

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you to celebrate our Charity's ninth annual Golf Day.

This year I am extremely pleased to thank all of you for your help. There are people who supported us throughout the years without fail, and new people who joined this year. What is important is that we can continue in our charitable works with the same willingness and thrust.

### Activities

Zimbabwe and the fight against AIDS remain our most urgent and complex project. The problems we have to overcome, as well as the results of our actions make it a daring but rewarding task.

We are now treating about 1600 patients affected by AIDS.

And now let's give you a feel for the situation on the ground.

### Situation of the country

Our slide-show presentation starts with some pictures, which have been seen throughout the world. They show the death of an elephant in a national park of Zimbabwe, far away from villages, and how in a matter of less than one hour a crowd of hungry people congregated and, with machetes and knives, attacked the animal's carcass and took away its bleeding remains. It has to be said that probably the elephant died of anthrax, which is not going to be harmless for human consumption. This is the visual representation of the state of hunger in which more than 60% of the country is living.

The main reason for this sad state of the country remains the same as usual: the real power remains firmly in the old elite hands, whose only interest is keeping things as they are, looting the country and forgetting about its people. .

We may say that Zimbabwe and its tragedy is not considered "news" any longer, because the international media have no desire to explore and show to the world something where no material change is happening. The international media were attracted by the cholera epidemics of 2009, but since then no other "breaking news" came up, and the suffering of some 7 million people, as such, is of no interest to the world.

We and our supporters feel that we have a duty to try and do our best to help these people. Against this background, where there are very little signs of improvement, we provided our patients and hospital staff with the care they need, from healthcare to food, energy, transport, clean water and sanitization, and all that makes life bearable.

Our results are 1600 AIDS patients' lives saved, with substantial support to them and to their families, so that they can have as "normal" a life as possible.

We cannot afford to think that Zimbabwe is past hope. Zimbabwe can change and we all have a responsibility to do whatever is in our power to help them towards this aim.

In this situation we have to be thankful to our donors for their trust in our Charity. They allow us to carry on our task by giving us the means to do so. We are facing a difficult year, because donors are not in a position to give as they have in the past. However, we can see that some new donors and supporters have joined the traditional ones, and this is a reason for hope.

I confirm that we have no overheads, so that all of your kind donations go straight to the people who really need help.

Thank you very much indeed!

Sebastiano

(RBO-GOLF 2010-speech-final 01.06.2010)