

Dar es Salaam January 29th, 2006

Sunday January 29th, 2006

DAY

Swahili, Swahili, I will soon have nightmares about Swahili. Talking about nightmares, I am at present staying in a hotel having a double bed, what no one told me, was that the other bed was for the cock rogues. Woke up tonight with some of these sweeties in my bed, I had preferred some one else company... And yesterday I had a coke, tasted well until I was to fill up my glass again. Out of the bottle came something which some ones says, well they are rich of protein... I do not really know what it was but it looked like a fly.



Children's playground at the Salvation Army

Think we better get used to such "happenings" as tomorrow will be our last day of Swahili lessons and the day after we will go by road to Dodoma, the distance is about 500 kilometer and is expected to take 8 hour. We will have meetings with several WFP units there about the work to do. We will also have a discussion on the "Walk the World" plan in Dodoma. A walk will also take place at and on Mount Kilimanjaro. The ones who wish to walk and climbing the Kilimanjaro is expected to announce their participation as registration and tickets is needed in advance. I will report more about this later on.



NOTES ABOUT SWAHILI

The Swahili day has 12 daylight hours followed by 12 night hours. The new day begins at sunrise, or 6:00 in the morning. The night cycle begins at 6:00 in the evening/sunset, approximately.

NOTE! (which can be very confusing) there is a 6 hours difference between Swahili time and European standard time. When you in Swahili say that the time is 5 minutes to 4 (saa nne kasoro dakika tano), then you have to calculate 4 PLUS 6, consequently the time is 5 minutes to 10!!! It takes time to be used to this...


In Swahili days of the week are named according to the Arabic system, which means that the first day of the week is Saturday and the last day is Friday. When you in Swahili will book a meeting on a certain date, such as 17-12-1994, you need to say; (date = 10+7, month, year = number of thousands + number of hundreds + 90 + 4) tarehe kumi na saba Desemba elfu moja mia tisa tisini na nne. This plus lot's of other thing's to learn in one week. My brain will soon have a hard disc crash... or at least melt down in this heat.



Laundry time



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It happened again 

I met 2 girls from Sweden (Tabora) located in the Singida region, I will be in that region from March 6th to April 1st so maybe we will meet again. Sweden's population must be decreasing, so many Swedes I have met during this short time...

Today is the hottest day so far, extremely hot, somewhere between 35-40 degrees and high humidity. Even the natives avoided the sun and heat. Our teacher had earlier proposed that we could have lessons at South Beach but this was not possible in this heat. At 13.30 we stopped the lessons and went back to our air conditioned hotel, thank god! In Dodoma and the hotel there, have only 2 rooms which are air conditioned, hopefully these are available. The afternoon and evening we updated our expense reports and planned the coming trip to Dodoma.

Tomorrow we will have our last meeting at WFP Country office and in the evening we will be at Karla's house as she invited us again.