



Edna Adan University Hospital

Hargeisa, Somaliland

Tel: 00 252 2 525 016 or 00 252 828 5999

Mob: 00 252 2 4426 922

e-mail: ednahospital@yahoo.com

Website: www.ednahospital.org

Hargeisa

12/06/2016

To all Friends and Donors of Hadia Medical Swiss

Testimonial for a Collaboration between Hadia Medical Swiss and Edna Adan University Hospital

Hadia Medical Swiss is one of the best NGOs in Somaliland. In a very short time the organisation proved to be highly performing and made the Hospital in Gabiley the best Regional Hospital in whole Somaliland.

The Edna Adan University Hospital is also the leading medical education institution in Somaliland and in the Horn of Africa and was ranked the 13th among the 50 best hospitals in Africa.

Now we have the intention that Edna Adan University Hospital and Hadia Medical Swiss join forces for training medical staff who come from all the Regions of Somaliland to train at the Edna Adan University Hospital. This collaboration will help the entire country in a very effective way. This strategy costs less and is far better than sending trainees abroad as we might lose our best staff if they do not return after the training.

I warmly invite all Friends and Donors of Hadia Medical Swiss to assist us on this very important but rocky way to improve the knowledge of the medical staff in my country.

My life and my dedication for my country Somaliland and for Human health

In 1954 I was sent to the UK to be trained as a nurse and midwife from where I returned home in 1961 and started training our own midwives on the job. Since that time, I have held many responsible positions both nationally and internationally, including a long career with WHO until I retired in 1997.

In 1963, I married the man who had been Somaliland's first President before we united with Somalia. Also I became a founding member and the first female Secretary General of the Somali Red Crescent Association. Since that time, I have remained involved in charity and humanitarian work wherever I have been in the world.

In 2002, I was appointed Minister of Social affairs and became the first and only female Minister in the government of Somaliland. From 2003 to 2006, I served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Somaliland's Government.

During 1967 and 1969 which was the period the former British Somaliland and the former Italian Somalia had united, my husband was the Prime Minister of Somalia. During that time, I was very active as a First Lady and initiated a lot of Charity and Community Health Work in addition to my many diplomatic responsibilities. All this work ended when the Communist Coup d'etat happened in Somalia in 1969 when the Junta killed the President and arrested my husband and also took me as a political prisoner under house arrest for six month.

After my retirement from WHO in 1997, I took my greatest challenge – I used all my UN terminal benefits, my savings and my repatriation grant to build the Edna Adan University Teaching Hospital in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The hospital was opened in 2002. Today it is a non-profit charity hospital which is referral hospital for patients who come to seek treatment from us from a wide geographical area in the Horn of Africa.


In 2012 we opened the University where we train Nurses, Midwives, Laboratory Technicians, Pharmasists, Anesthesia Technicians, Dental Technicians and Public Health students. I am currently building a new University block next to our hospital, a facility I hope will get finished in one or two years if we can find the supplies and the necessary equipment.

In order to reduce the high maternal mortality rate of our women, I have embarked on a lifetime goal to train 1000 Midwives for Somaliland. I encourage other African countries to train 1 million Midwives for the countries in Africa with conditions as harsh as those of Somaliland.

I am passionate about the fight to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in this generation of women. This issue affects 97% of women in Somaliland. As a midwife, I have been dealing with patients with complications arising from FGM for the last 55 years and this has fuelled my lifelong struggle to see this horrific practice come to an end.

Last month I spoke in Geneva during a conference at the Palais des Nations where I have been invited to speak about the work required to eradicate this horrific practice once and for all. I sincerely hope the world will find a solution to this problem.

Thank you very much for your collaboration.


Edna Adan Ismail
Hospital Founder and Director

