



From the Ambassador

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MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE SEDOO INITIATIVE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (SECHILD)

I am honoured to writing this message of support to the founders of the Sedoo Initiative of Children with Special Needs (SECHILD).

This is a very noble venture and calling that you have championed. In a society where the rights and dignity of the special child are not taken into account, talk more of their care and support, your venture represents a trail blazer in our dear country Nigeria. The efforts so far have brought succour to families of special children and to the children themselves.

Children with disabilities and special needs have the same rights as all children but are some of the most invisible and marginalised people in the world according to a United Nations report released recently (see <http://www.unicef.org/sowc2013/>), which cites recommendations on how to actively include children with disabilities in civic, social and cultural affairs so that both they and their communities benefit. The report's underlying message is that special children, girls and boys with disabilities "are not problems" but sisters, brothers, daughters, sons and friends with favourite foods and songs, dreams and rights. Eschewing a focus on traditional notions of "rescuing" the child, the report instead spotlights investment in removing the barriers that impede the realisation of the child's rights, aspirations and dreams.

The report makes a call towards making public services, schools and health systems accessible and responsive to the needs of children with disabilities and their families will reduce the pressure to send children away in the first place. Even though a nongovernmental and non-profit enterprise, SECHILD has answered this call through its care and support centre. The government of Nigeria is making giant strides in the health sector as is desirous of partnering with other stakeholders like SECHILD.

I urge all people of goodwill to join hands with SECHILD to make the dream of the special child come true, giving them the joy, love and happiness they desire!

I thank you for your attention.

Amb. Chive lor KAAVE
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