

# Mother's struggle for son's schooling bears fruit

Gulf News readers help pay deposit for boy's residency.

- By Bassma Al Jandaly, Senior Reporter
- Published: 00:00 October 5, 2010



Ajman: Seven-year-old Ali Mohammad Awad from Yemen will get his residency visa after all.

Ali was earlier barred from going to school after his mother was unable to arrange for the required deposit but, with help from *Gulf News* readers, she managed to pay the Dh5,000 deposit at the Ajman Residency and Foreigners Affairs Department.

Last week *Gulf News* had reported about Ali and his mother's struggle to arrange for the deposit needed to sponsor him.

A reader offered to pay Dh5,000 to the residency department so that Umm Ali would be able to sponsor her son. The mother's profession — she is a driving instructor in Ajman — falls in a list of 57 job categories in which workers can sponsor their family members only if they deposit Dh5,000 for each one of their family members.

Previously, residency rules in the UAE barred workers in these 57 categories of unskilled and semi-skilled labour from sponsoring their family members.

Major General Nasser Al Awadi Al Menhali, Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior for Naturalisation, Residency and Ports Affairs, told *Gulf News* last week that the profession of the mother as a driving instructor was among the 57 categories under which it was required to keep a deposit with the residency section. He said the mother would have to deposit Dh5,000 to sponsor her son.

"My son's residency visa is being processed now. He also has a case at the residency court and should pay [a] fine as he was illegal for the past five years," Umm Ali said.

Umm Ali had earlier said that the residency department told her on Sunday that she could not sponsor her son till she had a bank account.

## Work hard

"I have no money and no salary yet. I barely can survive. I will work hard to support my son," she said.

The mother said she used to live with her husband in Ajman before the company in which her husband used to work shut down and they were rendered illegal residents. Her husband could not find another job. "My husband was deported to Yemen and I managed to get a job here [with] which I can support myself and my son," she said.

Umm Ali said her son's residency visa was approved after she paid the deposit. "I will work on sending him to school," the mother said.

"With the help of *Gulf News* readers I can sponsor my son. I hope I can sending him to school," she said.

Umm Ali said she has just joined work as a driving instructor with a company in Ajman.

© Gulf News 2010