

MESSAGE FROM EDUCATION COMMITTEE (SCHOOL FEE COMMITTEE) FROM
MAWA NDI ANTHU OTISAMALA COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION; MALAWI;
TO FOUNDATION BETER MALAWI NEWSLETTER

New Year greetings to you all from Mawa Ndi Anthu Otisamala Community Based Organisation, popularly known as MAWA CBO. We are located in Malawi, a country found in Southern Africa, in a rural setting of Songolo village, Chief Mulumbe in Zomba district. This is a CBO that was established in 2002 by the late Lewis Gama (His soul rest in peace) The CBO has several programs that are run by committees such as the Elderly, Education, Children Corner, among others. These are ran in partnership with Beter Malawi of Holland. As partners to Beter Malawi, we would like to make our contribution to this Newsletter today, as a sign that we are there, with you. Our contribution is focused on Education, also known as 'School Fee Committee.

This is a committee that deals with the welfare of learners who are at the verge of failing to proceed with their Secondary School education because they are needy due to various reasons such as being orphan, poverty, hunger, and other factors that may affect them to get money for fees, food, uniform, handbag for carrying books, learners stationary, (writing pads, pencils, mathematical/science instruments) school shoe and so on. It all started in 2013, as a complementary objective, to improve the welfare of the people around Mawa, which should include children for a better future of self-reliant, through education.

For smooth running of this, a committee was formed which currently consists of Hastings Linkwa as chairperson, Clifford Mwanoyowa, Rosemary Kalulu, Gerald Saidi and Doreen Mapereka as committee members with Maliko Gama as Ex-Official member. Since its priority is to secure school fees, hence also the name 'School Fees Committee'.



Hastings Linkwa (left) Committee Chairperson This is Rosemary Kalulu: A committee member

Education is a tool for development. The committee realises that this tool needs to be held in a country by everybody starting from children. When they are literate, they become responsible for their own development, and their country, through proper use of skills, knowledge and attitude that they must acquire through education. You might be interested to know how these learners are identified and taken on board to the programme. Well, a procedure is followed.

Firstly, concerned members of the community, individual learner himself who mainly is an orphan, or a widow who is a single parent to the learner, brings the name of the needy to any member of the committee. When the committee has received the names, verification visits are made to each individual to find out the truth and gravity of their being, needy.

Secondly, the children are all invited to a selection session, where they are interviewed to find out their intellectual capability, seriousness, and future vision after they have finished school including any meaningful role they would contribute to their community.

After this, names of successful learners are forwarded to Beter Malawi, accompanied by letters of individual requests. When Beter Malawi adopt them, a meeting with their parents is convened where we share with them on their roles as parents and guardians, now that an opportunity to have their children continue with school is finally at hand.

To ensure accountability, the committee send receipts from school of each learner to Beter Malawi, as proof that money have served their intended purpose.

For proper behaviour, joint period meetings are convened with learners, parents and guardians, reminding them of their continued hardworking in school, care, and share on their progress reports termly from the schools. In this case, any laziness from a learner is greatly cautioned.

In rear cases, where a learner drops out of school on reasons beyond our control and those of parents, Beter Malawi is ably informed and where necessary, replacement is accordingly done.

We, as Education Committee (School Fee Committee) under Mawa CBO, hails cordial working relationship that exists between us and partners, Beter Malawi. We pledge our continued support and honesty, to have the relation grow to its maximum height that it deserves.

Gratitude are due to you, for showing interest, reading this article, which certainly we don't take it for granted. God bless you.

Hastings Linkwa (Rev)

CHAIRPERSON

EDUCATION COMMITTEE- MAWA CBO