

DIARY, PART 1
**ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE BUILDING HOLDING TWO CLASSROOMS,
OFFICE, STORAGE ROOM AND TOILETS FOR THE PUBLIC PRESCHOOL OF
KOUKOULOUNDA**
GOVERNMENT DISTRICT OF OUAKE,
MUNICIPALITY OF OUAKE
REPUBLIC OF BENIN

Monday, August 7, 2023

At around 9 a.m. members and the chairman, Mr. Benoît D. AHLONSOU, of the association "ACTIONS DE SOLIDARITE" meet with members of the PTA, the district head of Ouaké and the population of the village of Koukoulounda for a general assembly. After the welcome, the contract concerning the construction of one building holding two classrooms, office, storage room and toilets with four units for the public preschool of KOUKOULOUNDA is read out. Questions are then answered and the contract is finally voted on. Afterwards, the chairman, Benoît D. AHLONSOU, introduced the technicians of the NPO "ACTIONS DE SOLIDARITE" such as the bricklayers, the iron benders and the carpenters. The district head, the members of the PTA and the population showed together the area on which the building and the toilets are to be built. This meeting is the basis for the start of construction work. After the meeting, Mr. Benoît D. AHLONSOU and I, Jean AZOMBAKIN, started purchasing the first materials such as sand, cement, boards, gravel, wood, iron and others. Once the boards have arrived, the NPO's technicians install the batter board on the building site.





Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Very early in the morning, the bricklayers began producing the 15cm thick solid blocks for the building's foundation and the hollow blocks for the building walls. The women of the village diligently bring water to the masons. The men promised to be there early the next day to begin digging the foundation trenches. Today would be the market of "KASSOUA".



Wednesday, August 9, 2023

As planned, the men's team was on site around 8 a.m. to begin the excavation work. The women bring enough water for the work on the construction site. The production of the building blocks continues and the iron benders are preparing the iron inserts for the foundation and the pillars so that the work can then progress quickly.



Thursday, August 10, 2023

The public is on site to complete the excavation work. Hollow building blocks continue to be manufactured and the iron benders are also at work.



Friday, August 11, 2023

At around 8 a.m. the bricklayers began leveling out unevenness in the foundation trenches and then pouring the reinforced base concrete. The people from the village are on the site and have started digging the toilet pit. The iron benders are at work. Everything is going well on the construction site.



Saturday, August 12, 2023

This morning the masons began pouring concrete onto the iron inlays in the foundation trenches. The population is present: women bring water to the construction site and men dig the toilet pit. During the day we noticed that the well had dried up. So we negotiated for water a few meters from the site and purchased a water hose and some connection kits to connect the water to the site.



Monday, August 14, 2023

This morning the masons began building the foundation walls up to the level of the lower iron anchor.



Tuesday, August 15, 2023

This morning the iron benders installed the inserts for the lower iron anchor, the carpenters did the formwork around the building and the masons cast the anchor in one piece. Some people from the village came for the toilet pit. Other people have made appointments for the next day as today is "KASSOUA" market day again.



Wednesday, August 16, 2023

At around 8 a.m. the walls began to be raised to window level. Eight rows of bricks were built on the wide side of the building because these sides have no windows. At around 4 p.m., the iron benders installed the anchors below the window openings, which the carpenters then boarded up and the bricklayers then poured. They also cast 2 pillars of the veranda. As expected, the population was present in large numbers to help the masons (bringing building stones, digging

the toilet pit and bringing water to the construction site). Thanks to this strong community presence, work on the site has progressed well.



Thursday, August 17, 2023

The masons built the walls up to the upper iron anchor and two more pillars on the Veranda were cast. The work on the construction site is progressing very well, everyone is doing their part, bricklayers, iron benders, carpenters and the public.



Friday, August 17, 2023

At around 8 a.m., the bricklayers continue building the remaining walls. They also cast the remaining pillars of the building and on the veranda so that all the walls of the building reach the height of the upper iron anchor. The population is on the site to contribute: the toilet pit is being completed at a depth of around 4.50 meters. To ensure that there is no shortage of building blocks, several tons of 15cm hollow building blocks are manufactured.



Saturday, August 19, 2023

This morning around 8 a.m. the iron workers install the iron inserts for the upper iron anchor and the carpenters are busy with the formwork, but they couldn't finish everything. The casting of the anchor is therefore postponed until tomorrow, Sunday morning. In order not to waste any time, the bricklayers begin work in the toilet pit in collaboration with the iron benders. To build the toilet block, 12cm thick hollow blocks are also made.



Sunday, August 20, 2023

At around 8 a.m. the carpenters completed the remaining formwork work. The masons cast the anchor in one piece. The population is there to play its role.





Monday, August 21, 2023

At around 8 a.m. the carpenters remove the formwork from the upper iron anchor. The masons erect four additional rows of bricks on all sides of the building. In the toilet pit they began to build up the walls up to the first anchor. Work has even started on the ramp. The village team is present. The day at the construction site is very nice and I congratulate the village head and his advisors, the board of the PTA and its chairman for their commitment to help the workers from the beginning of this project until today. I'm really very happy with them.



Tuesday, August 22, 2023

At about 8 a.m. the iron benders lay the iron on the walls that were built yesterday; The carpenters made the formwork and the masons cast the last iron anchor beneath the roof. The anchor of the ramp is also cast. The population is represented by a few people who bring water to the construction site.



Wednesday, August 23, 2023

A heavy rain began around 7 a.m. and lasted until about 10 a.m. After this rain, work began on the construction site. The carpenters removed the formwork from the last iron anchor and the masons erected the four gables of the building. In collaboration with the population, who is satisfied with the quality of the work, they also pour the first anchor into the toilet pit. At around 11 a.m., the mayor of OUAKE arrived on the site to check the progress of the work. The mayor is very satisfied. He spoke about the high quality achieved on the construction site. He also took the opportunity to praise the association "ACTIONS DE SOLIDARITE" and the people of Koukoulounda. At around 4 p.m., the Ouaké district chief arrived on the construction site to check on the progress of the work. He congratulated the workers for their dynamism at work and urged his people to be present at the construction site to support the workers so that everything progresses well.



Thursday, August 24, 2023

At around 6 a.m. chairman of our NPO came to the construction site to see the progress of the work. He is very satisfied with the way the workers work on the construction site. He then spoke to some of the people present who were helping on the construction site before continuing on his way. It started to rain around 7 a.m. When it stopped around 9 a.m., work began on the construction site. On the building, two to three rows of building blocks are raised on the fourth anchor to create the openings under the roof. The second anchor is poured into the toilet pit. The population is always on the site to help the workers.



Friday, August 25, 2023

Work began on the construction site around 8 a.m. The rest of the rows of building blocks on the fourth anchor have just been completed on the building. The pillars in the gables and all around the building are also cast. The work on the building is now completed.

In the toilet pit, the walls are raised above the second anchor.

The construction team worked diligently to create the concrete tables and benches for the children. The village head, the chairman of the PTA and some elders of Koukoulounda are always on the site to support the community team and also solve many of the difficulties that the workers face on a daily basis. I also congratulate the district chief of OUAKE for his personal commitment to being on the site every day from the beginning until today.



Sunday, August 27, 2023

At around 8 a.m. the iron benders put on the iron inserts for the toilet closure plate and the plate is cast. In the afternoon around 4 p.m. the bricklayers begin to build the walls of the toilet block on the locking plate.

The concrete tables and benches are also being cast.



Monday, August 28, 2023

Very early on, the iron benders mounted the iron inserts for the upper anchor on the walls of the toilet. The carpenters made the formwork and the bricklayers poured the concrete. In the evening around 5 p.m. the walls were built on the anchor and the slope for the toilet roof was completed.



The tables and benches are also finished.



Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Very early this morning, all workers temporarily left. The walls must dry for a month before the roof can be built. In the coming days other workers will come to Koukoulounda to work here.

September 4 to September 25, 2023

While the walls dried, the population set about filling the classrooms, office and storage room with sand. Even small children are very happy to help.





During this time in Calavi we were looking for asbestos-free roofing sheets for the roof of the building. We finally found and bought them on September 20th.

Monday, September 25, 2023

The Eternit panels were transported to Koukoulounda together with the doors and window shutters.



Tuesday. September 26, 2023

The carpenters arrive at the construction site of Koukoulounda. They search for ebony bolders for the roof structure in the Ouaké area. After purchase, the bolders are transported to the machines to be sawn.

Saturday, September 30, 2023

The cut bolders are transported to the construction site.



October 2 to 4, 2023

The carpenters make the cross beams of the roof structure.



Wednesday, October 4, 2023

At the end of the day, all the cross ties were finished and the longitudinal beams were put in place.



Friday, October 6, 2023

The carpenters begin screwing the Eternit roofing sheets to the roof structure. The people from the village help and carry the panels to the carpenters.

Saturday, October 7, 2023

The roof of the building is completed.



Sunday, October 8, 2023

The toilet block also got its roof.



rapporteur:
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