

DAY OF AFRICAN CHILD CELEBRATION 2018



VENUE

ST. CAMILLUS DALA KIYE GROUNDS

THEME

***“LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND FOR AFRICA’S
DEVELOPMENT”***

DATE

16TH JUNE 2018

Acknowledgement

We appreciate the good work done by the teachers in organizing the pupils to attend the celebration. The Day of the African Child, being a day of celebrating all African children, the pupils were very important figures on this day.

Thank you to all community members who had the chance to join in marking the day. An important appreciation goes to all Dala Kiye staff for organizing, setting up the venue and working throughout the day to ensure its success.

Thank you to the Child guests who graced the occasion showing that the day was basically for all children and their wellbeing.

Most importantly, the pillar of this day was We World Kenya Foundation for their financial support; we were able to run things smoothly.

Fr. Emilio Balliana
Program Director

Introduction

International Day of the African Child has always been celebrated on 16th June every year since it was set to honor the black school children in Soweto, South Africa. Those children protested for quality education and marched to the streets of Soweto demanding their rights to be taught in their native language.

International NGOs, governments and locals always gather on 16th June to remind themselves of the key role they need to play in an African child's education. This day also creates awareness on education issues; honor young people and bring attention to their needs.

St. Camillus Dala Kiye is an institution that works with and for Orphans and Vulnerable children. This noble act means that all rights of the children must be represented, right to education being one of them. This year's theme was *"leave no child behind for Africa's development"*. The theme created more awareness on the rights of children to be opinioned. Children have a voice and their voices should be heard.

All invited schools represented by teachers and pupils, community members, partners and Dala Kiye staff gathered at Dala Kiye grounds to mark this day.

The celebration

The preparation and organization of the venue started early in the morning with the responsibility given to all Dala Kiye male staff. The tents and chairs were arranged and set, the public address system was also connected and the sound of the music invited people to the venue.

Registration of guests started at 8 am and it was a continuous process as the guests arrived. The celebration was opened by a word of prayer from Fr. John Kariuki who presented his opening remarks after prayers. In his remarks, he reminded the gathering of the role of each and every individual in ensuring that children are taking part in the development of the continent. He mentioned how lucky Africa is because most children are talented. Having said this, he also challenged all children to be responsible beings adhering to elders and obeying school rules. He cursed early pregnancies and abortions among teenagers.



Dala Kiye coordinator also gave his welcoming remarks and he basically talked of all rights of the children and the types. He encouraged all bodies working with children to respect children rights and also challenged the children to know their rights and rise up when they are being infringed.

An entertainment by Dala Kiye foster children opened the entertainment session. Different schools performed songs, skits and dances according to the day's theme and hinting on rights of children. The most moving and educative entertainment was a choral verse intertwined in a song presented by St. Mary's boys primary school. The young boys firmly brought out the struggle between parents and teachers in finding what is best for the children not taking into consideration what the children's interests are. Parents in most cases recommend their children to different courses, teachers advise children on what subjects they think are important but they forget to ask what these children really think of such.



Disability is not inability. B.L.Tezza special school for the deaf were not left behind during the presentations, they represented the section of the disabled children and entertained guests with a beautiful modern dance.

Speeches were alternated with entertainments. A speech from Sidika primary head teacher introduced moment of silence in honor of the Soweto children massacred during their protest of poor education quality. He reminded the gathering of what a huge sacrifice those children made to ensure that African children could access quality education.



Two most important guests on this day were children officials of the Kenya Children Assembly members. One of them presented a speech acknowledging how beautiful African children are and how important their education is to their development.

People took a break at 1.00 pm for snacks and lunch for the guests. The children had soft drinks and bread as guests had their meal in the dining hall. After lunch, everyone gathered at the field to watch a football match between Rabuor primary and B.L.Tezza primary boys. The game between the young boys was tough and the referees called it in where a penalty score saved Rabuor primary a win.



Fr. Claudio helped with the presentation of awards to all children who presented songs, dances and poems and entertained the gathering. The winning football team took home a brand new ball.

The day came to an end with a closing prayer from Fr. John Kariuki and all guests left at their own pleasure.

Report compiled by:
Angwanga Sharon
Social Worker,
St. Camillus Dala Kiye