



Speech of the principal Ricardo Oliveira Sanca on the occasion of the anniversary of the school

Distinguished Guests,
Your Excellencies,
dear parents and guardians.
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is a very important day for us, which should not go unnoticed because our school is passing from the youth phase to the adult phase at the age of 18 years, that is, from December 11, 2004 to December 11, 2022. In all these years, the Escola da Boa Esperança has grown steadily in the process of teaching and learning from preschool to ninth grade, with a capacity of more than 350 students coming from those villages that make up the Ilondé district. The best students who finish ninth grade have the opportunity to earn a scholarship to attend secondary school at Liceu João XXIII, financed by the Deutsch-Guineische Gesellschaft. However, the demand is so great that we cannot satisfy all the needs.

Thanks to the support of the society, the school has a great attraction: parents often walk kilometers to enroll their children.

Two teachers have been hired to improve Portuguese and math skills. The tutoring of 6th and 9th grade students has had a positive impact in that our scholars at Liceu João XXIII perform better and some of them even go on to university studies, which is very encouraging.

Our school also follows the principle of inclusive education, where all children enjoy equal treatment and rights.

We work with 22 teachers from preschool to 9th grade, a principal, an educational director, a secretary, a coordinator, a driver, a cook and two cleaners.

Dear guests,

at this commemoration we would like to stand on our own feet with 18 years that our school is old today, but unfortunately we cannot. It is important to know that the tuition from 1st to 9th grade is symbolic, while the preschool tuition is practically nothing. To reach the desirable level, my dear brothers and sisters, we need more support. The support we have received from the partners of the Association since the foundation of the school cannot possibly meet all the requirements. We are already dreaming of a school garden and a computer room with internet.

Your Excellencies,

Allow me, on behalf of our school, to thank wholeheartedly the Deutsch-Guineische Gesellschaft for the construction, maintenance, support and attention they have given to our school and the population in general.

We would especially like to thank Mr. Victor Robalo for the donation of this valuable piece of land where our school is located, without forgetting the Sisters of the Escu-

lapias Order with their valuable contribution to the administrative and educational development of this school, also not forgetting the Liceu João XXIII, the Academia Tagára, Eng. Domingos Simões Pereira, Manuel Nascimento Lopes, Maria Esperança Robalo Furtado, Henrique Pereira Rosa, Maria Rosa Robalo Rosa, Dr. Carlos Pinto Pereira, Jamel Handem and the other collaborators whose names we do not mention.

Finally, I want to assure you that we are here today only because of the children who, according to Amílcar Cabral, are „the flowers of our struggle, the main reason for our struggle.“ They deserve to be protected, respected and to be given a good education. At the same time, we must not forget that we only have good students if we also have good teachers. He who walks upright seldom falls down, says Leonardo da Vinci. Struggle in the quest for knowledge, because knowledge liberates people and makes them happy - together we are stronger!

Thank you all.