

### **READING (3) (Items 12-17)**

*Read the text. Then complete the tasks.*

Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sumait was an Islamic scholar, medical practitioner but more importantly, a humanitarian. He was born in 1947 in Kuwait. He was famously known for his voluntary and charity work in more than 29 African countries.

Al-Sumait was a qualified doctor in internal medicine before becoming involved in charity work. In 1972, he graduated from the University of Baghdad with a degree in Medicine and Surgery and then he got a diploma in Tropical Diseases from the University of Liverpool in 1974. He completed his specialization degree in medicine from McGill University in Canada in 1978. He published some scientific research articles and 13 different books.

Al-Sumait's interest in charity work started as a secondary school student when he observed poor workers waiting for transport in the heat. With some friends he decided to save up from their pocket money and buy an affordable car to drive these workers for free. At university, Al-Sumait used the majority of his monthly salary to purchase Islamic books and distribute them at mosques.

Al-Sumait became interested in Africa when he felt and saw that it was being neglected. African countries became the focus of his operations. In 1981, Abdul Rahman Al-Sumait founded the Africa Muslims Agency, which was later renamed as 'Direct Aid' society. He also established Kuwait Relief Agency and was the chief editor of Al-Kawthar Magazine. When he was 35 years old, he decided to move and live in Africa. He dedicated 29 years of his life there, helping millions of children with education, food, shelter, and religion.

'Direct Aid' provides extensive humanitarian assistance to poor Muslims throughout Africa. It has built 124 hospitals, 840 schools, 4 universities, 204 Islamic Centers, 214 women training centers and 2,200 mosques. The society has also established two colleges in Kenya and Zanzibar and offered 200 scholarships to Muslim African students to continue their higher studies in medicine, engineering and technology.

Although Al-Sumait's journey in Africa was a major success, it was full of