

Bills report Feb 05

Johannes arranged for me to attend a meeting of representatives of Bo District Youth Council to discuss the proposed youth exchange. As well as the young people the meeting was attended by Antony Bob Kaitibie, desk officer in the Ministry of Youth & Sports. The secretary of the Youth Council was there, who also represents the Disability Rights Movement. It was clear that two young people had already been lined up, which was a matter of some concern because the agenda I was given had led me to think we were going to start by discussing the principle. As far as I can work out, Johannes had called three meetings before this one, through publicity on, among other things, local radio. The first two had not been well attended so it turned out that the initial discussion and selection. There were one or two people had come to this meeting who questioned the transparency of the process, so I did ensure this was brought into the open and discussed. However, there was agreement that we should proceed, while noting the need to make sure things were done in a representative way.

We agreed a tentative timetable which may already be slipping but was geared to the idea of buying plane tickets in March.

Invitation letters to be sent as soon as possible, with target dates for visit.

During February, agree a programme. Suggested a four week visit with three weeks organised programme.

Early March, confirm dates and programme. Try to ensure visas etc. will be OK. Arrange to send £100 each pre-trip expenses. Then buy tickets in UK.

Before I run out of steam, these are the participants.

George F Mbayo. A Baptist. Age 30. S-13, Clerk's Quarter, Dambala Road, Bo; or Bo Government Hospital Lab. 076-606955/644848. Day job Lab technician.

Jane Myambe. A Methodist. Age 31. 9 Fifth Street, Bo A+ Z, Bo (I don't know whether the zone is right); or SLMB Secondary School, Nikibu Section, Bo. 076- 677875. Day job teacher.

At the time of my discussion we were thinking Easter was later than it is, so among the interests expressed were sports and adventure activities and I said we would check Easter holiday activities.. There would be have been some benefit to Jane if some of her visit was in her own school holiday. We suggested that they should between them have a spread of activities. They were a bit nervous of Gatwick, so I said we would make sure they were met there.