

Guaruchal, January 9, 2020

EXPLANATION OF MOTIVE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Guaruchal is an agricultural community 30 minutes away from the Municipality Benítez's capital, El Pilar, in Sucre State. It is a mountainous area where people produce cocoa, coffee, roots, tubers, corn, fruits and timber trees. Its main problems are lack of paved roads, electric light and lack of basic services. The only public institution there is the primary school, an institution created in the 1950s, which started in the houses of families in the community. In the year 2000, the government offered to build the campus headquarters, for which it requested to locate a space to raise a temporary structure. After 20 years of waiting, we have decided to initiate steps to improve our reality, described below.

The small space that constitutes the campus is a single classroom, four meters wide by four meters long; with a height no greater than 2 and a half meters. The space for the kitchen is half the size of the classroom. We have a freezer, a gas stove, a reverberator, two small gas cylinders, pots, pans, ladles, knives, plastic punch bowls, a pot to store water, a table and a shelf. In 2011, they installed a solar panel to power the freezer and the Canaima computers. This device is currently damaged.

A total of 37 students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. Because we only have one classroom, the first three grades have classes in the morning and the other three in the afternoon. It is necessary to mention that we lack a nursery, a preschool and a high school. The enrolment for preschool is 21 children aged 3 to 5. The enrolment for high school is 17, from 9th to 12th grade, but it can be increased, taking into consideration that most of the children who graduate from school drop out because they have to walk to the nearest community (El Algarrobo) to attend classes, leaving their homes in the morning to return at night. This generates a sense of apathy associated with the high cost of studying far from their community. As a result, very few people have a university education and many choose to raise a family during their adolescence while working in the fields to support themselves.

After 18 years, the improvised school structure has the following characteristics:

- wooden walls in very bad condition because of termites
- a worn-out zinc roof with many holes, leading to leaks
- a cement floor with some cracks
- a lack of desks and chairs to facilitate the work of teachers and improve the quality of education
- a lack of bathrooms
- a lack of sewage pipes from the kitchen
- a lack of electricity for the freezer (when they deliver supplies from the School Food Security (S.A.E). Program, the food that need to be cold is stored in the nearest community, El Algarrobo).

The limited space (by the edge of the main road) is another weakness since the children do not have land where they can efficiently develop programs such as endogenous development, culture and sports. The community bar is the space used to host cultural activities, educational meetings, exhibitions and promotions due to the absence of spaces suitable for educational purposes.

This is the reality we are trying to change. This drives us to engage the attention of non-profit organizations, with the purpose of receiving relevant guidance for the construction of an agro-ecological school. We have a portion of land where we aspire to build the

headquarters, with appropriate dimensions to accommodate all the students (preschool, elementary school and high school). We envision the academic training merged with agricultural activity that can complement the food that comes from the S.A.E. system. Likewise, we want to build a stage, a library, a sports field and a multipurpose room that allows the operation of other services, including medical care, storage, market and training required by the community. The aforementioned land requires a topographic study.

Our vision is to build what we want with resources from the environment:

- with the wood in the area: oak, apamate, cedar, cabimbo, carob, as well as caña brava and carata, if needed for the roof;
- the different types of sand; clay and molds for the elaboration of blocks or walls;
- and the abundant spring water.

The community members are willing to cooperate, and have offered to provide work tools and labor at no cost, because this project will improve the living conditions of many people living on ranches or makeshift houses, similar to the school, with the goal of raising the quality of life of everyone in general.

We thank you for taking the time to analyze this situation and for your quick response. With nothing else to add, we remain yours.

Sincerely, the signatories below.

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