

NEWS LETTER

THBF

TOP NEWS!

“A Pivotal Gathering in Musokotwane: as Senior Chief Musokotwane Declares “Zero Tolerance against Corruption”



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Get to know us

The Healing Balm Foundation is a non-governmental organization based in Livingstone at stand Number 1. Dambwa Central, Council Community Hall.

We are registered under the Registrar of NGOs, Zambia Agency for person's with Disabilities, and Pacra.

We work with strategic partners, the Anti-corruption Commission, the District Education Board Secretary, the Chiefs and their senior traditional leaders, the Church, the Zambia Agency for Person's with Disabilities, and Other civil society organizations.

We are an organization that builds the capacity of communities in demanding for Transparency and Accountability on the utilization of public funds especially in rural areas where information is hard to reach. Citizen's need to hold state actors accountable cannot be overemphasized.

We also work with vulnerable rural communities in adapting to climate change and finding alternatives to charcoal burning.

We also empower women with entrepreneurship skills where we encourage them to use their local available resources and God-Given skills to start up a business and what they should consider before starting. We also impart them with financial skills of how they can manage their finances and grow them.

Our other thematic area is Disability Inclusion where we advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities to also stand up and lead their communities, and wards and indeed be part of the National development through their valuable contribution.

Children and Families also drives us. We help child-led homes and the caregivers of the elderly to start-up businesses without depending on others.



THE HEALING BALM
FOUNDATION

INCLUSION ALL THE WAY

"Empowering for Impact: THBF Staff Embarks on Social Accountability Training Ahead of Rural Traditional Leaders"



In a proactive move to fortify their team for a groundbreaking project, The Healing Balm Foundation (THBF) recently conducted an internal three-day capacity-building training for its staff through the help of GIZ. This strategic initiative aimed to equip the team with the necessary skills and knowledge in social accountability, laying a solid foundation for the upcoming project focused on empowering rural Traditional leaders in the fight against corruption in the Mukuni and Musokotwane chiefdoms.

The three-day training was a comprehensive endeavor, delving into various aspects of social accountability, governance, and community engagement. Facilitated by GIZ expert in the field, the training sessions provided THBF staff members with valuable insights, practical tools, and case studies relevant to their upcoming project. The primary goal of the training was to empower THBF staff to effectively engage with community leaders, fostering an environment of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. By understanding the nuances of social accountability, staff members are now better equipped to navigate the intricacies of community dynamics and effectively train the rural traditional leaders in the fight against corruption.



Throughout the training, participants engaged in interactive sessions and activities that simulated real-life scenarios they might encounter during the project implementation. The emphasis on practical application

aimed to ensure that THBF staff not only grasped theoretical concepts but could also seamlessly apply them in the field.

Furthermore, the training provided a platform for team members to share experiences, ideas, and best practices, fostering a collaborative environment conducive to innovation and effective problem-solving. The exchange of insights among staff members contributed to a collective understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in promoting social accountability within rural communities.

As the THBF staff emerges from this capacity-building initiative, they are not only armed with knowledge but also imbued with a renewed sense of purpose. The acquired skills in social accountability will play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between project goals and on-the-ground realities, ensuring a more impactful and sustainable approach to fighting corruption in the Mukuni and Musokotwane chiefdoms.



Looking forward, the THBF staff is poised to implement their newfound knowledge and skills as they extend their reach to empower rural Traditional leaders. This internal training serves as a testament to GIZ's commitment to excellence, laying the groundwork for a collaborative and informed effort that promises positive change and a brighter future for the communities they serve.

Empowering Rural Traditional Leaders in the Fight against Corruption in Mukuni.



On Friday the 23rd of February 2024, under our project of Building Cultural Accountability Mechanisms, The Healing Balm Foundation had the privilege of hosting a transformative training session at Mukuni Church of Christ where we worked with over 50 esteemed traditional leaders from Mukuni Village. (Including female traditional leaders called Ba Simuse and Bana be Dyango). The workshop was aimed to equip these traditional leaders with the necessary tools and knowledge to become key figures in eradicating corruption within their communities. We had strategic partners like **Anti-Corruption Commission Zambia** - Livingstone branch, Tusole Theatre, and Youth Friendly Association, representation of DEBS through Mukuni Deputy Head teacher, the Ward Development Committees, the Federal Republic of Germany, and many others.

During the intensive sessions, the traditional leaders delved deep into the intricacies of corruption, understanding its detrimental effects on society and exploring strategies to tackle it effectively. Through engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and interactive activities, the participants gained valuable insights into the various forms of corruption and its impact on development.



One of the defining moments of the workshop was when each traditional leader publicly pledged their commitment to fight against corruption in their respective areas. By signing their names as key persons in the fight against corruption, they demonstrated a strong resolve to uphold integrity, transparency, and accountability in their leadership roles.

The workshop also focused on empowering traditional leaders to not only identify instances of corruption but also to actively

monitor and report suspected cases. Through practical training sessions and role-playing exercises, the participants honed their skills in detecting corruption, handling whistleblowers, and engaging with relevant authorities to address these issues effectively.

As the workshop concluded, a sense of empowerment and determination filled the room, with each traditional leader ready to take on the challenge of combating corruption head-on. Armed with knowledge, support networks, and a newfound sense of responsibility, these leaders are poised to make a significant impact in promoting ethical governance and driving positive change in their communities.



In essence, the workshop served as a pivotal moment in the fight against corruption, showcasing the vital role that traditional leaders can play in fostering a culture of integrity and accountability. By equipping these leaders with the necessary tools and resources, the workshop has set the stage for a brighter, more transparent future in rural areas, where corruption has long been a barrier to progress.

The session focused on equipping traditional leaders with essential tools and strategies to promote

social accountability within their communities. Social accountability is crucial for ensuring transparency, responsiveness, and integrity in governance and decision-making processes. Key topics covered during the training included:

1. Understanding the concept of social accountability and its importance in community development.
2. Exploring various tools and approaches for promoting social accountability, such as citizen feedback mechanisms, community scorecards, and participatory budgeting.
3. Practical exercises and simulations to enhance participants' skills in implementing social accountability tools.
4. The role of traditional leaders as catalysts for change and champions of transparency and accountability.

By nurturing a new generation of anti-corruption champions within the traditional leadership system, this workshop marks a critical step towards building a more just and equitable society for all.

Empowering Rural Traditional Leaders in Musokotwane: A Unified Front against Corruption.



In the picturesque region of Musokotwane, a transformative initiative took root as rural Traditional leaders gathered to enhance their capacity in the relentless fight against corruption. The reception of this training was not only warm but indicative of a community already well-versed in the importance of combating corruption.

The leaders, having a deep understanding of the detrimental impact corruption can have on their communities,

eagerly embraced the information presented during the capacity-building sessions. Their collective commitment to fostering transparency and accountability revealed a shared vision for a corruption-free Musokotwane.

Interestingly, a significant number of leaders entered the training with prior knowledge, demonstrating a commendable awareness of the intricacies involved in eradicating corruption. This existing comprehension not only facilitated the learning process but



also emphasized the community's dedication to addressing this pervasive issue.

Upon receiving the invaluable insights, the Traditional leaders expressed a strong desire to translate knowledge into action within their respective domains. Recognizing the pivotal role they play in influencing community dynamics, the leaders voiced their intention to implement strategies that would empower and capacitate their people to actively combat corruption. It was a great joy this time around now that the chiefdom has his Royal Highness Chief Eason Musokotwane after 18 solid years, Traditional leaders here were so excited that sanity had returned to the chiefdom and the chief is so keen about the fight against corruption in all ways possible. In this pivotal moment, the Chief of Musokotwane voiced his support for



the leaders' initiative and requested a comprehensive action plan. Eager to monitor and support the implementation of anti-corruption measures, the Chief sought a structured roadmap detailing the strategies and methodologies proposed by the Traditional leaders.



The subsequent collaborative efforts of the leaders resulted in the formulation of a robust action plan. This plan outlines specific steps and initiatives to be undertaken at the grassroots level, addressing the unique challenges faced by each community within Musokotwane. The proactive approach of the Traditional leaders

reflects a community-driven commitment to ensuring the success of the anti-corruption campaign.

As Musokotwane sets the stage for this grassroots movement, the involvement and dedication of its Traditional leaders underscore the significance of local leadership in the fight against corruption. Through their informed actions and the implementation of the meticulously crafted action plan, Musokotwane aims to create a resilient foundation for a corruption-free future, where transparency and integrity prevail.

“Leaving Imprints: Traditional Leaders’ Unique Exercise Highlights the Stain of Corruption on Community Progress, in the Two Chiefdoms (Mukuni and Musokotwane)”

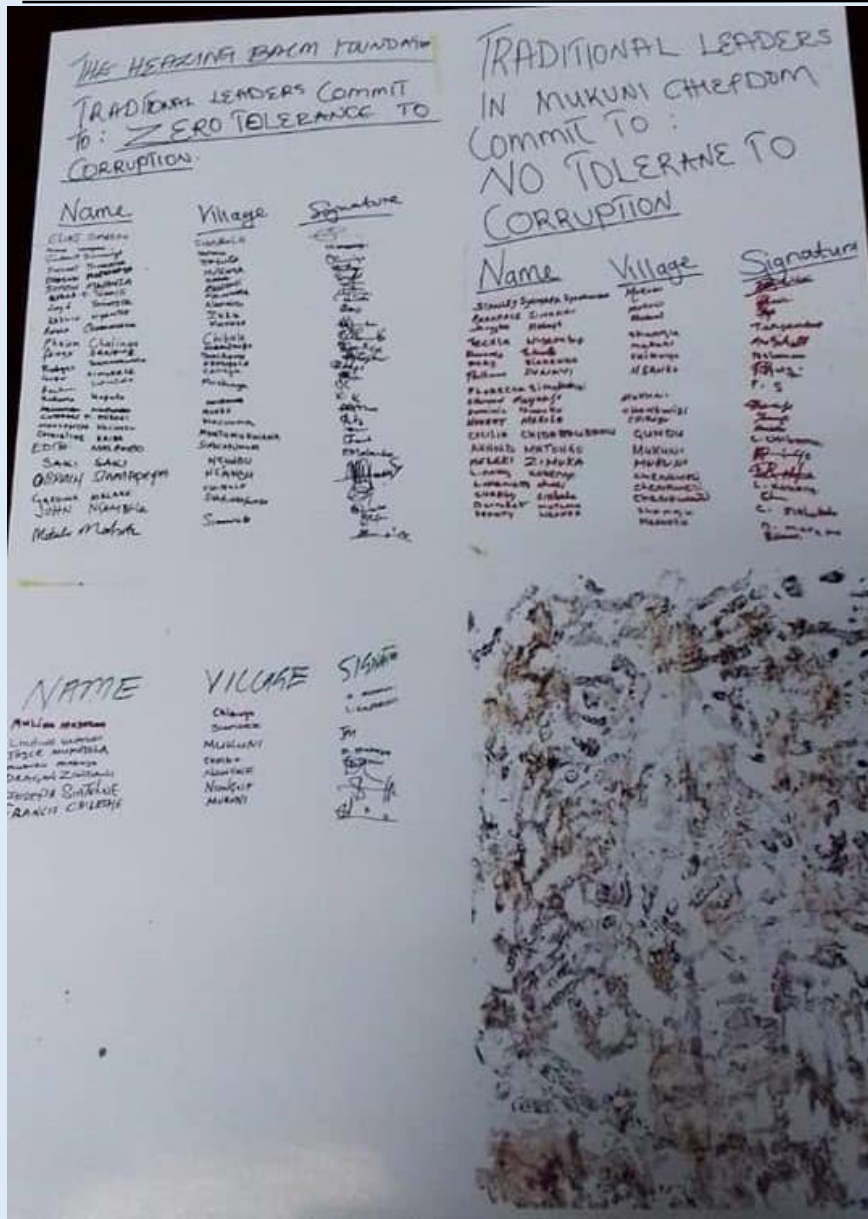


In a powerful and symbolic gesture, Traditional leaders in our community recently engaged in a poignant exercise to illustrate the pervasive impact of corruption on our shared journey toward progress.

This innovative initiative involved the leaders placing their hands in the mud, imprinting the muck onto white paper, and using this tangible representation to emphasize the necessity of combating corruption.

The leaders, recognizing the need for a visual metaphor to convey the detrimental effects of corruption, chose mud as a symbolic representation of this societal ill. As they immersed their hands in the murky substance, they aimed to





create a direct connection between the dirt on their hands and the stain corruption leaves on the fabric of our community.

Each imprint on the pristine white paper served as a poignant reminder that corruption, like mud, has the potential to soil and impede the collective progress of our community. The leaders, through this exercise, sought to convey a simple yet profound message: the more individuals engage in corrupt practices, the dirtier our community becomes, hindering its growth and development.

What makes this exercise particularly impactful is the intention behind it. The leaders, fully aware of the adverse effects of corruption, aimed not only to educate but to instill a lasting reminder in the minds of both the community and themselves. The imprinted mud papers, once completed, will be

distributed among community members, serving as a tangible representation of the collective responsibility to combat corruption.

These imprints will serve as a constant visual cue, urging community members to reflect on the importance of integrity and ethical conduct in their daily lives. The Traditional leaders hope that, over time, this symbolic gesture will contribute to fostering a culture of accountability and transparency within the community.

These commitments will be placed in strategic places such as palaces, schools, clinics, and prominent meeting places in the two chiefdoms (Mukuni & Musokotwane) as a reminder.



In conclusion, this unique exercise by Traditional leaders serves as a powerful tool in the fight against corruption, transforming abstract concepts into tangible, relatable symbols. By imprinting the mud on white paper, they have created a visual testament to the understanding that the cleanliness of our community is directly linked to our collective commitment to combat corruption. The imprinted papers stand not only as a reminder of the exercise itself but also as a call to action for everyone in the community to strive for a corruption-free and prosperous future.

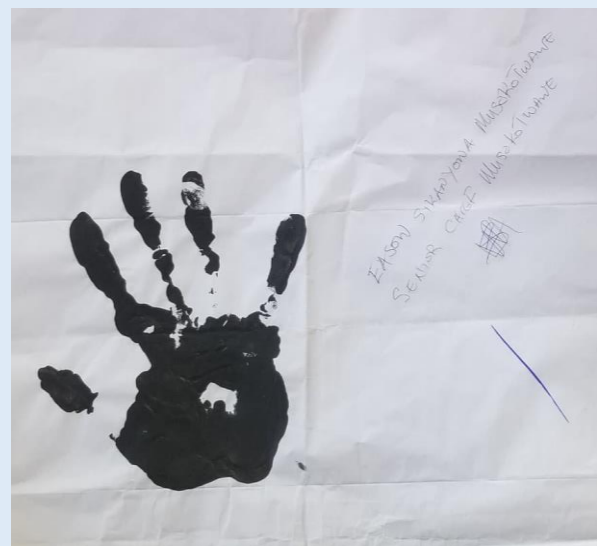


A Pivotal Gathering in Musokotwane: Senior Chief Musokotwane Declares “Zero Tolerance against Corruption”



In a momentous meeting held on Monday the 11th of March 2024; in the heart of Musokotwane, some community leaders gathered to engage in a dialogue with Chief Musokotwane and The Healing Balm Foundation. The purpose of this gathering was to discuss the ongoing efforts in the chiefdom, ranging from awareness campaigns to the recently conducted training of local leaders in the fight against corruption.

Under the project titled: ***Building Cultural Accountability Mechanism,*** we have been building the capacity of more than 50 traditional leaders in each of the two



chiefdoms in the past few weeks in Musokotwane and Mukuni. This is necessary so that our traditional leaders can monitor the utilization of public funds, specifically under school grants and CDF skills bursaries.



Additionally, with the recently conducted training for our local leaders, especially the esteemed headmen, to strengthen and build their capacity in social accountability tools like the use of a community scorecard, budgeting tracking, etc. to fight corruption, marking a pivotal step towards building a corruption-free future.

We are thrilled to announce that Senior Chief Musokotwane has wholeheartedly committed to promoting zero tolerance against corruption and says, ***“A corrupt-free community begins with a leader such as me.”*** His endorsement comes as a beacon of hope, guiding us toward a future built on integrity, honesty, and fairness. Together, we stand united in our resolve to root out corruption from the core of our community.

Senior Chief Musokotwane also led an inspiring exercise that resonated deeply with all participants. With hands covered in mud, he imprinted his handprints on plain white paper, symbolizing his collective commitment to stand against corruption. The mud-stained paper serves as a powerful reminder that, just like mud, continued corruption dirties the community and impedes its development thus, we need to wash it away by washing our hands of corruption.



The Senior Chief also thanked our donors for financing this project in his chiefdom and has further implored us to strengthen efforts towards land corruption as well in his chiefdom.

With persistent effort and a united front from each member of our community, a corrupt-free Zambia is possible.



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