

AGBU to open Melkonian Educational Center in Yerevan

from Katia Peltekian - Beirut Lebanon

After volunteering all my adult life to AGBU, I don't trust it at all. I am sure this is just a bone they are throwing to the Armenians before the new academic year starts. AGBU has not even set a committee to study the feasibility and implementation of such a project. Note the statement: AGBU is planning to open "Melkonian educational center." Yep... they are just planning, and these plans could take years to materialize or could be totally forgotten. AGBU has not even "appointed" a committee to study the feasibility of such a project, and if it does "appoint" in the near future, I wonder how many of the members will be "educators" who know how to set up curriculum based on needs of a community...

Didn't AGBU in its press release about closing Melkonian in Cyprus complain that Bulgarian Armenians did not want to communicate with Lebanese-Armenians, etc? So do they think once Melkonian is transferred to Armenia, everything will be OK and the students will be a big happy family?

The funniest part in the article below is the following: "Diaspora Armenians will learn Armenian language, literature and history which will contribute to preservation of Armenian identity and Armenian education."

1) Wouldn't it be easier and cheaper for the Diaspora Armenians to learn and preserve Armenian language and literature and culture in their own countries??? Only if AGBU had the vision and the willingness to make standards at the Diaspora schools better!!! As usual, they are in "denial" that nothing is rotten in the schools of the Diaspora.

2) If Armenian parents are not willing to pay full tuition at Armenian schools (claiming they cannot afford it), how will they send their children all the way to Armenia to learn the Armenian language? Who's going to pay all the travel, visa and accommodation expenses, let alone the course fees? The AGBU or the parents?

3) Unlike what Ghazarian thinks, the only possibility for the new Melkonian in Armenia to function and prosper is to make it a tourism program. Without the proper planning, vision and transparent mission, AGBU will discover that this Melkonian is also financially a burden and close it in 5-10 years. Their expectation of 200 students a year is quite hysterical. But I really hope I am wrong!!!