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Wednesday DAILY

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In All That We Do And Write, In All That We Report, Come What May And No Matter What... **Liberia First**

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Down Syndrome Day Observed

The World Down Syndrome Day (WSD) celebrated worldwide on March 21 annually, was observed in Liberia on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) in Monrovia.

The program was organized by My Heart's Appeal Incorporated, with local branch in Gaye Town, Old Road and held under the theme: "My Friends, My Community"- The Benefits of Inclusive Environment For Today's Children And Tomorrow's Adults.

The World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day and is officially observed by the United Nations (UN) and sponsored by Down Syndrome International of the United Kingdom (UK) on 21 March every year.

The date was also set aside to identify people with Down Syndrome and those who live and work with these Down Syndrome People through the world and as a means of creating more awareness for attention and the care of people in this category like Down Syndrome People who are also important to the society.

On December 9, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21 World Down Syndrome Day to be observed every year beginning 2012, and it provides the opportunity for all stakeholders, civil groups, relevant organizations of the UN system, and other local and international institutions to form part.

Yesterday was the 4th time for the day to be celebrated in Liberia. Other countries that were expected to celebrate the program were Nigeria, Egypt and South Africa, among others.

My Heart's Appeal, Inc-Liberia appreciates local media institutions, and individuals as well as other entities for the level of commitment and support in promoting the work of the organization.

During the ceremony, media institutions like the *In Profile Daily* and the *Inquirer Newspapers*; as well as other entities, including Unity Band, the Liberia Football Association, among others, were honored for their continuous support in promoting the works of My Heart's Appeal (MHA) in creating awareness for people of Down Syndrome/Disabilities to be taken care of by the society.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Acting Director, Social Assistance Division at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Patricia N. Togbah, who served as Guest Speaker, said the Gender Ministry will work to ensure that My Heart's Appeal gets subsidy to help the organization carries out its work of caring for people with disabilities.

She stressed that people with people of Down Syndrome/disabilities be provided opportunity for

inclusive education and other basic rights.

According to her, people living with disabilities should no longer be disregarded, but their talents and abilities should be taken very seriously for empowerment because they can also be of help to the society.

She noted that children with Down Syndrome/disability can achieve when they are provided opportunities to learn.

Also speaking, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Founder of My Heart's Appeal-Liberia Inc, Lovetie Major, emphasized that the celebration of the World Down Syndrome Day in Liberia was intended to identify with People of Down Syndrome and provide more awareness for them.

There were also *other activities demonstrated by people of Down Syndrome* who came from various communities to grace the observance of the day. The CEO of MHA said the organization was established in Maryland, USA in 1996 as a non-profit humanitarian institution to meet the special educational and training needs of people with disabilities in Liberia and West Africa as a whole.

Madam Major said some of the objectives of the organization are to generate funds to support the mission of My Heart's Appeal Inc, to create a safe campus in Liberia that will provide the opportunities for them.

Meanwhile, Madam Major has appreciated all those who continue to show their support to the works of MHA in achieving its goals for building the capacities of disabilities.

Down Syndrome Day Observed

- Care For Disabled Stressed

By: Roland Davis-0776107962/0886714762

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Some Down Syndrome Children