

*ALUMNUS Dr. Shams Kassim-Lakha Class of 1953 Duke of Gloucester School.*

There is a saying "Great Men are truly the result of training by teachers foremost amongst whom are the parents"

One of the illustrious examples for us to see is Dr. Shamsh Kassim Lakha the Minister for Education, Science & Technology Caretaker Government of Pakistan, a shining star & graduate of the Duke of Gloucester School, class of 1953

The legacy inherited by Dr. Shamsh Kassim Lakha starts from ancient times in Kutch, India and with the adventures begun by Dr. Lakha's Great Grandfather who at the age of 18 sailed from Porbunder India in a Dhow and came to Zanzibar in 1871, earned the goodwill of the Sultan of Zanzibar. In 10 years he moved to Lamu on the coast of Kenya and started a grocery shop. He engaged a teacher from Zanzibar to teach his children reading and writing. Among these was Alibhai Kassim- Lakha, grandfather of Dr. Shamsh Kasim- Lakha. In 1905 the Grandfather moved the family to Kisumu. For the many meritorious services performed by the Grandfather the Governor of Kenya had a Clock Tower built in Kisumu to honor the Grandfather's memory. The opening ceremony was performed by the Governor of Kenya, Sir Robert on August 19,1938

Alibhai Kassim- Lakha, together with his brothers and father worked for Varas Alidina Vishram till 1910 when Alibhai and his brother Mohammad started their own family business Alibhai & Rehmatullah as traders and entered the Export business for produce and other items. The firm started exporting overseas and Alibhai moved to Mombasa to handle the export. Soon the family owned a fleet of Dhows and built an empire consisting of cotton ginneries, land and property, import & export, Hotels, Coffee factory, plantations and investment companies.

Abdul Rasul (Father of Dr. Shamsh Kassim- Lakha) was the son of Alibhai Kassim- Lakha, who was born in Mombasa, Kenya on November 11, 1916. He was among the first family member to access education. He did his early schooling in the Aga Khan School in Mombasa, and passed senior Cambridge in 1933. In 1934, he joined his family business, beginning with cotton ginneries followed by bakery, confectionery, biscuits in the name of Whitehouse Bakery, Nairobi and sisal farm. The family also had hotel interests by way of the Imperial in Kampala and the Oceanic in Mombasa.

Abdul Rasul Alibhai Kassim Lakha was a social worker, and like his father, perpetuated the tradition of service in various fields. This spirit has been imbibed by Dr Shamsh, the family tradition of service above self continues, further solidified by Teachers at the Duke Of Gloucester School. We, the class of 1957 in saluting our Teachers also salute Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha for providing us all with an example of how Teachers can mold and instill values in the young minds to go beyond one's self and serve God by serving fellow humans

*Brief Profile of Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, H.I., S.I.*

*Educated at the Duke of Gloucester High School, Nairobi, South Bank and Westminster Universities in the U.K. for undergraduate studies and the University of Minnesota, U.S.A. for his graduate studies, Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha's professional career has spanned industrial development and higher education. For sixteen years he headed venture capital, industrial and tourism promotion initiatives of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development. Thereafter for nearly three decades, first as head of the planning and building team and later as Founding President and Trustee of Aga Khan University (AKU), he lead the*

*University in Pakistan, East Africa, Afghanistan, Egypt, Syria and the U.K. Under his leadership the University attained international recognition for the quality of its academic and service programmes in Medicine, Nursing and Education.*

*Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha has served on the boards of several government, professional and research organizations, including the Pakistan Medical Research Council and on numerous governmental bodies and advisory panels in the areas of environmental protection, finance, energy, health and education. He chaired the government committee that developed and wrote the Environment Protection Act of Pakistan 1997. Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha co-chaired the Commission for the Establishment of the University of Central Asia in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. He was appointed co-chair of the Task Force for the Improvement of Higher Education in Pakistan by the Government of Pakistan and subsequently served as Chairman of the Steering Committee on Higher Education, with the status of Minister of State. The President of Pakistan has also appointed him on the high level National Commission for Government Reforms as well as the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.*

*In November 2007, Dr. Kassim-Lakha was appointed Federal Minister of Education as well as Science and Technology in the Caretaker Government of Pakistan.*

*He is recognized for his pioneering leadership roles in voluntary community service and for enhancing philanthropy. He is the founding Chair of the Board of Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy and a Board Member of the Pakistan Human Development Fund of the government. With this wide ranging involvement, Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha has pioneered the building of world class institutions in Pakistan that have acted as successful bridges for the transfer of technical know-how, talent, and capital between the industrialized world and the developing countries.*