

SPEECH BY THE FIRST LADY OFFICIAL CEREMONY

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL KITS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 - YOPOUGON

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to be returning to Yopougon today for the **School Kit Distribution Ceremony for the new school year organized by the Children of Africa Foundation.**

I would first like to extend my warmest greetings to **Madam Kandia CAMARA, Minister of National Education.** I would like to congratulate her for the excellent work she has been doing.

My greetings also go to **Mrs. Clarisse DUNCAN, Wife of the Vice-president ; and to my sisters, wives of Presidents of Institutions and Ministers,** attending this ceremony.

I would like to extend my greetings to the **administrative and political authorities, especially Minister Gilbert Kafana KONE, Mayor of Yopougon,** whom I thank for receiving us so well in his commune.

I acknowledge the presence of **honorable Members and Senators of Yopougon,** as well as **all the personalities** present at this ceremony.

I again extend my greetings to **M. Mohamed YASSINE, CEO of SIPPI company.** He is one of our generous donors, and he always supports the Children of Africa Foundation at each school year.

I extend my greetings to **Samba BATHILY, President of Fondation Volontaire d'Afrique,** as well as his partners **Solextra International et Akon Lighting Africa** for their contribution to the construction of the school.

My greetings also go to the **traditional and religious leaders** for their prayers and blessings.

I would now like to greet the **teachers, the students' parents,** who have come to attend this handing-out school kits to students.

Your presence shows how important education means to you as well as the actions of the Children of Africa Foundation. I truly think you for that !

Finally, I extend my greetings to **all our children** from this school as well as surrounding schools, who will benefit from the school kits that will be offered to them.

My dear children,

It is my pleasure to convey to you the greetings and support of **President Alassane OUATTARA**.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year's handing-out school kits organized by the Children of Africa Foundation takes on a special dimension. Indeed, this important ceremony will feature **the official inauguration of a public school which will operate on solar energy**. As just presented, the school was built and equipped by **la Fondation Volontaire d'Afrique, in collaboration with Solektra International and Akon Lighting Africa**.

This beautiful school built on 3000 m2 has seven classrooms, a canteen, a computer room and a sports field. It is a primary school integrating all the necessary amenities for the development of our children. **To this end, I would like to congratulate the initiative of la Fondation Volontaire d'Afrique and its partners**. With this act of generosity they contribute to the promotion of education in our country, according to the vision of the President of the Republic. I wish to thank them for this civic act, I hope will inspire other similar initiatives.

Moreover, dear Mr BATHILY, **I would like to tell you that I am pleased to be the godmother of this beautiful facility and accept that the school bears my name**.

Ladies and gentlemen,

My dear children,

As you know, education is at the heart of our actions. That is why, every year, the Children of Africa Foundation makes a point of honor to help families both in Abidjan and in the countryside, by distributing school kits to children for free. It is important to offer them favourable schooling conditions.

For the 2018-2019 school year, the Foundation will donate 15,000 school kits to all regions of Côte d'Ivoire. The kits consist of school bags and school supplies, as well as books offered by the Foundation.

To date, **nearly 100,000 school kits** have been distributed throughout Côte d'Ivoire to our children.

Today, we will distribute **1,500 kits to the children of Yopougon Micao.** We also came **with food and cleaning products for the school's canteen, as well as equipment for kindergartens and educational and sports equipment** for our children in the Micao district. I believe that these donations will be useful.

At this point, I would like to thank our generous donors, for their support every school year. And more particularly **M. Mohamed YACINE, CEO of SIPPI company,** and **M. Abdoulaye NIAGADOU, CEO of African Distribution Company,** for supporting our actions. They are here this morning, please let's give them a round of applause.

Excellency,

I would now like to say a few words **to our teachers who are under your supervision and who are responsible for supervising our children.** I encourage them to follow your lead. Indeed, you are a woman of conviction, fighting tirelessly to promote excellence a good work at school.

Indeed, **dear teachers,** it takes passion to transmit knowledge and to be committed to the education of future generations ... And you have made the choice to take this noble responsibility. You can be very proud of it, you have my full support.

I would also like to encourage you to take care of this beautiful building that has been entrusted to you. In this way, it will serve to several generations of students who will pass through this beautiful school.

Dear parents,

I wish that our children will brilliantly succeed in their studies and make us proud. Our role is to offer them the best learning conditions and guide them into adulthood.

For my part, I will continue to work to offer a better future to the children of Africa, by showing all my affection and providing my help to my children of Côte d'Ivoire.

Together, hand in hand, we will succeed in making them great future leaders. I also encourage you for more efforts and sacrifices for the well-being of our children.

My dear children,

I wish you a successful school year full of discovery. Your success depends only on you and the efforts you will make at school.

I also advice you to show respect to your teachers, as you are of your parents. You should listen to your teachers, work well with your classmates, do your homework on time, and take great care of everything that has been offered to you today.

I know I can count on you to make good use of the school kits that I gave you, and to have excellent marks throughout the year. Nothing would make me more happy than counting you at the end of the school year, among the best students in the country.

I wish you an excellent school year!

Thank you.