QOGELELA COMES TO TSHITSHI

TSHITSHI COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND LAUNCHED ON 13th OCTOBER 2017

Women from the Self-Help Groups celebrate their achievements

UKUQOGELELA
is a Ndebele word meaning to collect with the aim of saving for future use. It is a concept that is inherent in the culture and tradition of the people in the western parts of Zimbabwe.

“We as the Assembly of Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC) pledge $1,000 to boost the Tshitshi Community in their efforts of building their Endowment Fund,” said the ACAC chairman Headman Zibuyeni Ncube as he officially launched the endowment building programme in the area.

Tshitshi Ward in Mangwe District has fully embraced the Qogeleta concept – a collective savings programme for community development. The endowment building initiative which is set to address all social and economic challenges was launched at Tshitshi Business Centre on Friday, 13th October 2017.
During the event, women from different Self-Help Groups sang songs and recited poems about *Qogelela* and how it has helped improve their lives. Ms Kuda Chigogo from Tshitshi encouraged women to wake up and do something for their families rather than being idle: “Wake up, oh woman, and work for your family, so that your children are not returned from school because they did not pay their fees.”

The *Qogelela* concept has played a significant role in the lives of the people of Bulilima and Mangwe Districts. Women have often been regarded as vulnerable members of the community and unable to fend for themselves. With *Qogelela*, they are now able to run small business and earn an income which in turn helps them take care of their immediate family needs.

Mrs Ndlovu, a member of the Thandanani Cluster of Silima in Mangwe, spoke for many other women when she said: “I had nothing to my name. I was very poor and relied on other people for survival. But because of *Qogelela* I am able to take care of myself and my children.”

Dignitaries like the Hon Minister for Small to Medium Enterprises, Hon Sthembiso Nyoni, as well as the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Mangwe MP, Hon Obedingwa Mguni, applauded the initiative. Hon Mguni urged people to be part of such a programme and help in their different spheres of influence and abilities. His joy for the initiative was augmented by a pledge of $100 as a way of lending a hand to the women and adding to *Qogelela*.

Tshitshi joins Ndiweni, Empandeni West, Mzaza, Embakwe, Silima, Thekwane, Enyele and Ngwanyana in the journey of building the Community Endowment Fund that will, in the long term, address bigger community needs.

ACAC Secretary Councilor Phakamisa Sibanda took stock of the present community endowment initiatives in Mangwe and Bulilima Districts. He stated that the total amount that has been pooled together by communities now amounts to **$89,362.51**. However, the communities of Bulilima and Mangwe have the ambitious goal of raising US$10 million in 10 years.

(see text box on page 3)
From the speech by the Secretary of the Assembly of Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC), Cllr Phakamisa Sibanda:

We have so far received from CFWRZ a total Seed Fund amounting to $4,307.92 for the communities participating in the endowment building programme. This fund was invested through community social enterprises, creating a Local Community Fund that amounts to $13,538.23 and is meant to solve immediate community challenges. Through Qogelela, the women in the Self-Help Groups have done a tremendous job and contributed $66,720.36 to the Common Fund. This fund is meant to cater for their immediate family needs.

The total of the Endowment Fund being invested by CFWRZ amounts to $4,796.00. This Community Endowment Fund will be used to cater for long term community needs. The monies that have been pooled together by communities now amount to $89,362.51. However, as the communities of Bulilima and Mangwe, we have the ambitious goal of raising US$10 million in 10 years.
THE TSHITSHI ENDOWMENT BUILDING LAUNCH

IN PICTURES
If we all can contribute towards Qogelela we will not only benefit ourselves but even the orphans will be catered for.

Chief Tshitshi

If you want to succeed always put development first and politics last.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and Mangwe MP
Hon O Mguni
THE COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT DEVELOPMENT MODEL OF CFWRZ

Endowment as a sustainable social livelihoods strategy

Rather than perpetuate dependency, CFWRZ’s development approach is based upon endowment building of rural communities, i.e. *Qogelela*. The Foundation promotes the inculcation of entrepreneurial skills as well as business confidence amongst community members in order to build their capacity, self-esteem and sustainability. An endowment provides a permanent source of funds for betterment projects that will positively affect the community year after year. The ownership of an endowment also gives communities a degree of independence from funding trends that are outside of their control and increases their capacity to plan over a long term because they are always assured of being able to fund their development initiatives.

How does an endowment benefit communities?

- It provides sustainability, affects fundamental positive change in the communities and serves the changing needs of the communities.
- Local ownership of resources – an endowment – can be a means of holding and stewarding a collective resource for a group or community. Having ownership over this resource can enable a community to set its own priorities.

How does it work?

By adopting profit ideas, CFWRZ and the communities realise a sustainable development future based on building local financial capacities and sustainability through ‘donor seed fund’ support and ‘ukuqogelela’ – which is a form of community wealth fund creation through cash contributions or in kind. *Ukuqogelela* confirms the quest by the contributors to own the development process by watching their investments grow and participating in the creation of a sovereign revolving fund to sustain their social enterprises.

More details of the Community Endowment Development Model are shown in the graph on page 7
Social Enterprises
(Microfinance, Self-Help Groups, Water Supply etc)

Local Community Funds

Community Development Initiatives

Improved standard of living and self-sufficiency

Grants/Seed Fund

CFWRZ Endowment

Contributions towards the Community Endowment

Loans

Donations (Cash/kind)
Lunch was provided by local women and thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants.
CFWRZ Board and Staff would like to extend their sincere gratitude to

- Uluntu Community Foundation
- Vleiland Trading
- Sethule Lodge
- Blue Island
- Jodi Investments
- Justice Clothing
- Fasha Trading