South Africa: Scouts in Mpumalanga province to benefit from a new centre

SOUTH AFRICA - On 1st September 2012, SCOUTS South Africa and the German Umckaloabo Foundation officially opened a state-of-the-art Scout Centre in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.

The two-year-old project that was funded by the foundation has seen the building of a centre that has a hall, classrooms, a kitchen, dormitories and offices. One of the offices has been allocated to the Scouts of Mpumalanga province that initially had offices in a farm in Nelspruit.

The opening ceremony was graced by prominent guests among them the Chief Scout of South Africa, Reverend Vukile Mehana, the chairperson of the German Umckaloabo Foundation, Dr. Olaf Schwabe, and the Vice-chairman of the German Umckaloabo Foundation Dr. Traugott Ullrich.

In attendance was Mr. Axel Milberg a member of the board of trustees of the foundation, who is a famous German actor and Ms. Lucy Magagula, the Deputy Provincial Commissioner of the Mpumalanga province.

"Scouting is a movement that involves and empowers children from all walks of life to learn by doing, to respect themselves, others, their communities and their environment. Our Cubs, Scouts and Rovers learn how to be independent, resourceful and live according to principles and values of honesty, loyalty, tolerance, acceptance and honour. They learn to be leaders as well as team players. Scouts learn to be thrifty and environmentally conscious.

They also discover the importance of service and good citizenship while becoming messengers of peace. These values are incorporated in our programmes that are designed to complement the formal school education and they have helped many Scouts to grow up and find success in the corporate and civil society sectors.

With the support of the Umckaloabo Foundation, approximately 5000 children and youths will be able to be prepared for the future. “Said the Chief Scout of South Africa, Reverend Vukile Mehana. Umckaloabo foundation was founded in 2010 to support community projects in southern Africa.

The foundation supports the Mantsase Children home in Mohales Hoek, Lesotho, as well as various educational projects in the Alice community and Eastern Cape.

The Umckaloabo foundation stands for sustainable help for children and adolescents to fight poverty through education.
FOCUS ON NSOs

Mauritius counts down to Centenary Jamboree

MAURITIUS - On the east coast of Mauritius in the Flacq district, lays the beautiful Belle Mare beach. The beach is protected by an off shore coral reef making it ideal for swimming and other water activities. With this in mind, the Mauritius Scout Association looks forward to welcome Scouts from all over the world for its centenary Jamboree at the Belle Mare beach.

The host is making final touches with regards to the preparation of the centenary Jamboree that will be the climax of their centenary celebrations (1912 – 2012), under the banner, “Our colours brighten Scouting”. The jamboree will be held from 24th November to 3rd December 2012.

Scouts aged between 11 and 16 years are expected to pay 200 USD while the International Service Team (IST) will pay 150 USD. The fee will cater for food, tents, onsite activities, the jamboree kit, camp insurance and inland transport (from the airport to the jamboree site). The participants will experience a program that is based on the Scouting method and personal skill development. This will be an opportunity for them to learn and exchange their experiences and culture.

Zonal conference and youth forum in West Africa zone

IVORY COAST - The West Africa Zonal Scout Forum was held at the premises of the National headquarters of Fédération Ivoirienne du Scoutsisme in Treichville Abidjan under the theme “The Contribution of Scouting to reconciliation and Social Cohesion” from 10th to 15th August 2012.

The forum saw the participation of thirty-one Scouts from Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Niger Nigeria and Togo. The participants also elected a new committee to replace the interim committee that was elected in Benin in 2011.

They new committee members are: Abdoul Kadir Amadou (Niger), Assamoua St. Romeo (Côte d’Ivoire), Dorinda Bruce Acquah (Ghana), Dossou Togbe (Benin), Abdulkadir Abubakar Gana – Secretary General (Nigeria) and Abdoul Razak Agoro - Chairperson (Togo).

At the end of the forum the youth developed concrete steps and strategies to overcome issues of poor attendance as witnessed during the forum. They urged the leadership of all NSOs of the West Africa zone to encourage and support the participation of their youth in the zonal forum.

The 8th West Africa Zonal Scout Conference was held at the same venue from 16th to 21st August 2012, thirty-five youth and leaders from ten countries participated. Theme of the event was also “The Contribution of Scouting to reconciliation and Social Cohesion”.

Mr. Bansadja Banafai, the Deputy Regional Director of the World Scout Bureau - Africa Regional Office, Mr. Ledjou Marcel Blaguet, a member of the World Scout Committee and De Souza Patrick Edmond Jean-Marie from YES Africa were among those who attended.

FESCO publishes a new youth program

DRC - The Fédération des Scouts de la République démocratique du Congo (FESCO) has released a new youth program thanks to the financial support from the World Scout Bureau.

The program book has 164 pages, 43 abbreviations and acronyms, 12 diagrams and a bibliography.

In addition to the foreword, introduction and conclusion, this tool is structured around ten chapters that highlight the needs and aspirations of the Congolese community in which evolve the youth that are members of FESCO.

In this context, the program presents Scouting as an educational programme and highlights six areas of development that Scouting aims to achieve. These are: physical development (human body), intellectual development (human intelligence), emotional development (human emotion), social development (man/woman as social being), spiritual growth (human soul) and the development of character that determines the will and the identity of the man.

Put in interaction with each other, all these areas are the basis for the formation of character, on which Lord Baden Powell has insisted as far as youth education is concerned.

Among some of the key issues discussed included the Messengers of Peace initiative, global support, core youth programme and SGS NGO Benchmarking.

The West Africa zone is made up of thirteen countries. The 9th Zonal Conference will be held in Senegal in 2013.
Africa represented in the “youth for change” workshop

THAILAND - 55 participants from 18 countries were present at the Vajiravudh National Scout Camp in Thailand, from 14th to 16th September 2012 in order to attend the youth for change workshop. The workshop aimed at helping Scouts understand and develop youth involvement policies in their NSOs.

The workshop addressed various topics including; succession planning and youth leadership, social impact of Scouting and how youth can change the society they live in through community projects, youth involvement in decision-making, concept and significance of life skills, peer education, active citizenship, NSO youth involvement policy and the role of adult leaders and mentoring. The workshop made it possible for the participants to share their experiences and also learn from each other.

Among those present was Ms. Grace Nyaruai Michuki, the chairperson of the Africa Scout Youth Forum. She encouraged the youth in Africa to work hand in hand with their NSOs to develop a youth involvement policy and to hold such workshops that will help the adult leaders and the youth alike to understand the concept of youth for change and youth involvement in Africa.

Mr. Christophe Sanon, the Director Strategy and Educational Services, Mr. Mostaf Matesawa, the Unit Manager, Adult Resources and Training and Mr. Jonathan Omondi, the Youth Program Assistant represented the Africa Regional Office.

At the end of the workshop, participants learnt about the Youth for Change concept and the resources, knowledge and skills needed to enhance effective Youth Involvement within the National Scout Organization and World Scouting structures.

They are now empowered with the capacity to run Youth For Change workshops at national levels to build the momentum for transformation in their National Scout Organizations.

Messengers of Peace: First training of Community Leaders in Africa

In the recently ended 6th Africa Scout Jamboree, Africa produced its first Messengers of Peace Community Leaders after the conclusion of the first Community Leader Training (CLT) program that ran concurrently with the Jamboree. The training saw 27 youth representing the 27 National Scout Organizations from Africa representing the 5 sub-regions (zones). They were: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Cynthia Marquez, Collie Kavanagh, Kim Moller-Eshoj, Ronni Tino Pedersen, Christoffer Heindorff Malling and Regional Office staff facilitated the training. The participants were taken through various aspects of social media and communication for the implementation of the MoP initiative.

All participants are now expected to become an inspiration to others by spreading the word about the Messengers of Peace movement, building the Messengers of Peace Network and strengthening the Youth Forum. This can be achieved by carrying out the two action points where they will share the knowledge and skills with members of their respective Scout patrols, friends and families and carry out an action challenge as a peace project to impact their communities.

The Messengers of Peace Community Leaders Training (CLT) falls within the framework of the project dubbed “Developing Leadership in Young People in Africa” which aims at equipping young people in Africa with knowledge and skills to play constructive roles in their communities and to establish an African network of young community leaders as a support mechanism.

FROM THE REGIONAL OFFICE

This is done through mentoring young people to play constructive roles in their communities while supporting the development of community leaders network and providing opportunities for young people in Africa to exchange their experiences and dialogue among themselves as a way to enhance their capacities.

The Community Leaders Training is conceived as part of the broader strategic plan for the Africa Scout Youth Forum for the 2012-2015 triennium with the objective of; building the capacity of young people in peace education, establishing the network of African youth community leaders to promote the MoP network and support mechanism to youth agenda in the Region and strategising on expanding the MoP Africa Community Leaders Network in African National Scout Organizations and 5 sub-regions (zones).

Scouts are looking forward to JOTA-JOTI

Scouts from all Africa are looking forward to meet with fellow Scouts from other regions of the world from the 20th to 21st October 2012 during the 55th Jamboree On the Air and 16th Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA-JOTI) under the theme, ‘How big is your world’. The mission of this event is to bring Scouts from all over the world together by means of electronic communication, creating awareness, understanding and friendship with people outside their normal living environment and stimulate interest in the technology used for the communication and develop the understanding and knowledge of these technologies. JOTA is an annual event in where Scouts and Guides all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves. Since 1958 when the first jamboree-on-the-Air was held, thousands of Scouts and Guides have “met” each other through this event. Not only is it fun to talk to Scouts from other parts of the world but it provides also a chance to find out about Scouting in other countries. Many contacts made during the JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between scout troops that have lasted for many years. With no restrictions on age or the number that can participate and at little or no expense, the JOTA provides an opportunity for Scouts and Guides to contact each other by amateur radio. The event starts at 00.00 hours local time on Saturday and concludes 48 hours later at 24.00 hours local time on the Sunday.

Jamboree On The Internet (JOTI) is an international Scout meeting on the internet where thousands of Scouts from all over the world meet and communicate with each other over the internet, using any technologies locally available, from web browsers to e-mail, chat programs, microphones, scanners and digital cameras.

JOTI allows you to build friendships with Scouts in other countries and to find out more about their civil and scouting life. Often, these contacts last for years and build the base for upcoming group trips and enterprises.

More information will be available on http://www.jotajotio.org/
COMMEMORATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Benin and Niger Scouts organize a camp of integration and solidarity

**Benin** - 300 Scouts from Benin and Niger participated in the “camp of integration and solidarity Benin-Niger” from August 23rd to September 6th at Aplacodji. This event was in line with the African integration initiative that Niger Scouts aim to achieve through exchange programs with their brothers in other African countries. Some of the activities included awareness on violence against women, reforestation, workshops on domestic violence and practical activities. Upon return to Niamey, the Niger delegation, accompanied by the camp chief Mr. Augustin N'zali of Benin, met with the Minister in charge of the youth who lauded the Scouts of Niamey for their successful participation in the event. It should be noted that since the Minister took office, he has spared no effort to ensure that Scouts of Niger are able to carry out their mission.

Niger Scouts participate in a course for trainers in Benin

**Benin** - As part of the revitalization of the training team of the Association des Scouts du Niger, seven Scout leaders from Niger attended a multipurpose international training of trainers and assistant trainers in Ouidah, Benin. In total, 74 scout officials attended this training organized by Benin Scout Association, from 31st August to 8th September 2012. The Niger delegation was composed of seven members, among them six for the training of assistant trainers and one for the training of trainers.

Since April, the new Chief Commissioner, Mahamadou Issa appointed a new team and decided to reorient the national policy such that training is now one of the priorities for the Association. For this purpose the strengthening of the training team is necessary for an effective cycle of unit leaders and training of new leaders, with the support of the youth program, which is in the final design phase.

This will ultimately result in a significant impact on the organization of groups and in the implementation of the youth program.

This international training brought together 9 participants from Côte d'Ivoire, 60 from Benin and 7 from Niger. Zabeirou Mahamane, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, facilitated it.

The training was an opportunity for future trainers and assistant trainers to discover the three-year plan 2011-2014 of the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Bureau with a view to see how their respective NSOs dovetail with the projected development of Scouting. At the end of the training, participants committed to contribute to the revitalization of their respective NSOs. In terms of training, a pool of trainers from this cohort will be set up in the West African sub-region.

By Salamatou Amadou Djibo
National Commissioner in charge of communication
Association des Scouts du Niger

**Memorable quote**

“The United Nations commends Africa’s recent efforts to consolidate its peace and security architecture, and to reject unconstitutional changes of power. We will continue to work with Africa in building durable peace, ending armed conflicts, boosting democracy, and promoting respect for fundamental human rights, especially the rights of women and youth.”

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General during the Africa Day celebration on 25th May 2012.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**STAY IN TOUCH!**


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