

A REPORT OF THE ONE DAY ACTIVITY TO MARK THE GLOBAL EFA WEEK OF ACTION, 2005 TAGGED "POLITICIANS BACK TO SCHOOL" HELD AT GOVT. SCIENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL, KUJE. ON 24TH APRIL, 2005

PREAMBLE

Women's Right to Education Programme (WREP) a Non-governmental, and a voluntary organisation with support from Civil society Action Coalition on Education for all (CSACEFA) organized the activity as part of the programmes marking the Global EFA week of Action 2005 tagged "Educate to End poverty.

The Activity was organized with the aim of bringing the Global EFA celebration to the people at the grassroots to be part of partnership of civil society organisation with National governments in the delivery of education following the Dakar forum in year 2000.

THE POLITICIAN BACK TO SCHOOL

The politician back to school is an Activity that brought together both prominent and influential persons elected and appointees of Kuje Area council, school children, out of school persons, Teachers and some members of civil society organizations.

The forum witnessed politicians interacting directly with both in school and out of school children.

OPENING

The event opened with prayers by a pupil Gabriel Adejo. Thereafter In her welcome remark, the Executive Director of WREP ably represented by the Deputy Director, Mrs. Maureen Tsenongo introduced members of staff of WREP who were present at the forum, the Chairman representative and other dignitaries around and there after went ahead to give a recapp of the Global EFA week Launch at the national and its relationship with the "politicians Back to school" activity in Kuje Area council.

She said Education is vital to the survival of any nation, and that is why government at any level must ensure that education is not only made available, accessible, Acceptable but also adoptable to every child irrespective of gender, tribe or religion she said in spite of the passage into law of the UBE bill in May 2004 and a UBE Commission established as the vehicle for the delivery of EFA guarantees free and compulsory education for all Nigerian children, There are still large gaps between policy statements and their implementation. For instance, How can we enforce the provisions in the UBE Act when a parent fails to send his/her child of school between the school is a by distance from their home or when a parent takes the child to school and there are no class rooms, not enough teachers or teaching materials?

The answers to these Question she add, may provide the reason why even at home, there are discriminations in the choices made of which child to send to school, discriminatory fees

announced by some state governments for indigence's in their states. And the frequent upward review of school fees in schools which have an adverse effect on how income parents and the consequent drop outs in the society and the discrimination agents the girl child in the access to Education. She concluded by calling on politicians to live up to their expectations and deliver their mandates to the people and especially in ensuring that education is not only made accessible to all children but fees and compulsory in Kuje Area council.

INTERACTIVE SESSION

The chairman of Kuje Area council represented by the Education secretary, Kuje, conducted a demonstration teaching using the chalk board as a teaching Aid to the pupils. He taught on a topic, 'Qualities of a school. And Basically, He cap tined the following points,

Physical symbols of identifying a school.

An idea school

The importance of a school

Why it is necessary to Use a school in order to learn

Who and who should be in school

Factors militating against the delivery of quality Education in some schools

Challenges, the way forward.

Questions/ Comments/ Remarks

3 Question were raised by pupils to include:

Hajara Usman - is it true that Women when give the opportunity will do better than men in politics?

Jacob Patrick - What is the hope of the child in the politics of today?

Deborah Luka - How is poverty related to Education?

RESPONSES

While responding to Question one above, Mrs. Tsenongo (ESG) said when Women are placed in responsible position, they achieve very good results. She backed the statement up by citing examples on the duo of the minister for finance, Mrs. Ikwunjo - Iwea and the Director General of NAFDAC, Mrs. Dora Akunejili who are not only doing well, but are achieving remarkable results in their respective Areas.

On Question two, the chairman represented said, the child has a greater hope in the politics of today. This is because the activities of prepares the grounds for the activities of tomorrow. That is to say that, the child of today is the future leaders of tomorrow. This

why provision of Education to the child is not only necessary, it is an obligation on the part of Government to ensure its availability and Accessibility, at every level of governance on the last Question, the chairman represented said, poverty is related to education in so many ways. For instance, a poverty ridden Society is characterized by how standard of living of the people, low standard in technology, low quality of Education resulting from inadequate funds made available to the education sector, which will in turn result to shortages of teaching and non teaching staff, non conducive leaning Environment e.t.c.

In another instance, he said, people living below poverty level cannot even feed well let alone send their children to school. This he stressed, is the reason why many children are seen hawking during school hours and the numerous cases of drops outs in the Society today.

CLOSING

The chairman represented while delivering his vote of thanks commended WREP and CSOs in general for the wonderful initiative and especially their contributions in Achievement of EFA so far. He said the Area council has learn allot from the politicians back to school'' Activity and especially some of the issues raised during the activity He said the governance of Kuje Area council headed by Alhaji Usman Jibrin Wowo, have in the past done do much in ensuring that every child within the area council's programme to ensure a smooth take off of the UBE project as soon as funds were made available. He concluded by assuring the WREP's Team of the councils readiness to partor with the organisation in subsequent deliberations.

Finally the activity came to an end at about 4 pm.

IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITY.

Awareness created on the importance of Education which is without alternative, the surest way of Eradicating poverty the society.

Children now have sense of belonging interacting directly with their role models.

Recommitment politicians in fulfilling their mandate to the people though provision of schools, road, and basic infrastructure.