

**SPEECH OF THE FIRST LADY of
COTE D'IVOIRE**

**INAUGURATION OF "DOMINIQUE
OUATTARA PRIMARY SCHOOL" OF
KOUTA**

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear people of Kouta,

My dear children,

I am very happy to be in **Kouta** today, on the occasion of the **inauguration of the primary school named of my name.**

I am extremely touched by the warm welcome you have given me, and very proud that the school of Kouta bears my name. I sincerely thank you.

I would first like to bring greetings from my dear husband, dear, President Alassane Ouattara who asked me to kiss you hard.

I greet my sister, Lady Sarah SAKOH, First Vice President of the Parliament who is with me today.

I would also like to greet particularly **the Minister of Education, Ms Kandia Kamara**, and congratulate her for the great work she does for the schooling and education of our children.

I greet my younger sisters present at my side.

I would also like to greet the Prefet of Guitry and the prefectural and administrative authorities of the Loh-Djiboua, who are with us to this ceremony.

My greetings go finally, to **Mr Mauricio Alarcon, DG of Nestlé Côte d'Ivoire and Mr. Jean-Yves Couloud, Country Representative of the World Cocoa Foundation in Ivory Coast**, our partners to build this primary school we have the pleasure of inaugurating today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend my special greetings to two people who are dear to me. First of all, **Mrs. Patricia YAO, my Chief of Staff, become my sister today**. I want to thank her today in presence of her parents, for the great work she does every day with us. She has all my trust, and you can be very proud of your daughter.

Then I would like to greet my niece, **Mrs Malika CONDE MOURAD, Director General Sodetours Lacs**, which surrounds me with its affection daily. Malika thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The event that brings us together today, thrills me in a special way, since it touch to a subject close to my heart personally; namely **the fight against child labor**.

Indeed, having been appointed by the President of the Republic, the head of the **National Oversight Committee to Fight against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour (CNS)**, I am pleased to see that the partnership established between the actors of the Cocoa and chocolate industry, and CNS, is now bearing fruit.

There is not so long ago, in May 2014, during a working session with a delegation of the *World Cocoa Foundation*, **I invited all cocoa and chocolate industry members to support our efforts and**

the efforts of the Ivorian Government, in the construction of schools in the cocoa growing areas.

More than a year later, I am pleased to see that many schools have been built. **The latest one was inaugurated in San Pedro, in partnership with the OLAM Group.**

Today, **Nestlé Cocoa and Le Conseil du Café Cacao are with us in Kouta**, and I thank them for having built this beautiful school. I would also like to point out that they built several schools in this beautiful region of Guitry. And I just learned that **the 40 promised schools are built**. Thank you Mr DG of Nestlé.

I would also ask the representatives of the Conseil du Café Cacao, to thank Mrs Massandjé TOURE-LITSE for bringing her stone to the building.

I ask you to applaud them loudly.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In my view, **the education of all children up to 16 years old is the best way to effectively fight against child labor**, and hope thereby to eradicate the phenomenon in our country.

Ivory Coast is the first cocoa producer in the world, it is our responsibility to set an example not only to neighboring countries but to the whole of Africa.

Our commitment is to build together, hand in hand, a new Ivory Coast in which our children will have free access to education, regardless of their social condition.

In this regard, I welcome the initiative of my dear husband, President Alassane Ouattara, who made **the compulsory school this school year 2015-2016, for all children of the Ivory Coast up to 16 years old**. This measure will support our efforts to promote the education of the poor.

Dear Parents,

I am very happy to have you bring this donation that come from you be listed. I know you will make good use.

Furthermore, this primary school was built for the children of Kouta. It belongs to your community, and you have to own it. I encourage you to register your children and allow them to receive the education to which they are entitled. With this achievement, they can build their adult lives.

Our children are the citizens and leaders of tomorrow. We must give them the best chance of success in the life. I encourage you to send them to school, and more to transmit to them the practical knowledge of the beautiful job that is yours. Their future depends on it ... I know I can count on you.

My dear children,

As for you, I ask you to work well in the classroom and to love your school. Here you will make friends and develop shared values which are the foundation of life in society. You will learn respect for others and the community. Be assiduous in school and listen to your teachers. You will reap the best for the future.

Chers enseignants,

Je ne saurais terminer mon propos, sans vous adresser mes encouragements, ainsi qu'à tous ceux qui œuvrent pour l'éducation de nos enfants. La persévérance doit être votre mot d'ordre. Nous comptons sur vous pour donner à nos enfants, le meilleur de vous-même.

Bonne fin de journée à tous.

Dear teachers,

I cannot end my speech without provide my encouragement to you and to all those who work for the education of our children. Perseverance must be your watchword. We count on you to give our children the best of yourself.

Good day to all.

I thank you.