

KABULANJOVU PRIMARY SCHOOL

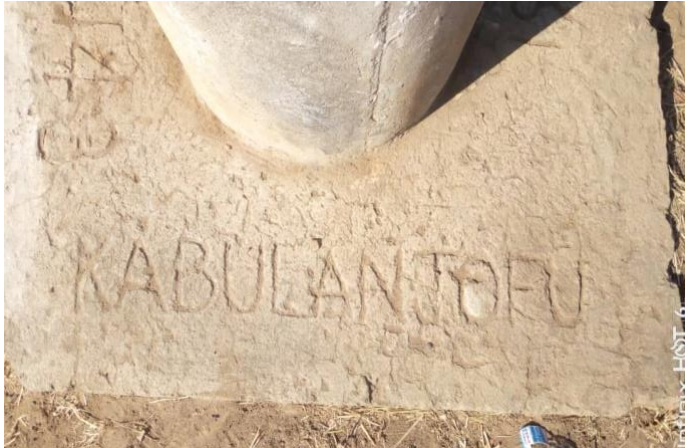
Update Report

August, 2021



Kabulanjovu is situated in Kazungula District and is about 130KM from Zimba town. The community of Kabulanjovu is comprised of three villages. The area was named after a young Elephant with no parents that roamed the community since the area is close to a game management reserve. Kabulanjovu come from two words Kabula and Njovu, in local language **Kabula** means **small** while **Njovu** means an **Elephant**. The community has roughly 297 households with an estimated population of 2,480.

The main preoccupation for day to day livelihood in this rural community is hunting, peasant farming and rearing of domesticated animals such as cattle, sheep and goats.



Village set up in Kabulanjovu

The School at the moment is using a grass thatched classroom block. The school runs from the first to the seventh grade and pupils are taught by two untrained community teachers. The school has a total of 270 pupils (127 girls, 143 boys).



Pupils at Kabula njovu



Current structure at Kabulanjovu with bricks as building upfront materials

For 2021 funds raised by Nesbru, the community was identified as a beneficiary. Based on the available funds, it was decided to start with construction of a 1 x 1 classroom with an office and also 50 desks to be distributed.

50 desks have already been delivered to the school. Due to bad roads, the truck carrying desks had a breakdown on the road and the crew had to make fire out of firewood while waiting for a mechanic to fix the truck. It is not an unusual site to find trucks and or vehicles packed by the road side as a result of a breakdown. Sometimes vehicles have to park from one side of a stream due to a washed away bridge during the rain season.

Building materials for the classroom block have also been delivered to the school. The truck only managed to arrive at the School late in the evenings due to bad roads from the main tarred road.



Desks enroute to Kabula njovu community School



Delivering of building materials for a classroom block

Since there were some extra materials from the first delivery, the community intends to further extend the 1 x 1 classroom block to a 1 x 2 classroom block. However since the extra materials are not enough to complete the extension, the works will be only be done to about 45% completion on top of a full classroom block.

So far the community have only dug the foundation for the project and are currently in the process of beginning to construct. Not so much works have been done due to the reasons tabulated below. None the less the community is committed to completing the project.

The future plans in 2022, if funds will be available are to complete the extension classroom so that the school can have a 1 x 2 classroom block and an office. Additionally, the School would construct a teacher's house. Once this status is reached, the school would qualify to receive a trained teacher paid by Government. The minimum prerequisite for a community School to receive a trained teacher, is a 1 x 2 classroom block and a teacher's house. This is what Kabula njovu community aims to achieve by the end of 2022.

Deployment of a trained teacher would greatly raise the standard and quality of education at the school. The trained teacher would also be able to guide the untrained teachers and improve their teaching methods as well. The school, in the not too distant future, shall also require an extension to make it a 1x3 classroom block to be able to accommodate all the children from Grade 1 to Grade 7. The total cost of future planned activities is estimated at 175,000 NOK.

Reasons for the delay in completion of the project

Unlike other years, this year has been different due to Covid 19 pandemic leading to Health guidelines that limits the gathering of people in larger numbers. , the other reason is that the country had General elections and this meant that a lot of campaign activities were in progress and taking off some of the time from the members who had to follow campaign rallies to listen to what various political parties were offering if voted

for. The elections were held on 12th August and the campaign activities have now stopped. The other reason is that the schools are built on self help basis, which means the communities have to be mobilized and encouraged to start the project by first contributing upfront materials. This takes a bit of time and patience in some instances as communities work at a practical and reasonable pace. This approach ensures that community members are fully involved in the construction of the project and this ensures sustainability and ownership. They drive water for the building in drums with ox carts from the river, which is several kilometers away as well. This process of selfhelp (dugnad) makes sure the community feels ownership of the school, so that they will later look after it. If we had built the school for them they would also have been more reluctant to do maintenance of it as they would have felt that the school should be maintained by the donor.

Since the Covid 19 situation and cases have receded and political campaigns over, it is anticipated that communities will work at a much faster pace than before.