

BUSEGA SCOTLAND NEWSLETTER September 2024



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Celebration, celebration, celebration!

As you may have guessed the theme of this edition of Nyumba Moja is 'celebration'!

We are aware that pride can come before a fall, but it is sometimes worth taking the risk. We think this is one of those times.

In the last issue of the newsletter, we listed six major achievements of Busega Scotland, but we forgot one. [We currently provide employment for thirteen Tanzanians](#) on a full, part-time or sessional basis. Ten of those staff are at Mayega Children's Centre, and we are a major employer. Mayega is a remote and impoverished village of 2500 people, reliant on subsistence agriculture, fishing, and petty trading.

In our project work, we have a focus on staff development. In June, the Mayega social worker, [Neema Stephen, was appointed Centre Manager](#) on the retirement of Project Leader, Rev. Canon Gadlord Deuli. Neema has made a great start in her new position. We wish her every success.

We have previously reported on the achievements of Tangu, our first Mayega leaver to study at A level. There was not a dry eye in the house when her national examination results came through. She achieved a [division 1 in Kiswahili, Geography and History](#). Tangu is currently working at the Centre, tutoring the primary school children. Neema is helping her with university



Tangu

applications. Tangu will remain a trailblazer for Mayega and a real inspiration.

This issue provides further details of the Busega Festival, celebrating 10 years of Busega Scotland; the children's party at Mayega and the trip to the Serengeti national park, the progress of Cenzo and John on their great trek (Kutembea Kubwa), and full details of the [anniversary celebration dinner in Elgin on 8th October \(to which everyone is invited\)](#).

Neema – our new Centre Manager

We interviewed Neema shortly after her appointment. She reflected on her time at Mayega and hopes for the future,

You began working with us two years ago. Back then, what were your impressions of the Centre?

I thought it was a good place where children could achieve their dreams. It was clear to me that the children were loved by the staff. That was everyone, whatever the job they were doing.



How have you found working as our qualified social worker?

When I arrived, I saw a lot of love, but we needed more professionalism. I was clear with the staff that the Centre was a place of work and not an extension of their home lives. We had to maintain standards and we did that by talking, reminding, and discussing. This was a challenge given the educational background of many of the staff.

What made you want to become Centre Manager and take on that responsibility?

I want to continue improving the Centre and challenge myself to do that. I can see how children's lives are being changed and I believe I can lead on that journey. The children come from many different backgrounds, and we need to make amends for the difficulties of their past. We are shaping the children for their futures.

What do you see as the main challenges for yourself?

Being responsible for so much and for so many people! I need to get things right as often as possible and to think carefully about what I say to colleagues. My experience of Busega Scotland encourages me. I get good support and don't feel on my own. The staff have responded well to my appointment. That is very positive unless they are good actors!

What are your dreams for the Centre?

Success is about the children. We all want to see them achieve and do well. It is their dreams that I want to come true. It would be great to see Mayega children having important positions in Tanzanian society.



Footnote – Christine and John visited the Centre in May and June. They were even more impressed than usual. The compound was so much better with shady, mature trees and the children looked so well. But the main impression was the togetherness of the staff and children. A sense of purpose and confidence.

Mayega Party

We may live thousands of miles apart in Tanzania and UK, but it is important that the celebrations of ten years of Busega Scotland connect us together. Tanzanians love to party.

The children at the Centre are no exception, and put their heart and soul into music, dance and storytelling.



The Mayega party was on 1st June. We invited local people who have been particularly important in supporting the Centre. There was a complimentary speech from the village chairman who was incredibly knowledgeable about our work.



But pride of place went to the children, who entertained the guests, and to our cook, Victoria, who made sure the food was of its usual high quality.

NYUMBA MOJA (ONE HOUSE)



There was also an opportunity to say goodbye to Pastor Deuli, on his retirement, and to our security guard, Nethanel, who has left to train as a pastor with the African Inland Church. He showed his oratory skills as master of ceremonies for the party.

Pastor Deuli



Nethanel

The event was marred by some bad news. On the same morning, our maintenance man, Deus Mtoba, died in hospital after a short illness. We did not know that Deus had been ill until we received the phone call. Mr and Mrs Mtoba had been invited to the party as special guests. There is a tribute to Deus on our website - click [Busega Scotland | A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number SCO46101](#) and look for the post on 9th June.

Serengeti trip



Three weeks after the party a bus rolled into the Centre, hired by Mark Madola James of Shrike Safaris. It took children and staff into the marvellous Serengeti national park. You can imagine the excitement, as, for the whole day, rangers from the park educated the children on the iconic animals. Here are some of the children's comments.



Emma asked, 'why are zebra and wildebeest always standing eating grass together?' The rangers said it was for protection against predators.

Rose, Anastasia, and Tumaini were very excited to see so many wildebeest running across the road (as part of the Great Migration). They were a bit worried that if the wildebeest kept coming the bus would be there until evening and get back to the Centre very late!

Petro asked, 'how can crocodiles and hippos live in the same place without eating each other!?' The rangers replied that hippos are too big for crocodiles to eat.



Lunch was at the Kirawira airstrip, where light aircraft bring in wealthy tourists. **Boaz** was very excited to see a plane land but wanted to know why it was smaller than the ones on TV and could those ones land on the grass at Kirawira?

Neema said what impressed her the most during the day was the inquisitiveness of the children and their enthusiasm to learn.

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Many thanks go to Mark and Shrike Safaris for sponsoring the trip, and, you've guessed it, the children want to go again!

Kutembea Kubwa (the Great Trek)

The original Great Trek or Groot Trek took place in the 18th century when thousands of Dutch speaking-settlers travelled from the Cape coast to the interior of what is now modern-day South Africa. They were seeking a homeland independent of British rule. Later, the voortrekkers were celebrated by Afrikaner nationalists who became the architects of apartheid.

Cenzo at Lochinborb



Cenzo and John's walking has many differences from the Groot Trek! As well as being modest by comparison, it is built on co-operation not division, and is part of Busega Scotland's commitment to Nyumba Moja or 'building one house'. Still, aiming to walk 1,350 miles is quite an undertaking, and the lads have passed the 1200-mile mark. [Journey's end will be the town of Aberfeldy, on 3rd October.](#) Our walkers will then have completed 79 miles of the Rob Roy Way across the Perthshire hills. Time for a well-earned rest!

If you would like to sponsor the trekkers, it is possible through the Donate Now page on the Busega Scotland website by clicking here [Busega Scotland](#). Cenzo and John thank you for your support.

10th Anniversary Dinner

Busega Scotland would like to invite you to our anniversary dinner celebrating ten successful years of working in Tanzania.

It will take place on **Tuesday 8th October at the Qismat Indian restaurant in Elgin from 6.30 for 7pm**. There will be a buffet of starters, main courses, sweets and tea or coffee. Tickets are priced at £30 per person. There will also be a Tanzanian-themed raffle.

Our after-dinner speaker will be **Alison (AL) Kennedy**. Alison is an award-winning Scots writer; academic and stand-up comedian and we are thrilled to have her support. Thanks also go to Atif Ali at the Qismat, and Aztec Oils Northern for sponsoring the event. **All the money raised by the dinner will go to Busega Scotland projects.**



Places are limited and booking is essential. This can be done by emailing busegascotland@gmail.com. Please note any special dietary requirements.

We really hope to see you at the dinner and to make it a very special night. There is much to celebrate.

Musical evening

We plan to end our Busega Festival year with a concert at the Garmouth and Kingston Golf Club. We have had successful events there before. Garmouth is the Scottish home of Busega Scotland and four of our trustees live in the village! Please watch out for further details.

2024 is the Busega Festival Year celebrating 10 years of successful work in Tanzania. As ever, thank you so much for your support.

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