

Report

Report on the Niger Delta Academic Foundation (NDAF) Activities

Special Points of Interest:

Introduction

Capacity Building

Awarding academic support grant scholarship to brilliant but indigent children/youths and Students alike.

Creating a more effective public awareness on ideal education.

The Challenges.

Appreciation and Summary.

Introduction

This Foundation kicked off in the Year 2006 (which happens to be her maiden year of operation) with a very huge and ambitious target that will strengthen and extend its existence by the end of its maiden operational year (2006).

In consonance with this target, the Foundation swung into action by drawing up a budget and a calendar of activities for the year that will facilitate the Implementation of her Action Plan. Upon this, the following were outlined as projects billed for execution in 2006:

Externally (Community Development):

To create a more effective Public Awareness aimed at encouraging the pursuit of an Ideal Education through out the Niger Delta (This particular project, is in affinity with the "ideal education campaign project" of our "Action Plan") Target Date; Before 1st November 2006.

To award Academic Support Grant scholarship to brilliant and willing but indigent students of Niger Delta Origin (This particular project is in affinity with the "Academic support project" of our: Action Plan") Target Date; before 1st October 2006.

Internally (Capacity Building):

To publish *the maiden edition* of an annual Magazine for the Organization to be called 'NDAF News Letter' by December 2006. (This is intended to have a fact and figure database of the Organization's Action Plan

Implementation and Special Moments) To expand the Organizations' communication Network, before June 30th 2006. (This is intended to create a vast relationship with similar, Bigger Organizations and Coalitions, coordinating efforts of NGOs and Civil Societies such as ours in the area of resource mobilization and programme implementation).

The Foundation outlined several laid-down procedures to enable it meet the target date for the execution of the aforementioned projects. As a result, all hands were on deck to ensure this.

Based on the aforementioned Target dates, there has been a lot of progress in the area of implementation and execution of projects, although, not without challenges.

Programmes/Projects implementation

Capacity Building

Chronologically, in the area of expanding the Foundation's communication network, NDAF Directorate, made a lot of contacts indicating the Foundations' interest to join Bigger Associations, Networks and Coalitions that share similar interest with the NDAF.

Today, as a result of the various contacts made hitherto, The Niger Delta Academic Foundation is a proud Member Organization of the Following;

- Global Alliance for the Education for Young Children (Washington)
- Child Rights Information Network (London)

- World Women Summit Foundation (Children Section)
- and now Civil Society Coalition On Education For All (Abuja)

Being members of the aforementioned has helped the NDAF as anticipated, especially in the area of exchange of ideas and information in affinity with the NDAF's area of interest.

Hence the target set for June 30th 2006, can be said to have been met. Although not without obstacles and difficulties. NDAF Directorate hopes to contact more Coalitions, as time goes on.

In order to meet up with current trend and to cushion the cost effect on the Foundation's secretarial duties, the Organization has been provided with a Pentium 3 computer set.

Awarding Academic Support Grant Scholarship to Brilliant But Indigent Children/Youths and Students alike

Presently, the Foundation is working on its October 1st 2006 target. In the light of this, about 100 brilliant and willing but indigent Niger Delta students in tertiary institutions have applied to us seeking to be beneficiaries of the proposed Academic Support Grant for such students. The Pre-Scholarship Test for qualified Students who applied shall be held on Saturday 29th July 2006. We hope to help students who shall come out excellent in the Pre-Scholarship test on Use of English, Mathematics, and Current Affairs. Following this, the NDAF Directorate has sent and is still sending appeals and requests to Multi-National Organizations to come to the aid of the NDAF, in order to Award the Academic Support Grant.

Due to what is obtainable and the cost effect for training a student in Tertiary Institution, we have proposed an Academic Support Grant of Three Hundred and Fifty Dollar \$350USD for each indigent student (an equivalent of Fifty Thousand Naira N50, 000). Meeting this target shall bring about an encouragement, for every Niger Deltan to go to school and be educated up to the level of having a tertiary education.

We have also initiated other scholarship proposals such as the *Rural Academic Support Project* for rural and slump dwellers and the *Street to School Scholarship Project* for street/displaced children and youths to be enrolled back in school. The Foundation needs adequate funding to effectively execute the 1st Phases of these Proposals. Most of these projects are only awaiting funding, in order for the Foundation to effectively implement it and be at the Target Date.

To know how best to go about the Academic Support Project, the Foundation recently carried out a survey on the Problems of Niger Delta and its Possible solution. The survey was carried out on Niger Delta Youths and students alike in tertiary institutions across the Region.

Creating a more effective public awareness on Ideal Education

In affinity with the Ideal "Education Campaign", the Foundation has been able to visit two local radio stations (Rhythm 93.7FM and Radio Rivers2 99.128FM) appealing for support in the fight against illiteracy and the re-orientation on the need for Ideal Education in the Niger Delta, encouraging such stations to broadcast *jingles and slogans* that will enable society see Literacy as the order of the Day in the Region (Niger Delta). In fact, the NDAF has been able to propose and forward a list of educational slogans to be used during news bulletins on radio, to one of the radio stations.

Recently, The Foundation was live on Radio Rivers 2 99.128FM as a guest in a programme "Tuesday Morning Live" (a talk show/interview) presented by a renowned Broadcaster and Presenter in the Niger Delta; Florence Ekiye. During the Programme, the NDAF Director/CEO said, "that in the region, every other sector except the political sector is dormant as a result of the level of Illiteracy and disregard for Ideal Education and this, is one of the major cause of Abject Poverty in the Region, Hence the NDAF was initiated to Fight against illiteracy, so as to conquer poverty through the implementation of an Action Plan". In that programme, there was a call on all to enjoin the NDAF in its cause. The Foundation is currently working out modalities in order to meet up the Target Date for the Ideal Education Campaign, although most modalities will need adequate funding for such modalities to be implemented. However, the organization is on course with the Ideal Education Campaign (NDAF – IEC).

Challenges

Since its inception in October 2005 till date, it has not been very easy for the Foundation to keep the flag flying; hence it has been faced with a lot of Challenges. Over the period of its existence, the major challenges have been in the area of Funding, Mobility and Office Space/Accommodation.

With regard to funding, the organization has since its founding, relied on Self Supporting. Although it has applied and registered for various funding schemes which are yet to yield the anticipated results, it has also sent proposals to multi-national aid organizations seeking for funding, also awaiting anticipated response. Above all, the Foundation believes that when the going gets tough, the tough gets going; hence while it keeps the NDAF flag flying it anticipates funding and invites you to be a part of it.

Mobility has been one major set back for the Foundation, as the inability of the Foundation to move freely and effectively from one place to another has inhibited operations of programmes and projects in the

Region. It costs the Foundation, a lot of expenses to move across the region in order to carry out its operations.

Presently, the Foundation's Secretariat is at #12 Oju Daniel Kalio Avenue, (New Road) Borikiri, Port Harcourt. The location of the Foundation's Secretariat presently, is as a result of the inability to acquire a more suitable Office space that will accommodate the entire Foundation. This particular shortfall is as a result of Inadequate Funding

Summary

This report is predicated on the Activities of the Niger Delta Academic Foundation, with special interest on its Programmes/Projects Implementation and the Challenges encountered in the implementation of its programmes/projects since its inception on the scene as a Non Governmental Organization till date. In course of reading through this report, one should be able to take a critical look at the hopes and aspirations of the NDAF for the Niger Delta. The bane of NDAF activities is predicated on it believes that Education is the Lifeline to the Anticipated Future of the Niger Delta, Socio-Economically and Otherwise.

Appreciation

In this maiden Activity Report, the Foundation wishes to express its Special Appreciation to; Its Founder, Mr. Daniel I. Semeniworima. Its Adviser, Madam. Grace Thompson. Florence Ekiye of Rivers State Broadcasting Corporation. Tonte Ibraye of Live for Tomorrow Movement, Nigeria. CRIN Headquarters London, UK. DFID Headquarters London, UK.

The Foundation also Wishes to Congratulate Elder Lawrence O. F. Bereiweriso on his nomination and subsequent appointment as the Chairman of the NDAF Board of Trustees!

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