



AIDE MONDIALE ORPHELINS RECONFORT

Speech: Mlle Tasha de Vasconcelos

Opening of AMOR Special Wing, Kasese Maternity Unit, Malawi 11th Nov 2009

Ladies and gentlemen I'm so happy to be with you all again – my friends and my family here in Malawi. I am so happy to be back on the land that since my birth has never left the soles of my feet. It is wonderful to see this maternity unit now being used and working to save the lives of mothers and children. I'm so grateful to Dr Chris Brooks and Lifeline Malawi for their part in this wonderful partnership with AMOR which has led to this special day.

It is also a great honour and privilege to be able to welcome His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco here today, and we're very honoured that he has agreed to find time in his busy schedule to come and formally open this unit.

It's also a great pleasure to welcome honoured friends and dignitaries from the Government of the Vice-President Mrs Joyce Banda.

As Ambassador of the Institut Pasteur I would also like to thank Dr Cecile Delval who has come all the way from the Institut Pasteur in France to accompany me, This is a wonderful opportunity to share my project with Institut Pasteur, and for us to build a strong collaboration together in the field of medical research and symbolically this has been done with gift of a microscope for the maternity unit.

Before I hand over to His Serene Highness I would like to read the prayer of St. Francis which is *my*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.*

[lead applause].