



SLUM CHILD FOUNDATION

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Report for the university student's convention on Drugs and substance abused held on 19th March 2014 at United states International university as from 2pm to 4pm

INTRODUCTION

University Student convention is an open forum for universities students from Kenyan to come together and share on the best methodologies to curb the menace of drugs in Kenyan universities with other stakeholders in drug and substance abuse related fields. Through the convention which will be held annually the participants will get to learn and be in a position to engage the speakers in a plenary session with questions and sharing ranging from social to policy based in the fields of drugs and substance abuse.

The first convention is set to take place on 19th March 2014 at United States International University (USIU University) along Thika Road, the theme for this stands as “Are we winning the battle against drugs in our universities?” Stakeholders targeted in this include but not limited to University students, Lectures, Ministry of Education, Ministry of youth and sports, Media, Business Institutions, NACADA, Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) and any other body that are directly or indirectly affected by drugs and substance abuse.

SPEAKERS INCLUDED

Alice Nyabuti, who represented the Ministry of youth and sports

She shared what the ministry of youths and sports is doing to curb the emerging trend of drug and substance abuse in our universities. She emphasized on the available opportunities' for youths when they keep off from drugs.

During the question time from the speaker, the youths criticized Madam Alice as the government representative from the docket concerning youths that the government available opportunities are

just to please the international community to continue supporting them yet they do not reach the youths they are asking to keep off drugs and enjoy their products.



Madam Alice addressing the students

Naomi Moraa, who represented the Ministry of Education

She shared how the ministry is trying it's level best to fight drugs and substance abuse in our schools, the government action to include drugs and substance in the revised curriculum so that students will be able to get the information they are required to get about drugs at the very early stage.

During question time the students demanded to know from the ministry in charge of education what policies they have put in place to ensure all the children together with the teachers do not engage in drugs with regards to article 33 of the Children Right Convention. Something the government official was not able to answer and requested time to consult and share feed back later, I guess these are some of the reasons the minister skipped our event and sent a representative, since there were much more questions the representative was not able to answer and requested for some time.



Madam Naomi addressing the students

Mike, a former drug cartel and gangster, who currently is attached to slum child foundation and will be working with us as a motivational speaker on issues concerning crime, drugs and substance abuse

He shared his life touching story and life in crime, factors that made him engage in drugs and substance abuse, the type of drugs he used at one time and the one he used to traffic when he was in school and after school.

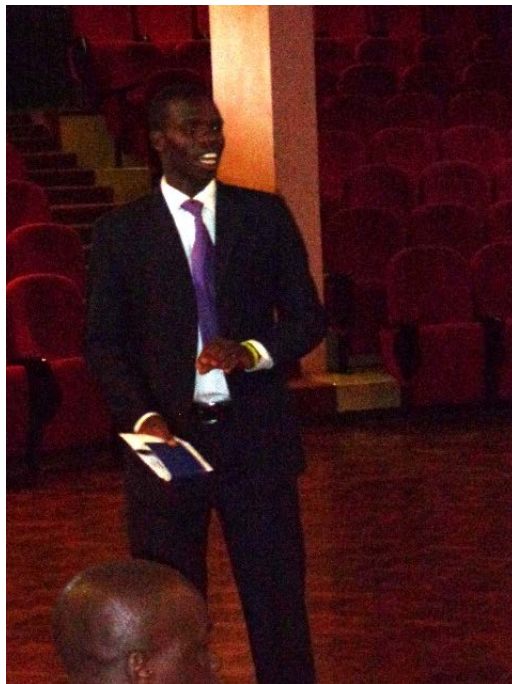
He concluded by sharing a piece of advice to the youths not to wait for government to come on board to help them they need to wake up from the sleep of idleness, laziness and engage themselves in something that will be productive to help the nation and at the same time help them put a meal on the table, taking drugs is not an option the problem you are trying to run away from is and will be there unless you do something, which is facing the problem headon.



Mike addressing the students and the right photo showing the students where he has a bullet wound on his left leg when he was caught by police and they tried to escape

George Ochieng, Slum child foundation Executive Director. He shared about the current heating debate on the issues of marihuana legalization in America, and how that whole issue has affected our work with kids in the slums.

There were mixed reaction about the whole issue with others claiming that it should be legalized but they had no strong argument to support what they say. Questions like “if president Obama has said that marijuana is ok, who are you to say it is wrong? He is our role model and we are following whatever he says”



Mr. George addressing the students

Sammy M. Nkonge, Director of New beginning foundation. He shared his plight with the youths and children they are working on in the field of reproductive health and they challenges they face as a result of abusing drugs.



Sammy making his presentation to the students



Participants listening keenly on the presentations



Speakers and other guests sharing light moments and a cup of tea

THE END