

Tribute to Rissa



Rissa Mahamadou

We mourn the death of Rissa

Rissa Mahamadou was the first principal of the primary school since it opened in October 2009 until July 2012. Then he became the general supervisor of the secondary school where he was universally both feared and adored by the students, who they nicknamed "the old man" and also highly respected by his colleagues. He was truly an exceptional man. His sudden death on February 4th leaves a huge void but his legacy will continue to accompany us far into the future. It is thanks to Rissa that we owe this rigorous approach, this culture of excellence and professionalism which makes TANAT school such a great success.

Guy de Place, President of TANAT

Rissa wrote this **peace song** in February 2012:

Peace !

*Oh! How I love your name
You resonate far and wide on the
plains and in the forests,
You calm the hatred in the hearts
of men, animals and our sisters.*

Peace!

*I like to hear you speak in the ci-
ties,*

*In villages, in far-flung places,
To make your voice ring out, so-
wing tolerance,*

*Even to the birds, in the fields and
among the ears of millet.*

*I love that you are there, especially
during my service,*

*At all times and especially when I
am absent.*

Peace!

*I will never ever stop loving you
Because you cultivate love
everywhere you go*

In palaces, in tents and in hearts.

Oh! What a beautiful journey.

I love you, I love you, Peace.

Rissa Mahamadou

Secondary School: exam preparation

Despite the difficult situation that the country has been experiencing since the military authorities came to power, CSP TANAT academic activities have continued normally throughout this initial period. All the scheduled assignments and tests were completed. This allowed us to organise the first term exams on time.

All this thanks to your invaluable support; your unsparing efforts to provide us with the best possible working environment. May the Lord reward you with His infinite mercy and kindness.

The exam results are generally satisfactory. Indeed, out of 342 students which included 143 girls, 201 including 84 girls obtained a term average higher than or equal to 10 out of 20. The general success rate is 58.77%. The classes that stood out are 2nd C with a 100% success rate, 1st A with 76.19%, including 100% for the girls; followed by 2nd A with 69.69%, including 75% for the girls.

At our last Teachers' Meeting, after taking stock of the previous term, we discussed the measures to be taken from now on to improve this average of 58.77%. We will get there with the efforts that you and we make every day to really move forward.



Moussa Samaila, provi-
seur du secondaire

I cannot end without announcing the sudden death of a pillar of the CSP TANAT administrative team. This is Mr. Rissa Mahamadou, who during his lifetime was our general supervisor. Rissa has left a huge void; we still mourn his absence. May the Lord be merciful to him and welcome him into his eternal paradise.

Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal

Primary School : Continuing the good work

TANAT Primary School has an enrolment of 230 pupils, including 105 girls. This number has not seen any significant change since the start of the school year, only internal movements have been made between classes. However, the goal of parity between girls and boys still remains relevant.

No major disruption was noted during these four months of school. Students and teachers were diligent and punctual. But, in passing, I have to highlight some absenteeism linked to illnesses such as malaria, coughs, colds, etc., and some lateness during the cold weather. These absences and lateness did not have any impact on delivering the curriculum. So, for all the classes, the scheduled programme is more than 68% completed. The execution of this curriculum saw the participation of educational supervisors who attended lessons in the class rooms. In addition to the normal lessons taught from Monday to Friday, other activities were offered during the weekend. The most significant being the academic support sessions for pupils with difficulties. This support is provided every Saturday morning.

In promoting the harmonious running of the school, the students democratically elected their school government.

This school government, elected since the beginning of November, has the task of ensuring the cleanliness of the school premises and its environment. It also intervenes, in conjunction with the teachers, in monitoring teaching and compliance with the school's internal rules and regulations.

I cannot end my remarks without mentioning Mr. Rissa Mahamadou, the first principal of our Primary School and presently the general supervisor of our Secondary School, who left us following a sudden illness which has devastated not only TANAT but also the urban commune of Abalak because he was a man known to everyone. May Allah the Almighty, the Merciful, welcome him to his eternal paradise

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.



Rissa Mahamadou when he was Primary School principal

« Testament » of Rissa

When he left his position as Principal of the Primary School, Rissa expressed his conviction as a teacher in a very beautiful testament, extracts of which we share with you here:

“No one can go beyond their destiny. With old age, the old Principal can no longer move around but he is very concerned about the future of all the people at TANAT school, and its teachers.... You can only succeed in your work if you have strong professional ethics.

I ask those with whom I have worked and those new comers, to follow my advice because they will only succeed in their task if they have love, respect for others and their students and the desire to help those who are in distress.

The teaching profession is noble, we train, we help, we transform the tiny human being into a future man who can stand tall.

Love this job by doing it honestly, then you will participate in the building of a generation, a city or a country.

For my part I will contribute the little that I can provide, minimal as it may be.

Rissa Mohamadou

Tributes to Rissa

Rissa was much more than a Tuareg friend, he was a father to me. His family welcomed me warmly during my trips to Niger, and with them I found a home away from home.

Rissa was passionate, curious and full of humour. His heart was as vast as the expanses of Azawagh. With his partner Badi, they formed a unique duo, an oasis of love and kindness in the middle of the dunes.

Together, we forged deep bonds, exchanging our stories, our customs, our dreams. I still remember the sound of his voice vibrating in the first light of day, his prayer rising like an offering to the starry sky. Through the veil of sleep, this melody resonated within me, reminding me of the simple beauty of a shared life.

And when his radio would broadcast world news (RFI of course), it was as if Rissa breathed a breath of life into each dawning day.

My thoughts are with his wife Badi, their children, and the entire community who mourn him. Rissa will remain in our hearts as an example of hospitality and generosity. An unforgettable figure in the great book of human encounters. Thank you for everything, Sarah.

Sarah Cabalion, Anthropologist

As the first Headmaster of TANAT school and then general supervisor at CSP/TANAT, Rissa Mahamadou was an exemplary leader. He was recognised for his educational vision, his organisational skills and his ability to inspire his team. His determination to provide quality education to students was unmatched. He was appreciated for his professionalism, his kindness towards teachers and students, as well as his ability to establish a climate of trust and collaboration within the establishment. His legacy as a principal will be remembered and will continue to positively influence the educational community.

My thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time. May his soul rest in peace.

Billou Mohamed Moctar,
President ONODEP, Manager of TANAT school

It was Saturday, February 3rd 2024 at 7:50 a.m. that the Board advised me that you were seriously ill and had been admitted to Abalak hospital.

It was from 1:30 p.m. onwards that I felt your absence more acutely. That was the time when you addressed this sentence to me:

“Honourable Principal, today’s lessons are over, there are no students in the courtyard. I am leaving; See you tomorrow Insha’Allah.”

My heart was broken. On Sunday around noon I went back to the hospital to see you. You held my right hand, squeezed it and said to me: “It’s better now. The pain that was causing me to suffer is dissipating.”

Alas, it was our last chat.

I have lost a colleague but also a brother. Rissa, you have been a pillar to us; your absence has left us with an immense void. You always showed me how much you cared about us, how much you cared about CSP TANAT which you considered your second family. Today it’s my turn to tell you to what extent CSP TANAT mourns your absence. Rissa, you fell, pen in hand, on the battlefield; the noblest battle; the battle against ignorance, the battle against indiscipline. Of course you left this battlefield very early but the victories you won will remain forever in our memory.

Today I am very happy to have shared part of my life with you. You, who had the art of cultivating friendship and good humour; you made all the moments we had together joyful. The old man, as others liked to say, you have left us prematurely; so you remind us that life here below is of little consequence.

Rissa, you have been a faithful and generous brother to me. You are a unique person that I will continue to admire until the end of my days. You have certainly left this battlefield for good, but we who are still alive will continue the fight to consolidate the victories you have earned.

Rest in peace, Rissa

May the Lord of Heaven and Earth grant you His Clemency so that Paradise may be your final home.

Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal

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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.