

SOS Children's Village Tete

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THANK-YOU LETTER

Direcção Nacional

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To: Leibnitz-Gymnasium/Schulleitung Dr. Geldmacher-Str. 1 41540 Dormagen Germany

Dear Dr. Geldmacher,

The SOS Children's Village Tete community is very happy for the opportunity of writing you this letter as it enables to give you some information regarding the SOS Village, the children, the Kindergarten and the School at SOS Children's Village Tete.

Before we go any further, we would like to thank you very much for the donation amounted 6,113.27 Euros that you sent to SOS Children's Village Tete, an amount which will really reinforce the running costs for SOS Village. It will of course, help to improve the well-being of the children in terms of diet, clothing and education as well as the living in the SOS Village. We really appreciate this kind-hearted support.

While writing you this letter the children are in good health. We are sure that this letter will reach you while in good health and looking forward to the coming Christmas.

Currently the village is having 156 children accommodated in 15 family houses under the guardian of 15 mothers. They are 72 girls and 84 boys. 150 SOS children were learning at SOS Hermann School this year of 2008 and 4 children from the family houses were learning at SOS Kindergarten over which 3 are girls and 1 boy. 2 children with learning difficulties were studying crafts along the year and the report from crafts school says that they did well during the learning year.

Apart from the family houses we have the Youth male and female facilities. At the female facility they are 5 girls while at the male facility they are 17 boys under the guardian of a female and male youth leaders respectively. They are having an independent life as they live separated from the children in the family houses. The girl's youth facility is located inside the SOS Village while the male's youth facility is within the surrounding communities.

The SOS Kindergarten has enrolled 97 children this year, a figure which is divided into 3 age groups namely 3, 4 and 5 years old children. The total number counts the children from the surrounding communities and the children from the SOS Village. According to the information from the periodical kindergarten report a higher percentage of children are positive.

Due to high demand of school vacancies because of good quality of education, the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School has enrolled 3.651 pupils divided into 4 shifts (2 at morning, 1 at afternoon and 1 at night attended by outsiders). Each shift comprises 12 grades, that is, from 1 to 12. A higher percentage of pupils are positive as well although few of the pupils faced some difficulties, a situation that was immediately overcome due to hard work from the teachers and the village educator.

Most of the children are enjoying the end of year school holidays that go up to the end of January. Some of the children are writing end of year exams which started on the 3rd November and will terminate on the 14th. In the following week the pupils will go for oral exams in Portuguese, English and French, especially the children in grades that these subjects are contained in their curriculum. We are happy because SOS children are doing very well at school.

After the exams all the children will be enjoying very long holidays and they will need a lot of entertainments. Some of them will be under SOS family strengthening program learning some professional functions like black smith, carpentry and tailoring.

The kindergarten principal has already prepared a list of children who are to attend primary education next year. Many of the parents have been coming to SOS Kindergarten to look for new vacancies for their children because they want their children to be enrolled at this specific kindergarten.

The preparation for the forthcoming festivals has already started. Most of the children have started having rehearsals in dancing, making ornamentations and doing several activities that might make fun the celebration of Christmas and New Year.

In order to maintain the children fit, the village is organizing friendly matches both for the male and female teams within the village. The teams have been playing soccer and basketball between themselves and with the surrounding communities. The tournament will start as soon as the exams finish, especially while waiting for the school results and after having known their results from school. The sports will be performed over the weekends in order to enable the teenagers learn some professional activities through watching and doing.

We would like to conclude this letter by thanking you once again for the support you are handing to this SOS Village for better stay of the children. We wish you a best moment at Christmas and New Year.

Yours Sincerely Fernando Lunga (Village Interim Director) Fhumboury