



Liyoyelo News

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Limulunga, Zambia

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We have our own website! www.liyoyelo.com

Liyoyelo is online! Thanks to Alex Painter in the UK who put in hours of his own time to design and set up www.liyoyelo.com - Liyoyelo's very own website. For online versions of the newsletters, photos and other information, do take a look. And thank you Alex!

Leaving Liyoyelo - goodbye from Samir and Raphaela



After 7 months of living and working at Liyoyelo, the time has come for us to say goodbye. We've achieved many of the things we planned (overhaul the financial management, re-organise the administration, see a new website launched), but, as always, there are many things we did not get a chance to do. It was often a challenge, adjusting to life in a small village after living in London, but overall, we've had a wonderful, interesting and - we hope - productive time. Our greatest pleasure was to see how happy the girls are in the project. It is hard to bring this across, even in newsletters or photos, but Liyoyelo truly is a special place. We're sad to be leaving, but we're not going too far - we're moving to Lusaka (the capital city) to take up a new job, but already look forward to coming back for a visit. Our thanks go to all the staff, to **Christine, Sasa, Bo Ma Monde, Annie, Miss Sikota and Mr Akapelwa**, and last but not least to **Mr Maketo**, who'll be taking over from us as Project Manager. It's been a pleasure working and learning from all of you.

Samir & Raphaela



Before we left, Liyoyelo gave us a small leaving party. There was singing, and soft drinks, and chicken and fat cakes - a proper Liyoyelo celebration. The girls also received new winter clothes, a gift from a supporter visiting Limulunga. You can see the new hats and scarves on the right.



... and welcome to Mr Maketo, new Project Manager for Liyoyelo

It is with great pleasure that we announce that **Mr Maketo**, our Bookkeeper, has agreed to become the new Project Manager for the Liyoyelo Project. We're certain that his skills, experience and enthusiasm will bring great benefits to Liyoyelo and take this project forward in new and exciting ways. Welcome on board!



Going Fishing



Fish is an important part of the staple diet here in Western Province. And fishing is a fun activity too! Liyoyelo children and their friends often go fishing in the local streams and rivers over the weekend - mostly with nets - and their efforts make a tasty contribution to our food supply.



Above (from left to right): Mwangala, Charity, Sepiso, Lucy, Pumulo, Muyangwa, Nalikando and Mwanangombe show off their catch.

Friends in unexpected places: Seattle - Portland - Limulunga



Thank you to Eric, Rick, Ryan and the other members of the **Hardie** family who sent bags of goodies all the way from the USA to the children here at Liyoyelo. Eric (left) was working on the construction of a new community school here in Limulunga.

Right: Rebecca, Mwangala, Silukena and Charity are very with their new clothes from America.



Learning traditional skills at Liyoyelo

Although we're a rather large family, living at Liyoyelo is like living in any other home in the village of Limulunga. At Liyoyelo, we consider it important for the children to learn the many valuable traditional skills that the older generation can pass on. One example is the plastering of a traditional hut.



Above and right: project children scrub the Lwambo.

Below: Kamwengo brings the 'glue' in a bowl. You can see where the plaster has fallen off the wall (this is a cooking hut). The new plaster will be applied over the underlying structure.

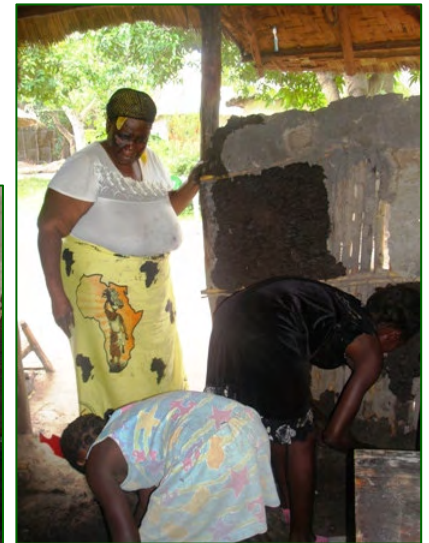
The first step is gathering a plant called *Lwambo*. This is a type of grass which grows in the bush surrounding Limulunga. This plant is picked and placed in a large tub of water.



The *Lwambo* is then vigorously scrubbed and crushed. It releases a sticky sap which, mixed with water, creates a runny glue-like substance.



The next step is to mix this watery 'glue' with some earth, as you can see Mwangala doing on the right. This creates a thick and sticky mud paste and the plastering can begin.



Supervised by the Matron, Mwangala and Kamwengo plaster the inside of the cooking hut. Once dried, this traditional plaster becomes quite hard. It will last until the end of the next rainy season, so at least one year, until it needs to be renewed again. All components for this plaster are locally available, entirely bio-degradable, and even more importantly - free! The mud walls will stay cool in the hot summer, and retain the heat in the winter months.

In the context of global environmental degradation and widespread poverty, maintaining the knowledge of traditional skills is perhaps more important than ever.

Kuomboka Festival – 11th of April



Did you know that Liyoyelo is situated in a Royal Village? The Lozi king, known as the Litunga, has his Winter Palace in Limulunga. Every year, the great Zambezi river bursts its banks and floods the fertile plains. Whole villages are abandoned for a season, and everyone - men, women, children and animals, move to the higher land on the escarpment to escape the flood waters.



The Litunga moves from his Summer Palace in the village of Lealui (on the flood plains) to his Winter Palace in Limulunga. This movement is known as **Kuomboka** and is one of the largest and most famous festivals in Zambia. The Litunga, his entourage and luggage travel by boat - a very large and beautiful wooden boat known as the *Nalikwanda*. Spurred on by the pounding of the large royal drums, over one hundred paddlers manoeuvre the Nalikwanda across the flood plains, in a journey often taking up to 8 hours. The Litunga is given a riotous welcome when he arrives in Limulunga, as thousands of people turn out to welcome him.



Diplomats and dignitaries, including the President of Zambia, as well as thousands of Zambians and increasing numbers of tourists, descend on Limulunga and make this usually quiet and peaceful village a very busy and noisy place - but just for one weekend.

Photos:

- Top left: the beautiful flooded plains
- Middle left: a village under water
- Left: the Litunga's luggage is loaded onto the Nalikwanda
- Below left: the Nalikwanda sets out on its journey from Lealui to Limulunga
- Below right: Samir and friend Sean with men wearing Lozi traditional dress.



Other news



Congratulations Violet!

Just before Easter, schools closed here in Limulunga and all our girls brought home their school reports. Some girls are clearly struggling with their Maths and English, but all have shown real improvement over the last term. Although a number of our girls did really well, **Violet Chirwa** deserves a special mention. She came **top of her class** in three subjects, and was in the top five for all other subjects. This is a wonderful achievement - Violet, we're proud of you! Continue the good work.



We have a new volunteer working with us, **Annie Mwanangombe**. Annie is a double-orphan, having lost both her parents when she was quite young. This experience is something she shares with most of the girls at Liyoyelo. She is helping Housemother Bo Ma Monde, and is already a wonderful 'older sister' to all the girls. Annie has just completed school, and will be helping out at Liyoyelo until she receives her final results. We're very pleased to have her on board.

New funding from BMI

We're also pleased to report that the Bethlehem Mission Immensee (HIV/AIDS Fund) has once again decided to give us their financial support. As well as supporting us in meeting our running costs (always our biggest challenge), we have also received monies to help us run *Income Generating Activities*. We will be maintaining our organic garden and also starting a small shop. We will be stocking rice and mealie meal, the two main staple foods here.

Visitors from Germany

Michael Schröter was the first representative of the "Limulunga" Association in Germany, which has been supporting our project faithfully from the beginning, to visit our project. He was very impressed with our work, took lots of pictures and sat under the famous *Mongo tree* for countless hours making notes. Upon his return home, he gave a public presentation and account of his journey to our well wishers in Germany.

Michael had also come to Zambia to explore an interesting new way of raising funds for our Project. The intention is to send a container with used furniture and appliances from Germany and to auction these goods in Lusaka. If this works out, it could become a major source of income for the Project.

Michael we place a lot of hope in you, don't let us down.



Anke Rieger, who is a teacher by profession, spent two weeks with us at Liyoyelo.

Our girls enjoyed every moment, even though it was hard work at times. There were coaching sessions in English and Maths, but there was also a lot of fun drawing pictures and actually compiling a little book.

There was long jump, high jump, running and ball games. Anke even bought a beautiful football for the Project. And there were challenges like who can walk under the rope without touching it? Obviously, every time the rope went a little bit lower.

Here we see Rebecca doing very well. Children from the neighbourhood were welcome to join.

„Head and shoulders...” became a favourite, and other songs Anke introduced to the girls. During all these sessions, English was the medium of communication. Also that has helped the children tremendously to catch up with their first foreign language.

A very big Thank you to Anke, we will remember you!



And we look forward to your coming back as you promised.

What a farewell: „We are connected!”



*From all of us at Liyoyelo, we want to say **Thank You** to all our friends and supporters, in Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK, Ireland and the USA who continue to make our work possible.*

Good bye until next time!