

'Down Syndrome' Children Need Special Care

-Says CEO of My Heart's Appeal

By Reuben Sei Way-lan

The chief executive officer and founder of My Heart's Appeal (MHA) Incorporated has appealed to Liberians and others to embrace and provide children with 'down syndrome' special care.

Madam Lovetie Major said 'Down Syndrome' is not a disease, but a 'genetic disorder.'

Also known as trisomy 21, Down syndrome (DS or DNS) is a genetic disorder caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21.

It is associated with physical growth delays. The average IQ of a young adult with Down syndrome is 50, equivalent to the mental age of an 8- or 9-year-old child, but this can vary widely.

Madam Major who did not shift blames on any Liberian for not embracing children in that category said the

future of the children are different because of those extra chromosomes they have as a result of down syndromes.

"They don't have diseases, but a genetic disorder. People call them crazy, funny and all kinds of names. They should be loved and cared for. I am not blaming my government for not taking care of these children. As a citizen I find myself writing off the wrongs in society," she said.

The entity is organizing an event under the theme "My friends, my community-the benefits of inclusive environments for today's children and tomorrow adults: at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium on March 15, 2016 to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day to explain to Liberians the importance of caring.

"The communities don't want to see them. They are taunted. This awareness event is to bring these kids to the communities and for them to be seen and the

communities members will know that they don't have disease, and they too have rights, they have a genetic disorder that makes them look a little different from us," she added.

Major also disclosed that they would use the program to raise funds for the children and other activities they are undertaking for the wellbeing of the children.

"We will be making public appeals because, these kids need to be accepted in the communities. We now have about 15 children that we are currently working with. The numbers of children with Down syndrome continue to grow because of the awareness we continue to carry out regularly," she noted.

MHA was established in 1996 to assist with the needs of training teens and adults with intellectual disability and to create awareness of the difficulties facing them socially, economically and educationally.

**For More
Information and Facts,
Read The New Republic
Newspaper Daily!**