



Some of the younger children at the sports stadium for Saturday football practice

PROJECT NOS KAZA & MENIFUTE

WE FINALLY DID IT!

Steve and I have finally achieved our goal (if you pardon the pun) by taking delivery of all the sports/educational equipment delivered to Sal, with the help of many friends and supporters, but it was not without incident. The whole exercise has been long and laborious and we have learned many useful lessons along the route.

Our Journey

What started as a seed of an idea to provide a football kit for Nos Kaza, escalated into a fully blown project that was run by participants of Kicks North which is part of the Foundation of Light. The Foundation of Light is the charity side of the Stadium of Light, the home of Sunderland Football Club based in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, UK.



STEVE TRAINING WITH THE BOYS

After hearing about Nos Kaza, the young people who attended Kicks North wanted to help the children and young people on the island of Sal. They decided to launch a project requesting football kit and sports equipment. What happened next was phenomenal. The request went out and within a very short space of time, Kicks North were deluged with equipment which kept on coming in even after the project was closed. In total, approximately 2000 items were donated which ranged from full football kits for young people to golf equipment, badminton rackets, rugby balls, footballs, hockey sticks, toiletries, space hoppers, clothing and much more. Items that have been collected that are not suitable for Nos Kaza and Menifute will be donated to other organisations that will benefit from them or in the case of clothing and footwear, to the Church clothing bank in Sal.

Transporting the goods

Our next task was how to transport 22 bags weighing 320 kilos from the North East of England to Sal. As luck would have it, one of the young attendees at Kicks North, Brad Elmore, had just started working for TNT. TNT is an international company who transport goods all over the world. Brad volunteered to bring this to the attention of his manager. After a flurry of phone calls, TNT Durham offered to transport all goods free of charge.

TNT Durham were fantastic, however, they were unable to help with the logging of equipment and Steve trawled the internet to ask (beg) for help. Again our prayers were answered by one of the five logistic companies that Steve had contacted asking for help.



Ian Corner, Brad Ellemore, Georgia McAnnally and Jordan Curry with TNT (Durham) representatives

Logging goods for HMRC

Bryn Ward from UK Customs Solutions in Lowestoft, Suffolk, contacted us and offered to log all equipment, free of charge, to present to Her Majesty's Custom & Excise and helped guide and advise us through the process, including how to obtain a European Operators Registration Identification (EORI) number to enable us to export from the European Union.

Goods were shipped on 5 September 2015 via Charles de Gaulle airport in France to Cape Verde. Unfortunately for us they were shipped to Praia, Santiago, another island. After some quick phone calls, the goods were then transported from Praia to Sal and the charity shipment was placed in Cargo at the airport on 1 October 2015.

Retrieving the goods

The goods languished in Cargo for 9 long months until the many hoops that were put in our path were jumped through to satisfy Cape Verde Customs. After the goods arrived on the island, we heard nothing for months despite our best efforts to find out information. Lists of goods were provided for each bag and we were contacted and asked to translate the lists into Portuguese for the Dispatcher so, armed with Google Translate, Steve and I spent hours translating all documentation. This was submitted and we heard nothing once again until the lists of goods were returned to us, this time requesting values of each item. This proved to be quite difficult to ascertain how much a second-hand or out of date item would cost. Our rationale on doing this worked on costs charged if we were selling at a car boot sale (not that we've ever done one!) - not ideal but workable.

Again, we heard very little until May 2016 when a friend of a friend in Cape Verde advised us that the goods had been put into the airport auction house and that we had better move quickly to obtain their release before they were sold to the highest bidder.

After some manic emails, phone calls to friends in Cape Verde, several visits by friends in Cape Verde to the airport to meet and pay the Despachante (Dispatcher) and our goods were finally released on 30 June 2016.

Official Handover

As we were visiting Sal, the official handover date was set for Saturday 12 November 2016 at the local football stadium which coincided with football training for the younger children. Sadly, Nos Kaza's representative Aldir Duarte, couldn't attend the handover due to a prior commitment.



HANDOVER COMPLETE – L-R – SUE, STEVE & GIGI FORTES FROM MENIFUTE

Joint Venture

Steve and I, together with Gigi Fortes from Menifute, were interviewed for Cape Verde national television (link below) which was broadcast to all of the Cape Verde islands as well as Portugal and the United States of America and Gigi was also interviewed on Cape Verde radio where he explained how our joint venture had started.

http://www.rtc.cv/tcv/index.php?paginas=47&id_cod=53216

To say the children were excited is an understatement. Their delight in choosing a pair of boots or receiving socks or shorts and tops was plain for all to see.

In Cape Verde, older children attend school on Saturday mornings as part of their school week so unfortunately they weren't able to attend the handover, which was a shame but we know they will not miss out.



INTERVIEWED BY RTC FOR NATIONAL
CAPE VERDE TELEVISION

Note of thanks

Steve and I would like to thank some incredible people and companies who helped us achieve our aim and were with us all the way on this journey:

Supporters in England

The Foundation of Light, Kicks North

Ian Corner, Informal Educator, Foundation of Light

Ev Ripley-Day, Operations Manager Washington & South Tyneside

Georgia McAnnally and Jordan Curry who co-ordinated the whole project – Kicks North

Brad Ellemore – Kicks North & TNT

Total Sport

Without the above people, their energy and enthusiasm, this project would never have happened.

TNT Durham and their team

Bryn Ward and his team from UK Customs Solutions, Lowestoft

Supporters in Cape Verde

Aldir Duarte, Projecto Noz Kaza

Gigi Fortes, Menifute & Desportivo de Florenca

Last but not least, the people whose tenacity and determination got us over the final hurdle:

Kyle Collins

Janisia Tavares (Mana)

Alyson Willis

In addition to the above, we would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who played a part, whether big or small, and who are too numerous to mention (you all know who you are!).

Sue & Steve Smith

Photo Gallery



SOME OF THE GIRLS



GIGI FORTES



ONE OF THE DONATED KITS



MENIFUTE'S SMALLEST FOOTBALL PLAYER



SOME OF THE DONATED GOODS



**SUE AND STEVE WITH
L-R – PATRICK BRITO, DAVIDSON FORTES & RENIA BRITO**

