

WATER IS LIFE

Nairobi, Kenya
20 July 2009

Water Is Life Committee member Don and Dorothy Mellon traveled to Kenya this July at the invitation of Bishop Washington Ngede and Prime Minister Odinga of Kenya. The Bishop arranged the meeting with the Prime Minister after hearing a presentation of Rotary's project to bring water to Mosiro's schools and the clinic.

Don described meeting the PM as "a little scary," but he was soon put at ease by the interest Mr. Odinga showed in the project.

He was well aware of Rotary and what good works it preformed in his country. Don's meeting with Meitamei Olo Dapash and Mary Poole, two the most important people in the project, before and during the luncheon served to strengthen Don's resolve that something good would come of this meeting.



He went well prepared too with a detailed plan worked out by fellow committee members, Bob Frith and Ed Southwell, to present to the PM. Don, a master of negotiation, didn't hold back either. He said that, "I was a little concerned when Mr. Odinga appeared to be reading the document while I spoke." Don later discovered that the PM, a trained auditor, was only looking at the numbers.

When the PM asked what he and Rotary wanted from his government, Don didn't hesitate with replying, "Water tanks."

After thanking Rotary, Don, and the Bishop, the PM said, "Let us do two of the 24,000 liter tanks for you."

Mosiro Water Project Committee member Don Mellon presents Rotary Silver Bola Tie to Prime Minister Odinga at Mosiro luncheon in Nairobi on 20 July 2009 as Bishop Ngede looks on.



Don also made contact with the President of the Rotary Club of Kisumu, Bob Patrick Madanji, who pledged to support additional projects and to help involve District 9200 in this project. The committee will follow up in the near future.

As of this writing 66% of the Clubs in District 5490 have contributed to this major undertaking. The Matching Grant proposal was submitted to TRIF on 2 July 2009, and we are patiently awaiting a decision from that body.



R to L; Mary Poole, Meitamei Olo Dapash, Dorothy and Don Mellon, Prime Minister Odinga, Bishop Ngede at Mosiro Luncheon meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, 20 July 2009

Contributions may be made payable to: **Rotary Club of Sedona Endowment, Inc. Addressed and mailed to Kenya Water Project, P.O. Box 2170, Sedona, AZ, 86339 Attn: Justus White.**

