

AWLA is wishing all the African Children HAPPY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD and enjoins them to focus on education and prioritise it. Give education 90% attention. Give it your best and you'll be glad you did!!!

The International Day of the African Child is commemorated on **June 16** annually since 1991 to honour the young South African students in Soweto who were ambushed and massacred by the Police on 16 June 1976 for daring to protest against education injustice and inequality in the apartheid regime.

Despite this monumental sacrifice, the African Child is still denied education

With 244 million girls and boys, between 6 and 18 years, worldwide out of school in 2021 of which 118.5 million were girls and 125.5 million were boys. Almost 100 million of them are in sub-Saharan Africa.

AIM

The Day of the African Child is aimed at celebrating the children of Africa, promoting their rights, inspire reflection and action towards addressing the challenges they face on a daily basis.

THE 2023 THEME

“The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment.” this apt and in season considering the global shift to Digital Environment. In order not to leave anyone behind it is indeed pertinent to note the importance of information technology and the need to equip the African Child and protect their right to quality education.

WORRISOME STATISTICS

It's worrisome to note:

1. In 2019, 34 million children in primary education age in Africa were not enrolled in school. This number decreased from 45 million in 2000. On the other hand, the number of adolescents and young people not enrolled at the secondary level increased March 2023
2. Over 400 million children are currently living on the African continent - and the number is rising. The United Nations estimates that Africa's population will double to 2.4 billion by 2050. That's one quarter of the world's population
3. “10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria, which is the highest rate in the world. The figure indicates that one-third of Nigerian children are not in school, and one in five out-of-school children in the world is a Nigerian.”24 Jan 2022
4. The figures in Nigeria have oscillated between 10.5 million and around 15 million for more than a decade, with the situation growing worse due to the degenerating security situation in the country.

5. Nigeria has about 20 million out-of-school children, according to the latest global data on out-of-school children by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). September 2022
6. Ethiopia 10.5 million Out of school Child
7. The Democratic Republic of Congo 5.9 million Out of school children
8. Kenya 1.8 million Out of school Children

The above statistics reveal a sorry state of affairs and need to intensify intervention to reduce to 0 the number of out of school children in Africa thus leaving no child behind.

EDUCATION IS CRUCIAL

Education unlocks the potential of a child and if you want the child to reach his/her highest potential, you need to give the child quality education and equip the child with the necessary digital gadgets. Right to quality education must be implemented and enforced in order to unlock the potential of the African Child.

Globally, it has been accepted that education is not only crucial in empowering children and young people to build fulfilling lives, it also educates them to fraternity and teaches them to overcome divisions and conflicts and to guide their nations on paths of hospitality, justice, and peace. It then behoves leaders to take a step further to ensure no African Child is left out of school.

OUR PLEDGE

As member States of the AFRICAN UNION we must be faithful to our pledge when the Organization of African Unity established the International Day in 1991 to **“eliminate harmful social and cultural practices affecting children: our collective responsibility.”**

In furtherance of this pledge the Global Education Compact is instructive and illuminating and insulating:

“Investing in education is essential to developing a skilled workforce for the future and improving economic growth. Increasing smart investment in education over the longer term is needed.”

Despite recognizing the importance of education, far more is needed if the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal #4, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, is to be achieved. Tens of millions of African children remain out of school or are in school but not receiving the high-quality education they require to build our shared future.

AWLA CLARION CALL

AWLA hereby calls on Governments to create an enabling digital environment for the African Child by Equipping the Schools with Computers, Laptops, WiFi, Handsets, other necessary gadgets and 24/7 Power Supply and the necessary infrastructure for quality learning. Give incentives to STEM and Tech Teachers and Students and subsidise Digital Tech education.

Technology is a great resource for unimaginable and unthinkable foreign exchange income for Governments. Just one break in the tech world is worth trillions. Realising the overwhelming benefits in Education to communities, it becomes imperative for African leaders for education to be prioritised in policies and budgets.

It's time to work and act smart. Technology is the way to go. Empower the African Child, Give the African Child adequate digital environment to thrive, you'll be unleashing their potentials, thus unleashing eagles.

We lend our voices to the Global call by the United Nations, The African Union, Kenya's President Kenyatta and all stakeholders to call for a prioritised education financing as Kenya's President Kenyatta in a call to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) partner countries to prioritise education financing quipped:

“We need to make smart investments in education technology to help close the digital divide and leapfrog infrastructure deficits in schools.”

..in endorsing a political statement to prioritise, protect and increase domestic financing for education towards the 20% global benchmark, to set policies that ensure financing reaches the most vulnerable, leaving no child behind, and to ensure the efficient use of resources.

We call on the African Child to be focused and make education a priority!

We at AWLA stand to protect the rights and interests of the African Child!

Every Child should and must be in School!

#LeaveNoChildBehind

#FundEducation

#EducationFirst

Call AWLA

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Thank you

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