



## TANAT : a school in excellent shape

### An African Tale

The story goes that a young boy wanted to become the best farmer in his village.

Seeing his neighbour's abundant harvests, he asked him what his secret was. The old man simply replied, "Every day, I prepare the land, even when no one is watching."

The impatient young man decided to work only when the rainy season was approaching.

At harvest time, his field was poor and production meagre. He then understood that the land only rewards those who honour it with daily effort

The lesson is clear: no success is achieved without effort. Persevering in one's work is the seed of every fruitful harvest.

Fabrice Ogatchin

### Life in Primary School

Since November, we have been holding mini-CAPED (Pedagogical Animation) sessions: The Grade Two teacher presented a lesson in written expression and a lesson in elocution; the Grade One teacher presented a lesson on overall learning, while I presented a grammar lesson ....

Two teachers supervise the students during recess each week to prevent any accidents and the students clean the playground after each recess.

Life in Abalak is expensive, and we must contribute 1% of our salaries to the government.

Furthermore, the anthem of the AES (Alliance of Sahel States) has been adopted and added to the national anthem. From now on, both anthems are to be sung every morning during the ceremonies.

Assogba Raïssa, Grade One Teacher



### Secondary education: a place for learning and personal development

Dear sponsors,

Academically, the teaching activities proceeded smoothly and satisfactorily throughout the first term. The teachers fulfilled their mission with commitment and professionalism, ensuring the transfer of knowledge and providing academic support to the students.

Beyond purely academic activities, the Tanat Private School Complex places great importance on improving the school environment and fostering civic education among its students. With this in mind, clean-up activities were organised in the schoolyard and surrounding areas. The students actively participated in these clean-up efforts, contributing to maintaining a clean and healthy school environment while developing a sense of responsibility and environmental protection.

In addition, as a way of promoting student development and strengthening camaraderie, an inter-class football tournament was organised within the school. This sporting activity generated great enthusiasm and helped to strengthen the bonds between the students.

Thus, **our school is not merely a place of**

**learning; it is a true space for education, personal growth and hope for the future.**

I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and guidance.

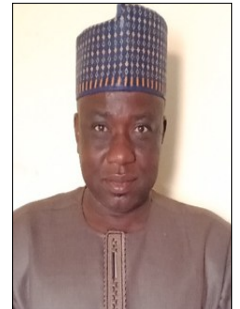
Your commitment as sponsors is a vital support for our institution and a significant source of motivation for the students.

This invaluable support has made our school a welcoming place where learning and growth are truly enriching.

For all these selfless efforts, please allow me, on behalf of all the staff at Tanat, to express my heartfelt appreciation.

May the Lord of heaven and earth watch over you and grant you happiness and blessings in this life and the hereafter. Amen.

Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal



Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal

### Primary School: everything is fine

TANAT Primary School has an enrolment of 241 students, 114 of whom are girls. This number has remained largely unchanged since the start of the school year. No major disruptions have been observed during these five months of operation here in Tanat, unlike other schools in the city where classes have been suspended for weeks on end due to the non-payment of teachers' salaries.

Here, both students and teachers are diligent and punctual. A few absences were due to minor late arrivals during the cold, windy and dusty weather. As a result, over 60% of the planned curriculum is being completed in all grades.

In addition to regular classes, remedial sessions are organised on weekends. Mini-CAPED (Pedagogical Support Unit) sessions are orga-

nised by the teaching staff to provide better support for teachers.

The inspection team, comprising the inspector, the head of personnel, and the educational advisors, was at our school to witness the flag-raising ceremony, as they do in other schools in the municipality. This visit took place during the flag-raising ceremony (the AES flag), which the Ministry of Education has instructed us to raise in order to instil the vision of the AES in the children.

Agaouhouande Lazare, Acting Primary School Principal



Agaouhouande Lazare, 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.

## A quality secondary school life at TANAT



School life unfolds in a generally peaceful atmosphere at Abalak. The atmosphere is good-natured, even if it can sometimes be challenging due to the weather and environmental conditions.

Currently, the blessed month of Ramadan has begun. We are experiencing alternating periods of coolness and heat, which require students and staff to be physically and mentally adaptable.

On a social level, the national socio-economic situation is also being felt. The cost of living continues to rise, which represents an additional challenge for many families. Despite this, our students continue to demonstrate courage and determination.

Fabrice Ogatchin

Secondary School Teacher at TANAT

As soon as you pass through the gates of TANAT Secondary School, you discover a splendid, spacious, and meticulously maintained courtyard, shaded by beautiful trees

whose leaves gently sway in the breeze. These trees not only provide shade and coolness, but they also give the school a natural charm that soothes the mind and inspires learning.

Next to the buildings is a beautiful, carefully cultivated vegetable garden. A variety of plants and vegetables grow there, testament to a dedication to quality work and respect for nature. This vibrant little garden brings colour and life to the school.

The school is warm and welcoming. Every day, the committed and deeply dedicated teaching staff carry out their mission with passion and a strong sense of duty. The teachers guide the students with patience and kindness, leading them towards success.

As for the students, they are cheerful, disciplined, and hardworking. Their enthusiasm fills the courtyard and classrooms. Respectful of the rules and eager to learn, they actively participate in school activities.

Moussa Samaila, Secondary School Principal

### News

In order to promote sportsmanship and cohesion among students, inter-class football matches were also organised. The final match pitted the Year 11 class against the Year 12 class in a friendly yet highly competitive atmosphere. After a hard-fought match, Year 12 emerged victorious after a penalty shootout.

### Health

A vaccination campaign was organised for the benefit of the students. This activity, carried out with the support of the health services, allowed students to be vaccinated against diphtheria and measles, thus contributing to strengthening health prevention and protection in schools.

### Improvements to Educational and Technical Infrastructure

The computer lab is now connected to the internet via the STARLINK system.

A repeater station has been installed to improve the coverage and quality of the Wi-Fi connection within Tanat CSP, further facilitating access to digital learning resources.

In addition, Tanat has acquired a laboratory, an important piece of equipment for strengthening practical science teaching.

Ghissa Hamed Alyakib, Secondary School Superintendent

## Tamzak : the camel saddle of the Tuareg

The craftsmanship of Tuareg utilitarian objects reflects a concern for both aesthetics and function, employing refined techniques. The pinnacle of sophistication, however, is achieved in the "Tamzak", a saddle with a cross-shaped pommel, where the artistry of wood, leather and metal is masterfully combined.

The complexity of the forms, faithfully reproduced from one model to another, demands the precise assembly of each element: the cross, the seat and the cantle are each formed from two symmetrical pieces joined and held together by the supple white skin from a cow's belly, which connects the upright of the cross to the backrest, which is secured at mid-height.

Each part of the saddle has a name, sometimes reflecting anthropomorphism: the metal finial is called "the lower beard," in contrast to "the upper beard," represented by the leather padding beneath the cross. The two lateral arms of the cross are called "ears," and the upright, from bottom to top, is called "throat" and "neck." The dark leather covering the three branches is called "the veiled one," a reference to the male head covering. Conversely, the vertical branch of the cross and the finger-

like piece above the cantle are named after the dama gazelle, meaning "front gazelle" or "rear gazelle".

The Tuareg saddle belongs to the technological model that places the camel rider's weight on the withers, unlike the "pack saddle" or the four-pointed Arabian, Oriental, Egyptian, or Asian saddle, which distributes the weight between the withers and the flanks of the animal. The Tuareg saddle allows for a supple and refined ride because the camel rider can place his feet on the animal's neck and use this contact to stimulate or give commands to his mount. Every adult man makes it a point of honour to have his own Tamzak.



The Tamzak, a Touareg saddle

From Edmond Bernus's "Tuaregs of Niger"

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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.