



REPORT ON THE STUDY TOUR TO PITEA KOMMUN, SWEDEN FROM THE 9TH DECEMBER TO 15TH DECEMBER, 2015 BY THE STEERING COOMITTEE AND THE PROJECT TEAM FROM CHINSALI-ZAMBIA

INTRODUCTION:

This report highlights the presentations and activities undertaken by the project steering committee and the project team from Chinsali Municipal Council during their study tour to Pitea Municipality in Sweden .The study tour was from 9th December to 15th December, 2015.

The project steering committee comprised of the following:

- I. Ronald Chaswe Katongo (Mayor)
- II. Patrick Kambita (Town Clerk)
- III. Chilufya Kapwepwe
- IV. Duncan Mulenga
- V. Mary Sinkala

The project team comprised of the following:

- i. Clement Chisanga
- ii. Dominic Mushashu
- iii. Duncan Makombe
- iv. Mary chileshe



BACK GROUND

Some of the functions of a local authority in Zambia among the many responsibilities it has are that of waste management ,provision of emergency fire services ,provision of water and women empowerment economically and socially in order to enhance local democracy.

In order to enhance local democracy in the District Chinsali Municipal Council has embarked on a three year partnership programme with Pitea Municipality aimed at empowering women economically and socially with a view to increase their participation in development projects and decision making institutions e.g. the Council has at the moment no female representation in the council.

As part of this programme a number of exchange visits are planned between the two municipalities aimed at sharing experiences in the promotion of local democracy.

PRESENTATIONS

A profile of Sweden and Pitea by Peter Roslund the mayor of Pitea.

He gave a geographical profile of Sweden and narrowed it to Pitea being the municipality we visited. Among the activities he highlighted were that Pitea in terms of industry had :

-two largest paper mills in the world,

-tourism



-renewable energy and creativity industries.

Sweden has a democratic system of Government. Municipalities are responsible for matters relating to the inhabitants of the municipality and their immediate environment .The Swedish parliament has 349 members. It is the supreme political decision making body in Sweden. The municipalities have a considerable degree of autonomy and have independent powers of taxation.

POLITICAL WILL, the vice Mayor Helen Stenberg and Annette Christoffersson ,

.The strategic areas of focus of Pitea Municipality are :

- Children and young people
- Democracy and openness
- Staff
- Education ,work and business the foundation of all welfare
- Habitat
- economy



Citizen dialogue: Anna Lena Pogulis and Anette Christoffersson:

The purpose of citizen dialogue is that :

It provides a common working area between leading politicians and leading officer's in Pitea. It a governance and management system which gives:

- a good base to politicians when making decisions
- , provides conditions for employees to work with improvements.

Some of the ways of building dialogue are through

- a) Information (obtained through popular budgets)
- b) Consultation
- c) Participation
- d) Co-determination

Equality between sexes from the early age: gender aspects in schools by Anna Catrin Moller.

Pitea's Local Authority (Pitea Kommun) is in charge of ensuring that the education system in the city is conducted in an efficient and effective manner. The Swedish government has made it compulsory for persons below the age of 18 years to acquire free education. This implies that both Primary and Tertiary education is provided at no cost.



At an early age (Pre-school stage), teachers in Pitea always endeavor to acquaint the children with the insight of equity between sexes. In this vein, success is ensured through a number of techniques which include;

- a) Make certain that home household tasks are not stereo-typed and that both boys and girls perform the same tasks like Washing of dishes, cleaning of the house etc.
- b) Boys are taught to be more caring, tender and careful in their daily lives (which are natural attributes in females), while girls are trained to be risk takers and be
- c) More active in out-door activities like sports, including playing with toys like cars (that are perceived to be for boys).
- d) These activities are observed to be vital and key in the upbringing of a child and guarantee that equity between sexes is instilled in the minds of every citizen from an early age.



Boys and girls are to become who they are made to be and know who they are? it is not about changing what they are but to give children an opportunity to expand what they can be by doing something they have never done. Boys and girls are to choose their own way of being a person.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SCHOOLS

Schools in Pitea Municipality have incorporated teaching of Entrepreneurship skills to their students. This is a situation where schools use different techniques to prepare students (mainly age 16-18 years) for jobs that do not yet exist, in order to solve their anticipated problems. In Pitea, entrepreneurship in schools is practiced because it is seen as a mechanism of enhancing fresh ideas in the minds of the students and thereby have the ability to take an idea to a concrete action, alone or together with others. It also prepares them for a life outside school for their economics for success. The main statutes governing success in this regard are centered on ensuring that individuals:

- Have self-belief and able to identify a place where housing a problem to be solved
- Have the passion to solve problems and dare to take a risks in future endeavors
- Use personal expertise and be ready to keep going even if failures are encountered during the implementation of ideas
- Talk to everyone in order to let them know about their dream



Thus, teaching of entrepreneurship in schools has so far been accepted and adopted as an essential foundation for training of students into future productive individuals that are able to earn a better living: even when they do not score good grades in school.

Housing business and apartments:

PNF is a company established under the council and has assumed a great role as a founder of society, by developing the Municipality and promoting increased employment. It has developed the tourism and commerce industries and has made a lot of strides in culture and future technology development. It has a board and is managed by board members .It houses the largest tenants in Pitea Municipality.

.A big part of Pitea is Industries linked to the forestry, concert halls, banks, shops, health centre's and construction industry.



STUDY VISITS:

Fire brigade-The team was taken on a guided tour of the Pitea emergency fire services department .The team was able to appreciate what a fully fledged fire services looks like and is able to do. The fire brigade has a command centre; the fire officers play soccer, basketball and a fully equipped GYM.

Social entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurship is highly practiced in Pitea and is mainly on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the community. The common practice is where a group of personnel in the community voluntarily spare time and share responsibilities (apart from their daily official duties) in the running of a specific organization or business entity. Some of the visited successful business entities that operate in this way include Bryggan Cooperative, The Red-Cross shop and Svensbyliden (a Swedish farm house which houses a rich culture and tradition).

At Bryggan, the organization is run in form of a cooperative by the partner members. The organization has ventured in a number of activities that are income generative like collection of firewood for sale, car washing, restaurant, metal fabrication and many others. The number business ventures are dependent on the professional expertise of the partner members, as they provide professional guidance to the employees that run the day-to-day activities. The institution brings on board people with disability as employees, hence making them a productive part of the country.



Pireva –recycling and waste management. Solid waste unit is situated away from other council offices. Solid waste management Laws and regulations are strictly followed in Pitea by every citizen both young and old.

Segregation of waste is done at source in every place of the district. Waste is reused , recycled and further reduced before disposal. Pitea Kommune has all the equipments needed for segregation and general management of waste. The vehicles used for waste collection are highly mechanized and there is no need for human labor to lift waste bins and put in the truck.

Sensitization in waste management and a healthy environment starts at an early stage (pre-school level) in Pitea and Sweden in general. This has made it easy and possible to keep their environment free from litter.

Guided tour at the concert hall and university

The concert hall has a unique pipe organ built in the studio Acusticum concert hall in Pitea Sweden; it has 9 000 pipes which makes it to one of the largest pipe organs in the world.

House for the family

House for the family is under social services department and is managed by the council. There are three permanent workers and one on contract. House for the family is a place where under privileged people go for different lessons on how



to take care of children and many others. Parents also take their children for different exercises and trainings for young ones. However parents are not allowed to leave their children behind. They wait for them until they knock off. It is during this waiting time that parents are also given free trainings and free food. During festive seasons, they close and no parents or children come for any lessons or recreation. They normally have 80 to 100 parents bringing their children per day, and these come from different places of the country and others outside the country. It is a well equipped house with everything needed for recreation especially for young ones. There is no much difference on activities they do to those done in pre-schools except they also train elderly people

MEETINGS

i. Town council meeting

The Zambian delegation was invited to attend the full council meeting which took place on the 14th of December, 2015.

The mayor of Pitea introduced our delegation and the Municipal partnership that we have with Pitea and they were happy to have received us in Pitea. The Town Clerk ,Chinsali Municipal Council also gave a brief back ground of where the project began from how eventually the project proposal was approved by ICLD.

During the full Council meeting new citizens were also being received in Pitea.

Planning meeting: the planning meeting was attended by both project teams from Pitea and Chinsali that also included the steering groups from both Municipalities.



During this planning meeting a brief discussion was done on the project objectives and background of the project so that the project teams can be familiar with the project objectives ,sharing of how the women groups were formed ,and the planned trainings to undergo for

them to be empowered in waste management which is the project focus.

Steering group meeting: The steering groups meet on the 15th December to discuss matters related to the project implementation such as:

- The guidelines ,for the working group
- The risks that may threaten the project during implementation
- ,the activities to be implemented
- budget and planned visits to be undertake both by the steering groups and project teams from pitea to Chinsali and Chinsali to pitea
- The logo to be used for the project that signifies the project for women empowerment through development of local democracy.

Reports were received from the two steering committees.

SOCIAL VISITS:

Lucia coronation in the church:

This is the day of Saint Lucia. It is celebrated throughout Scandinavia and parts of Germany. Saint Lucia is the Patron Saint of Syracuse in Italy and the Saints day falls on the 13th of December of each year.



Visit to Svansbyliden

This is a traditional farm house rebuilt depicting how life was lived in Pitea traditionally. It is a cultural tourist site where the traditional dress of Sweden is displayed. It serves 'fika' (coffee time) in a very traditional way.

Country church for christmas:

This is a church in the outskirts of town that celebrates Christmas in a traditional way.

We enjoyed the nice songs and the music played from the organ. At this church our Zambian delegation was given an opportunity to sing a song and they liked our songs too. We had a lovely time and the people were very welcoming

WRAP UP OF THE VISIT

The partnership visit was concluded with a fruitful mingling meeting that was aimed at reviewing all the program activities. Each member was requested to present lessons they have learnt throughout the program. Diverse views and narrations were obtained in relation to each participant's specialization. The reactions ranged from Political and Local governance, Community development, Development Planning, Public Health and Environmental Management.

Ultimately, the visit to Pitea was appreciated by both teams (Chinsali and Pitea) as it provided clear perceptions on the operations of governance in both towns. The project team looked forward to coming to Zambia.



LESSONS LEARNT DURING THE STUDY VISIT IN PITEA

Some of the lessons learnt are that:

- 1) Disabled personnel should not be stigmatized but effectively involved in developmental activities; as it proved that disability is indeed not inability.
- 2) Corporative motivate workers through offering them rights to become shareholders after working for a minimum period of one year. This encourages workers to be committed to their work.
- 3) During citizen dialogue participation has incorporated even the young people their opinions are taken on board and a website for them to post their views has been opened.
- 4) Information dissemination to the community helps to build trust and confidence in the Local Authority.
- 5) Transparency in the use of finances by the local authority encourages the community to pay their taxes on a consistency basis.
- 6) The under privileged are also take care of by the system at the house for the family were food and lessons are given to mothers.

7) PIREVA, the waste company reduces, recycles and encourages reduction of waste at source.



8) At fire brigade we learnt that a command vehicle is used and readily available and takes up the lead in cases of emergency.

9) Consultations are done before any project can be embarked on to get views from the people.

10) The council is able to fund /finance various business venture e.g. corporative until such a time the companies are able to be self sustainable.

11) People were so dedicated to work, good time management and are highly motivated.

Compiled by

Mary Sinkala

Project leader –Chinsali

