

Estamos Juntos

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Jan/Feb 2012



February of every year is Black History Month!

As part of the mission's programming on this topic, the Public Affairs Section has launched an essay/speech contest, modeled after the landmark speech by Martin Luther King, Jr., called "I Have a Dream." The contest, called "Eu Tenho Um Sonho," invites high school graduates between ages 18-26 to write a speech that expresses their vision for the future of Mozambique. The flyer on page 4 explains the rules and requirements, and we hope that you will pass this along to your contacts, family members, friends, or other youth who may be interested. The compositions must be submitted by April 30, 2012.

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Ambassador Rowe Celebrates Ibo Restoration



The U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique, Leslie Rowe, visited Pemba and Ibo Island October 25 - 27 to celebrate the restoration of Ibo Island's Fortaleza de São João Baptista, the Central Mosque, and several other sites as part of USAID's Arco Norte tourism support project. Ambassador Rowe toured the island to learn more about Ibo's diverse historical and cultural sites



Top: Ambassador Rowe, the Minister of Culture and the Provincial Governor of Cabo Delgado
Bottom: Cultural groups performing at the Fort celebration

with the Minister of Culture, Armando Artur, the Provincial Governor of Cabo Delgado, Eliseu Machava, the District Administrator of Ibo Island, and hundreds of local residents before speaking at a ceremony at *Fortaleza de São João Baptista*, one of the world's best preserved star-shaped forts. The \$7 million USAID Arco Norte project was designed to increase investment and tourism, while protecting

the environment of Niassa, Cabo Delgado, and Nampula Provinces and has already paid tremendous dividends. From 2005-2010, tourism in the 3 provinces grew by 100% and the number of business in the sector by 36%. In Cabo Delgado, the number of people employed by tourism climbed 44%, while tourism investments on Ibo Island soared 400%. In collaboration with Eduardo Mondlane University and the Ministry of Tourism, USAID also proposed the designation of Ibo Island as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

During her trip to Pemba, Ambassador Rowe also met with tourism and marketing students at the Catholic University. Together, they discussed global tourism as a motor for economic development in Northern Mozambique. With its incredible beaches and history, Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa Provinces have limitless potential to draw tourists from Europe, the United States, and other parts of the world. She also talked about American life and

culture with Pemba's 20 English-Access Micro-Scholarship program participants. The Access program provides highly talented secondary school students from underserved socioeconomic communities with an opportunity to study English after school for two years before graduation, and operates in Nampula, Pemba, Beira, and Maputo.

Message from the Ambassador



Leslie V. Rowe

The past few months have been marked with interesting events and visits. As we now near the end of Black History Month, where we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to what is a very diverse United States of America, and move to Women's History Month, we see much in common between successes and challenges in the U.S. and Mozambique. We have also had a remarkable stream of visits - from the Global AIDS Coordinator to the Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, and most re-

cently the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Johnnie Carson, leading a trade delegation of major U.S. companies interested in investing in the energy sector in Mozambique. And I was proud to represent the generosity of the American people last week as we delivered \$2.5 million of humanitarian assistance to Mozambican families impacted by the two recent cyclones. I believe these are all signs of the vibrancy and growing relationship that we have on many fronts, and reinforce our strong partnerships in health, education, economic development, security cooperation, and other areas. *Estamos Juntos!*

Leslie Rowe

Improving the Lives of Orphans and Vulnerable Children with Youth Farmer Clubs

Astade is a 13 year old boy who lives in a rural community in Nampula Province. He is an orphan who lost both his parents and is cared for by his older brother in a house that, until recently, had no latrine or resources for good hygiene. Recently an "animadora" (activist) visited Astade and told him about the Youth Farmer Clubs (YFC) being implemented by the Strengthening Communities through Integrated Programming (SCIP) project: a collaboration between USAID and Pathfinder International financed by the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief. This activista referred Astade to a YFC chapter near his home and he soon began participating.

Young Farmer Clubs provide rural orphans, vulnerable children, and youth within a community social structure with life skills and vocational training on specific topics, such as sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention and nutrition. 452 YFCs have been established in Nampula



Astade and other members of the Youth Farmers Club receiving the conservation agriculture training manuals

through this SCIP project and more than 2,100 of the clubs' members are orphans and vulnerable children.

Through the club, Astade also gained skills in conservation farming techniques, food handling, food use and storage, while also learning practices to improve his and his family's health. For example, Astade learned proper hygiene and sanitation techniques and benefited with the construction of a latrine. These important lessons for health and rural economic development benefit the entire community. Astade brings home to share with his brother the lessons he learns at the YFC, including the "importance of building latrines." Both items were added to their house and have been adopted into their daily life.

Before joining the SCIP Young Farmer Club, Astade and his family were at risk of health problems due to poor hygiene and sanitation practices. Thanks to an integrated package of services, he and his family now have new tools to lead a healthier life and better the entire community.

U.S. Embassy Sponsors Maritime Security Conference

The U.S. Embassy sponsored a maritime security conference November 14-15 on "Maritime Threats and their Economic Impacts on Mozambique" at the Chissano Center. The embassy coordinated the conference with two co-hosts, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) from the United States and the *Centro de Estudos Estratégicos e Internacionais of the Instituto Superior de Relações Internacionais*. The principal objective of the conference was to discuss maritime security, which is one of the most critical challenges facing the governments and people of Southern and Eastern Africa in the early 21st century. The U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique, Leslie Rowe, and Mozambique's Vice-Minister of Defense, Antonio Mondlane, opened the conference with more than 100 people, including Mozambican alumni from previous ACSS conferences, senior civilian and security sector officials responsible for maritime safety and security, and representatives from other key national stakeholders such as private industry, non-governmental organizations, academics, military and civil society.

In her remarks to open the conference, Ambassador Rowe noted that "Mozambique's vast and rich maritime domain represents a potentially invaluable resource as the country continues to implement policies aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of its citizens. However, this same vastness and richness of Mozambique's coastal waters exposes the country to serious maritime threats and vulnerabilities".



Ambassador Rowe delivers the opening speech at the maritime security conference

The conference aimed to open a dialog on a strategic framework that can assist Mozambique to fully utilize its maritime resources while minimizing the maritime-based threats and vulnerabilities. Major General Charles Makakala, Commander of the National Defense University from Tanzania, and Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Duarte Monteiro, commander of the Cape Verde Coast Guard, flew in to present at the conference and were very well received, which attests to maritime security's importance as a regional and global issue. Additional speakers at the conference represented the *Instituto de Investigação Pesqueira* (IIP), CEEI, ACSS, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and the U.S. State Department.

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USAID Provides Economic Journalism Training Course

The Support Program for Economic and Enterprise Development (SPEED), a USAID funded project designed to improve Mozambique's trade and investment climate, organized an economic journalism training course in Bilene (Gaza Province) from November 14 -18, 2011. The objectives were to enhance the quality of economic, financial and business reporting in Mozambique, and to improve the role of the media organizations in monitoring economic policy-making and the government's management of its finances.

The training was led by Katherine Baldwin and Maria Pia Palermo from the Thompson Reuters Foundation and covered a range of topics, including the basic principles of journalism, macroeconomics, the business environment, company news, fiscal, monetary and trade policies. Local professionals from various public, private and donor insti-



USAID SPEED project's economic training of Journalists

tutions were invited to lecture on selected topics as well. Fifteen journalists from the representing print, online, and broadcast media institutions based in Maputo, Beira and Nampula attended the training. Five editors were also invited to attend presentations given on the final day, as well as a ceremony where the group was addressed by U.S. Embassy Commercial Officer Charles Brown and received their certificates. The participants are now able to interact with thousands of journalists around the world through the Thompson Reuters Foundation network.

This initiative is just the first step in SPEED's plan to improve the quality of economic journalism in Mozambique. The SPEED project will continue working with its media partners to develop ongoing training events.



Mrs. Pulqueria from RM receiving her certificate

"I Have No Fear"

In Niassa, the USAID-funded CHASS Community Care project has led the development of community engagement strategy to foster HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Community engagement involves bringing together people with HIV, addressing service gaps and difficulties, and supporting individuals to adhere to treatment while leading a healthy life. "Cha Positivo" (Positive Tea) is an independent support group that meets routinely to discuss and share experiences related to living with HIV, and maintaining a positive and healthy social life. Since the first meeting in February 2011, thirty participants in eight districts have joined, acting as positive voices in breaking the silence and challenging discrimination and stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

Group activities include informal sessions to share personal experiences or formal sessions where speakers are invited to talk on a particular issue. In the energetic and positive environment of "Cha Positivo" members feel comfortable to joke and

dance, share stories of living positively, and offer perspectives on how to effectively share prevention messages with other community members. It is also a safe space to discuss openly the difficulties of living with HIV. Importantly, the

group members also talk about their antiretroviral medication, especially adherence to treatment. Members share how treatment has changed their lives by improving their health and empowering them to work on their farms.

Some members, encouraged by the strength of those who have openly declared their HIV status within their communities, have spread the slogan "não tenho medo" (I have no fear) as a way to promote community mem-

bers to receive counseling and testing services. Members often refer community members to clinical and psycho-social support services available for anyone who has questions about HIV. Step by step, the energy and determination of the "Cha Positivo" and CHASS programs are contributing to a more positive environment in Niassa.



Members of the Chá Positivo Group in Niassa sharing their experiences and how it changed their lives

CADDP Signing

Prime Minister, Aires Aly, the U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique, Leslie V. Rowe, and representatives from Canada, the European Union, the World Bank, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development signed Mozambique's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Compact on December 9 in Maputo. The compact was the culmination of 12 months of hard work by the CAADP country team, and



Mozambique's Prime Minister Aires Aly addressing the participants



U.S. Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe signing the CADDP compact



High level officials from the Government of Mozambique, and NEPAD and SADC representatives

built upon Mozambique's Agricultural Sector Development Strategy, diagnostic studies, stakeholder consultations, and a national policy conference. The Prime Minister presided over the signing ceremony which was attended by more than 100

people. Participants included the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Planning and Development, several vice ministers, and representatives of development partners, NEPAD, SADC, private sector, government agencies, civil society, and the media. The Prime Minister stressed the need to increase Mozambique's agricultural productivity to improve competitiveness and support agricultural growth. The High Commissioner of Canada, speaking on behalf of development partners,

noted Mozambique's enormous agricultural potential and emphasized the need to accelerate improvements in the business enabling environment to mobilize private sector investment. The Minister of Agriculture highlighted the Government's focus on growth corridors, improving productivity, increasing value addition and ensuring market access for smallholders.

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CONCURSO LITERÁRIO 2012

EU TENHO UM SONHO!

TODOS TEMOS OS NOSSOS SONHOS – PARA O NOSSO PRÓPRIO FUTURO, O FUTURO DAS NOSSAS FAMÍLIAS, DAS NOSSAS SOCIEDADES E DO NOSSO PAÍS. QUAL É O TEU SONHO PARA O FUTURO DE MOÇAMBIQUE?

COMPARTILHA O TEU SONHO CONNOSCO, INSPIRA A TODOS COM A TUA VISÃO PARA O FUTURO.

ENVA O TEU ENSAIO PARA O CONCURSO "EU TENHO UM SONHO" DA EMBAIXADA DOS EUA EM MAPUTO.

"O FIM DAS NOSSAS VIDAS COMEÇA A PARTIR DO MOMENTO EM QUE OPTAMOS PELO SILENCIO PERANTE AS COISAS QUE REALMENTE VALEM A PENA."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REGRAS E REQUISITOS:

- O ENSAIO LITERÁRIO DEVE USAR O MESMO FORMATO "EU TENHO UM SONHO," DESCRREVENDO AS QUESTÕES OU OBSTÁCULOS QUE LHE DIZEM RESPEITO E O IMPACTO ESPERADO SOBRE A COMUNIDADE SE O PROBLEMA FOSSE RESOLVIDO. O ENSAIO DEVE ILUSTRAR A SUA VISÃO SOBRE O FUTURO DE MOÇAMBIQUE.
- A QUESTÃO QUE DESCREVE DEVE SER LOCAL, EMBORA TAMBÉM POSSA SER NACIONAL, MAS DEVE ESTAR RELACIONADA COM ALGUMA COISA QUE SE PASSA À SUA VOLTA.
- O ENSAIO LITERÁRIO DEVE SER ESCRITO POR UMA SÓ PESSOA.
- OS ENSAIOS LITERÁRIOS SERÃO AVALIADOS EM FUNÇÃO DA SUA ORIGINALIDADE. PODEM SER COMPLETAMENTE ORIGINAIS OU AS SUAS IDEIAS PODEM REFLETIR PARTES DE PROGRAMAS EXISTENTES OU OUTROS PROJECTOS.
- OS ENSAIOS LITERÁRIOS DEVEM SER DATILOGRAFADOS E DEVEM TER ENTRE 500-1000 PALAVRAS, E DEVEM CONTER A FRASE "EU TENHO UM SONHO" PELO MENOS 9 VEZES, TAL COMO O DISCURSO ORIGINAL.
- O CONCURSO ESTÁ ABERTO A JOVENS ENTRE OS 18 E 26 ANOS QUE JÁ TENHAM CONCLUÍDO O NÍVEL MÉDIO.
- OS ENSAIOS LITERÁRIOS SERÃO AVALIADOS DE ACORDO COM OS SEGUINTE CRITÉRIOS:
 - A CRIATIVIDADE E VISÃO DO ENSAIO.
 - A COMPRENSÃO DOS DESAFIOS E COMPLEXIDADE DAS QUESTÕES QUE PROCURA ABORDAR NO ENSAIO.
 - CLAREZA DA APRESENTAÇÃO E QUALIDADE DA ESCRITA.
- O ENSAIO DEVE CONTER O NOME DO CONCORRENTE, A INSTITUIÇÃO, O ENDEREÇO, E INFORMAÇÃO DE CONTACTO.
- QUEIRA ENVIAR O SEU TRABALHO AO SEGUINTE EMAIL: EUTENHOUMSONHO@STATE.GOV
- CASO TENHA DÚVIDAS, NÃO HESITE EM CONTACTAR A BIBLIOTECA MARTIN LUTHER KING DA EMBAIXADA DOS EUA PELO TELEFONE 258 21 49 11 16 OU 258 21 49 19 16

O PRAZO LIMITE PARA A ENTREGA DOS TRABALHOS EXPIRA A 30 DE ABRIL DE 2012.

**Comments/Questions? Would you like to receive this publication by e-mail?
Contact us at EstamosJuntos@state.gov**

U.S. MISSION TO MOZAMBIQUE