

Mozambique lays the Cornerstone of the Hyo Jeong Peace Center in Maputo

Paluku Mulekya
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We received deep blessings from Heavenly Parent and True Parents recently. We held a special ceremony to lay the first stone of the HJ Peace Center to begin construction. This attracted about two hundred people, including all levels of district and community authorities. Church leaders and traditional chiefs came. A national assemblyman, Edmundo Galiza Matos Jr., delivered a speech on peace, stating, "Peace must reside in people's hearts. When we have peace in our schools, our children not fighting among themselves, having no conflicts and fights in our homes, couples not fighting among themselves, no fights among our children but playing like the birds we are seeing singing around here." He then invited every participant to welcome the HJ Peace Center. "The HJ Peace Center," he said, "will be the place of harmony peace and development for all Mozambique. The Mozambique national messiahs (Rev. Lee Hwabum and Mrs. Seo Sunja), the district's top representative and the national assemblyman, jointly officiated the ceremony. Three traditional chiefs conducted a traditional ritual to ask blessings from the spirit world. This was a moving ceremony through which everyone could feel our Heavenly Parent's true love of and our True Parents' love.

Rev. Lee introduced True Parents' peace vision to the audience. He described his heart, Jeong Seong and dedication since 1996, when True Parents sent him to Mozambique. He is grateful to True Parents, who made the long-awaited dream of a peace center in Mozambique substantial.

The ceremony began at 9:30. The sun was shining at the time. Suddenly the sky became cloudy, protecting everyone from the burning sun. The atmosphere was at its best to conduct the ceremony under an open sky. Our national messiahs had blessed us by bringing football jerseys for our young football players who wore them for the ceremony.

Signs from heaven

At the moment of placing the first stone, another sign came from the sky. Five flocks of about fifty birds each hovered just above where the ceremony was taking place. The birds with synchronicity and harmony moved slowly without leaving the sky above the participants as if they were dancing in a certain choreography as participants sang. They amazed every participant; no one had seen anything similar before.

"God is revealing to us that this HJ Peace Center is truly blessed by God," commented one participant after seeing those wonders. "This is a sign from God to show that God is here!" another participant commented.

Everyone was energetically singing looking at the birds. When participants were moving back to their seats, after the placing of the first stone, the birds slowly moved to another corner of the plot and hovered there for about twenty minutes. After the launching people sang and danced! Participants, including the dignitaries were dancing as others were singing. Everyone was delighted!



Our gracious national messiahs

After learning that Rev. Lee Hwa and Mrs. Seo were in Mozambique, the representative of the delegation with the MP, who has attended UPF events in Korea and Senegal, immediately invited them for a lunch on April 22. They specifically wanted to have lunch with our national messiahs as "payback" for their having filled the MPs and his entourage with good food while they were in Korea. Three MPs attended the meeting (Ana Rita, Edmundo Galiza Matos and Antonio Niquice) with our national messiahs, national leader and two other members.

At lunch, there were discussions about launching IAPP. The MPs recommitted to launching IAPP in the Assembly of the Republic and advised us on the steps we need to take to legally register IAPP and work as an autonomous body within the Assembly. Ana Rita (an Assembly member for twenty-five years) is a member of the Standing Committee. She set up a small committee as a task force composed of the other two Assembly members and us to quickly move with IAPP registration.

The Assembly members showed interest in knowing more about UPF's and WFWP's visions and activities. Ana Rita mentioned that she intends to visit the WFWP school in Mozambique. Antonio Niquice has set up a visit to the UPF national headquarters to learn more about UPF's vision.

Testimonies

Virgilio Muando

I was in charge of the Logistics Department for the ceremony. I am also Youth Leader in Mozambique. We started by drafting the event flow and the needs for transport thereafter. As much as I would want to take the credit for almost flawless logistics due to preparation work that took place for three weeks before the event, ultimately on the day of the event I felt that some items I had lost control of, but things were falling into place by themselves. I recognized the hands of God and True Parents at work.

There was no way I could run that department for the first time and have everything go smooth. The brothers who drove, the event attendees coming on time with everything synchronized was breathtaking for me as I expected many headaches during the event. While the national messiah was delivering his speech in Korean, I was reading out his translated speech in Portuguese. Halfway through, a slight rain started. It was intense enough for people to notice it was raining but not enough for the attendees to get wet. It was just enough. From the MP that attended, he said that the slight rain is understood as blessing among Mozambicans.

Rabeca Pedro Lumbela

I am Rabeca Pedro Lumbela. In the April 21 event, I was responsible for receiving the guests from the Maputo-city side, to make due registration and buy the tickets for the crossing to Katembe.

I confess that at a certain moment in the preparations for the event I was demoralized, because everyday I called to confirm the presence of the guests and the number was reducing every day. A time came when I was afraid to call. I learned a lot through this event. In the first phase, all members had the responsibility to invite people to the event using the invitations, so our mission was to use the mouth and the voice that

God gave us for that. Here, I realized that God does not work without foundation. Although people tended to respond negatively to the invitation, in the last instance they were at the event. This shows that God works when the human being fulfills the portion of responsibility, so God finds a basis to act.

The presence of the guests, who at first answered negatively, was proof that God and True Parents are working for the advancement of the providence and we need to quickly awaken and fulfill our responsibilities to give victory to God and True Parents.



Alves Mucauque

I was responsible for the protocol and ornamentation. In the protocol area, we did not have many difficulties; we worked together and with a harmonious coordination.

The small difficulties that we had were technical ones, regarding the hierarchy in the table of honor of the government representatives. But it was possible to overcome this issue with the collaboration of all FFWP members, where it was possible to feel and see that nothing is impossible for God and True Parents when we work as a team.

As for suggestions, we need in the future to have a general coordinator responsible for all departments. From this moment it would be better to create a solid hierarchical structure, where the members responsible for certain areas, such as logistics, public relations, protocol, ornamentation and food can be trained and adapted in these matters and we beware of the situations of improvisation in the last hour.

The Public Relations Department must remain active. In addition to having to go through all religious congregations to thank them for the presence of religious leaders and their members, it must maintain a continuous connection with these congregations and all guests to develop these relationships.

Suzana Filipiao Paque

I am a blessed member and Education Department leader for Mozambique Unification Church. On April 21 I was responsible for alimentation. Knowing clearly how to do the job, whether to buy or cook the food for the three hundred participants that were initially supposed to have come and attend the ceremony. However, with the help of our Heavenly Parents, True Parents, the absolute good spirit world the national leader and other members during the meetings that we had, we bought the food instead of cooking it. The ceremony went well; everyone that came had their share of food. For the honorable guests, we made a restaurant reservation for their lunch. However they couldn't go to eat there and instead decided to eat with all the people that had come for the ceremony.

Benny Isac Jimu

I am a blessed member of the Mozambique Unification Church. For the ceremony for the construction of Hyo Jeong Peace Center, I was on the Protocol team, helping in the organization of the place and to receive guests. The event was deeply inspirational and spirit moving. To see people from different denominations and of different societal levels, high and low -- parliamentarians, chiefs, church leaders, students, local people, etcetera, humbling themselves to come together and attend the event. It made me to believe that with the help of Heavenly Parent, True Parents and the effort of the members, bringing all people from all different sectors of life and realize the ideal of Creation is possible. The heavenly sign that took place just after laying the first stone, the appearance of the migrating birds in five different groups all gathering in one place, exactly where the ceremony was taking place confirmed this.

Cristina Americo Dimande

I am responsible for the church's Finance Department. During the preparation of the inauguration of Hyo Jeong Peace Center, I was in charge of finance and collaborated with the cleaning and food focal points.

The ceremony was an amazing experience. I thank to Heavenly Parent and True Parents for guiding and inspiring us in this activity.

Four days before the event, Tuesday 17, was the day to do almost all payments related to the event, but due to miscommunication I missed meeting another sister in church center located in Maputo City to get her signature. I needed to follow her to her job, located in another province, Maputo Province. Going and coming back to the church center including the time at the bank took me almost four hours. The payments allowed us to proceed with organization of the event. The same evening, we crossed the bay and brought painting material for use before the ceremony. Thanks to God's strength, I was able to make it. I strongly believe that the center will be a place to educate leaders, for people to build true families and to contribute to a peaceful society.

Feliciano Luis Torres Posso

May the blessing of Heavenly Parents and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and all Humankind be with us. During the preparation, I was in charge of the cleaning and ornamentation and I supported the public relations.

After a long time of dreaming, it seems that now the dream will become a reality. The construction of the Peace Center in Mozambique is a project that has long been in the hearts of Mozambicans.

The announcement for the laying of the first stone was a joy and at the same times a very big challenge. First, to ensure the participation of people in the event (the place is on the opposite bank of the bay). Second, because we planned to receive and people of different levels including MPs. Thanks to our organization and teamwork, it was possible to overcome all barriers and hold the event. This increased our strength and the foundation to continue serving more.

One challenges was finding a tent for the guest of honor's table. After deep meditation, I requested the tent from the National Institute for Disaster Management, my former workplace. I had already witnessed to almost all the directors of that government institution.

Luis Gomes Saimone Nzaia (Family Department)

One of my responsibility was transportation of three traditional leaders. First, we went to pick up the senior of them, His holiness Luis Filipe Tembe. When we arrived at his home, he had changed his mind. For him it was a small ceremony and one of his subordinate leaders could lead the traditional ceremony. The local leader explained the work of our True Parents for world peace including his experience in Senegal when True Mother was there. He decided to join us. He attended all ceremonies from the beginning to the end and later said he is ready to attend any of our ceremonies even outside of Mozambique.