

## TANAT “a flagship school” !

### Elections in Niger

Niger is in an election year and we are not being left out. Indeed, the vast majority of polling station officers are either teachers or students. Since December and even today the entire country is abuzz.

In the second round of the presidential election, Mohamed Bazoum was declared the winner with a vote of over 55%. But the opposition did not accept this result, which threw the country into turmoil. To mitigate the effects of these events and to prevent people from freely assembling, the government ordered the suspension of the Internet, which hampered many activities.

Hassane Moumouni  
Principal of TANAT High School



Crochet session with high school girls .

### Sewing and crochet Lessons

This year, the EFS teacher (Home Economics) started classes in hand sewing, crochet and knitting for high school girls. She is doing well with the girls who are also very motivated and proud.



### High school: Intense preparation for exams



«After twenty days of leave due to the resurgence of the corona virus, classes have resumed with a strengthening or tightening of health directives.

We also had a visit from DESPRI (Directorate of Private Secondary School Edu-

cation).

They were pleased to note that TANAT adheres to the health directives, that we are up to date with the official programme and that we adhere to academic norms and standards.

After this visit, the Spanish Red Cross through the Niger Red Cross visited us to give a lecture to high school students, who in turn will educate the younger pupils on the preventive and remedial measures to combat the corona virus.

When the school re-opened we first conducted a review of the children's level of ability; then we arranged the composition for the first term.

This was to get an idea about our students. We noticed a fall-off in the exam classes. This was perhaps due to the many disruptions they experienced: the lockdown, the various elections. We are going to need a little more time to fix this.

It is particularly with this in mind (although we do it every year) that we have established a schedule of supervised homework every Sunday and some Wednesday evenings.

A visit from the DRES (Regional Directorate for Secondary Education) informed us that we are one of the four flagship schools in the region due to our excellent exam results.

All are private institutions: one school in Konni, two in Tahoua and TANAT in Abalak. We have the difficult task of keeping up; they urged us to maintain the pace and continue to do well.

Patrons, Sponsors and Donors, I salute you most sincerely and thank you once again for all you do for our children and for our school.»

Hassane Moumouni,  
Principal of TANAT High School

### Primary School: in pursuit of excellence

« Lessons have gone well these last four months. Both pupils and teachers have been hard working and punctual; although I must note that there have been some absences due to illness.

Actually, people in Abalak have suffered a lot this year from fever, coughs and colds during this term, especially in December. It may have been Covid 19. Indeed, according to the health services, the virus circulated and freely circulates at the community level without people realising because there are no tests and as soon as they have coughs and colds people avoid go to health centres for fear of being declared Covid positive.

Anticipation of the holidays as well as the absences and delays experienced did not have much impact on delivering the curriculum. So, in respect of all classes, the planned curriculum was more than 50% covered.

However, teaching the content of this programme appears difficult because first of all it is new (revamped curriculum) with new teaching methods but without new adapted documentation (teaching guides) or the ade-

quate training of teachers. Besides the normal lessons from Monday to Friday, tutoring sessions are conducted every Saturday in areas where students have difficulty. In addition to the mini-CAPED (Educational Resource Unit) educational exchanges between the teaching team are conducted on a very specific theme, often proposed by the Principal according to his in-class observation during teaching supervision.

With the assistance of the caretaker, the school board elected at the beginning of November undertook to ensure the cleanliness of the school premises and its surroundings. The Board, in collaboration with the teachers, was also involved in monitoring the learning outcomes and the respect of school rules.»

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed, Primary School Principal



### Sponsor a class or a pupil of TANAT school

Sponsorships are essential to offer schooling to underprivileged children (pupil sponsorship) or to balance the running costs of the school (class sponsorship). TANAT School needs you and your friends to give even more children the opportunity to take charge of their future.

## What are students who passed their school leaving exam at TANAT doing now?

For the time being, here is the information we were able to gather about the students who passed their BAC at TANAT school:

Of the 26 high school graduates in 2020:

15 are pursuing higher education:

In Niamey: doctorate in Pharmacy, a law degree, finance, transport and logistics, marketing, economics, electro-mechanics.

In Tahoua: health, education.

Of the 20 graduates in 2019:

5 continue their higher education studies: agronomy, accounting, management, health, transport and logistics, IRI-MAG (Regional Institute of Informatics, Marketing, Insurance and Vocational Training).

One works as a teacher of Home Economics, one as a customs officer;

Of the 14 graduates in 2018:

10 continue their higher education: accounting, finance, civil engineering, medicine, health, education, transport and logistics.

One is a kindergarten teacher at TANAT school.

Of the 10 graduates in 2017:

7 are pursuing higher education: Grenoble in France (degree in civil engineering; law degree), Niamey (medicine, project management), in Niger (civil engineering, marketing, health and nutrition).

One is a primary school teacher at TANAT and one is a member of the national police.

## Backgrounds of sponsored children



Mohamed Ibrahim in CE2:

Mohamed's mother and his father's brothers have long remained hostile to modern schooling. Despite the environment of Abalak

in which this family has lived since settling here after the various droughts in the region, none of their children have been sent to school. However, this family has recently come to realise the importance of education. This awareness is driven by the fact that they see the impact of school through Abalak's children who become teachers, nurses and even doctors and who support their respective families economically. The family lives thanks to the help of a brother who goes on an annual labour exodus to Libya.

Moussa Habibou in CM1:



Moussa's family was a nomadic family who settled in Abalak around the 1990s, also following the various droughts which had decimated their animals and who did not send any of their children to school. Consequently Moussa's elders are still illiterate. To justify themselves, they also say that they don't see anything worthwhile in schools. The students who go there cannot even read their names. In order to feed his family, Moussa's Dad has a petty trade which consists of buying items from Abalak's wholesalers (rice, sugar, tea, salt, oil) and reselling them to make a small profit on each item.

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed, Primary School Principal

## A Tuareg Tale

A man who regularly attended meetings with friends, suddenly stopped attending without warning.

A few weeks after noticing his absence one very cold night, the head of this group decided to visit him. Arriving at his house, he found the man at home, alone, sitting in front of a roaring fire warm and comfortable. The man welcomed the visitor. There was a long silence.

The two men watched the flames dancing around the logs crackling in the fireplace. After a few minutes, the visitor, without saying a word, examined the pieces of wood that were burning and chose one, the brightest, pulling it aside with a pair of tongs. Then he sat down again.

The host paid great attention to this, fascinated. Before long, the flame of the lone log diminished, until there was only a faint glimmer and then the fire went out completely. In no time, what was once a bright warm light had turned into nothing more than a lump of black, dead charcoal. Very few words had been spoken between the two men.

Before getting ready to leave, the visitor with the tongs picked up the spare piece of charcoal and replaced it in the middle of the fire. Immediately the piece of wood rekindled,

fuelled by the light and heat from the hot coals around it.

When the visitor reached the door, ready to go out, the host said to him: "Thank you for your visit and for your beautiful lesson". "I will come back to the group soon".

Why did the piece of wood go out? Very simple: each member who retires loses the fire and warmth of the others.

Group members should be reminded that they are part of the flame, that we are all responsible for keeping the flame of others alight and that we must promote unity among us so that the fire is strong, effective, lasting and beneficial to all.

We are here to meet, learn from each other, exchange ideas or just to know that we are not alone. Life is only beautiful when you share it with friends and family.

May God keep you and help you keep your flame alive and join it with those of others to keep our common fire shining, brilliant and constantly alight.

Mouhamadoune Abdoussamed

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### TANAT School

Given the state of the education system in the Abalak region of Niger, residents banded together in 2008, within the ONODEP association chaired by Mayor Billou Mohamed Moctar, to create and run a school that would cater for pupils from nursery school to final year graduation, in partnership with the French TANAT association.

The educational aim of Tanat School is to:

- Welcome boys and girls regardless of social, cultural or religious background.
- Give young people entrusted to them not only a solid school education but relevant training to prepare them for life as responsible men and women.
- Maintain a family atmosphere that allows young people to feel loved, recognised, supported and listened to.