

# REPORT - REGIONAL AFRICAN MEETING

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Friday September 2019 Bativa Hotel, Kampala, Uganda.

By Lèmorah BENBOW aged 17yrs - Servas Malawi Junior Youth.



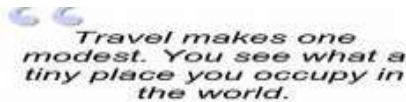
## Pre-Meeting Preparation:

At our last Servas Social Tayezzi (youth rep) and me Junior youth Rep and Francis talked about attending the Regional African Meeting in Uganda. Funding wasn't full for the national secretary and at the

start there was part funding for x2youth. But then they changed the allocation and said it was \$200 to National secretary and ½ fares for each youth – so it was hard to make a decision on who should go when how much needed to be raised wasn't crystal clear.

2 weeks before we were due to go mom surfed the net – available flights had gone from \$570 up to \$800. Eventually a week before we were due to go mom said she had no more time to look and wait for cheaper flights to come up and was going

in circles between the 3 of us. She decided Francis and I should pool resources and go together as Tayezzi had gone to Korea for the SICOGA. She said I would have to work extra hard 'coz people would think my presence was due to nepotism – her choosing me just because I was her daughter. She approached Moses and Maggie in Uganda to help find flights and they were able to find us both tickets. Tx!



## JOB'S TO DO - Fast!

✓Interview new hosts. ✓Pick up a Sibisuso's x2 pots and tea and peanuts for x45 people from Gift of the Givers (an NGO Servas Malawi is linked to), ✓Order and pick up x45 The Eye makes. Get x3 gifts for the quiz competition. ✓Films+posters to put up and our hand-painted banner and flag of Malawi.

✓DVD's Malawi+Servas+Syle-vol  
✓Order \$'s - managed to get \$150.

**TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL:** We flew from Chileka airport - mom dropped us off. We flew to Dar Es Salam slept a night and early next day onto Addis and then back down Africa to Kampala. The way back was worse in all 38hours waiting to catch flights – took 2days to get home! At Entebbe airport a taxi waited for us taking us to a petrol station near Kampala where our hosts came to pick us up.

**FOOD:** Great food & drink on the plane. In Dar Es Salam airport we starved – I gave up my plane-saved bread rolls and gave them to Francis. We collected plastic small bowls from our food discovering that 800plastic knives and forks were wasted every journey – sad! Francis played his guitar and we both sang in the airport to keep ourselves busy. On the way back we got free hot chocolate as people realized we were waiting so very long and the guitar playing had gone equally so long too!



## THE PROGRAM - KEY GOALS

Strengthening Servas in Africa:- African Servas country talking/planning/cooperation.

## IMPROVEMENTS FOR NEXT TIME:

➔Plastics free meetings (use water dispensers +paper cups.) DO IT!

➔Wear international dress for one day.

## FOOD☺ Matoke - made from boiled green bananas.

Gonja - made from sweet bananas fried. Two types chopped into squares and fried – soft to eat. Then kind of banana chips slices of green banana sliced and fried and dried – they are less sugary but tasty and nutritious.


'Daddies' – small squares of mandasi's basically fried, dried and hard. Really nice to chomp through - bit like croutons.

Simsim – sesame seeds squashed together with sugar and flattened into plates circles/squares etc. yum!  
Ginger – its in everything you taste giving it a spicy kick.



Delicious! Ugandan tea. Milk cooked with a teabag in it plus ginger.



| SAT 7 <sup>th</sup><br>SUN 8 <sup>th</sup>  | MONDAY 9 <sup>th</sup> August<br>DAY 1.   | TUESDAY 10 <sup>th</sup> August<br>DAY 2.   | WEDNESDAY 11 <sup>th</sup> August<br>DAY 3.   | THURSDAY 12 <sup>th</sup> August<br>DAY 4.   | FRIDAY 13 <sup>th</sup> August<br>DAY 5.   |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| <br>Arrived by Air Ethiopia at Entebbe airport at 10am Stayed with host Eva in the suburbs of Kampala with young brother.<br><br>Pealed green bananas for matoke and cut chicken killed by Eva. | Eva made beetroot, pomegranate, pineapple juice herself to share.<br><br>Played football – did a workout, made a yummy breakfast and then in the afternoon took a local bus to Kampala town to get to the hotel.<br><br>The Conference began at 5pm with watched traditional dances and we all introduced ourselves to each other. We were in total about x32 in total.<br><br><i>I went to bed quite early as I was quite jet lagged from the journey from Malawi. If I had known how much shorter the outward journey was compared to the return leg.... I would have enjoyed it more – ha!</i> | 730am breakfast. Cleared tables = conference room.<br><br><b>9am •Country presentations: Opportunities+ challenges and future plans.</b> N/S-aka mom had prepared it but not as a power point. So sneakily while everyone else was making their presentations I quickly created it. Siba (Uganda) = chaired. <i>Everyone did lots of tourist videos – great! Fun to watch!</i><br><br><b>•Review of the last African meeting in Rwanda.</b> Francis = presented instead of Fidele.<br><br><b>•History of Servas:</b> Carla (World Vice-president) and ongoing changes.<br><br>DINNER 7pm Local dishes – banana boiled and mushed.<br><br>Shavin(Uganda youth) took youth around Makere Uni.<br><br><b>Film:</b> Everyone was too busy taking pictures (not the name of a film!!). SINGING: guitar Francis & Mr Ha – Korea. Aisha learnt guitar.<br><b>PEACE GAMES: Everyone refused</b> | 630Aerobics=Lem+Mr Na (73)<br>730am breakfast on Khondi & singing Servas songs:Mr Ha<br><br>9am: •Workcamps and their potential; Francis (Malawi) presented it.<br><b>•Peace Activities:</b> Discussion.<br><b>1030 = tea &amp; avocado sand wiches.</b><br><br><b>•Role of Servas national secretary:</b> Francis (Malawi) and discussion.<br><br><b>•Servas online – Dalton gr8</b> explanation & questions. 2hrs.<br><b>•Servas Quiz</b> Printed and marked by me.<br><br>DINNER 7pm Youth meeting led by Prossy.<br><br><b>PEACE GAMES:</b> Orange behind the back. Pattern throw – failure.<br><br><b>Newsletter:</b> Done daily by Lemorah + different helpers. – Dalton, Cedric, Siba, Monni. Youth went out to party unlike me & Francis & Maggie working til dawn. | 730am breakfast. & singing Servas songs:Mr Ha – again!<br><br><b>•Maintaining hostlists</b> by Moses (Uganda). Host members can stay with each other in their countries. Laurence questioned. Prossy – what to expect from a host and peoples experiences.<br><b>FUNNY!!</b><br><b>1030 = tea &amp; daddies</b><br><b>•Development workshop:</b> by Lemorah & Olla talked about Environment – How to get Servas involved. <i>Everyone pledged what they would do by the next conference.</i><br><b>•Week Evaluation=Aisha.</b><br><b>Next meeting is = 2023</b> in Malawi at Nkotakota Pottery. Not in Kenya due to elections.<br><b>•Closing Ceremony+certificates</b><br>DINNER 7pm<br><br><b>PEACE GAMES:</b> Chinese whispers – great fun. Favourite game of everyone. (Lemorah- Malawi) started 'peace begins with love' then 'Moses is a liar' ended with 'He is handsome' Best was the Korean changes!! | <b>** DAY OUT **</b><br><br><b>•Bus</b> into Entebbe 1hr.<br><br><b>•Wildlife conservation centre</b> Wild animals recovering. Talk about care & rehabilitation.<br><br><b>•Lunch</b> at Botanical gardens. Played football – youth. Walk around to the Lake Victoria beach – filled with rubbish.<br><b>•Beach clean-up!</b> Servas takes action – made others join in with singing and guitar playing. Burnt the rubbish.<br><b>•Dodge ball &amp; volleyball</b> – everyone played! Great.<br><br><b>•Dinner</b> at the gardens. Invited lonely German girl to join us for food.<br><br><b>•Peace Games = Tangled by Lemorah,</b> I love you but I just can't smile.<br><br>PEACE CYCLE STARTED. |
| Host:Eva  | Hotel Bativa xhot H2O   | Hotel Bativa  | Hotel Bativa  | Hotel Bativa   | Hotel Bativa   |

"This was my 2<sup>nd</sup> Servas conference - I went to my 1st in Uganda, in 2011 when I was 8 years old - 11 years ago. I remember it well jumping up and down in the Ruwenzori Mountains with my mum and sister. At this conference I was 17years old and it was very different. I didn't just do Indian Dancing as directed by mom and play outside. Now I had to organize and do things myself. I couldn't wait for people to say ok - I just got on with it. Yes I am want to be a doer like my mom - annoying or not. I put up our display on Malawi and I organized the quiz which turned out to be quite fun in the end for people. (Francis I did it - you taught people the guitar! We each had different strengths and made a good team.) I was surprised how as a group we were all able to discuss things and not just passively listen to the leader. Good atmosphere!

## PERSONAL VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES

### Challenges & Difficulties

- The Organizing committee/Servas International etc repeatedly changing how much money was available and the rules of its use. How could we decide who could go? VERY frustrating and unreasonable. So x3 delegates changed to x2 delegates. *Mom got v. upset!*
- Sleeping at the airports for 28hours enroute.
- No hot water at the beginning in the hotel.
- Airport -Dar Es Salam – very cold! 17hours brrrrrrrr!
- People taking so so so many pictures for sooo long!
- Everything was a bit 'last minute' – Francis had to create x3 presentations the night before and present them without adequate preparation time/consultation.
- Delegates should have got up and got involved more especially youth forever on their phones!!!! I wasn't!
- Jack fruit ooooh smelly but tasty!!
- So much plastic waste! VERY BAD.x150bottles used
- The weight of the The Eye Tourist Magazines I had to carry around. It was like weight lifting practice-ha!
- There was (I felt) a distinct lack of gratitude by many delegates for the fact that conference fees and transport had been paid for by SI international. They need to develop an 'attitude of gratitude' and FAST!



**ZIKOMO  
Servas  
Uganda!  
Brilliant!**

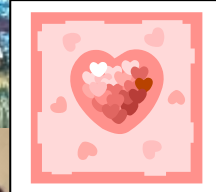
### Rewards & Joys: - A Korean team came - thankyou!!

- WHOLE CONFERENCE WAS PAID FOR BY SERVAS INTERNATIONAL – how lucky were we all . thanks thanks thanks – showering you all !!
- Carla Vice-President attended. Really positive and SHE paid her own flight \$\$\$ and the Sems from Turkey and the Korean team – we love you all – your presence made all the difference. We needed YOUR SPIRITS!
- Organisation: because it was so last minute it pushed Francis to 'do ☺ & he really rose to it. *I was proud of him.*
- Hosting: by Ugandan families – thanks Uganda!
- I.D. badges+gift cleverly organized in advance. Great!
- Good idea to goto the Wildlife Conservation+gardens.
- Hotel good choice. Not super posh but fine for us! Just right. Great price – even though I didn't pay.
- KIND helpful staff – gave me coffee if I was late.
- Sessions were quick-paced and interested.
- Food was varied and tasty. I loved it ALL.
- Fruit every day – every meal. Yes yes ye! Healthy-gr8!
- Free soft drinks and water – treat – thank you! Kind.
- \*Day out was everyone favourite coz we gelled together well and had time to really socially chat and hang out.
- Peace Games worked well but hard to get started.
- Evening activities of playing guitar/chat/singing=great!
- Dance group was great esp' as they made us all join in.
- Youth created a Servas African youth instagram / twitter page. Thanks Monni (Botswana)

**SUMMARY** Great conference – well done Team Uganda! Maggie, Prossy & Moses – gr8!

**"WE are the world, WE are the children! WE are the ones who make brighter day, SO LET'S START GIVING (saving plastic+planting trees!)"**





Everyone you meet has something valuable to teach you.