

Chemhondoro Primary and Secondary  
P.O Box 122  
Murewa

31 January 2012

The President  
Rotary Club of Harare

Dear Sir/Madam

**REF: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS SHAVANHOWE RIVER IN MUREWA**

On behalf of the community comprising Maponga, Seke 2 and Chigaramasimbe villagers, we, the undersigned Heads of Chemhondoro Primary and Secondary schools, are kindly asking for assistance to construct a footbridge across Shavanhowe River. This has been as a result of numerous inconveniences and disasters the river has caused for several decades.

The river cuts off the above communities from essential rural service centres like; Chemhondoro Primary and Secondary schools, Domborembudzi Service Centre and Musami Hospital. These service centres are very close to them, yet so far away because of this river. The details below reflect the number of people deprived of the services across the river;

- There are about 250 parents in the communities in question.
- There are 265 students attending school at Chemhondoro Primary.
- There are 135 students attending school at Chemhondoro Secondary.
- We are anticipating about 6-10 students to be enrolled for lower sixth form as soon as O' level results are out.
- Amongst the 265 students at Chemhondoro Primary, are infants attending Early Childhood Development (ECD).

The above mentioned categories of people are immensely affected as follows;

- Parents have to assist their children across the river every morning on their way to school.
- Parents have to do the same around 10:00am for those students who attend lessons in the afternoon since the two schools have double sessions.
- To make matters worse the parents have to assist the students cross back home at two intervals, that is 1:00pm and 4:00pm as dismissal time for both sessions is different.
- By so doing parents commit more of their time to assisting pupils across the river, time which they would have devoted to other productive activities.

-More so we have had cases where students' stationery has been washed away or dampened as they cross the river.

When the river is flooded, there is no option but to travel about 5-9km, then they would cross the river at Shavanhowe Bridge along Nyamapanda road. They will then have to travel another 3km to school. By the time students arrive at school they will be tired and in most cases they arrive very late. This scenario also affects parents when they seek services at Domborembudzi Growth Point and Musami Hospital.

On a rather sad note, lives have been lost over the past decades. From consultations 19 people lost their lives as they made attempts to cross the river. Of the 19, thirteen were students. The last known victims were a grade one pupil who drowned in November 2011 and an adult who drowned whilst crossing the river on his way to his relatives homestead on 22 December 2011.

In light of the above, the communities have advocated for a footbridge to counter such problems. It is interesting to note that members of the communities above have recently gathered and formed a committee which will lead them in the event that a well wisher comes on board to assist them. The committee stands as follows;

Chairman	-Chidyamudungwe Mapeni
Vice	-Maponga Edwick
Secretary	-Chingoriwo Steven
Vice	-Chawo Diana
Committee members	-1) Abudala Godfrey -2) Tapfumaneyi Stanley
Security	-1) Chemani Tabula -2) Tapfumanei Timothy

The above committee and parents have unanimously agreed that they will complement by providing labour, crushing concrete stones, providing sand, water and even volunteering equipment like wheelbarrows, carts and any other locally available, to see the project through. They have even gone to the extent of forming groups which would work at the site on a rotational basis.

It is on the basis of this strong commitment by the communities that we, the Heads of the two schools, with the interests of the communities, have written to you with great hope that you may come to their rescue.

Consideration of our request will be most welcome.

THE HEAD  
CHEMHONDORO PRIMARY SCHOOL  
03 FEB 2012  
P.O. BOX 122 MREWA  
ZIMBABWE  
(TEL): 0012 996 423

THE HEAD  
CHEMHONDORO HIGH SCHOOL  
03 FEB 2012  
MUNBERO BOKUTAHADZ  
TELEPHONE (078) 2042

Yours sincerely

Head Primary... NYANDORO A.T.

Signed... *[Signature]*

Head Secondary... MUNBERO BOKUTAHADZ

Signed... *[Signature]*

Community Project Chairperson

Name... CHIDJAMUDUNGWE MAPENI, F. ID. 47-014138J 47 Signed... *mapeni*

Secretary

Name... CHINGORIWO STEPHEN, T. ID. 47-071808A 47 Signed... *Stephen*