

NOTDEC NOW

PACO the Pickup is Safe & Sound!

After a trip of over 5,000 miles from Toyota Samrong in Thailand, NOTDEC's brand new pickup truck has now arrived on site.

"Paco" is a Hilux 2.4 GD Country Single Cab 6-MT 4x with benches, and a far bigger canopy than the tired old pickup.



PACO
THE PICKUP TRUCK
& FRIENDS

The children think he's great. And Paco loves being with all his new friends!



Paco's driver, Monday, is delighted with his new truck. But NOTDEC isn't in a town: the roads there are very rough. So Monday thinks Paco needs bigger tyres. And there's no Fat Controller at NOTDEC to choose the right tyres and sort it out.

Happily, NOTDEC UK's Slim Advisors¹ say Monday is right: Paco's tyres need to be upgraded "for more protection & ground clearance off-tarmac." And, to prove it, they've ordered fatter all-terrain tyres.

¹One of them called Gordon!



So everyone agrees.

Paco is all smiles. Fatter tyres will last far, far longer on the rough roads, and help him keep his precious friends even safer.

And ALL the children shout “Hooray for Paco!”

Our heartfelt “Thank You” to all who contributed to buy Paco.

WELL Done – very well!



In case you missed it, NOTDEC’s well is up & running. Here staff are installing a vicious barbed wire fence to protect the borehole/pump installation (and the solar panels that power it) from elephants and human interference.

Just one downer: well water is very hard. It’s fine for bathing, laundry & irrigation; but many staff don’t like the taste, and won’t drink it! Johnny Rowlands, the area’s biggest coffee roaster, had the same problem when he bored a well. Now, staff are used to the taste, and they drink it without a problem. “Just give it time” he says.

NOTDEC no longer needs to haul in 10,000 litres of river water each day – saving money, staff time, and the planet! “Thank you” to everyone who donated to drill the well and rig it all up.



Remembering Roselyn

From “NOTDEC Girl” to Nurse – and Wife

Shortly after Roselyn’s birth, her mother died in an operation at Kagando Hospital. As her father could not care for a newborn, she was admitted to NOTDEC and kept alive on infant formula. In those days, “orphans” did not have to go to live with extended family (eg from age 5), and Roselyn lived all her childhood at NOTDEC. There she was fed, schooled & loved and taught to know the Lord Jesus. And – funded by her sponsors – NOTDEC supported her through nursing training. Having attended the same school, Roselyn & Regan married on 25th November 2023 and they lived in Kampala where Roselyn was a nurse. Surely all her dreams had come true.

Medical Emergency

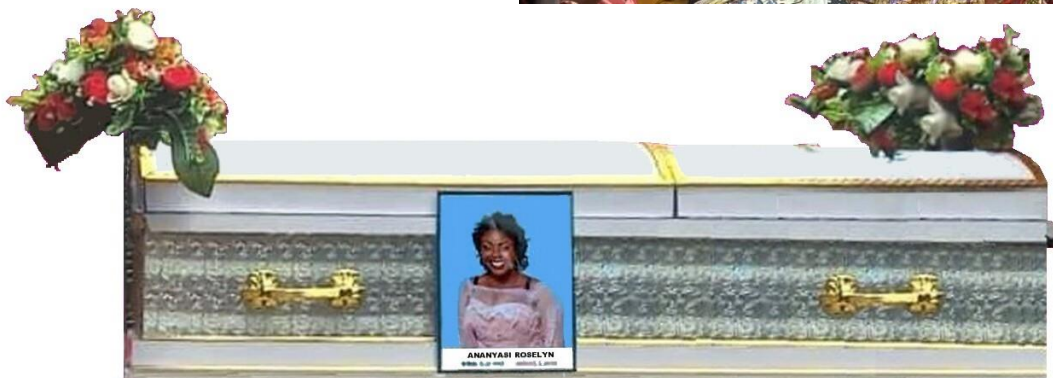
At the end of January, Roselyn had abdominal pain. A scan revealed an ectopic pregnancy: the foetus had embedded in a fallopian tube - which was rupturing. Knowing she needed urgent surgery, Roselyn was scared, and called Oripa (another ex-NOTDEC girl living in Kampala) to be with her. On her way back from theatre, Roselyn suffered a cardiac arrest. She was transferred to Intensive Care but had a second arrest and staff could not save her. Her husband Regan, Oripa, and Tayebwa (a friend and ex-NOTDEC male nurse) were with her when she died in the early hours of 1st February.

Burial

The following day, her body was taken 9 hours across Uganda to her father-in-law’s home in Bwera, near the DRC border.

Burial took place the next day on family land, with almost endless singing, crying and tears. Hundreds attended including all NOTDEC staff and many ex-NOTDEC young people.

Please pray that the Lord will help Regan, all Roselyn’s friends and the rest of us come to terms with this tragic loss.



Roselyn Ananyasi 30th January 1997 – 1st February 2024

The name Ananyasi means “known to God”

Special Needs – and Extra Miles!



Mordecai is now nine. He was born in 2015 in Mahango – high up in the mountains in Nyakabingo sub-county. After the birth, his mother complained of a weak heart, and a group of bearers began to carry her the three hours down to the road for Kilembe hospital. During the descent, she died. His father could not care for an unweaned new-born, and Mordecai was admitted to NOTDEC.

There, *more* difficult news emerged. Mordecai was epileptic and walked with great difficulty, legs wide apart. And – once weaned – Ugandan law said he must leave NOTDEC to live with any extended family member(s) willing & able to care for him. So Mordecai went to live with his grandparents – subsistence farmers in their 70s. He

boards at a special school, living with the family in school holidays. When at home, he had to crawl or be carried to the toilet – an expedition which his grandfather also found challenging.



The old toilet – hardly worth the climb!



Mordecai's grandfather – resting.

NOTDEC's Report

Social Worker, **Moris**, & Construction Manager, **Ivan (Bob the Builder)** said Mordecai's home, high in the mountains with no vehicle access, was very hard to reach. There was "a semi-permanent house and a temporary toilet .. far from the house" accessible "with difficulty". The family had to go 3km for water. Improvements would cost an arm & a leg – all materials having to be carried by hand for the last 1 km. The work needed was:

- A new roof; full plastering, flooring & shuttering
- A new toilet for proper sanitation accessible to ALL family members
- A roof water-collection system for effortless clean water
- Solar-power and solar powered lighting

Though the family could make no contribution, the work would transform their quality of life

Funding

NOTDEC UK has no funds even for such vital work. Mordecai's house upgrade has been funded by:

- Donations from his sponsor and a relative of his sponsor
- Donations in memory of a member of St Paul's Church, Leamington Spa
- A donation specifically for Mordecai's family
- Fundraising at St Paul's Leamington Spa's Mid-Week service

Yet again, "**Thank you**" to all who helped us go the extra miles. No wonder the old pickup was done in!

The Finished Work



Water collection system on the new roof – to work, it needs rain!



Installing solar panels on the roof



Mordecai and his new toilet:

“Boy, I needed that!”

“Thank you all”

Finally Brethren: It's Still "No-Go" for NOTDEC Trustees



After a terrorist attack in late 2023 targeting tourists in the Queen Elizabeth National Park the Foreign Office advised against all but essential travel to the Game Park and the area SW of Kasese.

NOTDEC is just across the road from part of the Park. So the travel insurance of Trustees booked to go to NOTDEC in January was instantly void and their visit had to be cancelled. As the Foreign Office advice is still in force, it is not yet possible for Trustees to make new plans to visit NOTDEC and monitor progress there. Watch this space.

Mark Shaw
Trustee

