

Report for the John Casson Foundation 1<sup>st</sup> of April to 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2019

After a very patchy rainy season April started with one week of school before we closed for the 4week holiday break.

In many respects it has been an uneventful second term which is reassuring in many ways. The student numbers are stable and we experienced far less late comers after the long holiday when the school started again in the middle of May.

Normally it would take a week or ten days for the student numbers to stabilize but almost all students were back from day one. A big relief to all of us. Although we ve experienced lower motivation levels amongst students in grade 8 and 9. The teachers were complaining that some of the students in particular seemed more interested in partying or after school activities in general. I had to remind myself that we are dealing with teenagers between 15 to 18 years of age!

Luckily, we had only one drop out in grade 9 this year so far. A young woman of 21 y of age who fell pregnant.

After looking into the issue with Digilio our headmaster we came to the conclusion that the students are lacking role models and a vision how different their future lives could look like.

With that in mind we got in touch with Zambians who can lead by example and pose an inspiration for our students. In the near future we will have a group of high court judges' women and men come to the school to talk to grade 8 and 9 about prospects and what they can achieve if they choose to put their mind to it. we ve also been in touch with a Zambian surgeon who practised medicine in Washington DC for 10 years and now has come back to Zambia to help and give back to his native country.

In addition to that we will have carpenters and other trades coming to talk about their experiences. It will help too ones the students see the possibility of learning trades on site with our trade centre being built on site.

Another reason we've identified as a contributing factor is the lack of support from the parent's side. Although the school provides most of the student's school requirements some books and school supplies need to be provided for by the parents. Some parents have failed to do so and or neglected to send their children to school prioritizing house work, field work or looking after a sick siblings or relatives over school attendance.

In such cases the teachers seek out the parents personally to discuss the reasons for the child's absenteeism.

Unfortunately, when parents have not attended school themselves, they often don't see the value of an education or even don't want their children to become more educated than the parents.

We are aware that it will be a long process to transform mindsets of such nature. That's why the teachers are offering adult literacy classes in the evenings as well.

Another challenge we faced this term was the ministry of education trying to force a different teaching system upon selected schools as a trial. It was requested that the selected primary schools should have specialized teachers starting from grade 1. That would mean that there is a different teacher for every subject which is common practise in secondary school but proven unsuccessful in primary school.

Apart from the fact that it is a logistical night mare it costs for a school to change the system but most of all it is not advisable from an educational point of view since children in primary school have different needs and require a more personalized teaching method. Our research confirmed our first impression and we realized that we had to make a clear stand while maintaining a good relationship with the educational board of Zambia. So far our decision has been accepted as it seems since no further advances from official side have been made.

As indicated in the last report the Trade School Project is progressing and the building phase has started. We've been given a small grant by the German Embassy to buy the first floorloom and we are very excited that by the 1<sup>st</sup> of October we are hoping to start weaving the first pieces hopefully.

The interest in the community is huge and we are hoping that in future young mothers can learn the weaving trade and support themselves and their children without being forced into a marriage they wouldn't have chosen for themselves.

Another highlight of the term was a few weeks ago when Nayamba School competed at Natemwa school at a sports tournament. Not all students could go but a few selected ones represented Nayamba Saschool. The event was well attended and the Nayamba students had a lot of fun. I'll attach pictures.





I will also attach the reports of three different teachers for the last quarter term at Nayamba School as well as some pictures of the first building





The school closes in the beginning of August for the winter holidays and opens again in the beginning of September.

Wishing you all a sunny and warm summer in beautiful Cornwall

Much love and gratitude from all of us at Nayamba School

Anja

