

AN EMINENT EDUCATION ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MRS MODUPE MUJOTA AT THE CHILDREN'S DAY EVENT ORGANIZED BY LIVE ABUNDANTLY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE HELD ON 26TH MAY, 2018 AT THE LEGACY HALL, THE AJALORUN'S PALACE, IJEBU-IFE

Protocol,

No nation can develop beyond its educational standard hence every nation must improve and invest on its educational standard. Globally, education is acknowledged as the most powerful tool to alleviate poverty, elevate economic growth, create a healthy and enlightened social environment and self-sufficient nation. The success recorded by many nations of the world in tackling their major societal development problems such as poverty, unemployment e.t.c is traceable to their educational system.

It is indisputable that education provided opportunities to be successful in life. The concept being discussed is to ascertain if Nigerian children are being denied proper education that will prepare them to compete in job market with their peers and have access to the Nigeria Dream in tandem with this year's children's day celebration theme "**creating safe place for children: Our collective responsibility**". Child's education is the foundation from which he or she will be able to go forth out into the world and build a life. Schools play a major role in this endeavor and therefore it is reasonable to expect that these places of learning would be a safe haven for the children while they are preparing for adulthood, unfortunately this is not always the case. In many instances, especially in the current situation in Nigeria where every spot like the school, church, market could be regarded as war zone and vulnerable to the children, such cases could be vividly observed in the kidnapping of Chibok and Dapchi schools girls, students of Turkish International College and a lot of others. Therefore, it is essential for all stakeholders to seek for protecting our future leaders towards having the best education to be part of the vanguards for geometrical progression of Nigeria.

2. I am grateful to the management of Live Abundantly Empowerment Initiative for deeming it fit to bring this very Educational and informative symposium to Ogun State. Let me also appreciate H R M Oba Oguntayo A A for graciously releasing this place for a developmental course to enlighten the youth at no cost to address the issue of youth restiveness and unemployment in the society. Obviously, no society can make an appreciable progress, if children's future is neglected through dysfunctional education, particularly as the indices of unemployment continue to rise stupendously. This trend has to be changed and to achieve this, there is need for re-direction of our instructional content in our education system to a

functional education. **Functional education** is quite different from the concept of education. The concept **Education** *is simply refers to the process by which knowledge and skills are acquired.* On the other hand **functional education is encompassing, meaningful and most desirable. It is the type of education that equips the recipients with the knowledge and skills needed for the performance of productive task. The one that helps the society meet their developmental needs and emphasizes practical than theory.** Some schools of thought posits that Nigerian education system has not been functional, as too much emphasis was placed on theoretical and academic knowledge, that resulted to undue emphasis on the possession of certificate and promotion of half-baked graduates without useful knowledge and skills.

3. A Country whose population skyrocketed from an estimated 142.6million in 2006 according to the census of that year, to nearly 200 million in 2018 a 40million increase within 12 years, has a lot to worry about. Nigeria is already identified as the community with the most rapidly – expanding population in the world such that by 2050, we could become the most populous community in the world. It is estimated to grow between 2017 and 2020.as contained in the President Muhammadu Buhari's (gcf) Government, Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, (ERGP).Therefore, our population burden should sincerely engage the focus of all who aspire to lead this country. We can no longer toy with the need to galvanize the huge economic potentials of youths of this great country and create enough prosperity to make future Nigeria a place fit for human habitation, this exactly what this program is about to achieve.

4. In order to assist future generation of children, there is need for practical knowledge acquisition. Our educational projects must involve team activities, projects or program where students are required to work in a group or as a team. This tends to make students, have fun in each other's company and the whole teaching process become less boring. Practical education is a way more interactive than theoretical and it does not involve just teaching and learning irrespective of whether the students understand the concept or not. Every Nigeria leader must emulate this initiative by our Oba A.A. Oguntayo to develop practical knowledge to generate self-employment in the country. Also, we understand "Live abundantly, Empowerment Initiative was launched in 2016 as a platform for transformation in societal attitudes towards women and children. We must as well advocate for the empowerment of women through practical knowledge, as women are better contributors to social and economic development of their children, families and communities. By initiating practical education for adult women, we open the door to participation in the twenty-first century advancement. This, in turn, influences their offspring's ability to change the trajectory of their lives by believing in their possibilities and potential for better living. So, permit me to appeal to the organizer of this program to uphold issues on adult women very special importance. To address this, I want

to implore the management of Live Abundantly Empowerment Initiative, to replicate this gesture in the two (2) remaining senatorial districts of the state, to enable all and sundry enjoy in the rebuilding mission of the present administration, led by the Senator Ibikunle Amosun (CON FCA) the Executive Governor of Ogun State.

5. At this juncture, I want to commend and appreciate the commitment of the Ogun State Government towards development of technical and vocational skills as partner of the main stream of entrepreneurial education of the United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Federal Government to develop the implementation of universally acceptable vocational enterprise, for entrepreneurial skills to be easily accessible by pupils and students at primary and secondary schools as well as out of school adults who might want to upgrade their skills to become professional, thus increasing their income. In furtherance to this, the state government in collaboration with Samsung, heavy Korea giant industry recently commissioned a state of art Technical Institute at Government Technical College Abeokuta where skills can be acquired to develop their manpower. To crown it all, His Excellency Senator Ibikunle Amosun con fca has upgraded Moshood Abiola Polytechnic to Moshood Abiola University of Science and Technology, Abeokuta and the newly established Ogun State Polytechnic, Ipokia with the sole aim of producing highly skilled manpower to feed the state as the industrial hub of the Country.

Ladies and gentlemen, I still see light at the end of the tunnel to internally increase our industries to provide job opportunities for our Youths instead of their exodus for greener pasture and dirty jobs outside the Country.

Wishing you all, happy deliberation and journey mercies back to your various destinations.
God bless.