



**DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2015: TRAINED to BUILD**

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**Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)**

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SD LP/SAC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

**"JUST KNOW" Campaign Emphasizes" MA YEM, MA BO":**

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

**"Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:**

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands ( hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicin

**"Women's economic autonomy"**

through our Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

*As we celebrate the Day of the African Child 2015, we also remember that it is most often ordinary people who initiate the most extraordinary of changes: By spending more time, not just on What Is, but What Could Be. Not just What we Stand In, but what we Stand For! BUT ARE AFRICAN CHILDREN ORDINARY PEOPLE? That is another debate... Fortunately, the first African children I was exposed to on 16 June 2015 were members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> batch of PNEU School, Yaoundé. Their graduation song brought a big smile on my face. The song written by Aunty Yvonne, their English teacher was titled: TRAINED TO BUILD and it went like this:*

We are trained to build  
The weary, the wounded, the unstable,  
That we meet along each day,  
We are to take the peoples  
Who'd failed in everything,  
And make them Conquerors!

**Chorus:**

We are called to build the people  
It's our joy to build the nations  
Give us your love,  
And the grace to do it,  
To build this nation, is our dream

We all have been trained  
To reach out to the world,  
And fight, for a peaceful loving world  
We all have the gifts,  
And talents that we need,  
To build a good Cameroon

- building nations is our dream
- healing nations is our dream
- guiding nations is our dream
- training nations is our dream
- To care for nations is our dream
- Loving nations is our dream!

As I was standing there with these beautiful graduates, I realized that their perception of school was away from mere holding of diplomas and big titles. Instead, it was about KNOWING AND DOING, in local language MA YEM – MA BO - Being trained to build.



The Day of the African Child was enhanced by the various performances put forth by the well trained African girls at the women's world cup...

**BRAVOOOOOOOOO!!!**



**Ruth Bamela Engo**

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