Murambinda Multi-Purpose Youth Centre Project Director's Statement

My name is Munyaradzi Njenda and I am the project director of Murambinda Multipurpose Youth Centre, a project of Youth Corps Zimbabwe.

Youth Corps Zimbabwe is an association of mainly youth from rural and semi-rural areas of the country, mostly unemployed graduates from institutes of higher learning, who came together to work on improving our lives and those .org our fellow rural marginalised youths of the nation. It was incubated in Murambinda.

Though we have the vision of a nationawide impact, our current project of focus is the Murambinda community youth centre which is planned to be a multi-purpose centre for the development of youths in Buhera rural district.

Murambinda is a remote area, in Manicaland approximately 350 km from Harare the capital and almost the same distance from Mutare the provincial capital. Buhera is one of the poorest districts in the Zimbabwe.

MCYC is aimed at availing to the youths some of the services that we consider most vital for youth and ultimately community-wide development.

Such services as:

- · Community Library,
- Information And Technology Access,
- Recreation And Entertainment Facilities, as Well As
- Enterprise Incubation

...have long been missing in our much 'growing' community of Murambinda; which is the central business area of Buhera district.

Hence we the youths in the area have been frustrated by the lack .of employment, information, opportunities, much .of which are mostly if not only accessible to the urban, 'well positioned and connected' youths.

To add salt to the wound in our lack of occupation we haven't any clean entertainment facilities and are forced to go to public taverns and drinking places for us to be able to watch a soccer match on television.

The problems that have arisen henceforth are numerous.

Slowly drugs are creeping in, prostitution is on the rise, crime and juvenile delinquency gambling etc., and these are threatening well cultured and safe community. These and

other problems have driven us to take it unto ourselves to put our community in order and to start the community centre.

We are still in the early phases but some activities are already underway. With the limited facilities and resources at our disposal, we have setup a mini recording studio, a mini gaming centre and classes for those writing supplementary exams.

We aim to improve our facilities,

- Acquire library and info-equipment
- Computers internet infrastructure,
- To build an economic pole and thatch gazebo for our events, cultural and artistic rehearsals and creations.
- If possible also build an outdoor gym.
- ...and for sustainability run a charity shop and collect minimum subscriptions from members of our library.

Such are our short to medium term goals and

Our Slogan is: IF OTHER COMMUNITIES HAVE DONE IT SO CAN WE.

We welcome your contributions in whichever form

Be it cash, kind, fundraising, ideas, referrals, networking, volunteering, training, special skills, - youth exchanges anything you may think of.

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