

REPORTS FROM THE YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

DATA:11 October 2018

Location: Fadugu (Kasonko chiefdom) Koinadugu District

The Youth Advocacy Network engaged ,teachers, headmasters,head mistress, Paramount chief,Youth leader, Chair lady, Mammy Queen, parents,SMC, Representative from Ministry of Social welfare, Principals and pupils from the 3 primary Schools and 2 Secondary Schools in Fadugu.

The Program was chaired by Saffie Kamara.Saffe Kamara on her opening statements said YAN is a group that is advocating for the right of young people especially girls.She continued to say YAN has been visiting others communities in Koinadugu but this year YAN choose Fadugu because it's one of the communities that has been reporting case of Teenage pregnancy, Child marriage, FGM and sexual gender based violences especially to girls.Saffie called a girl (Dannette Thulla) from YAN who gave the purpose of the day.

Madam Chair lady, Paramount chief, Principals,head masters/mistress, teachers,youth leader, chaired lady, representative from social welfare, teachers, parents, pupils from different schools and my colleagues YAN members, good morning to you all.My name is Dannette Thulla the Organising Secretary of YAN.I am honoured to stand here today to explain the purpose of this day,why it is been celebrate every year and how this day is very important to us the girls.

In the year October 11 2012 as been declared by UN as the International Day of the Girl child.The aim of this day is to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, also promoting girls empowerment and the fulfilment of their humans rights

I stand here today to talk on issues affecting girls as this year THEME says WITH HER A SKILLED GIRL FORCE.Today's generation, girls are preparing to enter a world of work that is been transformed by innovation and automation.Educated and Skilled workers are in the great demand, but roughly a quarter of young people most of them are female and they are neither employed or in education or training centers

Of the 1 billions young people- including 600 millions adolescent girls that will enter the work force in the next decade,more than 90% of those living in developing countries will work in formal sector where there is less or no pay,abuse and sexual exploitation are common.

With this YAN join the world to celebrate this day as we stand to with girls everywhere so that they can be inspired,be innovative so that they can take care of their future on their own.We all know that our fellow girls are faced with adversities that hinder their education, training and entering to the work force.They have less or no access to information,communication, technology and resources such as internet where the global gender gap is growing.

On this International Day of the Girl Child, we are working on alongside all girls to expand existing learning opportunities, create new pathways and we are calling on our government, local government, Paramount chiefs, Authorities and community people to rethink on how to prepare the girls for the future work force. Under the theme, WITH HER A SKILLED GIRL FORCE the International Day of the Girl Child will mark the new beginning of a year-long effort to bring together partners, and stakeholders to advocate for and draw attention and investments to, the most pressing needs and opportunities for girls to attain skills for employability in our various communities

I will like to leave with the quote of the day from our President which say

" Let's invest in the education and make them the most skill girls to set them on a path to achieve their greatest potential in the future jobs"

I thank you all for giving me your full attention

After Dannette Thulla explained the purpose of the day. Two girls from Fadugu School gave a brief statements about issues that is affecting them in Kasonko chiefdom. According to the girls they have never learnt about this expect today, they girls continued to say they are lots issues affecting in the community especially child marriage and teenage pregnancy and they are pleading to their stakeholders to address these with immediate effect. The girls said they are also pleading to the stakeholders to help with vocational centres. With these training centres in their chiefdom it will help lots of girls that doesn't have the chance to go to school due to financial problems. If these girls learnt Skilled jobs they can create jobs for themselves and they don't have to be dependant to other people. A skirt was done by the primary girls which passed on a message of girls empowerment.

STATEMENTS

The headmistress of DEC who also double as the SMC thank YAN for this great ventured. She explained to the children about their rights and responsibilities.

Some of the parents gave a brilliant ideas by saying sometime most of the girls also contribute to the issues of Teenage pregnancy by going to clubs and bars rather taking their books seriously. The parents said they have a responsibilities but also the girls also have a role to play. The parents also suggested that YAN need to engage the girls alone about issues affecting and how they can stop the ideas of going to clubs and bars which they believe that it will contribute to Teenage pregnancy

The Principal from Secondary School who talked on behalf of all the teachers and Principals said they have heard the concern raised by girls especially the area of help the school with qualify teachers, vocational centers. The Principal said they are going to talk to the government to approve more teachers in the school. He continued to say they are going to beg partners and the government to help them with vocational centers in the Chiefdom

The Youth leader said he is very happy with the ideas created by YAN as the Youth are the leaders of Today. He said the ideas of saying Youth are the future leaders is an old saying rather the Youth are

today leaders and that why they need to be well prepared to work for the country.As the Youths are the strong force of any country.

The Representative from Ministry of Social welfare thank YAN by saying what YAN is doing is to compliment the effort of government.He said the government only celebrate this yeat IDG at National level but YAN have done a great job by going to the community level and this day with them.He urged YAN to continue doing the good work

After the various statements from different people.The pupils asked if there is a possibility for YAN to have a branch in Fadugu.The President said for now YAN is based in Kabala but we are working in various communities in Koinadugu but he is praying and hoping that YAN will have a branch in Fadugu in the future

Finally after the program.The YAN girls and some girls from secondary Schools went to the field and they had a football match which went successful.

Prepared and Submitted by

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