

Subject: Press Release_TU eMpower Africa receives an initial donation of 6.500€ from Solarenergieförderverein Bayern to support its sustainable agribusiness in Zimbabwe



TU eMpower Africa

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**Solarenergieförderverein
Bayern e.V.**

Bavarian Association for the Promotion
of Solar Energy



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The crowdfunding campaign has already surpassed 60% of the funding needed to sustain the pilot project in the rural community of St. Rupert Mayer

17th of June, 2020

This June, [TU eMpower Africa e.V.](#), a non-profit organization that unites students, researchers, alumni and friends of the Technical University of Munich (TUM), has launched a crowdfunding campaign to support its pilot project in St. Rupert Mayer, a rural community in Zimbabwe. During the two first weeks of the campaign, the organization **has already received an initial amount of 6.500 € from [Solarenergieförderverein Bayern e.V.](#)**

In addition to the negative impacts of the global pandemic on the poor countries of the global South in particular, the Zimbabwean nine-month dry season has just begun and serious food shortages are one of the great risks for the area. Following the organization's goal to foster sustainable development for African communities through research-based solutions, the team of TU eMpower Africa e.V. has designed a crowdfunding campaign in order to get enough support to sustain local development at St. Rupert Mayer in midst of a global crisis and worsening environmental conditions.

For years, in cooperation with professors from TUM, the organization has been researching sustainable energy, water, and food supply in the rural community of St. Rupert Mayer. Now, the team has put their research into practice by helping Zimbabwean farmers with solar-powered water pumps and enhanced agricultural extension methods to improve their crop yield. Subsistence farming is the primary source of income and food in rural areas in Sub-Saharan Africa, where lacking access to affordable and reliable electricity, water, and food supply restricts economic growth.

“At this stage, an additional solar-powered water pump and further seeds and agricultural equipment can massively improve the situation in the community. We are willing to reach these objectives, among others, through this crowdfunding campaign”, said **Michelle Zombory from TU eMpower Africa e.V.** “Thanks to the initial donation of Solarenergieförderverein Bayern e.V. we already surpassed the 30% of the funding needed to sustain our project in rural Zimbabwe from the very beginning!”

Now, however, **the crowdfunding campaign already reached more than 60% of the fundings needed.**

“We are thrilled to collaborate with the team of TU eMpower Africa e.V. in this project specifically. We believe renewable energy is the future, and communities like St. Rupert Mayer can benefit largely from it in order to perpetuate sustainable development in the long term”, commented **Fabian Flade from Solarenergieförderverein Bayern e.V.**

An overview of the work of TU eMpower Africa e.V. in the community so far can be found in the attached documents.

If you want to kindly support the project and make your own contribution, please access the following link: <https://www.betterplace.org/en/projects/80364>

If you have any questions, suggestions, or opportunities for cooperation, please feel free to contact us by e-mail at info@tu-empower-africa.org