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Important presence of Italian missionaries. Lacor Hospital emblem of world importance. Agreement Framework Agreement between the University of Gulu and the Federico II University of Naples. Four Italian Banking Foundations for the fight against AIDS.

Opportunity to visit the President of the Republic or the Honourable Minister.

Text On the occasion of the closing of the first Psychiatric Congress organised by the students of the Faculty of Medicine students, I went to Gulu in northern Uganda to visit the very important Italian achievements there. Italian achievements there.

To a great extent, they are as follows. - The Lacor hospital founded by Piero Corti is now the dominant reality in the north and in the whole of

Uganda, appearing as one of the excellent medical realities in sub-Saharan Africa, for level of care and management example. It must be strongly emphasised how Italian genius has succeeded in creating a class of doctors and local administrators now capable of running the

hospital activities on their own.

- The framework agreement between the University of Gulu and the Federico II University of Naples has enabled the training of 308 students, the first 56 of whom will complete their courses in July this year. It should be noted that the academic quality of the undergraduates is also higher than that of the Makerere University in Kampala according to the Imperial College of London.

The rehabilitation of the city's dilapidated hospital - also with innovative architectural achievements devised by Prof. Greco (Associate Dean of the Faculty of Medicine) - has now constituted a viable alternative to Lacor.

The other Faculties - starting with the Faculty of Agriculture - have also benefited enormously from the collaboration with the Neapolitan University. - The Combonian Samaritans, supported by the Combonian Sisters, have set up a centre for

assistance to AIDS patients - with social implications such as family reintegration of almost miraculous impact - and are now helped by the four Banking Foundations mentioned in my 325 (S.Paolo, CARIPLO, CARIPARMA, Monte dei Paschi).

- The Comboni missionaries (Verona Fathers) have been present in the north for decades and have trained almost the entire Ugandan ruling class there. The Gulu Cathedral and the architectural complex of the Minor Seminary are artistically remarkable works that bear witness to Italian creative genius.

An impressive series of vocational schools, collection centres, orphanages, detached sections within the territory, chapels, retreat houses, etc. complete a capillary and global work of prime magnitude. Here too, it is worth noting the decreasing importance of the international element (over time, Italian missionaries have been joined by Latin Americans, Germans and others) in favour of a greater

autonomy (both cultic and managerial) of the indigenous element, proving the validity of such cooperation.

To sum up, Italian cooperation (lato sensu, since it must include not only the important contribution of the DGCS but also the decentralised cooperation of the Regions, Italian dioceses, Universities and private individuals) has produced a highly visible result (the Lacor hospital was rated the best among 18 cases examined - Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, South Africa, Brazil, the Caribbean, Jamaica, Russia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Asia- by the European Centre for Development Policy Management under the aegis of the OECD) and of great socio-political impact (I will omit to emphasise, because it is well known, the role it played during Uganda's 'dark' periods and in particular during the long LRA war in the north of the country).

Italian cooperation has succeeded in bringing an entire region from the level of precarious subsistence to the current threshold of reconstruction and to the concrete hope of a better future, realising the main dream of every development aid policy - and one that has so rarely been achieved - that is, to make the subjects helped self-sufficient; one is even beginning to hypothesise a programme of 'preservation' (including maintenance) of the results achieved, which would constitute a qualitative leap that was unthinkable until now.

The exceptional nature of the results and their predictable duration over time are but one aspect, albeit an important one, of Italian cooperation action, the other being that of visibility: everyone, from civil and religious authorities, from the academic body to the man in the street, is fully aware that all this has been 'done by Italy'.

It would seem appropriate to me to continue the support action (I reserve the right to submit relevant proposals) even under the conditions of budgetary constraints (and despite the unexpected freezing of this UTL: its 136711) and also to enhance its media impact. I am thinking of a visit by the President of the Republic or the Honourable Minister. The occasion is the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Lacor Hospital in November this year. I remember that in February 2008 the President of the Federal Republic of Germany (the German contribution to the Faculty of Medicine in Gulu is limited to a few books and the funding of the Chair of Psychiatry within the Italian GALUNAP project) paid a three-day visit to Gulu and received pharaonic ovations.

On this occasion, the Combonian Brother Elio Croce could be honoured for his meritorious assistance to the meritorious assistance to the Lacor Hospital (my 1624/08)

BALLERO

Signature BALLERO Function AMBASSADOR

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