

**TIYENDE PAMODZI** *Let's Walk Together*  
**GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL MALAWI**  
P.O. Box 80, Dedza, Malawi



From: Task Force Tiyende Pamodzi Girls Secondary School, Malawi  
Nazareth Foundation Malawi, the Netherlands  
GF Goeldner Foundation, Germany

To: Donors of Tiyende Pamodzi Girls Secondary School

Date: April 8, 2020



**SUBJECT: Update April 2020**  
**TIYENDE PAMODZI GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL**



Dear all,

The year 2020 started with a logo for our Tiyende Pamodzi Girls Secondary School! It shows our determination to make our dream a reality. The year 2020 also started with a period of unusual heavy rains. This prevented our contractor to take possession of the site early January.

Another delay occurred because relatives of the people who sold us the land for the school blocked the road to the project site. They wanted money from their relatives and thought to make their point clear by involving us. As these people did not want to listen to anybody (not even the Group Village Headman and the Traditional Authority Kachindamoto, who ordered them to clear the road) we had to go to court. On February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the case was before the High Court in Lilongwe. The trespassers were given an injunction. The road was cleared.

**Progress on the project site**

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 PBM Construction, our contractor, arrived at the site. They started construction immediately. Since that day they have been working constantly, diligently and in a well ordered fashion. We started with the administration block and one block of 2 classrooms. If construction can continue at this rate, these buildings will be finished in June 2020.

Tuesday March 10, 2020: Water pump has been placed on the borehole  
Construction of the foundation of the administration block



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Wednesday March 18, 2020:

Administration block almost ready to start with the slab  
Construction foundation of the classroom block (2 classrooms)



Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020:

Administration block: walls going up  
Classroom block ready to start with the slab



Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

Administration block: ready up to ring beam  
Classroom block: walls going up



### **First phase: fundraising and financial situation**

Since our previous up date letter we have been submitting a lot of project proposals in various countries. Some have already been successful. Others are still in review. However, the international corona crisis is affecting the financial progress of our project. Three donor organisations were scheduled for a visit to the project site in March. All of them had to cancel their trips to Malawi. Some funding has been postponed.

After discussion with some of our donors we have decided to put all our efforts towards finishing the construction of the buildings that we have started and towards opening of the school in September 2020. The following considerations were made:

1. The Ministry of Education has indicated that, if staff houses are not ready in time, we are allowed to find accommodation in the village (temporarily). We could still open the school in September if we finish the administration block and double classroom block.
2. We have already started construction of the administration block and double classroom block. It would be wise to finish them (even if we won't be able to open the school in September, due to other unforeseen circumstances like a full corona outbreak in Malawi).

This means that the construction of the staff houses will be postponed. Construction of the first double staff house block will be next in line. The funds still to be received, as indicated below, are not far from the amount we need. But we will not start construction before we are sure of having the funds to pay for the whole building. Both the GF Goeldner Foundation and Nazareth Foundation Malawi are confident that the remaining 10.846 euro will be found ere long.

<b>First Phase A (until June 2020)</b>	<b>Cost in Euro</b>	<b>Available in Euro</b>	<b>Amount remaining</b>
• 2 class rooms	48.625		
• 1 administration block	48.776		
• Toilets • grading of the road • external works • contingencies	49.255		
<b>Total</b>	<b>146.656</b>	<b>146.656</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>First Phase B (September 2020)</b>			
• 2 staff houses • 2 kitchens & pit latrines	69.109		
• External works	2.572		
Funds promised / not yet received		<b>60.835</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>218.337</b>	<b>207.491</b>	<b>10.846</b>

### **Ministry of Education**

At the end of January we had meetings at several offices of the Ministry of Education. The Ministry has embraced the project. They especially appreciate our efforts towards helping girls in a rural area. They are happy to give their support. This means they will also pay the salaries of the teachers.

### **EIMU**

The EIMU (Education Infrastructure Management Unit) informed us that the building plans for the school are in order. Few minor comments were highlighted where it is necessary to amend. Since then corrected drawings have been delivered at the offices of the EIMU. The EIMU also requested us to consider stand alone houses for teachers. We informed them by letter that we cannot conform to this because of the additional funds this would cost and the contracts we have with our donor organisations.

### Director of Secondary Education

The Director of Secondary Education informed us that formerly requirements for school buildings were minimal. But this has changed two years ago, because of a new curriculum that is more science orientated. Nowadays a laboratory and library are compulsory. The laboratory because of the science subjects, the library because the government is not able to provide books for every student. Therefore the students need to use the library where they can share books. She therefore encouraged us to build the library and science block as soon as possible.

However, because we are phasing the project according to funding, and because each class room will have it's own storeroom, she temporarily allowed us to use the class rooms also as a library and laboratory. She gave permission to start with only Form 1, single stream, growing each year with new Form 1 students. The Director of Secondary Education agreed with the focus of our school on teaching skills for girls within the existing curriculum.

### Education Division Manager

The Education Division Manager (EDM) agreed with our plan to phase the project: starting with 1 block of 2 classrooms (with latrines) and the administration block. He would welcome 2 staff houses to be ready in September for the head teacher and deputy head teacher. However, if we cannot manage this in time, we are responsible to find 2 good houses in the village for these teachers to rent. The other teachers can find rent houses by themselves for the time being.

The EIMU should be advising us during construction. When we are nearing completion we have to inform the EDM. Their office will come for a final inspection. If the classrooms should be ready by the end of July or mid August, there will be enough time to open in September. The EDM would like us to work together into that direction. At that point in time the EDM is responsible for providing a starter pack of books and materials, selection of teachers and selection of students.

The government will send 60% of the students (coming from primary schools in the area) and Tiyende Pamodzi is allowed to choose the other 40%. We will be allowed to admit girls coming directly from primary schools but also drop out girls who want to come back to school according to the re-admission policy for girls of the government.

### Duty Waiver

At the end of December we asked the Director of Planning of the Ministry of Education to write a letter to ask for a duty waiver from the Commissioner of the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA). Our request was granted and a letter has been sent to the MRA in January. This means we will not have to pay taxes for our project.



*Visit Task Force to the Project Site*

## **Conclusion**

The road towards our goal is long and bumpy. But looking back we have come a long way. We have land, a borehole, all the permission we need and assistance from the Malawian government which means the government will pay the salaries of the teachers. Soon, the buildings to open the school will be ready. Furniture for these two buildings is waiting on the spot. As soon as more funding comes available we can start constructing the other necessary buildings immediately.

We are still hopeful to be able to open the school for Form 1 in September 2020. We hope and pray for your understanding and your continuing support towards the goal we are striving for: secondary school education for the girls, young mothers and their children, of the very poor and underdeveloped region of Mganja, Malawi.

Kind regards,

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