



TANAT begins its 15th new school year



First intake of computer secretarial students

Introduction of technical training courses

As planned, two technical training courses were introduced at the start of the school year, held in a building constructed just outside the secondary school grounds.

These one-year training courses are free and do not lead to a diploma. The aim is to enable participants to find a job at the end of their training.

This is an experiment on our part and the number of students in these initial intakes is deliberately limited.

Ten young girls are participating in the computer secretarial training course; they are all alumni of TANAT who had to leave the school after obtaining their BEPC or their BAC.

The electrical training course includes 12 students who left school at college level. Only 4 are alumni of TANAT, the rest are youngsters from Abalak.



First intake of students on the electrical training



Secondary School: "Popularity and scramble" to TANAT

After some 3 months vacation, this noisy, lively and sometimes hectic Nigerien school is returning to life in a new context with the coming to power of a new management team following a coup d'état. The new authorities made the necessary arrangements to ensure that the school year would start on October 2, 2023.

This return to school was welcomed by the new Prefect of the Abalak region who visited us on the day of the official start of the school year. During this visit and after the explanations we had given him, the Regional head sent a note verbale expressing his satisfaction to ONODEP through Mr. Billou and wishing him success. He concluded: "Your results in the various end-of-year exams are among the most impressive nationally." Indeed, this year with a success rate of 71.5% in the BAC A4; 86.9% in BAC D; 91.5% in the BEPC, TANAT's CSP (performance stats) thus outperform almost all the educational establishments in the capital, as witness the thoroughness of its work.

It is this consistency in TANAT's performance each year which is so admired by the parents.

As an illustration, even before the 2023-2024 school year we received numerous registration requests from all over Niger; but not being able to exceed our reception capacity, we found ourselves obliged to reject the majority of requests despite all the parents' insistence and prayers.

That is why 112 students, all levels combined, were not able to be registered at TANAT this year.

After the start of the school year, we found ourselves with 312 students, including 146 girls.

Dear friends, all these results, all this enthusiasm and this virtual stampede to TANAT ("the right choice" in Tamashek), are the fruits of your self-sacrifice, of your kindness for an enlightened world, for a better world.

May the light of the Lord illuminate your life in this world and beyond.

Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal



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Primary School: "A massive surge in registrations"

The new school year began on October 2, 2023. Early in the morning, we welcomed the pupils who found all their school materials ready and waiting for them. The pupils appeared motivated but somewhat anxious about the work awaiting them.

In order to prepare for the resumption of classes, a teachers' meeting was organised before the scheduled date to allow teachers to gather all the textbooks they needed so that teaching could begin on the very first day.

We can therefore say that the 2023-2024 school year opened under the best circumstances for the fifteenth consecutive year with an enrolment of 239 pupils, including 111 girls.

However, this time at the start of the school year we experienced a massive surge of pupils and parents who came from other establishments to try and register at TANAT, considered to be THE

model school. At this level we have always taken into consideration the results of the entry test to distinguish between the applicants.

In September we benefited from 10 days of training on the development of lesson plans and a brief 4-hour review of the broad curriculum. This training was provided by the municipal inspector of Abalak and two educational advisors.

New this year was demolishing the old caretaker's house and using its wall to enlarge our PE field and creating a second door which will allow pupils to exit more easily and which means we do not have to open the old main door when they leave.

Mohamed Ahmoudou, Primary School Principal



Mohamed Ahmoudou directeur du primaire

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.

The situation in Niger since the coup d'état

News

Despite the difficult situation in the country, the proper functioning of TANAT is assured because the TANAT Association had sent the school a large transfer of funds a few days before the coup and since then the school has received the latest tuition fees. The payment of teachers and ongoing costs is therefore assured for the months to come. However, it is likely that some parents of students who are not sponsored will not be able to pay their tuition fees and will have to be "subsidised" this year.

A disease is attacking the Neem trees of the Sahel and this unwanted event has struck the trees which beautify the courtyard of our school despite the treatment provided by the agriculture department to stem this calamity. 26 trees are completely destroyed and several others are suffering the same fate.

Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal

As they do every year, our teachers from Benin and Togo who teach at primary and secondary level, returned to their country during the holidays. But, despite the borders being closed, all were present for the start of the school year because they found a way to cross the border by dugout.

On Wednesday July 26, 2023, a new page was turned in Niger. President Mohamed Bazoum was overthrown. Niger is now led by a junta headed by General Abdourahmane Chiani, the head of the presidential guard who was also head of the presidential guard of Issoufou Mahamadou, Bazoum's predecessor. A coup d'état which surprised the Nigerien political establishment, even the military themselves and the entire international community.

The African Union (AU), ECOWAS and the entire international community condemned this regime change and called on the military to reinstate Bazoum and return to their barracks. This international community even threatened the junta with military intervention if it did not release Bazoum and reinstate him in office. Something that the military did not take kindly to. Thus a string of sanctions were imposed on Niger, restricting travel outside Nigerien territory and resulting in many airline companies no longer serving Niger. Again within the framework of these sanctions, the country is deprived of electricity provided by neighbouring Nigeria and of pharmaceutical products. Thousands of people may not have access to adequate treatment and life-saving medicines.

Instructions were given to the Central Bank to no longer supply the country's banks, thereby creating extreme poverty. Even customers with savings in these banks were denied access to their accounts, limiting money withdrawals. Thus, the authorised ceiling is 100,000 FCFA per day, which amounts to approximately 150 Euros.

To crown it all, food prices have soared. Poor people who seek the minimum level of subsistence no longer know which way to turn. Rice, which was once a popular staple, has become a commodity for the privileged. A



Raising the flag and singing the "Honneur de la Patrie" in the courtyard of TANAT Secondary School

bag which used to cost 10,000 FCFA now sells for 17,000 FCFA, which is not within the reach of just anyone.

Faced with this situation, many fathers and heads of households have chosen exodus as a remedy. Indeed, many young people and fathers have fled their families for other cities, while the vast majority it is to neighbouring Libya or Algeria. They hope to find a better life, work and resources to send to their respective families in order to mitigate the effects of the sanctions.

Never in living memory have such sanctions been inflicted at the same time on a country and on an innocent people.

Many children risk no longer going to school. Even those in public schools will not be able to do so because they have nothing to eat before going there. What will happen to the poor nomad who goes out of his way to pay for private education so that his child has a quality education and can one day return the favour?

It will be difficult, unless sanctions-relief measures are taken to meet the urgent needs of all .

Billou Mohamed Moctar Président ONODEP

A very difficult life in Abalak

The population of Abalak is faced with galloping inflation of basic necessities and deflation of local products. All food products have almost doubled in price: millet - a 100 kg bag which was bought last year for 18,000 FCFA now costs 33,000 FCFA on the market; pasta - now at 7,000 FCFA for a 10kg bag compared to 3,000 FCFA last year; sugar - 800 FCFA per kg today, compared to 500 FCFA previously.

livestock and handcraft products which today are rarely sold and at lower prices. A farmer used to sell a one-year-old goat for 35,000 FCFA to buy a bag of millet plus other provisions. This goat sells today for 15,000 FCFA.

TANAT School will suffer from this situation due to the probable non-payment of tuition fees by parents in difficulty .

Moussa Samaila, Proviseur du secondaire



In Abalak's market

The most sold local products in Abalak are

ONODEP
BP 71 Tahoua
NIGER
Tel : 00 227 96 28 50 73
Email : billou1985a@gmail.com

Association TANAT
Le Glodet
1371 Route départementale 164
38610 Venon
FRANCE
Tel : 04 76 89 66 98
Email: association.tanat@gmail.com
Site: www.associationtanat.fr

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.