

17th April, 1974.

INTERVIEW 1 (IN BEMBA).....

RECORDING ON GEORGE COMPOUND

Messrs K. Kasoma, Harrington Jere and Steve Mulenga (interviewers) accompanied by Miss I.J. Setiloane visited George Compound and found two women sitted outside one was scrapping fish while the other looked on.

N.B. Introduction regarding the Workshop, origin of its participants and purpose of the interview is given at the beginning of each interview.

INTRODUCTION:

Kasoma: We are from an organisation which looks after the interests of the people who live in Compounds like this. We would like to hear from you residents as to what you think about the development here. What do you call this Compound?

1st Woman: They call it George.

Kasoma: What is your name mother?

1st Woman: I am Florence Bwalya.

Kasoma: So you are Bemba? (Laughter) So I'll speak to you in Bemba and not Nyanja is that O.K.

Florence: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: So Florence for how long have you lived in this area

Florence: 5 years.

Kasoma: What have you seen here in George Compound that hasn't pleased you.

Florence: Mostly in the past water used to be a problem now its alright because stand pipes have been installed (NOMBA

Kasoma: Do you mean water was too much or

Florence: Water was very scarce.

Kasoma: Was the water you are talking about both for cooking and drinking?

Florence: Both.

Kasoma: So what made water to be available Did you dig a well?

Florence: No (laughing) because they have installed standpipes.

Kasoma: So the Council installed the standpipes.

Florence: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: Is it the Council that has installed the stand pipes.

Florence: Yes Sir we can say they're the ones who installed pipes.

Kasoma: Really? I've just passed through grandmother Bwalya's place and she told me its not the council that installed the pipes but "us". Is it true?

Florence: Well at the time the installation took place I wasn't here. I found they had already installed these and paid the money.

Kasoma: They contributed money.

Florence: Yes.

Kasoma: People?

Florence: Yes.

Steve: Does it mean you did not contribute?

Florence: No because I wasn't here.

Steve: What about your husband.

Florence: He was also not here.

Kasoma: So we will tell them to stop you from drawing water because you did not contribute.

ALL: LAUGHTER.

Florence: (still laughing) Oh yes but I am a visitor here (meaning new in the area).

Steve: So you are new here?

Florence: Even now I'm still new in the area.

Kasoma: Now that the Council has put standpipes do people pay?

Florence: No, they don't pay.

Kasoma: Why is it that they don't pay?

Florence: What it means is that they had already contributed and there is no more loss.

Kasoma: So it means its the people who installed pipes isn't it so

Florence: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: Its not the Council neh!

Florence: Yes Sir.

Steve: (Turning to the 2nd woman). What about you?

Kasoma: What is your name mother.

Woman: I am Edna (pronounced Edina).

Kasoma: You are Edna.

Edna: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: When you look like an African and your name sounds English haven't you got an African name?

Edna: I am Chanda.

Kasoma: Yes, that's the name we want. (Laughter).

Steve: So you are Edna Chanda?

Edna: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: So Chanda for how long have you lived in this area?

Edna: Just 2 years.

Kasoma: Where did you live before you came here?

Edna: I was in Samfya.

Kasoma: Oh at Kasoma's (Kasoma being a Chief in Samfya district).

Edna: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: (Jokingly) I am Kasoma - Do you know me!

Edna: (startled) Ah!

Laughter.

Kasoma: So you are from our home in Bangweulu.

Edna: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: So madam Chanda what is it that displeases you here in our compound? Some have told us about scarcity of water now water has been installed - what else do you see displeasing?

Edna: What displeases me is the high cost of prices.

Kasoma: Prices?

Edna: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: Prices like for what?

Edna: E.g. Fish.

Kasoma: For example how much did Florence pay for this fish she's scrapping.

Edna: 45N.

Kasoma: 45N for just one piece?

Edna: Yes.

Kasoma: So its true the prices are high what else is expensive?

Edna: Others?

Kasoma: Yes.

Edna: No this is the only commodity!

Kasoma: Fish only?

Edna: Yes.

Kasoma: So everything is O.K. only fish is expensive.

Edna: Yes.

Kasoma: Why is it that you say fish is expensive, is it because you're from near the river?

Edna: Yes (Laughter).

Kasoma: You like fish only.

Edna: Yes.

Kasoma: Don't you eat meat?

Edna: Meat?

Kasoma: Yes.

Edna: Meat: if you decide to go to the butchery you should be sure you've got enough money.

Kasoma:..... Does it mean when you go to buy fish you don't need money

Edna: Fish?

Kasoma: Yes.

Edna: When you go to buy fish you expect to find it cheaper only to find it just as expensive as meat, like the one they used to buy.

Kasoma: No Chanda you are confussing us - you started by saying fish is expensive and others are not. Now you say if you go to the butchery you should have enough money, now do you tell me that meat is also expensive?

Edna: Yes, there are 2 expensive commodities.

Kasoma: So they are 2.

Edna: Yes.

Kasoma: What else displeases you here here ... I've forgotten what do you call this compound?

Edna/Steve: George.

Kasoma: There is that other name they call

Harry: MWAZIONA.

ALL: MWAZIONA.

Kasoma:..... Have you heard of it?

Edna: Yes I have heard of it.

Kasoma: What else displeases you here in Mwaziona?

Edna: Mud.

* Both Tapes not clear but a question in relation to what causes mud.

Edna: What causes mud?

Kasoma: Yes.

Edna: Its rain!

Kasoma: Its rain?

Edna: Yes, also the houses were not constructed properly.

Kasoma: Who built them?

Edna: The owners built for themselves.

Kasoma: So you have also not built well.

Edna: Ah! (surprised) so do you mean even the women build.

Kasoma: No! When I say you I'm including even your husband. So if you built houses well then it would be O.K. isn't it so?

Edna: Yes.

Kasoma: So what else causes much, because if you say houses
is really this house muddy?

Edna: No.

Kasoma: Then what causes mud?

Edna: When it rains.

Kasoma: In Matero and Woodlands does it not rain?

Edna: Because they have tarred roads.

Kasoma: So here the roads are not tarred.

Edna: Yes.

Kasoma: I see.

Steve/Kasoma: Thank you very much madam and Good-bye.

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2ND INTERVIEW.

Two men standing at the side of the road.

Harry: (INTRODUCTION): We are from Social(Community) Development Offices and we are discussing about development here in the Compound. There will be a meeting of many people from other countries. We believe they'll also come round here. Kalingalinga, CChawama etc. We'll be accompanying them (tours). Also these people I'm with will be helping in that Workshop. We are going round the compound asking people for their views.

1st man: Oh here what we need are Clinics. If the Government could help. There's only one Clinic in this area and its in Matero - not here in George. So the whole compound has no clinic.

Harry: What about schools - have you any here? Is it big enough to accomodate all the children?

1st man: Yes its big enough.

Harry: The children fit well.....what about the roads: Do buses reach here?

1st man: No, they don't because the roads are muddy - unless the roads are tarred then can buses pass through.

Harry: Maybe you do listen to news in the radio or might have heard from your friends, there's a topic our leaders discuss about that they would like compounds such as this one, George, to be developed (upgraded) there should be water, schools, good roads etc. Have you heard of this?

1st man: No.

Harry: Anyway its being discussed so it means word hasn't passed round enough because this development is for all of you who live here.

Steve: (To the 2nd man) Does it mean you also have heard of it?

2nd man: No.

Steve: Do you stay here.

2nd man: No.

Steve: Oh you stay in Matero and your friend stays here in George.

Harry: (To the 1st man) By the way father for how long have you lived here in George?

1st man: Well, I've stayed a long time about 5 years.

Steve/Harry: Five years!

1st man: I was previously in Choma.
Harry: Moving around we saw that standpipe - who installed it?
1st man: Its the Government.
Harry: Government?
1st man: Yes.
Harry: Did government just install the water?
Both men: People were contributing money.
Harry: So you were contributing?
2nd man: They were contributing K1.00 each.
1st man: They were contributing, even laying of pipes we did it ourselves.
Harry: So you laid the pipes.
1st man: Yes.
Harry: Who helped you?
1st man: Did they say

2nd man: (interrupting) its the Council.
1st man: (correcting his friend's statement) No: its UNIP.
Harry: So its UNIP?
1st man: Yes, we used to be put in Wards, branch, your office then you get one standpipe. That's how it was all over - according to Sections depending on the size.
Harry: How much do you pay for water (monthly). Do you pay or since you contributed the initial money for laying pipes.
1st man: I am sorry that I don't know.
Harry: Thank you and Good-bye.

3RD INTERVIEW.

INTRODUCTION.

We are from Social Development Offices and we are discussing about development here in the Compound also there'll be a meeting of many people from other countries. We believe they'll also come round here, Kalingalinga, Chayama etc. we'll be accompanying them. Also these people I'm with will also be helping in that Workshop. We are going around in the Compound asking people's opinions.

Harry: For how long have you lived here? What is it that is most problematic to you here; What is it that you would like either Council or Government to help you with. Others we've interviewed have given us their ideas. Do you live here?

Answer: Yes, I have lived here for 1 year.

Harry: Where were you from?

Answer: I used to live across in Matero the I came here.

Harry: Could you tell us what you like or dislike here.

Answer: I've nothing to say because the owner is not here.

Harry: No, we are not discussing about business. We are talking.
.....

Steve: (interjecting) Way of living (repeat) here in George which you think/see could happen or displeases you like others mentioned roads. What problems do you find here.

Answer: The same roads.

Harry: Others you're happy about. Suppose you get sick where do you go to?

Answer: I go to hospital.

Harry: No suppose is a mild cold (diverting to the 2nd man) And you too old man stay here?

2nd man: Yes.

Harry: What help do you expect from Government here in your area or what is it you expect for this area to be like others.

2nd man: Roads, Clinics because its far because we cannot afford to travel long distances with the sick it is far that what we need most. Also roads ... because at times when rains are heavy like they were this year, it was difficult for cars to pass through here. Now we need proper roads so that even when it rains roads remain
.....

passable. Also the Clinic and also what we realise is that if proper roads are built then Police Station may also be brought nearer so that in case of trouble we can easily call on Police.

Kabwe Kasoma: Are there many thieves here?

Answer: Oh yes many!

Harry: Now that you are talking about big roads, Clinics, markets and schools don't you think the space here is too small - its just enough for houses.

Answer: Space - Space for building houses?

Harry: Yes for Schools, markets etc. vacant space.

Answer: No, there's plenty of room - there can't be shortage of space.

Harry: Suppose Government decides to do just as UNIP did that instal water all over the compound, what do you think will be the people's reaction.

Answer: People will never refuse - they will help because just as you were talking about standpipes - water was a problem but immediately the idea of laying pipes daunted, people quickly helped (labourwise) and financially to let pipes be laid.

Harry: I see.

Kasoma: How much do they pay?

Answer: K1,00.

Harry: Do you still pay for water?

Answer: No, they haven't started paying .

Harry: So you were talking about roads development you see roads have many curves. Now when Community Development people come they won't accept curved roads, what ideas have you got regarding straightening of roads.

Answer: Oh these curves are caused by the way houses were constructed. Now if surveyors came they are better qualified to know how to straighten roads. Now those whose houses are obstructing the road can be resettled and that's where little trouble may erupt.

Kasoma: Because their houses will be demolished?

Answer: Yes.

Steve: Suppose its your house obstructing the road what or how would you feel.

Answer: Suppose its I, then I'll know I'm in trouble but if

Surveyor say that's where the road is to be what can I do?

Kasoma: What about your building expenses wasted on roofing sheets, bricks etc. what would you do?

Answer: That's the problem we are talking about because suppose road passes there and they evict me all my expenditures on bricks, roofing sheets etc. that I don't know what they'll do.

Steve: (To 3rd man) What about you. Where do you stay?

3rd man: No, I just came for a visit I stay in Chilenje.

Steve: So he came to visit you.

2nd man: Yes.

Kasoma: Does he like staying in Chilenje?

2nd man: No, he just came for a visit (Laughter).

Another 2 enter.

Kasoma: (to the older one) What about you old man do you stay here?

Older man: I stay in Matero.

4th Man: I am the one who lives here. But I speak Bemba.

Group: That still O.K.

Harry: We all understand Bemba.

Steve: What is your name?

Answer: I am Lombe Alfred, I work at Unza.

Group: Hm!

Kasoma: So we know each other.

Answer: Yes.

Kasoma: But we are so many that I may not know you. Why aren't you at work are you sick?

Answer: I am on 60 days leave because I work in Agriculture Department.

Kasoma: I see.

Steve: But you live here.

Answer: Yes.

Steve: Unza does not provide you with accommodation.

Answer: (in Nyanja and having difficulty in expression) We cannot all get houses (changing to Bemba)- houses are there but we outnumber them but they do give us housing allowance.

Steve: For how long have you lived here?

Answer: 4 years.

Kasoma: How long have you worked at Unza.

Answer: At Unza, 5 years.

Kasoma: You've really worked you joined in 1968.

Answer: I started work at Unza in 1969.

Kasoma:..... Oh yes I wasn't correct.

Kasoma: What improvement do you expect here in George.

Answer: The main problem here is that we have built good houses like myself speaking now here I've got a 6 roomed house now coming to money spent on this house is a lot, now the badness is that we haven't got good roads. We have different problem e.g. your wife gets sick at home for you to get transport to take her to the hospital, Taximen refuse to come in for fear of being stuck in the mud. Their argument is that the money we give them is little because suppose our vehicles gets stuck overnight it may be stripped of spare parts.

Kasoma: What about the Ambulance - wouldn't it come?

Alfred: Even though the Police may try to come in different ways even then the vehicle won't come right up to the house. They may come and stop far e.g. Continental Bar and summon you to bring the sick. Now if the patient is very sick he/she may even die before reaching the vehicle - that's the problem here.

Kasoma: Roads and you talked also about s the sick.

Alfred: Also that even if one is sick taking him to hospital is a problem due to transport difficulties. They fail to come close to the house where the patient is, because water and roads are poor if they had constructed roads, gravelled it and tarmarked then cars would reach.

Kasoma: Now talking about sick what is it that you would like see done regarding medication for the sick.

Alfred: We would like our Government to think about giving us goo roads, then we would then like to have even better houses.

Kasoma: I was talking on the question of the sick where do you take them.

Alfred: We take them th U.T.H. and Clinics.

Kasoma: Where is the Clinic?

Alfred: In Matero - here we don't have any Clinic.

Kasoma: Suppose you had Clinics nearby would you still insist on improved roads? Or suppose they're bad then no nearer where to take your sick. Thats why Taxidivers

refuse to contact the sick here due to distances covered. Its far taking somebody to Matero isn't it so?

Alfred: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: So would you be happy to have a Clinic nearby or

Alfred: We would be grateful to have a hospital here in the Compound. So that we can care for our sick and also if they can improve our roads.

Kasoma: What else in development would you like to see achieved in the Compound.

Alfred: We would like to be on par with other Compounds - they have markets, water.

Kasoma: (interrupting) I've seen a market around.

Alfred: The local market here is not authorised I suppose. Many people even fear to sell here they prefer selling in town. Here they just come home to sleep.

Kasoma: Why is it not authorised.

Alfred: They fear to bring a lot of commodities in the market for fear of thieves because they even tear wires to enter and the buildings are mere shacks.

Kasoma: We also realised its very muddy.

Alfred: Yes Sir - thats some of the problems.

Steve: On the question of Government's intention development what would you like or have you heard as to what development the Government intends bringing here.

Alfred: There is a lot we hear from people but we can only prove it true when the Government will have brought the development. As they tell us they'd construct us better roads leading into compounds and if you've built a house and the road is obstructed then they'll demolish the house. Now if the house is demolished then they'll give you another site. That will not be a problem because if houses obstruct straightening of the roads its very few houses which will be demolished as compared to many that will remain standing. If the road is curved on one point its not the whole compound that is affected others will remain while others will have to move to any resettlement area - you can't refuse because its Government directive.

Kasoma: What about your financial loss over the construction of house.

Alfred: If you are moved after spending a lot on your house that won't be a problem once another place has been found you because then you can carefully remove blocks, door frames etc. put them together and re-use them on your new house. So long procedure and everything is clear.

Steve: Also if once you've put them together then Government helps (transport) you delivering at your new site neh!

Alfred: Yes Sir.

Kasoma: At times there is (we are not saying it will be the case here) according to the Law of the country if Surveyers survey the road and break your house usually they send Estimators first to evaluate your property so that you can be compensated (We are not saying they'll come and demolish your house and compensate you) its according to Natural Law. What is your name again?

Alfred: Alfred Lombe.

Kasoma & All: Thank you very much and Good-bye.

PEOPLE OF GEORGE TOWNSHIP ILL-INFORMED ABOUT UPGRADING
SCHEME BUT CLEAR ON THEIR OWN PRIORITIES

Inhabitants of George township have heard little or nothing about the Government's plan to upgrade Lusaka's squatter areas with the help of a loan from the World Bank, but their priorities are pretty clear: water, clinics and all-weather roads.

Their greatest fear on the part of individual house owners seems to be: "What if the surveyors decide my house is one of those that must be demolished to make way for the improvements?". Most people have invested considerable time and money in their houses and fear they will not be adequately compensated if they are forced to relocate.

Confusion exists about self-help activities, though these are to be a vital part of the upgrading project. Though a number of standpipes have already been installed in George Township through a UNIP self-help scheme, many people think these standpipes were installed by the Council.

These are some of the conclusions that emerge from a series of interviews recently conducted in George by Kabwe Kasoma, Steve Mulenga and Harington Jere.

The nearest clinic to George is in Matero, and people are worried about what will happen to them if they, or members of their family, get seriously sick. Taxis will not come into George when the roads are muddy and even the municipal ambulances cannot get close to many houses.

Alfred Lombe, who works for the Agricultural Department, is one of those who is worried about reaching hospital in time in case of serious illness. Mr. Lombe lives in George because the department does not have enough official housing for all its employees. It pays him a housing allowance in lieu of accommodation.

"Even though the police may try in different ways, even then the ambulance can't come right to the house", he says. "They may get as far as the Continental Bar and summon you to bring the sick."

"Now if the patient is very sick, he or she may even die before reaching the vehicle -- that's the problem here."

Self-help projects should succeed if they are properly explained to the people. When asked whether the people would be willing to help lay water pipes, one man replied:

"People will never refuse. They will help just as they helped in bringing water to the standpipes under the UNIP scheme. Water was a problem and the costs of laying pipes were daunting, but people quickly helped with labour and contributions of K1.00 each to get the pipes laid."

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Notes

Two interviews were conducted with local people living at the George Compound no 17 April 1974, as part of the workshop. Interviewers solicited views of local people on their general living situation and how they thought they might benefit from a development project in their area. The two interviews, reported verbatim, are followed by a summary describing the main attitudes, fears and hopes of the people in George Compound about the Lusaka squatter upgrading project.

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