

Volunteers in Mozambique Hold Buddha Day Ceremony

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation
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On May 11, more than 800 volunteers in the southwest African country of Mozambique held a ceremony to bath the statue of the Buddha and show gratitude and piety to parents. The event was held at Kurula primary school. Its principal, Antonio Cossa, knew that the foundation was looking for a place to hold a large-scale ceremony and kindly agreed to provide his school. "Our society needs Tzu Chi. It not only helps people but also gives the teachings of Master Cheng Yen to educate everyone. So I am very happy to welcome it!"

On the day of the event, the weather in Mozambique was especially good, with bright sunlight. At the venue, volunteers were being creative and eco-friendly on decorating. They assembled the African style ceremony by using tree leaves, coconut shells, and wildflowers. At the same time, to save money, they used recycled PET bottles caps as light holders.

Maria, a devoted volunteer, was concerned that the attendees would have to wait too long. So she took the microphone and sang the Mozambican version of Tzu Chi songs in an African style; they explain to everyone the great love and guidance of the Master in Taiwan: "we do not know each other but, because of the Master and because of Tzu Chi, we have become one family."

Singing Songs for the Master, Learning the Wisdom of Buddha

At the start of the ceremony, Paul introduced to everyone the foundation and the three wishes of Master Cheng Yen. He explained how, to show their desire to serve, the volunteers wished to dedicate songs to her and thank her for bringing selfless love to Mozambique. The meaning of the two songs was: "Loved and respected Master, we thank you for opening our hearts and reaching out to us. Please teach us the wisdom of Buddhism. We wish to be your arms and legs!" An entrepreneur said: "this group of poor people are really different to others. This seven-star presentation is too good."

Volunteer Cai Dai-lin knew that, in the past, people in Mozambique were taught not to kill; but it was all right to steal – then go to the church, confess your sin and you would be forgiven. She uses every public event to tell people about cause and conditions, and not to do the wrong thing.

This is a concept which the volunteers share with everyone: although life is very hard for people, they should understand how to plant the seeds of goodness. They hope that everyone can have the heart of Buddha and bring his great compassion and spirit of love for all into Mozambique. In this way, the life of everyone has meaning and the heart is freed from its suffering and can serve others: and people can learn the wisdom of Buddhism.

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