

Executive Summary

Taremeredzwa Nomatter Mapungwana left Harare in October 2009 to go to the United Kingdom to get medical attention, operation of a massive malignant tumor that had developed on her face. Taremeredzwa was suffering from *cemento-ossifying fibroma* which had seen her being fed through a tube for so long. Betty Makoni, founder and former Executive Director for Girl Child Network, and now CEO of Girl Child Network Worldwide pioneered the fundraising of funds for the operation to come into effect and a total of over 12 000 pounds was raised. She also helped Taremeredzwa and her mother get travel Visas to the UK. Taremeredzwa underwent two operations which were both successful. These operations were led by Professor Iain Hutchison. Taremeredzwa and her mother landed in Harare on the 19th of March 2010 and were met by a delegation of girls and GCN Zimbabwe Executive Director, Nyasha Mazango as well as other GCN staff members. It was such an honor to see Taremeredzwa in good shape and condition.



Above: Taremeredzwa and her mother arrive in Harare: receiving flowers from the CEO of Air Zimbabwe

Events unfolding

On the 19th of March 2010, GCN Zimbabwe staff members and girls led by the Executive Director, woke up at 5:00 a.m and headed for the Harare International airport where they were to meet Taremeredzwa and her mother from UK. The flight was scheduled to arrive at 6:00 a.m but was delayed by a few minutes. Everyone anxiously and eagerly waited to see the two off the plane. When they finally landed, everyone let out a sigh of relief. Taremeredzwa and her mother finally exited the arrivals section and everyone ran to hug them. Tears of joy made the most of almost everyone. Taremeredzwa greeted everyone and was happy she could talk, which was something she couldn't do before the operation. She thanked everyone for being so supportive especially Muzvare Betty Makoni who never at any point gave up on helping her. Taremeredzwa went on to explain how her operations were both successful and how she is scheduled to return to the United Kingdom after one year for jaw and teeth alignment. She further went on to remark that they had a pleasant stay in the United Kingdom during the course of her operation.

Taremeredzwa and her mother were then ferried home as they had had a long flight and was best for them to rest. They were escorted to their home by Nyasha, the Director.



Above: Taremeredzwa and part of the Group that came to welcome her



Above Taremeredzwa and part of the GCN team, and on the right, she rests while chatting to the Executive Director.





Above: Taremeredzwa is escorted by the GCN Executive Director to their home

Conclusion

Taremeredzwa's operation was successful and special thanks to Betty Makoni and Girl Child Network Worldwide as well as everyone who contributed to make the operation a success in cash and/or kind. Taremeredzwa can now once again realize her dream and pursue her education without any difficulties at all, and above all, she is safely back home with a smile of recovery.
