

## Jane Meyers' speech at the opening of the Mumuni Library in Nabukuyu on November 21, 2014

The Mumuni Library is here because of the vision and tenacity of some extraordinary members and supporters of this community. In particular, this library would not be here if not for the persistence and guidance of Mr. Mark Chona and Mrs. Vicky Chona, who understood how much it would mean to you. The staff of the Lubuto Library Partners, who also recognized that the children of the Nabukuyu area deserve the opportunity to read, learn, and grow, had to endure and to overcome many obstacles to make this happen. Finally, the organization Comic Relief brought the rain that allowed the seeds to grow.

When the reading room of the Mumuni Library opened its doors, children poured in. Like breathing air, there was no need to urge them to read. The need and desire was already deep within them. As the Library begins offering its other programs in art, drama, literacy, computers, story time, and mentoring, the children's love for this place will grow and grow.

It is worth remembering that, as important as it is for breathing, the air has other gifts. The birds use it to fly, the clouds gather there to bring the sustaining rain, and airplanes use it to connect Zambia with distant parts of the world. So too this library. Beyond the pleasure of reading, the Mumuni Library gives Nabukuyu's children a door to the science, art, computers, language and social science that are the shared heritage of all humanity.

So, the Mumuni Library looks not only to the present but, also, the future. A future in which the enriched minds and skillful hands of today's children contribute through the application of what they have learned to a brighter, richer future for Nabukuyu and tomorrow's children.

Please hold it to your hearts as a special place.