



COMPLETION REPORT FOR BOREHOLES DRILLING 2022

Introduction

Barely 3 months after drilling 2 boreholes at Tamuka and Njeremoto Gardens and restoring their irrigation systems for a total of 14.500 USD, the FFM embarked on another mega SLI project. The new project involved a 12.920 USD fund for drilling 4 boreholes at Banda, Chimurudze, Tashinga and Tazvida Gardens, which will be served with drip irrigation early 2023. Tashinga is a hospital staff garden while Tazvida is a school garden whereas the other two are ordinary community gardens. The latest boreholes bring the total number of gardens served with FFM boreholes to 8 including Tamuka, Njeremoto, Ruzambu and Kotamaurime. The FFM Trust is aiming to establish 24 drip-irrigated organic gardens in Matibi community by 2025. The already bore-holed 8 gardens are part of the first tranche of 12 which will probably be completed next year 2023.

How the project went on

The groundwork for this project involved 4 quotations to drill boreholes on wet hole policy. Three drillers quoted 4.200 USD per borehole but Riverton Investments, who had earlier quoted 3.500 offered the service at 3.230 as a way of discount. At last all the 4 boreholes were charged 12.920 USD inclusive of surveying, drilling, PVC casing and preliminary capacity testing. Once the terms of engagement were approved, the contract was signed and the work commenced on Sunday 14 August.

Chimurudze borehole was the first to be drilled and it was sited nearly 100m from the garden as per the survey done. Banda borehole came second on the same day 15 August, situated right by the garden site, but the driller had to incur two breakdowns before success. The 3rd and 4th boreholes were at Tashinga (80m from garden) and Tazvida (on garden site) where the drilling consumed more time and more diesel power due to a hard dolerite rock formation. In total the 4 boreholes took 3 days to drill owing to some incidents which disturbed the work such as two incidences when the rig vehicle stuck in mud. All the holes yielded plentiful water beginning at roughly 10 metres and the drilling continued to 60 metres deep.

Money for the completed boreholes was wired right on the day of completion but unfortunately the fund had to face some challenge in the banking system. The bank at Masvingo communicated some important changes rather late thereby prolonging the arrival of the money. At the time of composing this report, the money had still not appeared in the FFM Trust Account. The wired money comprised the said 12.920 USD and some 150 USD designated as tokens for agricultural extension officers.

Work to install drip irrigation in these 4 gardens will appear in the 2023 annual plan.



Lessons learnt

- Combining 4 boreholes to be drilled at once was a very economical move which resulted in discount
- Combining 4 boreholes to be fitted with drip irrigation at once may save time
- Some gardeners promised to prepare access roads to the gardens but failed to do as promised leading to delays and extra work for the drilling team. In future the AGRITEX officers ought to be more vigilant o this matter.