

Mrs. Jane Meyers
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Dear Jane,

RE: CEREMONIAL OPENING OF MUMUNI LIBRARY

November 21 2014 will, for years to come, remain imprinted in the minds and hearts of the people of Nabukuyu in particular and Chiefs Chona and Mwanza in general, as the day when the community witnessed the ceremonial opening of the life transforming Mumuni Library. The new wonderful Library started its function of shedding light upon the darkness of ignorance and understanding among children and youth thirsting for knowledge, which is key to the improvement of their quality of life in a competitive world. The joy you brought and that you witnessed was from deep in the hearts of the people. As Chief Monze said: "I have never seen anything like this". His words were echoed by many people and Government Officials who attended the ceremonial opening of the Mumuni Library, for it was the first event of its kind in the history of rural Zambia. Chieftainess Chongo, young, polished and newly installed to the Throne was so impressed that she requested to meet the architect of the Library which was *model* for future development in the Chiefdoms.

We now have had time to reflect on this historic event, its genesis and the commitment, kindness, care, compassion and generosity that drove the efforts to its creation and ultimate success. Vicky and I knew you and your husband Ken as family friends, but when discussing Libraries we suddenly saw you light up in a way that exhibited passion radiating deeply felt kindness, care, compassion and generosity towards the world's needy children and less privileged in our society. You were not merely talking about libraries, but a particular kind that truly and meaningfully touches the communities, a life transforming home or reservoir of knowledge. Lubuto Library Project, under your Presidency, will remain part of Zambia's social and economic history and will continue to influence the future development of quality education in the country. Mumuni Library will continue to touch and improve the lives of so many people in Chona and Mwanza and beyond for years to come. Being centrally located, Mumuni is bound to play the critical role of a *Center of Excellency* that will fuel the ambitions of many potential leaders in the area and beyond.

We in Matantala Rural Integrated Development Enterprise are, therefore, profoundly grateful to the Lubuto Library Project for constructing the Mumuni Library. It is indeed the fulfillment of a dream beyond the boundaries of imagination for all of us. We know the challenges that face passionate fundraisers like you, Jane. As in the rendering of an old adage, we always have to "Put on a raincoat of confidence and an umbrella of prayer" in the identification of potential funders and supporters. We pay tribute to the Board, Advisory Panels and the Lubuto teams in Washington DC and Zambia. Our able and dedicated Architect, Eleni Coromvli, her staff and supporters put in their best efforts to overcome

serious challenges and finally made Mumuni Library the monumental success that it is in Nabukyu. On behalf of the communities in Chona and Mwanza and many children and parents who will benefit from the reservoir of knowledge stored in the Library, I convey our profound heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to you, the Lubuto Board and the vibrant committed team in Zambia for the historic success in making Mumuni Library an historic reality.

We also ask that you extend our sincere thanks to **Comic Relief** who, as you noted in your remarks at the opening, brought the rain that allowed the seeds for a library to grow into a reality that will nourish generations to come. We wish that they could have joined us at the opening, to see the beginning of the road, filled with the pleasure of learning, that our children will follow to a better future. **Comic Relief** has made a greatly appreciated investment in our children that will yield dividends long into the future.

The presence of senior Government Officials, led by the Deputy Minister Hon. Patrick Ngoma M.P and his Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Mayondi and senior Librarians, is testimony of the acceptance of the Ministry of Education that Lubuto Library Project is truly a valuable and effective partner in the development of education in Zambia. I join many Zambians in looking forward to the successful construction of more Lubuto Libraries in Zambia.

Please accept my sincere congratulations for the successful completion and official opening of Mumuni Library. I wish you, Ken and the Board greater success as the future unfolds in the interests of millions of out-of-school children and youth that are thirsting for knowledge and skills for enhancing financial, health and food security as well as self-worth in a free society.

May the hand of God continue to guide and guard you in your noble task of serving the needy in our world.

With my warmest regards and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours affectionately

Mark C. Chona
CHAIRMAN
MATANTALA RURAL INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE