
From: McHale, Judith A <McHaleJA@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2010 6:16 PM
To: H; Sullivan, Jacob J; Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: FW: Update on Reporting

FYI, a video and note that will make you smile.

Enjoy!

jm

1. Closing Wrap-up Video from Forum (produced by IIP and huge hit)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZ8kpXbqI1c>

2. Thank-you Letter from Cameroon Delegate to Embassy

Dear All,

Good morning from Washington DC. I trust that we are keeping well. I just want to use this opportunity to say that today we come to the end of the program here on the President's Forum. All along this Forum and especially during the White House meeting with President Obama, I have been asking myself what it means to be here in DC and to be representing Cameroon at this forum?

I have recently come to the realization that the time is critical and that President Obama in his thinking about a new Africa believes that young people whom we are, diverse and intelligently different can take little positive actions to ensure that the next 50 years witnesses significant changes in our social processes, our political institutions, processes and structures, our economic freedom, taking into consideration our cultural specificities.

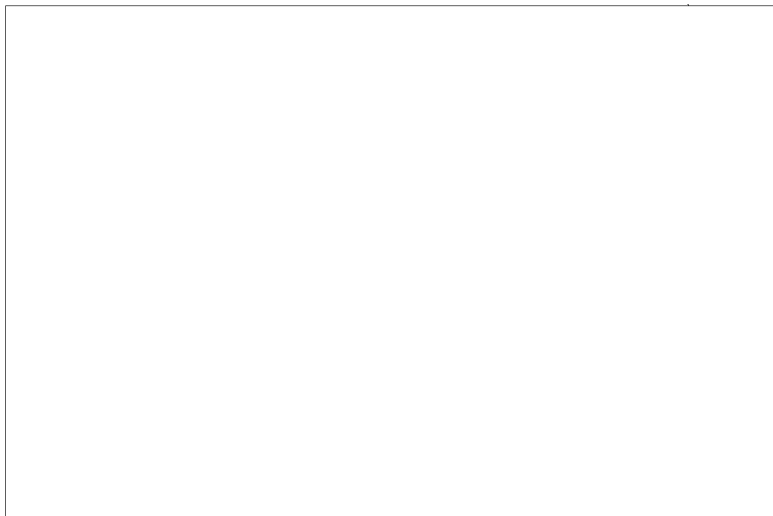
While traveling to America, I kept imagining the moment when President Obama would tell us great and magical ways to getting out of our current socio-economic and especially political hostage situations, but in all and after all the speeches, conversations and interactions with Ordinary Americans like in the Southside of Washington DC, State Department Staff, Senators, Secretary of State Clinton and President Obama, I noticed that America can only partner with us when we decide to start thinking and acting differently in our quest for a better Cameroon and a better Africa.

This thinking differently is exemplified by the American Peace Corps, in the service leadership, the spirit of give back to the nation and community and the transformation of challenges to opportunities in America and in many nations around the world...

When our troubles and challenges seems gruesome and our vision blurred by the thought and fear of the unknown if we dared, the one thing I come out with from this Forum is this, "That we just have to Think, Speak out and above all, DARE take some innovative ACTIONS to Be the change we want to see in our communities, nations and continent and commit others to same by our examples...That we have to build strong networks and undertake advocacies as a group as nothing has ever stopped a committed group of people to drive change around the world.

The work to be done is enormous and challenging but sure the reward of every success like coming to America, to the White House and meeting with President Obama is sweet. Therefore I come back to work to be the change I want to see in Cameroon.

I thank you all for the opportunity.



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