



**TAFARI MAKONNEN SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
IN NORTH AMERICA (TMSAANA)**

www.tmsaana.com

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July 23, 2020

Dear TMS Alumni and Friends of TMS,

Your Board hopes that you and your loved ones are safe and well during these unprecedented months that has put all of us under the COVID-19 lockdown. We have been affected directly or indirectly by this pandemic as well as the recent tragic losses of innocent lives in our country following the assassination of the activist musician, Hachalu Hundessa – may they all Rest in Peace. This is also a special time of national rejoice at the initial filling of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) - *Africa's Dam, Our Dam, My Dam* for shared prosperity!

Please find hereunder a summary of TMS related activities as well as actions taken by your Board since our last Board Update of December 31, 2019.

[Postponement of the Fifth TMSAANA General Assembly planned for May 24 and 25, 2020.](#)

The Board had started to make preparations to hold the Fifth TMSAANA General Assembly in the Washington DC area during the end May Memorial weekend. The DC area based Board members had taken the lead in the preparation when the COVID19 lockdown unfortunately stopped it. The Fifth General Assembly is an important event since the current Board has to hand over its Board responsibilities to a newly elected Board. As you may know, 4 of the current 6 Board members have served almost 6 years since October 2014, while one member, our Vice-President Alem Wolde Hawarit, has served 8 years since November 2012.

It is important that other alumni come forward and agree to assume the Board responsibilities to ensure the sustainable continuation of TMSAANA. We can assure you that serving as a TMSAANA Board member is one of the most satisfying experiences an alumnus will have. In line with the current accepted practice of conducting business virtually, the Board has designated a Board Nominations Committee comprising of alumni Bayou Tadesse and Berhan

Dargie to contact alumni interested to become Board members and undertake the nomination process. The Board election will be finalized by November 2020, either in person or virtually.

[Visit to TMS and follow-up of our TMS name restoration request:](#)

In January 2020, taking advantage of the presence in Addis Ababa of some TMSAANA members and with the participation of TMS alumni in Addis, we visited TMS (Entoto Polytechnic College) and met Dean Simeneh Abesha, staff of the College and students. The College updated us with great appreciation on TMSAANA's various support to TMS students, particularly the support to female students (covered below) and briefed us of their request for future support. We visited the Arts and Design Department where Artists Fasil Dawit and Lulseged Retta gave the students advice and encouragement, which they very much appreciated.

With the support of the Bureau Head of the Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) Bureau (in charge of TVET Colleges like TMS, General Wingate, ...etc.) of the Addis Ababa (AA) City Administration, I have continued to follow-up our TMS name restoration request. While the Mayor has given us positive indications to approve our request, it unfortunately got put aside when the state of emergency was declared in April to fight the COVID19 threat.

[TMSAANA Support to families in the TMS vicinity affected by the COVID-19 lockdown](#)

The COVID19 induced slowdown of economic activities in Addis Ababa has led to significant reduction of work in the informal sector that is the source of income for the poorer segment of the population. This has inflicted major hardship on families as they are unable to meet their basic food needs. As a result, the AA City Administration (as have the various Regions) has established neighborhood food banks to encourage the collection of food and related supplies to be donated to needy families.

To express TMSAANA's solidarity and support for such affected families, the Board took a decision to donate 125,000.00 Birr (\$3,500.00) to provide a food basket to about 100 needy families residing in the Gulele Kifle Ketema where TMS students come from. We are grateful to alumna Artist Lulseged Retta who assisted us to coordinate TMSAANA's support with the College Dean and the Head of the TVET Bureau and arranged the purchase of the food basket. Based on the norm used by the Kifle Ketema, each assisted family received a food basket consisting of 25 KG of wheat flour, 3 liters of cooking oil, 5 kg of macaroni, 5 packet of pasta and two surgical masks (and 5 bars of soap, donated by the College) – report attached.

The donation took place on Tuesday, 14 July 2020 at TMS in the presence of officials from the, AA City Council represented by Hon. Aregash Chekol, Trade and Industry Committee Chair; TVET Bureau Head; Gulele Kifle Ketema Administration and TMS alumni in Addis. Artist Lulseged gave a presentation on behalf of TMSAANA and highlighted the importance of the TMS name restoration for continuation of TMS alumni mobilization and support, including encouraging similar initiatives of alumni support for other schools. The City Council member promised to support and follow-up our request. Report and pictures of the event is attached. The pictures will be posted on the TMSAANA "Photo Gallery" under 'TMSAANA COVID19 Donation'.

Recognizing the positive impact of TMSAANA's first donation, the Board members have decided to donate from their own funds to provide similar food basket for another 100 needy families. *Thanking some alumni who have already donated, we strongly encourage alumni to join us in this campaign so that TMSAANA can provide food basket to additional needy families.*

TMSAANA Scholarship Tuition and Financial Support:

The College, like all other schools, was closed in April 2020 due to the COVID19 threat. However the Board agreed continuation of payment of the monthly sanitary cost for the selected female students. Payments is made to each student's bank accounts as long as they continue their College enrollment.

As per the assistance request plan received from the College for the Ethiopian calendar 2012 school year, a total of 400 female students selected on need basis, were to be assisted from the monthly TMSAANA sanitation cost support. In addition 400 students (200 female and 200 male) were to be assisted through the merit and need based tuition cost sharing programme. This requires 296,000 Birr (\$8,374 or the annual alumni membership contribution of 70 alumni). However due to the closure of the College, only 165 female students who continued their enrollment were given the monthly sanitation support totaling 49,500 Birr (about \$1420).

For the 2013 calendar school year, starting September 2020, the College has submitted a budget similar to the 2012 to support 800 students - 400 female students and tuition cost sharing for 400 students. The College also requested additional 7 computers, a printer and 2 photo copying machines to increase the capacity of the training room for female students donated by TMSAANA last year (thanks to the generous donation of Dr. Moges and Mrs. Ababayheu Gebremariam). The Board will review these requests when the College reopens and after assessment of the extent of use of the current computer training room.

"A Splash of Diamond: Seventy-Five Years of Jesuit Presence in Ethiopia, 1945-2020"
by Father Festo Mkenda, S.J.

A Tanzanian Jesuit and currently a Professor of history at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, Father Festo is writing the above noted book, which will prominently cover the role played by Canadian Jesuits in TMS. Fr. Festo contacted us through Mr. Doug Eadie, former TMS Peace Corps teacher (1964-1967) and author of 'Entwined Lives' also featured on TMSAANA website under "Doug Eadie's Corner", to get first-hand information from TMS alumni. The Board arranged for Fr. Festo to meet a number of TMS alumni through Zoom and he subsequently interviewed Dr. Aklilu Habte and Dr. Moges Geber Mariam, which is posted on the TMSAANA website. Since Fr. Festo is eager to get more short first-hand interesting stories from alumni on their experiences with Canadian Jesuit teachers, interested alumni can reach him at mkendafestol@gmail.com. A brief summary of Fr. Festo's draft book is attached.

TMSAANA Birthday Gift to Father Roland Turenne:

Fr. Turenne's book, *"As I remember Them ... Memoirs of a former TMS Teacher"* continues to generate net revenue for TMSAANA since alumni continue to purchase it (as is the case for Alumnus Ermias Amare's book, *"Ye Tafari Makonnen Timhrit Bet Tizita"*). On the occasion of his 96th Birthday, on behalf of TMSAANA the Board sent Fr. Turenne a \$1,000 check in appreciation of his 61 years of service to Ethiopia, 25 of which he devoted to teaching at TMS.

Fr. Turenne is happy to receive calls from alumni at +1 (450) 658-8761 between 3 to 5 PM EST.

[TMSAANA website:](#)

Alumni are encouraged to visit the [TMSAANA website](#) and check out in particular the “[Class or Group Photo](#)” tab where you may find your classmates and friends. If you have class or group photos from your TMS days, please send it to us for posting on the website.

[2020 Annual Membership Contribution:](#)

While the Board acknowledges that we have not actively contacted you in 2020, we want to remind you that to-date only 25 alumni (20% of members) have paid their annual \$120 membership payment. A few alumni have made sizable generous contributions, while 7 alumni have made multi-year annual membership payments with two paying until 2028 and 2032!

The 2020 TMSAANA support program requires about \$10,000 - \$15,000. The Board kindly requests alumni to pay their 2020 annual payments of \$120 as soon as possible as well as the 2019 membership fee, for those alumni who have not paid their 2019 payments.

Please send your membership fee payable to TMSAANA through one of the following three options (with direct Bank Transfer as the most preferred option):

- 1) **Bank Transfer:** TMSAANA TD Bank Acct. No. 426-440-8216 (with copy to mseyoum84@gmail.com),
- 2) **Check:** TMSAANA c/o Ms. Merafe Seyoum, 34 Metropolitan Oval, #6H, Bronx, NY 10462,
- 3) **PayPal:** Available on www.tmsaana.com or alumni@tmsaana.com

As usual, we welcome your feedback and comments.

We wish you to stay safe, with our best regards,

Bisrat Aklilu,
President,

"ይህችንም የዕውቀት ምግብ ቀጥታ የምታሰድጋችሁን ተማሪ ቤት በጥበብ እድገትህ በአእምሮ በምትገባለሁላችሁት ጊዜ እግዚአብሔር እንደየዕድላችሁ በሚሰጣችሁ ዕውቀት የሀገራችን መሣሪያ ናችሁ እንዳትጠብ እንድትሰፉ እንዳትወድቅ እንድትበረታ እንድትረዱዋት ለለምናችኋለሁ።"

ልዑል አልጋ ወራሽ ተፈሪ መኩንን, ሚያዝያ ፲፱ ፲፱፻፲፯ የተፈሪ መኩንን ትምህርት ቤትን ሲከፍቱ ካደረጉት ንግግር

"This school is an instrument which will operate on our country's behalf through the knowledge which God gives to each of you according to your lot, once you have matured in wisdom and have become vigorous in intelligence. So, I beg of you to help the school which nurtures you, give you the food of knowledge: to see that it does not shrink but expands, that it does not fall but grows in strength."

From Regent Ras Tafari Makonnen's April 27, 1925 Inaugural Speech of Tafari Makonnen School