

Excerpts of Report of Head Teacher Ezekiel Ngungat delivered in person to Ashley Shuyler and Sarah Norton on January 29, 2009

Ashley, we feel privileged to host your visit again today. In fact, you are no longer a visitor, but a daughter of Losinoni village who has been away for some time, and now coming back home. Please, you are welcome with your friend [Sarah].

As you know, this primary school was started in January 1975 with 80 pupils, but enrollment has increased to 726. Among them are 340 boys and 386 girls. Total pupils for informal education are 30, bringing the grand total to 756. There are 7 teachers only, and among them 5 are female and 2 are male. There is a shortage of 8 teachers.

We are pleased to inform you that the AfricAid organization has been our great financial supporter for the past five years now. We are happy and proud to know that you are spearheading those efforts. AfricAid started supporting our school with school material like textbooks, exercise books, pens and pencils. Also, construction and furnishing of two classrooms provided the children of this village with a good learning environment. Last year, we received more funds...for construction of two more classrooms, toilets and renovation of three classrooms. We are also receiving continued financial support to run the school lunch program which began two years ago...The pupils have been provided with porridge for lunch since 2007...Also, the pupils have a small farm where they grow maize as part of our self-reliance activities. For the past two years, they managed to harvest 15 bags of maize...and all of it put into the lunch program...The pupils also collect firewood for cooking porridge, while the parents contribute 20,000 shillings each month as a stipend for the cook who is volunteering to prepare lunch for the pupils.

...The pupils are now very active in the classrooms, as they get something to eat. There is also improvement in classroom performance. I hope you are well-informed that most of the children attend school without having breakfast, and for many if not all, lunch at school is their only meal for the whole day. Currently, the school attendance has improved dramatically by 30% after the introduction of lunch.

Mr. Ben Allen [of the Evergreen Rotary Club] visited us in December of last year and provided us with the highlights of your efforts [to provide solar power] which is the great need for the whole school community. We are very delighted and thankful to learn that AfricAid has started some efforts with the Rotary Club to make this project a reality...Once this project takes off, we believe it will attract more teachers to join this school.

Dear Ashley, we are very grateful to AfricAid for their continued support for our school. Indeed, it has made a great difference to the children and people of this village. Please extend our regards to AfricAid members...We have been blessed to have you today. This is your village. We wish you a good stay in Tanzania and later on a safe and enjoyable journey back home.

Respectfully submitted by
Ezekiel S. Ngungat
Head Teacher
Letter to AfricAid from Ezekiel Ngungat

Excerpts from the Letter to AfricAid Provided by Mr. Ezekiel Ngungat

Dear Guests,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our school again and, please, do feel at home.

Most of the school buildings were constructed through support from the Diocese in the Arusha region. But later, we were lucky to receive more support for construction and furnishings of two more classrooms and also school material from AfricAid, through Selian Lutheran Hospital. We are really grateful to all of them for their kind support. Special thanks should go to them for spearheading all the efforts in fundraising and even participating in painting the two classrooms.

This school has also been supported by Rotary International for the piped water project, which included reservoir tanks for water harvesting. That project has effectively cut down the number of children with skeletal fluorosis. Most of the affected children were earlier supported by Selian Hospital to undergo orthopedic surgery. The majority of them have improved their school attendance, because they can now go to school without feeling any pains.

Your visit will provide you an opportunity to see the progress and achievements in our school since you initiated the school lunch programme for the pupils. The pupils' attendance before lunch program has improved from 55% to 90%. The pupils are also very active and participate effectively during the sessions because they are filled, fed up.

The above achievements have been contributed by the donations from AfricAid. We are also aware of your current efforts in fundraising by selling the keychains and bracelets. We also appreciate your commitment in striving to fundraise more funds for the toilets, classrooms and desks. Your contributions and compassion have really made a difference to the children of this village.

The involvement of AfricAid in this school has also been an inspiration to the parents, who have started fundraising for money to pay for the cook's salary who prepares lunch for the pupils. They have also contributed some money for constructing staff houses to accommodate more teachers, who are urgently needed to meet the increasing number of pupils.

Dear Guests, despite all the efforts to create a conducive learning environment for the school, still there are some challenges facing the staff and the parents. The school has inadequate desks, staff houses, pit latrines and also five classrooms need to be renovated. The prices of building material have gone up due to recent increase of prices for gasoline and also Tanzanian shilling depreciation. However, we still hope that any amount of funds or material which will be extended to the school will help to push further the progress of improving the learning environment.

We are very thankful for your support and your decision to visit us today. Kindly extend our regards to AfricAid members. Please tell them that we love them and we really value our relationship and their kind support. We hope some of them will manage to visit us again in the future.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable journey back home and you are welcome again to Losinoni. May God bless you.

Respectfully,

Ezekiel Ngungat
Head Teacher