

## Sixth Progress Report

On my 7<sup>th</sup> trip to Mekele 13-19 December 2009, Fikre, his staff, and I had to revise and reprioritize the 6 points listed in sequence in my **Fifth** Progress Report posted in December 2009. These points were:

1. Construction of **New kitchen** was promised by the Japanese Embassy to be built in the Orphanage Center plus 3 additional dormitories and 2 rooms, one to be used by a social worker man, the other by a social worker woman, for 24 hours monitoring purposes of the children's situation and their daily activities. However, what the Embassy has promised has not yet materialized. Now it is discovered that a kitchen which has been used as a Store Room for food stuff and other things already exists attached to the Dining and Assembly Hall. Fikre will now have to ask the Japanese Embassy to build a Store Room instead of Kitchen as originally proposed.
2. The unfinished works of the **integral parts** of the New Cows' House which was funded by Erik Thunes Legat is now complete. The original amount was not enough due to the fact that Fikre has built a big Cows' House which can accommodate up to 80 cows instead of up to 30 cows in accordance with our agreement. Fikre has apologized for the mistake he has made.

His unacceptable reasoning for making this mistake was that he was thinking that it was a good idea to make a self generating income by having many cows and selling much milk and milk products as the main source of self generating income and earning enough money for the improvement of the children's future welfare, instead of asking later for money and constructing another building when the cows are multiplied.

Nevertheless, because of his unilateral decision, the New Cows' House has been behind schedule until now. But fortunately thanks to John and Henning who celebrated respectively their 60<sup>th</sup> birth days' recently and have pledged to donate their birth days' gifts (converted into kroner) to the children's welfare fund account number. From the money they got from their respective families, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances who were invited to the parties have now made it possible to finish the integral parts of the New Cows' House and the end result can be seen on a DVD film which I mailed by post. The cows are now accommodated in the New Cows' House.

3. The **conversion and renovation** of the new office building into office spaces in the Orphanage Center is now deferred indefinitely until adequate fund is available.

4. For construction of **septic tank** and sewage system Fikre has now given estimated cost of 43,390.00Birr=**17,356.00DDK** to bestyrelsen for consideration. Because the construction of the septic tank is very urgent, bestyrelsen is expected to decide and send the above mentioned amount when available.

5. The **Dining and Assembly Hall** floor will have to be renovated and cemented. Fikre will give estimated cost later to bestyrelsen if and when fund is available. This is not considered urgent.

6. The main structure of the **Library Hall** is already constructed. But its integral parts are not finished (roof cover, doors, windows etc., the floor needs to be cemented—and all related things to the library (computers, tables, chairs, shelves for books and periodicals etc.) that are required to be in it. As reported before the library is taken care of by an Ethiopian man by the name of Asfeha Hadera, Founder & C-Executive Director of African Services Committee, Inc. whose headquarters office is located in New York. He has promised Fikre that his company will provide fund (he did not specified amount) for the library and its integral parts. We wait and see until it has materialized.

In addition to the New Cows' House, out of the above indicated 6 original priorities only 3 of them have now been considered as priority points. The fund for the New Cows' House (Project B) is now solved thanks to John and Henning. The money has already been remitted. Work on the integral parts is also now complete.

It is agreed that the fund for the septic tank (project A) will be remitted after the completion of the New Cows' House is confirmed soon. The fund for Project C is indefinitely deferred until adequate fund is available. The estimated cost of the 3 priority projects are as follows:

1. Project A: Septic Tank estimated cost 43,390.00 Birr=**17,356.00DDK**  
To be remitted soon
2. Project B: Integral parts of the New  
Cows' House estimated cost 72,617.81 Birr=**29,047.10DDK**  
**Has been remitted**
3. Project C: Renovation & conversion of  
Office spaces estim.cost 198,558.59 Birr=**79,423.44DDK**  
To be remitted when available

The 80,000DDK Donated by Kana Fond when remitted may not be enough to match the estimated amount of 198,558.59Birr (already submitted by Fikre) when converted into Ethiopian currency at the time of remittance.

**Good News:** One of the bright children (you can find him on the Master List of the children Number 43), Bizayoh Kapite (student), age 19, got very high marks in all subjects and was graduated from Secondary School (Gymnasium) in Mekele last September 2009. He was accepted and sent to Haremaya University in Harar Region where he has been studying Psychiatric Nursing for the last 6 months, and now he has been fortunate and got scholarship at Kyoung Hee University in South Korea to study biomedical Engineering.

While Bizayoh was studying at Haremaya University Psychiatric Nursing, a university teacher and Dean of Sociology and Anthropology at the university of Mekele, by the name of Aklilu Habtu (a good friend of Fikre), has been corresponding with the above mentioned University in South Korea for the last 6 months to get scholarship for Bizayoh to study Biomedical Engineering (which is not available here in Ethiopia).

Bizayoh has now got passport and visa and he will be leaving Addis for South Korea on Wednesday 03/03/10. When he came from Harar I assisted him in arranging his trip to Korea. Since it is still winter in South Korea Buzayoh was advised by the South

Korean Embassy here to have warm military type jacket which I bought for him, price 500 Birr, before he left. When Bizayoh comes back from South Korea after 4 years of study he will probably be employed at the University of Mekele to start with. He promised and pledged to Ato (Mr.) Aklilu, Fikre and I to help Fikre and our orphan children with what he can. I have thanked Ato Aklilu for the important help he has done. I am sending you a picture of Buzayoh for your information. Abraham.