

Newsletter Mutanyana Weru Spring 2015

Here is our newsletter with information on our project in Mozambique, which is headed by our inspiring Father André van Zon.

1. Situation spring 2015

There is no special news from Maputo. The local situation is fairly dismal and the living conditions are not particularly good yet.

So it will be understood that the situation of the people in our project also suffers from this general dismal. It should however be noted that the agriculture project for the first time resulted in some profits!!

The mutual efforts of all the projects women resulted in a profit of €156. Not much, you may think...but one should realise that the various families also feed themselves from the yields.

Not only do they earn their own money, but this also improves their self-esteem. And stimulates to continue in the future.

For your interest we placed on the Dutch language part of our website www.mutanyanaweru.nl under the heading: annual reports (jaarverslagen) an overview of the income and expenses of the project over the year 2014.

2. Financies

As earlier agreed our Foundation transferred in 2014 the amount of €20 000 to Father André in Maputo. That year we received some unexpected donations, viz.: In the city of Nijmegen (convent Brakkenstein) a special advent action had been organised. This action resulted in €7000!! And this money was allocated for a special part of the project and transferred to Maputo in January 2015. Apart from this fabulous amount 2 more (allocated) gifts have been received with a total value of €2250. Also this amount has been transferred to Maputo.

These extra gifts came on a moment that Father André had very serious financial problems: One of the regular donors of the project could not continue his financial support. Father André, however, had counted on this money and had a big financial problem by the end of 2014. So these extra gifts came as 'gifts from heaven'. Because this donor could not guarantee further sponsoring in 2015, Father André had to adopt his budgeting plan for this year.

Our Foundation again will donate in 2015 the amount of € 20 000. Due to the donations so far (until May 2015) the Foundations Board (temporarily) committed itself to donate in 2016 again €20 000; a final decision will be made during the November board meeting. So your gift will stay very important for us!

May we count on your gift again?

3. Celebration

This year Father André will be a priest for 50 years and we will celebrate this lustrum on Sunday August 16th. 2015. You are cordially invited to join the party.

The programme for the celebration is as follows:

10.00 hrs. start of a festive mess in the church of Venhorst (NL) followed by a reception in the local 'Gemeenschapshuis' which will last until approx. 13.30 hrs.

Also the local Guild (with Chairman André's brother Sjef van Zon) will take part in the festivities.

4. Overview of the work of Father André

For many years Father André van Zon lives in one of world's poorest countries in the world: Mozambique. This country suffered from a civil war until 1992. The plan to start a care centre comes from his frequent visits to the Central Hospital of Maputo. He there was confronted with women (and their children) suffering from serious diseases, mal nutrition, war (victims of exploding land mines), traffic accidents, etc.

He also found orphans and children who were abandoned by their parents. In the years 1992-1993 he started a simple

day care. But due to the increasing demand an extension became necessary. In 1993 the money for the realisation of this plan became available resulting in building a permanent care centre (1994-1995) just outside the city of Maputo.

In December 1995 the first people moved in the new housing.

5 years later (December 1999) the centre housed 55 people.

Since then the number of residents of the Centre increased to approx. 70 in 2003 and to 90 women and children in 2008. This number of people was the absolute maximum for the Centre.

From the start of the project re-integration was an important issue.

Because of his growing age and the fact that no one from his own congregation could follow him up, the continuity of the Centre became more and more important. Especially the long term continuity.



Father André in 1995

In 2007 the Brazilian Fathers Orionites were interested in the project. This Congregation originates from Italy and is specialised in care for orphans. Mutual consultations and the approval of the archbishop of Maputo led to the final take-over of the Centre by the Orionites on September 30th. 2008. The Orionites wanted to independently continue the operation of the Centre, without the support of Father André and our Foundation. Immediately following the take-over the Orionites started to adapt and renovate the facilities of the Centre. Hence the re-integration process had to be speeded up.

This change of ownership has used a lot of energy of Father André and other involved people and also cost a lot of time and money. With the help of extra donations from The Netherlands and Belgium and all the efforts of Father André and the residents of the Centre, the changeover project was very successful. It should be noted that one of the sponsors of the take-over was the Congregation of Father André – the Congregation of the Holy Sacrament. In Holland via the so called Mission Procure and in Belgium via an organisation named CENA. Other sponsors are our own Foundation Mutanyana Weru and an organisation named 'Wild Geese'. Whilst the construction of a small house was financed by the 'Mission Committee Boekel-Venhorst at the end of 2010.

Because all these new developments the re-organisation project became the main project as described in the chapter 'Our Mission' on our website. New lots of agricultural land were bought and new housing erected for the residents. The organisation in Maputo also obtained some larger pieces of land which needed to be cultivated. The results of this agriculture project have to make the people self-supporting and independent of 'foreign' help. This also should result in a higher self-esteem of the people allowing them to better and easier integrate in the local Mozambican society.



Father André in 2011

Extensive information on all these developments can be found in the newsletters which are placed on our website on a regular basis.

5. Finally

We wish you all a good summer and holiday time.

Thanks again for your support!!

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