

Memorandum

Date: November 25, 2014
To: All PCVs
From: Terry Murphree, Administrative Officer
Subject: Personal Articles Insurance

Greetings from Dar. I hope everyone's settling back into life and routines now that you're back at your site after your break.

We've had a few robberies and thefts of Volunteer property in the past couple of months, both up-country and on Zanzibar. I'd like to take this chance to remind you about what we can and can't do in these cases, and to pass on the info we have about insurance if you're interested.

The Peace Corps Manual (our guide and rulebook in these cases) is pretty specific about our responsibility and ability to reimburse personal article losses. I have paraphrased from a section from the Manual below for your information.

Generally, for us to reimburse a loss, we must show that the loss is *essential to the project or continued service of the volunteer*. This means that if you lose something you need to teach or do your job, we can reimburse you for it. If you lose a cassette player used for your personal enjoyment, we can't. Washington is also quite strict in terms of reimbursing with local products, not items brought from the states. So if you lose shoes, you can expect Bata's, not Birkenstock's. For monetary losses, if the money was from your living allowance, we can reimburse you; if it's your personal money (Leave Allowance or other funds), we can't. The manual is quite specific in terms of stating *basin the claim on potential reduction in volunteer effectiveness is insufficient* grounds for reimbursement.

You might consider the attached insurance info. We don't necessarily endorse this particular company, but only provide the info for your consideration. If you REALLY don't want to lose something, I suggest you either send it home or insure it.

Remember, even though we are allowed to reimburse some things, it's certainly a hassle for everyone, especially you!! You're the first line of defense in terms of not having things stolen, so keep things as safe as you can. Hide the extra money, don't flash those 10,000 shilling notes, don't talk about going to town to cash your cheque tomorrow; be responsible.

Anyway, not to put a damper on your day, but think about it. And if there's anything we can answer, just let me know. Cheers!

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