees:

Pastor Ray Motsi, President of the National Zimbabwe Pastors Conference and President of the Theological College of Zimbabwe (TCZ).

Mr Piet te Velde, Rural Development Consultant and member of the Presbyterian Church.

Bishop Lunga, Anglican Church

Pastor Dixon Changara, Celebration Church

Pastor Patson Netha, Turning Matabeleland Green (TMG).

### Executive committee members:

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Bishop Tawana Phuma, Vice chairman (New Life for All Church)

Mr P. te Velde, Treasurer (City Presbyterian Church)

Mr N. Ncube, Business Adviser (Brethren in Christ Church)

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Rev Sibanda, Brethren in Christ Church, Cowdray Park

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