

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NOOK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

A. ACTION NARRATIVE

The idea of the nook project was introduced to the Matibi community beginning the month of March 2019. Abhijit and Adnos had had a brief meeting in Harare the previous month, the agenda being to pursue the nook idea which had come up recently when Abhijit met Oliver in Switzerland.

The easy buy-in of the community was facilitated by the fact that the FFM was already considering putting up a community internet facility at the behest of the community. The community had wanted an internet facility at the ward centre but with the limitation of lack of enabling infrastructure such as electricity. For a time there was a raging debate over the site of the nook corner. Ultimately the ward centre at Murawi Business Centre was selected with the idea to make do with solar power.

The FFM approached the District Council in April to introduce the project and make a formal request for space, which was granted without much drudgery. On the 15th of May the Council and the FFM went to the Murawi to site the nook space, and the Council Engineer pegged out a space of 1 acre for this project. The pegging of the site was fasttracked, and was followed by a series of meetings to sanitise it as a matter of formality. In view of that, the FFM prepared the requested paperwork and attended the requisite meetings.

The next action was the designing of the nook hall, an assignment which the FFM gave to one Genesis Architectural Designs. Within a space of hardly 2 weeks the plan was on paper, and in the following week the architect provided the Bill of Quantities (BoQ). Among other items, the BoQ included 65 thousand standard-size farm bricks where each of 17 villages would mould 4 thousand. By end of June all the bricks were made including the ones needed to construct Blair toilets.

A somewhat long consultative phase took place between June and August, where the FFM was being guided by Council to get the nook plan analysed and approved by key stakeholders especially the environmental health technician (EHT) of the Ministry of

Health. Meanwhile the builders were being mobilised with a view to working with community volunteers, who requested the supervision of the Council inspectors in the ensuing work. Thus the FFM passed this request to Council and it was granted.

A total of 23 local builders came up and offered to build the nook hall on voluntary terms. However, the Council inspector advised that it was ideal to have 13 builders working with 13 assistants. Land clearance was scheduled to commence Wednesday 4 September on the sidelines of a budget meeting to determine what the builders would need on top of the materials listed on the BoQ.

B. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The above actions were implemented with 858 USD worth of expenses by the 2nd of September. The expenditure is broken down as follows:

Fuel 14 May (60)

Car hire 14 May (30)

Food 15 May (38)

Food and transport 21 May (26)

Printing 5xA1 copies of nook design (20)

Bricks inspection (20)

Car hire for Council meeting 21 June –fuel included (80)

Transport for builders mobilisation meeting 23 August (62)

Food for 23 August meeting – 23 people (50)

Transport and food for extraordinary Council 26 August (26)

Plan approval by Council (192)

Health inspection by EHT (4)

Car hire 2 September for setting out meeting (38)

Inspectors' token (10)

Food 2 September (50)

C. EXPECTED EXPENSES GOING FORWARD

Tokens for 13 builders (1300 in total)

Tokens for general hands (650)

1 beast for relish during construction (400)

Equipment (---)* to be budgeted separately in detail

Car hiring for next 10 inspection visits (300)

Inspectors tokens for next 10 inspections (100)

D. OTHER NOTES

We were allocated 2 inspectors

The rough calculation is that the nook can be completed in about 2 months from digging

Some 542 USD at hand by 2 September