

THE USAU YOUTH



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BEING A PART OF TODAY'S LEADERSHIP

When Africa moved into its period of independence, young people assumed many of the newly opened leadership positions. The former colonial powers believed that young people would be able to resolve the problems ahead and consequently handed over power of the old colonies to its young indigenes. **Therefore, African youth must prove that they too can ensure a brighter tomorrow. If you are willing to take the steps of a leader – read on.**

Understanding True Leadership

Many young Africans have the ability to lead in every domain in our society, but how many of them know what it is to be a true leader? Leadership demands that we discern when to use our heads and our hearts. Using the head is often correlated to the use of one's intellect or mental power while using the heart is the manner in which a person's character influences the way he or she leads people. Both determine a leader's effectiveness and value.

Qualities often associated with the 'head' are **Intelligence, Communication, Focus, and Courage**. An *intelligent* leader always seeks *self-improvement by reading or learning from those before and around them*. With their broad base of knowledge, they can become *innovative* and stand *ready to make sound and timely decisions*. They know their strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. This self-awareness better prepares them to maximize their skills and the skills of those around them.

Effective communication is not as easy as it seems. When articulating a point of view to a colleague or speaking to an audience, conveying ideas in easily relatable ways is a difficult task. When leaders like U.S. President Barack Obama speak, people feel a sense of *confidence, trust, and sincerity* in his words. This skill allows leaders to craft images and stories for their audiences, aiding them in identifying and

understanding key points and phrases. In addition, to speaking, listening is also a critical leadership skill. Understanding when to reflect and engage with your ears can empower others, while also enhancing your understanding of a topic. Though many don't believe it, those who listen often have the most poignant things to say.

Finally, ***focused and courageous*** leaders never give up; they always have a 'Plan B' to ensure they fulfill their objectives. Many leaders lack these characteristics, opting instead for unfocused and cowardly approaches. **I implore these leaders to reflect on the life of Nelson Mandela**. His legacy is the meaning of sacrifice.

Humility is the Crown of a True Leader's Heart

The most beloved leaders of the world were humble and always ready to serve the people. These individuals listened to every idea, even from those below them, treating everyone with respect and dignity. **Most of all, they are always ready to move on and give way to others to grow and carry on from where they have ended their task** – an attribute which sadly enough, many youth have no models to learn from.

So with this knowledge, it is my hope we help craft and mold the leaders of tomorrow with the words of today.

*Bari Fanso
African Union Youth Volunteer
USAU Youth Liaison to the AU*



Some faces of African youth leaders

EDITORIAL NOTE

The USAU Youth dedicates the month of June as the month for economic growth and development. Our priority has been to provide you with information on how to become an effective leader tomorrow on **page I**, we also look back at the Arab Spring and what hope it holds for youth development in North Africa on **page 2**, and we invite you to talk about youth and unemployment on **page 6**.

Ambassador Miguel H. Diaz, the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See (The Vatican), readily shares some of his life experiences with us on **page 8**. Kindly join the many volunteers across Africa as you read through the experience of **Kristina Rosales**, a Pickering Fellow interning at the U.S. Embassy in Mozambique, who shares with us her experiences on **page 10**.

The USAU Youth team wishes you an enjoyable read ...

Bari Fanso
USAU Youth Liaison to the AU

THE ARAB SPRING AND ITS IMPACTS ON NORTH AFRICAN YOUTH

On December 18, 2010 protests enveloped northern Africa and the Arab world, leading to the ouster of Tunisian, Egyptian, and Libyan leaders. The high concentration of wealth, lack of opportunity, corruption, insufficient government transparency, and, notably, the youth's refusal to accept the status quo were the primary catalysts for the protests. Ultimately, the demonstrations were dubbed the 'Arab Spring'. This issue investigates the impact of those uprisings on African youth.

Although youth activists played critical roles in driving and managing the protests in most countries, their role will likely diminish in the near future. Historically, youth movements generally lack the organization, leadership, and comprehensive policy platforms necessary to sustain themselves. Moreover, many youth organizations are unaware of already existing policies designed to empower the youth; take for instance, the African Youth Charter.

Unfortunately, the Arab Spring period of a downturn, economic recession, and unemployment in Africa has sharply followed the Arab Spring. According to the International Organization for Migration, youth unemployment in North Africa has almost five



The Arab Spring in Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia

points between 2010 and 2011. In the Maghreb region, increasing emphasis has been placed on decreasing government dependency and fostering entrepreneurship.

The actions taken by the youth activists during the Arab spring gave voice to their concerns about their individual futures, as well as that of their countries. These events provide hope for democracy and the overall respect of citizens' rights. If this revolution proves successful we can thank our youth leaders for taking our continent to the next level of political and economic development.

*Lagmet Argyll Abdulrazack
Executive Director - La Renaissance Africaine
NDjamena, Chad*

NEWS FLASH

Ambassador Michael A. Battle with Matthew Goldstein

Matthew Goldstein, the USAID African Union specialist, completed a major study on UN cooperation with the African Union (AU) on peace and security, economic development, and continental policy development. This work led to the United States supporting the creation of the UN Office to the African Union, the rejoining of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and Secretary Clinton's accreditation of Ambassador Michael Battle as U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN in Addis Ababa.

Africa 2.0 Leadership Symposium

During June 12 - 14, 2012, emerging leaders from the private sector, civil society, and government committed to working together to unlock the potential of the continent, in Lagos, Nigeria. It was the 3rd Annual Africa 2.0 Leadership Symposium under the theme **"Designing and Implementing Solutions Together"**. The symposium gathered a critical mass of committed leaders, to design and implement mobilization campaign geared towards youth, women, and the African Diaspora specifically by leveraging on Technology. For more information on the symposium kindly visit <http://africa2point0.org/>

MONTHLY PROVERB

"If you can't stand the heat, get out the kitchen." This proverb was coined by the 33rd American President, Harry S. Truman.



This saying means, if you cannot stand the pressure of a situation, then you should not be involved.

Americans generally use the phrase to suggest you should step aside to let someone more qualified or able to complete the task at hand.

*Chukwudi Nwadiibia
U.S. Department of State Pickering Fellow,
U.S. Mission to the African Union - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

MOHAMED BOUAZIZI - THE SELF-SACRIFICING YOUTH HERO

Born on March 29, 1984 in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, **Tarek al-Tayeb Mohamed Bouazizi** set himself on fire at the age of 26; an act which later resulted in his death. His act became a catalyst for not only the Tunisian Revolution but also the larger Arab Awakening. His daring deed, in protest to the confiscation of his merchandise, not only



Mohamed Bouazizi:
March 29, 1984 - January 4, 2011

led many Arabs in the Middle East and North Africa to regard him as a hero and an inspiration, but many in Sub-Saharan Africa also identify with the level of frustration exemplified by Mr. Bouazizi's actions.

Mohamed's father, who died of a heart attack when Mohamed was three, was a construction worker in Libya. Following his father's death, his mother married his uncle. With his uncle's poor health rendering him unable to work regularly, Mohamed had to start fending for the family at age 10. During his late teens he quit school in order to work full-time to support his family. He never graduated, although that was something he had always wanted for himself and his siblings. He applied to join the army and was not accepted. At the time of his death, Mohamed was paying his sisters university fees and supporting his mother and uncle, from the sale of fruits and vegetables on the street.

On December 16, 2010, Mohamed Bouazizi contracted a debt of approximately \$200 to buy produce to sell the following day. On the morning of December 17, the police harassed him because he did not have a vendor's permit. It is argued by some that street vending is illegal in Tunisia, but, according to the Head of the Sidi Bouzid State Office for Employment and Independent Work, no permit is needed to sell from a cart. Whatever the case, Mohamed had no money to bribe the police officials to allow him to continue his street vending. After suffering humiliation by the municipal official and her aides, Mohamed complained at the governor's office. The governor refused to see or listen to him even after Mohamed declared *"If you don't see me, I'll burn myself."* He then got a can of gasoline, went back to the governor's office, and while shouting in the middle of traffic *"how do you expect me to make a living?"* set himself ablaze.

Mohamed suffered severe burns all over his body and died 18 days later, on January 4, 2011. Outraged by the events that led to Mohamed's self-immolation, protests began in Sidi Bouzid within hours. The protests grew for two weeks before later spreading to more affluent areas, and eventually to the capital. This inspired neighboring Arab countries to begin their own protests. **The Arab spring started with the ordeal of a single African youth, which reflected the difficulties faced by young people across the continent. It resulted in a drastic change of leadership and governance in North Africa and has made the continent's leaders step back and refocus their governance strategies.**

Let us observe a moment of silence for **Tarek al-Tayeb Mohamed Bouazizi**, the self-sacrificing African youth hero.

For details on a suicide that sparked a revolution visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47d6fyaOjRM>

WARNING: The video contains scenes with violence and should not be viewed by young children.

DISCLAIMER: The information above has been obtained from open media sources; the USAU is not responsible for the content of independent media report.

Bari Fanzo
African Union Youth Volunteer (AUYV)
USAU Youth Liaison to the AU

SUDOKU PUZZLE

THE NEW PUZZLE - JUNE

		2						
1	7	9		4			6	
			9	2		3	5	
			6	9		5	4	
	6	4		7	8			9
	5	1		6	7			
	4			5		2	7	1
						6		

ANSWERS FOR MAY PUZZLE

1	3	9	7	8	2	6	5	4
4	2	5	3	1	6	9	7	8
7	8	6	4	9	5	2	1	3
2	1	4	8	5	7	3	6	9
9	5	8	6	3	1	4	2	7
6	7	3	9	2	4	1	8	5
3	9	2	1	7	8	5	4	6
5	6	7	2	4	3	8	9	1
8	4	1	5	6	9	7	3	2

DID YOU KNOW? ... LET'S DISCUSS ON FACEBOOK (Youth Employment in Africa)

With almost 200 million people between the ages of 15 and 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world, and it keeps growing rapidly. Experts predict this number will double by 2045. Between 2000 and 2008, Africa's working age population (15-64 years) grew from 443 million to 550 million, an increase of 25%. Annually, this amounts to a growth of 13 million, or 2.7% (World Bank 2011a). If this trend continues, the continent's labor force will total 1 billion by 2040, making it the largest in the world (McKinsey Global Institute, 2010).

African Youth Education and Employment

Africa's youth population is not only growing rapidly, it is also becoming better educated. Based on current trends, 59% of 20-24 year olds will have received a secondary education by 2030, compared to 42% today. This totals about 137 million 20-24 year olds with secondary education and 12 million with tertiary education by 2030. Although significant quality gaps remain, these trends offer an unrivaled opportunity for economic and social development. **There will be significant benefits if the talents of this swiftly increasing human capital are channeled toward the productive sectors of the economy. However, they could also pose a threat to social cohesion and political stability if Africa fails to create sufficient opportunities.**

Youth Obstacles to Getting Employed

Many young Africans are discouraged about their economic opportunities. Among university graduates, 30% consider **networking** paramount to finding a job, compared to those with less education who see the **"lack of proper training"** as the primary obstacle.



Youth Employment in Africa
Photos obtained from open media sources

Africa's youth also encounter other barriers to employment. 89% of individuals in African countries reported the following as discrimination against first-time job seekers; a **strong preference for work experience**, the **need for professional networks**, and **labor regulations** favoring job-holders (adults). These, according to them, are the obstacles to finding employment.

Join us on Facebook and share with us **what young people must do to find jobs?** And give your suggestions on **what the government can do to create more jobs for young people?**

Visit us on Facebook via: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Did-You-Know-Le-Saviez-Vous/181760325263595>

DISCLAIMER: The following information has been provided from the African Economic Outlook open media source. For more information kindly visit http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/in-depth/youth_employment/

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Read through our articles on our *'Did You know? ... Let's Discuss on Facebook'* column in order to answer all the crossword puzzles. Thank you!

1	3													
									8					
5													7	
						4								
2														
								6						

ACROSS

- 1. The act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, while developing the powers of reasoning, and generally preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.
- 5. The state of bringing a person to an agreed standard of proficiency.
- 2. An economic condition marked by the fact that individuals seeking jobs are not hired.
- 6. The interaction or engagement in informal communication between a group of people or organizations, that are connected or that work together for mutual assistance or support

DOWN

- 3. A prejudice treatment or consideration based on class or category rather than individual merit
- 4. The system or range by which a country's production, distribution, consumption of goods and services, and money are organized.
- 8. The knowledge that you get from life and being in a lot of different situations or from time spent doing an activity or a job
- 7. The number of people who are available to work, considered together with all the available jobs

ANSWERS:
 DOWN - 3. Discrimination
 ACROSS - 1. Education
 2. Unemployment
 4. Economy
 5. Training
 6. Network
 7. Labor market
 8. Experience

A WORD TO THE WISE - AMBASSADOR MIGUEL H. DIAZ

Ambassador Miguel H. Diaz, a man of very few words, is the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See (The Vatican). His office cooperates with the Holy See on many important international issues which includes, human rights and human dignity, inter-religious understanding, peace and non-proliferation, development, and environmental protection.



H.E. MIGUEL H. DIAZ
U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See

The USAU Youth: Good morning your Excellency, can you tell us a little about yourself, including some highlights from your youth, and key values from your upbringing?

Ambassador Miguel Diaz: I am the child of Cuban exiles. My parents came to the United States in the early 1970s and settled in Miami. I grew up in Miami, which is a very diverse, dynamic, and evolving city. As part of my upbringing, I spoke Spanish at home and English or ‘Spanglish’ with my friends at school.

As a Cuban-American, I learned to live constantly on the “hyphen”. In other words, I experienced the world moving back and forth from one language to another and from one cultural and socio-political experience to another.

The USAU Youth: Did you have any role models back then? Why do you think you looked up to them?

Ambassador Miguel Diaz: I had a lot of role models and count among them **my parents, teachers, and a few friends.** My parents taught me the *value of hard work and commitment regardless of life’s many challenges.*

My teachers taught me *the love of learning.* Thus, as a result of having had some pretty amazing teachers, I pursued and succeeded at obtaining a holistic education that included studies in bio-chemistry, history, modern languages, philosophy, and theology.

Finally, from **a few trusted friends** I learned to *value unconditional love and the importance of embodied human relationships.*

The USAU Youth: How have the values influenced the way you carry out your duties as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See?

A WORD TO THE WISE - AMBASSADOR MIGUEL H. DIAZ

Ambassador Miguel Diaz: The values of hard work, commitment, love of learning, and unconditional love enabled me to become more sensitive to the needs of others. In addition, my holistic education opened up an entire world of understanding and human relations for me.

These fundamental human experiences have had a significant influence on the vision, duties, and relationships as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

The USAU Youth: Can you tell us some major career challenges you encountered and how you overcame them?

Ambassador Miguel Diaz: As the child of a waiter and a data entry operator, I grew up in a financially limited environment. Moreover, I was the first member of my family to complete a high school education and attend college. I faced many financial, familial, and personal challenges going through school, especially in pursuit of my doctoral degree. Through it all, I came to deeply appreciate the importance of persistence, sacrifice, and hope in a better tomorrow.

The USAU Youth: Can you give a piece of advice to the young Africans who right now, are learning from your experiences?

Ambassador Miguel Diaz: In a world deeply polarized and torn with respect to how to address the rich diversity of what it means to be human, ***we need bridge-builders who can embrace and befriend others and their otherness, not just in Facebook, but also in face to face personal relations. Become those bridge-builders!***

As young Africans, you have a rich culture, a wealth of social, political, and religious experiences, and a communal sense of self that has much to offer the world. Learn your history, share your history, and be willing to change your history, if necessary, for the sake of creating a better future for yourselves and for the sake of advancing the common good of the entire human family.

The USAU Youth: Thank you Sir for granting this interview and for inspiring young Africans who hope to be like you.

Ambassador Miguel Diaz: Thank you for coming.

“We need bridge-builders who can embrace and befriend others and their otherness, not just in Facebook, but also in face to face personal relations. Become those bridge-builders!”

*Bari Fanso
African Union Youth Volunteer
USAU Youth Liaison to the AU*

THE VOICE OF VOLUNTEERS - KRISTINA ROSALES

I am Kristina Rosales, an American intern in Mozambique. I have found the country very welcoming and endearing. The people are very open, making it an excellent place to work and spend my summer. My exposure to Portuguese allows me to communicate with Mozambicans in a language familiar to them. I think this has allowed me to better connect with my local community.



Kristina Rosales

I chose to work here to build an integrated experience between public affairs, through the U.S. Embassy, and public health, with USAID. In my academic and research experience, I have specialized on issues of public health and outreach, particularly to rural and impoverished communities. My prior experience working on HIV issues in Brazil interested me in Mozambique. It is one of the largest recipients of U.S. support to fight the disease. I wanted to learn about the inter-agency efforts between the U.S. Embassy, USAID, and, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in implementing effective

health projects in the field while communicating to the Mozambican population how to best prevent diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

Most of the work I conduct through the Embassy or USAID directly impacts youth. For example, in Mozambique, HIV/AIDS prevalence is highest amongst youth between 15-24 years old. Most of the grants and project we develop and support tend to target this demographic. Our goal is to better inform youth about preventive behaviors and options to promote healthy lifestyles for themselves and their communities. Within the Public Affairs section, I work on the selection and outreach processes for the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) grants to implement preventive programming on HIV/AIDS. Through USAID, I document facts and success stories from field sites, in an effort to communicate with the Mozambican population on the efforts of the U.S Government to decrease the impact of health epidemics across the country.

As someone who has worked in remote areas across Latin America, I found many similarities between these two continents, specifically when dealing with public health concerns. There are still many difficulties reaching out to specific populations, mostly in rural areas, because of the lack of access and development, but this is rapidly changing in Mozambique. I am also quite impressed by the rapid economic boom many African countries are experiencing and how they are deciding to invest in their human capital and welfare. This is particularly evident in my work on the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

“I chose to work here to build an integrated experience between public affairs, through the U.S. Embassy, and public health, with USAID.”

*Kristina Rosales
U.S. Department of State Pickering Fellow
U.S. Embassy, Mozambique*



UPCOMING AFRICAN UNION EVENT



The African Union summit is scheduled to take place as follows:

Dates: 9 to 16 July 2012

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Theme: “Boosting Intra-African Trade”

Specific dates for the meetings of the different AU organs during the Summit will be as follows:

9 – 10 July 2012: 24th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC);

12 – 13 July 2012: 21st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council

15 – 16 July 2012: 19th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union.

For more information kindly visit <http://www.au.int/en>

U.S. MISSION TO THE AFRICAN UNION

The USAU Youth is a platform for African youth around the world and the views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the United States Government nor those of the African Union.

We're on the web:
www.usau.usmission.gov

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ONLINE
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The USAU Youth thanks all the readers who sent in articles for this month's edition. Please keep sending in the articles, announcements, and information on any subject matter you would like to see in subsequent editions of the newsletter to USAUyouth@state.gov. Kindly share with us activities and pictures of what you or your country is doing in relation to youth empowerment in Africa. Thank you.

NOTIFICATION:

KINDLY TAKE THE TIME TO FILL OUT ALL THE REQUIREMENTS UPON SUBSCRIPTION. WE WILL BE UNABLE TO SEND YOU A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER IF YOUR DATA IS INCOMPLETE.

CONTACT

TEL: +251 - 11 - 130 - 6794

Email: USAUyouth@state.gov

Facebook (page name): U.S. Mission to the African Union

Website: www.usau.usmission.gov

DETAILS OF EDITORS

Editor-in-Chief:

Bari Fanso

Deputy Editor:

Chukwudi Nwadiibia

Translations:

Annick Laure Tchuendem

Chimene Astrid Agossou

Bari Fanso

Contributors:

African Union Youth Volunteers

African youth around the world

Members of youth organizations based in Africa

Design/Layout

Bari Fanso

USAU Youth Liaison to the AUC

Chief Editorial Advisor:

Jasmine White

Political and Public Diplomacy Officer (USAU)

Editorial Advisors:

Mark Lovejoy / Laura Holbrook

Community Liaison Office (US Embassy)

Orlando Bama

Senior Communication Officer (AU Commission)

Web Master

Lina Mohammed

Public Diplomacy Assistant (USAU)