

## **Youth Advocacy Network Kabala, Off Bankolia Road.**

**Activity report on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019.** YAN undertook their 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary activity at the office and there were 50 people in attendance, the activity was chaired by Isata Fineh Samura. In her opening remarks she welcomed everyone present at the program. She went straight to agenda without wasting time, and on the agenda the following items were discussed;

- Introduction of YAN members
- Introduction from stake holders
- Statement from YAN president on the purpose of foundation
- School support and role of ambassadors (Finah Conteh)
- Advocacy activities and the Semamaya Girls (foday B Kamara)
- Job skills, opportunities and challenges (Bangalie a mansaray)
- Facilities YAN have at the moment (Lamin Mansaray)
- Statement from Advisors (Mr Jones and Mrs sesay)
- Statement from Semamaya Chief
- Refreshment
- YAN and the future, sustainability and challenges (Sajor Jalloh)
- Statement from Stake holders
  - 1 chairman district youth council
  - 2 district youth officer
  - 3 AMNET
  - 4 District library Board
  - 5 FAWE
  - 6 Radio station representatives
  - 7 Social welfare
  - 8 Children forum network
- Open discussion on how to build a better and sustainable YAN
- Vote of thanks
- Closing remarks

On the introduction of members every member introduced him or herself respectively as demanded by the chair person, the same goes to the stake holders and the advisors.

Next, the chairperson asked the President to give a brief back round of the organization and why the foundation, Sajor stood up and first warmly welcomed each and every member that are part of this remarkable event, he further outlined a brief history of the organization as he stated that the Youth Advocacy Network was formed in August 17th 2017 of which He received the first letter from STA on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Stating that they are willing to work them as young people geared toward the development of their peers, young ones, vulnerable persons and the district as a whole. He continued that, within these few years they have achieved a lot and have faced lots of challenges, that is what gave birth to this remarkable day August 17<sup>th</sup>. The chairperson thanked him for that brief historical development of the organization. She went on the next item on the agenda and asked Finah Conteh to explain the school support program and the role of the ambassadors, Finah outlined that the School support program began immediately when we wrote our letter of reply, thanks and appreciation to STA, of which 13 members benefited of which majority were re-seaters and the rest normal school going. She further

explained that in 2018 we saw the need to help more vulnerable pupils in the district within 5 secondary schools. 5 from each school, 11 YAN members and of course the 11 Semamaya girls. STA gave all this support by spending millions of leones through YAN. She stated that in their visit in 2018 to 19, they recommended that let us appoint ambassadors within YAN to be monitoring the beneficiaries from the various schools and we worked towards that, which was challenging but “we thrived by it” and it is successful because we gave our reports base on the findings we got at the schools. She further stated that, the role of the ambassadors is not only to monitor, but to also serve as mentors for these beneficiaries as way to bring the good out of them. The chairperson thanked her and went to the next item on the agenda and asked Foday B Kamara to talk on advocacy activities and the Semamaya girls; he thanked the chairperson for giving him the opportunity to outline the advocacy activities and at least talk on the Semamaya girls, he first of stated that our advocacy began from CYAB under DCI, he further explained that after the formation of YAN we suggested that let include advocacy in the name of our organization because we are different advocates from different schools within the township. He said due to our advocacy work, we are able to reach communities to discuss sexual gender base violence, teenage pregnancy, child early marriage, FGM and the importance of girl child education. He stated that we went to communities through the support from STA, engage the community people discuss on the above issues and plan a way forward on how to stop it, Semamaya, Koindembaia and Fadugu communities we have worked with so far. We have also observed international days and discuss issues with other organizations, as he speaks. He said some stake holders might be baffled why the Semamaya, he stated that we will not be afraid to present these girls before you all here that they are some of the successes we made in one of the poor, and stubborn communities through our advocacy. Next was Bangalie A Mansaray to talk on the job skills and the challenges. In his statement he thanked everyone present, he outlined a detail about the job skills, which was supported by STA in 2018 as a means to empower us in the middle man power. STA supported 7 members to empower themselves in skills to enable them become independent and become the next gear towards YAN, but things went wrong on both side! That is the institution recommended and the beneficiaries, which are,

- Poor administration
- Lack of teachers
- Insufficient learning materials as promised
- Lack of patient and willingness to learn
- Finally irregularity. The chairperson went to the next speaker that is Lamin Mansaray to talk on some of the facilities YAN have at the moment? He stood up and greeted everyone and stated that YAN at the Moment has the following Facilities through the help of our donors.
- Office
- Computers
- Generator
- Text books for both junior and senior schools
- Job skills
- School support project
- Laminator
- Peer to peer education every Saturday meeting

He asked the stake holders and everyone present to Join YAN to give STA a big thank you for being so supportive of YAN.

The next statement comes from Pa Jones one of the advisors, he thanked and appreciated Yan and Sta for the good work done and he urged the Yan members to stay united and work together as an organization. The Semamaya chief in his statement on behalf of parents and stake holders from the section thanked YAN and its donors for him he cannot explain much because the intervention of YAN in his section has improve the education system more for the girl child and for all!

Next in agenda was the statement from STAKE HOLDERS; the first to make his statement was the chairman Koinadug District Youth Council. In his statement, he expressed thanks and appreciation to entire board of YAN and STA for being so supportive of the district, he stated that the district youth council will always be including YAN in its activities for the excellent work done he stated that he is excited on the administration of YAN because it is made of young and talented people. Next statement comes from the district youth officer, he stated that for his office YAN is not strange as the president have always been consulting him on the activities of YAN for advice and he promise to open his doors for YAN at all time because YAN is a focused group. The AMNET representative on his statement thanked YAN and the donors for their marvelous work done as he can affirm to the fact that what all have been said is fact and he is aware. The admin at FAWE in his statement thanked and appealed on behalf of the administration for the unfortunate incident that took place and he confirmed that FAWE is now a government approved institution and all problems has been fixed! He further stated that the graduation of the student would have been in July but they post pone that because they want the students to recover what was left behind, finally he thank Yan for the corporation and urged the members going their on their skills training to begin as they are always open to receive YAN. The district librian in his statement was very impressed and thanked YAN to YARN for more and achieve, he further expressed that he thank STA for their support that they are giving the young people from the district as this is what they expect other organizations to follow outside there.

- Group discussion on how to build a better YAN in the future. The president was the first to make his speech on this very side of the agenda, he thanked and congratulated all the various presenters and speakers, he stated that all the various reports they have heard from various YAN members does not mean all is well! He brings out some of the challenges;

\*like the location of the office

\*active membership

And he granted permission from the chairperson to read a letter from STA, in which he was granted. He read the letter and explained it in Krio so that everyone can participate. After the letter, lots of ideas comes up on how to build a sustainable YAN.

1 to give support to the dedicated 5 YAN members to at least further their educations as this will be a back bone for the organizations sustainability. In this STA have to conduct its evaluation from the membership of and Give support to those that will go and come again to give support in turn or serve YAN. This has to be done with an MOU.

2 let STA buy pieces of land and Y AN will be undertaking the Agricultural project there, and in the future they will build an institution there when those who enter colleges and universities come and support the project.

3 the assignment about the office, is a shared responsibility of all parents here at the program and STA have to help in an affordable Price.

4 let there be trust worthy people to mand the organization even if the present regime leaves.

Finally, Finah Conteh gave the vote of thanks.

- ACHIEVEMENTS

We learnt different ideas from stake holders

We interact with elders and planned the way forwards

We understood that many doors are open to us  
we learn that we should be honest to each other

We were invited on a radio discussion

The whole district got the information on the radio about our foundation and what we achieve and challenges.