

Prof. Nyeko Pen-Mogi - V.Chancellor, University of Gulu, Uganda.

In April 2002, I met Prof. Luigi Donato at St. Mary's Hospital Lacor in Gulu, Uganda. I briefed him about Gulu University and the plan to open a Faculty of Medicine. He took interest and we exchanged visiting cards. I sent him an email. The reply I got was from Prof. Luigi Greco. It later turned out to me that Prof. Luigi Greco is the twin brother of Prof. Luigi Donato.

We started working very closely with Prof. Luigi. We developed a very strong relationship between the University of Naples and Gulu University. This relationship extended to cover the City of Naples and the Province of Napoli. We quickly developed a project proposal for establishing the Faculty of Medicine at Gulu University. The project was later named GULUNAP (GULU and NAPLES). The project was submitted to the Italian Embassy in Kampala and the Embassy secured 790,000 US Dollars for establishing the faculty of Medicine in Gulu University. This money helped in remodeling some old buildings in Gulu Regional Referral Hospital. The money also equipped the anatomy, microbiology and physiology laboratories for the University. Under the project, we strengthened the tripartite relationships between St. Mary's Hospital Lacor, Gulu University and University of Naples.

When the faculty of Medicine started in October 2004, it was not easy to get senior lecturers in medicine willing to come and teach in Gulu University. That was the time when there was very serious insecurity in northern Uganda. Prof. Luigi was able to mobilize senior professors from Italy (University of Naples) who came to Gulu to teach our students despite the insecurity. The commitment of Prof. Luigi and his friends from the University of Naples have been extremely good. We also thank the Rector of the University of Naples who allowed his senior Professors to come to Gulu University whenever they were needed.

Gulu University was greatly assisted by the Italian corporation and some friends in Naples to build a new block of lecture halls. This building is named "GULUNAP" in memory of GULUNAP project. We still lack infrastructural facilities for the Faculty of Medicine. We would wish to construct another block of lecture halls to enable us accommodate the increasing number of students. This expansion project will require about 3M Euros. We have made tremendous progress under GuluNap project. Over the years, the project has expanded to involve the faculty of Science and the Faculty of Agriculture. Some faculty members of staff of Gulu University have undertaken PhD training in the University of Naples and several Professors from the University of Naples have come to teach in the faculties of Science in Gulu.

On behalf of Gulu University in particular and on behalf of the Uganda government in general, we sincerely thank the Italian government through the University of Naples and through Prof. Luigi Greco in particular for spearheading very successful academic collaboration between the two Universities in the two countries. We humbly ask the Italian Government to continue supporting this project which has exhibited value for money implementation strategy.

I thank you Mr. President. I thank Prof. Luigi Greco. I thank the Rector of the University of Naples and thank all the academic staff of the University of Naples. I finally thank all the Italian tax payers who have continued to support GULUNAP project.

I am deeply honored to receive the prestigious Feltrinelli Prize and wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. This award will provide an important support to our efforts.