ZIMCAN – Organising Secretary’s Report (19 Nov. 2011)

It is my honour and privilege to present this second report of the organizing secretary. As we reflect on our growth and strength over the past year I would like us to be reminded of the wise words of Mr Paul Matsvai (now Dr Paul Matsvai) on 13 February 2010 when he encouraged us to persevere with the association in spite of our small membership. He rightly pointed out: “successful organizations often have small beginnings” and warned us to bear in mind: “In group dynamics, there is normally what has been referred to as “storming” before “norming”. Storms are inevitable as people try to find out who is more powerful or who knows more than others. There will be need for maturity on the part of the leaders which entails seeing the total picture in which the group is stronger, not because of excluding so called “trouble makers”, but ensuring that differences are smoothed out while facilitating the strengths of all the membership.”

Indeed over the year we saw a very encouraging increase of ZIMCAN activities. For instance:

- Almost once a month committee meetings have been held at the NICE CENTRE.
- Citizens UK invited us to a successful Zimbabweans In Diaspora Training Workshop in West Wickham, Kent (19/4/11 –20/4/11); on 28/4/11 SWRadio interviewed me about ZIMCAN; a follow up training workshop was held here in Norwich (2/7/11) and participants were challenged to stand up and make a difference in the community.
- On 13/8/11 a very successful and enjoyable sporting family outing was held at Whitlingham Lake.
- On 29/8/11 the annual ZIMCAN BBQ was held and enjoyed by the big crowd that turned up.
- For the annual Black Month History, ZIMCAN organized another successful event at NICE CENTRE where our guest speaker, Hope Gangata (UEA lecturer) gave a powerful talk on his not so comfortable life and challenged young people, especially, to not run away from “the lions of life”.

Furthermore this year saw ZIMCAN collaborating with a variety of organizations such as MIND; TOTEM; Mashinga Trust; MENTER.

A few needs analysis forms were completed during the course of the year. A cursory glance at the forms appears to show that most people would like to join ZIMCAN and are in favour of some kind of a burial society on which representatives of the outgoing committee have started deliberations.

Our motto: “Yes We Can” ZIMCAN!!

Obert Murwira