

Friends of Nabushome School



22 November 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters of Nabushome School,

Zimbabwe has been one of the main stories in the world's media over the last few days. President Mugabe has finally stepped down. You will have doubtless been following developments on the news or in the papers.

Supporters have asked us whether our school in Nabushome has been affected in any way and how we assess the situation.

Let's begin with our school. Here things have remained absolutely calm throughout. The protests and demonstrations have been restricted to the two major cities, Harare and Bulawayo. Even there, there have not been any violent incidents, something which hardly anyone would have thought possible. Respect! Our friends have followed developments as best they can via radio reports. Now, after Mugabe's resignation, their joy is huge. Our impression is that the country is filled with a mood of optimism and readiness for a fresh start.

What will happen next? What the country urgently needs is effective development aid from outside. It will not be able to get back on its feet without help. Many of us are painfully aware that Zimbabwe has not received any aid from the West for many years for political reasons. The aim was to target Mugabe and his government. But the real sufferers were and still are the people of Zimbabwe.

We now hope that the new government (which we assume will be a transitional government until the next elections in September 2018) will take the right decisions to put the country back on the road to recovery. At any rate, our friends in Nabushome are full of joy and hope.

We ourselves are glad and happy that, even in the most difficult times, **thanks to your help and support** our society has been able not only to keep the school in Nabushome running but also to feed the children over many years by providing school lunches. The fact that, beyond this, we have even been able to develop the school further, step by step, should fill all of you who have supported the school with great pride and deep satisfaction.

We will be visiting the school at Christmas to celebrate this festival together with our friends for the first time. The changes that have now taken place in the political situation will make the celebrations all the more joyous.

We are looking forward very much to seeing and talking to our friends again. At the present juncture, it is absolutely clear to us that our support must continue. The main focus of our help – lunches for the children, teaching materials and teacher remuneration – will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future. Whether we will be able to switch our attention to other things as time goes by will depend on the development of the country as a whole.

We will report in detail on our impressions and talks when we return.

I would like to thank you all most sincerely for your loyalty to our society and for your trust in our work. **Without you and your help, we would not have been able to achieve all we that have.** We will remain true to our longstanding principles:

- Every donation goes 100% to the school. Costs of any kind are assumed by us privately.
- We maintain complete control over all donations forwarded to the school.

Although it is still some way off, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and, above all, peaceful Christmas.



With African best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Paul Ziehl