

Important Date

**Meetings are held at 1305 Sheridan Ave,
Apt. 6C at 7:00 PM Every 1st Sunday of the
month.**

Page 1— Editorial /Immigration

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EDITORIAL**Time to Act GYO**

Pa Omar Jaata

Hello members of the Gambian Youths Organization. I wish to remind us all of our commitment in 2010. The year is here and we promised ourselves towards it. We said that in 2010 we would have our own home; we even went further to challenge ourselves to pay 200 dollars each before July this year so that before the end of this year, we can achieve our 2010 new you resolution.

Time and time again, we acted with impulse and fail to live up to our expectations but I believe that is singularly but not in the collective action of GYO; The organization that is making America a great home to us all. It is pertinent to make an evaluation of ourselves and our achievements throughout these seven years of our existence. It is realized from my own analysis that the organization has done a lot for people but not much is done for her. She has relieved the burden on many and yet stays quietly with her own burden; while she makes people settle down; she continues to fly all around in people's homes without anywhere to land as home. While it satisfies the masses by providing a musical set, she has no place to keep it. Oh GYO, my GYO, our GYO, the GYO of all.

The torch, as an organ of the GYO is mad and angry and wants to give an Ultimatum to the people who created it and her parent the GYO; to act and act now. The paper promise admonition and revenge when it is disappointed. Disappointments that would galore with awards on her pages, the pages of truth and of true reasoning. Its six months more to our self imposed deadline, a deadline that we imposed on ourselves but a deadline that must be achieved with great sacrifice. Indeed it is sacrifice that makes everything in the world to succeed and I believe that resolve can make ours too to succeed.



The Torch

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The Gambian Youths Organization (GYO)

Newsletter

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Let us work together to make the GYO stand on its foot and sit in her own home as soon as it is feasible. The organization have all the brains possible to find us a home but the resources is what we lack; We have construction personnel, computer technicians, teachers, restaurateurs, merchants, salesmen, Direct care workers and almost everybody else. This organization is well equipped with every aspect of life and every angle of living. Let's make it happen. The challenges are in or before July pay 200 dollars each and before 2011, we have a home; it cannot be vice versa. The moment is now and the time is now. Thank you GYO Lets go GYO; with that we present to you the February edition of the TORCH, voice of the Gambian Youths Organization. Please read on:

IMMIGRATION

Pa Omar Jaata

UK proposes new increases in immigration and nationality fees and expects to be implemented in April

THE United Kingdom Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, Phil Woolas, has put forward regulations in Parliament for the fees for immigration and nationality services. The fees for many services are higher than the normal administrative cost for the services.

In most cases the fees have not changed that much. The increase has been kept at less than ten percent. In some cases GBP50 per person is allocated to the Migration Impacts Fund to help communities affected by immigration.

It is interesting to note that for some dependent relative applications the fee has doubled or tripled in price. The Government feels that higher fees are justified to pay for the higher social and health care costs to look after elderly relatives. An application for entry on a settlement visa for a dependent relative will go up from GBP585 to GBP1680. An application for a dependent relative visa made from inside the UK will go up from GBP820 to GBP1680.

The immigration minister, Phil Woolas had the following comments to make about the increase in immigration and nationality fees, likely to be introduced in April 2010: "... it was only fair that those who benefited from using the immigration system should help fund it..." However, a number of people feel that the fees for dependent relatives are quite excessive.

There will also be a £15,000 "premium service" available for the very rich; For this price the UK Border Agency will visit skilled migrants at their offices or homes to deal with the processing of their application and to take biometric photographs and fingerprints. In this situation a decision will be made immediately.

The UKBA estimates that the cost for providing the "mobile biometric enrolment and case-working" service is £1 982. On a trial

basis fifty appointments will be made available in the first 12 months from this April. One group of people who may wish to take advantage of this scheme is wealthy professional footballers in the UK.

In February 2010 the Government will publish proposals on fees that will be set at below cost. The Government considers the following when setting fees:

- The the cost of processing applications.
- The importance of attracting certain groups of migrants to the UK.
- The value of a successful application to the migrant.

False impression

By Momodou S.Sawaneh

How many of you want something so bad that you would do or say anything to get it? How many of you? Think about a job that you really want, you go to an interview say anything or act like someone you are not just to get that job. This acting like someone you are not is what is called false impression. Although false impression does work in many instances, unfortunately, it doesn't last in most instances.

In this discussion, we will look at a few areas where false impression works and where it doesn't work: ***false impression works at work and false impression rarely works when it comes to blind dating such as Internet dating and dating someone you meet in a club.***

At a work place, you want to show that you are a great employee. These are some of the things you want to engage doing. You want to make sure you don't walk down the hall without a document in your hands. Why? Because people who carry documents in their hands look like hardworking employees heading for important meetings. On the other hand people, who don't have anything in their hands, look like they're heading for the cafeteria. Worse, people who carry a newspaper in their hands look like they're heading for the toilet.

More importantly, when you are leaving work at night, carry loads of stuff home with you, trust me this technique will generate the false impression that you work longer hours than you actually do; Plus look on the computer even if you are not doing anything. Any time you use a computer, it looks like "work" to the casual observer. You can send and receive personal e-mail, calculate your finances and

generally have a blast without doing anything remotely related to work. These are not the benefit that people who propoganda the revolution would like to talk about but is not a bad idea to create false impression. In a situation you get caught by your boss - and definitely you will get caught - your best defense is to said you're teaching yourself to use new software—who can deny that is against the productivity at work?

When it comes to areas where false impression doesn't work, count in **Internet dating and clubbing**. Meeting someone in these settings for realistic relationships are risky, and I won't recommend you to do it base on my personal experience. It can really be disappointing. Guys, I know our busy schedules at work and other things could prevent us going out to meet people in the bars, movies and playgrounds and get to see them physically. However, we're sometimes caught up in the easy way around to get dates. We tend to sit on our computer for hours chatting, giving the other persons all interesting false information about ourselves. So what happens? Of course, someone would be disappointed. Since we want to date so badly, we thinking giving false impression would really give us the opportunity to meet these other persons. I still couldn't get off a story of a friend who was so excited to meet this lady online. They spend hours talking on the phone. The lady sent pictures of a fine girl that he thought he was dating a model. One day he asked me to accompany him to meet her in a restaurant. Once we were there, we saw an SUV parked by the restaurant and huge ugly woman came out. She walked directly to us and asked, "I am looking for Lamin, a young African guy. He is about 26." My friend jumped from his seat, "We don't know that name, are you sure you are at the right place?" The woman claimed she was asked to meet the guy there. I turned around and headed to the bathroom laughing. The woman left disappointed while my friend thank God for not having a date with her. My friend was also disappointed for not meeting this fantasy lady that never existed.

For those who love clubbing, you can be disappointed with false impression about people you meet in the club. All kinds of people go clubbing for different reasons—some people go to ease their stress, have a bottle of beer, dance, and some go look for that one stand and others just look for someone to date for a long term relationship. If you want to date for a long term relationship, clubs might not be a good place to pick a date. For serious relationship I would put meeting someone in the club to be the least safe ones. Take a lesson from me. I remember a day years ago, a friend of mine asked me to go clubbing with him. Those days I love clubbing. I borrow a friend's car—very nice Mitsubishi Gallant just a few years old. I dressed in suit with bowtie and leaned on the drive seat. We drove to a club called Nails. Once we got there, I packed the car on the street. As soon as I got off, a few girls noticed me while crossing the street. They decided to check me out and put an eye tag on me knowing that I was going inside the club. Guess what happened? The same girls ran into me dancing in front of me. Next we danced 'til we dropped. Following that I ended up exchanging numbers with one of them thinking that might be the dream woman for me. After a few days of conversation, she asked me if I could drop her to her sister's house in Queens with that nice car. And frankly told her that I wasn't

driving—that car belonged to a friend. Since then, I never heard from her. In this case my false impression that I owned that vehicle caused me to lose a girl that began to love me for the wrong reason.

Folks, we all impress falsely sometimes whether intentionally or unintentionally. False impression exists and might be difficult to avoid. See where it works for you and where it doesn't work for you. Be who you are and say what you feel because those who matter don't mind and those who mind don't matter.

Haiti Shall Rise Again

By: Alagie Jallow

The magnitude 7.0 earthquake which struck Haiti on January 12th refocuses the world's attention on the poorest country in the western Hemisphere. In a society which views everything through the prism of racism, some might draw the conclusion that the race of her inhabitants is to be blamed. Some religious fundamentalist frivolously attributed to divine punishment for siding with the devil. Any of these arguments are a bunch but later being both silly and dangerous at the same time. Earth science explains virtually the case of the earth as in the case it lies in the fault lines of the earth's crust.

As rational human beings, humans always try to explain why the things are the way they are but in most instances ignorance prevails over reason, ideology over fact, blind fanaticism over science. Being conscious of my limitation, I will try to explain why and I stand to be corrected if I err in my analysis. Also given the complexity of Haiti, it's impossible to digress in most of the fundamental causes of the current state of affairs. Some scholars argued that Haiti has a long history of political oppression; soil erosion, high illiteracy rate and over population. The root causes are attributed to internal and external forces beyond central Haitians themselves.

Haiti is located in the Caribbean island formerly known as Hispaniola which now consists of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Christopher Columbus first landed on the land in 1492 at Santa Maria. The native inhabitants were Indians most of whom perish through blatant brutalization of European colonialists and the diseases they brought with them.

Africans were later brought to work on their plantations after large numbers of Indian deaths. In 1697, the treaty of Ryswick divided the island in half. The Eastern part became Haiti in 1790. It became the richest colony and some estimate that it provided about 50% of the GDP of France. It became the most brutally efficient slave colonies and over the third of the newly imported Africans fled within few years.

The suffering of the slaves was severe and as a consequence, a rebellion ensued. As the consequence with human history when people decided that enough was enough, the French were kicked out. The irony is while there was revolution in France in 1789 which called for liberty, equality and fraternity, there colonies were subjected to the worst form of barbarism. Thus, the Haitians followed the French model, under their leader Toussaint L'Ouverture to liberate their country. Haiti became the first independent Nation in Latin America and the first black led Republic in the world when it became independent in 1804.

The success of the Haiti rebellion sent shock waves to European powers and their allies like the United States whose economies were based on slave labour. Both powers acted swiftly to ensure that such a success will not be repeated in other parts of Latin America. This led to international boycotts of Haiti in 1804 which virtually destroyed the economy of the country, thus unleashing a violent political system to ensure normalcy in the midst of poverty and degradation. It's worth noting that in 1779, 500 volunteers from Haiti formerly known as Saint Dominique helped America in their war of independence against the British. In 1815, Simon Bolivar, the South American political leader who helped liberate South America had training, military and financial assistance from Haiti. Haitians also played a major role in liberating the African continent and provided doctors, university professors and developmental specialists to the newly independent African countries.

Unfortunately, most of this good was returned in kind. The United States invaded and occupied Haiti from 1825 to 1834. The United States brought some normalcy but she helped the Haitians to change their constitution in order to repeal the statute which prohibit using land from Haiti, they rule the banks and control revenue. There is a similarity with IRAQ after the invasion when Paul Bremer changed many Iraq laws. When the United States left the Dominican Republic, it invaded the country during which between 10,000 to 20,000 people perished.

In 1825, France under King Charles again forced the impoverished country to pay 150 million francs later reduced to 90 million francs for lost of profit from the Slave Trade. After that 32 military camps followed. The entire political system rested and the laws of corrupt leaders and the worst of the worst, Francois Duvalier known as papa Doc who ruled from 1957 to 1986. There were no serious efforts to educate the masses while corrupt leaders stole close to 504 million dollars. Haiti is the most densely populated country in the western Hemisphere with a population of 9.8 million people. U.S policies during the cold war were not helpful since it helped reward dictators to further U.S interest.

I hope with the disaster they watch, everybody will own their sense of responsibility to both Haitians and foreign powers. The election of

President Rene Preval in 2006 has ushered in a new era of hope and progress, only to be affected by the earthquake. Haitians are strong people and I believe that they would learn their mistakes and rise again as a beacon of freedom and independence, the world can be proud of.

**THE TORCH SPORTS FEBRUARY 2010
Gambia move higher in FIFA rankings**

The Gambia has made a significant move to 98 position, eighteen position higher than its last record in the just concluded year on the latest FIFA/Coca Cola World Ranking, according to its yesterday's release.

The Scorpions who are now 22 in Africa, one place behind Senegal have also beat its last record of 32 in Africa.

The Scorpions successful recent friendly internationals ahead of the African Cup of Nations have helped in gaining more points in the rankings. Paul Put led The Gambia to a 1-1 draw with host Angola and a 2-1 win over Tunisia in Tunis.

Outrage at Togo's ban from Africa Cup of Nations

A tournament that began in death and disarray ended in disappointment and dismay. Egypt won an uninspiring Africa Cup of Nations final 1-0 against Ghana in Luanda, Angola, to become the first nation to win the trophy three times in a row.

However, Egypt's hat-trick feat was overshadowed by the announcement by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) that Togo will be banned from the next two tournaments for withdrawing from this year's competition. The Togolese FA has also been fined \$50,000 (about £32,000).

The decisions reflect poorly on CAF, especially with the World Cup finals to be staged in South Africa in June. They have been greeted by disbelief in most quarters and threats of legal action. Uefa, the sport's European governing body, declined to comment.

A Togo assistant coach and press officer were killed in an ambush of the team bus by separatist rebels in the Angolan province of Cabinda two days before the Cup of Nations was due to start. The driver also died and several players were injured in the gun attack.

Although the Togo squad wanted to stay to play in group B — with Ivory Coast, Ghana and Burkina Faso — they were ordered home by their Government for three days of mourning. In a statement, CAF said: "The decision by political authorities contravenes CAF and African Nations Cup regulations."

Pascal Bodjona, Togo's interior minister, said: "This is a surprise decision and it means that people [CAF] have no consideration for the lives of other human beings. This is insulting to the families of those who lost their lives and those traumatized because of the attack.

Relatives of the assistant coach, Amalete Abalo, and the press officer, Stanislas Ocloo, are considering legal redress against CAF and the Angolan state. "Our compatriots were killed because of the mistakes of the Confederation of African Football and its president, Mr Issa Hayatou," Alexis Aquereburu, the families' lawyer, said. "The legal claim is also against the Angolan state for putting in danger the life of our compatriots by organising this African Nations Cup in a war zone."

Emmanuel Adebayor, the Togo captain, has called on Hayatou to resign. "He has done much for Africa but now he must clear off," the Manchester City striker said. He started for City for the first time since surviving the attack, in the 2-0 win over Portsmouth .

Egypt was crowned African champions with a goal from Mohamed Gedo, his fifth of the tournament, in the 85th minute of a scrappy match. It secured their seventh title, a continental record.



Credits

The following people are credited for their contributions to this month Newsletter.

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