



## City of Long Beach

Working Together to Serve

## Memorandum

Date: April 2, 2019

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **African Delegation to Visit Long Beach to Learn About Programs --  
"Empowering Youth to Strengthen Communities and Prevent Violence"**

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On Monday, April 8, 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department), Community Impact Division, will host the International Visitors Council of Los Angeles (IVCLA), a nonprofit organization that implements the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program for professional and cultural exchanges. The purpose of this visit is to foster a learning exchange between delegates from various African countries and the City of Long Beach, exploring the topic of "*Empowering Youth to Strengthen Communities and Prevent Violence.*" The 11-person delegation roster is attached for your review.

The delegation will travel to several cities in the United States, including Los Angeles and Long Beach. During their visits, they will meet with their counterparts, learn about different prevention programs for at-risk youth, and gain an understanding of support services for gang-involved youth and their families. The Health Department has coordinated an interdepartmental panel, which will provide an overview of the community's gang violence history, and discuss steps taken to reduce gang violence through partnerships with community-based organizations and the State government. The panel includes:

- City Prosecutor's Office
  - Chronic truancy, diversion, tattoo removal, mentoring
- Long Beach Police Department
  - Gang History in Long Beach
  - Human Trafficking Diversion Strategies
- Health Department - Safe Long Beach
  - LB Gang Resistance Intervention Prevention program (LBGRIP)
  - My Sister's Keeper
  - My Brother's Keeper

We invite you, or a member of your staff, to attend. The learning exchange will take place on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., in the Chief's conference room at LBPD Headquarters. Please contact Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Program Coordinator, Community Impact Division, at (562) 570-6730, to RSVP or if you need additional information.

### ATTACHMENT

CC TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
DOUG HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR  
RICHARD CONANT, DEPUTY CHIEF, LONG BEACH POLICE  
TERESA CHANDLER, HUMAN SERVICES BUREAU MANAGER  
REBECCA GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY TO THE CITY MANAGER



# International Visitor Leadership Program

U.S. Department of State

## EMPOWERING YOUTH TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES AND PREVENT VIOLENCE

*A Regional Project for Africa*

These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

**Primary Program Contact:** Ms. Natalia Lvovich, Director of International Programs, International Visitors Council of Los Angeles, 3450 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 705, Los Angeles, CA 90010

**Department of State Program Contacts:** Ms. Sara Delson and Ms. Jordan Lachance, Office of International Visitors

**Accompanied By:** Ms. Marie-Paule McNEICE, Administrative Interpreter; Ms. Meredith ROGERS, Interpreter; and Mr. David VIOLET, Interpreter

**March 25 - April 12, 2019**

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### PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Department of State has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

- Examine primary prevention programs for at-risk youth such as family support programs, after school activities, truancy and dropout prevention programs, and job training programs;
- Explore the efforts of schools, community-based organizations, and faith-based groups to intervene before early problem behaviors (ages 7-14) turn into delinquency, criminal activity, and gang involvement;
- Highlight support services for gang-involved youth and their families to help youth make positive choices; and
- Examine rehabilitation and re-entry programs for youth recently released from prison.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>Algeria</b>	<b>Mr. Lyes MEZGHICHE</b> Project Coordinator, NADA Network Association
<b>Cameroon</b>	<b>Mr. Celestin YANDAL</b> Mayor, Touboro
<b>Gabon</b>	<b>Mr. Edmond Didier NDOUTOUMOU MEDZO</b> CEO, Urban FM
<b>The Gambia</b>	<b>Mr. Marr NYANG</b> Founder, The Gambia Participates
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>Ms. Margaret Wambui Nyambura NJAYAKIO</b> Assistant Education Officer, Dadaab Refugee Camp, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
<b>Mali</b>	<b>Mr. Hady COULIBALY</b> Imam, Mosque N’Goudjétou
<b>Morocco</b>	<b>Ms. Bouchra CHERIF</b> Actress, Artistic Director, and Teacher, Laboratwart Production Company
<b>Niger</b>	<b>Mr. Abdou Samadou YAHAYA</b> Director, Religious Affairs, Office of Public Security and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Interior
<b>South Sudan</b>	<b>Mr. Wani Saki Michael LOTIYU</b> Executive Director, Okay Africa Foundation
<b>South Sudan</b>	<b>Mr. Tongo James Elisama WARIJA</b> Founder and Executive Director, New Page for Peace and Development
<b>Togo</b>	<b>Mr. Abdel Nasser ISSA TOURE</b> Religious Leader

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### **Algeria**

*Name:* **Mr. Lyes MEZGHICHE**

*Present Position:* Project Coordinator, NADA Network Association

*Concurrent Positions:* Legal Expert, Private Agricultural Company

*Previous Positions:* Commercial Agent, Alltex Group, 2011 - 2013

*Education/Training:* Bachelor's Degree, Law and Administration Science, University of Algiers, 2011  
Certificate of Aptitude, Profession of Lawyer, University of Algiers, 2012

*Address:* Algiers, Algeria

*Languages:* Arabic (primary), French

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Mr. Mezghiche is a Project Coordinator for the NADA Network Association. In this role, he leads a project to prevent child labor in Algeria. The program seeks to educate children and improve their financial literacy while deterring their participation in the labor market. In addition to his work with NADA Network Association, Mr. Mezghiche has years of experience mentoring youth and teaching young people to become active participants in civic life.

## **Cameroon**

*Name:* **Mr. Celestin YANDAL**

*Present Position:* Mayor, Touboro

*Education/Training:* Master's Degree, Law, University of Ngaoundere, 2011  
Bachelor's Degree, Management of Decentralized Territorial Units, University of Ngaoundere, 2010

*Address:* Touboro, Cameroon

*Languages:* French (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Mr. Yandal is the Mayor of Touboro in the northern region of Cameroon. As Mayor, he has worked to strengthen youth development in the region by starting the Touboro Youth Association for Development. Mr. Yandal is interested in examining community peacebuilding and community mobilization initiatives in the United States.

## **Gabon**

*Name:* **Mr. Edmond Didier NDOUTOUMOU MEDZO**

*Present Position:* CEO, Urban FM

*Previous Positions:* Website Creator, [www.jobgabon.com](http://www.jobgabon.com), 2010  
Journalist, [www.koaci.com](http://www.koaci.com), 2008 - 2009  
Website Creator, [www.tromatix.com](http://www.tromatix.com), 2008  
Co-Founder and Journalist, Radio Campus, 2005 - 2008

*Education/Training:* Associate's Degree, Public Law, Omar Bongo University, 2004

*Publications:* Various publications in *Enoromi* cultural magazine

*Address:* Libreville, Gabon

*Languages:* Fang/Bulu (primary), French

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* France, Netherlands, Rwanda, Togo, United Arab Emirates

*Professional Background:* Mr. Ndoutoumou Medzo, also known as "Dafresh," is a radio personality on Urban FM's morning program, *The Dafresh Morning*. The show serves as an outlet for listeners to obtain news and to examine social challenges, youth-led initiatives, government matters, health-related topics, and other trending matters in Gabon and the world.

## **The Gambia**

*Name:* **Mr. Marr NYANG**

*Present Position:* Founder, The Gambia Participates

*Address:* Gambia

*Languages:* Wolof (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Ghana

*Professional Background:* Mr. Nyang is the founder of The Gambia Participates, a social media movement that promoted voter registration and conducted a get-out-the-vote campaign prior to The Gambia’s presidential elections. The campaign reached 100,000 people both offline and online. Mr. Nyang also provided technical support to the first ever Gambian Presidential Debate between contesting political parties. In addition, he manages a public diplomacy grant for a government transparency and accountability program called “Follow the Money.”

## **Kenya**

*Name:* **Ms. Margaret Wambui Nyambura NJAYAKIO**

*Present Position:* Assistant Education Officer, Dadaab Refugee Camp, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

*Previous Positions:* Assistant Education Officer, UNHCR, 2014  
Field Education Officer, Refugee Education Trust, 2012  
Youth Business Officer, Mercy Corps, 2012  
Education Officer, Norwegian Refugee Council, 2009 - 2011  
Field Research Coordinator, Humanitarian Accountability Partnership, 2007 - 2008  
Education Officer, Windle International Kenya, 2005 - 2006

*Education/Training:* Master's Degree (Candidate), Education Leadership and Management, Kenya Methodist University  
Bachelor's Degree, Arts and English Literature, Kenyatta University, 2003

*Publications:* Various publications on international development and humanitarian assistance

*Address:* Dadaab, Kenya

*Languages:* Kikuyu (primary), English

*U.S. Travel:* Washington, DC

*Other Travel:* Rwanda, Somaliland, Tanzania

*Professional Background:* Ms. Njayakio is an Assistant Education Officer for the UNHCR. She is based at the Dadaab Refugee Camp complex in Northeast Kenya, bordering Somalia. Ms. Njayakio is interested in examining family support initiatives in the United States, in addition to after-school programs and truancy and dropout prevention programs to prevent gang violence.



## **Mali**

*Name:* **Mr. Hady COULIBALY**

*Present Position:* Imam, Mosque N’Goudjétou

*Concurrent Positions:* Owner and Director, Ecole Franco-Arabe Radia-I-Al-Ilimi de Niamana

*Previous Positions:* Manager, Société Sampana S.A., 2002 - 2010

*Education/Training:* License, French-Arabic Language, F.L.A.S.H., 2003  
Certificate, Information Technology Professional, Durban University of Technology, 2009

*Memberships:* Association for the Development of Niamana  
High Islamic Council of Commune IV  
LIMAMA Niamana  
Muslim Association for the Development of the Village of Niamana  
Muslim Spiritual Leader Group of Mali  
Young Muslims Union of Mali

*Address:* Bamako, Mali

*Languages:* Mandingo-Bambara (primary), Arabic, French

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Professional Background:* Mr. Coulibaly is the Imam of the Mosque N’Goudjétou. He is also engaged in various community development associations. Mr. Coulibaly is interested in examining best practices in preventing violent extremism, specifically among the youth.

## **Morocco**

*Name:* **Ms. Bouchra CHERIF**

*Present Position:* Actress, Artistic Director, and Teacher, Laboratwart Production Company

*Previous Positions:* Artistic Assistant, Dabateatr, 2016 - 2017

*Education/Training:* Training Degree, Arts Education, Cie Gorara Morocco, 2018  
Training Degree, Acting, Higher Institute for Dramatic Arts, 2007

*Address:* Morocco

*Languages:* Arabic (primary), French

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Belgium, Côte D'Ivoire, France, Germany, Lebanon

*Professional Background:* Ms. Cherif is involved in Moroccan theatre, television, and film. She started her own production company, Laboratwart, through which she teaches youth to role-play scenarios reflecting on political dialogue and society. Ms. Cherif is interested in examining approaches to youth engagement through the arts as well as initiatives to help young people avoid crime, violence, extremism, substance abuse, and other destructive behavior.

## **Niger**

*Name:* **Mr. Abdou Samadou YAHAYA**

*Present Position:* Director, Religious Affairs, Office of Public Security and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Interior

*Education/Training:* Master's Degree, Law, Attadamoun University, 2017  
Bachelor's Degree, Law and Jurisprudence, Islamic University of Niger, 2003

*Address:* Niamey, Niger

*Languages:* Hausa (primary), Arabic, Djerma/Songhai, French

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Italy, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia

*Professional Background:* Mr. Yahaya is the Director of Religious Affairs in the Ministry of Interior's Office of Public Security and Religious Affairs. In this role, he engages on religious issues with many stakeholders, including government, civil society, religious leaders and organizations, and the media. He has also been involved in de-radicalization efforts for former extremist group members and has contributed to various community resilience initiatives. Mr. Yahaya would like to expand his knowledge of best practices in preventing violent extremism and strengthening both intra- and interfaith dialogue in the United States.

## **South Sudan**

*Name:* **Mr. Wani Saki Michael LOTIYU**

*Present Position:* Executive Director, Okay Africa Foundation

*Concurrent Positions:* Youth Representative, High-Level Revitalization Forum, African Union

*Previous Positions:* Program Assistant, Political Parties Department, 2012 - 2013  
Program Officer, Civil Society, 2014 - 2018

*Education/Training:* Bachelor's Degree, Development Studies, Gulu University, 2012

*Memberships:* South Sudan Civil Society Forum

*Publications:* Various publications on youth empowerment and peacebuilding

*Address:* Juba, South Sudan

*Languages:* English

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Ethiopia, Uganda

*Professional Background:* Mr. Lotiyu serves as Executive Director of the Okay Africa Foundation. In this role, he works to mobilize civil society organizations to address fundamental issues affecting South Sudanese youth. In addition to his work with the Okay Africa Foundation, Mr. Lotiyu is the Youth Representative to the African Union's High-Level Revitalization Forum. He is also a co-author of the *South Sudan National Youth Agenda for 2032*. Mr. Lotiyu is interested in observing best practices in promoting civic engagement among youth.

## **South Sudan**

*Name:* **Mr. Tongo James Elisama WARIJA**

*Present Position:* Founder and Executive Director, New Page for Peace and Development

*Previous Positions:* President, Eastern Africa Youth Forum, 2012  
Co-Trainer and Facilitator, National Peace, Healing, and Reconciliation Training for Peace Mobilizers  
Civic Education Officer, 2010

*Education/Training:* Bachelor's Degree, International Relations and Diplomacy, Busoga University, Uganda, 2017  
Diploma, Business Management and Administration, Sudan Christian University College, 2009

*Memberships:* South Sudan Human Rights Monitors

*Address:* South Sudan

*Languages:* English, Arabic

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Switzerland, Uganda

*Professional Background:* Mr. Warija is the Founder and Executive Director of New Page for Peace and Development, an NGO that seeks to promote peacebuilding initiatives in the local community. He is interested in examining successes and challenges in community engagement and peacebuilding in the United States.

## **Togo**

*Name:* **Mr. Abdel Nasser ISSA TOURE**

*Present Position:* Religious Leader

*Concurrent Position:* Electrician

*Education/Training:* Professional Aptitude Certificate, Sokode Vocational School, 1984

*Address:* Sokode, Togo

*Languages:* Ewe (primary), French

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel

*Other Travel:* Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana

*Professional Background:* Mr. Issa Toure is a religious leader in Sokode. He works with other community members to reduce inter-political and social tensions, seeking to promote peace and reconciliation. Mr. Issa Toure would like to explore best practices for working with youth, as well as faith-based organizations' efforts to promote peace and build mutual understanding.