

Movement for youth and Children's Right organizational report – May and June 2012

Relocation: We are pleased to tell all of our fans and well wishers that the Movement for Youth and Children's Right has relocated from 3 Freetown Road Lumley to 84 Pa Demba Road Freetown. Our present location is more strategic and it better allows other national children and youth focused organizations to contact and affiliate with us.

Election Momentum in Sierra Leone since January to now: Sierra Leoneans are preparing to cast their vote as a right to any citizens from 18 years and older. Citizens and people all over the world have learned about the brutal war that occurred in Sierra Leone from 1991 to 2002, which destroyed millions of lives, left children amputated, women raped and used as sex slaves, and youth and children conscripted to the fighting forces, while those who refused to join were killed. Over a million houses were burnt and thousand fled to foreign countries for a safer life. Notwithstanding Sierra Leone attained peace and tranquility through the support of the United Nations, Commonwealth, International organizations, local organizations, Government and the people of Sierra Leone. Our hope as citizens is to have peaceful, free and fair elections in 2012. Very recently many Sierra Leoneans left the country due to the many threats and insecurities, and there were many brutal killings and destruction of properties - all in the name of tribalism and political party supporting.

However, we thank the Government of Sierra Leone and its state security for putting in place many mechanisms to ensure a peaceful Sierra Leone during and after their democratic process. We only hope these mechanisms will be enforced during and after all the electioneer process.

MYCR expansion to Liberia and Ghana: Our work is attracting not only the people of Sierra Leone, but beyond. Our blog is everyday helping us reach and communicate with hundreds of fans who believe our work is passionate and valuable in Africa. Through the blog, Justice, Isata and their team in Accra Ghana have requested to replicate the Movement for Youth and Children's Rights in Accra, Ghana. Justice and Isata have completed an advance diploma in Social work and have served as interns for different youth and children's organizations in Ghana.

We have set up a team, which is now conducting feasibility studies, the Child Identification programs, in the most vulnerable regions in Ghana as findings before we start working. As head office, we are now planning to have an Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) International NGO License that will enable us to operate in all West African Countries when the need arises. Justice and Isata have already put in place documents through the support of MYCR Sierra Leone, and Samuel Ngawai will be traveling to Ghana to work with Justice and Isata in registering the organization under the Ghanaian NGO desk.

Isata is a Liberian but lives and studies in Accra, Ghana and she has shown interest in taking the program to Liberia for her people to benefit also. This we will do as soon as we are able to set up Ghana's volunteer group. We hope it will be up and running in August.

We say many thanks for Ada for the unending support and contribution. Your wordpress blog is every day helping our work and inspiring us to do more.

Formation of the Coalition for the consolidation of children's rights and sustainable peace and the present effort for just and peaceful 2012 general elections – Theme: 2012 Elections, make them peaceful for our sake. Message from Children

Sierra Leone, as a member and signatory to the United Nations charter on human rights, including children's rights and the millennium development goals, has made considerable strides in achieving the tenets of the various charters and memoranda regarding children and women.

In concert with government and other stake holders, (non-governmental and governmental organizations) strides, we have sought to compliment such efforts by joining forces to bring to light the many ineptitudes and defects of such strides.

In view of the many shortcomings of the stakeholders and other institutions dealing with children and youth, the Thou Shall Eat Organisation and the Movement for Youth and Children's Rights have joined together and conducted a six week community (Ogoo Farm, Goderich, Pentagon, Portor, Dwazack and Crabtown) feasibility study, and an in-depth consultation on children's participation in major national decision making events. The outcomes of these studies and consultations has given us a cause to take immediate and systematic action geared towards bringing to the attention of the government, parents and other institutions the need of Sierra Leonean children for peaceful, free and fair elections, as well as the projection of their rights as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) and the millennium development goals (MDG's)

Child's rights education is an international initiative to develop and provide educational programs on the human rights of children for professionals working with and for children. The Child Right Act lists twelve components; rights that all the children of Sierra Leone are entitled to enjoy. **Reference:** Sierra Leone Child Right Act 2007

According to a United Nations Report, election violence in the sub-Saharan region (Kenya, Nigeria and Mali) mostly affects children and their livelihoods. In a bid to avert similar pre- and post- election violence, which will adversely affect children and women in our country, this coalition, in consultation with other child right based organisations, has decided to mobilize the children and youth so as to bring to the attention of government and all major stake holders the need for peaceful 2012 elections. Against this background, the coalition for the consolidation of children's rights and sustainable peace in Sierra Leone has found it fit to come up with a sustained nationwide youth and children-led campaign code named: "2012 Elections: Make it Peaceful for our Sake"

Violent acts emanating from elections not only endanger children's lives but must serve as a strong reminder of similar events that are capable of plunging our country into another gruesome war.

The feasibility study conducted by Thou Shall Eat and the Movement for Youth and Children's

Rights organisations in these communities (Ogoo Farm, Goderich, Pentagon, Portor, Dwazack and Crabtown) identified a number of problems ranging from child abuse, hunger, teenage prostitution, child labor, domestic violence and lack of effective nonviolent election education. This endangers children and youth in any electoral process.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To bring real-life civics lessons to children across the country
- This child-centered campaign regarding the Sierra Leone 2012 elections offers an opportunity for parents and care givers to show their children that any citizens born in Sierra Leone can grow up to be president, minister or member of parliament regardless of gender or ethnic origin.
- To teach children about the issues and offices being vied for in the S/L 2012 elections
- To teach our children how to make unbiased but informed choices during elections for National development.
- To raise a strong awareness amongst children, that even though they are not yet voting, they are and can be a part of influencing positive change.
- To introduce the idea of mock elections in schools and communities so as to let children experience the way an election works. This teaches them about the electoral processes and the actual election itself.
- To fulfill the rights of children and give them the best possible start and assurance in life, and show government and its officials the need to step up their levels of investment in basic social services for children.
- For children to urging the government, political aspirants and stakeholders during this campaign to pledge sufficient funding for priority issues including health care, education, combating HIV/AIDS, and disabilities.

First Coalition Forum organized by the Movement for Youth and Children's Rights and Thou Shall Eat Organisation at the Milton Margai School for the Blind, Sierra Leone West



The Forum organised by the Movement for Youth and Children's Rights and the Thou Shall Eat organisation attracted a series of non-governmental organisations, political parties, youth serving groups, primary and secondary schools, and community groups.



Representative from the Office of National Security ONS making a statement regarding peace

The forum advocates, besides other things, for the inclusion of child rights in the elections manifesto, and to include the issue of protection of underprivileged children in the elections



The Director Thou Shall Eat Organisation Christopher Norman explaining about the coalition his organisation TSE and MYCR Sierra Leone

manifesto. During the forum, children urge politicians and stake holders to work for the welfare of children as a whole. This is a call on all Sierra Leoneans to take the issue here into serious discussion, to ensure the protection and development of the children who would suffer the

most from poor elections decisions. Preemptively, considering the projected problems children will face during turmoil, we recommend that the government and other concerned non-state entities should move fast to facilitate plans detailed herein, in order to deal with the core issues that will affect children's well-being.



Dominic M. Macavoray National Coordinator – MYCR Sierra Leone representing the call to Action initiative to Stakeholders and NGO's present



Mr. Alhaji Warisay making a statement on the important of peaceful, free and fair elections in any democratic country and assured the coalition of their support in making this nationwide campaign a success





The National Coordinator of Pikin Buziness Organisation giving a statement on the convention on the right of the child and the Sierra Leone child right act, which she encourages Government and all Sierra Leoneans to observe and abide for the smooth running of children in Sierra Leone



The Sierra Leone Police representative making an inspiring statement on the role of the police in assuring peaceful 2012 elections in Sierra Leone. He calls on all assundry to help the security forces in executing their duties by reporting any violent or injustice during this process. He thanks MYCR and TSE Organisations for developing this brilliant initiative to help abolish violent during and after elections in Sierra Leone.



A 16 years old female student from the Services Secondary schooling asking and pleading to representative of Political parties on the full assurance of peaceful elections 2012 in Sierra Leone. Remember we own the future, so please lead us to that future with good foot print "she ended"



Program Manager of Child Fund organization making a statement after the first session of the forum, in his statement he pleads to all political parties, NGO representatives and all stockholders to take this message of Peace to their respective homes and institutions for a better Sierra Leone. He requested MYCR and TSE organizations to extend this initiative to all the 13 districts of Sierra Leone.



The senior news reporter of the Sierra Leone broadcasting cooperation (SLBC) Konima Stevens interviewing one of the children during break. "How do you feel giving this opportunity to directly talk to political leaders, business and NGO's about your rights and responsibilities" the reporter asked. "I feel hopeful and confident talking to this big people and its now reminding me of my right as a child of this nation, the child reply"



The young man setting is a representative from the All Peoples Congress political party making a statement and assuring all Sierra Leonean children on their commitment to maintain peace during the 2012 elections and also the man standing is a representative from the United Democratic Movement political party giving the same assurance to the children during his statement and contribution.



Mr. Jabba senior official of the Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) telling audience on there continues commitment of peace at all times. He told the children that, their political party has always been peaceful and will continue to maintain such. Mr. Jabba promised the coalition of their support in making MYCR and TSE organizations successful organizations in Sierra Leone.

We are still continuing the campaign in all the 13 districts of Sierra Leone in making sure of peaceful elections 2012 in Sierra Leone. We are on this fight because we quite know that children, women and youth suffer most in any conflict situations in Africa. Please join us in this campaign.

We are looking for financial, moral, technical and volunteer's supports. You can make the change possible.

For further information please contact our office at

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