

Y A N celebration of the International mother's day

On the 8th of may 2022, Youth Advocacy Network celebrated the International mother's day at the office space in kabala town.

They were 79 people in attendance.

At the program, parents, Y A N members and some stakeholders were present. Also, one of Y A N advisers (Owen Jones) was in attendance. The agenda consisted of the following :

1. Call to order of the program.
2. Opening prayer.
3. Welcome address
4. Introduction of the chairperson
5. Chairperson opening remarks
6. Purpose of the program
7. Statement from Y A N
8. Short skit (drama)
9. Statement from parents
10. Statement from the media
11. Refreshments
12. Vote of thanks

Call to order, opening prayer and welcome address was done by Sorie I Turay.

Introduction of the chairperson was done by Feremusu Mansaray.

Next was chairperson opening remarks, and the chairperson was Kadiatu Bah. In her opening speech, she thanked all the mothers who made it possible to attend the program. She went forward by expressing how important the day was to mothers and they should enjoy it as it was dedicated to them special. She assured everyone that, the program will be brief and interesting.

Next was purpose of the program. It was done by Manty.

In her speech, she talked about the important of this day. According to her, she said, this day was set aside by the United nations in order of honoring mothers right across the world. She continued by talking about the theme(Y A N theme) of this year's celebration which says, " To increase the influence of mothers in the society". She encouraged mothers to step up and create positive changes in the lives of their children by taking part in decision making at home and as well as the society were they found themselves. She said, this could only be achieved if only they come in front and speak up their mind. She as well talked to members to respect their mothers and care for them.

However on the statement from Y A N, Lamin Mansaray spoke on behalf of the organization. In his speech, he gave warm-hearted welcome to the mothers. He showed his gratitude for seeing our mothers making it to the program. He encouraged them to feel free and enjoy the day. He continued by given a brief background and history of the organization. He made mentioned of the founding members and thank them for creating the platform for every Y A N member. He concluded by saying, it a blessing for us to host our mothers in our office.

Next on the agenda was the short skit that was done by some Y A N members.

The skit was about the influence mothers should have on their children and household. It was interesting and briefed.

Statement from parents was next. A parent stood up and thank Y A N for organizing such programs. She was happy to be part of it. She stated that, she has learnt a lot from the skit and promise to be always a good mother. Another parent confess that, she is having some issues with her family when ever it comes to decision making. But insisted that she will not give up to say her mind in decision making once it is a positive one. She said Y A N has given her the spirit to stand for the truth,and will continue to change the mindset of her family. Owen Jones also commended the good work of Y A N and also advised parents(mothers) to always be there for their children. He went on and gave a positive statement.

From the media, saffie Kamara (Y A N 's vice president) was in attendance, she encouraged mothers to be a blessing to their family. She also advised Y A N members to accept their moms no matter the condition. She also thanked everybody for coming.

Food and drinks were served to everyone.

YAN provide le 60'000 for 20 mother's that came from the village.

The vote of thanks was given by Tenneh Mansaray.

Success Stories

At the end of the program, through the drama and from different speakers, we were able to create awareness and change the mindset of mothers who attended the program. Mothers testify that they are happy to attend such program and looking forward to celebrate this day in subsequent years. Another success was that, Y A N was engaged by the media.

Challenges

- Price inflation of commodities and goods in the country was a huge challenge. In current times, we have seen a rapid growth of prices of both local and foreign materials.
- The price inflation led to the challenge of shortage /Insufficient of fund.

Recommendations

Youth Advocacy Network is looking forward to S T A to receive support in subsequent years to come in order to celebrate the mothers day. And also Y A N recommended that S T A will increase the fund next time so more mothers will be invited.

By Sorie I Turay.