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Sudarma Samarajeewa (Agriculture) Susantha Mohottalage (Science) Niroshan Thanthirige (Medicine, Veterinary Medicine & Dental) Asoka Vidyaratne (Engineering) Saman Jayathilake (Arts) Dear Members,

A few of our members came across the attached message from a first year Agriculture student of University of Peradeniya. These members requested the Executive Committee to help rescue this student from a very unfortunate circumstances. Followings are the details:

- 1. This student's only support has been her mother and unfortunately her mother passed away suddenly on 30th September 2019 (please read her letter in the attachment).
- In late November 2019, the student was approached by the guarantors for bank loans her mother had obtained and demanded the student to settle these loans. Her mother had also borrowed from a village lender putting the deed of their house as a collateral. In addition, the student herself has obtained a loan.
- 3. Some of these lenders and loan guarantors are threatening her with legal actions and demanding her to settle these loans. All these stresses started to affect her studies.
- 4. The truthfulness of her claims are verified by the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and one of AAUPOC alumni member (Prof. Udith Jayasinghe in Sri Lanka). Additional documental proofs are provided by the students to us and we are very convinced that it is a genuine case.
- 5. This student is receiving the Mahapola Scholarship hence she is not qualified to receive a scholarship that we provide through the mother Alumni Association, yet given her circumstance the faculty has arranged another bursary.
- 6. These scholarship and bursaries will not be enough to repay her total debt amount (Rs. 413,379.00 or about CN \$ 3,000). She is desperately seeking help to settle these loans.
- 7. A few of our members and outsiders (through initial Facebook post) have already pledged their support with considerable amount of donations and most of our members are eager to help her. Further, we are in the process of securing assistance from other alumni associations (Toronto and Australian Chapters as well as others living in different cities in Canada).
- 8. This is a unique opportunity to help a Peradeniya student to be successful in her life. We appeal to your generous contributions towards this worthy cause. If this is something that appealing you to help during this festive season, please send your contribution to us by Cash, Cheque, or etransfer to aaupoc@yahoo.ca (use the question "What is this money for" and answer "fundraiser" as AAUPOC cannot setup with auto deposit), so that we can do the needful.

Thanking you,

Secretary, AAUOPC (on behalf of the Fund-Raising Committee)

P.S. Due to the privacy, we are not circulating documents / not revealing the details of the student, however if you are interested in seeing the original letters we received, we can provide the censored version of any of the letters which are in our possession.