

The University Of Amoud: The Preparatory Establishment For Manpower Resources.

"Statistics is the shadow of truth"

The local communities did feel the need for further education & skills after the infrastructure for education in the first, and in the second levels was restored. The task for establishing the university was an uphill battle, because there was a lack of everything, and/or the shortage of, to say the least. It did, however, become obvious, and perhaps apparent that the expertise, and the experience that goes with it were there. The current president of the University, Mr. Suleiman Ahmed Gulaid, was the dean of the Education Faculty, so too were some of his colleagues there, who did occupy some senior posts at that particular faculty. The team did, in fact, attack the task head-on.

But it must be clearly expressed that the need for founding a university is extremely difficult, and probably demanding various resources, such as physical resources, environmental resources, financial resources as well as manpower's, whose availability at the time was fairly satisfactory.

Amoud Secondary school, the first high school in the whole of ex-British Somaliland Protectorate, and indeed a prestigious establishment together with Sheikh Secondary School, another valuable School in that aspect, and as said in the past, the duo contributed very substantially for producing the first, and the second manpower levels who did make a difference, during the union years, did become the ideal campus for the new University. And the need for securing the other essential requirements did prove very difficult, and perhaps very demanding.

The professionals did seek the urgent attention of the local communities, and in the process of so doing, held meetings with them. And, after brainstorming sessions with them, the need for targeting the 'Diaspora communities' was prioritised greatly, without whom addressing the huge project in question was

extremely difficult. These included getting text books, the shelves, and certainly financial assistance for covering many other important objectives, such renovating the building, buying transport to, and from Amoud, the Electricity machine for generating energy, computers, photocopiers etc, as something is far better than nothing.

The message went out to the appropriate parties. And it is very encouraging to share with you that positive responses were received, because the communities, both the diaspora, and the local, made substantial contributions, both in cash, and in kind.

The next step was attended to. It was doing the necessary innovations, by using the monies received. The internal arrangements were made, as availing the transport, which was bought, and brought home. Everything was settled, under the circumstances, though there were many shortcomings due to lack of proper funding, because establishing a University is not that easy.

All citizens, and the locals, in particular, did give each other perfunctory cheers. And, at last, the University of Amoud, with three faculties, namely Education, Business & Management, and Medicine & Surgery, opened its doors to the public in 1998, following a brainstorming seminar held in Borame City in August 6th, 1997. And the word did go out that Amoud University is an ideal place for studying for any Somali, including those who do live abroad at the moment, to study, and to perhaps make a choice out-of-the-available options. This saw the constant flow of many Somali youngsters, who were thirsty for knowledge. And as well as themselves, the University did get many students, who do come from localities as far as Puntland, and Mogadishu, in Somalia. These are coupled with the Somalilanders, whose first choice is to study at Amoud University, which has a strong reputation amongst the Somalis, bearing in mind the fact that the locality, and its residents are renowned for excelling Education & Skills within the Somali circles, regardless of their locality, and background.

The above mentioned issue witnessed the expansion of the University. And the faculty for Agriculture, that primarily will cater for the needs of those who are engaged in this trade, the breadbasket of our people of our people, did open its doors to the public. And the ones about Law, Information Technology, and Nursing did follow the suit immediately thereafter.

It is now worth saying that July 23rd, 2003, was a historical occasion for the University, because it did hold its first graduation ceremony, for the first lot of graduates. And breaking the graduation group by faculty, I take first` and foremost the Business Faculty. There were 293 students graduated from this faculty from July 23rd, 2003 to August 6th, 2007, and gender-wise, there were females 32, and males 261; this is followed by the Education Faculty in the same period, and there were 193 students, and gender-wise, there were females 32, and males 161; and finally the Faculty for Medicine from which some 6 students did graduate in the same period, and gender-wise, there was female 1, and males 5. And the total number there was 492 students; females 65, and males 427. This achievement encourages everybody who is very keen, and is perhaps interested in development arenas.

It is very paramount to develop this young nation, whose needs are still unattended to, by producing the skilled manpower resources. And as yet there are some vital areas-of-study, such as Fisheries, Veterinary Sciences, amongst others, to be established. It is our privilege to inform you that we are under the process of establishing the faculties for languages, and that of Journalism in the near future. It is, however, like crying for the moon to leave everything for this young nation, with its meagre resources, to undertake executing it alone.

It is said that 'Rome was not built in a day', as first thing is first, the idea behind this saying is that, being both a language, and an educational professional, is to run English classes, so that our students' competencies in this tongue, as reading it, writing, listening, and understanding, all of which do play crucial, and

important roles as far as our students' benefit off our higher education system, and beyond, is concerned. The point I am making is that it is quite useful to strengthen our students' English competencies, so much so that they benefit enormously from their studies. And this is precisely where our would-be English Department, in the faculty of languages fits in.

It is important to establish effective links with the local communities, as its involvement have the potentiality for stimulating development. This is the case because there some well-to-do members in the communities, who, as well as looking after their sons, and daughters, can initiate developments for bettering the academic services, and/or establishing new projects for the University. Such co-operation, and partnership with the local communities, apart from improving, and smoothening the tripartite relationships i.e. the University, the Community, and the Students, who do normally come from the later, could lead to a new harmony in the Communities' Relations Exercise, and obviously new benefits to National development is done, as the needs of the future leaders of the country are to be nurtured.

The establishment, without saying it, does need improving its various academic performances, and naturally developing it continuously. This is equipping our teaching manpower resources with the necessary skills, in the form of personal developments, so much so that their skills are kept abreast with the changes that do occur in their fields of competencies at alarming rates, together with the art of passing the said skills onto their students effectively, under the title in-service training, in the form of seminars, and possibly workshops, both locally, and abroad.

The University does need, by the same token, developing other resources, such as enriching the text books in the library, by bringing in the latest editions written in the different areas of studies kept in stock, and perhaps getting hold of new ones.

The institution obviously does remain grateful should computers, and photocopiers, for bettering the quality of work done, is offered by the potential donors.

It is our sincere interest to establish everlasting links with your valuable University, valuable in the sense that it is well developed, and certainly has the relevant expertise that ours desperately need at the moment. We are also very thankful for your would-be assistance, and support in every way you can, to enable us come over the problems, such as those cited above. These are, in other words, making useful inputs in our English Language Department, the Journalistic stuff, and of course, the publications found in that regard, and above all the in-service training, in the form of seminars, study tours, fellowships for our academic staff, so that the later is equipped with all sorts of expertise that effectively enables them undertake their various tasks head-on.

Ours, as none is an island, socially, will whole heartedly facilitate for your University all your research needs, as and when you need it. We are also determined to attend to your unique, and special needs should the later are put to us. Please feel free to saying it. Ta

Mr.Suleiman Mohamoud Aden

(The President).