

Brick-making at Malolo

Thursday February 9th, 2006

Today we will go to Malolo for making the cement bricks which we are going to use as the outer layer of the new fuel-efficient stoves we are going to build at 20 schools. On the way to Malolo we are doing a short stop at Chiseyo Primary School



Satisfied cook



Working in the kitchen

to deliver School Report Forms which they are supposed to fill in

and send back on a monthly basis. We are also delivering the same to Chanyombe Primary School on our way to Malolo. At the same time, at this school we are taking a look at the new fuel-efficient stove they have and talked to the cook (mpishi) who expressed her satisfaction and happiness over this stove. She said, that she never has had such a good, smoke free and clean working environment. This was really nice to hear as we are going to build 20 stoves exactly the same as the one she has. A small talk to the children is always appreciated, especially when the wazungu are there.



Posing for TNT

When driving through the savannah landscape, you see people walking, women and children carrying babies and/or water or firewood on their heads. We also see a man bicycling with his wife carrying her baby on her wife. Our driver uses the horn several times long before we are getting to close, but no reaction from the bicycling man and his family. When coming closer, and he discover us, he gets panic and they are falling of the bicykle. We stop and the driver apologize the wife and ask if any one are injured, no one was hurt but they were afraid. The driver informed them, never to get panic as the driver of a car always have seen them long before they come closer and the car will always slow down if the cyclist not have get off the road or leaved passage.

Malolo is considered amongst the natives as "Kushoto mwa dunia" which can be translated to English as "the end of the world". We are now approaching very rural areas. At Malolo Primary School, we pick up the mason and some material to use when doing the brick-making. We leave the school and drive some kilometers to a small place where as the community members have prepared for brick-making, by having lots of buckets with water and sand. During the work many children are watching as usual, curious about those wazungu visiting their village.



The interested public



Brick-making at Malolo

First thing to do is to greet, shaking hands, etc. before the work can begin. Then we can start to prepare the cement, today we need to produce approximately 300 bricks. The perfect mix for this will be 30 buckets of sand, 1 ½ bag of cement plus water. We all work to do the mixing, and the community members are very pleased to see that also the wazungu are participating.



Mixing the cement



Having a rest



Janet "the brick-maker"

They are real professionals in doing bricks, by using a form, fill it up with cement, and then lift the form, and there you have 5 bricks. I think that many of us in some countries prefer to go to the shop and buy the bricks than to produce themselves. Here the most things are done by their own hands. Now the bricks needs curing for about seven days before we can use them. After the work has been finished, the community members are serving us lunch, today consisting of rice and goat... again.



The scenery changes when going from Malolo to our hotel at Iringa where we are going to stay overnight. It changes from savannah with Ikuyu and akacia trees to be more bush landscape with lots of bushes and cactus and the road are getting smaller and smaller. We are near a big river and last time the driver passed this area, the locals were out searching for a man who probably was taken by a crocodile at the river and they were now looking for possible human remains.



On the way to our accomodation for the night, which is at Comfort Hotel, the car starts to shake, as when one wheel is oval or has lost one of the weight balances. So after we have checked in to the hotel, we all goes to the next village named Ilula to fix the wheel.



To get to Ilula you need to pass the mountain, this is the road which goes to South Africa, and we have a nice scenery. While the wheel are being fixed at Ilula, we take a walk down one of the "streets" to find what the "shops" are offering, we asked for the price of a Kanga and here they were cheaper compared to Mpwapwa. Then back to the hotel to enjoy a cold (baridi) beer. When talking about beer, it seems that the most popular beer are Kilimanjaro, Serengeti & Safari. I prefer the Safari beer as it is more tasty.

Salama
"Baba Kjelli"