

A REPORT ON THE CELEBRATION OF GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY (GYSD)
11-13TH APRIL 2003

WARRI, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA.

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PRODUCED BY LIBERTY 4 AFRICA

PREFACE

The chambers Dictionary definition of youth is “ the state of being in the early part of life” while the definition of young is “ in the first part of life, growth, development”

With the last expression, I am convinced of you including myself would be happy to be described as youth. Perhaps, the broader meaning of a youth, which most of us associate with is the grouping that falls within the ages of 18 to late forties.

The question being constantly asked is why has it become necessary to now focus on the youths. It is indeed a great challenge to humanity. The attitude of youths in my country especially in Delta-State is already threatening is ravage the state and country sustainable development.

Indeed, my state may be heading for a social and development crisis because of youth being engaged in inter-tribal conflicts. The youth toll of violence is now a traffic reality almost everyone knows or has known the destructions of lives and properties in the state and especially the city of Warri. We are aware of the frequent conflicts in our state; this is certainly reversing the gains made in the social, economic and democratic programmes of the Government.

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, and Delta-State Governor chief James Onanefe Ibori, has taken up the challenge by putting the necessary machinery in place for youth development.

Beyond these facts, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) in the pass three years has embarked on developmental celebration in the lives of youths and adults all over the world.

This remarkable initiative encourages youth development especially youth

participation/empowerment to become leaders for sustainable change and development in their communities and throughout the world. The first, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) in my state made an impact in the lives of youths and adults for an institutionalized and sustainable development.

The report of the celebration of Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), therefore, highlights the commitment of liberty4africa (L4A), in collaboration with development partners, to educate the youths and adults to understand the need for peaceful co-existence and the role of youths as tomorrow's leaders. The purpose of this celebration is not only to provide the mission of Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) but also to mobilize all sectors into a co-ordinated action towards the Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) celebration every-year.

The implementation of this year Global Youth Service Day (GSYD) 2003 celebration in the state is one of the series of steps being taken by Liberty 4 Africa (L4A) to address the problem of youth involvement in inter-tribal conflicts. It is anticipated that the information generated from this year's celebration would impact programmes of the Government, NGOs, and CBOs, aimed at highlighting the youth's contribution for peace building and conflict resolutions and sustainable development.

We must support this great initiative from Global level, Federal level to the grassroots, to ensure our leader's of tomorrow and sustainable development.

But our challenge at this stage is to seize the opportunity to take the risk, to realize an innovative, new rewarding and productive future for Africa.

Undaunted, Liberty 4 Africa (L4A) is an organization committed to excellence, with a clear vision and passion for delivering outstanding results, we ask you to work with us to capitalize on our growth and strength.

Mr. Aghogho Careca Akarue
CEO/Founder
Liberty 4 Africa (L4A)
April 2003.

Liberty 4 Africa (L4A), wishes to acknowledge and thank the Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), General Motors (GM), Better World Fund (BWF), United Nations (UN), Global Youth Action Network (GYAN), Nigeria International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE), Central Educational Service (CES), Nigerian National Petroleum Co-operation (NNPC) Nigerian Child Welfare Fund (NCNF), Nigerian Police Force "A

Division Warri” (NPF), Delta Rainbow Television (DRTV), Kings Knight Industrial Corporation LTD (KKCL), Abenake Nigeria Limited (BNL) and other development partners, for their unflinching support towards the successful completion of this Global Youth Service day (GYSD) 2003. Their continued support has assisted in no small measure to the development and sustenance of our youth development. The cooperation of all state and Federal Governments towards this celebration is also most appreciated. I urge them to continue to show their co-operation for the benefit of our people.

FOREWARD

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CHAPTER ONE

Liberty 4 Africa is an international NGO, non-profit organization in Africa – Nigeria. L4A was established in February 2nd 2002, and registered at the co-operate Affairs Commission Abuja Nigeria.

A BRIEF HISTORY – how we started

Liberty4africa (L4A) was established in February 2nd 2002, Delta State Nigeria. And the organization was founded by Mr. Aghogho Careca Akarue and with special collaboration with Mr. Chinedu Chukwulue in its organization activities.

The birth of liberty 4 Africa began after I watch a programme on television (cable). The program highlighted and deliberates the effects on Aids and Child exploitation in Africa and the programme was inside Africa presented by Temi Makagbu of CNN.

MISSION OF STATEMENT:

The mission of liberty 4 Africa is to organize health programs focus on infectious diseases prevention and productive and also to carryout research on health and child heath development.

The education/awareness creation skills acquisition/vocational training and libraries programs provides computer hardware, software training, e-leaning and new technologies.

Encourage youth development, youth participation/empowerment and youth mobilization for peace building and conflict resolution.

To collaborate with other NGOs and CBOs with the same mission.
L4A is pro-active in Africa, Europe, Asia and America.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF GYSD

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is an Annual event led by Youth Service America with Global Youth Action Network as its key partners together with a consortium of 34 international organizations with over more than 153 National co-ordinating committees.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The goals and objectives of GYSD are:

MOBILIZE youths and adults to identify and address their needs in their communities through services;

RECRUIE the next generation of volunteers; and

EDUCATE the public about the role of young people as community leaders and highlighting their contributions they make to their community year-round.

METHODOLOGY

EVENTS POPULATION:

The event population group covered during the GYSD celebration was youths aged 15 – 49 years participating in the celebration. With an average of 60 people from different organizations, institutions, and individuals. It is important to note that youths of this age group are an important population to mobilize and educate since they are leaders of tomorrow and most importantly for a sustainable future.

EVENTS:

A three days programme was chosen for this Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) 11 – 13th April 2003. In the city of Warri, Delta – State.

The three (3) days activities carried out were:

- A march for peace and Aids awareness
- An open lecture on peace and conflict resolutions
- A novelty football match.

DAY I:

A march Peace and Aids Awareness on The 11th April 2003.

March for Peace and Aids Awareness through the city of Warri, Delta – State with collaboration with Nigeria Child Welfare Fund (NCNF), Nigerian Police Force (“A division Warri”) and development partners.

The MPAA commence at 12.00pm at the L4A office at #17 Eburu Street, Okumagba Avenue. Before the MPAA an interview with two key members of L4A, Mr. Aghogho Careca Akarue (Delta State National Co-ordinator GYSD) deliberated on the goals of GYSD and highlighting the limitations of the MPAA, while Miss Mirjam Vloedgraven

(volunteer Aids program manager) highlighted the importance of youths participating in this GYSD celebration in the state.

A minimum member of 30 people embarked on a 15km march through the areas of the last inter-tribal conflict, between two ethnic groups, the Urhobo's and the Itsekiri's where millions of properties and tens of hundred lives were destroyed.

The group marched the street with banners wearing the goals of GYSD and the participants of the event, and also with placards wearing the effects of HIV/AIDS scourge and how youth should shun violence in their communities and beyond and the need for peaceful co-existence.

The group also stopped at key junctions in the area to address individuals on the goals of GYSD and the importance of the event and how they also get involved in future voluntary projects. The group also distributed bills on GYSD and effects of Aids.

In addition to the day's events, few kilometers to L4A office, this is our permanent stop. Little children joined the group MPAA. They did shout for peace and love in the city to our permanent stop. The little children also snapped photographs among themselves and with group.

And a final interview sections with some of the key participants if the event, which they mostly emphasized on youth mobilization for peace building and conflict resolutions.

During the MPAA, the group was escorted by the Nigerian Police Force "A division Warri" (NPF).

The day's event was finally concluded with a closing prayer by Mr. Wadia Agaga (member L4A).

DAY II:

An open lecture on peace and conflict Resolution on the 12th of April 2003. This event scheduled for 12th April 2003, was meant to be organized uniformly to educate the youths on peace building and conflict resolutions, which involved Doctors, Consultants, Professors, group of Experts, Community Leaders, Educational Researchers, Administrators and Students.

But unfortunately, it fell on the same day of our Parliamentary Elections in the

country, so our monitoring and evaluation team made up of Multidisciplinary Technical Experts, Voluntary Organizations, Private Donators, and International NGOs/CBOs. The Team was inaugurated by the director TOBMAN partnership and chaired by personnel manager of L4A.

The Team met bi-weekly to assess the progress of the GYSD events, and provided relevant solutions as reported by one project co-ordinators.

A conclusion was made by the team to cancel the open lecture on peace and conflict resolutions.

The Action was drawn due to parliamentary election in the state, which normally commence by 8.00am – 3.00pm. Furthermore, Organizations, Institutions and Individuals will be casting their votes on the polls, during this period of time or rather indoors, due to the fear of violence from rival ethnic groups in the state, especially in the city of Warri.

DAY III:

A NOVELTY MATCH FOR PEACE: 13th April 2003.

The novelty match for peace in Niger-Delta with Collaboration with Nigerian Child Welfare Fund (NCWF) Nigerian National Petroleum Co-operation (NNPC), POLAVIS Football Club of Warri, (PFC), TOPSTAR Football Club of Warri, (TBC) and other development partners.

The novelty match for peace commence at 2.00pm at the NNPC Housing Complex Ekpan, Warri under the distinguish Chairmanship of Miss Mirjam Vloedgraven (Holland) Volunteer Aid Program Manager.

This important event was highly successful and remarkable due to the efforts of two football clubs. POLAVIS and TOPSTAR Football Club of Warri, Delta State, for their voluntary participation in the state GYSD celebration.

Firstly, a short keynote was briefed by the National Co-ordinate of GYSD in the state – Mr. Aghogho Careca Akarue on the goals of GYSD and importance of the novelty football match for peaceful co-existence. Thereafter a photograph sections were made by the two football clubs – with GYSD banners, placards on HIV/AIDS and peace, also with the L4A key members, and as a whole group.

At approximately 3.00pm the football match commence and the commentaries where run by Coach Makpor Akpoguma and with Mr. Wadia Agaga (L4A member), Coach

Taju Lamidi referred the match. TOPSTAR Football Club led the half time score with an advantage of a lone goal.

During the half-time period light refreshment were made among the participants and visitors of the event. Subsequently the key organizers of GYSD celebration played penalty kicks.

S/N Names of Organizers Designations Missed Scored

1. Aghogho Careca Akarue CEO/Fonder (L4A) Yes
2. Mr. Joshua Omorere President (NCWF) Yes
3. Mr. Udogu T. Fred Project Co-ordinator (L4A) Yes
4. Mr. Pre-kay Efe Member (L4A) Yes
5. Mr. Wadia Agaga Member (L4A) Yes
6. Miss. Mirjam Vloedgraven Aid programme Manager (L4A) Yes
7. Miss. Arere Ugen Member (L4A) Yes

The novelty match tagged for peaceful co-existence among the people of Niger-Delta ended with a 1 – 1 draw.

An average of 20 minutes was used to address and identify the need for peaceful co-existence among the ethnic groups the city of Warri. By Mr. Joshua Omorere the President (NCWF)

Also the captains of the two football clubs express their thanks to liberty4africa (L4A) for organizing this GYSD celebration in the state, due to the violence engaged by youths lately. And also mentioned that they are willing to help in such voluntary project in the future.

The coaches of the football clubs also highlighted some of the importance of such projects and it will also help to motivate other football clubs to engage in volunteering projects in their communities.

The event finally ended at about 6.00pm and Mr. Wadia Agaga led the closing prayer.

This was how liberty 4 Africa (L4A) celebrates this year Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) 11-13th on April 2003.

And we hope to co-ordinate this GYSD event next year 14 –16th April 2004.

LIMITATIONS OF EVENTS

The city of Warri had been engaged in serious inter-tribal conflicts just barely two months before this year 2003 GYSD celebration. This led to millions of properties and tens of hundreds of lives destroyed. The state government had to impose a dusk – a - dawn curfew in the city of Warri. The unsettlement of the city led many organizations, institutions, volunteering organizations and individuals to be inactive in public gathering due to the fear of upraising of ethnic groups conflicts. This resulted to a low number of participants in the events.

Also, the economic situation in the city was badly effected and most generous private & public sectors sources, foundations, institutions; private donators and individuals could not really contribute to the GYSD 2003 events.

Lastly, the country's elections where held in the month of April and most especially the parliamentary elections on the 12th April 2003. This was a great limitations, because most organizations, NGOs & CBOs, Governmental bodies were more focus on campaigning for a peaceful elections and sustainable democracy. Another key factor to this issue was that the parliamentary elections commence at about 9.00am – 3pm in the country. This led individuals to the polling boots. And the media in the city were not able to cover the MPAA event, due to the parliamentary election, but the events were telecast on the television a few days after.

During the planning and implementations of the GYSD celebration, a lot of observations were made and important lesson learnt. These include:

- Wide difference between plan on paper and implementation.
- Inadequate funding in implementation of the events.
- Inadequate communications with the national lead agency and the celebration was not accorded the priority it deserved.
- Materials of GYSD to the organization {L4A} were not available as planned.
- The GYSD events were affected by the focus on election polls 2003.
- The celebration led many youths to be more active in community service.
- The adults in our community now view the role of youths from a different perspective and this will embrace a peaceful co-existence in the communities.
- Other NGOs and CBOs are seeking collaboration with our organization (L4A) and also have a good relationship with the state government and media.
- Though the celebration is a voluntary project, we would advice GSYD to give mobilization fund in order to create awareness such as advertisement, publication on magazines and newspapers.
- The event has brought more focus from the Federal and State government in participating more full in GYSD in the future.
- Overall, the after GYSD 2003 celebration our membership enjoyed a significant

growth of 43% within a short period of time.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Delta State GYSD findings:

1. The youths in the Niger-Delta areas are more involved inter-tribal conflicts.
2. There are numerous non-working millionaires from elsewhere far removed from the Niger-Delta, where oil-producing areas have become an environmental disaster area with no visible development.
- (3) There has never been a sincere and deliberated attempt in encourage small and medium scale industries.
- (4) All attempts to involve the indigenes from oil producing areas in meaningful employment and / or contracts execution with the oil companies have been regularly frustrated by our majority brothers because they have been no apparatus to monitor compliance.
- (5) The youths and adults are not too active in voluntary service in their communities, due to the standard of living in their communities and country.

PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMEDATIONS

- (6) The national response need to focus more on youth (15-29years) including, school based health & peace programme require intensification in all the corners of the country.
- (7) The antiretroviral programme need wide scale implementation due to the already existing burden in the Nigeria hospitals and communities with more Aids cases than presently in the near future.
- (8) The Government needs to encourage Aids treatment and prevention in the country.
- (9) The establishment of projects that is economically and technologically sustainable and environmentally friendly.
- (10) The participation of all stakeholders particularly the youth who will be allowed to dialogue over projects that would be of immediate and lasting benefits to their communities.

MEMBERS OF DELTA STATE CO- ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF GYSD 2003

A. MEMBERS OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

Dr. Ufuoma Aduh(M.B.B.B.) Chairperson of committee, director of Ebony clinic & maternity Warri.

Mr. Tobman Amrokpa Director of TOBMAN partnership. Warri.

Mr. Blessing Akarue General manger, Abenaka Nigeria ltd.Warri.

Mr. Kelechi Nwagbaraocha Investigation officerNational human Rights commission. Enugu.

Miss. Mirjam Vleodgraven Volunteer Aids program managerLiberty4africa (L4A)

Mr. Uche Christopher Otuniya Research and design officer Liberty 4africa (L4A)

Miss Corinna Thiel Program co-ordinator Liberty4Africa (L4A) Germany.

Mr. jack Corod Program co-ordinator Liberty4Africa (L4A) Philippines.

Mr.Chinedu Chukwuellue. Vice– Chairman Liberty4Africa. (L4A)

Mr. Joshua Omorere President, Nigerian Child welfare fund (NCWF)

Mr. Udogu.T.Fred Project Co-ordinator Liberty4Africa (L4A)

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Mr. Aghogho Careca Akarue Chairman & CEO/founder Liberty4Africa (L4A)

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