

Interview with three ex-pupils of Maxanaedi Community School, 5 March 2015, Nelke en Edith

During our visit to Senanga in March 2015 we interviewed three ex-pupils of Maxanaedi Community school. Their names are: Racheal Mwisata, Musole Katoti, Mwila Mwila. Presently, they are all at Senanga Secondary Day School, Racheal and Musole in Grade 9 and Mwila in Grade 8. All three come from poor families. The main reason that they attended Maxanaedi was financial: Maxanaedi does not ask school fees while the other primary schools do. Senanga Primary charges K 65 per trimester.



From left to right: Racheal, Musole and Mwila

Musole is the oldest, he is 17 years old. He attended Senanga day school up to grade 5. He moved to the Maxanaedi school because there was no fee charged. He was Head boy in Maxanaedi one year ago, now he has moved to Senanga Secondary (grade 9). His father died, he is a single orphan and his family could not afford the primary school fees. He lives in Longbweke which is close to the new road to Sesheke. He would like to become an engineer.

Racheal is 15 years old, she was Headgirl in Maxanaedi two years ago. After Grade 5, she moved from Senanga Primary Day School to Maxanaedi where she did Grade 6 and 7. Now she has moved to Senanga Secondary (grade 9). Both parents are alive but her family is very poor. She went to Maxanaedi for financial reasons. At Senanga Day school a fee was charged and Maxanaedi was free of charge. She lives in the so-called Caprivi area which is close to Maxanaedi. Her dream is to become a doctor.

Mwila is also 15 years old. He started at Maxanaedi school at grade 3. He was Sports Prefect last year in Maxanaedi and is now also attending Senanga Secondary (grade 8), still 5 years to go. Both parents are still alive but the money situation is “bad at home” as he puts it. He also lives in Caprivi. After graduation he would like to go to the University in Lusaka and become a Head Teacher of a secondary school.

We asked what it involves to be a head boy or girl and a sports prefect. Each year there is only one head girl and head boy and their duty is to control respectively the girls and the boys. The sports prefect takes care of training and competition in sports such as football. This covers grade 1 to 7.

To understand a bit more of the educative results of Maxanaedi, we asked about the HIV/Aids programme. After some giggling they came with the following “things that they learned”:

- Abstinence (Racheal)
- Use a condom (Musole)
- Don't touch blood of another person
- Don't use same needles for different people
- Testing blood regularly
- Be educated on HIV/Aids by going to the hospital for learning

As Hygiene will be at the school agenda when the new toilets are built, we also asked about the things they learned about hygiene. The following were mentioned:

- Clean classes
- Clean surroundings
- Wash hands after toilet use