



Newsletter n°42 - February 2023

Hard at work

High School News

A word from the School Supervisor

It is with a happy heart, filled with thoughts of all my friends in the TANAT Association, that I sit down at my desk to write this short note to update you on our school. But let me begin by sending my greetings and best wishes to you all for a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Despite my age, I always try to enforce the school rules (dress code, discipline, attendance, punctuality and so on). As for the institution, the classroom equipment is in good order as are all the classrooms. The yard is perfectly clean and the green trees make everything beautiful.

Oh! how I wish you could visit the school to appreciate it all for yourselves. So, in short, I can confirm that everything is working normally (lessons, monitoring, etc.), apart from a few absences due to illness (coughs, colds, malaria and the like).

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise once again that each of us brings our modest contribution so that TANAT School remains a model, a reference marker at both the regional and the national level.

Rissa Mahamadou General Supervisor



Education is undeniably the foundation of all development. Having fully understood the truth of this assertion, the government of Niger has been struggling for years to exorcise the demons of mediocrity in our education system. Along with this policy, however, public schools were occasionally closed due to teachers' strikes demanding that the government improve their working conditions. At TANAT, however, this storm has not blown, does not blow and will never blow thanks to you, our sponsors, and to your invaluable support of all kinds which rains down on our School. Your efforts ward off this bad weather, installing instead the good weather that blows forever. May the Lord ward off all evil from your life. May His infinite goodness and clemency rain down in your heart.

After three months of feverous lessons and evaluations, the compositions for the first term were held from December 2 to 5, 2022. The results were satisfactory overall, with the average ranging from 19.14 to 5.51 out of 20. Out of 298 students (including 113 girls), 200 (including 81 girls) obtained a quarterly average higher than or equal to 10 out of 20, i.e. 67% for the school as a whole. The highest

average was achieved by pupil Aboubacar Abdou of class 5 with 19.14 followed by Aboutalib Chaibou also from class 5 with 18.75; then Abdourahmane Mouhamadoune from class 3A with 18.60 out of 20.

The classes that stood out in this 1st term are: 2C with 100% success; 2A with 93.33% (including 100% for the girls); 1D with 91.66 (100% for the girls); Class 4 with 82.22% (including 77.77% for the girls and Class 6 with 80% . These results are fairly satisfactory but far from our expectations. We intend to do better over the next few terms in order to be ready for the final BEPC and BAC exams. We strive to do better than 2022 and to improve on this achievement which is the pride of the department and particularly of the city of Abalak.

Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal



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Primary School News

From January 19 to 20, we organised a mini-CAPED seminar (Educational resource and development) with more than 10 schools in the city, during which educational exchanges between the participants and with moderators in attendance, led to the development of four papers (a common working vocabulary for class CM1, Writing n°1 and n°2 for class CM2 and Geometry for class CE1). It was very beneficial and it will allow teachers to perform really well in their respective classes.

Another novelty introduced this year has been the State requirement for an assessment to be conducted at the end of each week, that is to say on a Friday in French and Mathematics, together with a summary to be submitted to the municipal inspection authority, as well as a fortnightly assessment, except for the CM2 class which is not affected by this evaluation. To keep the school setting more attractive, the school museum is beautified with objects made by the students and certain other objects (bones, boxes) collected for educational purposes.

The school garden also plays its part in the educational scene, as well as beautifying the environment.

The school received two visits by the inspector of primary education: one from the educational adviser and the other on December 20 which was an afternoon visit by the management team from the national body responsible for monitoring the operation of private schools. The members of the management team visited each class and spoke to the director about the running of the school. During this interview, they were able to appreciate the quality of the infrastructure and teaching materials, including the computers available in our school.

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.

History of d'Abalak

News

- We lament the loss of Anne Marie, a young retiree and godmother who was involved in the administration of the TANAT association. We thank her for her wonderful, effective help.

- The 20 PCs donated in 2011 by the company Evernex to equip the primary school having reached the end of their life. Evernex has once again generously offered 20 PCs which will soon arrive in Abalak and will enable introductory computer courses to be resumed in the Primary School.

- Insecurity persists around Abalak through home attacks, hold-ups and armed robberies. The Nigerien police are carrying out investigations which will lead to the dismantling of criminal networks. The last attack that took place between Abalak and Tahoua, targeted Antaka, the Mayor of the urban commune of Abalak. Fortunately, thanks to the professionalism of his driver, the mayor was able to narrowly escape the bullets fired by the assailants. The mayor and his driver took refuge in Taritarkan (a village located 50 km from Abalak) until the arrival of the FDS (Security Forces) who escorted them to Abalak.

Ghissa Hamed Alyakib:
Secondary School Censor



Abalak, an administrative entity located 135 km from the capital of the region, is an important commercial and also cultural crossroads. The town of Abalak owes its name to a well: "Abalagh-lâgh" in Tamasheq, the term "targui" literally means in the language of Molière "which flows a lot". It was an inexhaustible shaft that gave abundant water at a time when this essential commodity was scarce.

The first inhabitants created and settled in "Amenokal", a district where the various group leaders who took the title of Amenokal then resided. The first group leader was Hammed Elmomin.

Overnight, Abalak became a cosmopolitan city where not only all the ethnic groups of Niger lived together, but also immigrants from several African countries.

Abalak is today an urban commune and also the capital of the Prefecture of the same name.

Every day in this city, but especially on Wednesdays and Thursdays, intense economic activities enliven the place. This coexistence and all these flourishing interesting activities are due to the legendary hospitality, solidarity and wisdom of the indigenous population of Abalak, represented by the various group leaders including the current one, Ahmoudou Mohamed. He is an open, welcoming and generous leader, respectful of his values and those of others.

But this social and economic prosperity is often shattered by attacks by armed bandits who strip peaceful traders of their goods and sometimes even of their lives. With the participation of the population, and thanks to the self-sacrifice and the means to hand, the defence and security forces valiantly try to rout these thugs.

Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal

Tagelmoust: the Tuareg turban

The wearing of the turban occurs among the Tuareg after puberty, when a young man is deemed fit to claim his status as an adult. Henceforth, a man will only take off this garment in circumstances where neither his honour nor his life can be threatened, that is to say only in his close family, with his wife or among close friends.

The turban, known as a "tagelmoust", was formerly made of thin strips impregnated with indigo and sewn together. Today white, blue or black cotton fabrics are replacing expensive indigo pieces. The turban can be between two and a half metres and fifteen metres long, depending on the means of the wearer.

The upper part which covers the forehead, temples, ears, eyebrows and eyes, is called the "amawal", meaning the guardian or "protector". It is said to protect the personal honour of the individual.

The "temedert" or "restraint", corresponds to the bottom of the turban which, depending on the circumstances, covers the nose, mouth, cheeks and chin. Temedert means "that which holds back, which forces moderation and reserve". This barrier channels the collective honour that every individual derives from his rank, his family, his clan, his confederation. Finally, the "tabezt" or "handle", is the name given to the back part of the turban which, when pulled, serves to tighten the "restraint". The meaning of the gestural signs associated with the turban refers to the warrior code of

honour.

If honour is threatened by an attitude or remark contrary to propriety, the first reaction will be to immediately bring the "restraint" upwards, above the nostrils and the tip of the nose. "Isemeder", that is to say "he raises restraint", is an expression depicting all the steps of raising the cloth to its final position on the bridge of the nose. This gesture signals the reserve and the distance that the subject establishes in relation to such excesses of which he is the spectator and in which he himself refuses to participate. Similarly, the arrival of a peer, that is to say a rival in the honour stakes who undertakes to demonstrate and stage his own nobility, produces an identical response. Finally, in the presence of the women, who judge and reward warrior honour, raising the "restraint" is an unavoidable requirement.

Over the past few years, new ways of wearing the turban have blossomed. The head coverings of the "fellaga", meaning "rebellious ones" (armed militants), draws a line against the values of society and its moral contracts. The fabric is wrapped haphazardly around the forehead and also covers the lower face, but does not respect the traditional structure. The turban can also be worn today in a relaxed fashion around the neck by young people who feel free to do so.

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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.