

Stove construction at Chinyanghuku Primary School

Tuesday February 21st, 2006



Today we have to do two things, first to build a stove at Chinyanghuku according to the project plan and then to re-visit Singonhali for price negotiation of the desks as informed yesterday. On the way to Chinyanghuku School we were to cross a stream (dried) and here was a truck not able to cross due to the sand. Many community members were here to help and carried stones to put in the sand so the truck could pass. As we have a 4 wheel drive this was not really a problem for us.



Chinyanghuku Primary School

| Chinyanghuku Primary School | Pre-primary | Primary | Cobet | Total |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|
| Boys | 24 | 282 | 17 | 343 |
| Girls | 36 | 268 | 15 | 319 |
| Number of teachers | | | | 8 |
| Total | 60 | 550 | 32 | 662 (Teachers excl.) |

The school is located not far away from Singonhali, the difference is that Chinyanghuku seems to be a very well organized school. Here are many people from the community as well as the school committee and teachers meeting up at our arrival. We are invited to the Head Masters office to do our presentations and also in his room you can see the difference from other schools, his desk is properly organized. The room is clean and even the curtains has nice accessories.



Head Masters office

The stove construction

The work starts and everybody lines up here as well to give a hand to bring out all the material from the store room. All items are very soon in place at the new kitchen building and the atmosphere is very friendly and nice. We also line up to carry the clay needed for the stove enabling the mason and local "fundu" to start working with the construction.



Lining up for bricks



Lining up for clay



Community members

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The construction of the stoves goes really fast, the local "fundi" seems to be very professional and works quick and knows what has to be done without questions.

The children

We do not need to attend any longer, I think we disturb them more than helping them so I am taking a look around the school, have a small chat with some teachers. It is soon lunch time and some of the smaller children from standard one to three are sitting under a tree and wait for their lunch. I join them and here is a teacher as well and I ask if they can any English.



Professional "fundi"

He said that they were not so good but can count to ten, so everybody counted to ten. Here was a girl who could count to one hundred and she came to me and I asked her to sit by my right side and she started to count. When she had counted to fifty I said thank you and she received applause from the other children. One of them had an abacus which I borrowed and now it was my time to count for them in Swahili from one up to fifty. I was also honoured with applause from the children and we all enjoyed the gathering.



Small talk with the children and doing the counting together

The second assassination

This is the second school who wish to honour our visit with serving a goat and to prepare the same in an old tradition. The goat are being slaughtered and cut into pieces and our driver is an expert on the old traditional way to do the special sauce which is needed to use as a dip. It is a specific part of the liver which is used and he helps the people to do this. The School Project Programme Manager is also a specialist and do stick to the traditions and helps to prepare the casings in a very specific way. Pictures from this event are censored...

Re-visiting Singonhali for negotiations

As we are not needed to assist the stove construction and while the school members preparing the coming lunch we are going back to Singonhali Primary School to meet as agreed yesterday.

We had a meeting with the Head Master, the Chairman of the School Committee and the local Carpenter. First thing to do is to find out and clarify the material costs of one desk. This is declared to be TSH 7,120 per desk. Then the negotiation can start with the carpenter. He opens with a very high price and the negotiation goes back and forth, sometimes it is nearly a scientific negotiation. He is far away from an acceptable price, and I need to do a comparison of his daily earnings of those desk (he can produce five desks per day) and I claim that he will earn more during the day than the Head Master of the school will do and this can not be acceptable. Later on also the Chairman of the School Committee has a straight talk to him.

After a while we have come down to a reasonable price, we have reduced the first price with nearly 59 percent. This means that we can order twenty four desks, which has the result that we are solving this schools problem completely when it concerns desks to all students.

We inform the Head Master that to receive the donation, he needs to clean up the class rooms, these are no longer to be used as store rooms. I also suggest that they implement a daily routine

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sweeping off / cleaning the floors every day before the lessons starts or when the school day ends. He is also being informed that a ceremony will take place when handing over the donation / price from the competition of "Colour the World" and he as Head Master, the teachers, students and their parents, the Chairman of the School Committee and its members as well as the whole community are invited to participate. Probably also the District Education Commissioner will participate as well and possibly some other important people.

This has indeed been a good day and we travel back to Chinyanghuku to participate the late lunch. Late is really the word to use, the school has ended and the people are waiting for us and we need to explain and apologize our late arrival. Anyhow, the late lunch is being served at the Head Masters house and we have a nice meal together before returning to our base camp after dark.



Salama
"Baba Kjelli" Rosengren