





Sheikha Mozah launches Al Fakhoora Fund

DOHA: H H Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Chairperson of the Education Above All Organisation has launched the Al Fakhoora Fund which aims to raise \$200m to rebuild and support the educational institutions in the Gaza Strip.

Sheikha Mozah has donated \$100m in order to encourage others to participate in this fundraiser. Donations are already pouring in via the *Fakhoora* satellite television channel which was launched on January 26. The channel will keep on raising funds for a year. The fund will be used to launch several programmes to rebuild schools in the Gaza Strip as well as to help 10,000

students at all levels of education. The fund will also distribute 100 scholarships per year for 10 years for Palestinian students to pursue studies in Qatar and other institutions across the world.

Participating in a panel discussion hosted by the Channel, Sheikha Mozah said the fund was raised through charity appeals, sending SMSs and calling people directly. The fund would also be utilised to meet the medical expenses of students who were injured in the Israeli air raids.

"The world is passing through a tumultuous era. It is unable to take a united stand to address the complex issues and stop wars despite the UN's interventions to

stop wars," she said. Sheikha Mozah called for the formation of a high level committee to probe into the attack on educational institutions in Gaza. "What we need is a long term strategy to normalise the education sector. But the closure of Gazan borders has become a major hurdle in carrying out the relief activities," she said.

Sheikha Mozah also said that QR32.7m was raised through Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) towards the Al Fakhoora Fund. "This is the first installment of donations that was raised through the emergency campaign by ROTA", she said.

THE PENINSULA

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H H Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned participating in a panel discussion hosted by AlFakhoora, a satellite television channel operating from Doha. She said the TV channel has raised an amount of QR32.7m through Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) to support the victims of Israeli onslaught on the Gaza Strip.

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HH Sheikhha Mozah taking part in a programme of the Al Fakhoura channel last night.

\$200mn fund launched to aid schools in Gaza

By Anwar Elshamy

HH Sheikhha Mozah Nasser al-Misnad, chairperson of the Education Above All organisation, last night launched the Fakhoura fund which aims to raise \$200mn. HH Sheikhha Mozah donated half of the amount to the fund which will be devoted to rebuild and support the educational institutions in Gaza. Donations poured in from viewers and others last night through the Fakhoura channel which was launched on January 26. The fund collection campaign continues for a year. The fund will be used to launch programmes to rebuild schools in Gaza as well as to help 10,000 students at all levels of education. It will be used to launch 100 scholarships a year for 10 years for Palestinian students to study in Qatar and other institutions across the world. The Fakhoura fund is part of Sheikhha Mozah's concern to protect educational institutions in the conflict zones all over the world, with Gaza as its forefront.

Participating at one of the programmes of the channel, HH Sheikhha Mozah, who is also the Unesco special envoy for basic and higher education, stressed that education should not be affected at all during wartime, saying that the right of education could not be a luxury even amid a shortage of food supplies. "I believe that empty minds are more dangerous than empty stomachs. The right of education is guaranteed by all the international conventions and should not be affected during wars and crisis times." She also said that the Fakhoura campaign would provide artificial limbs for students who were seriously injured during the recent Israeli attack on Gaza which lasted for 22 days. "Some 70% of those injured have disabilities. We are seeking to provide them with artificial limbs and even considering setting up a factory for limbs so that both the physical rehabilitation can go with the psychological rehabilitation."

She also criticised the closure of borders with the Gaza Strip, saying that a lot of aid funds were available to the territory but could not find their way to the needy people because of the closure of crossing points. She also added that a team of the Education Above All organisation, recently set up to protect the right of education in conflict zones around the world, had started the documentation of the damage caused to the educational institutions in Gaza. Meanwhile the Fakhoura channel fund raising campaign, which was launched six days ago, has generated some QR400mn to the benefit of educational institutions in Gaza. The channel was part of the Al Fakhoura campaign which was launched by the students of the Education City to reach out to the students of Gaza whose schools were bombed during the Israeli aggression on the territory. The campaign was named after Al Fakhoura School, one of the UN-run schools, which were bombed during the Israeli attack.