

# AMJAMBO AFRICA!



*Understanding, Embracing, and Celebrating Diversity in Maine*

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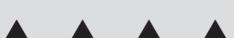
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## In This Issue...

- Calling 911 .....Page 3
- Ethiopian New Year .....Pages 8 & 9
- Kang'omawe School .....Page 11
- Traveling by Bus .....Page 11
- Empower the Immigrant Woman .....Page 12
- November Elections .....Page 13
- Microbusiness Fikiria .....Page 15

## In Every Issue...

- French Translation ..... Page 4
- Swahili Translation ..... Page 5
- Kinyarwanda Translation .... Page 6
- From the Ground  
Cape Verde & Sudan ..... Page 11
- Country Focus  
Mali .....Page 12
- Culture .....Page 14
- News In Brief.....Page 14
- Calendar of Events .....Page 14



### MAKING MIGRATION VISIBLE: MECA Spearheads Statewide Conversation



**"Immigration is not a color,  
it's a sorrow and a hope."**  
— Titi de Baccarat

By Kathleen Harrison

MAINERS INTERESTED IN THINKING, talking, and learning more about human migration have hit the jackpot this fall. Between September and December, the state will be home to Making Migration Visible: Traces, Tracks & Pathways, an extraordinary collaborative effort centered on the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at Maine College of Art (MECA), Portland, in conjunction with over 70 organizations from Presque Isle to South Portland. All are responding to the themes of human migration, immigration, and border crossing.

Readers of *Amjambo Africa!* - who might be particularly interested in attending events involving African migration - will find plenty to add to their calendars. Renowned artist Romuald Hazoumè is participating in the exhibit at ICA, and a wealth of Africa-related exhibits, lectures, panel discussions and film are taking place throughout the state.

The collaboration that led to this ambitious initiative began with ICADirector of Exhibitions and Special Projects Erin Hutton, and co-curators Julie Poitras Santos and Catherine Besteman. The genesis of the collaboration dates to July 2016, when Poitras Santos, artist, writer, and assistant professor in the master of fine arts (MFA) program at MECA, approached Erin Hutton with the idea of mounting a show to respond to the international human migration crisis. Hutton was excited by the idea. In short order, Catherine Besteman, professor of anthropology at Colby College, who has conducted extensive fieldwork in South Africa, Somalia, and the United States, had joined the conversation. MECA President Laura Freid, along with the entire MECA institution, supported the concept from the start.

See Migration on Page 2

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT VOICE IN PORTLAND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

By Kathleen Harrison

The Portland City Council held a hearing August 13 on a measure brought by City Councilman Pious Ali, with the support of Mayor Ethan Strimling. The measure calls for non-citizens who are legal residents of Portland to be able to vote in municipal elections. Those testifying included citizens and non-citizens, and so many people wanted to speak that testimony continued late into the night. The majority of those speaking supported the measure and included both citizens and non-citizens. The Council voted to send the measure on to the Legislative Committee, which now will study the issue and make plans for its future.

Marpheen Chann, a Portland resident and immigrant rights advocate, said in his testimony, "We are not talking about voting at the federal or state level. We're talking about voting at the local level, voting on school budgets, voting on Portland elected officials and the accountability that comes with that, voting on Portland's initiatives, such as affordable housing, homelessness, and sustainable development.... We are talking about the place we all call home – Portland."

Most of those speaking in favor of the measure focused on the idea that, because many non-citizen residents of Portland work, pay taxes, own houses, and send their children to school in Portland, they should have the right to vote on matters that directly impact them. Approximately twelve communities in the U.S. give non-citizens this right to vote on municipal matters, including San Francisco and Chicago. Non-citizens have been allowed to vote in the U.S. in the past. The movement to prevent non-citizens from voting took place in the 1920s, with the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project both support the measure to allow



Photo by Brian Batson, City Councilor  
City Councilman, Pious Ali See Voting on page 11

## Migration from page 1

"Artists have always played a central and critical role in helping us to understand the emotions—pride, longing, melancholy, displacement, fear—that are so much a part of the immigration experience," said Laura Freid. "In these times of war and distress, when so many are faced with displacement, exile, and the significant existential pressures of immigration, it is critical for all of us to try to understand and reach out to each other. I am hopeful that this ICA exhibition will help us to start healthy, open, and engaged dialogues in our community."

Besteman, Poitras Santos, and Hutton have worked as a close team to bring the initiative to life. While Hutton emphasizes that each member of the team played a special role, she says that Poitras Santos was the driving force behind choosing the artists and their works for the show, Besteman focused on community partnerships, and Hutton secured the support of MECA and funders. Ultimately, however, she says all decisions were made together. "Julie and Catherine were definitely a co-curatorial team and we all worked together really well."

A statement from Hutton, Besteman, and Poitras Santos emphasizes the far-reaching ambitions for Making Migration Visible. "The ... initiative is a model for other states for engaging a diversity of voices in a conversation about migration, with an orientation toward social change, community-building, and increasing viewer engagement.... Together we can reach more people; our voices are louder together." This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Making Migration Visible is also funded in part by a grant from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, and by the support of private donors, Colby College, and the Lunder Foundation.

Participating artists include : Ahmed Alsoudani, Caroline Bergvall, Edwige Charlot, Jason De Leon + Michael Wells + Lucy Cahill, Eric Gottesman, Mohamad Hafez, Romuald Hazoumè, Ranu Mukherjee, Daniel Quintanilla + United YES + Yarn Corporation, María Patricia Tinajero and Yu-Wen Wu. When asked what led Poitras Santos to Romuald Hazoumè, from Benin, she responded, "In thinking about the exhibition, we became very interested in objects that trace often hidden global trajectories and carry narratives of mobility. Hazoumè's photographs, by depicting the masses of jerry cans loaded on the backs of bikes, reveal systems of exploitation that demand workers cross borders through the black-market systems of Kpayo. We are drawn to the strength of his images and the systems they reveal."

Besteman adds, "Our exhibition orients viewers to a new perspective that reveals how evidence of migration is everywhere around us if we know how to look. Rather than focusing on the bodies of migrants, as much of our current political rhetoric does, we encourage viewers to understand that mobility is a universal, a common and normative aspect of being human, and that we live in a world where mobility's evidence is everywhere - in the food we eat that has been harvested by migrants, in the architectural histories of the cities where we live, in the heritage of anyone whose ancestors migrated here, and so forth. To be human is to be mobile."

Hutton is passionate about the mission of the ICA and about this exhibit. "I see the ICA as an educational institution. This is an opportunity to educate our visitors, our students about important issues of the day. We hope that every visitor leaves with something new."

Events particularly related to Africa and African immigrants in Maine include an exhibit at Railroad Square of Titi de Baccarat's work together with a screening of Ousmane Sembene's classic film Black Girl, an exhibit of Papa Mendy's work at Speedwell Gallery, six film screenings accompanied by panel discussions and lectures about immigration at The Museum L/A, a panel discussion on being Somali-Mainers by The World Affairs Council of Maine, a film screening and panel discussion about the success of Maine's Somali Bantu farmers at USM, talks by Congolese artist Sammy Baloji at Bowdoin and Colby Colleges, pop up screenings of their films about Somali life by VR filmmakers Daniel Quintanilla and United YES, a talk by Abdi Nor Iftin about his new book, and a lecture about climate change and displacement in Africa at the Mid Maine Global Forum.

Making Migration Visible: Traces, Tracks & Pathways – twenty-six months in the making - centers on the exhibition at ICA, which opens October 5. Along with the exhibit, and a free symposium ART+POLITICS November 2 at MECA, events statewide will include lectures, film, food, music, poetry, theater, exhibitions, panel discussions, and gallery talks. A full schedule of events throughout the state can be found on the Maine College of Art website. 

“  
Peace is very costly,  
but it is worth the expense.  
— a Kenyan saying  
”



Kpayo Army by Romuald Hazoumè / Courtesy of Romuald Hazoumè and October Gallery, London

\*Please note, the artist is registered with ADAGP



Gaindé by Papa Mendy / Barça/Barzak — The Immigrant's Hope at SPEEDWELL Projects



Beuthiam By Papa Mendy / Barça/Barzak — The Immigrant's Hope at SPEEDWELL Projects

**AMJAMBO AFRICA!**

Ladder to the Moon Network  
PO BOX 10379, Portland ME 04104  
Tel: 207-553-2525 | Fax: 207-553-2526

**Publisher and Editor**

Georges Budagu Makoko  
[georges@laddertothemoonnetwork.org](mailto:georges@laddertothemoonnetwork.org)

**Managing Editor**

Kathleen Harrison  
[amjambofrica@gmail.com](mailto:amjambofrica@gmail.com)

**Graphic Designer**

Warner Graphics

**Translators**

Nathalie Gorey  
Pastor Maurice Namwira  
Jean Damascène Hakuzimana

**Copy Editor**

Stephanie Harp

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Email: [amjambofrica@gmail.com](mailto:amjambofrica@gmail.com)

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**OUR MISSION**

**WELCOME TO AMJAMBO AFRICA!** We are Maine's free newspaper for and about New Mainers from Sub-Saharan Africa.

**AMJAMBO AFRICA!** is here to help New Mainers thrive and to help Maine welcome and benefit from our new neighbors.

**AMJAMBO AFRICA!** serves as a conduit of information for newcomers as they navigate life in Maine.

**AMJAMBO AFRICA!** includes background articles about Africa so those from Maine can understand why newcomers have arrived here.

**AMJAMBO AFRICA!** profiles successful New Mainers from Sub-Saharan Africa in order to give hope to those newly arrived as well as make clear the benefits to our state of welcoming newcomers.

**AMJAMBO AFRICA!** shares on the ground news updates from contributors living in Africa now.



An initiative of Ladder to the Moon Network

**Immigrants - 911 is for you too!**

By Jean Damascène Hakuzimana

SWAHILI IS RICH IN IDIOMS. I remember one from high school - "Msaferi kafiri" - which means 'when you arrive in a new place there will be a lot of things that you will not know because you are a guest'.

When my family first settled in Maine, our little boy was teething. As you may know, teething sometimes causes fever in infants. One night our son developed a fever, and as the night wore on, the fever increased.

My wife wanted to call 911. She was a nurse back in Africa, and thought my son's fever might be caused by something other than teething. I was not convinced. We applied normal techniques to cool the fever and our son managed to fall asleep. When he woke again the next round of fever was terrible. He was shivering and crying. My wife grabbed the phone and insisted we call 911. I told her to give me a few minutes with the boy, and was able to reduce the fever. We didn't have to call 911 that night.

I was afraid of what might happen if we called 911 and my thought was that immigrants should just avoid doing so. I had a fantasy that police cars would arrive with their blue lights flashing and their sirens blaring. I pictured our apartment surrounded by police cars and neighbors upset at all the commotion in the middle of the night. I thought about the shootings I had seen reported in the mainstream media where police were alerted by a call to 911 - with the result that immigrants and people of color paid heavily.

I have always believed that most immigrants try their best to follow laws because they want to avoid attention by the police. Contact with police is an understandable fear of African immigrants.

During one of our church services the pastor asked us to keep in our prayers a couple who had just survived a canoe accident on the Merrimack River. I talked with the couple when they attended the next church service. They told me they had hit a rock when canoeing, called 911, and been rescued.

I realized that if 911 can lead to a rescue on a river, the emergency responders are doing an amazing job. From the couple I understood how 911 really operates.

Fellow New Mainers from Africa - get the point! If you have been reluctant to call 911 - be reassured. Calling 911 can save lives! You have no reason to risk losing your life. Call 911 if you need to! 🐘

**Events and Photos**

Pictures are a great way of sharing your community with others - would you like to submit a photo to **Amjambo Africa?** Do you know of an event or story you would like us to cover? **Amjambo Africa!** is your newspaper - please let us know of upcoming events. Contact Kathleen Harrison at [amjambofrica@gmail.com](mailto:amjambofrica@gmail.com)

**Photo submission guidelines:**

- Photos must have a caption.
- Names of people in pictures are optional.
- Include the name of the photographer if he/she wants a name included.

**Support Us!**

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**AMJAMBO AFRICA!** is here to help New Mainers thrive as well as to help Maine welcome and benefit from our new neighbors. Join us!

**AMJAMBO AFRICA!**

24 Preble Street | Portland ME 04101  
Georges Budagu Makoko — [georges@laddertothemoonnetwork.org](mailto:georges@laddertothemoonnetwork.org)  
Kit Harrison — [amjambofrica@gmail.com](mailto:amjambofrica@gmail.com)

# FRENCH TRANSLATION

## **BIEN CHOISIR SES MOTS: JURER EN AMÉRIQUE**

Par Georges Budagu

Beaucoup d'immigrants se disent choqués d'entendre les Américains fréquemment jurer et insulter. Dans les sociétés africaines, on ne tolère pas les insanités, ainsi les nouveaux immigrants sont surpris quand ils entendent des paroles vulgaires parlées par des personnes de tous âges, de tous milieux sociaux, dans des maisons privées mais aussi dans des lieux publics. Les Africains qui se sont confiés à Amjambo Africa! ont expliqué que même si les jeunes en Afrique utilisent parfois des expressions vulgaires et profanes quand ils sont seuls ou se trouvent avec d'autres jeunes, pour boire, plaisanter, ou s'amuser, il est très rare d'entendre des adultes se comporter de cette manière. Et on n'y entend jamais les femmes jurer ou insulter.

Des immigrants africains nous ont dit ne pas comprendre pourquoi le fait de jurer est si populaire en Amérique et pourquoi c'est une habitude qui est généralement tolérée. En Afrique, on verrait quelqu'un utiliser un langage vulgaire en public seulement dans des situations extrêmes, cependant ils remarquent que cela se produit régulièrement aux Etats-Unis. Les gens jurent au travail, dans la rue, devant les enfants ou les personnes âgées. Des personnes semblent jurer plusieurs fois dans la même phrase- tous les deux mots!

Souvent, les nouveaux venus ne comprennent pas la signification ou la raison de ce langage, ce qui ajoute à la confusion. Les Américains utilisent parfois des mots qu'ils jugent moins malpolis, et qui remplacent des mots plus grossiers, mais que les Africains trouvent néanmoins très vulgaires. Des exemples de mots qui peuvent parfois être mal interprétés sont: "gosh, darn it, what the heck, holy cow, sun of a gun, dang, shoot".

Quand les nouveaux venus sont embarrassés ou choqués par de tels mots entendus, ils ne savent pas comment gérer la situation. Ils veulent rester polis en parlant avec leur ami ou leur collègue, et en même temps pouvoir gentiment communiquer qu'ils sont mal à l'aise. Il leur est arrivé d'être confrontés à des personnes qui sont troublées, et qui parlent fort et d'une manière peu aimable, utilisant des paroles vulgaires. Cela met les Africains très mal à l'aise, et ils ne comprennent pas comment répondre et réagir.

Comme les lecteurs d'Amjambo Africa! le savent, la culture joue un rôle très important dans la manière dont nous vivons et communiquons avec les autres. Il est important de comprendre notre propre culture ainsi que celles des autres pour mieux s'entendre, travailler et vivre ensemble. Si les Américains comprennent que les Africains n'ont pas l'habitude du langage grossier, alors ils feront plus attention en choisissant leur vocabulaire. Ils réaliseront qu'il existe certains mots et phrases moins vulgaires et moins susceptibles de blesser, ce qui aidera les Africains à se sentir plus à l'aise quand ils parlent avec des Américains.

## **-LES VOTES DES NON-CITOYENS DANS LE MAINE-**

Par Kathleen Harrison

Le Conseil Municipal de la ville de Portland s'est réuni le 13 août afin de discuter d'un projet de loi présenté par le conseiller municipal Pious Ali et le maire de Portland Ethan Strimling. Cette loi permettrait aux demandeurs d'asile qui sont des résidents de Portland de voter aux élections municipales. Il y avait dans le public venu participer au forum et témoigner, des citoyens et des non-citoyens, et la discussion a continué tard dans la soirée. La majorité était en faveur de la loi. Le Conseil a voté pour l'envoi de la loi au Comité Législatif, qui doit désormais étudier la proposition et décider de son avenir.

Marpheen Chann, qui réside à Portland, a dit dans son témoignage: " Nous ne parlons pas de droit de vote au niveau fédéral ni au niveau de l'état. Il s'agit de pouvoir voter au niveau local, de voter pour les budgets scolaires, de voter pour les représentants élus de la ville, de voter pour des initiatives de Portland, comme les loyers abordables, les sans abris, et le développement durable....Nous parlons d'un endroit qui est chez nous-Portland." Ceux qui sont en faveur de cette loi partent du principe que parce que la plupart de ces demandeurs d'asile travaillent, paient des impôts, sont propriétaires de maisons, et envoient leurs enfants dans des écoles locales, ils devraient avoir le droit de voter sur des questions qui affectent la vie quotidienne de leurs familles. Environ douze communautés aux Etats-Unis donnent déjà ce droit aux non-citoyens, telles que San Francisco et Chicago par exemple. Historiquement, les non-citoyens pouvaient voter aux Etats-unis. Le mouvement qui souhaite empêcher les non-citoyens de voter est né dans les années 1920, avec la montée du sentiment anti-immigrés.

L'Union Américaine pour les Libertés Civiles et l'Association ILAP du Maine soutiennent le projet de loi en faveur du droit de vote des non-citoyens (qui souhaite accorder aux non-citoyens le droit de vote). Elles conseillent cependant de faire attention lors de la rédaction de cette loi en veillant à mettre assez de garanties pour protéger les électeurs non-citoyens qui, par ac-

cident, rempliraient le mauvais bulletin de vote. Elles notent en effet que la moindre erreur pourrait incriminer légalement un non-citoyen. La Coalition des Droits des Immigrants du Maine soutient aussi le principe du droit de vote des non-citoyens. Elle est impatiente de collaborer avec le Comité Législatif sur les détails de ce projet de loi. Quelques personnes sont venues témoigner contre la loi: elles sont convaincues que le droit de vote doit dépendre de la citoyenneté elle-même.

Nous avons joint Maire Strimling au téléphone. Il nous a dit que "Le Comité étudiera cette question ainsi que celle de la protection des électeurs non-citoyens. Le Comité fera ensuite son rapport au Conseil Municipal. J'espère que le Conseil sera prêt à voter pour envoyer cette proposition de loi aux électeurs l'année prochaine." Amjambo Africa! suivra le développement de ce sujet et vous tiendra informés.

## **DES CONSEILS POUR VOYAGER AVEC LE BUS GREYHOUND**

Steve Michaels, de Greyhound Bus Station à Portland, s'est assis avec Kathleen Harrison de Amjambo Africa! afin de donner des conseils de voyage à nos lecteurs. M. Michaels a remarqué que les nouveaux immigrants du Maine et leurs familles voyagent de plus en plus avec Greyhound depuis deux ou trois ans. Il dit que le fait de ne pas bien parler anglais ou de ne pas connaître les règlements de la compagnie peut empêcher de faire un voyage agréable. Il espère qu'en donnant ces conseils, les lecteurs d'Amjambo Africa! auront une meilleure expérience à l'avenir. M. Michaels ajoute que Greyhound apprécie le business des nouveaux Mainers.

### **Si votre anglais est limité:**

- Amenez quelqu'un à la station pour traduire. C'est très important! Les erreurs peuvent vous faire payer plus cher.
- Apportez avec vous une carte écrite en anglais, avec le nom, l'adresse, et le numéro de téléphone de la personne qui vous attendra à l'arrivée du bus.
- Cette carte devrait aussi inclure ces phrases: Où sont les toilettes? Où puis-je trouver à manger?
- Il faut savoir le nom de la ville et de l'état où vous allez. Rappelez-vous que des noms de ville peuvent être les mêmes dans plusieurs états.

### **Le billet:**

- Les billets sont à utiliser pour des dates et des heures spécifiques.
- Il existe 2 bus par jour à destination du nord et 2 bus à destination du sud.
- On ne peut pas changer l'indication de la date, de l'heure, de la destination et du nom du voyageur sans d'abord remplir un formulaire. Après avoir rempli ce formulaire, il faudra patienter 4 à 6 semaines pour recevoir le remboursement. En attendant, il faudra acheter un autre billet pour pouvoir voyager.
- Une carte d'identité est nécessaire pour effectuer l'achat du billet.
- Les prix des billets ne sont pas négociables.
- Les billets ne sont pas remboursables à moins de payer un supplément pour un billet remboursable. Si vous voulez acheter un billet remboursable, il faut le signaler à l'agent au moment de la transaction.
- Les billets coûtent moins cher s'ils sont achetés de 7 à 14 jours à l'avance.
- Si vous achetez votre billet à Lewiston ou Bangor, mieux vaut apporter de petits billets car l'agent ne pourra peut-être pas faire le change sur des billets de cent dollars.
- Si vous achetez un billet pour une personne qui s'occupe de l'immigration dans un autre état, faites-le savoir à la compagnie de bus afin qu'elle puisse s'assurer que les horaires du bus conviendront au voyageur.

### **Les bagages:**

- Les voyageurs sont autorisés à emporter un bagage à main de 25 lb./11kg et un autre bagage ne pesant pas plus de 50 lb./22.5 kg, qui sera mis dans le coffre sous le bus.
- Nos clients peuvent emporter des bagages supplémentaires. Ils devront alors payer 15 dollars pour un deuxième bagage; 30 dollars pour un troisième bagage; 40 dollars pour un quatrième bagage. Ils devront payer un excédent pour les bagages pesant plus de 50 lb./22.5 kg.
- Les bagages doivent avoir une étiquette avec le nom et l'adresse du voyageur. On pourra ainsi vous les rendre au cas où vous en seriez séparé.
- Les voyageurs qui changent de bus seront responsables du transfert de leurs propres bagages.

### **Le jour du voyage:**

- Prévoyez d'arriver 30 à 60 minutes avant le départ du bus. Il faudra prendre le temps de peser et de mettre l'étiquette sur les

bagages. S'il y a la queue et que vous n'êtes pas arrivés suffisamment à l'avance, vous risqueriez de rater le bus.

- Les bus partent à l'heure. Si vous ratez le bus, votre billet ne sera pas remboursé.
- Arrivez tôt si vous avez prévu de rencontrer quelqu'un à la station de bus. Certaines stations sont situées dans des quartiers dangereux et il vaut mieux que votre voyageur n'attende pas seul. Les agents de la station de bus s'inquiètent pour un voyageur resté seul après la fermeture de la station. Il est alors possible qu'ils appellent la police pour l'aider s'il y a la barrière de la langue.
- La station de bus à Portland ouvre à 8 heures et ferme à 19 heures.

## **DU TERRAIN: LE CAP VERT**

Les Mainers qui ont immigré du Cap-Vert et avec qui Amjambo Africa! a parlé ce mois-ci nous ont confié leur inquiétude au sujet de la grave sécheresse qui a touché l'archipel insulaire. Le pays a été frappé par une des plus graves sécheresses des 40 dernières années. L'Organisation des Nations unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture prédit que le pays aura besoin de l'assistance des pays étrangers.

Une autre source d'inquiétude concerne les vols à destination des îles du Cap-Vert. Au début du mois de mars, la compagnie aérienne Thomas Cook a soudainement annulé tous les vols d'été à destination du Cap-Vert, mettant ainsi en colère les voyageurs qui avaient réservé des mois à l'avance. Elle a expliqué avoir pris cette décision pour des "raisons commerciales". La compagnie Ryanair avait également interrompu ses vols vers le Cap-Vert et d'autres destinations un an auparavant pour des raisons administratives. L'industrie du tourisme joue un rôle considérable dans l'économie locale, par conséquent ces annulations de vols ont un impact important pour l'île. L'industrie du tourisme rapporte en général 41 millions de dollars par an. Mais la compagnie Thomas Cook annonce la reprise de ses vols en novembre. Nos sources locales se réjouissent de cette nouvelle.

L'année dernière, le gouvernement du Cap-Vert a annoncé l'objectif ambitieux de passer à 100% d'énergies renouvelables d'ici 2025. La ressource d'énergie sera l'électricité produite par le soleil et par le vent. Le Cap-Vert est un petit pays qui comprend dix îles situées au large de la côte nord-ouest de l'Afrique, à environ 600 km à l'ouest du Sénégal. Le pays compte 550,000 d'habitants ayant accès à l'électricité.

L'état du Maine compte 45 immigrants du Cap-Vert. La communauté cap-verdienne du Maine se réunit souvent et est très active. On trouve plus de Cap-Verdiens vivant à l'extérieur de l'archipel insulaire que dans les îles. La diaspora du Cap-Vert comprend l'Amérique du Nord, l'Amérique du Sud, l'Afrique et l'Europe.

## **DU TERRAIN: LE SOUDAN**

Les immigrants venant du Soudan avec qui Amjambo Africa! a parlé, ont exprimé leur grande joie en apprenant que les 85,000 personnes qui avaient été déplacées ont pu revenir dans leurs villages. Ces réfugiés avaient dû fuir la guerre civile brutale du Darfur en 2003. Les initiatives de réconciliation entre les tribus ont joué un rôle important en créant la possibilité d'un retour volontaire de ces peuples.

Le rapport de la Mission de Stabilisation de la Paix des Nations Unies indique que la situation de sécurité s'est progressivement améliorée au Soudan, et que le retour des réfugiés dans leur pays natal est une étape importante. Les villageois sont soulagés d'avoir pu revenir chez eux et de devenir indépendants. Ils souhaitent cultiver leurs champs, réouvrir leurs écoles et les hôpitaux, et reprendre des activités pour participer à l'économie. Nos sources sont très contentes de voir que les Nations Unies pourront désormais utiliser les aides qui auraient été apportées aux réfugiés pour offrir de l'assistance aux autres 68 millions de personnes qui restent déplacées autour du monde. Les villageois ont l'intention de contribuer à nouveau à la croissance sociale et économique du Soudan, et sont impatients de voir la vie active revenir dans ces villages qui étaient devenus des villages fantômes.

Les immigrants soudanais qui ont parlé à Amjambo Africa! ont exprimé leur grande inquiétude à l'idée que le Président Oumar El-Béchir ait été nommé par son parti, le Congrès National, candidat aux élections présidentielles pour un troisième mandat. Cette volonté va à l'encontre de la constitution en vigueur depuis 2005, laquelle limite le nombre de mandats à deux. Le président devra alors changer la constitution. Béchir, au pouvoir depuis 29 ans, avait pourtant déclaré qu'il ne se représenterait pas à la fin de son mandat actuel. Il a 74 ans et avait pris le pouvoir en Juin 1989 pendant un coup d'état, en renversant Sadeq al-Mahdi, qui avait été élu d'une façon démocratique. On craint que ces élections causeront un conflit qui pourrait avoir des conséquences négatives sur le bien-être du peuple.

## SWAHILI TRANSLATION

### KUCHAGUA MANENO: KUAPA NCHINI MAREKANI

By Georges Budagu

Wahamiaji wengi wanashushwa na namna ya kuapa mara kwa mara pamoja na matusi wanayoyasikia kutoka kwa Wamarekani. Masemi ovyo haukulaliki katika jamii za Kiafrika, kwa hiyo wageni hushtushwa na kushangaa wanaposikia Machafuko kutoka kwa vinywa nya wa umri wote, katika njia zote za maisha, kati ya ma nyumba za binafsi na pia kwenye maeneo ya umma.

Waafrika ambao walizungumza na Amjambo Africa! walieleza ya kuamba wakati vijana wanawenza kutumia maneno machafu na maneno yasiyofaa wakiwa pekee yao pamoja na vijana wengine inchini Afrika, wakinywa, wakichekesha, na kujifurahisha, ni mara haba sana kusikia watu wazima kuwa na tabia namna hii. Kwa kawaada, sio vyepesi kusikia wanawake kuapa ao kutukana.

Baadhi ya wahamiaji kutoka Afrika walieleza kutokuelewa kwa nini kuapa ni kawaada nchini Marekani na kwa nini inachukuliwa kuwa ni zoezi kawaada inayokubalika. Katika Afrika mtu anaweza kutumia maneno ya midhaha ao lughya isiyofaa kwenye umma katika hali isyo ya kawaada. Lakini hapa wamwetambua kwamba hali hii hutoke wakati wote katika watu wa U.S. Watu wanaapa kazini, mitaani, mbele ya watoto na ya wazee. Watu kadhaa wanaonekana wanaapa na kutukana mara nydingi kwa sentensi moja – na hata kwa neno lingine lolote hilo!

Wageni mara kwa mara hawalewi maana wala nia iliyoko kwa lugha wanayoisikia na hii inawaongeza kuchanganyikiwa. Baadhi ya matamshi ya Wamarekani wanafikiria kuwa kati, na kuchukua nafasi kwa lugha ovyo zaidi, iksikilika kama maneno yasiyo na maana kwa Waafrika. Mifano ya lugha ya kati ambayo inaweza kutafsiriwa vibaya ni: gosh, kuifanya, kile kilicho, ng'ombe takatifu, jua la bunduki, dang, fiatua risasi

Wakati wageni wanahisi kuchanganyikiwa na kukasirishwa kwa lugha wanayoisikia hawajui hakika jinsi ya kuchukuliana na hali hiyo. Wakati unapozungumza na rafiki au mwenzako wanatakiwa kuwa na adabu, wakati huo wanatafuta njia ya upole kuonyesha wasiwasi wao. Wakati mwininge wanajikuta wakipambana na watu ambaa ni wazi wazi kihisia, na kusema kwa sauti kubwa na isiyofaa, kwa kutumia lugha mbaya. Hii ni wasiwasi sana kwa Waafrika, ambaa hawana hakika ya jinsi ya kujibu.

Kama wasomaji wa Amjambo Afrika! kujua, utamaduni una umuhimu kwa namna tunayoishi na jinsi tunajadiliana na wengine. Kuelewa utamaduni wetu binafsi na wale wengine hu-sidua kuziba vikwazo na kuimashira juhudia za kufanya kazi na kushirikiana pamoja. Kujua kwamba Waafrika hawazoeleshwe na tofauti za maneno ya namna waMarekani ya kuapa (pamoja na mibadilisho zisizo na hatia) kwa hakika zinawenza kusaidia Wamarekani kuchagua kwa makini maneno yao zaidi, na kurtambua kwamba maneno na misemo fulani isyo hovyo kweli huweza kusaidia Waafrika kujisikia vizuri zaidi wakati wa kuzungumza na Wamarekani

### KUPIGA KURA KWA WASIO BADO WANANCHI WANAO ISHI KATIKA MAINE

Na Kathleen Harrison

Halmashauri ya mji wa Portland uliongoza munamo tarehe 13 Agosti kusikilizwa kwa maoni ilioletwa na mwanabunge la muji Pious Ali pamoja na Meya Ethan Strimling. Maoni hao yanalenga kuwaalika wasio raia ambaa ni wakazi wa kisheria halili wa Portland kupiga kura katika uchaguzi wa mitaa. Wale wanaoshudiwa wakiwemo wanainchi na wasio bado wanainchi, ushuhuda uliendelea kutolewa hadi usiku wa manane. Wengi wa wale waliopewa nafasi kutoa maoni yao waliunga mkono maoni hayo wakiwemo raia na wasio bado raia sawasawa. Halmashauri ilichagua kutuma ulizo lile kwa Kamati ya utungaji sheria, ambayo sasa itajifunza suala hilo na kuijangia kwa siku zake za hapo usoni.

Marpheen Chann, mkaaji wa Portland, alisema katika ushuhuda wake, "Hatuzungumzi juu ya kupiga kura kwa ngazi ya shirikisho au ya serikali. Tunasema juu ya kupiga kura kwa ngazi ya mitaa, kupigia kura kuhusu bajeti za shule, kupiga kura juu ya viongozi wa kiserkali wa Portland na uwajibikaji unaolelekaa mambo hayo, kwamba, kupiga kura juu ya miradi ya Portland, kama vile nyumba za bei nafuu, ukosefu wa makazi, na maendeleo ya kudumu ... Tupo tunazungumzia kuhusu mahali ambaa sisi wote tunaita nyumbani - Portland. "Sababu ya wengi wa wale wanaao sema vizuri kuhusu mipango hii ni kutokana na wazo linalosema kwamba wakazi wengi wasio raia na wanaao ishi Portland, hufanya kazi, hulipa kodi, huwa wenyezu wa ma nyumba, na hutuma watoto wao shulen Portland, wanapaswa kuwa na haki ya kupiga kura juu ya masuala yanayo kabili maisha ya siku kwa siku ya familia zao. Takriban jamii kumi na mbili nchini Marekani hutolea wasio raia haki ya kupiga kura juu ya masuala ya mitaa, ikiwa ni pamoja na San Francisco na Chicago. Kihistoria, wasio wananchi walikuwaka wana ruhusiwa kupiga kura nchini humu Marekani. Muundo wa kuzuwa wasiokuwa wanainchi kupiga kura ulianzishwa mnamo miaka ya 1920,

wakati wa kuongezeka kwa hisia za kupinga uhamiaji.

Muungano wa Ki Marekani kuhusu haki za Uhuru na mradi wa uteteaji kisheria wa haki za wahamiaji wote pamoja wakaunga mkono kushinikiza mpango wa kuruhusu wasio raia kupiga kura. Wakahimiza huduma katika kuandaa na kuweka ulinzi wa kutosha mahali pa kuwalinda wapiga kura wasiokuwa raia kwa kuepuwa wasifanye makosa wanapoja kura. Wanatabua kwamba kosa linaloweza jitokeza pasipo kujua lina weza kuwatia wengi wa wasio raia katika shida kubwa ya kisheria. Muungano wa haki za Wahamiaji wa Maine pia huunga mkono kanuni ya haki za kupiga kura kwa wasio bado raia. Wanatarajia kufanya kazi pamoja na Kamati ya kisheria kwa maelezo zaidi. Watu wengi walishuhudia kufurahia pendekezo hilo. Wachache tu walishuhudia kupinga wazo hilo. Wale walio upande wa upinzani walisisitiza imani yao kwamba kupigia kura katika ngazi oyote inapaswa kuhusishwa na uraia.

Tulipo wasiliana kwa simu, Meya Strimling alisema kwamba, "Kamatii itachunguza swali hilo pamoja na masuala yote ya utekelezaji salama na ulinzi wa wapiga kura wasiokuwa raia. Mara baada ya kutupwa nje, Kamati italeta tena kwa Baraza la halmashauri. Tumaini langu ni kwamba Halmashauri itapiga kura ya kutuma hii tukio kwa wapiga kura mwaka ujao. "Amjambo Afrika! itafuatilia suala hili na ku ripoti juu ya maendeleo yake.

### VIDOKEZO VYA KUSAFIRI NA BUS YA GREYHOUND

Steve Michaels wa Greyhound Bus Station katika Portland ameketi pamoja na Kathleen Harrison wa Amjambo Afrika! Ili kugawanya baadhi ya vidokezo vya usafiri kwa wasomaji wa karatasi. Bwana Michaels aliezeza ya kwamba safari kwa Greyhound kwa wahamiaji wapya hapa Maine pamoja na familia zao imeongezeka katika kipindi cha miaka miwili au mitatu iliyopita. Amesema kwamba ukosefu wa ujuzi wa Kiingereza au kwa sera na sheria za Greyhound wakati mwininge huingilia katii zoezi nzuri ya usafiri. Anatumaini ya kuwa kwa kushirikisha vidokezo hivi na wasomaji wa Amjambo Afrika! wasafiri watapata uzoefu bora zaidi. Bwana Michaels alisitisitiza kwamba Greyhound inathamini biashara inayo endesha na wahamiaji wapya wa Maine.

#### Ikiwa una Kingereza chenye mipaka :

- Uje na mtu kwenye kituo apate kutafsiria. Hii ni muhimu sana! Maana makosa yanawenza kufikia kugharamia pesa za wateja.
- Chukua nawe kadi ambako umeandika kwa Kiingereza jina, anwanii, na nambari ya simu ya mtu mutakaye kutana naye mwishoni mwa safari ya basi.
- Kadi hiyo inahitaji ijumuise maneno yafuatayo : Bafuni ni wapi? Ninaweza kupata wapi chakula?
- Jua jina la mji na jimbo unakoenda. Kumbuka kwamba baadhi ya majina ya miji fulani fulani hupatikana pia katika zaidi ya jimbo moja

#### Tiketi:

- Tiketi inakuwa na tarehe na wakati maalum.
- Kuna mabasi mawili ya kaskazini na mabasi mawili ya kusini kila siku.
- Taarifa juu ya tiketi kuhusu tarehe, wakati, unakoelekea, na jina la msafiri haviwezi kubadilishwa bila kufungua fomu ya ombi ya mabadiliko. Baada ya kuijaza fomu hiyo itachukua wiki 4 hadi 6 ili kurudishiwa pesa na hapo utahitaji kununua tiketi nyingine ili kuendelea na safari wakati huo huo.

- Unahitaji kuwa na kitambulisho kwa kununua tiketi.
- Bei za tiketi hazijadiliki.
- Tiketi hazirudishwi mali isipokuwa kama una nia ya kulipa mali zaidi kwa kununua tiketi inayoweza kurudishwa.
- Ikiwa unataka tiketi ya kurudishwa mali ni lazima uambie karani wakati wa ununuza.
- Tiketi zinashushwa beyi ikiwa zimenunuliwa siku 7 hadi 14 mapema.
- Ikiwa unataka ku nunua tiketi ya kuenda kwenye maeneo yaliyo karibu na Portland kama vile Lewiston au Bangor tafadhalii utele bili ndogo - karani hawezu kuweza kubadilisha bili ya dola mia moja.
- Ikiwa unataka kununua tiketi kwa mtu anaye kuwa na swali la uhamiaji katika sehemu nyingine ya nchi, Hakikisha kwamba kampuni ya basi inatambua ili waweze kuhakikisha kama wakati wa basi utafaa vizuri kwa mteja anayesafiri.

#### Mifuko :

- Wasafiri wanaruhusiwa kuchukua mifuko moja wa 25 lb./11kg pasipo malipo na mifuko mwininge wa kuweka chini ya basi ulio na uzito usio pima zaidi ya 50 lb./22.5 kg.
- Wateja wanawenza kusafiri na mifuko ya ziada ikiwe kwa kwenye chumba chini ya basi. Gharama ni \$ 15 / pili; na \$ 30 /

mifuko wa tatu; \$ 40 / Mifuko wa nne. Mifuko yenye uzito zaidi ya 50lb./22.5 kg. itatozwa kwa uzito wa ziada.

- Mifuko inapaswa kuwa na vitambulisho vinavyonyesha jina na anwani ya msafiri ili waweze kurejesha mzigo ikiwa ume-tengwa.
- Wasafiri wanao badilisha mabasi wanahusika na kuhamisha mifuko yao kwa basi lingine.

#### Siku ya kusafiri

- Fika dakika 30 hadi 60 kwa basi. Inachukua muda kwa kupima na kuweka majina kwenye mifuko. Ikiwa kuna mstari na wewe unafika wakati muda umekuwa mchache, kuna hatari un-aweza kukosa basi.

- Mabasi yanaondoka kwa wakati. Ikiwa unakosa basi, huwezi kurudishiwa malipo ya nauji.
- Fika mapema kama unataka kukutana na mtu kwenye kituo cha basi. Vituo vingine vyapatikana kwenye vitongoji vibaya na hutaki msafiri wako asubiri peke yake katika mojawapo ya vi-tongoji hivyo. Watumishi wa kituo cha basi watakuwa na wasi-wasi kumuacha msafiri pekee yake baada ya kufunga kituo na hapo wanawenza ita polisi kumsaidia msafiri huyo ikiwa kuna kizuizi cha lugha.
- Kituo cha basi katika Portland kinafungua saa mbili asub-uhu (8:00am) na kufunga saa moja jioni (7:00pm)

### KUTOKA CAPE VERDE

Wakaaji wa Maine wenye asili ya Cape Verde ambaa walizungumza na Amjambo Africa! mwezi huu, walionyesha wasi-wasi mkubwa kuhusu ukame mkali ambaa umepata taifa la wakaaji wa kisiwa hicho. Ukame hukubaliwa kuwa mbaya zaidi kwa miaka arobaini. Shirika la Umoja wa Taifa uhusikao na Chakula na Kilimo limetabiri kwamba taifa hilo litahitaji ku-pewa usaizidi wa chakula kutoka nchi za kigeni.

Wasiwasi mwininge uliotokana na vyanzo mbali mbali huhusu misafara ya ndege kueleka kwenye kisiwa na Funguvisiwa. Mapema mwezi Machi, Thomas Cook alivuta kwa ghafila misafara yote ya ndege zilizolekeza Cape Verde wakati wa majira ya joto, hali ambayo iliwasirisha wateja ambaa walikuwa wamelipa nauli zao awali mapema. Uamuzi wa kampuni hii ya ndege ulizingatia 'sababu za kibashara.' Ryanair imesimamisha misafara ya ndege zake kwa Cape Verde na maeneo mengine mengi kwa sasa mwaka mmoja uliopita kwa sababu ya mayta-tizo ya uongozi. Sekta ya utalii ina nafasi kubwa katika uchumi wa nchi, kwa sababu hiyo kufutwa kwa kwa misafara kunaathiri kisiwa hicho. Sekta ya utalii huingiza kwa jumla \$ million 41 kila mwaka. Wale walioongea na Amjambo Afrika! Wanafurahishwa kusikia kwamba ndege za Thomas Cook zimepangwa kuanza tena kuruka hewani ifikapo mwezi wa Novemba.

Mwaka jana serikali ya Cape Verde ilitangaza lengo kubwa sana litakaloongoza nchi hadi mwaka wa 2025 kwa 100% nishati zi-nayotengenezwa upya. Vyanzo vya nishati hiyo vitatokana na nguvu ya jua na upepo. Cape Verde ni taifa ndogo iliyo na visiwa kumi kwenye umbali wa kilomita 600 magharibi mwa Senegal. Wakazi wote 550,000 wa nchi hii wanao umeme makwao.

Maine inao wahamiaji zaidi ya 45 kutoka Cape Verde. Jumuiya ya Cape Verde iliyoko Maine hutekeleza mikutano ya kijamii ambayo ina sifa ya kuandaliwa ipasavyo. Wengi wazalisha wa Cape Verde huishi nje ya visiwa kuliko ndani ya taifa. Diaspora ya wa Cape Verde wanaoishi ugenini hupatikana Amerika ya Kaskazini na ya Kusini, pia Afrika na Ulaya.

### KUTOKA CHINI: SUDAN

Wahamiaji kutoka Sudan ambaa walizungumza na Amjambo Africa! walionyesha furaha kubwa juu ya habari kwamba watu 85,000 waliohamia ndani ya nchi wamewezeshwa kurudi kwa vijiji vyao. Wakimbizi hawa walikuwa wamekimbia vita vya kikatili vya wenyewe kwa wenyewe mwakani 2003 nchini Darfur. Miradi ya upatanishi wa kikabilo uliofanya jukumu muhimu katika kutengeneza njia ya kurudi kwa hiari kwa watu hawa waliokimbia makazi yao.

Ujumbe wa Uimarishaji wa UN. unaripoti ya kuwa hali ya usalama imeongezeka kuboreshwa kwa kasi nchini Sudan, na hivi inaona kwamba kurudi kwa wakimbizi nchini kwao kwa imekuwa mafanikio makubwa. Wanavijiji wenyewe wame ji amua kujifungua na kurudi makwao wakilemga kurudi hali ya kujitegemea tena. Wanao mpango wa kulima mashamba yao, kufungua mara tena shule na ma hospitali, na kuendelea tena shughuli za kiuchumi Kama zamani. Walio tupu habari wamefurahi kwa maana UN. sasa watatumia misaada ambaa wang-wapa wakimbizi hawa kusaidia baadhi ya watu wengine zaidi ya milioni 68 ambaa walio bado katika hali ya ukimbizi duniani kote. Wanavijiji wana mpango wa kuchangia tena ukuzaji wa kijamii na kiuchumi wa Sudan, na wanatarajia kuona maisha inarudi tena bora kunako vivivi walio kuwa wakiita kwenye jina la vijiji vya mashetani.

See Swahili Translation on page 11

# KINYARWANDA TRANSLATION

## GUHITAMO AMAGAMBO YO GUKORESHA :

Uko barahira muri America

Abimukira benshi batungurwa no kumva imvugo za buri gihe abanyamerika barahiramo cyangwa bakavumanamo. Amagambo ateye isoni ntakoreshwa muri sosiyyete ya Afurika. Bitungura abantu kumva mu ngo, mu myaka yose, ndetse no ku gasozi abantu baganira mu magambo ateye isoni.

Abanyafurika baganiriye na Amjambo Africa! bavuga ko umuntu akiri muto ashobora gukoresha amagambo nyandagazi yishakiye ari kumwe n'urungano, abo basangira inzoga, binkagura ariko ko bidasanzwee kumva umuntu mukuru ayavuga. Abagore ntibakunze kumvikana barahira cg bavumana.

Bamwe mu bimukira bava muri Afurika bavuga ko batumva impamvu kurahira mu ruhame ari ibintu bikorwa cyane kandi byemewe. Muri Africa ni gacye hafi ya ntako umuntu akesresha amagambo nyandagazi mu ruhame mu gihe muri Amerika ari umuco. Abantu birahira ku kazi, mu muhanda, imbere y'abana mu bakuru. Bamwe barahira bakanavuma abandi inshuro nyinshi mu nteruro imwe cg mu ijambu rimwe.

Abageze muri America vuba akensi ntibaba bumva igisobanuero cg ikigenderewe mu gukoresha ururimi runaka bigatuma basigara bibaza byinshi. Amwe mu magambo abanyamerika bakoresha bumva ntacyo abatwaye akensi abanyafurika bumva ari nyandagazi....Urugero rw'ayo magambo ni nka: gosh, darn it, what the heck, holy cow, sun of a gun, dang, shoot.

Abageze vuba muri amerika iyo bumvise ayo magambo bayoberwa uko babytwaramo. Mu kuganira n'ishuti usanga bagerageza kwerakana ikinyabupfura kinshi kabone nubwo batanogewe n'yo mivugire. Rimwe narimwe usanga abanyafurika bashya iyo bahuye n'umuntu uvugira hejuru kandi unavuga cyane mu buryo buteye ubwoba akoresha ayo magambo bamenyereye nka nyandagazi babura uko babyifatamo ndetse nuko bamusubiza.

Nk'abasomyi ba Amjambo Africa! kumenya umuco w'abandi ni ibyagaciro mu gihe tugarira n'abandi. Kumenya umuco wacu ndetse n'uhabandi tubana bidufasha kubakira kubidutan-dukanya tugakorana ndetse tukabana neza. Kumenya ko abanyafurika batamenyereye amagambo amwe namwe mu mico yabo byajya bifasha abanyamerika guhitamo amagambo n'interuro bikwiriyebityo bigafasha abanyafurika kumva batekanye mu biganiro bagirana.

## BIRACYAGANIRWAHO UKO ABADAFITE UB-WENEGIHUGU BABA MURI MAINE BAZATORA MU NZEGO Z'IBANZE.

Kathleen Harrison

Inama njyanama y'umugi wa Portland yateranye tariki 13 Kanama ngo iganire ku mushinga w'itegeko wazanywe n'umujyanama Pious Ali ashigiki na Mayor Ethan Strimling. Uyu mushinga uteganya ko abatari abenegihugu ariko batuye muri Maine byemewe n'amategeko bajya batora abagize inzego z'ibane. Muri iyi nama humviswe abatangabuhanya baba abafite ubwenegihugu n'abatabufite kuburyo bwarinze bwira batarasoza. Bensi cyane mu bafite ubwenegihugu n'abatabufite bishimiye yuu mushinga. Inama nkuru y'umugi yahise itoreru kuwohereza muri komite igenzura amategeko ngo bawunonon-sore.

Marpheen Chann, ni umuturage utuye muri Portland akaba anakorera ubuvugizi abimukira. Mu buhamya bwe yagize ati: "aha ntituri kuvuga gutora ku rwego rukuru rwa Amerika. Turavuga gutora ku rwego rw'ibane, gutorera ingengo y'imari y'amashuri, gutora abagize inama nyobozi ya Portland ndetse n'inshingano zabo. Turavuga kugira uruhare mu matora y'ibire-bana n'amacumbi ajyanye n'ubushobozi, gutora ku bufasha bwa-batagira amacumbi ndetse n'iterambere rirambye...Ibyo tuvuga ni ibirebana na Portland, aho twita mu rugo"

Imwe mu mpamvu abashyigikiye yuu mushinga batanga harimo ko nubwo abenshi mu batuye Portland batarabona ubwenegihugu ariko barakora, bakishyura imisoro, batunze amazu ndetse bakohereza abana babo mu mashuri ya Portland bityo bakaba bakwiriyekubona uburenganzira bwo gutora mu nzego z'ibane no ku bibazo bibagiraho ingaruka. Ugereranije hari ahantu nka 12 muri Amerika haha amahirwe abatarabona ubwenegihugu gutora mu nzego zibane aho ni nka San Francisco na Chicago. Mu mateka, abatari abenegihugu bari bemerewe gutora kugeza ubwo muri 1920 hazamukaga umwuka wo kurwanya abimukira bityo gutora bivanwaho.

Imiryango itandukanye iharanira uburenganzira bw'abimukira ; American Civil Liberties Union na Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project ishyigikiye iyi ngingo ko abatarabona ubwenegihugu batora.

Basaba ko hashyirwaho uburyo bwizweho neza bufasha abatarabona ubwenegihugu gutora. Aha basobanura ko igihe utarabona ubwenegihugu yemerewe gutora akiwi kubikora neza kuko ikosa rito utora yakora nko gutorera ahataro ho byamviramo ingorane zo kugongana n'amategeko.

Impuzamiryango irengera uburenganzira bw'abimukira (MIRC) nayo ishyigikiye ko abatarabona ubwenegihugu babasha gutora ndetse bakaba biteguye gufatanya na komite iri kunononsora iyi ngingo. Mufalo Chitam umuyobozi wa MIRC, agira ati: "Mu gushyigikira iyi ngingo byatubereye urubuga rwo guhuza ijwi rishyize hamwe"

Umujyanama mu mujyi Pious Ali yabwiye Amjambo Africa! ko komite yiga amategeko anakuriye, iziga iyi ngingo neza ndetse ikanarebera hamwe impungenge zose zagaragajwe n'amahuriro nka ILAP na ACLU. "Abantu benshi mu bimukira bashyigikiye iyi ngingo ubwo batangaga ubuhanya mu nama njyanama y'umugi kandi byaranshimishje cyane" Ali Pious.

Abantu bake cyane nibo barwanyije iyi ngingo aho bavugaga ko gutora mu rwego urwo ari rwo rwose bikwiye kuba bigendera ku bwenegihugu.

Ku murongo wa Terefone , Mayor Strimling yatangaje ko komite izabyigaho neza ikanonosora ibyaganiriweho mbere yuko ibigarura mu nama njyanama. "Mfite icyizere ko iyi ngingo izatorwa igashirwa ahagaragara mu mwaka utaha."

Amjambo Africa! izakomeza gukurikirana iyi nkuru.

## MENYA UKO WAKORA INGENDO NA BISI ZA GREYHOUND

Umukozi wa Greyhound Bus muri Portland, Steve Michaels yaganiriye na Kathleen Harrison wa Amjambo Africa! amubwira bumwe mu buryo bwo gufata bisi. Ikinyamakuru kirabusangiza abasomyi. Bwana Michaels avuga ko umubare w'abaheruka kwimukira muri Maine bakoresha Bisi zabo wiyoungereye mu myaka itatu ishize. Avuga ko kuba bamwe mu bagenzi batavuga icyongereza cyangwa ntibabe bazi imikorere ya Greyhound byagiye biteza utubazo rimwe na rimwe. Ahamya ko mu gusangiza abasomyi imikorere ya Bisi bizazamura imyumvire. Bwana Michaels yabwiye Amjambo Africa! ko bishimiye gukoruna ubucruzi n'abakigera muri Maine.

### Niba ufite ingorane mu kuvuga icyongereza:

- Zana ugusemurira ku cyicaro cya bisi. Ibi ni ngombwa kuko ikosa rimwe rishobora gutuma amafaranga y'umukiliya aburaramo.
- Zana agakarita kari mu cyongereza kerekana umwirondoro na terefoni by'usa kukwakira aho urangiriza urugendo rwa bisi.
- Aka gakarita kandi gakwiye kuba kerekana interuro nka: Nihe hari ubwiherero ni hehe nagurira ibiryio.
- Menya izina ry'umujyi ugyemo kandi wibuke ko amazina y'imijyi ashobora gusa mu ma Leta atandukanye.

### Ticye:

- Amaticye aba ariho amatariki ndetse n'igihe cyo guhaguruka.
- Hari amabisi abiri ajya mu majayaruru ndetse n'abiri ajya mu majyepfo buri munsi.
- Amakuru ari kuri ticye nk'igihe, amatariki, izina ry'ugenda n'aho bisi igana ntibishobora guhinduka keretse hujujwe urupapuro rubisaba. Nyuma yo kuzuza uru rupapuro bifata ibyumweru 4 kuri 6 gusubizwa amafaranga ndetse ugasabwa kugura indi ticye bundi bushya.
- Hakenerwa ikikuranga mu kugura Iticye.
- Ibiciro bya Ticye ntibihindurwa.
- Ticye ntizisubizwa iyo zitakoreshejwe cyereka warishye amafaranga yiyongera ngo iticye yawe yongerwe. Ushaka iticye nkiyo ubibwira umukozi igihe uri kugura.
- Ticye zirahenduka iyo uyiguze mbere ho iminsi 7 kugera kuri 14.
- Niba uri kugura iticye igana mu duce twa hafi muri Portland nka Lewiston na Bangor bida byiza kuzana amafaranga mato avunjre kuko umukozi ashobora kubura ayo akugarurira ige umuhaye inoti y'ijana.
- Niba uri kugurira iticye umuntu uvuye mu yindi Leta azu muri Maine , ni byiza kubimenesha ubuyobozi bwa Bisi bityo bugafasha bikwiriyebityo uwo mugenzi.

### Imizigo:

- Abagenzi bemerewe gutwara mu ntoki igikapu kitarengeje amapawundi 25 lb./11kg ndetse n'indi ishyirwa mu gice cy'imizigo itarengeje pawundi 50 lb./22.5 kg.
- Abagenzi kandi bashobora gutwara imizigo y'inyyongera ariko ikishyurirwa. Igiciro ni amadolari \$15/ku muzigo wa kabiri urengaho ; amadolari \$30/ku muzigo wa gatatu; na \$40/ku muzigo wa kane. Imizigo ipima pawundi zirenze 50 lb./22.5 kg. ibirengaho birishyuzwa.
- Imizigo igomba kuba iriho imyirondoro ya beneyo kugirango izatarurwe mu gihe yaburanye na ba nyirayo.
- Mu gihe uhindura Bisi ugomba no kwibuka guhindura umuzigo.

## Umunsi w'urugendo:

- Gera ahafatirwa bisi mbere ho iminota 30 – 60 .Bifata akanya gupima imizigo no kuyishyiraho ibiyiranga. Nuhagera hari umurongo muremure kandi udafite ige gihagije, bisi ishobora kugusiga.
- Bisi zigendera ku gihe, niba bisi igusize ntuzasubizwa amafaranga.
- Gera ku kicaro kare niba uri buhahire n'undi muntu . Ibyicaro bimwe bya Bisi usanga biri mu duce tugoranye bityo kuhategererezwa no kuhategererezwa bikaba byagorana. Abakorrera bisi bashobora kubangamirwa no kubona hari umugenzi wabuze uko ava kuri bisi kandi barimo bakinga bityo bagaham-agara polisi ngo imufashe cyane cyane iyo hari mo ikibazo cyo kumvana mu rurimi.
- Ikicaro cya Bisi cya Portland gifungura saa mbili za mu gitondo kigafunga saa moyo z'ijoro.

## KU IVUKO: CAPE VERDE

Abatuye muri Maine bakomoka mu gihugu cya Cape Verde baganiriye na Amjambo Africa! muri uku kwezi bagaragaje impungenge ku ruzuba rwibasiye iki gihugu cy'ikirwa. Bavuga ko uru ruzuba rwabaye umwihariko mu myaka 40 ishize. Ishami rya Loni ryita ku biribwa ritangaza ko iki gihugu kizacyenera ubufasha.

Indi ngorane bagaragaje ni iyigendanye n'ingendo z'indege zizya kuri iki kirwa. Muri uku kwa gatatu ikigo Thomas Cook cyahagaritse ingendo z'indege zizya Cape Verde, ibi byababaje abakiliya bari bamaze gutegura ingendo zizyayo. Icyemezo cyo guhagarika ingendo cyagendanye n'ibibazo by'ubucuruizi. ikigo Ryanair nacyo cyakomeje guhagarika ingendo zacyo zizya Cape Verde ndetse no mu yindi migi bitewe n'impamvu z'ubuyobozi bwacyo. Ubukerarugendo ni imwe mu nkingi z'ubukungu bityo guhagarikwa kw'ingendo z'indege byagize ingaruka nyinshi. Ubukerarugendo bwinjiye angana na miliyon \$41 ku mwaka. Abaganiriye na Amjambo Africa! bishimiye ko ikigo Thomas Cook kizasubukura ingendo mu ugushyingo.

Umwaka ushize guverinoma ya Cape Verde yatangaje umugambi wo kuba igihugu kizaba gikoresha ingufu ziypurura (renewable energy) ijana ku ijana muri 2025. Izi ngufu zizajya ziva ku zuba n'umuyaga. Cape Verde ni igihugu gito kigizwe n'ibirwa bigera ku icumi biri kuri kilometero 600 mu bureng-azuba bwa Senegal. Abaturage bacyo uko ari 550,000 bose bafite amashanyarazi.

Maine ifite

## DID YOU KNOW?

Immigrants eligible to vote in Maine: 26,546

Immigrants registered to vote in Maine: 17,231

— New American Economy

abimukira bagera kuri 45 bavuye muri Cape Verde. abo bimukira bakunze gukora ibirori bibahuze hagati yabo biteguye neza. Abenshi mu baturage ba Cape Verde bituriye hanze y'ikirwa. Ababa mu mahanga biganje mu duce twa North America, South America, Africa, no mu burayi.

## KU IVUKO: SUDAN

Abimukira baturutse muri Sudan baganiriye na Amjambo Africa! bishimiye cyane ko abari barakuwe mu byabo n'intambarabagura kuri 85,000 babashije gusubira mu byabo. Izi mpunzi zari zarahunze intambara ndengakamere yo muri 2003 yaberaga mu gace ka Darfur. Ubwiyunge bw'amoko bwabaye imbarutso mu gutuma abahunze batahuka ku bushake.

Ishami ya Loni ribungabunga amahoro mu gace rivuga ko intambara igenda igabanuka muri kariya gace ka Sudan ndetse bakavuga ko gutaha kw'impunzi ari intambwe ikomeye. Abari barahunze nabo banejeje no kuba barasubije mu byabo bakabasha kubaho bitunze. Barateganya guhinga imirimba bagafungura amashuri amavuriro ndetse n'ibikorwa by'ubukungu bigatangira. Abatuganiriye bishimiye ko nibura LONI izabasha gukoresha ibyo yageneraga impunzi zatashye ikabikoresha mu gufasha abandi bagera kuri miliyon 68 bari mu ngorane ku isi yose. Abaturage barateganya kuzahura ubukungu bwa Sudan bakongera guha ishusho imidugudu yari yarabay umusaka.

Abimukira bava muri Sudan baganiriye na Amjambo Africa! bafite impungenge zikomeye ko Perezida Omar Hassan Al-Bashir yongeye kwemewza n'ishyaka rye National Congress, kwiyamamaza mu matora y'umukuru w'igihugu ari imbere batayate ku kuba abaperezida bemerewe manda ebyiri. Ibi bizatuma Perezida ahindura itegeko nshinga kandi n'ubundi ryari

ryarahinduwe muri 2005 aho ryemezaga mandat ebyiri. Perezida Bashir amaze imyaka 29 ku butegetsi akaba yari yaravuze ko azava ku butegetsi Manda ye nirangira. Afite imyaka 74 akaba yaragiye ku butegetsi mu 1989 abifashijwemo no guhirika ubegetsi akuyeho Sadiq Al-Mahdi, wari watowe mu nzira ya demokarasi. Hari impungenge zikomeye ko ibi bizabyara amakimbirane ashobora kuzabangamira imibereho myiza'yabatuye iki gihugu.



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— New American Economy

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NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**PORLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MY INVOLVEMENT**

- Founded "In Her Presence" a community based Adult Education/Literacy program helping Immigrant women.
- 8 years district resident
- Mother of five
- Advocate for Early Childhood Education
- Championing under represented parent voice
- PTO parent
- Partner in students' education
- Lead Parent Organizer

**WITH YOUR HELP**

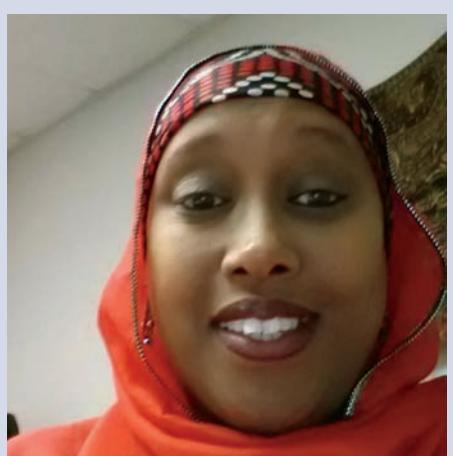
- Early Childhood Education is the Foundation
- Bridging the gap of Teaching Diversity
- Equity and Excellence in the Education
- Building Collective Community through Education



## Deqa Dhalac for South Portland City Council!



**Vote In the Special Election!**



Deqa Dhalac has announced her candidacy for the recently vacated District 5 City Council seat in South Portland. Originally from Somalia, Ms. Dhalac has lived in Maine for 13 years. She has a master's degree in Development Policy and Practice from the University of New Hampshire and a master's degree in Social Work from the University of New England. Ms. Dhalac is a member of the Somali Community Center of Maine; board president for Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition; board member for Maine Women's Fund. Ms. Dhalac serves as the Intercultural Program Manager for the Center for Grieving Children. The Council will hold a special election to fill the District 5 seat.

The Maine Community Foundation is pleased to support Amjambo Africa!

For information about our equity work, contact Dr. Lelia L. De Andrade at (207) 761-2440 or [ldeandrade@mainecf.org](mailto:ldeandrade@mainecf.org), or visit [www.mainecf.org](http://www.mainecf.org).



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To work with donors and other partners to improve the quality of life for all Maine people.*

## ENKUTATASH — ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR



Matching T-shirts



Grinding the coffee



Kate and Tesfanesh Gautreau



THE ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR – or Enkutatash – takes place on September 11 or 12 each year and is a festive day in Ethiopia with visits to friends, song, special clothes, and feasting. Locally, Enkutatash was celebrated for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row in Cumberland at the home of Laura, Patrick, and sons Dane and Bezabeh. Approximately 100 Africans and local Mainers spent the afternoon mingling, eating food, playing soccer and basketball, and enjoying an Ethiopian coffee ceremony in a special decorated tent set up for the occasion.

The Ethiopian coffee ceremony begins with the roasting of beans over a flame – in this case in a firepit outdoors. Once the beans have been properly roasted, they are ground by hand. Then the coffee is cooked in water over the flame. Finally, the coffee is poured into small cups, and offered on a tray to all guests. Much attention is paid by guests to the aroma of the coffee wafting through the air. Popcorn is a traditional accompaniment. The roasting, brewing, and offering of coffee is repeated three times. In Ethiopia there is a special mat used for the coffee ceremony. Fresh grasses and sometimes flowers are scattered on the mat and across the table where the coffee pot – or Jibnah – sits.

At the party in Cumberland two young Ethiopian girls – Adele Weaver and Yenenesh Wilson – carried the coffee tray and a sugar pot around to guests. They say they meet every year at this party. Another girl, Marin, turned 16, and was treated to a cake in the shape of the Ethiopian flag. The colors of the Ethiopian flag were everywhere. Guests came from as far away as Knox County to spend time together on this special occasion. Some had been in Maine for years; others are newly arrived. Several expressed their appreciation not only for the friendly welcome by Laura and Patrick's family – but also by Mainers as a whole. 

Overseeing the coffee roasting

Photos by  
Kathleen Harrison

Dane Mendelsohn  
Laura deDoes  
Patrick Mendelsohn  
Bezabeh Mendelsohn





**Every great relationship  
begins with a “hello.”**

**kila uhusiano muhimu  
huanza na “hujambo”**

**Toute bonne relation  
commence par un “salut”.**

**Umubano unoze wose  
ubimburirwa na “Muraho”.**



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# KANG'OMAWE SCHOOL

By Anna Smith

IN JUNE, 2017, I TRAVELED TO KANG'OMA, a rural school near Lilongwe, Malawi. This was my first trip to Africa, and I traveled with my friend, Antoni Bazia, my co-founder of the non-profits, Project Bazia, and Africans United of New England.

I had retired from a long career teaching English in American public high schools where I had become disenchanted with my profession. I was not so much burnt-out as discouraged from the effort of trying to interest students who took their blessing of a free education for granted.

We found that Kang'omawe is a rural elementary school with over two thousand students who walk a mile or more to school. The school has no books, no paper, no pencils, no technology, and no electricity. The student-teacher ratio varies from thirty to forty students to one teacher in each class.

The teachers in Malawi had a traditional blackboard and were required to sign out their piece of chalk daily because supplies were so limited. But they came each day, all dressed up and smiling, to teach their students, who were eager to learn. When I entered each class, the students stopped working and rose as a group.

"Good morning, Madam," they said. "Did you sleep well?" I almost wept.

I stayed with the principal, Mabel Chinyama, in her cinder block house, which was a benefit of the job. Her house had no plumbing, no electricity, and no windows. All the cooking and washing up (dishes, laundry, or personal) was done in a courtyard with a bucket of water. My greatest fear was of having to walk at night to the outhouse out in the bush.

I was deeply ashamed of being such a spoiled American and I asked Mabel what we could do to help her. Her reply was simple, "Save my girls." In Malawi, the second poorest nation on earth, a girl's education is low priority. If the family needs help, daughters are kept home from school. Parents believe their educated sons will earn money when they grow up and go to work in the capital city - money which they will send home - but they do not expect the same from girls.

We return to Kang'oma soon. Proceeds from the fashion show, Some Enchanted Evening, will be used to buy school supplies and books for the school, and hopefully will also fund a hot breakfast program for the lean weeks right after planting season in early spring. Details about the fashion show follow. Please attend our show and help us educate the children of Kang'omawe.

## TIPS FOR TRAVELING BY GREYHOUND BUS

STEVE MICHAELS OF GREYHOUND BUS STATION in Portland reached out to Kathleen Harrison of **Amjambo Africa!** to share some travel tips for readers of the paper who ride Greyhound. Mr. Michaels mentioned that travel on Greyhound by newcomers to Maine and their families has increased in the past two or three years. He says that a lack of familiarity with English or with company policies sometimes interfere with a positive travel experience. He hopes that by sharing these tips with readers of Amjambo Africa! travelers will have a better experience. Mr. Michaels stressed that Greyhound appreciates the business of New Mainers. **Please note that Portland is served by other bus companies in addition to Greyhound and their policies about ticket purchases and travel allowances may be different.**



### IF YOU HAVE LIMITED ENGLISH:

- Bring someone to the station to interpret. This is very important! Mistakes can end up costing the customer money.
- Carry a cue card in English with the name, address, and phone number of the person who is going to meet you at the end of the bus ride.
- The cue card should include the phrases: Where is the bathroom? Where can I get food?
- Know the name of the city and state to which you are traveling. Remember that some city names exist in more than one state.

### TICKETS: ALL BUS COMPANIES

- You need an ID to purchase a ticket.
- Ticket prices are non-negotiable.

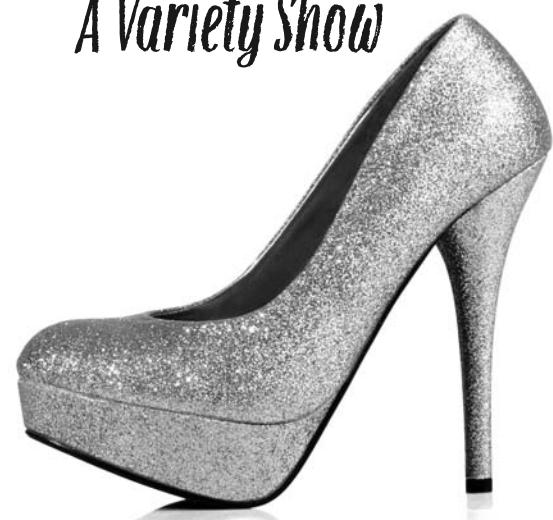
### GREYHOUND

- Tickets on Greyhound are date and time specific.
- The information on the ticket about date, time, destination, and name of traveler can't be changed without filing a request form. After you file the form, a refund will take 4 to 6 weeks to arrive, and you will have to buy another ticket to travel in the meantime.
- Tickets are non-refundable unless you are willing to pay extra for a refundable ticket. If you want a refundable ticket, you must tell the clerk at the time of purchase.
- Tickets are less expensive if purchased 7 to 14 days in advance.
- If you are buying a ticket to a location near Portland, such as Lewiston or Bangor, please bring small bills. The clerk may not be able to change \$100 bills.

### BAGGAGE:

- Travelers are allowed one free carry-on bag of 25 lb. (11 kg), and one other bag to put under the bus that weighs no more than 50 lb. (22.5 kg).
- Customers can travel with extra bags under the bus. The cost is \$15/second bag; \$30/third bag; \$40/fourth bag. Bags that weigh more than 50 lb. (22.5 kg). will be charged for excess weight.
- Bags should have tags with name and address of traveler so they can be returned if separated from their owners.
- Travelers who change buses at a station en route are responsible for transferring their own bags.

## Some Enchanted Evening: A Variety Show



October 8, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Woodfords Congregational Church, Portland

Tickets \$10/adult; \$5/students/Under 7 free

or email [bazia@projectbazia.org](mailto:bazia@projectbazia.org)

### TRAVEL DAY:

- Arrive between 30 and 60 minutes before the bus is scheduled to depart. It takes time to weigh and tag bags. If there is a line and you arrive without enough time, you might miss the bus.
- Buses leave on time. If you miss the bus, you will not get a refund.
- Arrive early if you are meeting someone at the bus station. Do not leave a traveler alone after the station closes. This could be dangerous.

### Swahili Translation from page 5

Wahamiaji wa Sudan waliongea na Amjambo Africa! Wameonyesha wasiwasi mkubwa kwa kuwa Rais Omar Hassan Al-Bashir amechaguliwa mara tena na chama chake kinacho tawala, National Congress, ili kugombea uchaguzi ujao wa rais kwa muhula wa tatu. Hii ikiwa kinyume cha mipaka ambayo inazuia ma rais kubaki ofisini zaidi mihila miwili. Hatua hiyo itamlazimisha rais kubadilisha katiba, ambayo awali ilibadilishwa hapa karibuni mnamo mwaka wa 2005 na ilio weka mpaka wa mihila miwili. Rais Bashir amekuwa mamlakani kwa miaka 29 iliyopita na alikuwa amesema hapo awali kwamba ataacha madaraka mwishoni mwa muhula huu.

Yeye yu na umri wa miaka 74 na alipanda madarakani mwezi Juni 1989 kwa njia ya kutimua Sadiq Al-Mahdi, aliyechanguliwa kidemokrasia. Kuna wasiwasi mkubwa kwamba hii hali inaweza washa utatano mukubwa ambao unaweza kuwa na matokeo mabaya juu ya ustawi wa watu wengi.

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**Advertising Section**  
on page 3 for more details!

### Voting from page 1

non-citizens to vote. They urge care in drafting and putting sufficient safeguards in place to protect non-citizen voters. They note that an inadvertent error, such as mistakenly filling out the wrong ballot, could land a non-citizen in serious legal trouble.

The Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC) also supports the principle of non-citizen voting rights. They look forward to working with the Legislative Committee on the details of the measure. Mufalo Chitam of MIRC said, "This has been an opportunity to learn about how to present a unified voice and collaborate on an issue."

Councilor-at-large Pious Ali told **Amjambo Africa!** that "the Legislative Committee, which I chair, will work with city staff to address the concerns raised by the ACLU and ILAP." Many people testified in favor of the measure, and Mr. Ali was particularly pleased with the large number of immigrants who turned out to testify at the City Council meeting.

A small number of people testified against the measure. Those in opposition emphasized their belief that voting on any level should be tied to citizenship.

Contacted by phone, Mayor Strimling said, "The Committee will take a look at this and the issues of safe implementation and the protection of non-citizen voters. Once fleshed out, the Committee will bring this back to the Council. My hope is that the Council will vote to send this out to voters next year."

**Amjambo Africa!** will follow this issue and report on developments.

## COUNTRY FOCUS: MALI

By Georges Budagu Makoko

MALI WAS SETTLED approximately 5000 years ago. Its ancient empire was among the greatest intellectual centers of the African continent, boasting scholars of science, mathematics, literature and astronomy. Malians are proud of their ancient City of Timbuktu, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which was founded near the Niger River on the southern border of the Sahara.

Built along a natural crossroads for traders, Timbuktu's University of Sankore is considered the earliest university in Africa, as well as one of the first in the world. Timbuktu has been a center of learning and the book trade since at least the 12th century. Major efforts are underway to preserve and digitize Timbuktu's ancient manuscripts. The effort at preservation was redoubled after Islamic extremists burned centuries-old manuscripts in 2013 after imposing Sharia law.

For centuries Mali benefited from its geographical positioning on trade routes that crossed the Sahara. Sundiata (or Sunjata - 'jata' means 'lion') Keita, nicknamed by some 'Lion King', was a prince and the founder and first ruler sometime in the 13th century of the Malian Empire. He was an expert at establishing and controlling trade routes. Another powerful early leader was the Great Mansa Musa, emperor during the 14th century. He is known for organizing a pilgrimage to Mecca of over 70,000 people.

ple. The pilgrims carried gold with them, and stories recount that they built a mosque each Friday along the route of this trip to the Muslim Holy Land.

Contemporary Mali has the largest landmass of any country in the western region of Africa. With an area of 480 000 sq mi., Mali is 13.5 times larger than Maine. It is the eighth largest country in Africa and the 24th largest country in the world. The capital, and its largest city, is Bamako. Mali has more than 80 ethnolinguistic languages, but French is the official language, and Bambara is the most widely spoken indigenous language. 90% of Mali's 17 million inhabitants are Muslim. The climate is very hot and rainfall is minimal and severe drought takes a frequent toll on the population. The meridian marker line crosses Mali, which means people can experience standing right on the edge of the world's two hemispheres.

In 1892, despite a long period of resistance, Mali was colonized by France and named French Sudan. On June 20, 1960

Mali became independent. Modibo Keita was the first president of the Republic of Mali. After gaining independence, Mali suffered from social and political instability. Numerous armed groups fought for power. Power struggles and a series of coups seriously weakened the social and economic fabric of the newly independent Mali.

A pro-democracy movement formed in 1991. Mass gatherings protested corruption in government. The government responded by using force on civilian protesters. Many people were killed. The first democratic elections took place in 1992. Alpha Konare was elected president and re-elected again in 1997. In 2002 the country again fell into political turmoil, culminating in the 2012 civil war. UN peacekeepers were deployed in 2013 and faced brutal attacks by an extremist terrorist movement with hundreds killed. Human rights organizations report arbitrary arrests and torture as the government cracks down on terrorist activities.

Mali is one of the poorest nations in the world. The literacy rate in Mali was 45% in 2015. The country is heavily dependent on foreign aid and is deeply in debt. The economy relies largely on agriculture, with 70% of the population farmers. Mining is another major source of revenue in Mali, which is rich in gold, uranium, phosphate kaolinite, salt and limestone, however riches from mining do not reach the majority of the population. Mali is the third largest source of gold in Africa. Malians living in the U.S. have settled in large cities. Maine has a very small population of Malian-born residents. 

## EMPOWER THE IMMIGRANT WOMAN CONFERENCE &amp; TRAILBLAZER GALA

Saturday November 10, 2018

**Inclusive Democracy and Civic Engagement: The Next Generation Conference: USM Wishcamper Center, 34 Bedford St., Portland. 9 am-1pm**

**Trailblazer Gala:** Trailblazers are immigrant women who have shown bravery, fortitude, courage in the face of tremendous adversity and are being honored for this as models for others.



**Bet Ha'am Synagogue, 81 Westbrook St., South Portland. 5:30-8 pm**

Keynote will be presented by Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives Sarah Gideon.

Entertainment by: Pihcintu Multicultural Chorus

The Conference will include two panel presentations, one on politics and another on opportunities for civic engagement, including internships and job shadowing opportunities that will be offered to young women who attend. There will be a resource fair oriented around the theme. Young immigrant women are invited to join the conference to learn about opportunities to engage, enter politics, and become activists in their communities.

The Gala will start with a Red Carpet Reception at 5:30pm. This will be followed by welcome remarks, music performance(s), the Empower Video, which will highlight the Trailblazers, who will be honored. Dinner will be served and by 7:00 pm or so, the celebration of the Trailblazers will begin and will be followed by our speaker's remarks.

**For More Info:**

**Ghomri Rostampour**

**207-232-9181 | grostampour@gmail.com**

**empowerimmigrantwoman.org**

*The mission of Empower the Immigrant Woman is to Empower, Educate and Inspire the emerging immigrant woman.*



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

ILAP is concerned about the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. His writings and dissents indicate he does not believe that Constitutional protections should apply to immigrants, minorities, LGBTQ, and other vulnerable communities. There are two cases in particular that are of concern because they demonstrate Judge Kavanaugh's opinion that immigrants should not be afforded the same Constitutional protections that are afforded to U.S. Citizens. These cases are Garza v. Hargan and Agri Processor Co. v. National Labor Relations Board. In his dissenting opinions, Judge Kavanaugh also demonstrates his propensity to ignore precedent when it relates to immigrants' rights.

**FROM THE GROUND****Cape Verde ~** MAINERS FROM CAPE VERDE who talked

to **Amjambo Africa!** this month expressed serious concerns about a severe drought that has gripped the island nation. The drought is generally agreed to be the worst in forty years. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization predicts that the nation will need foreign food assistance.

Cape Verde is a small nation comprised of ten islands located 600 km west of Senegal. Another shared concern revolves around flights to the archipelago. In early March, Thomas Cook Airlines abruptly cancelled all summer flights to Cape Verde, angering customers who had booked months earlier. The airline cited "commercial reasons" for the decision. Ryanair discontinued its flights to Cape Verde and many other destinations a year ago for administrative reasons. The tourism industry is a major player in the local economy, so cancellations significantly impact the island. The tourism industry generally brings in \$41M (USD) every year. Those talking to **Amjambo Africa!** are pleased that the Thomas Cook flights are slated to resume in November.

Last year, the government in Cape Verde announced the ambitious goal of running the country on 100% renewable energy by 2025. Sources of energy will be power from the sun and wind. The country's 550,000 residents all have access to electricity. Maine has over 45 immigrants from Cape Verde. The community in Maine holds social gatherings and is very organized. More Cape Verdeans live outside the islands than within the nation. The Cape Verde diaspora includes North America and South America, Africa, and Europe.

**Sudan ~** MAINERS FROM SUDAN who spoke with **Amjambo Africa!**

expressed great joy over the news that 85,000 internally displaced persons have been able to return to their villages. These refugees had fled the 2003 brutal civil war in Darfur. Tribal reconciliation initiatives played an important role in paving the way for the voluntary return of these displaced peoples.

The U.N. Stabilization Mission reports that the security situation has progressively improved in Sudan, and the U.N. considers the return of the refugees to their homeland a milestone achievement. The villagers themselves are enormously relieved to

return home and become independent again. They plan to cultivate their fields, reopen schools and hospitals, and resume former economic activities. Our sources are very pleased that the U.N. will now be able to use the aid intended for these refugees to instead help some of the more than 68 million other people who remain displaced worldwide. The villagers plan to contribute again to the social and economic growth of Sudan, and look forward to life returning to what had become ghost villages.

The Sudanese immigrants with whom we spoke expressed serious concern that President Omar Hassan Al- Bashir has been appointed by his ruling party, the National Congress, to run in upcoming presidential elections for a third term. This is despite term limits that restrict presidents to two terms in office. The move will force the president to amend Sudan's constitution, which was just amended in 2005 to include limits of two terms. President Bashir has been in power for the last 29 years and previously has stated that he would step down when his current term ends. He is 74 years old and ascended to power in June 1989 by means of a coup, removing Sadiq Al-Mahdi, who had been democratically elected. There is widespread concern that a change to the constitution will spark a serious conflict that could have a negative effect on the well-being of many people.



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**NOVEMBER 2018  
ELECTIONS**

Maine's next elections will be for the governorship, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and also state and local offices, such as school board.

The elections will be held on November 6, 2018.

All citizens who are over the age of 18 can vote. If you are a US citizen, please register to vote and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same.

You can register anytime at the town office, city hall, Motor Vehicles office, social services agencies, or during voting registration drives.

The results of the election will impact life in Maine for everyone in very important ways for years to come. Our democracy is based on the idea that it is the right and responsibility of every citizen to vote.

If you're a new Maine voter, when you register you must provide either:

- Your ME driver's license or ID card number.  
or
- The last 4 digits of your Social Security number.

If you need help reading or marking the ballot on election day, you may ask a relative or friend for assistance. The helper does not have to be a voter or old enough to vote.

**Maine needs you! Please vote!  
Participate in making important decisions!**

*At the July 16, 2018 City Council Meeting Councilor Pious Ali and Mayor Ethan K. Strimling made a proposal extending the right to vote on local affairs in Portland to refugees and asylum seekers. The basis of their proposal was that refugees and asylum seekers are legal residents of Portland, pay taxes, own and rent houses, have children in the schools, and should be able to vote on local matters. The Portland City Council held a public hearing on the proposal on August 13, 2018 in the Council Chambers at Portland City Hall. The proposal has now been referred to committee for further consideration.*

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# AMJAMBO AFRICA!

## WHAT'S IN A WORD: SWEARING IN AMERICA

By Georges Budagu Makoko

Many immigrants express shock at the frequent, casual swearing and cursing they hear from Americans. Profanity is not acceptable in most African societies, so newcomers are taken by surprise when they hear vulgarity from people of all ages, in all walks of life, in private homes, but also in public spaces.

Africans from different countries who talked to **Amjambo Africa!** explained that, while young people might use profanity and vulgar expressions when they are alone with other young people in Africa, drinking, joking, and having fun, it is very rare to hear adults behaving this way. It is basically unheard of for women to swear or curse.

Some immigrants from Africa stated that they do not understand why swearing is so popular in America and why it is considered an acceptable practice. They say that in their homelands individuals use vulgar language in public only in extreme situations, yet they remark that it happens in public all the time in the U.S. People swear at work, on the street, and even in front of children and elders. Some people seem to swear and curse multiple times in one sentence – even every other word!

Newcomers often do not understand the meaning or intent of the language they hear, and this adds to the confusion. Some of the terms that Americans consider as mild replacements for more profane language can sound like vulgar terms to Africans. Examples of mild language that can be misinterpreted are: gosh, darn it, what the heck, holy cow, sun of a gun, dang, or shoot.

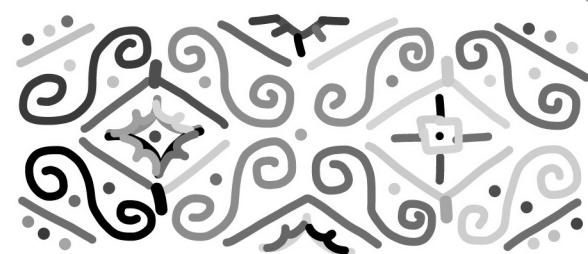
When newcomers feel embarrassed and offended by language they hear, they are unsure about how to handle the situation.



When speaking with a friend or colleague, they want to be polite, while also find a way to gently show their discomfort. Sometimes they have been confronted with people who are clearly emotionally wrought, and who speak loudly and in an unfriendly tone, using vulgar language. This is very uncomfortable for Africans, who are unsure how to respond.

As readers of **Amjambo Africa!** know, culture plays a key role in the way we live and interact with others. Understanding our own culture as well as those of others helps bridge gaps and eases

efforts to work and socialize well together. Knowing that Africans are unfamiliar with the range and varying intensity of American swear words (and their innocuous replacements) certainly can help Americans choose their words a little more carefully. At the same time, recognizing that certain words and phrases are really not vulgar can help Africans feel more comfortable when talking with Americans. 



## NEWS IN BRIEF

**THE CONRAD N. HILTON HUMANITARIAN PRIZE, WORTH \$2M,** was awarded to a Kenyan non-profit for its work developing an innovative system for delivering clean drinking water to residents in the largest urban slum in the world, Kibera, in Nairobi. The system involves an aerial network of pipes that connect to water kiosks. This aerial network avoids issues common to underground systems such as leaks, breakage, and diversion of water by cartels. The system is in the pilot stage and currently serves 11,000 people. The goal is to reach 84,000 people in Kibera.



**PIERRE THIAM, A SENEGALESE CHEF, HAS STARTED THE COMPANY YOLÉLÉ FOODS,** which is marketing fonio, an amino-acid-rich, gluten-free West African grain staple, to the US. Whole Foods and Amazon have agreed to carry fonio. Thiam is working with SOS Sahel, a non-profit dedicated to helping increase food security and nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa. SOS Sahel is training small scale farmers on how to grow, collect, and transport the grain to the processing mill. The goal is to help farmers economically.



**A DRAWING BELIEVED TO BE 73,000 YEARS OLD WAS DISCOVERED** in a cave in South Africa and is believed to be the oldest ever found. The drawing is of six thin lines crossed by three other lines and was created with an ochre crayon on smooth rock. The drawing is believed to be symbolic and its meaning is not known. The symbol has also been found in other early drawings. The stone was found in 2011, however tests to confirm that the drawing was made by homo sapiens have just been completed.



**THE LEADERS OF ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA MARKED THE OCCASION** of the Ethiopian New Year by visiting the shared border of their countries on September 11. This border was recently opened after decades of tension. The two countries have also reopened embassies in each other's countries and resumed flights. Eritrea plans to allow landlocked Ethiopia access to its ports. Both countries have begun clearing landmines away. The leaders signed an agreement on July 9 to normalize relations.



**THE UNITED NATIONS REPORTS THAT OVERALL** people in Sub-Saharan Africa are doing better than they were a generation ago. Life expectancy has increased to 60.7 years from 49.7 years in 1990. Improved nutrition, access to water, increased numbers of years spent in school, recovery from epidemics such as HIV are cited as reasons for the improvement. Some African countries, however, are at the bottom of the UN's annual human development index. These include Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, and South Sudan.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SACRED STORIES.** Refugees sharing stories of their experiences. Friday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. Williston-Immanuel United Church, 156 High Street, Portland.

**FAIR FOR VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN HELPING THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION.** Organized by Tikkun Olam Council of Congregation Bet Ha'am. November 4, time to be announced. 81 Westbrook St., South Portland. Call 879-0028 for information.

**EMPOWER THE IMMIGRANT WOMAN.** Saturday November 10, 2018. Conference: USM Wishcamper Center, 34 Bedford St., Portland. Gala: Bet Ha'am Synagogue, 81 Westbrook St., South Portland. See page 12 for more information.

**LADDER TO THE MOON NETWORK: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.** Topic: Social and economic impact of wars on African women. Keynote and panel discussions on culture, mental and physical health, resources and economic opportunities. Saturday, December 1, 2018. Talbot Lecture Hall, USM, Portland campus.

**CELEBRATING HOME – A benefit for Hope Acts.** October 18, 6:00-8:00 pm. The Woodfords Club. 179 Woodford Street, Portland. Food, music, silent auction and fun. Tickets are \$40/person.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Immigrants in the Greater Portland area contributed \$1.2 billion to the area's GDP in 2016, paid \$133 million in federal taxes, and \$62 million in state and local taxes

— New American Economy

## WOMEN -RUN MICROBUSINESS "FIKIRIA" OPENS ITS DOORS



THREADS OF HOPE, a thrift and consignment store run by Catholic Charities at 244 St. John Street, Portland, has just opened FIKIRIA – Swahili for ‘Imagine’ - an area in the store for immigrant-owned micro-businesses. The first business owners at FIKIRIA are two women - SMCC business student Zahra Abukar, who is selling hijabs, abayas, dresses, dirac, and t-shirts depicting Rosie the Riveter in a hijab (most designs created by Zahra); and mother of six mental health practitioner Nana Batumike, who is selling clothing and accessories with a Central African flair – known as Queening, or Glamming - and makeup for African American women. Store hours are 10 am to 6pm Monday through Saturday and 10am to 5pm on Sunday.



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Lee Auto Malls Irabatangariza Inguzanyo shya yitwararika amabwiriza ya Sharia.

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Hapa ni ma gari machache tu yanayopatikana chini ya mpango huo.

Ci-après sont quelques véhicules dans le cadre de ce programme.

Uru nirwo rutonde Rwigimodoka ziboneka muriyi porogarama:

## 2014 Toyota Camry LE

P310326K



## 2008 Toyota Highlander Sport AWD

P041016K

2009 Honda CR-V P066002K  
2010 Toyota Camry P047509K  
2013 Subaru XV Crosstrek P805599K  
2007 Toyota Camry Hybrid P023365K  
2013 Toyota RAV4 LE AWD P033365K

## 2009 Honda Civic EX

P330020K



*For more information contact:*

**Tom Santospago**  
[toms@leeautomall.com](mailto:toms@leeautomall.com)

**OR**

**Jon Newland**  
[jnewland@leeautomall.com](mailto:jnewland@leeautomall.com)



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