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# Our Compliance Certificate

Hopefully our last Rwandan document.

23 May 2021

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This is what has taken up most of our weekends recently, preparing to be the best little flower girl we could be for our beloved Nanny Naomi and Eric's wedding. They had had to postpone their wedding twice, so for them to finally be able to say 'I do' even without her Canadian family here with her, was very special that we were able to share in their day. Flora took her role very seriously and did an outstanding job, she was so good - I could not have been more proud of her. She loves her Naomi and she stood by her well yesterday. Yes - every guest wore 'flip flops' or thongs as we Aussie's call them. Yes - our car got stuck on the way to the wedding - Flora prayed and were able to get 'unstuck' - so awesome she could see the power of her prayer so quickly!

If you haven't heard about the Nyiragongo Volcano in Eastern Congo that erupted last night, do look it up. This evening we have felt many earth tremors and I have a little girl who went to bed scared because she didn't want the lava to flow into her house and into her bedroom. Please pray for the people of Goma and give thanks that the Rwandan border was opened up last night to save lives. Many of our friends have family and friends in Goma and we have been with them this weekend as we hear updates and sense the real fears of loved ones at this uncertain time.

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## It's a Rollercoaster...

Well to call it a roller coaster is certainly an understatement. The story has been narrated for nearly 5 years to the date (end of May 2016) and it's not over yet!

On March 31st we celebrated that in the short space of 6 months we received an Intercountry Hague Convention Adoption. Previously to starting this process Rwanda had already agreed to signing a Compliance certificate, hence Australia moved forward and we have the inter country adoption which we needed.

Thursday 20th May, we received the Compliance Certificate from Rwanda, as promised they signed it, no fuss, no worries - too easy - we're home and hosed!

I forwarded the said certificate to my Australian immigration lawyer, who almost immediately sent it back saying that it will not meet Australian requirements for an application for citizenship and then passport. (We need to get Australian Citizenship and Passport so she can travel as Australia is not allowing Non Australians into the country).

The two very last boxes on the certificate states 1. The adoption had the effect of terminating the pre existing parent relationship and 2. The adoption did not have the effect of terminating the pre existing parent relationship. Our certificate has number 2 ticked and we need it to be changed to number 1.

Why is nothing easy - so we can write a bout about these adventures one day!

To cut the long story short, my Rwandan lawyer has secured a meeting with the NCDA - National Child development Authority for 2pm Monday 24th May - 10pm Sydney time Monday night. He is quietly confident that they should, in theory just change the document. He agrees that the Intercountry Adoption should trump the local adoption we have and void the relationship of the family.

All the staff in the NCDA are new since December and possibly have not seen a case like ours before, hence maybe not fully grasping the need for that box to be ticked.

### *Please pray with us that...*

- They will ultimately show favour and understanding on what our current needs are for this document to be correct and meet the requirements of Australian law.
- Aime, my Rwanda lawyer can express himself well for them to gain the understanding needed.
- When they agree to changing the document that it will be a quick process to receive a new copy.
- That through this whole transition I can parent Flora well, who has already shown signs of trauma in packing up her special things as we prepare to sell them.