

Picking up the waterdrill and pipelines

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After many more phone calls we finally got the green light to pick up the water pipes and water pump. So last Sunday (31st of July), I went together with Ali Chumbo and Moody by mini-bus and bus to Dar-Es-Salaam to first pick up to water pipes at a company called Kiboko.

During the night we stayed at a local hotel in a suburb area in Dar Es Salaam (Mwenge) where I unexpectedly attended a wedding party and enjoyed some Tanzanian dancing. During the night I got bitten about 12 times by muskeetos so I was happy to have some malaria pills with me.

The next morning we had to get some cash (2 mln Tanzanian shilling), which was a bit of a hassle as the first 8 ATMs we came across were all empty. After I got cash out of ATM no.9 we went to Kibo at Mwenge industrial area.

Getting the approval at Kiboko to load the pipes was no problem, but unfortunately the truck we arranged wasn't there. When we called the truck driver, he said he didn't want to come to pick up the pipes unless he got 25% more allowance for the trip from Dar Es Salam via Morogo to Mambo. As we originally agreed that the truck driver would bring the pipes and pump for "cost price" we were not too happy about this sudden change in price.

In the afternoon we got in contact with another truck driver whom would transport everything to Mambo for a good price. The truck driver has his family in Mambo which probably helped in agreeing on the price :). So at 5PM (instead of 9AM) we finally had a truck and could start loading the pipes on the truck.

While I had to wait at the Kiboko factory I had the chance to talk with some Tanzanian students whom came for job interviews. They were extremely motivated to get work but it is very difficult to find jobs in Dar Es Salaam. Due to a lack of large (well) organized enterprises in Tanzania, students that have studied in universities don't have much choice when they want to get challenging work. As it is very complicated to start a company in Tanzania, entrepreneurship is also not very common which doesn't help either in creating

new job opportunities.

After loading the pipes and tying them on top of the truck with small pieces of [Sisal](#) rope, (which I wasn't sure that would hold everything together) we finally got on the road with the pipes. I was together with Moody (whom was the only Tanzanian guy speaking English) the truck driver and his helper. Ali went back to Dar es Salaam to get T connectors and other small equipment to connect the hoses and would then return to Mambo with public transport.



(loading 1.8 km of pipe at Kiboko)

At 11PM we reached Chalinsi (truckers village where many truckers stay overnight) where I slept in a bed that smelled like my wash basket filled with dirty sportsocks, luckily the mosk next to the hotel woke me up at 5:15 so I didn't have to sleep very long in the bed.



The next day (2nd of august) we went on the road at 6:00AM, and by 8:00AM we reached Kalis where we started loading the drill + pump (and where I bought some strong rope). When we started loading the pump and drilling parts on the already fully loaded truck I was sure it would never fit, but apparently it did.



(Loading the truck at Kalis; a waterpump and waterdrill factory)

After the loading crew managed to squeeze everything in, we got on the road and drove off back to mambo. Although we were formally not overloaded (because the pipes are very lightweight) the Tanzanian police fined us for dangerously loading the truck. We could bribe our way out of it but refused, which resulted in a fierce discussion. In the end we paid the full price to receive an official ticket.

On the way to Mambo we have been stopped 9 times by police, but with the formal ticket we could indicate we already paid for an offense and most of policemen let us go without too much discussion. Except for one whom was convinced we had over speeded, for which we had to pay another 20.000 tzs. For that money with did get a picture of an angry (corrupt) policeman.

(Picture made by Moody with my phone)

After that incident we drove for a few more hours and we reached Mambo safely by 9PM.



(Unloading the truck in Mambo the next morning)

In total I spent with Moody about 34 hours in busses, taxis and a truck in 3 days, which was longer then expected but we did get what we needed.