



**REPORT ON THE VISIT TO MALAWI BY THE HONORARY
CONSUL TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO**

MS. TASHA DE VASCONCELOS,

FROM 29TH TO 09TH NOVEMBER, 2014.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Lilongwe 3
Malawi
December, 2014

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Malawi's Honorary Consul to Monaco, Ms. Tasha de Vasconcelos and her delegation comprising Medical Doctors from Monaco and International Journalists and Media visited Malawi from 29th October to 9th November, 2014 to develop a training program. The aim of the visit was to donate medical equipment from Princess Grace Hospital in Monaco to Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH) and outline the mission, of AMOR forward in the field of health and education. The following were some of the activities carried out by Ms. Tasha de Vasconcelos during her visit.

2.0. MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY, PROF. ARTHUR PETER MUTHARIKA, PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF MALAWI, 4th November, 2014.

During her visit, the Honorary Consul, who is also European Union Ambassador for Humanitarian causes, Ms Tasha de Vasconcelos and her delegation had official meeting with His Excellency the President on 4th November, 2014. The main purpose of the meeting was to brief His Excellency on some of the activities that she has carried out and plans to do in Malawi with AMOR. The meeting expressed gratitude from the President to Ms. Tasha de Vasconcelos for being offered an opportunity to carry out her noble calling of providing humanitarian assistance to the

people of Malawi and the work she is doing and for this to continue.

2.1. MEETING WITH HER EXCELLENCY, THE FIRST LADY, MADAM GETRUDE MUTHARIKA, ON 4TH NOVEMBER, 2014

During the meeting, the Honorary Consul requested Her Excellency the First Lady for her support in the implementation of development activities she would like to bring to Malawi. She further informed Her Excellency that she trying to make possible the construction of a Girls Primary School to compliment the First Lady's mission to promote girls education in Malawi. In the afternoon of the same day, Ms Tasha de Vasconcelos the Honorary Consul accompanied Madam First Lady, to St Goliath Girls Primary School, where they together launched the girls' "Say No Campaign".

2.2. FILM SHOOTING TO PROMOTE TOURISM IN MANGOCHI, ON 2ND NOVEMBER, 2014

During her visit, the Honorary Consul also undertook film shooting in some areas of Mangochi. She also visited Emmanuel Private Primary School, to shoot a film depicting Malawi's education standards in rural area and how serious the needs to build new

schools for education. Filming was done by International Journalists.

2.3. MEETING WITH OFFICIALS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH CENTRAL HOSPITAL, CANCER DEPARTMENT, ON 3RD NOVEMBER, 2014.

Ms Tasha de Vasconcelos, the Honorary Consul and Medical Doctors from Princess Grace Hospital in Monaco, Dr. George Garnier and Dr Charles Ferrari, the Chief Oncologist and Chief Surgeon respectively, held a one day meeting with officials of the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH), Cancer Department. The main purpose of the meeting was to donate medical equipment for cancer treatment and protection equipment, and to establish an institutional cooperation between Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and Princess Grace Hospital of Monaco.

During the meeting, members agreed to firstly initiate the formation of cooperation between the two institutions before the establishment of government to government relationship at higher level. The partnership will also involve, help to train Malawian Doctors on the new treatment for cancer and help to improve the health delivery system in Malawi.

The following are issues to be considered in the partnership between Princess Grace Hospital of Monaco and QECH.

2.3.1. Need to train medical doctors on cancer treatment and health in general:

During the meeting, medical doctors for cancer department indicated that doctors need to undergo special training on the new ways of treating cancer. This will reduce death rates caused by cancer infection, as appropriate treatment will be administered on patients. Training of doctors and nurses is a fundamental need in Malawi.

2.3.2. Shortage of human resource in the cancer department and health department:

The hospital has only one qualified oncologist who looks into all cancer cases, and this puts pressure on services rendered in the department. The hospital officials, proposed to the Honorary Consul and medical doctors to look into the possibility of specialist training for more doctors and nurses in oncology and all areas in order to increase capacity.

2.3.3. Research on cancer treatment and prevention.

Members of staff from the cancer department informed the Honorary Consul and her delegation that in the new

partnership agreement consideration should be placed on research on causes, treatment and prevention of cancer transmission. It was further noted that the hospital has not yet conducted a research on causes of oesophageal cancer in Malawi.

2.3.4. Capacity Building

It was agreed that capacity building in general has to be considered in the cooperation between the two institutions so as to create an enabling environment appropriate for cancer treatment and other areas of health. The cooperation should address the problem of space in wards for cancer patients. At present the hospital does not have enough wards for cancer patients, although the number of injections is growing. Due to this, cancer patients and all patients are overcrowded in one ward, leading to easy transmission of other contagious diseases. Many are on the floor on mattresses due to shortages of beds.

3.0. OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Ms Tasha de Vasconcelos, the Honorary Consul accompanied the First Lady on her visit to St Maria Goretti Primary School where she launched “ SAY NO Girls Campaign”.

Stark reality of many challenges and problems.

Girls are encouraged to leave school at the age of 8.

They have to walk miles to go to school as no schools nearby and they have to fetch water for the family.

They are tired and overworked. Tragedy is many are attacked on the journey abused and raped.

This is a campaign to sensitize girls and encourage on the need to say “NO” to any kind of constraint and to stand up for themselves that may hinder them from going further with their education. In this regard, girls at the school were urged to say “no” to early marriages, sexual harassments, and early pregnancy as these practices further other diseases such as HIV.

During the event, Ms Tasha de Vasconcelos, the Honorary Consul made a donation of three cartons of soap, shoes and school equipment to promote hygiene among girls. In her speech, she expressed her gratitude for being offered the opportunity to work

hand in hand with Her Excellency to promote girls education in Malawi.

4.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

During the visit, the following were the recommendations made by the Honorary Consul and relevant stakeholders:

- The Honorary Consul advised officials at QECH to touch base with her any time there is a need requiring her attention.
- Malawi's relations with Monaco need to be nurtured.
- Officials at QECH and Princess Grace Hospital of Monaco should initiate and prepare forward.

5.0. CONCLUSION

The visit to Malawi by Ms Tasha de Vasconcelos, the Honorary Consul in Monaco and her delegation to donate medical equipment and show the need through media exposure to support both the health and education sectors in Malawi and for Southern Africa was vital and productive. As supermodel, brand ambassador, and European Union Ambassador for Humanitarian causes, the

Honorary Consul, has with AMOR significantly helped health issues and education in Southern Africa and for this reason we need her valuable work to continue this noble mission.