

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HON. ADAMU SAYIBU, DISTRICT CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR WA EAST DISTRICT AT THE COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR AND INAUGURATION OF THE CHILD PARLIAMENT

Theme: "Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults"

Venue: Bulenga, Wa East District

Date: 12th June 2026

Mr. Chairman,

Bulenga Naa,

Honourable Assembly Members,

The District Director of Social Welfare and Community Development,

Representatives of World Vision Ghana,

Heads of Decentralized Departments and Agencies,

Religious Leaders,

Teachers, Parents and Guardians,

Members of the Child Parliament,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great honour and profound gratitude that I stand before you this day as Guest of Honour at the commemoration of the World Day Against Child Labour and the inauguration of the Wa East District Child Parliament under the theme: **"Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults."**

Permit me to express my sincere appreciation to World Vision Ghana, particularly the Wa East Area Programme, and the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development for organizing this important event. I also wish to commend our traditional authorities, development partners, teachers, parents and all stakeholders whose unwavering

commitment continues to promote the welfare, protection and development of children in our district.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today serves as an important reminder that every child deserves a safe and nurturing environment, access to quality education, adequate healthcare and the opportunity to realize his or her full potential. Unfortunately, child labour continues to deny many children these fundamental rights and opportunities.

Child labour remains one of the greatest threats to the future of our children. It deprives them of their childhood, education, health and opportunities for personal development. Every child deserves a safe environment, quality education and the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential.

In Ghana, and particularly in rural districts such as Wa East, child labour is largely driven by poverty, limited access to quality education, inadequate social protection systems and certain cultural practices that encourage children to participate excessively in economic activities at the expense of their education and wellbeing.

Many families, due to economic hardship, rely on their children to support household livelihoods through farming, herding, trading and other forms of labour. While these challenges are real, we must collectively ensure that no child is denied education, protection and the opportunity to build a brighter future.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests,

I am pleased to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of World Vision Ghana through the Wa East Area Programme. Through its interventions, the District Health Directorate received and distributed over 3,000 tablets of Vitamin A to health facilities. More than 857 farmers have received training in climate-smart agricultural practices, while over 35 Savings for Transformation Groups have benefited from capacity-building programmes to strengthen financial literacy and household incomes.

In addition, two solar-powered boreholes are being developed to improve access to safe drinking water, and over 45 teachers from nine schools have received specialized literacy training to enhance teaching and learning outcomes. These interventions contribute significantly to improving the wellbeing of children and families across the district.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to use this opportunity to highlight one of the Government's flagship interventions aimed at empowering our youth and addressing some of the root causes of poverty and vulnerability.

Under the leadership of His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama, Government has launched the **One Million Coders Programme** to equip young Ghanaians with digital and technological skills for the modern economy.

The programme will train one million young people in coding, software development, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data analytics and digital entrepreneurship, creating employment opportunities and empowering the youth to participate meaningfully in the digital economy.

For Wa East District, this initiative goes beyond job creation. It serves as an important tool in the fight against child labour, child trafficking and child exploitation by reducing poverty and creating alternative livelihood opportunities for young people and vulnerable households.

By equipping our youth, especially girls and young women, with marketable digital skills, the programme will help reduce the economic pressures that often push children into hazardous labour and exploitation. Furthermore, improved digital literacy will strengthen awareness of child protection issues and empower young people to identify, report and help prevent cases of child trafficking, child abuse and exploitation within our communities.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests,

I am also delighted to announce another important development for our District. The Government has approved the upgrading of Loggu Senior High School into a Boarding School. This intervention will bring significant relief to parents and students within the Bulenga, Loggu and surrounding communities by improving access to secondary education and creating a more conducive environment for teaching and learning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are also inaugurating the Child Parliament of Wa East District. This platform will provide children with the opportunity to express their views, discuss issues affecting their wellbeing, and contribute meaningfully to decisions that impact their future.

To the newly inaugurated Child Parliamentarians, I encourage you to use this platform responsibly and become ambassadors for education, child protection, and positive change in your communities. The future leaders of Wa East and Ghana are among you today.

As we commemorate this important day, let us all show a **Red Card to Child Labour** and commit ourselves to building a district where every child is protected, educated and empowered to achieve his or her dreams.

Together, let us work towards a future where children are in classrooms and not in hazardous workplaces; where children are protected from trafficking and exploitation; and where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your kind attention.

May God bless the children of Wa East.

May God bless the Wa East District.

And may God bless our homeland Ghana.