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MASOKO

Ya M.C.A.

Community --- Belonging --- Neutrality --- Relevance

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From the Mozambican Community Association in the USA



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From the President's Desk

MASOKO Edition V

Brothers and Sisters of the Mozambican Diapora in the United States of America, Mexico, and Canada, receive our Fall greetings. As we journey in the second year of MASOKO newsletter, we have a lot to be proud of:

- 🚩 **MCA General Elections.** We thank you for the vote and making it a success!
- 🚩 **Sponsoring of 10 children** from the Mozambican orphanage *Congregação das Irmãs Franciscanas Hospitaleiras da Imaculada Conceição (CONFHIC)* in Maputo. The kids are a blessing. Thank you *padrinhos!*
- 🚩 **Independence Celebrations** in various cities on June 25. Your enthusiasm and support enrich us. The festivities were brilliant!
- 🚩 **Participation in the “reSURGEence” Conference** in New York in November:
 - Negotiation with a Mozambican Travel Agency, COTUR, to offer discount rates from Mozambique to New York.
 - Preparation for Mozambique to host the 2025 reSURGEence Conference.
- 🚩 **“Comfort Kit”** for our students currently under preparation for end of semester.
- 🚩 **Family Day/Holidays** – let’s be together and celebrate!

We hope that you enjoy the 5th Edition of MASOKO. We wish you Happy Halloween, warm and blessed Holidays.

Gloria F. (Sumbana) Mazula, M.Ed.
President of the MCA
Resident in Houston, Texas

MCA—We Believe in Community





Meet the New Ambassador of Mozambique in the United States of America—H.E. Alfredo Nuvunga



“There is no diaspora without states. (...) My dream is to see more Mozambicans thriving here in the United States. If they thrive here, they will be in a better position to help our motherland thrive as well.”

By Félix Simone*



H.E. Alfredo Nuvunga, Ambassador of Mozambique in the U.S.A.

On August 3, 2023, MASOKO interviewed the new Ambassador of Mozambique in the United States of America (USA), His Excellency Alfredo Nuvunga. The interview took place at the Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique in Washington D.C. I asked the Ambassador several questions, including on the prospects for his mission, his views about the local Mozambican Community, and the role the Mozambican diaspora can play to support the motherland. MASOKO presents below the interview.

Ambassador Nuvunga, you just arrived in the USA. What is the message you would like to convey to the Mozambicans in the USA? “Thank you very much for this opportunity that the newsletter MASOKO gives to me to interact with the Mozambican community here in USA. I would say that perhaps what I have at this stage are first impressions and not messages, given that I just arrived. During these first four months, I was able to attend some events with the community. There were two in-person events related to Mozambican Women’s Day and the Independence Day, and some virtual events. My first impression is that the community here expresses its Mozambican soul in a lively and active manner. When someone celebrates national holidays in the diaspora, in this case in the USA, it reveals an identity, and a connection with the motherland and its history. And I was impressed by the community’s attitude to celebrate not only among Mozambicans but also invite Americans to join.

“The second impression relates to this newsletter “MASOKO” on which we are conducting this interview. I came to know that its main audience is the diaspora community, although I know it also reaches beyond that. This is something to praise because, in a huge country like the USA, there are Mozambicans in different States. It is very useful to have a communication platform like this. These are my initial positive impressions, and I would like to encourage the community to remain like this and keep nurturing its Mozambican soul, sharing Mozambican cultural values, but also blending in with the American people that host us in this country.

In terms of diplomatic cooperation, what are the priorities, prospects and challenges you see for your mission? “The motto of our Foreign Policy is “to make more friends and create partnerships”. This is the umbrella that covers us. If we could be friends with all the countries in the world, this would be our target. What we intend is to promote partnerships that contribute not only for the development of Mozambique but also of our partners. This is our foreign policy not only here in Washington DC, but everywhere else. Nowadays, no country lives isolated, so cooperation and exchanges are important.

“The first area of cooperation is the political-diplomatic consultations, which is the starting point in the relationship between States. Mozambique established diplomatic relations with the US in 1975, which denotes the mutual recognition of our States’ Sovereignty. Our priority is to continue to deepen this relationship. There are several elements we need to consider because our cooperation has evolved from diplomatic and political affairs to developmental, economic, and commercial affairs. For example, today we also discuss about governance and human rights affairs, and investments, which reached their highest point recently with the petroleum and gas explorations back home. Working on these and other matters would be the second priority while being in line with the Mozambican government priorities set in the 2020-24 program. We are talking about agriculture, energy, strategic minerals, education, health, and climate change.

“I should consider myself fortunate to start my mission in a very important period of US-Africa relations, soon after the realization of the USA-Africa Leaders Summit, from December 13 to December 15, which counted with the participation of HE Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique. The Summit created a new window of cooperation in many priority areas apart from the traditional ones. The USA Government-President Joseph Biden established the President Advisory Council on Africa Diaspora Engagement in the United States, which the Mozambican Community should follow very closely and take advantage of opportunities to engage and contribute for the development of Mozambique.

Given all the objectives and priorities you mentioned, how can the Mozambican community in the US help you pursue them? “No doubt, the community is very important, and community extends to those in Mozambique. Our expectation is that our diaspora engages with the Embassy, and there is plenty of room for that. Here at the

[Continues on next page →]

*Félix Simone, economist, is the editor of MASOKO.

MCA—We Believe in Community



Interview (Continued)

“Looking ahead, it would be great to see among our diaspora what I would call ‘citizens of impact’.”



In this photo: H.E. Alfredo Nuvunga (right) and H.E. Peter Hendrick Vrooman, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique (left).

Embassy, we can sometimes lack time and energy to exhaust the possibilities of cooperation, but we will deploy our full dedication to bring the Embassy closer to the community and vice-versa. The best way to engage with the community is to really exchange information about our country so that we are all informed about what is going on there. There is no diaspora without states. Who issues identity documents, passports, and other documents are the states. It is the obligation of the Mozambican state to ensure good identification of its citizens. Right now, the Embassy is working on this, and this is one of our key efforts. Since I arrived, I notice that the Mozambicans here identify themselves as Mozambicans and show interest in Mozambique. Recently there was a virtual debate about the Diaspora Policy. The debate was very active and good contributions were made by this community. The Policy will be approved soon and will provide a basis on which the diaspora can collaborate with the Government. It will apply to the whole diaspora community, but, for example, the US diaspora will have specific guidelines on how it can contribute. And I do not mean only those who plan to contribute once they return to Mozambique, but also those who want to contribute while remaining in the USA.

From what you have observed here in the US and elsewhere, what are the resources that the diaspora can bring to serve Mozambique? “Perhaps it would be interesting to start by comparing these two countries. On the one hand, Mozambique is among the lowest ranked in economic strength. On the other, we have the USA which is the number one. We have a lot to learn from the USA. The first concern should be how to develop our people through investments for example in education and health. So, my expectation would be to see Mozambicans in the USA contributing to our motherland through investments. These actions do not have to be necessarily in-person, but also virtually through knowledge sharing. For example, those in the academia can contribute by disseminating their research work, taking advantage of the freedom of information and free speech in Mozambique.

“In terms of economic contribution, note that the USA economy is much larger than the Mozambican, so one would expect the average income of the Mozambicans in the USA to be higher than of those back home. So, the Mozambicans here are well placed to contribute not only through knowledge, but also by making impactful economic investments. Investments or donations that would appear small and negligible here in the USA could actually be very impactful in Mozambique. An action coming from a single community member is important. From two members is even better. But if the whole community can engage in actions, then it is even much easier to gather partners who are willing to support our country. And there are two types of support needed in Mozambique. The emergency humanitarian support, which is important because, for example, it helps people survive today, and endure in the short run. But a second type, such as investing in infrastructure, has a lasting impact because it benefits the current and the next generations. On this second type, I think there is still room for the Mozambican diaspora to make a big difference.

“Looking ahead, it would be great to see among our diaspora what I would call citizens of impact. I mean more Mozambicans with investments in the USA, Mozambicans holding privileged positions in important circles in the USA, and in many other dimensions. So, my dream is to see more Mozambicans thriving here in the USA. They should first thrive here because this is where they live and work every day. If they thrive here, they will be in a better position to help our motherland thrive as well.” MASOKO.



WELCOME TO MCA - An Association of Mozambicans in North America, Proactive and United in the Diaspora.



By Lindie Massinga-Sanders*



This article introduces MCA's elected officials who have hit the ground running to provide leadership and guidance to an eager community. The article also shares the clear mission, vision, and goals that will move MCA forward. These three elements provide the foundation for the 2023-2025 Action Plan that emerged from a SWOT analysis that is also contained in this article for the reader's convenience.

The **mission** of MCA is to unite Mozambicans and friends of Mozambique in the Diaspora, raise socio-cultural awareness, support, and visibility of the country of Mozambique and its people.

In our **vision** is a Mozambican Diaspora in North America strong, united and dynamic, with socio-cultural and economic impact within itself and in Mozambique. Above is the leadership of MCA which comprises the Executive team and the Board of directors.

The MCA leadership Action Plan for 2023-2025 has the following components: a list of strategic strengths, risks and opportunities, goals, and key focus points. A list of commemorative dates is included to allow members and friends to plan accordingly.

STRATEGIC STRENGTHS

MCA is in the process of creating regional student, women, and professional chapters with their own representation that will streamline their areas. The existing interactive engagement of the community opens a gateway to facilitate this process.

Socio-cultural and geopolitical diversity of the community – The Mozambican community in the US, coming from various parts of the country, have adopted the US, Mexico and Canada which makes it rich in history and culture that must be shared and passed on.

Members of the Mozambican community in the US are dispersed across several states at this moment. Keeping Mozambican culture and history alive will easily align given the current demographic picture of the Mozambican diaspora in the US.

Good working environment with the Mozambican Embassy in the USA - Willingness of both parties to work in collaboration creates an environment of harmony and mutual respect for the benefit of the diaspora communities and their contribution to the development of Mozambique.

OUR GOALS FOR 2023 -2025

- Ensure the creation of an MCA database with all members' skills and knowledge base to incorporate into the MCA network by December 2024.
- Create MCA regional student, women, and professional chapters in Canada, Mexico and other areas in the United States by June 2024.
- Increase MCA Fundraising capacity by expanding the MCA network and partnerships with other organizations. Use the MCA website for online fundraising, and organize fundraising events by December 2024.
- Expand MCA membership through actions and activities that bring the community together whilst commemorating Mozambican Holidays, annual gala/food/cultural festivals.
- Increase circulation of the MASOKO newsletter, get more active on social media Facebook, Twitter, and organize at least two (2) conferences per year on topics members will identify with. The first conference will be organized by November 2023.
- Continue to expand the sponsorship program aimed at increasing MCA's role in supporting orphans and communities in Mozambique. This will be achieved by increasing our collaboration with the Mozambican Embassy in the USA and increasing members contributions and donations towards social causes.

Community members are invited to send questions and/or comments on the MCA 2023-2025 Action Plan to the community groups or by emailing: mozcommunityusa@gmail.com

Everyone's active participation will bring greater results.

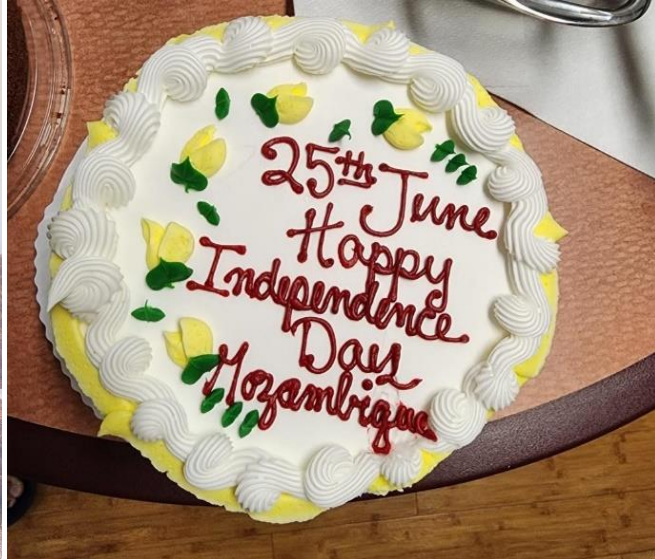
* Lindie Massinga-Sanders, Ph.D., is an educator.



Remembering the Independence Celebration



This year, it was not different. On June 24-25, Mozambicans in several regions of the United States gathered for another celebration of the Independence of their motherland. We said it on June 25. Here we go again: **Happy 48th Anniversary Mozambique! O Sol de Junho para sempre brilhará.** MASOKO



“Milhões de braços, uma só força. Ó pátria amada, vamos vencer.”

Mozambique anthem



Diaspora Bonds: The Power of Migrant Money



Félix Simione*



Image by [Freepik](#): money and globe.

Have you ever wondered how governments raise money to finance public goods and services? You may have thought of domestic taxes, loans, the sale of assets, and grants as well as loans from the international community. These are all financing mechanisms, but there is an additional one that often goes unnoticed: the money from the diaspora. This article considers the role of diaspora bonds. Put simply, diaspora bonds are a financing mechanism through which governments borrow money from their citizens living abroad. A typical process can be summarized as follows: the government of a given country sells to its citizens in the diaspora papers called bond notes with a promise to repay them a larger amount after some time (for example, five years).

Compared to other funding mechanisms, diaspora bonds have one key advantage. Call it patriotism! They target emigrants who maintain a desire to continue to contribute to the motherland, despite living far away. Moved by patriotic sentiment, these emigrants can potentially accept lending money to the motherland at lower interest rates and longer maturities than what alternative (commercial) lenders would charge. So, even if they potentially make less money from investing in such bonds, they enjoy the feeling of engaging in a useful action with the motherland. When there is a sufficiently large number of this type of emigrants, poor countries can raise significant money to help bridge their funding gaps.

A few countries are already using diaspora bonds. For example, [Nigeria](#) raised around USD 300 million in its diaspora bond issued in 2017. [India](#) raised USD 32 billion during the 1990s. Israel has also issued diaspora bonds to keep the Jewish diaspora engaged ([Ketkar and Ratha, 2007](#)). [Kenya](#) is considering issuing diaspora bonds to help alleviate financing pressures.

Should Mozambique issue diaspora bonds? MASOKO is not in position to answer this question. Nevertheless, it is helpful to assess how large the potential is. A natural starting point is to look at the amount of money Mozambican emigrants send to the motherland. It was about USD 450 million in 2021, according to [World Bank data](#).

Fair, perhaps not the whole diaspora will necessarily be attracted to diaspora bonds. Yet, even if only 5 percent of the potential could materialize, this would correspond to over USD 20 million. For a cash-strapped country like Mozambique, this is a significant amount. To put it in perspective, it corresponds to about half the amount of Treasury bonds the government plans to issue in 2023, as published by [Mozambique's Stock Exchange](#). Seen from another angle, USD 20 million would be enough to build 5-10 basic hospitals under the government's "[One District, One Hospital](#)" initiative.

This is not to suggest that the diaspora should replace other sources of funding, which is both impossible and undesirable. It is also not to suggest that the Mozambican diaspora has not been funding social projects in Mozambique. Rather, the point is that governments need money to finance development; the diaspora can help raise it and, in the process, enjoy both an economic profit (when the government repays the money at an interest rate) and a social/emotional profit (for helping the motherland).

Summing up, the power of diaspora patriotism is potentially there. The question is whether and how to unleash it. If one day Mozambique decides to issue diaspora bonds, it may be useful to carefully consider cases where the process failed. In some countries, it failed due to lack of interest or motivation from the respective diaspora. This often happens when the diaspora does not trust the process sufficiently. For example, when there are fears that the government may not repay the money or when there is perceived lack of transparency on how the funds will be used. Fortunately, avoiding these and similar problems is not impossible. We can always learn from observing both countries that have succeeded and those that have not. **MASOKO**

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* Félix Simione, editor of **MASOKO** and economist.



Entry Visa in Mozambique—its Effects



Ângelo Nkutumula & Marina Thembo*



Photo by Freepik: woman with baggage

Decree nr. 10/2023 of March 31, recently approved by the Council of Ministers of the Mozambican state, exempts citizens of certain countries to present the visa to enter into Mozambique. The exemption aims to stimulate tourism and the business environment in the national territory. Thus, regarding the scope of the decree referred to above, only the categories of tourist and business visas were covered. It should also be noted that only individuals who hold an ordinary passport can benefit from the exemption. However, the exemption is unilateral, which means that the countries that benefit from it do not have the legal obligation to exempt Mozambican citizens in their territories.

Among the countries that benefit from the exemption is the United States of America (USA). Since this is the diaspora in which we find ourselves, we will focus on the USA diaspora, without prejudice to the possibility of coincidences in relation to others. Thus, in what follows we will focus on the length of stay, immigration formalities and registration and fees that must be paid to enter Mozambique. Lastly, we will cover the issue of Dual Citizenship (Mozambican and foreign) and exemption from entry visas.

Length of stay

With regard to the length of stay, the decree establishes that citizens covered by the exemption are allowed, on the one hand, to enter multiple times into Mozambique, provided that these entries are materialized within 30 days, counted from the date of first entry. However, the period of 30 days referred to above may be extended for another 30 days, on grounds that it requires such an extension. The request for extension of the deadline can be made in two ways, the first being electronically and the second through the SITE or with the Provincial Directorate of Migration of the related point of entry.

This request is accompanied by the payment of an established fee in the amount of MZN 650,00 (six hundred and fifty meticaís).

Migration formalities

As far as migratory formalities are concerned, the decree establishes that the citizens covered by it are not exempt from the obligation to observe or comply with the legal formalities related to entry, stay, and exit in force in the Republic of Mozambique. Non-exhaustive mention is made of such obligations, these being the presentation of a passport or equivalent document, valid for no less than six months, not prohibited from entering the Republic of Mozambique, having a return ticket and presenting proof of the place of lodging. It should be noted: the requirement regarding the return flight ticket is dispensable in the case of citizens traveling by land.

Registration and fee

If you intend to enter Mozambican territory, the national citizen of the country covered by the exemption regime must first proceed to the registration, through the official government website www.evisa.gov.mz, at least 48 hours before boarding. During the registration process you will be charged a fee equivalent to MZN 650 (six hundred and fifty meticaís).

Dual nationality (Mozambican and foreign) and exemption from entry visas

Mozambique consequently admits dual citizenship, which means that a Mozambican who has acquired another nationality still retains his Mozambican nationality. However, as long as you are within Mozambican territory, your Mozambican nationality will prevail over foreign nationality.

There are some pressing questions that can be asked, namely (i) whether the Mozambican citizen who also has American nationality must obey the entire process required for the foreign citizen or is exempted from it?; (ii) upon entering Mozambique as an American also possessing Mozambican nationality, how will you be treated once in Mozambican territory?; (iii) should you also only stay 30 days at most, even if you are Mozambican?; (iv) if you want to stay longer, should you request an extension of your stay?; (v) if you enter Mozambique as an American, can you leave the country as a Mozambican? What would be the implications? and (vi) if you also live in Mozambique, but when you enter you present yourself as an American, do you have to provide the place of accommodation? These and other questions will be answered in the next edition of MASOKO. **MASOKO**

* Ângelo Nkutumula & Marina Thembo are Mozambican attorneys living in the U.S.A.

TRAVELER TIPS

- **LEARN MORE** about Mozambique Visa [here](#).
- **PORTUGUESE** is the official language in Mozambique.
- **MAPUTO** is the national capital and main city of Mozambique.
- **METICAL** is the national currency (see [exchange rates here](#)).
- **DRIVE** your car on the left while in Mozambique!



Young African Leaders Initiative

“YALI alumni and the African Diaspora can create meaningful networking connections to support youth training, mentoring and coaching.”

Tayra V. Benfica*



Photo by Freepik

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is a program launched by the United States government in 2010. It aims to empower young African leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, and professional development opportunities. YALI focuses on three key areas: business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public management. The initiative seeks to foster a new generation of African leaders who will drive positive change in their communities and contribute to the continent's development.

The White House and the Department of State hosted the President's Forum for Young African Leaders, which brought 115 young leaders from 46 sub-Saharan African nations to Washington, D.C. President Obama hosted a town hall for participants in the Presidential Young African Leaders Forum at the White House. In June 2011, the First Lady's Young African Women Leaders Forum in South Africa brought together 76 young African women leaders to discuss themes of leadership, women's empowerment, and community service.

The key element of the fellows' program occurs during the specialized six weeks of leadership training that takes place at nearly 40 [universities](#) across the U.S. At the universities, the fellows, in cohorts of 20, are exposed not only to programs tailored specifically for their interests, but also to other young Africans who share a passion for making a difference in their communities and countries. For most fellows, meeting other young Africans from different countries is one of YALI's key benefits, as is forging genuine ties with Americans and U.S. institutions. The narratives of the 2,000 Mandela Washington Fellows illustrate some of the most compelling stories and realities on the African continent today.

According to a USAID's Press Release, on December 13, 2022, Vice-President Kamala Harris speaking at the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit in Washington, D.C., committed 100 million USD in funding for the next three years. With this commitment, YALI alumni and the African Diaspora can create meaningful networking connections to support youth training, mentoring & coaching, as well as other leadership initiatives that give young people access to grant or internship opportunities “to generate transformational change in their communities, countries and continent” ([usaid.gov](https://www.usaid.gov)). **MASOKO**

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* **Tayra Benfica** is a Mozambican-born college student in the USA.



Photo by Freepik: couple have business conversation



Photo by Freepik: group of young people working together



Photo by Freepik: a young man planning meeting on laptop

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

John C. Maxwell

“Be an amateur. Not everything you do has to be good, especially at first.”

Ann Handley



Female Entrepreneurship: Some Facts

Orlando Dourado*



All photos on this page are from Freepik

Female entrepreneurship is a movement that places women at the forefront of business activities. Women have always been active in business sales, as many are seen selling food products and other non-perishable goods in the markets "day and night".

Many years ago, this was my experience shopping in the *Xipamanine* market, under the cashew-nut trees, in the Municipal Market, or sometimes in our *DumbaNengues*, amid deafening yet melodious movement. Women vendors disproportionately dominate these markets, whereas men are comparatively a minority, although most men may be owners of the needs and wholesale businesses.

Women's informal business dominance does not only happen on the African continent but is also more frequently seen in developing countries from other continents.

With a growing private sector, Mozambique is positioned to enter an international competitive level. Being so, Mozambique women entrepreneurs should take advantage of APIEX MOZAMBIQUE, an INVESTMENT and EXPORT PROMOTION AGENCY, which aims to develop and implement business ideas. APIEX also promotes actions for managing private and public investment of national or foreign capacity.

A noteworthy fact: At the Third International Conference on Entrepreneurship in the Diaspora, organized and chaired by Parliamentarian Dr. Ivone Bila, entitled "Being an Entrepreneur in the Diaspora; Difficulties and Possibilities," the most significant number of Mozambican organizations that presented themselves were women entrepreneurs, selling Mozambican products in Europe, Portugal, England, France, Italy, Germany, and other countries. **MASOKO**



* **Orlando Dourado**, Professor, graduated in Tourism from Universidade Veiga de Almeida Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Article translated into English by Jorge W. Tacuara.



What comes to mind when you hear of an NGO/Not-for-Profit Organization in Mozambique?

Jorge W. Tacuara*



All photos on this page are from [Freepik](#)

For a long time, there has been a myth spread around by some people that Africans are like the paralytic man sitting by the pool of Bethesda and waiting for the water to stir up in order to step in and get healed. Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations/Not-for-Profit organizations (NGOs) are ubiquitous in African countries, working solo or collaborating with government agencies to provide services to the needy. Essentially, NGOs/Not-for-Profit Organizations are often perceived as foreign entities. But this mythical perception of Africans relying on foreign organizations for their rescue is easily debunkable. Historically and traditionally, Africans have lived by the “Ubuntu” philosophy of bonding and mutual support. For instance, when a neighbor is in need, the whole village rallies for the support of the needy neighbor. In fact, in Mozambique, the recent past has seen a mushrooming of legally registered local Not-for-Profit Organizations stepping in to help their communities. In this article, I profile one of such emerging organizations.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

Elizabeth Andrew

During my recent visit to Mozambique (July 2023), I was introduced to *Associação para Ajuda aos Velhos Desamparados* (AAVEADOS) by its founding president and executive secretary, Pastor Maria Carlota Paulino and Antonio Simione, respectively. AAVEADOS is a national organization founded on December 12, 1997, and subsequently registered in 1998 with the state government as an NGO/Not-for-Profit Organization in Nampula province, Mozambique. Endowed with patrimonial and financial autonomy, AAVEADOS is guided by the principles of Human Rights and is dedicated to promoting and defending the rights of the elderly and delinquent children in Mozambique. AAVEADOS is on a mission to change for the well-being of the elderly and their caregivers, mainly vulnerable children. Among the services AAVEADOS offers to the elderly and children include raising awareness of elderly abuse and poverty, providing food and essential necessities, bringing awareness to child labor and prostitution through education, and giving legal advice/services referrals. One of the challenges AAVEADOS faces is financial and infrastructure resources, as it relies on well-wishers' donations and membership dues. If you want to learn more about or get involved with AAVEADOS, please visit <https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550708969285>.

* Jorge W. Tacuara, Pastor and Ph.D. Student





Manica: The Wonderful

Iolanda Mause*



Photo by [Ton Rulkens](#): Mt. Zembe in Manica, Mozambique



Photo by [Axel Bohnstedt](#): Mt. Binga, the highest Mountain in Mozambique

We ❤️ Manica



Our MASOKO spotlight on the provinces takes us to the beautiful province of Manica. Manica is in the central west of Mozambique. It is surrounded by Sofala in the coastal east, Tete to the North, and borders Zimbabwe to its west with a total area of 62,272 sq km. The capital of Manica is Chimoio, a vibrant small city which is a busy market and commuter town as it lies in the middle of a busy and important transportation route. At all times of the day, one sees cargo trucks and train carriages passing through as they transit within the commercial corridor. This is because Mozambique is surrounded by landlocked countries like Zimbabwe and Malawi, who use the Port of Beira to ship international goods to and from their countries via the Manica roadways. The province welcomes business tourists passing through and others who elect to stay a few days to enjoy the beautiful Manica terrain.

Landscape and Topography

Manica has Mozambique's tallest mountain in its rich landscape. The beautiful [Monte Binga](#) is located in the protected Chimanmani National Park. Along the border with Zimbabwe, this national treasure, on the Mozambican side was designated as our National Reserve in 2003 and it was classified by Time Magazine, as one of the 100 best places in the world to visit in 2021! Quite an impressive accolade and natural wonder right in our backyard. With all its fascinating mountainous terrain, it is befitting that our highest point in Mozambique is located in Manica, as driving through this province, one sees various rolling hills in the background. They are vegetation-covered green mountains, and there are unique rock formations and hills too, the most interesting of which is the famous *Cabeça do Velho* Mountain. Aptly named, it is a fascinating rocky mountain naturally formed in the shape of a man's face lying down on top of the grassy bottom terrain as if taking a nap. Uniquely exquisite, Manica boasts some of our best nature wonderlands.

The Hidden Riches

Many in Manica's population practice some form of subsistence living, growing products like corn, cassava,

pumpkin leaves, lettuce, sweet potatoes, and others, to feed their families and exchange with family and neighbors. Some have cows, goats and raise chickens for meat, milk, and eggs. Agriculture does well in this province due to its higher rainfall than other provinces. Farmers from neighboring countries have been known to move to Manica to take advantage of these perfect growing conditions for crop production. While moderate climate dominates the yearly calendar, in the short winters Manica is also one of our coolest zones to live in, which is no surprise being surrounded by many hills and their resulting higher elevation. In addition to this food growing basket of the country, Manica Province is also very rich in mineral content in the ground. Manica has gold, copper, and other raw metals.

An Interesting History

Last but most certainly not least, Manica is a treasure of our Land's history as a country. Per historical data passed down from generation to generation, it is said that before the Manica province came under Portuguese colonialism, it was a part of great [Mwenemutapa Empire](#) of Africa, and its trade routes with Arab merchant traders via the coastal regions in the 1700's and possibly prior to that were legendary. It is an interesting link to the past that today Manica continues to be an important piece of our Mozambican trade and commerce chess board. Manica also played an important part in more recent history when neighboring countries were fighting for independence, their freedom fighters would find refuge in Manica, and were housed and sheltered by the brave Manica families in our then newly independent Mozambique after 1975. Manica persevered through all the difficult moments in our national history, including the civil war only to reestablish itself as a vital contributor to our national economy. Manica is a province with a captivating history of one of our past empires, which would be enjoyable to explore by any history loving MASOKO reader who wishes to do so. You will not be disappointed!

*Iolanda Mause is a Mozambican living in the U.S.A.



How To Communicate with a Deaf Person

Vanessa Macamo*



Photo from Freepik

As a Fulbright scholar, I was selected to be part of a pre-academic study for the academic year 2022/2023 in Philadelphia. While there, I received an email from the U.S. Embassy in Mozambique informing me that a Mozambican in another program was staying in the same dorm as me, the Race Hall, at Drexel University. I was happy with this news and looked forward to speaking Portuguese with someone from my homeland. The fellow Mozambican replied to the email, introducing himself and thanking the embassy for this connection. Armando introduced himself, saying he was in the U.S. for two weeks for the YALI Alumni Enrichment Institute, mentioned that he was from Beira, and he was deaf. He explained that he was not using the phone, so I wouldn't have access to his WhatsApp. The easiest way to find him would be by going directly to his room.

We set the time for the next day at 7:00 pm after our classes. At that moment, I thought I was in the U.S. to do my studies in special education. I advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities; I have a master's degree in disability law. Even so, I was nervous because I didn't know how to communicate with this comrade from my country. I didn't know what to do. I searched and found practical suggestions for communicating with a deaf person. I also considered calling Remoteline, an organization in Mozambique that facilitates communication between deaf people, service providers and society through sign language, to help me communicate with Armando, but time was scarce. At 6:52pm, I went to room 903 A, Armando's room. Guess what I did?

I knocked on the door and kept knocking on the door. No one answered, I opened the door, and there was no one in the living room or kitchen. I was nervous, I closed the door and went downstairs to my room. I went to write Armando an email and tell him I was at his door, and in this process, I realized, oh my God, I'm knocking on the door of someone who can't hear? The first barrier encountered was: communication.

I wrote the email, and I went back upstairs and knocked on the door again, this time as a signal, in case another colleague was there, to open it for me. A minute later, Armando came near the corridor and found me there, I was nervous; we made gestures, smiled and the famous face greeting. But the conversation could not stop there, could it? As I mentioned earlier, Armando didn't have his phone or tablet with the interpretation functions. The tablet was without a card. We went the traditional way: pen and paper. Fortunately, he knew how to read and write in Portuguese. Armando wrote on his writing pad, and we talked using this communication format between laughter and joy of having a Mozambican nearby. We stayed more than one hour in that communication. We also used my cell phone as a communication resource since I shared with Armando TV shows with sign language interpretation where I was the host. I was happy when Armando understood the messages on the different TV shows. It was a beautiful and unique moment for me. I felt proud and believed that I was contributing to an inclusive society.

This experience made me think that we should reflect on these questions:

- 1- How can we include deaf people in an education system that allows socializing with hearing people or vice versa?
- 2- What difficulties does a deaf person find socializing in a country such as Mozambique, where access to technology and devices is still a barrier?
- 3- How can we make society inclusive so that in any situation, there are conditions to communicate with a deaf person?

Sharing this experience, I hope to open a space for debate and reflection about the challenges faced by deaf people daily. They live and navigate the world very differently from people with perfect hearing, which can make life more difficult when the sound is low or nothing. I want to continue on this reflection in the subsequent articles, understanding that we must develop a culture where difference is valued and should be treasured in different ways—race, ethnicity, gender, age, experience, and disability. Most importantly, we should treat everyone equally, regardless of their differences.

I believe. **MASOKO**

*Vanessa Macamo, Ph.D. Student in Special Education, University of Arizona

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

Mark Twain



Wisdom-rich proverbs from Mozambique and Africa*



Proverb (Xi-Makonde): *Munu múumi avantálela. Kanji vantalela wákúpéla.*

Region: Northern Mozambique

Translation: Do what you can while you live. Do not wait to be dead to be recognized later.

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Proverb (Xi-ndau): *Ho've hi no teve'lá mulambo wajo.*

Region: Central Mozambique

Translation: The fish follows the direction of the river.

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Proverb (Xi-changana): *U nga tshembi munhu hi ngoe.*

Region: Southern Mozambique

Translation: Whoever sees the face, does not see the heart.

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*The above proverbs were kindly researched by **Rebeca Mashava**, a Mozambican living in the USA.

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An informative social scholar and former Television Presenter of diverse and interesting community topics which affect our day to day lives and general societal interactions. Now residing in the USA, Vanessa has directed her focus to her passion for Education. Visit her pages to see her new noble journey dedicated to academic networking. Interact with her in her exchange & information-share platforms about possible scholarships, higher education tips for success from great advisors and educators worldwide.

Links to TV Episodes:

<https://youtu.be/-gdfznhkco?si=sX5VklzTOUNQTjcz>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2S4Czkneqs&pp=ygURY2FudGluaG8gZGEgc2lzc2k%3D>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PaxkcH-9I4&t=2071s&pp=ygURY2FudGluaG8gZGEgc2lzc2k%3D

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