

# Newsletter



To Hewlett Packard Norge AS

05<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

## Quarter report for April to June



### Introduction

Rosamystica Community School is located in Matero compound about 20KMs North-west of Lusaka town. Matero is one of the most densely populated compounds in Lusaka. The compound has high rates of unemployment, the majority of people earn their living through conducting informal business activities such as selling groceries, vegetables and in some cases stone crashing. Matero is also considered as a high crime rate area in Lusaka and the compound is resident to a lot of thugs, criminals and ex-convicts who terrorise the community on a daily basis.

The community school has received financial support worth 117,500 NOK in 2009 from Hewlett Packard Norge AS. The support has been earmarked for construction of various school structures.

Construction works at Rosamystica Community School has just commenced and most of the work is being done simultaneously to speed up the construction in readiness for the second school term as the children are currently on a school break.



Since Matero is a high crime rate area, the first thing the school committee decided was to build a wall fence around the school structure so that when materials are being bought to finish the construction of classrooms they can be locked up in a secure place to avoid theft. The wall fence has been built and only a gate remains to be put up to completely secure the place, over 4,000 blocks and cement has been used to build this wall fence.

As a result of this, materials such as doors, door frames, windows, window frames, paint, and cement among others that have already been bought have not been delivered at the school until the gate is put up. The said materials have been paid for but are still with the suppliers and only what is needed is taken to the site for construction of the wall fence.



Excavation of pits for the toilets



dilapidated structure to be turned into classrooms

The school has a makeshift building which looks like a dilapidated warehouse that needs to be partitioned or demarcated into classrooms. The partitioning has been done and the building shall have a block of four (4) classrooms, a library, an office for the teachers, and two (2) skills training classrooms for tailoring and netting.

The plastering of the walls inside and outside the building shall start as soon as the partitioning is completed. Immediately the plastering of walls is complete, the bricklayers shall start putting up the floor in all the rooms. Thereafter, the floor shall be given a bit of time before the painting of the whole structure can commence (curing time).

The support from Hewlett Packard Norge AS has also made it possible for the Rosamystica community school to have toilets for both the pupils and the teachers. There is currently no toilets at the school structure and no sewerage system.

The excavation of pits for the toilets has already started and very soon they will start the actual construction of the pit latrines. The pupils at the school shall have four (4) VIP toilets

and two (2) water borne toilets shall be built for the teachers. The cost for building the toilets also includes plumbing.

### **Challenges**

The high crime rate in Matero compound has been the main challenge for Rosamystica community school. However, now that the school has been enclosed in a wall fence and a gate will be put up soon this shall be dealt with.

The other challenge has been related to the excavation of pits for the toilets at the school. Matero generally has a high water table as compared to other compounds in Lusaka. This meant that a lot of water was found during excavation and the pits were full of water. However, the school committee has hired a de-watering pump to pump the water out of the pits in readiness for construction of the toilets.

### **Personal Story**

Robert Banda is a 12year old single orphan doing grade three (3) at Rosamystica community school. Robert is the first born from a family of six (6), the father passed away when he was just 8years old and has been raised by his mother as a single parent for the past 4years.

The mother is not educated and sells a cheap illegal locally brewed beer called 'kachasu' for her living. The money she earns from selling the beer is not enough to sustain her family and pay all the bills.

Robert is happy to see his school being developed to the standard that he sees in Government schools were some of his friends who have parents who can afford to pay school fees go. At Rosamystica Community School children learn for free and they are not charged anything. He says that when he grows up he does not want to go into jail or become a criminal like some of his relatives in Matero compound.

'I want to become a lawyer one day so that I can buy my mother a big house and no one will laugh at her in Matero', says Robert.



And thanks to Hewlett Packard Norge AS, Robert and many other orphans and vulnerable children of Matero compound have been given hope in life through education so that their dreams could one day come to pass.

**End.**