

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2017 REPORT



THEME

*‘Accelerating protection empowerment and
equal opportunities for children
in Africa by 2030’*

VENUE

ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE GROUNDS

DATE

16TH JUNE 2017

Acknowledgement

We thank God for the gift of life and his protection. The day of the African child was marked successfully because of his love towards us.

I acknowledge all those who were involved in marking this important day in one way or the other. Every year we gather at Dala Kiye grounds to mark this day and you have always been supportive. Thank you very much.

Our spirited teachers continue with the same spirit and motivation in guiding and organizing the young ones who have never run out of songs and dances to entertain people on such a day.

Thank you to all child guests and other guests for showing up and delivering educative speeches. Apart from the educative entertainments, the speeches helped us think deeper why the day was important to all African children.

The effort put in organizing this day's event by the Dala Kiye team was remarkable. I would like to thank you for the good work done.

Lastly, special gratitude goes to **We World Kenya Foundation**. Your financial support in this day cannot go unrecognized. We always appreciate the support.

Fr. Emilio Balliana
Program Director

Introduction

The Day of the African child has been celebrated on June 16th every year since 1991 ever since it was initiated by the Organization of African Unity. This day honors those children who participated in the Soweto uprising in 1976. This day also creates awareness on the need for improvement of education provided to children in Africa.

As Dala Kiye, we have always been vigilant on providing education to our children. Marking this day is always a reminder that more needs to be done in education sector to help the children. This year's theme was: *'Accelerating protection empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030'*

The theme was providing a vision in education for all children. There is still need to provide more equal opportunities to children and empower them to access education. Every child has the right to education and this year's theme was envisioning an African child by 2030.

Children and guests were provided with white paper caps with the day's theme marked on them for symbolic purposes. Dala Kiye ground was full with children from different surrounding schools accompanied by their teachers, guests and parents. The crowd present hinted the power of educating African children.



The day was opened by a prayer from Fr. Elphas Kolia, thereafter Dala Kiye program coordinator took to the podium to welcome all and appreciate everyone for coming. He also brought to the crowd's attention the details of the day and he finished by giving directions on courtesy.



The interesting activities of the day then begun by a speech from one of the child guests. In her speech, the child guest mentioned the benefits of educating a girl child. She stated how doomed a country can be without education. She encouraged the parents and guardians to protect and safeguard the interests of children, providing for their needs at all times to prevent any ill misconduct that might make them drop out of school. To conclude her speech, she appreciated the tremendous work done by the NGOs in providing education for children. She in a special way thanked Dala Kiye for having children at heart and providing for them. Her speech was one of a kind. The kind of pain and suffering all children go through daily, only access to education can eradicate such pain.

After her speech, children who had presentations for the day's event were ready at the registration desk. Compared to other open days, Day of the African child is the most enjoyed open day by children because it mostly involve them right from the beginning. They get to organize themselves and take a leading role.



The children were really equipped with entertainments. For the first time in open days there was an acrobatics presentation. Students from B.L.Tezza secondary showed their massive acrobatic skills with much keenness. They carefully balanced their bodies on each other with much flexibility which the crowd had never seen before. This game opened the stage for other entertainment.



Children presented poems, songs and dances that encouraged the society to educate the children. They also had plays acted in line with the theme. Traditional dances cheered the crowd and more talent was conveyed by upcoming youth artists.



In between entertainments, speeches were presented by the guests like the area chief. To close the speech session was the male child guest who noted the importance of education and share with the audience evidence of young people dropping out of school to venture into fish business and 'boda boda' riding. It was a wakeup call for parents, children and the authorities to bring back the children who were swayed out of education line.



The day was solely for children. They enjoyed themselves. They were the masters of ceremony and they participated in dancing and eating competition. They also presented comedy plays which were interesting.

At 1.00 pm people took a break from the entertainments and went for lunch. As usual, all children had their bread and soft drink as the guests had their lunch in the dining hall. After lunch, people gathered at the football pitch to watch the first football match between B.L.Tezza primary and Sori primary. It was a tough game but in every fight there must be a winner and Sori primary was declared winner of that match.



Another match was between Rabuor primary boys and Paulo Odendo primary boys. The young boys manifested their skills on field and Rabuor managed to beat Paulo Odendo 2-1. The winners in the two matches then faced each other in the field for finals. The two tough teams were so competent that no team was willing to concede defeat. It was after they were added more time that they went for a penalty and Rabuor took the victory home.

The girls were not left behind. As the finals were heated, Wachara and Gunga primary netball girls were testing their might. The struggle between the two teams ended when Wachara primary emerged first. There were teams in line on this day. After the young boys and girls did their part, the teenagers from secondary schools picked the race.

B.L.Tezza secondary football team met with Rabuor secondary football team and after a while B.L.Tezza beat Rabuor 4-1. Meanwhile, the secondary girls' netball team was ongoing too. The match between B.L.Tezza secondary and Rabuor secondary netball teams closed the ball games chapter with B.L.Tezza taking the victory home.



The last program of the day was presentation of awards to the beautiful children who entertained the crowd till the end. They were presented with exercise books, pens, bar soaps, biscuits, balls, shoe polish, tooth pastes and tooth brushes. The children were so happy and everyone was amazed by how successful the day ended.



A closing prayer was done by Fr. Reuben and all guests and children left at their own pleasure.

Report compiled by:

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