These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program. World Learning arranged their program.

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Accompanied By: Mr. Miguel Garcia, Mr. Eric Goze, Ms. Meredith Rogers, and Ms. Chelsea Rosendale, International Visitor Interpreter/Liaisons

October 22 - November 9, 2018

PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

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

- Examine the U.S. political and electoral process, political activism, and campaigns, with a particular focus on the political priorities of the younger generation and the role of young Americans in shaping the future U.S. political landscape;
- Explore how individuals, community groups, and public and privately funded organizations influence the outcomes of elections;
- Learn about election center and voting precinct preparation, election monitoring, vote tabulation, and security procedures;
- Identify the importance of community service in America and the correlation between a successful campaign and an actively engaged and widespread network of volunteers; and
- Review political, social, and economic policy formulation processes, leadership strategies and skills, and communications techniques used to run an effective campaign.
## PARTICIPANT LIST

### Burundi
- **Mr. Aloys SINDAYIHEBURA**
  - Liaison Officer, Ministry of East African Community

### Central African Republic
- **Mr. Gontran Gervais LAKOSSO KOKPALE**
  - Manager, Circle of Research and Education through Arts (CREA)

### Central African Republic
- **Mr. Boris Martial NGOUAGOUNI**
  - Broadcast Producer, *Radio Guira*

### Djibouti
- **Ms. Nima MAHAMOUD NOUR**
  - Magistrate, President of Court of First Instance, Court House

### Ghana
- **Ms. Helen Adjoa NTOSO**
  - Member of Parliament, National Democratic Congress (NDC) Party

### Guinea-Bissau
- **Mr. Simao TE**
  - Legal Advisor, Special Commission for Women and Children, National People’s Assembly

###Kenya
- **Mr. Abednego OMINDE**
  - Special Advisor, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)

### Malawi
- **Mr. Sangwani MWAFULIRWA**
  - Director, Media and Public Relations, Malawi Electoral Commission

### Mali
- **Mr. Abdrahamane DIARRA**
  - Division Chief, Method and Organization, Ministry of Economy and Finance

### Mozambique
- **Mr. Paulo NHANCALE**
  - Managing Director and President, Mozambican League of Human Rights (LDH)

### Namibia
- **Mr. Steve Biko BOOYS**
  - Regional Councilor and Member, National Council

### Niger
- **Mr. Djibril ABARCHI, Ph.D.**
  - President, Association Nigerienne pour la Defense des Droits de l'Homme
Niger  Mr. Issa GARBA TAHIROU  
Information and Communication Secretary, Tournons La Page, Niger Chapter

Nigeria  Mr. Julius Terkimbi AGAH  
Coordinator, Justice Development and Peace Commission

Nigeria  Mr. Richard Ugbede ALI  
Program Officer, Association of Nigerian Authors Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ANA PCVE)

Senegal  Mr. Mamadou SECK  
Program Coordinator, Governance and Political Processes, Goree Institute

Togo  Mr. Koffi Dela KEPOMEY  
Executive Director, National Concertation of Civil Society

Uganda  Mr. Ivan OKUDA  
Special Projects and Investigations Writer, Daily Monitor Newspaper

Zambia  Mr. Andrew Zindhlu LUBUSA  
Provincial Youth Chairman, Patriotic Front
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Burundi

Name: Mr. Aloys SINDAYIHEBURA

Present Position: Liaison Officer, Ministry of East African Community


Address: Bujumbura, Burundi
           Email: aloyss142@gmail.com

Languages: Kirundi/Rundi (primary), English, French, Swahili/Kiswahili

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

Other Travel: Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Germany, Kenya, The Netherlands, Rwanda, Republic of the Congo

Professional Background: Mr. Aloys Sindayihebura current serves as a liaison officer for Uganda’s Ministry of East African Community, which is tasked with coordinating affairs with Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania. Mr. Sindayihebura began his career as a military officer, rising through the ranks to command Burundi’s forces in the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM). He then joined the Ministry of Defense as a civilian, serving as principal civilian advisor to the Minister. He is interested in examining the democratic process in the United States, including the role of free and open debate, civic engagement, and the workings of the U.S. electoral system.
Central African Republic

Name: Mr. Gontran Gervais LAKOSSO KOKPALE

Present Position: Manager, Circle of Research and Education through Arts (CREA)

Concurrent Position: President, Civil Society Working Group

Address: Central African Republic
Email: lakgg9@yahoo.fr

Languages: Sango (primary), English, French

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

Professional Background: Mr. Gervais Lakosso is a civil society leader and member of the Civil Society Working Group of the Central African Republic. He advocates to the government to play a greater, more proactive role in addressing violence committed against everyday citizens, protecting fundamental rights, and upholding good, responsive governance. Mr. Lakosso is also well-known artist and songwriter.
Central African Republic

Name: Mr. Boris Martial NGOUAGOUNI

Present Position: Broadcast Producer, Radio Guira

Address: Central African Republic
Email: ngouagouniborispm@gmail.com

Languages: Sango (primary), English, French

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

Professional Background: Mr. Boris Martial Ngouagouni is a broadcast producer at Radio Guira, a popular radio station in the Central Africa Republic. He is particularly interested in electoral issues and, as the producer of radio programs, has endeavored to disseminate information about his country’s electoral code. Mr. Ngouagouni is also committed to promoting political transparency and encouraging women and minorities to participate in the political process. He looks forward to connecting with colleagues in media and deepening his understanding of the important role of journalists in democracy.
Djibouti

Name: Ms. Nima MAHAMOU D NOUR

Present Position: Magistrate, President of Court of First Instance

Education/Training: Master’s degree, Maritime Law, University of Nantes, 2005

Address: Djibouti
Email: nimamahamoudnour@yahoo.fr

Languages: Somali (primary), French

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

Other Travel: Morocco

Professional Background: Ms. Nima Mahamoud Nour serves as President of the Court of First Instance, part of the Djiboutian Ministry of Justice. She reviews election practices before complaints are submitted to the Constitutional Court. She has played a central role in making sure that citizens not on electoral lists – due to illness, travel, or other reasons – are able to cast their vote. Ms. Mahamoud Nour is also committed to the advancement of anti-trafficking (TIP) training and advocacy in the justice system.
Ghana

Name: Ms. Helen Adjoa NTOSO

Present Position: Member of Parliament, National Democratic Congress (NDC) Party

Previous Positions: Volta Regional Minister, Office of the President, 2013-2016
Head of Operations, National Disaster Management Organization, 2009-2012

B.A., Early Childhood Development, University of Cape Coast, 2007

Memberships: National Democratic Congress

Address: Accra, Ghana
Email: adjoa1733@hotmail.com

Languages: English

U. S. Travel: New York

Other Travel: United Arab Emirates

Professional Background: Ms. Helen Adjoa Ntoso is a Member of Parliament with Ghana’s largest opposition party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC). She is also member of the NDC’s electoral commission, based at the NDC headquarters, and is a party activist and organizer. One of fewer than 36 women parliamentarians out of the body’s 275 members, Ms. Ntoso is passionate about seeing more women participate in government, business, and in the private sector. She has served as a mentor to women entering politics and as an advocate for greater inclusion of women in the political process. She looks forward to learning about the U.S. electoral system and grassroots organizing for elections, among other issues.
**Guinea-Bissau**

**Name:** Mr. Simao TE

**Present Position:** Legal Advisor, Special Commission for Women and Children, National People’s Assembly

**Education/Training:** Graduate studies, Theology, Evangelical Theology School, 2018 Bachelor’s degree, Law, Faculty of University Colinas de Boé, 2013

**Address:** Guinea-Bissau  
Email: datchy72@yahoo.com.br

**Languages:** Creole (primary), English, French

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

**Professional Background:** Mr. Simão Té is the Legal Advisor to the Special Commission for Women and Children of Guinea-Bissau’s legislative body, the National People’s Assembly, where he has served for the past three years. Previously, he was the National Assembly’s focal point for UNICEF on the preparation of the child protection code, and for UNDP on the dissemination of the law against domestic violence. Prior to his position in government, he was an active member of civil society. He led the Student Association of University Colinas de Boé and the Association of Children and Youth of Guinea-Bissau, and participated in many other community-based efforts. He looks forward to learning from and connecting with others committed to fair and free elections.
Kenya

Name: Mr. Abednego OMINDE

Present Position: Special Advisor, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)

Previous Positions: Business Development Manager, Gidea Healthcare Limited, 2009-2016
Regional Manager, GlaxoSmithKline, 2007-2009
Medical Representative, GlaxoSmithKline, 2005-2006
Medical Representative, Harleys Limited, 2004-2005

Education/Training: M.A., Project Planning and Management, University of Nairobi, 2018
B.Sc., Biomedical Science and Technology, Egerton University, 1998-2003

Address: Nairobi, Kenya
Email: abednego.ominde@gmail.com

Languages: Luo (primary), English

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

Other Travel: United Arab Emirates

Professional Background: Mr. Abednego Ominde currently serves as a special advisor in Kenya’s Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), an independent regulatory agency that is responsible for conducting and supervising referenda and elections. An expert in the field of elections and electoral processes, he played a central role in organizing a national election conference, which was integral in building stakeholder and public confidence in upcoming elections. Committed to fair, free, and credible elections, Mr. Ominde hopes to deepen his understanding of U.S. election processes and administration.
Malawi

Name: Mr. Sangwani MWAFULIRWA

Present Position: Director, Media and Public Relations, Malawi Electoral Commission

Previous Positions: Bureau Manager, Guardian Publications, 2011
Advocacy Officer, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Malawi, 2011
Acting National Director and Advocacy Officer, Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), Malawi, 2007
Reporter and Sub-editor, Blantyre Newspapers, Ltd., 2003

M.B.A., Herriot-Watt University, 2013
Certificate, Project Development and Management, Global Human Rights Training Institute, 2007
B.A., Journalism, University of Malawi, 2003

Memberships: Public Relations Society of Malawi


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Email: sangwa79@yahoo.com

Languages: Chichewa (primary), English

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

Other Travel: Australia, Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Tanzania, United Kingdom

Professional Background: Mr. Sangwani Mwafulirwa is a journalist, media and public relations practitioner, and elections expert who currently serves as Director of Media and Public Relations with the Malawi Electoral Commission. He is responsible for public awareness campaigns, political and stakeholder management, and liaising with political parties, among other responsibilities. He looks forward to learning about voter education and mobilization efforts, and the role of effectively-run elections in peaceful transitions of power.
Mali

**Name:** Mr. Abdrahamane DIARRA

**Present Position:** Division Chief, Method and Organization, Ministry of Economy and Finance

**Previous Positions:**
- IT Manager, Ministry of Finance, 2013-2015
- Data Base Administrator, Ministry of Finance, 2007-2013

**Education/Training:**
- Master’s degree, Banks and Insurances, École Supérieure de Gestion, 2011
- Master’s degree, Computer Engineering, Sup’Management, 2006
- Bachelor’s degree, New Technologies, Technolab – Institut Supérieur de Technologies Appliquées (ISTA), 2003

**Memberships:**
- National Youth President, Union for the Republic and Democracy (URD) Political Party
- Member, Association Hope for Youth Development
- Member, Association Hands in Hands
- Member, Network of Youth Political Leaders for West Africa

**Address:** Bamako, Mali

**Email:** abdrahamane.diarra@finances.gouv.ml

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

**U. S. Travel:** New York, Washington, DC

**Other Travel:** Belgium, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Gabon, Nigeria

**Professional Background:** Mr. Abdrahamane Diarra leads the Method and Organization section of Mali’s Ministry of Economy and Finance. He is also a youth leader for the Union for the Republic and Democracy (URD), currently an opposition party. He is interested in how elections are conducted in the United States, specifically with regard to efforts to promote transparency and combat corruption.
Mozambique

Name: Mr. Paulo NHANCALE

Present Position: Managing Director and President, Mozambican League of Human Rights (LDH)

Concurrent Positions: Coordinator, CSO Platform on Universal Periodic Report
Assistant Lecturer, Trainer and Researcher, Center for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Eduardo Mondlane University

Previous Positions: Coordinator, Human and Body Parts Trafficking Project, LDH, 2009-2017
Attorney, LDH, 2002-2011
Assistant Deputy, Civic Education and Information Department, LDH, 1995-2002

Education/Training: L.L.M., University of Pretoria
L.L.B., Eduardo Mondlane University

Memberships: Mozambique Bar Association

Address: Maputo, Mozambique
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Languages: Portuguese (primary), English

U. S. Travel: Georgia, New York, Washington, DC

Other Travel: Portugal, Switzerland, Zimbabwe

Professional Background: Mr. Paulo Nhancal recently became President and Managing Director of the Mozambican League of Human Rights (LDH) after serving as the association’s legal advisor and expert for 17 years. The LDH is a civil society organization that promotes and defends human rights in Mozambique and provides legal assistance to people who are unable to pay for legal services. The organization also played a key role in coordinating and disseminating the results of observation activities during the country’s 2014 presidential elections. Mr. Nhancal looks forward to examining the administration of free and fair elections in the United States.
Namibia

Name: Mr. Steve Biko BOOYS

Present Position: Regional Councilor and Member, National Council

Previous Position: Chairperson of Management Committee, Otjozondjupa Regional Council, 2013-2015

Memberships: SWAPO Party of Namibia (formerly South West African People’s Organization)

Address: Windhoek, Namibia
          Email: bikoboys@gmail.com

Languages: Afrikaans (primary), English

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

Other Travel: Russia

Professional Background: Mr. Steve Biko Booys is currently a Regional Councilor and Member of the National Council, Namibia’s upper house of Parliament. A member of the SWAPO Party and one of the youngest members of the National Council, he is an advocate for good governance and democratic reform. He looks forward to deepening his understanding of the electoral process in the United States.
Name: Mr. Djibril ABARCHI, Ph.D.

Present Position: President, Association Nigerienne pour la Defense des Droits de l'Homme

Concurrent Positions: Lecturer, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Abdou Moumouni University

Previous Positions: Director of Legislation and Legal Affairs, National Assembly, 2013-2014

Education/Training: Ph.D., Law, University of Orleans, France, 1990

Memberships: Association International des Droits Economiques
Association pour l'Harmonisation du Droit des Affaires en Afrique

Publications: Problematique des reformes Legislatives en Afrique, 2013

Address: Niamey, Niger
Email: djibrila@yahoo.com

Languages: Hausa (primary), Djerma/Songhai, English, French,

U. S. Travel: Washington, DC

Other Travel: Benin, France, Gabon, Mali, Morocco

Professional Background: Mr. Djibril Abarchi, Ph.D. is a civil society activist and constitutional law scholar. He is currently serves as President of the most prominent human rights association in Niger, the Nigerienne Association of Defense of Human Rights (l’Association Nigerienne de Defense des Droits de l’Homme, ANDDH). Dr. Arbarchi appears frequently in the media to deliberate and raise awareness about legal and political issues, human rights concerns, and other matters.
Niger

Name: Mr. Issa GARBA TAHIROU

Present Position: Information and Communication Secretary, Tournons La Page, Niger Chapter

Concurrent Position: Board Member, Network of Organizations for Transparency and Budget Analysis (ROTAB)

Education: License, Communication, School of Management and Communication (ESCOM), Niamey, Niger, 2017
Higher Technician Certificate (Brevet de Technicien Supérieur), Administration, IPM Niamey, 2004

Address: Niger
Email: issagne@gmail.com

Languages: Djerma/Songhai (primary), English, French, Hausa

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

Other Travel: Extensive travel experience

Professional Background: Mr. Issa Garba Tahirou is the Secretary in charge of Information and Communication for the Niger chapter of Tournons La Page, or “Let’s Turn the Page,” an international campaign that advocates for and leads peaceful, nonpartisan actions to promote democratic change across Africa. Mr. Garba Tahirou is also member of the board of the Network of Organizations for Transparency and Budget Analysis (Reseau des Organisations pour la Transparence et l’Analyse Budgetaire, ROTAB), an organization fighting for transparency, accountability, and the management of public resources. He regularly uses social media to encourage civic engagement and raise awareness about government actions.
Nigeria

Name: Mr. Julius Terkimbi AGAH

Present Position: Coordinator, Justice Development and Peace Commission

Concurrent Position: Catholic Priest, Catholic Diocese of Gboko

Education/Training: Bachelor’s degree, Divinity, Urbania University, Rome, 2006
B.A., Philosophy, St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, 2001

Memberships: Nigerian Catholic Indigenous Clergy

Address: Gboko, Nigeria
Email: agahjullius@gmail.com

Languages: Tiv (primary), English

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

Other Travel: United Kingdom

Professional Background: Mr. Julius Agah coordinates the Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) in the Vandeikya Deanery of the Catholic Diocese of Gboko, one of the most populated and politically active cities in Benue State, Nigeria. As coordinator of the JDPC, he is responsible for recruiting volunteers and organizing and deploying observation teams for elections at all levels. An advocate for women’s participation in politics and the electoral process, Mr. Agah has initiated a targeted campaign to encourage women to seek elective office and to increase financial support for female politicians. As a member of the Catholic clergy, he leads a large congregation of about 1,200 young men and women, where he focuses on youth as leaders and changemakers. Mr. Agah looks forward to examining programs on good governance, youth engagement, and women’s participation in politics. He also hopes to learn about campaign financing and raising funds to support women candidates, in particular.
Mr. Richard Ugbede ALI

Present Position: Program Officer, Association of Nigerian Authors Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ANA PCVE)

Concurrent Position: Partner, Asia Ahmed and Co. Legal Practice

Previous Position: National Publicity Secretary, Association of Nigerian Authors, 2011-2015

Education/Training: L.L.B., Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, 2007

Memberships: Nigerian Bar Association
Africa Centre for Strategic Studies Alumni
Association of Nigerian Authors
Security Governance Initiative

Publications: City of Memories, Parresia Publishers, 2012

Address: Abuja, Nigeria
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Languages: Edo (primary), English

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

Other Travel: Italy, Morocco, Uganda

Professional Background: Mr. Richard Ali is a lawyer and novelist who currently serves as a program officer with the Association of Nigerian Authors, where he focuses on preventing and countering violent extremism (ANA PCVE). In this capacity, Mr. Ali encourages writers to inform Nigerians about the on-going insurgency in different parts of country, the dangers of sectarian crises to democracy, and the importance of active, informed participation in 2019 general elections. Mr. Ali is also involved with the security governance initiative (SGI) program, where he focuses on improving the government’s emergency preparedness and plans for civilian security in Nigeria’s northeast. He is a tireless advocate for free, fair, and regular elections and their role in peace and stability.
Senegal

Name: Mr. Mamadou SECK

Present Position: Program Coordinator, Governance and Political Processes, Goree Institute

Previous Positions: Assistant, Committee on Recommendations of the Elections Audit, Electoral Commission, 2010-2012
Executive Director, Forum Civil, the National Chapter of Transparency International, 2006-2008

Education/Training: Diploma of Advanced Studies, Political Science/African Studies, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1), 2004
Master’s degree, Political Science, Paris 1, 2003
Licence (Bachelor’s degree), Paris 1, 2002
Certificate, International Relations, School of International Studies of Paris, 1999

Memberships: Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) Network of Facilitators

Publications: Guide to Good Electoral Processes, Goree Institute, 2017
Political Guide to Electoral Accompaniment, Goree Institute, 2015
Scandals under the Presidency of Abdoulaye Wade, Harmattan, 2005

Address: Goree, Senegal
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Languages: Wolof (primary), English, French

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

Other Travel: Extensive travel in Africa, France, United Kingdom

Professional Background: Mr. Mamadou Seck is a Program Coordinator for the Goree Institute, a prominent nongovernmental organization that focuses on democracy and governance. He has extensive experience with elections across Africa, including in elections observation missions, assessments, and training. He looks forward to examining U.S. approaches to ensuring that electoral processes are free, fair, and transparent.
Name: Mr. Koffi Dela KEPOMEY

Present Position: Executive Director, National Concertation of the Togolese Civil Society

Education/Training: Master’s degree, Natural sciences, University of Lome, 1999
Certificate, Training of Trainers, Goree Institute, 2014
Certificate, Electoral Observation, Goree Institute, 2013
Certificate, BRIDGE Training of Trainers, United Nations Development Program, 2012

Address: Togo
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Languages: French (primary), English

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

Other Travel: Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Liberia

Professional Background: Mr. Koffi Dela Kepomey serves as Executive Director of the National Concertation of the Togolese Civil Society. He is also an expert on governance and elections. Over the past few years, he has worked as an observer for elections across the continent. Additionally, Mr. Kepomey has trained hundreds of youth on governance issues, including strategies to run for municipal councilors in local elections. He is particularly interested in learning more about the administration of elections, maintaining and auditing voter lists, and related regulatory frameworks.
Uganda

Name: Mr. Ivan OKUDA

Present Position: Special Projects and Investigations Writer, Daily Monitor Newspaper

Concurrent Position: Political Analyst and Talk Show Host, KFM Radio

Previous Position: Freelance writer, Daily Monitor, 2009-2014

Education/Training: L.L.B. (Hons.), Makerere University, 2017

Memberships: Human Rights Network for Journalists
Anti Counterfeit Network Africa

Publications: Multiple publication in Daily Monitor, East African, New Vision and other publications in East Africa

Address: Kampala, Uganda
Email: okudaivan2009@gmail.com

Languages: Luo (primary), English

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

Other Travel: Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania

Professional Background: Mr. Ivan Okudo is an investigative journalist with the Daily Monitor Newspaper. His work includes political analysis, investigations on human rights violations and corruption, and interviews prominent figures in Uganda’s economy and political landscape. In 2016, Mr. Okuda collaborated with a well-known Sierra Leonian journalist, Sorious Samura, to co-produce a cutting-edge documentary for the Al Jazeera series “Africa Investigates.” The documentary, titled “Uganda: Living in Fear,” examined the mysterious murders of Uganda’s Muslim clerics. In addition to the role of the media in U.S. elections and politics, Mr. Okuda is interested in the U.S. electoral processes, including issues pertaining to fundraising, the management of campaigns, and efforts to ensure free and fair elections.
Mr. Andrew Zindhlu LUBUSHA

Present Position: Provincial Youth Chairman, Patriotic Front

Concurrent Positions: Member, Patriotic Front Central Committee

Previous Positions: Member, National Committee for Land and Natural Resources
National Secretary, Patriotic Front, Youth and Security
District Youth Chairman, Eastern Province
Vice-Provincial Youth Chairman, Eastern Province

Public Administration, Advanced Diploma, University of Zambia, 2016

Address: Chipata, Zambia
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Languages: Bemba (primary), English

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

Other Travel: People’s Republic of China, United Kingdom

Professional Background: Mr. Andrew Zindhlu Lubusha is the Provincial Youth Chairman for the Patriotic Front (PF) and a member of the PF Central Committee. In 2015, he became the youngest member of any political party central committee in Zambian history. Mr. Lubusha regularly meets with high-level offices to lobby for and promote policies affecting youth in Zambia. He is also committed to supporting and strengthening networks of emerging young leaders in Zambia in his province and across the country.