

COMMEMORATION OF WOLD CEREBRAL PALSY DAY REPORT HELD ON 6TH, OCTOBER 2021 AT BLEND GARDEN BWAISE KAMPALA SUBURB

Introduction

World Cerebral Palsy Day, which occurs annually on October 6, it reminds us that there over 17 million people impacted by Cerebral palsy disorder. Cerebral Palsy is one of the most common physical disabilities affecting the most vulnerable among us and children. Cerebral Palsy occurs over the span of a child's entire lifetime with no cure. This year, UNAC in Partnership with Capital Center Medical Clinic became a catalyst for change to help improve the lives of persons with cerebral palsy by creating awareness raising about the Concept of Cerebral palsy, Early intervention measures, and understanding their rights and potential needs to actively participate equally in homes and communities without discrimination.

On 6th, October 2021 UNAC in Partnership with Capital Center Medical Clinic marked the world Cerebral palsy day at Blends Garden in Bwaise Community Kampala Suburb. The event attracted people around and outside the community to come together to celebrate and support persons living with Cerebral palsy, embrace diversity and to help create more accessible future for everyone without discrimination. UNAC and Capital Centre medical clinic joined the rest of 17 million people worldwide to ensure that voices of persons with Cerebral palsy are heard because every person living with cerebral palsy is a reason to strive for change.

Purpose of the commemoration of world cerebral palsy day is provide an opportunity to educate those outside of the cerebral palsy community about the condition. And those who wish to support the families of persons with cerebral palsy can learn about the life with Cerebral palsy and determines ways of to be inclusive towards those who live with it. Most importantly, it allows people to learn how they can become long term allies of cerebral palsy in the communities. For example parents/caretakers of persons with cerebral palsy.

Remarks from protocols

Capital Centre Medical clinic include; cerebral palsy mainly affects children; one in four children with CP are unable to talk; one in three can't walk; one in two have a mental or intellectual disability; and one in four has epilepsy. And one in 500 infants is born with cerebral palsy. Cerebral Palsy stigmatizes; in many societies around the world, people with CP are kept uneducated and hidden away from the rest of the community. The basic intervention to improve the wellbeing of children with cerebral palsy is long term physiotherapy treatment and providing assistive devices like stand frame, wheel-chair to improve their mobility. And currently the medical clinic works on 150 children with cerebral palsy and it has put together parents/caretakers of children with cerebral palsy into groups. However each child with cerebral palsy has different needs for interventions like speech therapy for communication, drugs and physical therapy. Involving children in sports game activities helps their mental developments. Therefore they encourage fathers of children with cerebral palsy to provide more support to their children rather than leaving a burden to only mothers. Finally they thanked all members who have supported Capital Centre medical clinic services both financially and items to support to children with cerebral palsy.



UNAC remarks delivered by General Secretary Board member (Mr. NSamba Godfery) include; *“I would like to thank our dear families, friends, organizations, and my fellow colleagues living with CP for the support towards ensuring that this important day is celebrated today in Uganda”*. Cerebral Palsy is a condition that can be stressful for some and a lifetime of daily challenges for others. Sadly, there is very little public awareness regarding CP. Hence need for joint effort to raise public awareness and putting an end to stigma, discrimination and stereotype faced by persons with CP and their families in society. Quality of life beyond mere survival. Beyond medical and other therapies, the overall well-being of people with cerebral palsy is of paramount concern, Therefore, this day is very important in the lives of persons with CP and their families, to raise awareness and to celebrate our achievements together and to make our voices heard.

Key outputs

- I. Over 200 people include parents/caretakers of persons with cerebral palsy, Media house fraternity, Religious leaders, and Celebrities like Ray P, Big Eye, and Irene Mubiru attended the celebration of world CP-day. This strengthened the network of allies to promote awareness campaign that promote inclusive society and support needs for persons living with Cerebral palsy.
- II. The event coverage was recorded and run through different media platforms like NBS-TV, TOP-TV, Sparker and social media Apps such as WhatsApp of different stakeholders like SAU, UNAC group. This increased awareness raising about the Cerebral palsy Concept, basic interventions and created space for more support to improve the well-being of persons with cerebral palsy.

Lesson learnt;

- The overwhelm numbers of children with cerebral palsy who needs more support in different aspect of life development like education, accessibility to medical treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Adult persons with cerebral palsy act as role models in changing the mindset of parents/caretakers of children with Cerebral palsy. For example the speech delivered by

the General secretary UNAC Board motivated most participants such as Parents/caretakers to love, care and provide more support to their children. It provided opportunity to promote inclusion of persons with Cerebral palsy in community activities with reduced negative attitude.

- Involving different stakeholders increases the campaign to lobby for support, raise voices and create platform that promote inclusion of persons with cerebral palsy in respective societies.

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