

Report on working visit, January – March 2019

Our students did well in 2018 and Paulo qualified in December.

On 23 January, a cyclone hit the coastline 200 km away from Beira. We had 30 cm of rainfall in one day, resulting in extensive water damage, also to our home. Fortunately, there was no cholera outbreak.

Selection weekend



The better our selection, the lower our dropout rate. We therefore decided to extend our selection weekend from three days to four this time. After a journey of one or two days, 16 young candidates arrived at the Nazaré Mission Centre. A selection team (comprising experienced doctors and two of our own students nearing the end of their medical training) selected seven new students. All of them come from very poor backgrounds and were absolutely delighted to be given this opportunity. They stayed with our older students until suitable accommodation was found for them. For obvious reasons, extra measures were taken to ensure the safety of the three female students. The more senior students spent time explaining to the newcomers about the training and life in Beira.

Then there was a lot of important administrative work to be done in a short time. We drew up the grant contracts immediately, as new students need them to be able to apply for exemption from military service. The students then registered with the University and we paid their tuition fees and

living expenses. Each new student signed an acknowledgement of debt and opened a bank account - with our help and under our guardianship, since they are minors.



our new medical students in their donated white coats

Society in Beira

Our Foundation is in the process of setting up a subsidiary in Mozambique. Following consultations between the University rector, one of the University's lawyers and our Board, it was decided that a Society would be the best option. The students were asked to come up with a name. The future members of the Society then selected the following name from the various suggestions submitted:

Associação de Apoio a Profissionais e Estudantes de Saúde em Moçambique, APESMO

which translates as: 'Society of Healthcare Professionals and Students in Mozambique'. The articles of association have now been drawn up in line with those of the Doctors for Mozambique Foundation and, of course, in compliance with Mozambican law. Each of the ten founding members has applied for - and submitted – a certificate of good behaviour (*Registo Criminal*) and had his/her proof of identity checked by a civil-law notary. The application has been assessed by the Provincial Council (*Direcção Provincial*) and forwarded to the Provincial Governor for approval. So, we're not quite there yet, but we are hoping that the process will soon be completed.

Harrie van der Meeren,
Beira, March 2019