
From: "B.T Synod" <btsynod@malawi.net>
To: "Iain Smith" <ismithipa@aol.com>
Sent: 13 April 2006 12:52
Subject: Mbewa Village Water Project

Dear Iain,

I finally had a meeting with the right person dealing with the EU Microproject Programme, a Mr Jangia. The position is that indeed the EU approved funding to the tune of MK 9million in October last year for the project to be implemented this year. This was in response to an application for funding from the village community through a local NGO as you already know.

The project has not taken off because the EU is undecided as to how to implement the project. To give a grant to the NGO is proving difficult because it does not have requisite capacity particularly in financial management. For the second option which is contracting the major portion of the project involving supplying the tanks and the main supply line the EU require that the community contributes 25% of the project cost through some work including installation of the underground feeder lines. They somehow have not agreed as yet what else the local contribution would entail.

The programme manager is worried that if no decision is made until June the project may not go ahead this year and be considered for the next year programmes which should be approved by October. He is pressing hard for a decision to be made by May. The second problem is that whereas the community had requested twenty five taps the EU has provided for only eight. This has reduced the coverage substantially. This may explain why the community through the church may have sought alternative funding because of the uncertainty and delay and due to the reduced coverage.

In my discussions I established that the EU would not object to jointly work with BSDC. The areas identified would be sanitation which they have not included in their Project. I have arranged for another meeting next week where I will invite Watec so we can identify technical areas where we may collaborate without commitment at this point. This is just for your information will get back to you with more info.

Regards

Jerry