

The pursuit of excellence continues

Moussa Samaila: new Secondary School principal

Atmosphere

« The year is in full swing. After the Christmas holidays and the composition period, the institution has rediscovered its joy in friendships and studies.

Classes started well, everyone returned to the school room with the desire to do better than they had done in the past – watch out any lazy individual who dares to accept a bad average!

The school is new and beautiful: fenced with a wall made of permanent material and all the Neems (trees in the enclosure) have grown and are green. The courtyard is pretty and inviting; what an attractive environment for those who want to study! Students are disciplined and lateness is an oversight, except in cases of illness (malaria, coughs and colds).

We have two girls who have been suffering for a long time with conjunctivitis or trachoma which prevented them from coming to school.

So, for the time being, everything is running smoothly. We only wish good luck to our students in their various exams.

We have experienced a very noticeable cold season and in the region many bush fires have consumed kilometres of vegetation. Apart from that, the weather is calm in Abalak.»

Rissa Mahamadou School Supervisor



Moussa Samaila, new Secondary School Principal

«Hello dear friends, Today it is with immense pleasure that I am penning these few lines to introduce myself as the new Principal of the CSP / TANAT Secondary School. First of all, please accept my warm and sincere greetings in recognition of your self-sacrifice, your unstinting efforts to make our school a

model at all levels. Thank you.

After my primary and secondary school studies: Madaoua; Tahoua high school; Zinder high school and teacher training in Zinder and Tillabéry teacher training colleges, I embraced this beautiful and noble profession that I admired so much: TEACHING.

My professional career began in Bilma then, driven by the desire to discover Niger proper, I asked to be transferred to the far west of Niger. There, the district of Tillabéry welcomed me. The drive to improve myself pushed me to register at the Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey in 2007 from where I left with a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Language Sciences in 2011. My ardent love for this profession prompted me to take up the chalk again,

Primary School: All's well

« The first quarter of school year 2021/2022 has just ended. This is generally the cold season in Niger. During these three months, classes were held normally at TANAT Primary school, which today has a compliment of 227 pupils, including 96 girls. This almost meets the objectives of our school which is to have thirty students per class.

Since the beginning of November, our school has set up a monitoring committee made up of a president, a representative of the AME (Association of mother educators), the school principal, two teachers and two representatives from the school governing body. The main aim of this committee is to monitor priority problems within the school, in particular the education of girls and the fight against early marriage.

To keep the school environment more attractive, the school garden also plays its education-

and so I was transferred to Abalak, Tahoua region. Assigned to the CEG of Tabalak as Professor of French and History / Geography; I served there for two years before being appointed Censor at the CES in Abalak.

It was to this modest person that the academic management of the CSP / Tanat was entrusted in November 2021. TANAT is a model institution, a reference school in Niger. A school whose quality I knew since having taught French there for four years. This quality that we celebrate is justified by several official testimonials awarded by our oversight Ministry: the Ministry of National Education.

I cannot conclude without directing the deserved praise due at Mr. Billou, the President - Founder, an affable man who listens to us, who understands us, a man whose kindness and altruism go beyond the borders of the district of Abalak.

I will also mention Mr. Moumouni, former Headmaster whose courage, perseverance and honesty in his work I salute.

Our dear friends: today, thanks to your kindness and your sacrifice, many people in Abalak are more knowledgeable and a significant number of children have been rescued from ignorance.

Through my pen, these little souls, these future adult men and women say to you once again "THANK YOU". May the blessings of the Lord imbue your life »

Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal

al role, as does the beautification of the space because it is used for the teaching of agriculture.

At this very moment we are preparing a poem on Covid-19 which will be presented by the pupils of CE1 / CE2 and also a sketch on Covid-19 which will be presented by the pupils of CM1 / CM2 because TANAT Primary has been chosen from among the 20 best schools in the town of Abalak and surrounding areas who will have the chance to participate in this school competition. »

Mohamed Ahmoudou : Primary School Principal



Mohamed Ahmoudou 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.

Family Reunion at TANAT

« I am Toudono Elsa, originally from Benin. I had the opportunity to come to Abalak this year to join my husband Fabrice who had been here for 2 years as a secondary school French and Philosophy teacher.

So, following a call for applications launched by the Primary School to recruit a teacher for the CE1 class, I applied. There were 3 candidates and following interviews with the administration of Tanat and the Primary School inspector, I was selected for this position based on the following criteria: my vocation, my level of study (BAC + 2), my experience. »

« So it was that this year the family joined me (my wife and our twins). Madame (Toudonou Elsa) was fortunate to be employed following a test. Currently she is in charge of the CE1 class in the Primary School. As for the twins (Shalom Fabrice – Schékina Fabrice) they are happily enrolled in the kindergarten. With this cultural mix between Benin and Niger, they are already beginning to speak a few words in Tamashek and Hausa. It is always a pleasure to discover Niger and to live in Abalak.

By the grace of God, we think my family and I will stay as long as possible. My whole family sincerely thanks Mr. BILLOU for his welcome, his sense of leadership and we promise to work to continue to deserve this trust in us.»

Fabrice Ogatchin: High school French and Philosophy teacher.



The Schekina and Shalom twins daughters of Fabrice and Toudono

TANAT: a permanent challenge for excellence

The creation of Tanat school in 2009 and its development were a challenge initially taken up thanks to the climate of trust and friendship established for years with Billou Mohamed Moctar. He was the initiator of the project and he sought to share the same values and objectives for the school: to make this a non-paying school for 1/3 of the pupils; a school of excellence with small classes, comprising 50% girls; a school open to all, teaching in a climate of openness and tolerance.

The Bayard Institution and later the Philippine Duchesne High School in Grenoble have contributed largely to this development by training some of the school's educational team every year.

But in October 2016, a few days after we left Abalak, humanitarian Jeff Woodkee was kidnapped from where we were staying. It is now impossible for us to go back to Abalak.

How, in terms of security and health conditions, can we continue to maintain our support for the budgetary, educational and school developmental needs? How do we maintain our ties of friendship?

Having Billou come over twice a year has helped a lot and he has always been keen to openly share with us information about the school, the accounts, the projects and how to keep faith with the objectives. The letters from the principals and teachers three times a year also allow us to share the life of the school.

WhatsApp also offers us oral communication that cements our ties and allows us to share our experiences and skills to resolve together

the problems that need to be solved, particularly those concerning the recruitment of teachers, their pedagogical supervision and student evaluation. Also matters concerning the enrolment, follow-up and support for pupils, not forgetting student regulations which need to be updated regularly.

For example, the shared analysis of exam results (BEPC, BAC) allowed us to identify the subjects where our results were lacking (especially scientific subjects) and to initiate the recruitment of foreign teachers from Benin or Togo.

Thanks to the Charlemagne software and the School Direct application, graciously made available and supported by the Aplim company, we have real-time access to the marks of all the students and can thus share analyses on the unusual evolution of certain marks.

Of course, we in France are experiencing great frustration at not being able to go there now! However, we note that the school is doing well thanks to the entire management and educational team who do not hesitate to keep us informed and who rely on the fact that we will share their experience.

The challenge is therefore taken up, thanks to shared trust and friendship and also to the greater support for the school by its managers in the field. Our thanks go to all of them!

Tanat is and will remain a reference school in Niger!

Tuareg wisdom

Among the Tuaregs, we know that proverbs dispense wisdom from the dawn of time...

Even the desert is never completely deserted.

However long a winter night, the sun follows.

Better to walk without knowing where you are going than to sit around doing nothing.

Turn your complaint into a song of love so that you no longer know that you are suffering.

Camels don't laugh at each other's humps.

Let the one who has a roof make sure that the one who passes does not underestimate him.

Man invented the watch, but God invented time.

He who does what his father did not do, will see what his father did not see.

Living with a beautiful woman increases a man's lifespan.

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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.