



Newsletter 18 – autumn/winter 2020

Since our last newsletter many things happened in Tanzania. You will read more about it below. For additional information check our [website](#) or [facebook](#). If you have questions feel free to email us. We would appreciate it if you can forward this newsletter to others who are involved or might be interested.

Health committee

A long-standing wish of Dr. Israel, Medical Post Mbaash, is fulfilled. The incinerator, meant for burning medical waste, is built and in function since August. It is obvious that Dr. Israel is very pleased. The incinerator is financed by targeted donations. The agreed contribution of the community will follow. Unfortunately during a storm in November the chimney collapsed. The chimney will soon be repaired and fixated.



Maintenance committee

Solar panels and the lighting in the dormitories (built and donated by ATOS and the Hanzehogeschool Groningen).

After 4 years of good use a lot of the batteries, wiring and lamps were no longer functioning. Batteries, lamps and wiring were repaired or replaced by local fundi Joseph Kisyoky.

Expansion of lighting in 3 more classrooms.

By enlarging the capacity of the battery 3 more classrooms are equipped with light. This makes it possible to teach in the evening.



New schooldesks Mbaash

The teachers, led by Head teacher Paakwai, constructed prefab desks donated by TSF.



Greening committee

The biogas kitchen

In August was also the start of building the new kitchen. The rough structure is there, finishing the rest will take place in the upcoming weeks. The biogas installation was not yet delivered due to delivery problems because of Corona. The ordered biogas tanks are supposed to come from India. When they are delivered in Tanzania our local fundi Joseph Kisyoky will have them installed.



The Corona virus in Tanzania

Completely overshadowed by the struggle between Trump and Biden, presidential elections also took place in Tanzania on October 28, 2020.

As to be expected the current president Magufuli was re-elected. He supposedly won by getting 85% of the votes. His party, *Chama Cha Mapinduzi*, (CCM, meaning *Revolutionary Party*) got 261 of the 264 seats in parliament, 98,9 %. The president started his first term in 2015 with a fierce crackdown on corruption. Furthermore, the economy has grown during his reign, even during this "pandemic year", and he has implemented necessary re-organizations in education.

Criticism has been voiced from various sides at the conduct of the elections and the run-up to them. (Source: [How Magufuli has steered Tanzania towards an authoritarian one-party state \(theafricareport.com\)](https://www.theafricareport.com)). Among other things, there would have been intimidation, assault and arrest of members of the opposition. There was also no objective oversight of the electoral process. With the suppression of the opposition and every form of criticism, he more and more turns out to be an autocrat.

Magufuli is also one of the best known "Covid-19 deniers" in the world. Not by massive testing and taking specific measures, but by praying for three days, the virus no longer exists in Tanzania, according to the president. The last announced contamination figures date from mid-May 2020, no more than 500



contaminations would have been detected. English scientists have calculated through models that the true number must have been in the neighborhood of 25,000 by that time. But because the virus is said to no longer occur in the country, it is no longer tested, even if someone reports to doctors with obvious symptoms.

(Source: [COVID-19 pandemic in Tanzania - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_in_Tanzania) and [MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis](https://www.mrc-cida.org/en/analysis/global-infectious-disease-analysis)).

Fingers crossed for the Tanzanian people

For more Tanzania news: click on the links below:

[Tanzania: Missionaries' appreciation but also fear of authoritarian leader - Vatican News](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/africa/tanzania/news/missionaries-appreciation-but-also-fear-of-authoritarian-leader.html) for example about a number of positive achievements of Magufuli, but also about his other side.

[Tanzania should account for COVID funds and stop hiding behind the facade of sovereignty | DIIS](https://www.diis.dk/en/finances/tanzania-received-for-the-battle-against-corona) is about the finances Tanzania received for the battle against corona, written by a researcher at the 'Danish Institute for International Studies'.

[Tanzanian election leaves a highly polarised society with an uncertain future \(theconversation.com\)](https://www.theconversation.com/tanzanian-election-leaves-a-highly-polarised-society-with-an-uncertain-future) about the irregularities at the elections and concerns about the future of the country.

[Tanzania President John Magufuli: The man who declared victory over coronavirus - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55888888) about Magufuli's leadership style and the way he has handled the pandemic.

Latest news:

Tanzania's president, John Magufuli, passed away on Wednesday, March 17th, at the age of 61. Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan has announced this. According to Hassan, Magufuli would have died of a heart condition