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IOP NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

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INTRODUCTION

This month has been a very good month for IOP as there have been many exciting events and gatherings of various people within IOP. There have been various events such as welcoming and farewelling guests, the IOP general meeting, and also another major event is holding a birthday celebration for the founder of IOP.

WELCOMING AND FAREWELL CEREMONIES

The farewell and welcoming ceremonies at IOP have become truly special events, marked by



Volunteers from Norway and USA during their welcome party

the presence of distinguished guests from countries such as the Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Luxembourg, and others. These ceremonies hold particular significance for Mrs. Berit, who eagerly anticipated the arrival of these guests. What made these occasions uniquely memorable was the visit from Mrs. Berit's son—her first family visit since she has been in Tanzania—bringing her immense joy.

The ceremonies are vibrant and culturally rich, featuring beautiful singing, traditional and staff dances, and heartfelt speeches delivered by both guests and IOP leaders. These events have grown in importance for IOP, serving as a vital link that strengthens the bond between the IOP family and its international visitors.

This connection has not only contributed to the success of many IOP projects but also expanded the organization's recognition both within Tanzania and internationally.

The ceremonies thus play a crucial role in fostering collaboration and goodwill, enhancing IOP's mission and outreach.



Volunteers during the celebration of Berit's 80 Years Birthday Party

IOP 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On the 14th April 2025 IOP held its customary annual general assembly where members and various invited guests convened to discuss and review key organizational matters. This year's



IOP Board Members together with the government leaders after the GA Meeting

meeting was particularly significant as members reviewed and approved both the performance and financial reports of the IOP. Additionally, the meeting saw the approval of the IOP's five-year strategic plan for 2025 to 2029, which will guide the organization's activities and goals over the coming years.

Guests at the meeting contributed diverse perspectives, notably advising the government to continue its commitment to community education and to maintain close collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), recognizing their valuable role in supporting government objectives. They also emphasized the importance of reminding local citizens near infrastructure projects-especially those established by NGOs-about the need to maintain these projects and infrastructures to facilitate government efforts.

The general assembly serves not only as a constitutional requirement but also as a critical platform for IOP to engage with stakeholders such as government representatives and NGOs. It provides an opportunity to promote IOP's activities, foster dialogue, and strengthen



Invited guest making follow up of the reports

partnerships. The meeting concluded with delegates and guests having time to network and build stronger relationships.

In summary, the IOP general assembly is a vital annual event for governance, accountability, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring the organization continues to advance its mission effectively.

BERIT'S 80 YEARS BIRTHDAY PARTY (MAUA 80 YA BERIT)

On April 26th, a remarkable celebration took place for the members of the Ilula Orphan Program (IOP), marking a joyous occasion that brought together a diverse group of attendees.



IOH Children together with Matron and their unique entrance to the party

These included Berit's friends from various countries, IOP leaders, former and current IOP-sponsored students, and numerous invited guests who had collaborated with Berit in different capacities. The event was a significant tribute to Berit, the founder of IOP, highlighting her extensive contributions to the Ilula community and the organization's growth.

The celebration provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about Berit's foundational role in establishing IOP and her impactful projects, such as sponsoring children's education and the establishment of the IOP Center. Many participants shared heartfelt testimonies about Berit's dedication and influence, expressed through speeches, songs, poetry, and drama. Documentaries showcasing IOP's projects and the success stories of previously sponsored students were also presented, enriching the evening's program.

The event was lively and festive, featuring music and dancing, but a standout moment was the presentation of special gifts to Berit aimed at supporting children at the IOP Orphans Home. Generous donations included clothing, food, sanitation materials, and cash contributions. Notably, IOP Netherlands donated 5,000 Euros,



Beautiful smile from Berit and her friends

volunteers contributed 885 Euros, Kragero Group gave 4 million Tanzanian shillings, Omatt Kragero Frivilligse donated 25,700,000 Tanzanian shillings, IOP staff donated items worth 200,000/= former and current IOP students donated 1,080,000/= and the former IOP Center girls donated items worth 85,000/=. During the celebration also there were people, companies and institutions that promised to continue supporting the Orphanage including FFF Tanzania

Limited, The Lord's Hill secondary school, Sunflower pre and primary school, IOP Luxembourg, and Kid's Corner preschool.

A unique and touching highlight was the musical performance by Berit's son, which added a personal and beautiful touch to the celebration. The event underscored the deep appreciation for Berit's work and the collective commitment of stakeholders and supporters who traveled to Tanzania to honor her legacy. It demonstrated how Berit's efforts have fostered a better Ilula and contributed to educating future generations through the IOP's initiatives.



Berit together with the IOP former students

This celebration not only honored Berit's achievements but also reinforced the spirit of community, volunteerism, and international support that sustains IOP's mission.

FINAL WORDS

We sincerely thank you, our valued subscriber, for joining us on this journey through our monthly newsletter. Your support means a great deal to us, and we look forward to even more rewarding times ahead.

This month has been a joyful milestone for our organization, and we are excited to continue growing and achieving greater success. We warmly welcome everyone planning a vacation in Tanzania, especially those who choose Ilula Orphan Program (IOP). Here, you are not just a guest but a cherished member of the IOP family and a key stakeholder in our community.

Welcome aboard-we are thrilled to have you with us!

If you would like more information about projects and/or sponsoring opportunities,

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