

PT Center Kitchen / Dinning Construction Progress (Feb - April 2016)

The first task was to hire earth-moving equipment to clear the ground. It was not as smooth because the first machine we brought (above left) broke down in the middle of the work. Its hydraulic system failed and after two days of attempted repair on site, we were assured they would resume the work. No sooner had they resumed the work than the main earth grading blade broke off a piece.



It was clear as always has been in this work, that without intensive prayer especially in the middle of this work, hindrances remain recurrent. We sent off the first machine and hired another. It also broke down and lost a day during which it received repairs (mechanics can be seen in the picture on the right above).



As we persisted in prayer, petitioning God to allow this phase come through, we were glad to hear that the ground is leveled enough for beginning on the foundation.



Following ground leveling, the positioning of the building took effect and the foundation groove was dug.

The foundation wall was next and it was built to satisfaction. Due to the large size of the building (40 by 12 meters) reinforcement pillars were included at good intervals to enhance structural integrity. Each pillar rest in woven iron bars with the best ratio of concrete mix.



Then next was the hard manual labor of bringing the vast area to a level within the foundation, machine- compacted to ready the foundation for laying the slab.



Young men wheeled in tons of murrum soil for some days, and then poured water to enable effective compaction.

Then came the most difficult and delicate (besides roofing) phase of building the slab. This is usually a very expensive step, so dear that many will postpone it to after walls have been built. Such a move takes away from structural reliability and permanence. Almost all building materials are included in this step and in large quantities – hardcore stones, aggregate, sand, cement, woodwork, DPC, BRC, concrete-mixing machine, a lot of water and others.



The slab has to be built right, because its state affects every other wall that will be raised on it. It has to be built to bear the tonnage of focused-weight. So each part is built to bear that pressure.



Once the slab was completed and given days to set, the work of raising walls on top of it was next.



Until walls start their sky-ward progress, all building seems to be underground. It was very encouraging for us to start on this phase just about two weeks ago.



And we decided to raise the kitchen side, since it is needed sooner, and since the dining area can be used upon roofing, even if the walls have not been raised.

And since then, it has been a steady progress as the walls come up – brick by brick.





The caterer's office is now traceable on the front right; the utensil-storage room next to it (front to the left). The cooking area is also visible now (where the wheel barrow is place with yellow plastic cans on it). Food storage is the rear room across the caterer's office and next to it is the cold room, right in the corner.



Next (left) to where the men are positioned is the supervisor's cubical (not in picture). It will have glass windows that allow him / her to clearly see within the wider dining and kitchen area in order to monitor activity especially during serving meals. The serving area is visibly complete in terms of wall height (over which you can see the wheel barrow)

We are grateful to God for this progress. The work is still going on to bring the walls to the ring beam. After that, the 18 columns will be built to ring level, then the beam on the entire building to hold it together. Some two or three more courses of bricks and the structure will be ready for roofing. And after roofing it will be immediately used.

Amen!