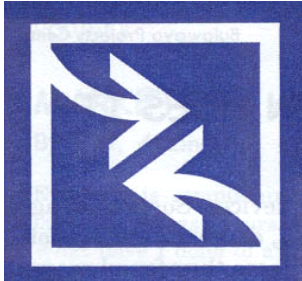


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A project of the Bulawayo Churches in support of aspiring small-scale entrepreneurs.



## Container from 'Tools to Work'

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Many thanks to 'Tools to Work' in the Netherlands for donating another container full of used equipment and tools to the Bulawayo Projects Centre. This was the fourth container received since the inception of the BPC in 1993 and it arrived in January.

One a rainy day in February, ahead of a meeting of the Executive Committee, the container was unlocked by Busie Ndhlovu. The container, packed with more than 100 bicycles, sewing machines, computers and lots of tools, was temporarily delivered to the main centre at Thorngrove, where the contents were put in storage, after which the empty container was moved to the new business incubation centre under construction in Nketa. Members of Nketa Business Incubation Centre will use it to store materials and equipment for their business start-ups. New businesses will include the assembly and repair of bicycles and



bicycle accessories, as well as solar products, such as solar cookers. A shed is under construction to create working space for these new businesses.

Some of the donated tools and equipment, particularly the computers and sewing machines, will be used for training, while at the appropriate time tools and/or equipment can be

made available to new start-ups for a token fee. The bicycles will be assembled as part of a bicycle mechanic training course and issued (also for a token fee) to members who need a bicycle for their business. The tools and equipment and especially the bicycles will be a tremendous boost for new business start-ups and enhance the relevance of the training sessions.

(More pictures on page 3.)

*Picture above: Opening of the container by the administrator, Busie Ndhlovu*

*Picture below: About half of the Business Incubation Centre in Nketa suburb has been completed and is ready for use.*





## Nketa Business Incubation Centre

About half of the Business Incubation and Training Centre in Nketa high density suburb has been completed and is ready for use; the completed part includes six rooms which will be used by new business start-ups, and toilet facilities. One of the rooms will be reserved for computer training, while the other five rooms will be rented out on first come, first served basis.

The pictures on the right show the foundations of the six rooms at the early stage of construction and the completed part of the complex.

A number of manufacturing businesses will make use of two containers and a manufacturing shed that is under construction (see pictures below). The new shed is required to manufacture solar cookers and other solar products, while it can also be used to assemble the Dutch bikes.

*Pictures clockwise from top: Foundation of the Training and Business Incubation Centre in Nketa; the completed part of the new Centre; Container from 'Tools to Work'; A shed for manufacturing businesses under construction.*



## Rural farmer training program

The Rural Farmer training program, which was facing funding challenges last year following the withdrawal of ICCO and OXFAM/Novib, was rescued by a grant from Stichting Levante from the Netherlands. Further support is expected from Dan Church Aid (DCA). Until June the activities were limited to monitoring and extension activities and facilitating market linkages, but training will resume shortly. The farmers were

able to sell 4T of garlic to the factory in Worringham, while the target for next year is 20T. 1T groundnut seed was distributed and harvesting of groundnuts is in progress. The biggest challenge is to source sufficient cash to buy the crop, but it is crucial that the farmers are paid promptly and in cash for their produce.

**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.**



# The container



Left; Bishop Phuma, Pastor Moyo and Chairman Dumisani Nkomo are taking a look at the contents of the container form 'Tools to Work', a gift from the people of the Netherlands.

Pictures below: Solar cooker demonstration at the Cowdray Park Centre.



# 'Dot Youth'

Bulawayo Projects Centre has won a vocational skills training tender, to train 110 out-of-school young girls from Dot Youth. Dot Youth is a youth community-based organisation, supporting girls in Bulawayo. The tar-

geted group, the young girls in Bulawayo, are in particular unfavourable situations, their lives have been undermined by HIV/AIDS, unplanned pregnancies, poverty, economic decline, gender inequality,

social inequalities and political discord. Under this partnership, Dot Youth identifies participants across the high density suburbs of Bulawayo and refers them to BPC for training, while BPC provide quality tailor-made trainings in a gender sensitive and friendly environment. On completion of training, BPC will engage the private sector for work-

placements under both formal and informal apprenticeships. The training is fully paid by Dot Youth. This training aims at reducing Bulawayo's young women's poverty through market-driven vocational training, skills development and linkages to prospect employment opportunities through a post-training work-readiness and exposure program. Courses currently offered are hotel and catering, hairdressing, motor mechanics and event management. The agreement runs up to October 2017.



Picture left: The first group of young girls during their training at Thorngrove Centre.



## Innovative businesses



## Country Safes defies odds, expands to city centre.

Country Safes, a small money safe manufacturing company operating at our main centre in Thorngrove, has opened a sales outlet in the city centre, at a time when many companies are either closing or scaling down their operations. Country Safes is owned by Muzorodzi and Vongai, who are both members of the BPC, and they attended a Micro-MBA Business training course in 2016. The skills acquired have enabled the two to sustain and grow their businesses. The company manufactures money safes, gun safes and strong doors. Their key

customers are schools, mines, gold dealers and businesses in and around Matabeleland. With a previous staff complement of four, the company has created additional jobs for three more people. They have opened a sales outlet shop at Treger building in the city centre. Apart from money safes, new products such as key cutting, locksmith and ecocash have been introduced in the new shop to cushion the company from the unfavourable trading environment prevailing in the country..

*Muzorodzi can be contacted on 0774319428*

*(By Maxmillion Moyo)*

*Picture above: The new Country Safes shop in town.*

*Picture left: Country Safes production facility at Thorngrove Centre.*

## How to contact us

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Administrator: Busie Ndhlovu, mobile: 0718399662, email: [busiendhlovu@gmail.com](mailto:busiendhlovu@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.

Pastor Dixon Changara, Celebration Church

Pastor Patson Netha, Turning Matabeleland Green (TMG).

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