

MID – TERM REPORT OF LUCKY MAISANYE

November started on a high note for me, as it was my three months of stay here in Germany. I can say then I had started to adjust to most of the things here like food, weather and I also had some German friends whom we go out and meet with them. November was nice and also challenging somehow, at mid-November the director of **KOSA** (Koordination of Südliches Afrika) resigned from her post and the news came without expecting them but I hope it was of good reason and for the better. I had also some challenges with my host family as well and at the public places with sort of discrimination we had to face.

From **10 until 11 November 2015**, we had a two days seminar with pupil's about paper consumption here in Germany and how the paper production in South Africa destroy the environment and affect the wellbeing of people in Mpumalanga Province. The reason to have these kind seminars here is because Germany is importing papers from South Africa and most people are using these papers without knowing where it comes from and what it takes during the paper production. **KOSA** is doing the seminars about paper consumption annually with different schools and pupil's.



The seminar went very well and the pupil's had so much interest in the topic, they were also willing to learn and take something with them to teach others in reducing paper consumption.

From **27 until 29 November 2015**, I was invited to attend a European Coal Import Network meeting in Cologne organized by Power – Shift a German organization. There were also people from Colombia and Russia who were invited to attend the meeting as Germany import coal from these respective countries as well. I was also given a chance to present the situation in South Africa and present what is **KOSA** working on and the current topics **KOSA** is working on. I had a chance to get to know how people are directly affected by coal mining in Colombia and Russia, also had an opportunity to build some networks with groups working on coal mining in Colombia and Russia as we are being affected by same struggle against coal mining.

In **November** there were also challenges we face me and the other volunteers from Mozambique and the other from South Africa, as we were not allowed to enter to some night clubs here in Bielefeld. We tried to go to different night clubs called, Café Europa, Stereo, Forum and Movies but we were denied entry. At first we found it confusing because the security guards did not give reasons why we could be let in, but we soon realized that the reason was simply because we are black people. This was the biggest disappointment I ever had recently; I never thought people are still segregated now in the 21st century because of the color of their skin. It was not an easy thing to deal with this kind of discrimination, but I had to accept it as there's nothing I could ever do about it. This could be because of the security guards being racist or is the night clubs police not to allow black people into their clubs, but it does not matter that much to me and if this could have happened in South Africa I was going to fight it until my last breath, no one should be segregated because of skin color anymore in our current lifetime. But racism is a total mental illness and there could never be a cure for it.

December was a month I expected to have a lot of experience during my one-year stay, first I was looking forward to experiencing German winter for the first time in my life and I was told it is going to get really cold but I find it not that much. I hoped to have Christmas with snow and unfortunately it never happened. We went to a Christmas market with the volunteers and some of the mentors and it was a lovely experience as we do not have it back home, drinking hot wine was also very nice though I did not like it that much but it was full of fun during the Christmas market.



It was a great moment to celebrate Christmas day in a foreign country as it is being totally celebrated differently compared to the way we celebrate Christmas day in South Africa and the food we eat and I think the huge difference was that during Christmas it is summer in South Africa and very warm, here it is winter and cold as well. But it was very nice to celebrate winter Christmas for once in a lifetime. And then came the New Year Eve which was also one of the great experiences, and the events that happened during the New Year Eve in some cities here in Germany where some girls were sexually assaulted, challenged the level of public racism to a higher note and people started to show how much hate they have for foreigners in public places it just went from bad to worst.

Then the first month of the year came **January**, it was time for new begging and new year's resolution. I started working on 07 January 2016, and I could not understand the time and days I was given for the Christmas break. My last day at work was on 21 December 2015, and I am told I was supposed on 28, 29, 30, and 31 December which I thought was Christmas break and did not know that was working days. Still after this I came to realized that actually I am not a volunteer here in Germany but a **WORKER** instead. I think the status of being a volunteer was a motivation and being a full time worker is the reality of everything.

On **14 January 2016**, I made a presentation at Ruhr University in Bochum about our campaigns in South Africa to a group of students who meet every Thursday at 16h00 at the University and discuss use of social networks to mobilize and raise awareness's. On **15 January 2016**, I made a presentation in Düsseldorf about current civil society movement's campaigns in South Africa for the Mpumalanga Forum German group. On **22 January 2016**, I had to make a presentation at Realschule Erndtebrück about a role play that was prepared by KOSA and MÖWE for school partnership programme.



In all January was the most exciting month as I had some activities to do and we had request from some people to come and presentations. During this month it was also my half time here and from then I started counting my days left in Germany to the very last day of my stay here which I am looking forward to, where the days of being looked wrong at will be over and be with people who are really happy and appreciate me for who I am. Here most of the time I am tired and cannot wait to go back home where I am going to be free once again, I think too much is being expected from me; to give more and receive the less! **Looking forward to August.**