

# **A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF BACDU-USA PROJECT TITLE “RAISING THE COMPETITIVENESS AND STANDARDS OF THE BAKUNDU SCHOOLS” PRESENTED TO BACDU-USA BY DR. DOREEN MEKUNDA**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

“Raising the Competitiveness and Standards of the Bakundu Schools”, a project proposal which was adopted as a resolution to be executed by BACDU-USA during their 2017 BACDU-USA convention held in Memphis, Tennessee on Saturday July1, 2017 was given to me to do a field study to investigate on what can be done to ameliorate the conditions of the schools. The project’s major objective is to raise the standards of the two Bakundu schools found at Kwakwa and Kokaka, that were created by BACDU so many years ago but are making no progress and to give the schools a face-lift so they can become more attractive to parents living in and around the location areas and become more competitive with other schools around them.

To be able to achieve this goal the field work research team leader divided the project into three phases namely:

- 1) Phase One is titled “Identification of field workers and materials needed and preparation of field materials and purchase.”
- 2) Phase Two is titled “Field work.”
- 3) Phase Three has as title “Report writing and forwarding.”

**PHASE ONE:** The first phase started with the stratification of the field, designation of field workers and preparation of field materials. Immediately i was contacted by the president and Exco of BACDU-USA, I stratified the field into the Northern and Southern zones. I went forward to designate field workers as follows:

- a) Northern Zone - Itoe Divine Ituka (team leader) and Nganya Betole (member).
- b) Southern Zone - Bato Felix Mbote (team leader) and Mokanya Sylvester Keka (member).

After this stratification and designation of workers, materials needed were identified as follows:

- a) Two cameras, pens, pencils, rulers, notebooks, paper, pins, and remunerations (for the field workers).
- b) Wines, whiskies, beer, tobacco, (for the chiefs and traditional council heads and members), and a projected budget of 365,000fcfa was made and presented.

When the money to the tune of 402,000 Frs. cfa was sent to me, I went ahead with the purchase of materials. I was asked to pay 150,000 Frs. cfa. for the cameras. This was impossible to purchase so I decided to purchase two multi-media phones to serve the purpose of recording and for taking photos and short videos.

The following were bought:

- 1) Two multi-media phones, a carton of paper, pens, pencils, rulers, notebooks, wine, whiskies, beer, tobacco etc. (receipts to be presented during the final report because I have not found them now).
- 2) After studying the questionnaire sent to me I deemed it necessary to segment it for easy administration using the titles under which they were sent as follows:
  - a) Meeting with representatives of Buea University/research institutions.
  - b) Meeting with school principals/staff/student leaders
  - c) Meeting with traditional chiefs/council representatives
  - d) Meeting with BACDU's management/ education committee
  - e) Meeting with related government officials at local and regional levels.

**PICTURES: Preparation of Field Materials by Team Leader and Field Workers**







After the separation of the questionnaire, printing and photocopies were done. I later identified and designated the target population as follows:

- 1) Traditional council heads and members of the two village traditional councils of the two villages.
- 2) Chiefs of Kokaka and Kwakwa.
- 3) Three neighbouring villages of Kwakwa and Kokaka.
- 4) Principals, staff and some students of the school.
- 5) Former principals, staff and students of both schools.
- 6) Divisional delegates of secondary education.
- 7) The education board chair and members of BACDU education board.
- 8) Some BACDU exco members.
- 9) Other informants from in and out of the two villages.

The questionnaire was labelled as per the targets.

Later, the prepared questionnaire were divided into two as follows:

- a) The two zones team leaders took questionnaires prepared for traditional chiefs/council representatives and for school principals, staff, selected student leaders.
- b) The team leader took the rest of the questionnaire intended for the rest of the classes of people who live in urban centres and some from the village zones.

## **PHASE TWO: FIELD WORK**

Before going to the field, a meeting was held by the team leader and the field workers to avail them on what was expected from them on Saturday October 28, 2017 the same day BACDU had an executive meeting. (Suffice to note here that in the exco meeting and coincidentally, the following were designated as members of a committee to audit the schools: Nganda Rudolf, Doreen Mekunda, Abunaw Aghim, Dat William, and Chief Moango). After the meeting I paid the field workers their transportation, feeding and remuneration. The following Monday the three teams dispersed to their various areas of work. While in the field, I monitored them with phone calls, directing them on what to do at each level and when they called, while the difficult tasks were left for me to tackle. For example, in the southern zone team had difficulties to get the traditional council to order because of internal differences. I made a trip myself to Kkwakwa but did not finalise my findings. Another date was taken to meet the council but this did not materialise because of the fact that the recent uprising had started at Kwakwa. In the northern zone, the chief of Kokaka had gone to his work place at Koba where he is headmaster. The field workers did not have him nor the council. That too was postponed and my contact with the chief did not yield us any further fruits because of the same political problem.

My second visits to these localities depended on the readiness of the stakeholders so all activities were suspended till further notice as I had verbally reported to you.

## **WORK LEFT UNDONE**

As far as this is concerned, the teams have to go back to the field to receive the questionnaires they had given out and put everything together for forwarding. As far as I am concerned I have to visit these localities, do interviews with the target population and collect the questionnaire I had not collected from my urban based informants. Part of phase two has not been done and the whole of phase three.

## **WAY FORWARD**

This team leader has the following observations as the way forward to the completion of the work:

- 1) That the team leader, after receiving the various zone reports, should write a comprehensive report and forward it to BACDU-USA as soon as it is possible.
- 2) That, while hoping that those questionnaires are still available (which I doubt since some houses of the target population were burnt down), the field workers be sent back to the field to complete the field work.
- 3) That because of the doubt in point two above, part of the work be repeated as soon as the political situation is put under control and security assured.

**Done this day the Sunday April 15, 2018**

**Dr. Doreen Mekunda**

**Field Trip Coordinator and Team Leader**