

Bismihita'ala

To,

The revered Marj'aa of the Shia world,

Hazrat Ayatullah-ul-Uzama Syed Ali Seestani

Assalaam Alaikum

After congratulating you on the sacred occasion of the birthday of The Saviour of the world of humanity, we wish to state that a few years ago the Khoja Jamaat of Karachi had sent you a question regarding the participation of Shia students in the examinations being held under the Aga Khan Board. The reply that we received from your office was as under:

*"Persian statement"*

*("This matter in the opinion of Agha is not without Ashkaal")*

In response to this reply, all the schools run under the control of Khoja Jamaat, Karachi had ceased its affiliation with the Aga Khan Examination Board. However few Ulema of Pakistan, amongst whom some are also your representatives, opined that:

1. This statement is referring to *"Ahtiyat"*. So your followers (*muqalladeen*) may consult other Maraja on this issue.
2. The issue is rather related to identifying the subject of the rule (*tashkhees-e-mauz'oo*) and is not your ruling /edict (*fatwa*).

In response to this opinion, many Shia schools retained their affiliation with the Aga Khan Examination Board. This created confusions and objections amongst many momineen. Khoja Jamaat of Karachi is therefore requesting you to kindly clarify your opinion on the issue so that the doubts can be cleared.

In this connection, many momineen have asked whether it is permissible to provide financial assistance to the schools which are affiliated with Aga Khan Examination Board? And if so, whether this assistance be made from the proceeds of *Khums /Zakaat* etc. (*Wujuhaat-e-Sharia*) or from *Sadaqaat* and *Khairaat* (charity)?

*Wassalaam-o-Alaikum wa rehmatullahe wa barakaatahu*

Mazher Ali Jumani

President, KPSIAJ, Karachi.

15<sup>th</sup> Shab'aan 1434 A.H.

**Reply from the Marja:**

With Salaams, as mentioned earlier, “this matter in the opinion of Agha is not without *Ashkaal*”, though Agha’s opinion here is with reference to identifying subject of the rule, however since it is necessary to consult the experts (*Ahle Khubra*) in this type of subject, Agha has given his opinion with full awareness and after complete understanding of the overall situation. And what is expected out of this is that momineen (May Allah grant them respect), do not pay attention to the aforementioned doubts and qualms.

We pray to Allah SWT for increasing the tawfeeqat of all.

Official Stamp of

The Office of Ayatullah Seestani, Najaf e Ashraf.