

## Scrutiny Review of Jersey's Overseas Aid

### A response to Deputy Huet's paper

The first page is a reasonable statement about her approach to the total budget. She has to work within the political process and find a formula that will be accepted by the States.

The remaining pages are a general rant against a number of unnamed charities and trustees and against Mr Jean Le Maistre. It illustrates the main point that I made in my submission to the Scrutiny review. The Commission does not enter into any dialogue with our local charity. They have not asked to read our annual report or asked us about our hopes and plans for the future. I don't know whether the sentence referring to 'Supposed clinic for the poor has now developed along the lines of a commercial business with an occasional free clinic' is aimed at OGRA. If it does, then she is very mistaken and should read the independent report and evaluation commissioned by the Elton John Foundation and published in August 2006. The enclosed paper by Dr. Hezron Mc'Obewa sets out the facts about the health care facility and the letters from the Ministry of Health indicate the official support that OGRA receives, as it gets supplies of Medicines from Direct Relief International.

The review is looking at the JOAC policies and procedures. Our submission questioned whether the Commission was meeting the aims stated within 3.2 such as

- 3.2 iii) a) working closely with the private and voluntary sector.  
c) encouraging and supporting recognised local bodies engaged in overseas aid

We also questioned whether the stated policy of giving only one grant to a particular village / community was appropriate. Development does not happen in such tidy fashion, but works better with a partnership approach.

The scrutiny review can make their own minds up about the Commission's current approach. WASOT-UK will continue to raise funds and support the work of OGRA Foundation, which is living up to its headline "Giving Hope, saving lives". We would like it to be with the informed backing of the Commission.

*Ed. Le Quesne*

Ed Le Quesne  
Chairman  
WASOT-UK in Jersey  
10 / 2 / 07

To Senator James Perchard  
Scrutiny Committee Chair,  
States of Jersey.

**Ref: Response to JOAC President's misplaced accusations:**

I would like to make responses to Deputy Huet's comments which would appear to have been aimed at WASOT and its work in Kenya. WASOT works with several partners in Kenya notably OGRA Foundation in Nyando district Kisumu, Osani medical Services in Homabay district and the local MoH. Our principle partner, OGRA Foundation runs a 35 bed health care facility (Le Quesne medical Centre in Miwani) that was opened officially by the local MP Prof Ayiecho Olweny and local Min Of health officials represented by Dr Diemo (Medical officer of health Nyando district), Dr Nyabati (District Public Health Officer) in 2003. At that time the facility was a simple clinic with consultation room and pharmacy and a small lab and its funding had been partly paid for by JOAC (£3,300.00). The total cost of the health facility after its expansion has been £30,000 most of the money having been raised by friends of WASOT both in Jersey and mainland UK.

The facility offers HIV/AIDS anti retro viral drugs to 70 patients, Home Based Care (HBC) programme for people living with HIV/AIDS within the community to 200 patients in their homes, voluntary testing and counselling facility, and also runs child health surveillance immunization and vaccination services in collaboration with the local Ministry of health Nyando. The above services are **free at point of access**.

To run the facility our partner OGRA Foundation also makes a nominal charge to patients attending our outpatients with various ailments such as typhoid, cholera etc of between 50-200 shs (£0.35p-£1.50) based on ability to pay. These payments are also taken in form of chickens, fish or locally made baskets. The money raised from such proceeds covers less than 1% of the total monthly running cost of the facility and is used to pay for basic stationery and buy laboratory reagents. The 99% of the running cost of the facility is paid for through further fund raising done both locally (Kenya) and in the UK and Jersey. The rationale behind this arrangement is to allow the locals to make contribution to their health and also the principle of their having a stake in the process, thus move towards less dependency in handouts.

The facility caters for a population of 25,000 people with an HIV prevalence rate of 33% and is based in one of the poorest areas in western Kenya. The strategic plan of OGRA Foundation is to integrate the service with the local MoH over the coming years so that eventually the local MoH will actively participate in the provision of staff and medicines to the local people. This project has been visited since its completion by many of our Jersey and UK donors ALL of whom have been complimentary of OGRA's work and were moved by the level of suffering and the task OGRA faces. These visitors have also included Dr Michael Marks of the Bush Foundation (who is also the African Medical Advisor to Direct Relief International who is one of our big drug funders and recently donated £200,000 worth of medicines to OGRA's efforts during the current flooding crisis in East Africa), numerous medical

student trips from the UK, numerous UK doctors running medical camps every year to mention a few. Our work has been covered extensively in the local (Kenyan press) and visited regularly by government officials as part of OGRA's collaboration. OGRA also runs mobile Outreach Clinics every fortnight, using a 4x4 Land Rover to the fishing communities along Lake Victoria as far as Homabay beach. This project enables us to offer primary health to 'hard to reach' people who cannot make it to the health care centre due to illness or lack of transport. Again these clinics see between 300-400 patients per trip and are run free of charge.

I am particularly upset at the remarks and innuendo made by Deputy Huet and will instead concentrate on the facts. It is sad and indeed demoralising to read that, faced with a chance to debate and reflect on successes and areas of improvement within JOAC, the president decided to run to the press without full knowledge of the truth. The opportunity should have been taken to address positively the future position of local charities and offer feedback to on how to build their capacity to qualify for bigger chunks of the grants as well as further the objectives and aims of JOAC as a partnership.

There is no such thing as a static position and the president and her advisers should not belittle our achievements. With respect, it is regrettable that she should have made such rash statements. I am aware of the Deputy Huet's personal hands on involvement with her husband on work parties in western Kenya and her continuing wish to help the needy in this part of my country. It is therefore very sad that what seemed to have been a verbal outburst at a meeting which would be reported in the local media should have been so negative and which may cause generous Jersey people to think twice about donating to the Jersey charities operating abroad.

It is my hope that this second sitting of the panel and indeed its completion and reporting will yield a road map to help both JOAC and its partners (local charities et al) to move forward and work as friends. In particular, I hope the president will reflect on her outburst and apologise for her uncalled for remarks. The good work that JOAC does should not be compromised by the inability of its hierarchy to accept that there is '*another way*' and that in every walk of life people will have diverse views but we all are aiming to have a better world. Importantly, I would like to request the president of JOAC to kindly refrain from uttering disrespectful and inflammatory remarks, as this is discourteous and not expected from someone in her position and instead she should embrace dialogue and be part of the solution.

Lastly, I would like to express our thanks to the panel for allowing us to respond to Deputy Huet's statement and I have attached for your information, a recent communication from the Min of health confirming our collaboration and relationship contrary to what has been implied.

Dr Hezron O Mc'Obewa BMedSci (Hons), MBBS.

Cc. to JOAC

ATTN. DR. HEZRON Mac'OBENA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Telegrams: "MINHEALTH", Nairobi  
Telephone: Nairobi 2719077  
When replying please quote



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Cathedral Road  
P.O. Box 30016  
Nairobi.

REF: MS/9/3/21 VOL. XIX(75)

7<sup>th</sup> February, 2007

The Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Finance  
PO Box 30007  
**NAIROBI**

**RE: REQUEST FOR VAT, CUSTOMS DUTY EXEMPTION ON MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

Ogra Foundation is Non-Governmental organization involved in charitable activities in Nyanza Province. The organization has received a donation of Medical Supplies from Direct Relief International to help victims of recent floods in Nyando and Kisumu District as per the Air Way Bill No. 0023/0025/0034020856/9. The distribution will be carried jointly with the Ministry of Health.

These items are a donation and attract no commercial value. We therefore, kindly request that you exempt the consignment from paying VAT, Customs Duty, IDF and ware house rent. Copies of the relevant documents are hereby enclosed.

J.M. Gitonga

For: **PERMANENT SECRETARY**

ATTN. DR. HEZRON MC'OBENA.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Email: mohnyando@yahoo.com  
Telephone: 057 21214  
All correspondence should be addressed  
to the Head.  
When replying please quote  
Ref NO: GEN22/VOLIV/181



Medical Officer of Health  
Nyando District  
P. O. Box 169  
AHERO.

19<sup>th</sup> December 2006

The Customs Officer  
Kenya Revenue Authority  
P O Box  
NAIROBI

### RE: OGRA FOUNDATION


The above named non-government organization does collaborate with Ministry of Health Nyando (MOH) for over 3 years in the district undertaking Preventive, Promotive and curative services in Miwani division of Nyando District.

However this organization does operate medical camps beyond Miwani division. The organization has written to us confirming that they have received some donations of medical supplies for the communities in the district particularly Nyando district which is facing floods.

The purpose of this letter therefore is to request you to facilitate their clearance so as to enable the supplies to reach the customers/clients and patients.

N/B A copy of their request is hereby attached for your perusal and necessary action.

Thank you

  
Dr F.A. Diemo  
District Medical Officer of Health  
NYANDO DISTRICT

CC Provincial Medical Officer  
Nyanza Province  
P O Box 721  
KISUMU

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