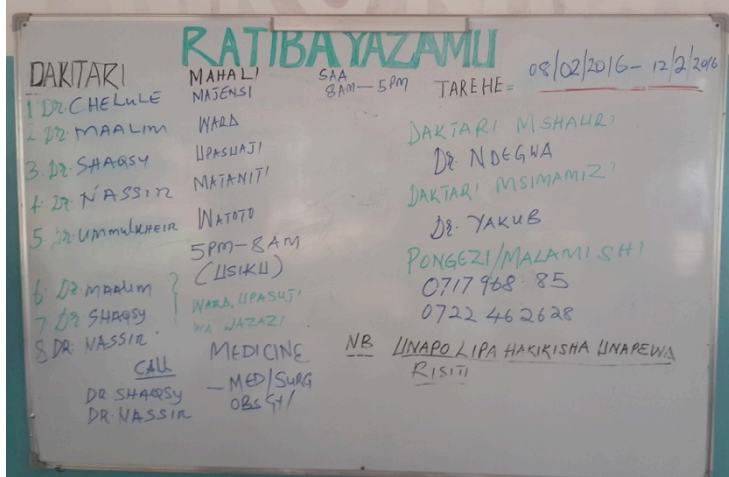


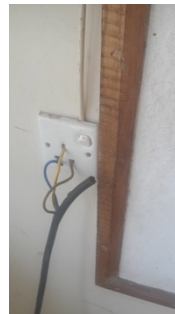
Newsletter 12.2.16

You have no idea how difficult it is to start a newsletter. That's why I usually resort to the pictures I have taken over the last couple of weeks to get some inspiration. Well lets start with a good development. Since a few weeks we have a "ratiba yazamu" (time table) signboard outside of the casualty department that

informs patients which doctors are on call and in which department they work. I won't translate the whole board for you, but the last sentence means: "pay when you make sure you are given a receipt". The board is actually updated every week, so it has been accepted by the staff.



Another positive development is that it took only a few hours to get something fixed at the hospital. As our x-ray department is still undergoing renovations, we have a temporary solution with a mobile x-ray machine in the partly used amenity ward. I was slightly disgusted though when I saw how this machine was connected to the power socket. I quickly discovered an unused electrical plug on a broken freezer in the maintenance department and the untenable situation was sorted after only half a day.



I was not very active concerning surgeries, especially as I had my mum and dad (and the rest of the family) visiting me in Diani for a week and after that I went to Rwanda for a week to see some chimps and gorillas. My best surgery Wednesday (yes, I still only have 1 surgery day and the waiting list is growing again) was actually during the week that my parents were here. I managed to do a nearly unprecedented number of 4 cases in only one day. 2 were broken legs, both waited less than 4 week in the ward before surgery. 1 was a man who was attacked by a crocodile and lost his left arm. I tried to fix the broken bones in his right arm and it looks like he is recovering well. The 4th case was a young boy with a dislocated finger.

In the mean time I was very active in pushing for quality improvement in the hospital (as my new job description stipulates). This of course is just a tad boring sometimes, but there are also good moments when people pick up your suggestions or even better, come up with their own.



I had a very good month regarding donations. The EAWL (East African Women's League South Coast Branch) donated a pharmacy scale to the hospital. This will be used specifically for mixing morphine syrup for palliative care patients. This high precision scale came at a price (53.000KES, approx. 500€), but it will go a long way in helping our hospital pharmacy to deliver better services. I only delivered the scale today, but the pharmacy staff is already using it and getting familiar with its functions.



Jeanne from SIGN found a donation from a Rotary Club in the US for me. As some of my donated SIGN implants must have grown wings over the last few months, my supplies were becoming dangerously low. Thanks to the donation from the American Rotary Club, I have now a full stock of SIGN nails again and I even received implants to fix fractures in children. A big thanks has to go to George in the UK who accepted my shipment there (and had to pay a small customs fee). Another big thanks goes to Hillary's daughter Isabella who brought the shipment from (nearly 10 kg) from the UK to Kenya.

Improvisation is still key when you live in a developing country and the shelves in theatre are one good example. I actually made this one out of pieces of discarded bedside lockers.



We are working on a more permanent solution though. I am also still working on a solution to make the irrigation process of our hospital lawns easier for our ground staff, but

haven't come up with a good idea yet. Your input is highly appreciated.

There are more donations on the way, but I will tell you more about them when I got the items and have started using them.



And the smile of the week goes to: Our pharmacist Fatuma with the new scale:

