

Lessons Learnt from Africa on Public and Private Education

A sharing at the Education Financing Conference for Middle East and Eastern Europe

Teopista Birungi Mayanja, Regional Coordinator, ANCEFA
Beirut, 1st-4th May, 2018

Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- About ANCEFA
- Our work in the promotion of Quality, Public, inclusive and equitable Education for All.
- Privatisation/commercialisation of Education in Africa
- What ANCEFA has done
- What we plan to do moving forward
- Conclusion

About ANCEFA

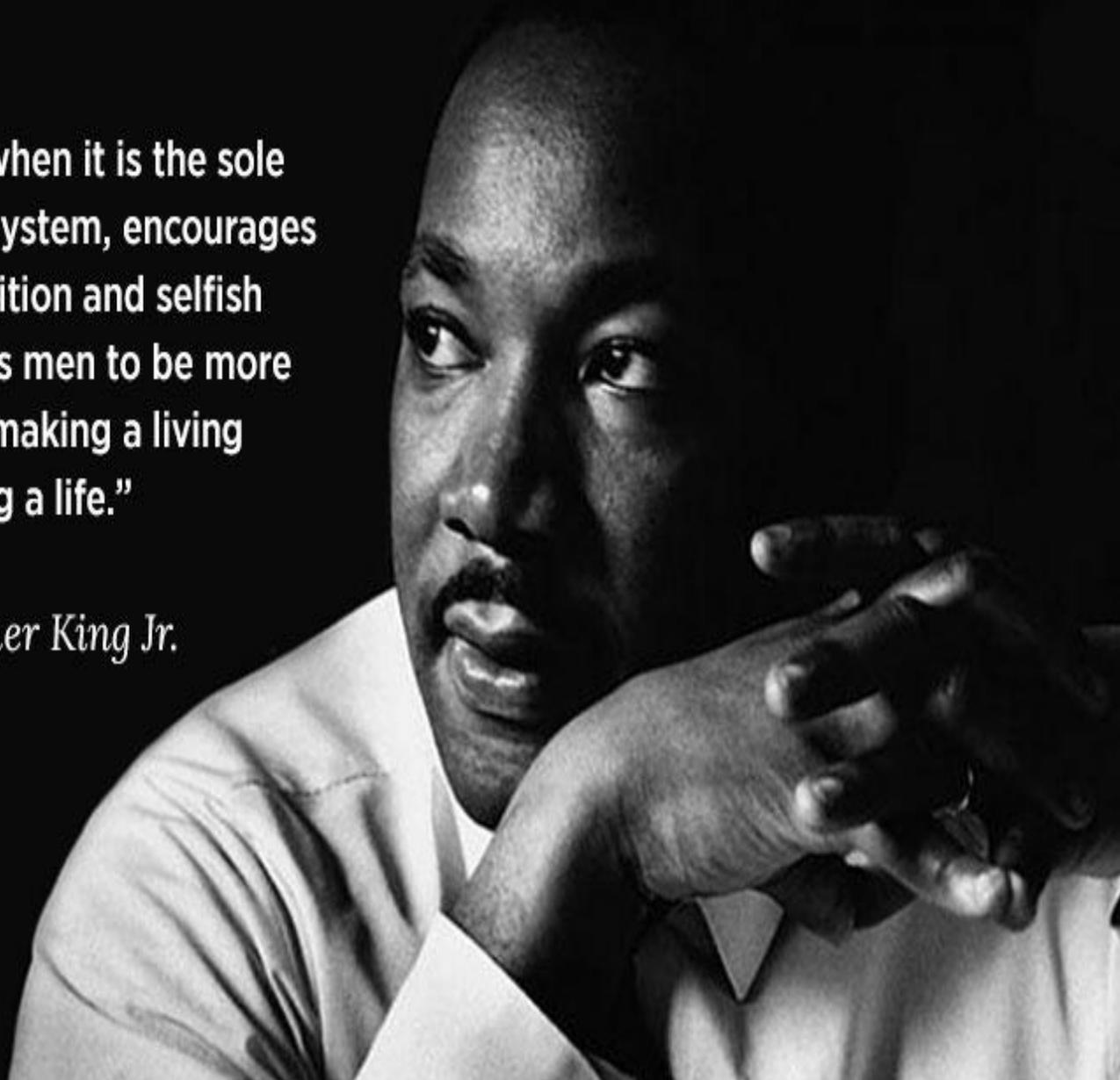
- ANCEFA is a Pan African movement of Civil Society organisations with a representative voice on the right to Education in Africa.
- Established in 2000, it exists to champion the cause for Inclusive, & Equitable Quality Public Education For All in Africa.
- It organizes through National Education Coalitions of diverse richness and capacities. It has a presence in 37 countries and is still growing.
- The major focus is to strengthen the Capacity of its members in Institutional leadership and governance, Communications and Policy advocacy and Partnership building with resource mobilisation.
- That way it influences the Education Policy Agenda at National, Regional and Global Arena in order to achieve the desired goal in education.
- ANCEFA is member of the consortium against privatisation in

Introduction

- The presentation gives a highlights of Ancefa's campaign towards Free, Equitable, and inclusive Quality Public Education for all in Africa.
- It highlights the extent of privatisation and commercialisation of Education in Africa, the various actors and the form the privatisation takes.
- What ANCEFA has been able to do in partnership with others.
- What we plan to do moving forward and this comes from the learned lessons.

“The profit motive, when it is the sole basis of an economic system, encourages a cutthroat competition and selfish ambition that inspires men to be more concerned about making a living than making a life.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.



1-ANCEFA stands for Quality Public Education for All

- **From inception** , ANCEFA has invested tremendous efforts in promoting public quality education for all in Africa, through the following actions:
- Holding the governments to account for the fulfillment of their commitment to the six EFA goals enshrined in the Dakar Framework for Action
- Campaigning for strong public education policies backed by adequate resources and sound financial management through initiatives such as Education watch, budget tracking, score cards.

1-ANCEFA stands for Quality Public Education contd.

- Monitoring the obligation of States to provide education to its citizen, focusing on the rights of the children to education.
- Monitoring governments compliance to international benchmarks (allocation of 20% of the total budget and or 6% GDP to education)
- Together with GCE and EI, training coalitions to use the Education financing toolkit to run national campaigns on **Increased Domestic Financing of Education.**

Privatisation and Commercialisation of Education in Africa

- Education which once appeared to be one area that may have been immune from the dominance of the market is now under unprecedented threat.
- We see the break-up of traditional school systems, the emergence and spread of privately managed, corporate owned, and in many instances, for-profit schools, colleges and universities.
- This is giving more and more prominence to education as a commodity, a private, positional as opposed to a public, societal good and it is undermining social cohesion and democracy.

Privatisation/Commercialisation of Education contd.

- It undermines the right of all students to free, equitable and inclusive quality education.
- creates and entrenches inequalities in education, undermines the professionalism, working conditions and rights of teachers and other education workers.
- Erodes democratic decision-making and public accountability in relation to education governance.
- It has education corporations in various aspects of education governance; (like Pearson which sits on the GPE Board)
- The sale and provision of for-profit education and education services, such as standardised testing, curricula and teacher evaluation tools and support to the introduction and expansion of ***Low Fee For-Profit Schools***.

ANCEFA's Campaign against Privatisation of education

- Mobilised members and partners of the Privatisation consortium (*to which we are members*) against the MDG Assessment Report 2014, by UNDP, Africa Development Bank (AFDB) and Africa Union Commission (AUC).
- The assessment clearly called to private sector to accelerate progress towards achieving MDGS without any caution or guidance to governments to regulate. This had to be challenged.
- With our members & partners we coordinated a challenging feedback to African Union when it called for increased private sector involvement in the Continental Education Strategy 2025.

ANCEFA's campaign...contd.

- Co-Signed on to petition/calls circulated by Right To Education and the Privatisation Consortium against Bridge International Academy in Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda and Kenya
- ANCEFA participated and provided inputs into the drafting of the Human Rights guiding Principles on the regulation of private sector in education in Nairobi in 2016
- Co- organized a Francophone workshop in Dakar which brought together 107 participants from 25 countries representing a diversity of actors (State, TU, UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs & associations, networks)

1- Lessons Learned and way forward

- **Noting that there are growing more private schools in many of our countries than government schools;**
- Developing an ANCEFA policy position on Privatisation of Education to guide our membership in their Advocacy work at National level.
- Setting up of an Africa consortium against privatisation in education with a clear policy position and launch a continental campaign.
- To campaign for Domestic Resource mobilization is about enhancing the National Revenue base, ANCEFA plans to partner with Tax Justice Network to support our members.
- Continue the Training of coalitions using the GCE toolkit on privatisation in Education.
- Re direct our advocacy to target the National actors at National level

Conclusion

"INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A
THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE"

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.