

CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL UNITY SIERRA LEONE

“THE CUT ACROSS MOVEMENT”

Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

COMMEMORATE’S THE GLOBAL YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY April 15-17, 2016.

Introduction

This year, 2016, the Campaign for National Unity-Sierra Leone (CNU-SL) a student, youth and grass-roots movement, with funding from its board of trustees, successfully commemorated the Youth Service

America (YSA)led Global Youth Community Service (GYCS) Day, in Freetown, capital, from April 15-17 in Sierra Leone. The event was commemorated in honor of youth and students who loss their lives during the 2014/15 Ebola outbreak, particularly those who were engaged at the community level. A total of 40 (forty) students and youth (mixed of 60 :40 percent boys and girls) participated in commemorating the event. Activities

mainly included TV and Radio interviews, a candle light procession, and attendance of church and mosque services. In addition during the three days celebrations, students held vigil for their colleagues based on their respective Muslim and Christian faith associations. The event increased public awareness on the critical and positive role-played by youth and students in tackling the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone.



*Campaign for Unity Team
(CUT) Students*

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Special points of interest:

- *Global Youth Community Service Day had full media coverage.*
- *Muslim and Christian Faith were well represented.*
- *Male and female students from different colleges and universities participated.*
- *Challenges still exists that require your support.*

Media Coverage - TV and Radio Interviews

The first day of the GYCS had full media Coverage from all major Radio and TV stations in Freetown, especially AYV and the Sierra Leone Broadcasting

Service (SLBS) TV Station. Unifier Haja Safiyatu Sovula a 6th year female medical student at the college of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, (COHMAS) (see

graphic photo) officially launched TV conversation on behalf of CNU-SL membership at home and abroad. Haja informed the public that during the Ebola

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Outbreak, youth and students volunteered in various capacities, for example, they served the burial teams, contact tracing teams, undertook research and public awareness raising activities, supported border policing efforts, and manned various check points in support of law enforcement agencies, such as the Sierra Leone Police(SLP), the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces(RSLAF), customs

and immigration officers, local council authorities and affected communities.



Unifier Saja Safiatu Sofula at AYV Radio & TV during The GYCS

Faith-based Praise and Worship Activities

Subsequently, over 40 CUT Across Movement youth and students' volunteers attended the Friday JUMA Muslim prayer at the Central Mosque along Circular Road in honor of their lost ones-student and youth. The theme of the sermon in their honour was "the essence of remembering the dead" . The imam thanked CNU SL

youth for such a symbolic initiative. The program was climax by a vote of thanks from the team leader Mohamed Pabai Jr, a final year Peace and Conflict student at Fourah Bay College University of Sierra Leone. While addressing the congregation Pabai Jr. stated the importance of the GYSC Day, and thanked the Imam and the Muslim Jamaat for their Kind

"Imam thanked CNU SL youth for such a symbolic initiative"

gesture, he concluded by appealing to all Sierra Leoneans, especially the youth to join CNU SL in making Sierra

Muslim and Christians Inter-faith Unity

Leone a better place for all irrespective of one tribe and region of origin.



Muslim and Christian Prayers during the GYCS Day



Morning the death of youth and students.

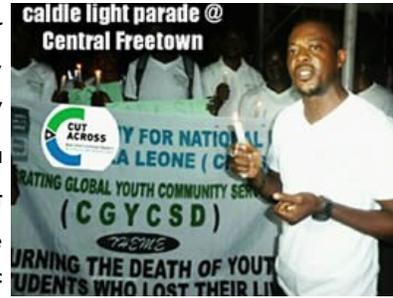


Muslim and Christian Prayers during the GYCS Day

Candle Light Procession

The first day event was followed by a candle light procession from the CNU-SL National Secretariat to the Law Court/cotton tree/State House Avenue. Over 40 youth volunteers queued the line as they solemnly recited Bible verses in memory of those who lost their lives in performing service in their local communities during the Ebola outbreak. During the candle light processession along Siaka Stevens Street, Mr. Stephen Sandy one

of the Youth Leader was interviewed by both SLBC and AYYV TV. He told the media that the candle light parade was a unique and symbolic way of mourning the death of those legendary youth and student who lost their lives during the fight against Ebola. He concluded by calling on all



Students engage in candle lighting during The GYCS Day

Sierra Leoneans to join CNU SL in remembering our lost brothers and sisters in prayer

Christian Service-Sunday, 17 April, 2016

On Sunday, mass was held at the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Tower Hill central Freetown. Present at the mass were Bishop Emeritus Tom A Barnett, the Pastor in charge Rev John K Amara and Preacher Daniel James Seifo also a member of CNU SL. Several CNU-SL members gave tributes in honour of their loss ones, and on the relevance of the GYSC Day. The

Sunday service was colorful with excited youths giving speech and taking leadership roles. The Project Coordinator, Miss Edwina Berewa a third Year Law Student at Fourah Bay College University Of Sierra Leone with a wealth of experience in Public Administration, project management gave the vote of thanks. She noted that since CNU SL has started this ini-

“Several CNU SL members gave tributes in honour of their loss ones”

tiative of honoring those youth and student who died while serving local

Christian Mass Service

Ebola affected communities, it is important to sustain these efforts, they are our HEROES, they are gone but never to be forgotten”, she reiterated!!



CNU-SL Project coordinator Madam Edwina Berewa



Preaching the values of Campaign for National Unity



CNU-SL Vibrant lady giving a speech on values of GYCS

Challenges & Lessons Learnt

As planned, we could not hold the Ginger Beer Stands in several spots around the country due to the lack of security clearance and late planning. The second was the result of inadequate funding, thanks to a number of Board of Trustees and well-wishers who contributed financially to the commemoration of the GYCS Day in 2016. CNU-SL looks forward to your continued support at all times.

Graphic photos of cemeteries with graves are now found all over the country as the visible effects of the devastation caused by the Ebola epidemic disease that claimed the lives of over 4000 Sierra Leoneans within 2014/15. Unfortunately, we are yet to carry some studies on lessons learned. Are we thinking of finding

out the genesis of the disease? Do we care to do some research on how to forestall a recurrence of the disease? Are we thinking of insuring all our health personnel to minimize the risk of contracting diseases while trying to save others and with no means to get treated or compensated when one dies in the line of duty? How can we get the military, police and the office of national security disaster risk management department etc well trained to meaningfully contribute to preparedness, early warning and prevention? Are



Mass Graves caused by Ebola in Sierra Leone

we concerned about the bereaved families of our medical personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty?

These are some of the issues the CNU-SL students and youth will next engage, as the organisation work to continue to contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-"Support healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages in your community"

being for all ages in your community"

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Leh We CUT Across Divide



We are a non-for profit voluntary movement desired to see improved political culture and economic prosperity, based on national reconciliation, unity and social cohesion in Sierra Leone. We are aware of the persistent of divisiveness and mutual mistrust along political party affiliation, ethnic and regional lines. We believe a transformed political and economic system in Sierra Leone requires the full participation of committed citizens that put the principles of trust, relationship building, love for one another, unity, freedom and access to justice in our nation, first above every thing else. We are conscious that the success of CNU-SL depends in large part on the acceptance of and support for its operation by the people of Sierra Leone.