



Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> 2006

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The Corporate Services Scrutiny Sub-Panel chaired by Senator Jim Perchard is asking for comments regarding Jersey's Overseas Aid contribution so I felt it was appropriate that I should contribute to the debate outlining my first hand experience and observations over a number of years.

I first experienced an Overseas Aid trip in 1987 as a member of Reverend Bob Delap's team which helped in a shanty town in Kisumu, Kenya. This led to another trip to Calcutta in 1989 with Daphne Wagstaffe and after gaining much needed experience 'in the field' I have since lead teams to Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Guyana and in the process of taking another set of individuals to Sumatra in March 2007.

In 1992 my wife and I resigned our respective jobs in teaching and journeyed 20,000 kilometres across Africa looking at previous JOA projects and if they were still 'making a difference' to their immediate community in health or education. We were obviously not paid for this but I felt it was important that we assessed the success of our Island projects which have been running since 1972 and taken well over 3,000 individuals to experience life in the Third World.

After arriving back on the Island in 1993 I was asked to join the JOA sub committee for community work projects. I am still heavily involved in the orientation of teams, debriefing and launching new projects.

#### My observations

- Jersey Overseas Aid community work projects allow every Jersey resident the unique experience of living and helping individuals in the Third World. Through first hand experience many links are forged adding an extra dimension to the complex community we live in today.
- Many individuals work on a voluntary basis for JOA. Once benefiting from a community work project there is a desire to give

something back in order to give other Islanders the chance to be part of a project.

- We always have an overwhelming demand from outside agencies for help. It is unfortunate that we can not please everyone but we must make sure that we are helping agencies which are 'beyond corrupt practices' and address a real need affecting that community.
- A great deal of time is spent checking local prices, equipment outlets and the opinion of key people who are trusted in the targeted community.
- My experiences of JOA is passed on to my immediate school community. At Mont Nicolle School the JOA trips bring about a more focused awareness of people in different cultures and the many problems faced on a daily basis. Four of my former pupils have been on projects; one pupil is now teaching permanently in Uganda.

I hope this gives the impression how important JOA is to not only the Third World but also to the Jersey people. Senator Perchard will only be too aware of our Islanders passion to help having his own family connections with Kenya. Many may question whether it would be more beneficial to direct funding at only one community in order that JOA funding is used to maximum effect. Through past experience I would say not. This can cause much discontentment amongst communities and can lead to reliance for aid, a hand out rather than a hand up, the latter being the philosophy of JOA.

As I have already stated many have enjoyed the full blown experience and hopefully many more will be allowed the opportunity in the future.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr. I. Brown.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I. Brown." The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.