

Newsletter Mutanyana Weru, November 2010.

Father André van Zon has been in contact with his brother several times (the Chairman of our Foundation), who wrote down the following:

1. Situation summer 2010

This month the first harvest of garden products of the cooperative fields became reality. Father André hired 2 experienced farmers for managing and guarding these somewhat remote fields. By doing so he is sure to get better results from the fields and to avoid stealing of products. Apart from the small private fields near the houses of the people involved, there is a cooperative field with a size of 100 square meters. The first harvest of lettuce and cabbage has been sold on the market. The good weather also contributed in this first crop. The disadvantage is that the local market is overflowed with similar products, resulting in a price decrease.



*Women clean the land from a.o.
the so-called elephants grass*

In the future products will be grown with a continuing high demand. Sweet potatoes and Cassava should do very well in this respect.

Patricia, an English development volunteer, and her assistant, a local Mozambique consultant, have developed a second training of 3 days each per group.

Depending on their qualifications the people have been classified into the following 3 groups:

- Group 1 get commercial training
- Group 2 get product/agriculture training
- Group 3 get training on how to handle small animals like sheep, goat, chicken, ducks, etc.

The progress in setting up the Association is very slow and time consuming. The local consultant has studied the articles of association and where needed

adapted to the new government rules. Hopefully this will speed up the approval of the authorities.

2. Situation September 2010

Death toll up to 13 after riots in Maputo Sep 6, 2010 11:47 PM | By Sapa-AFP/Reuters

The death toll has risen to 13 from rioting that broke out last week in Maputo in protest over rising food prices, Mozambique's health minister Ivo Garrido said yesterday.



HUNGER PANGS: Police stand guard as Mozambicans douse burning barricades in the capital Maputo yesterday. Demonstrators blocked roads with burning tyres and looted shops in riots sparked by rising bread prices Picture: REUTERS
“150 have been arrested after riots over rising food, power prices”

Father André reported the following:

Due to the increase of 30% for e.g. bread prices a lot of commotion developed in Maputo.

Apart from this the government decreased the import quality of rice to b-class and increased the prices by 20% for this lower quality rice.

As a result of the devaluation of the local currency (meticaís) the government has to pay higher prices on the foreign stock markets. The Meticaís dropped 15 to 20% versus Euro and US \$!

The attitude of foreign donor countries changed negatively because of the corruption and the violation of human rights in Mozambique.

All above facts resulted in riots, looting and attacks on foreigners.

Strikes have been declared, resulting in no more public transport. Whenever public transport tried to become alive again, the busses or trains were set on fire. This situation resulted in police intervention causing deaths (17 ??)... and a lot of people injured.

After the government cancelled the price increases, by subsidizing the bakers and rice traders, it became quiet in the streets of Maputo.

A second strike threatened the hospital personnel for better earnings and circumstances. Fortunately this thread did not become reality.

During the riots especially foreigners were seen as the creators of all troubles and for them it was dangerous to get out on the street. Because of this Father André and his fellow priests had to stay in their house for a week.

Weather situation and the agricultural project:

Right now there is a big need for rain. Although there is sufficient water supply left in the wells, watering the land needs regular and a lot of work. The participants of the project as well as the 2 hired farmers do their utmost; the crops are growing well.

Because of the lack of rain the water becomes more salty which is not good for a lot of plants. The people would like to grow plants which can better stand this saltier water. This knowledge is not available and needs investigation. The people now try to grow a variety of different plants and gain experience in this way. People hope to increase the results next year with this new knowledge.

In order to lower the work pressure during the harvest season laborers are hired on a pay per day basis.

During harvest time the market is being overflowed with fresh vegetables resulting in lower prices and this heavily influences the financial results.

An advantage is that there is sufficient food now for own use!

Let's wait and hope for better times.



3. Finances:

With the promises of our regular donors the financial plan for 2010 is on schedule. Per quarter our Foundation transfers € 7000 to the account of Father André in Mozambique. It is in our plans to reduce the costs of living of the participants of the project. This should be accomplished by generating income from agriculture and garden projects.

The various costs for dressing, education, healthcare, etc. will not go down, unfortunately! A positive point is that, because of the devaluation of the Meticaís, Father André receives now more Meticaís for the same amount of Euro's.

Unfortunately the amount of money received by our Foundation this year, stays behind our forecasted income. Although our Foundation has built up a small financial reserve, the situation might occur that our financial support has to be adapted negatively. Of course we are in this respect fully dependent of your generosity.

Because of above situation we kindly ask you to assist us in making an extra effort to support Father André and his volunteers. By this the handicapped and sick people should continue to get health support and the young children will continue to get their basic education at school, this allowing them to get a better future.

4. Donations and Legacies

We continue to ask you for your generous financial support. As can be read in this newsletter, the costs of living has increased in Mozambique and the level of the donation has gone down this year. The efforts of all volunteers in Maputo and the families deserve our support.

May we count on an additional gift?

It is good to know that periodic gifts are fiscally most attractive. If necessary our Chairman, Sjeff van Zon, can give detailed information (phone +31492321626)

5. WEBSITE

A number of texts in the Dutch version of our site has been adapted to best explain the past and current situation. We are still waiting for new photo material from Mozambique allowing us to finish the

update. Once this is accomplished we will start working on the English and Portuguese pages.

6. Visit to Holland of Father André

Father André's sister, named Tilly, will celebrate on May 20th. 2011 here 50th. wedding anniversary. Father André promised to be in Holland by then to participate to the celebration.

The Board of our Foundation will use the occasion to meet him and discuss matters with him. If readers are interested to also meet Father André they are kindly requested to inform our secretary, Niek Rader, on this desire. We could do some coordination. (preferably by e-mail to: rader@casema.nl)

7. Finally

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2011.

Thank you for your support!

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