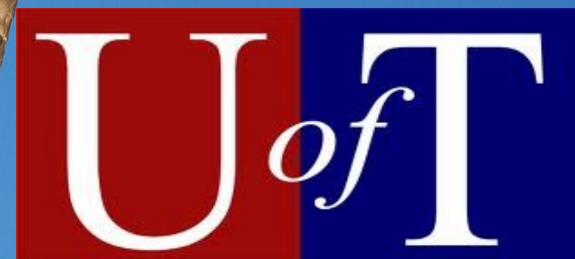


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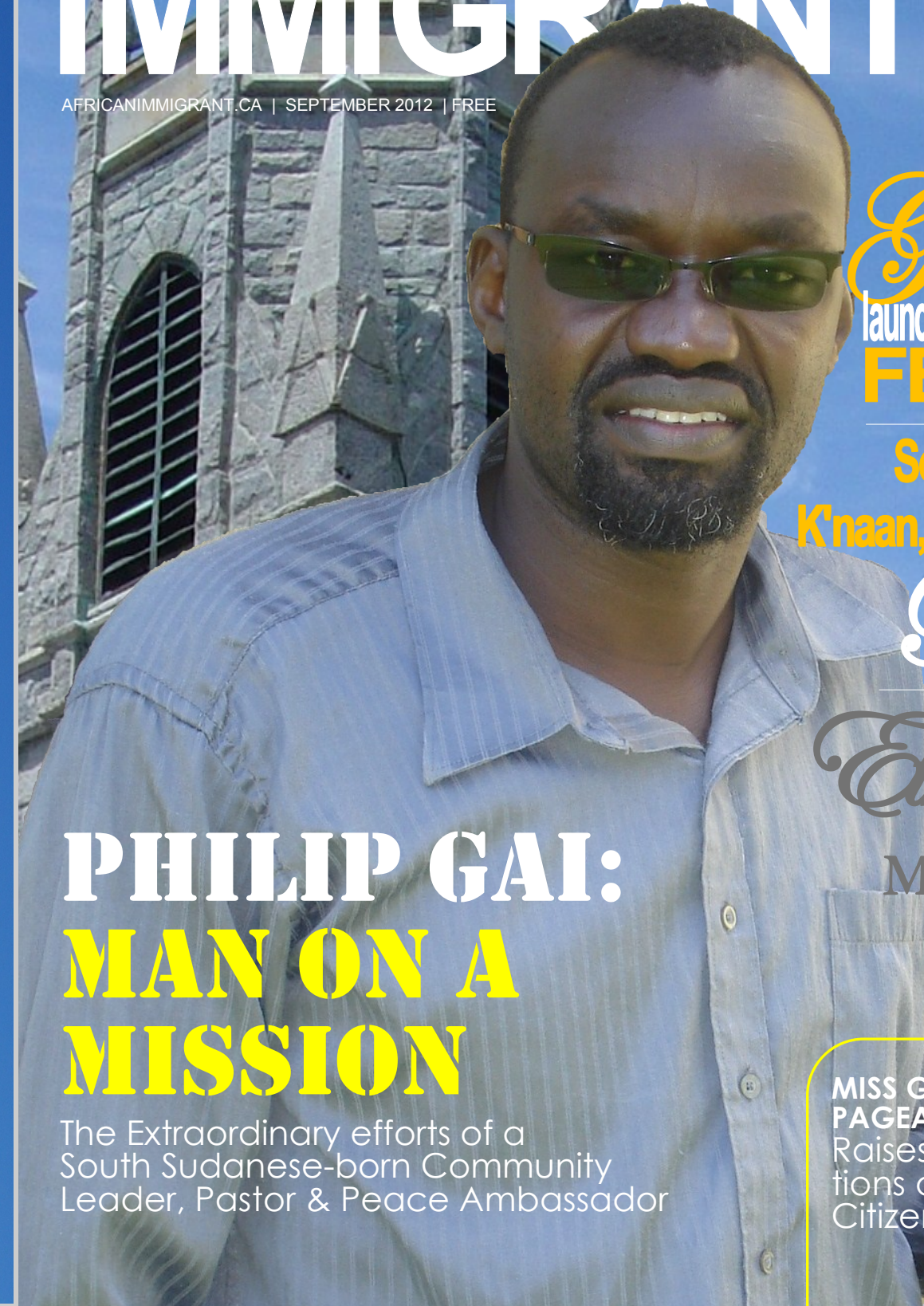
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PHILIP GAI: MAN ON A MISSION

The Extraordinary efforts of a South Sudanese-born Community Leader, Pastor & Peace Ambassador

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launch 1st ANNUAL AKWAABA
FESTIVAL

Somali-born Singer,
K'naan, Writes Children's

Book

Ethiopians
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Mourn Late PM

MISS GHANA
PAGEANT
Raises Questions about
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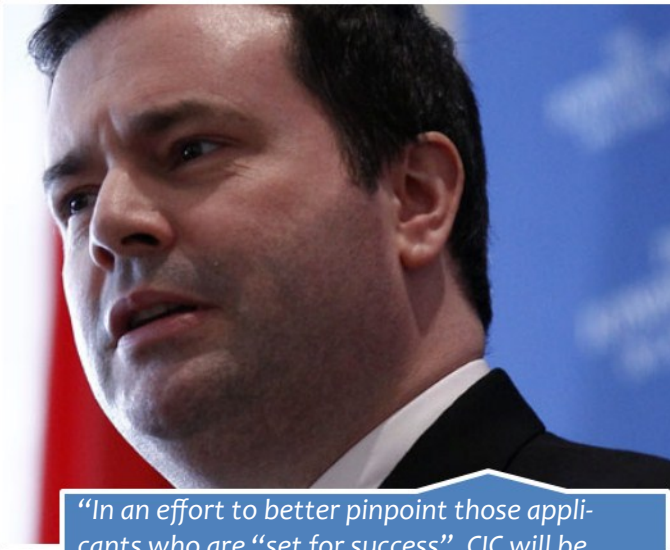
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"In an effort to better pinpoint those applicants who are "set for success", CIC will be reducing the number of months of full-time work required for a temporary foreign worker to transition to permanent status."

Minister Kenney Announces Proposed Changes to Canadian Experience Class

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) announced that Canadian Experience Class applicants who are currently residing in Canada as Temporary Foreign Workers will soon see their permanent residency applications expedited. "Thousands of highly-skilled foreign nationals are working successfully in Canada on a temporary basis," said Citizenship, Immigration, and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney. "Expediting their transition to permanent residence would help Canada retain bright and talented people who already have Canadian work experience and the ability to communicate in English or French. In many cases, they already have a job lined up. Such newcomers are set for success".

In an effort to better pinpoint those applicants who are "set for success", CIC will be reducing the number of months of full-time work required for a temporary foreign worker to transition to permanent status. Currently, in order to be eligible under the temporary worker stream of the Canadian Experience Class immigration program, workers must possess 24 months of work in the past 36 months. This number is expected to be lowered to 12. The Canadian Experience Class is one of the many immigration programs developed as a way for individuals to gain Permanent Residency status in Canada. Further details regarding how the new changes to this program will be introduced are forthcoming, and will be announced later in 2012. (Canadavisa.com)

Working in Ethnic Enclaves Limit's Immigrant's Opportunities

"But those who don't speak an official language struggle in the labour force and often end up working in "enclave" immigrant communities in major cities."

Immigrants who work in ethnic "enclaves" in major cities earn less than other Canadians and have a tougher time adapting to this country's economy, according to an internal federal government document. "Studies found that enclaves have a negative impact on the earnings growth for male and female immigrants," says a report obtained under the Access to Information Act by immigration lawyer Richard Kurland. The point was included in a federal report prepared in early 2011 to assess minimum language standards for immigrants brought to Canada under the "provincial nominee" (PN) program. The report focused on concerns within Citizenship and Immigration Canada about the ability of program nominees in some provinces to speak one of Canada's two official languages. Immigration Minister Jason Kenney recently acted on those concerns, announcing in April that program applicants in semi- and low-skilled jobs will be required to meet minimum language standards in English or French starting July 1. More than 38,000 immigrants and their families came to Canada



FEATURES

in 2011 under the program, which has become hugely popular with provincial governments seeking to meet severe labour shortages. The report obtained by Kurland cited research showing that immigrants who can speak English or French adequately have earnings comparable to their Canadian-born counterparts.

But those who don't speak an official language struggle in the labour force and often end up working in "enclave" immigrant communities in major cities. The report said the number of immigrants working in a non-official language jumped 14 per cent between 2001 and 2006, involving 611,000 people. Roughly one in six immigrants "only" used a non-official language and of this group, close to 60 per cent indicated they couldn't conduct a conversation in English or French. "While some researchers point to the possibility of such immigrants becoming employed in an ethnically sheltered (enclave) economy, several recent studies have shown that there are many disadvantages to doing this," according to the report.

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"Exposure to one's group reduces the accumulation of skills specific to the host country's labour market, decreases the knowledge of the local native language and impedes immigrants' economic progress,"

Several studies, for instance, showed that jobs in these enclaves are mostly in the lower-paying service industries, and taking those jobs can put the employee in a rut. "Exposure to one's group reduces the accumulation of skills specific to the host country's labour market, decreases the knowledge of the local native language and impedes immigrants' economic progress," the report said. The report also found that workers who speak little or no English or French face greater risks in terms of occupational health and safety, since they tend to be in physically demanding occupations and may be unaware of their rights. Language proficiency also plays a critical role in the social integration of immigrants and their young children, it said. "It has a direct relationship with newcomers' ability to settle, adapt and integrate into Canadian society."

A federal government-funded 2009 research paper by University of British Columbia geography professor Daniel Hiebert, which looked at immigrant enclaves in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, said those areas have higher unemployment levels and that residents are "slightly" more dependent on government transfers. (Van Sun)

Miss Ghana Pageant: Ghanaian-Nigerian Actress, Yvonne Okoro, Decries Sister's Snub

By WORLD GHANA

by law, she is a Ghanaian. Nationality/Citizenship can be acquired through Birth, Blood (descent) or Naturalization. This means that, by descent/blood, Roseline Okoro is a Ghanaian and SHOULD be able to participate in the Miss Ghana pageant. However, depending on how an individual becomes a citizen of a country, there are some positions that he or she cannot/shouldn't hold even though such a person by law is a citizen. For instance, in the United States, only a person who is a citizen by birth can become a President or Vice President. Even that, he/she must have lived in U.S.A for 14 years or more." Yvonne

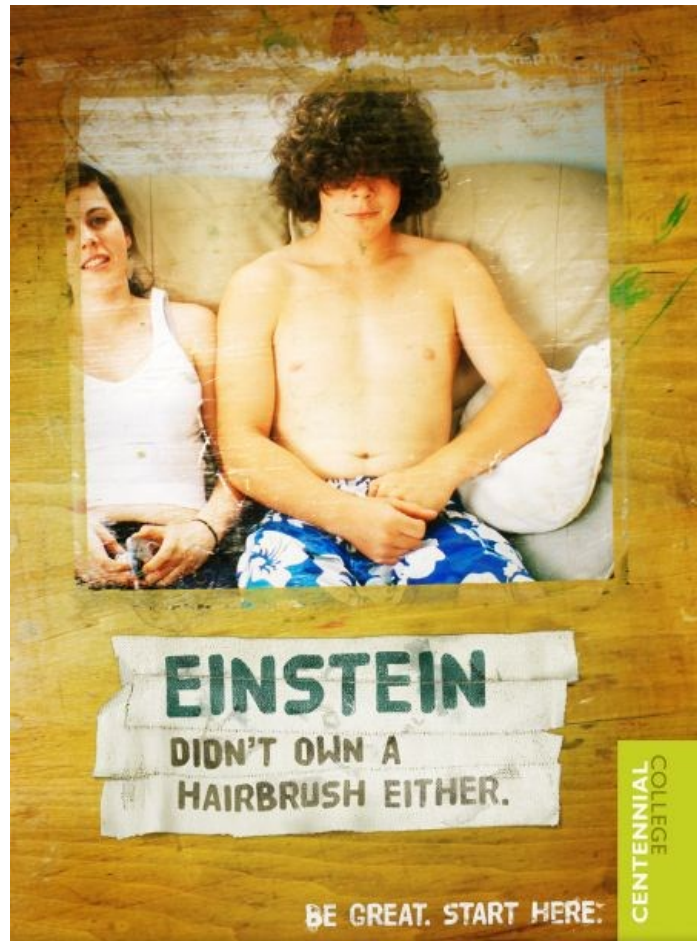
explained, that right from the moment she started acting, people have been asking whether she was Nigerian or Ghanaian. "I always say that I am African and it doesn't matter where I am from. The important thing is that, I am here and I am doing what I have to do. If I had won an award then it would be okay for some people to say Ghanaian actress, Yvonne Okoro has won an award. When my other sister suffered from a racial incident at a restaurant in Accra, they wrote asking how foreigners could come to Ghana and treat our own people in such a manner. **Continued on p. 17**



Yvonne Okoro, (L), with her sister Roseline

A very emotional Yvonne Okoro has expressed her complete dismay with a recent publication that suggested that her younger sister, Rosaline Okoro doesn't deserve to compete in the ongoing Miss Ghana beauty contest because she isn't 'Ghanaian' enough. She described the article as divisive with xenophobic tendencies and lacking facts. In a phone interview with the actress who recently won Best Pan African Actress at the Nigerian Entertainment Awards, a category for non-Nigerians, she clarified her nationality while addressing 'frivolous' issues raised in the said article. She said: "I realized that the writer didn't do due diligence in finding out about the person he was writing about, that is my

family. You don't just get up and write an article about somebody's nationality without knowing the person or at least enquiring from the person. It is a very sensitive matter because it is not just about me or the Okoro family; it's about people who live in Ghana, people who live in Africa and the rest of the world in the face of xenophobia. "According to Yvonne, the author based his argument on the constitution of America without even considering what the constitution of Ghana says on what constitutes Ghanaian citizenship. Here is an excerpt from the article posted on the internet: "I do not have a problem with Roseline Okoro's nationality as a Ghanaian. Since one of her parents is a Ghanaian,



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OCTOBER 2012:

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 - Improving Your Credentials
 - Your Kids and Their Homework
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-and much more, DON'T MISS IT



PROF. PHIL TAM-AL ALALIBO

The Importance of Canadian Certification

It is a familiar line many newly arriving African immigrants have heard from would be employers – Do you have Canadian experience? When the answer is no, it most often means consignment to the throes of survival jobs. For thousands of highly educated Africans who have made Canada their new home, this lack of Canadian experience has been the bane of their inability to secure jobs that commensurate with their educational experience. Though the Canadian government has recognized this impediment by providing much needed funds and accelerating the credential assessment process, new immigrants could also take viable steps to ensure that they begin to work in their chosen fields as quickly as possible.

Not only will this proactive step ensure quick integration into their profession, it will make the adjustment process a lot easier. For most African immigrants, coming to Canada to engage in menial or survival jobs is a most unwelcomed experience, especially, given the fact that most are professionals in their home countries that have obtained managerial positions. They are bank managers, professors, medical doctors, lawyers and accomplished industrialists. Most had in their home countries what a majority of Canadians can only dream of. They had maids, drivers, personal

assistants and gardeners that tend to their yards. Therefore, to immigrate to Canada to work at Tim Hortons or work as security guards does not in any way add value to their professional experience. There are many ways to avoid this pitfall that demeans the Canadian experience.

Upon arrival, new immigrants should seek college programs that would give them the designation needed to begin work in their areas of discipline. You may ask – why do I need to go back to college when I already have a university degree from my home country? The answer is simple – Most college programs are of short duration and can be completed in a matter of months. Most colleges in Ontario and in much of this vast country of Canada have fast track programs for internationally trained immigrants (ITIs) that would enable them to get into the workforce with the relevant Canadian certifica-

tion to account for the lack of experience. Most colleges also have programs with coop options that would give a new immigrant a good feel of professional experience and sometimes, this could lead to a permanent job. It is also advisable to seek volunteer opportunities in your new and surrounding communities that will expose you to the in and outs of the Canadian workforce. When you volunteer your time, most professional establishments would be happy to grant you a work space and office support to gain that professional experience.

Finally, it is important to have the right outlook and attitude. Often times, new African immigrants arrive in Canada and find it difficult to adjust. Adjusting to a new country is as much a mental phenomenon as it is physical. Having the right attitude and perspective can sometimes make the difference and set you on your way to success.




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Philip Gai

The Extraordinary Efforts of a Community Leader, Pastor & Peace Ambassador

By PROF PHIL TAM-AL ALALIBO

With great humility and unsurpassed passion, Philip Gai revealed to African Immigrant Magazine in his modest office at the African Inland Mission (AIM) at 1641 Victoria Park Ave, Toronto some of his hopes, aspirations, vision, successes and challenges as Director of Ministry to Africans in Canada.

Charged with the unique responsibilities of working with the African churches and youth across all denominational allegiances, the South Sudanese immigrant and pastor of a Mississauga congregation wants to see African churches play a prominent role in the community and in the lives of the youth whom he believes are in great need of role models and guidance.

"We need to show the African youth Christian love and guidance," noted the tall and soft spoken South Sudanese with a sense of urgency.

Gai hopes to achieve this by strengthening African churches through training and seminars to build the capacity to take on such critical role in the community. He also believes that African pastors have a very special role to play in this regard, thus, his relentless efforts to form a forum for them to gather once a month in Toronto to brainstorm, pray, share ideas/ testimonies and challenges as well as draw from the collective strength and resources of other pastors.

With time, he insists, this initiative will be fully embraced by African pastors when they appreciate the gravity of the need in the African community across the country. Gai and his organization, African Inland Mission are working on the premise that the fast growing African population in the big cities of Canada can no longer be ignored and must be reached through evangelism and demonstration of the love of Christ in the face of seemingly intractable challenges in a new country. He spoke passionately of some of those challenges affecting African immigrants such as the breakdown of the family due to societal pressures, slow adaptation process and the inability of some families to provide appropriate structure and proper guidance to their children. He gave examples of how some African parents are losing their children to Children Aids Societies due to cultural misunderstandings.

This is where the African churches can play a critical role in educating, instructing and informing parents about the expectations, laws, norms and nuances of their new adopted country. "I felt that this is a call I can help people with" says Gai. These noble efforts, however, come with the challenges of raising funds to support his mission in Canada. "Part of my challenge is to raise funds to support my efforts," he noted to African Immigrant Magazine. Nonetheless, Gai remains hopeful that African churches and Christian organizations around the country will support his work financially and partner in the effort to empowering African families and youth to be tomorrow's leaders. In the near future he hopes to see the evolution of this ministry to include a yearly conference for African Christians and youth in Canada to come together in worship, ministering to Canadians as the new missionaries to Canada.



Gai (right) with Dr. Riek Machar, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan 12/07



Gai (middle) with The Governor of Jonglei State, (to his immediate right), Kuol Manyang Juuk, and other important dignitaries 12/07/2012

As though not busy enough, in July and August, 2012, Gai took a temporary leave from his primary responsibilities and became an ambassador of peace to his native South Sudanese, to his home state of Jonglei which had experienced intensive ethnic conflict in recent months. As part of a team of nine distinguished South Sudanese meticulously chosen from the United States and Canada, he embarked on a 5-week Jonglei Peace Initiative commissioned by the Government of South Sudan



Gai (right) with the Minister of Information and Official Spokesperson for the Government of South Sudan, Dr. Mariel Benjamin

under the auspices of *Humanity United*. The primary objective of this peace initiative was to conduct an assessment of the reconciliation process already initiated by the Government of South Sudan and the caring citizens of Jonglei in the diaspora. By interacting with key stakeholders, youth, county commissioners and politicians including the Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar, the team was able to determine that peace and reconciliation would only be attainable through the actualization of social and economic development of the affected communities in Jonglei State. Areas of sustainable development that were identified by the team were transportation, roads, the development of viable schools and health care centres, safe drinking water, business opportunities and telecommunication.

Though a slight departure from his primary responsibilities of ministering to Africans in Canada, Gai feels utterly fulfilled, accomplished and privileged for the unique opportunity to minister to Africans in his native country and be part of a lasting peace initiative. He believes that through the dedicated efforts of the 9-member Jonglei Peace Initiative team and collaboration of key stakeholders, basic services and amenities will soon be made available to his people. "I feel privileged for the opportunity to impact lives," he said proudly. In addition to impacting lives in faraway South Sudan, the trip had a personal meaning as it presented an opportunity for Gai to visit his native country for the first time in seventeen years. "I saw my parents and siblings for the first time in seventeen years," he noted cheerfully. What a joy!

For more information on African Inland Mission or the Ministry to Africans in Canada, visit www.aimint.org/can or call 416-751-6077, 1-877-407-6077 (toll free)



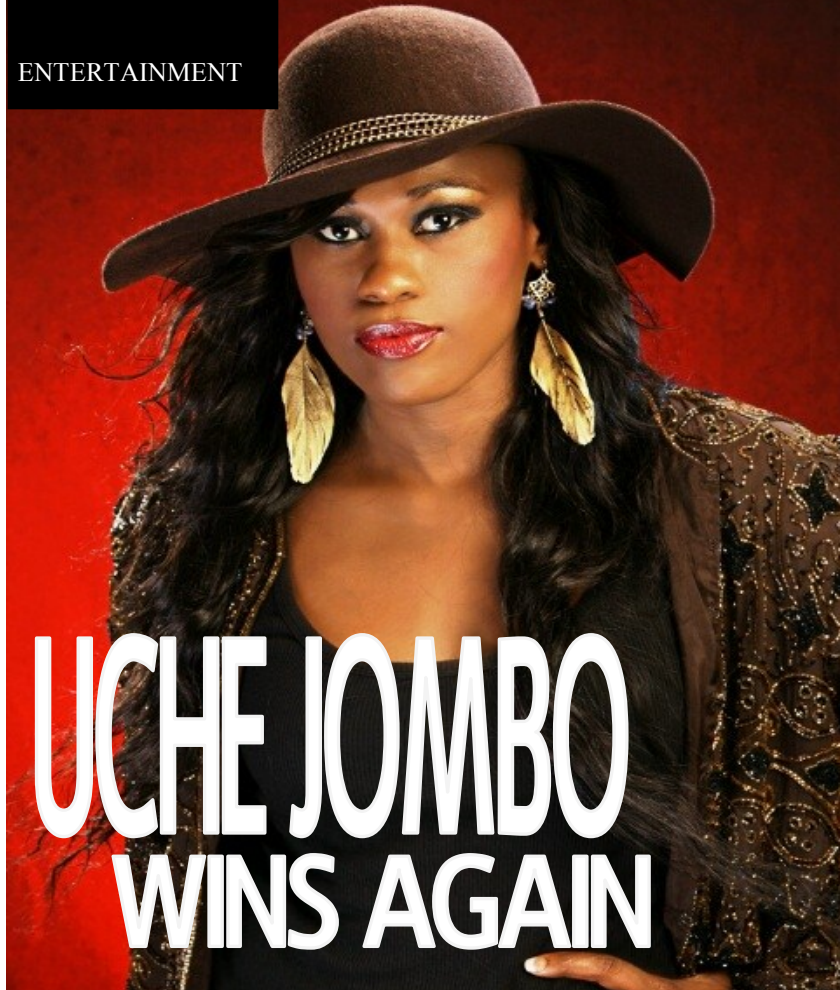
Gai, (2nd left) with African pastors during monthly prayer meeting in Toronto.



Gai at a UN Sponsored meeting in South Sudan



Gai meeting his father for the first time in 17 years



Nollywood sensation, Uche Jombo made another history recently when she carted away two awards at this year's edition of the prestigious Nollywood and African Film Critic Awards (NAFCA), held at the Carolina Theater in Durham, North Carolina, USA. Jombo won two awards for Best Film for her blockbuster "Damage" and Best Actress for her role in the film. The hardworking producer garnered a whopping eight nominations but won two of the day's biggest crowns. "Damage" beats other strong contenders like Gugu E. Michael's Unge's War, Obed Joe's The Professor, Kathryn Fasegha's Treacherous Heart and Lonzo Nzekwe's Anchor Baby to clinch the award. In the Best Actress category, Uche Jombo beats Olawumi Adeniyi (Treacherous Heart), Monalisa Chinda (Timeless Passion), Jocelyn Dumas (Adams Apples) and Ngozi Ezeonu (Champions of Our Time). A movie that focuses on domestic turmoil in a marriage and its adverse effects, "Damage" premiered in Lagos on July 31, 2011. Early the following year, Jombo released "Damage" at its official website, where

people could stream it for a fee. It is now available to watch at iROKOTv. Two additional movies, My Life, My Damage and My Country, Their Damage, are slated for future release and follow the same socially conscious feel of the first entry. Another double winner that night was Unwanted Guest. It won the Best Drama award, as well as the Best Actor in Leading Role Diaspora Film award for Chet Anekwe. Olu Jacobs and Pete Edochie received Special NAFCA for Lifetime Achievement in Cinema awards for their status as veteran actors in Nollywood. Altogether, NAFCA gave out 41 awards in the second ceremony. NAFCA is an award ceremony organized by Nollywood Film Critics USA (NFCA), which deems itself as "the official review organization for Nollywood and African movies." Speaking after the event, Jombo said "All we did was made an advocacy movie hoping to add entertainment to the social fight of say no to family violence. The fans did the rest." (Vanguard)



Immigrant Story: Canada delivers a much-wanted education, as well as refuge

Vancouver Sun

Mariam Jawara longed to go to school all her life, but when she finally got the opportunity after moving to Canada at age 21, the guilt she felt over what she'd left behind made that dream seem as impossible as ever. Jawara was forced to leave her husband and three-month-old baby in the West African country as a refugee in 2004. Originally from neighbouring Liberia, Jawara fled fighting in that country at age seven with her father and siblings and moved in with relatives in Guinea, where her father died several years later. Jawara sold fruits and vegetables at a local market to help the family get by. Forgoing that income in order to attend school was not an option. Jawara's brother applied for the family to come to Canada as refugees, and while the application was making its way through the system, Jawara married a Guinean man and became pregnant. Her husband and child were not included in the immigration application and Jawara believed that if she told Canadian authorities about them, the family's application would be cancelled entirely. So she made the heartbreaking decision to leave her husband and newborn behind in the hope of establishing a new life for the family half a world away. Jawara spent her first year in Vancouver in poor health and immensely homesick. She was under pressure to quickly find a job in order to support herself and send money home, but with no Canadian experience or formal education, it was difficult. She tried to go to school, but found it impossible to concentrate. "Every time I go to school, I'm crying. I'm thinking about my family, especially my daughter." She eventually found work, first at a retail store, then as a cleaner. She was able to sponsor - Continued on p. 14

Super Visa Helps Parents & G/parents Come to Canada

The number of immigrants in Canada is at an all time high, and sustained immigration efforts mean that this number will only continue to grow. In fact, data from the most recent census shows that about 1 in every 5 Canadian residents were born outside of Canada. With so many foreign-born residents, it is no surprise that family-based immigration programs are incredibly popular. Many immigrants are eager to find new ways to bring their loved ones to live with them in Canada. While Family Class Sponsorship is available for spouses/common law partners and children, there is currently a moratorium on applications to sponsor parents or grandparents. Fortunately, in December 2011 a new program was created to help parents and grandparents of Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents come to Canada. This program, called the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa, has seen great success - in its first 6 months of operation alone, over 3,500 visas were issued to qualified applicants.

The Super Visa program is a path for applicants to gain long-term visitor status in Canada. Under normal circumstances, visitors are admitted to Canada for only six month stays. The Super Visa provides an alternative. It is "super" because it allows parents/grandparents of Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents to stay in Canada for up to 2 years at a time without the need to renew. When the time comes, they may renew their visa for up to 10 years, with multiple entries allowed during the entire time period. Citizenship and Immigration Canada has committed to minimizing processing times for this visa. Their stated goal is to issue a decision within 8 weeks of receiving an application. Those who apply have a strong chance of success, as the program has had an 83% application approval rate. (Canadavisa.com)

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Somali-born singer, K'naan, Writes Children Book

As a newcomer to Canada, K'naan was able to find a source of both solace and expression through music. The launch of his first-ever children's book represents a full-circle moment of sorts for the award-winning rapper, as he fuses literature, art and music to share his childhood story of the immigrant experience. While the Somali-Canadian poet and MC initially planned — and still hopes — to pen a memoir for adults, *When I Get Older: The Story Behind Wavin' Flag* (published by Tundra Books) documents a pivotal period of K'naan's life geared towards a younger audience. The book offers a window into life growing up in his native Somalia, and his mother's decision for the family to flee the African country following the outbreak of civil war in 1991. It includes vibrant illustrations by Rudy Gutierrez as well as a brief summary on the history of Somalia. *When I Get Older* chronicles the challenges K'naan faced to adjusting to life in New York and later Toronto where he describes feeling like an outsider in his new environment, from his clothes to contending with a crude



classmate. "I thought it would be really more interesting for me — at this moment anyway — to write a little story contextualizing certain things which could seem so mythical to kids, and putting them in simple words around a song they already love," K'naan said in a recent phone interview. The song, of course, is his anthemic hit *Wavin' Flag*. Sheet music and lyrics for the chart-topper are included in the book, with references to the tune's ubiquitous chorus threaded throughout the story. In the book, the *When I get older, I will be stronger...* verse is introduced as a poem written by K'naan's late grandfather, famed Somali poet Haji Mohammed, that the pair recite together. In reality, the track was co-written and co-produced by Bruno Mars's production team, The Smeezingtons. "The origins aren't necessarily directly from my grandfather's poetry but ... it's the inspiration of his poetry, that's the origin of this song," said the singer-songwriter, whose grandfather died just before K'naan left Somalia. "Everyone has inspiration — it's just mine happened to be very close to my door, because my grandfather was a very enormously respected poet," he added. "And so, a lot of what I would console myself with as a young person dealing with conflict was from the words of my grandfather. While framed as a story about the immigrant experience, K'naan believes newcomers and citizens alike will find the story relatable. "The implications are similar," he said. "One of them is for relating to and the other is for understanding; and so I wanted to contextualize the immigrant experience for children so that it doesn't seem like it's some 'other.' "The idea of an immigrant to a child, it can seem like its own universe where 'That's what those people are,'" he added. "No one is inherently such; and immigrants have had their own language and their own family, and they were loved by their own grandparents. These are things, I think, that for a child need contextualizing." Re-counting his personal story is one that has proven to be cathartic for K'naan. "It's beautiful. It's pain in a way like a funny bone," he said. "When you hurt your elbow on the door, you know, that kind of beautiful pain. That's kind of what this experience is. "And now, I've made so much music and art out of the actual pain that used to just be pain, but is now beautiful and humorous or whimsical. It's what, I think, art has given me." (CBC)

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FOCUS 4
Losing Canadian Citizenship

PUBLISHER'S NOTE 5
The Importance of Canadian Certification

COMMUNITY WATCH 7
Ethiopian-Canadian Mourn

IMMIGRATION NEWS 8
Visas for High Tech Immigrants

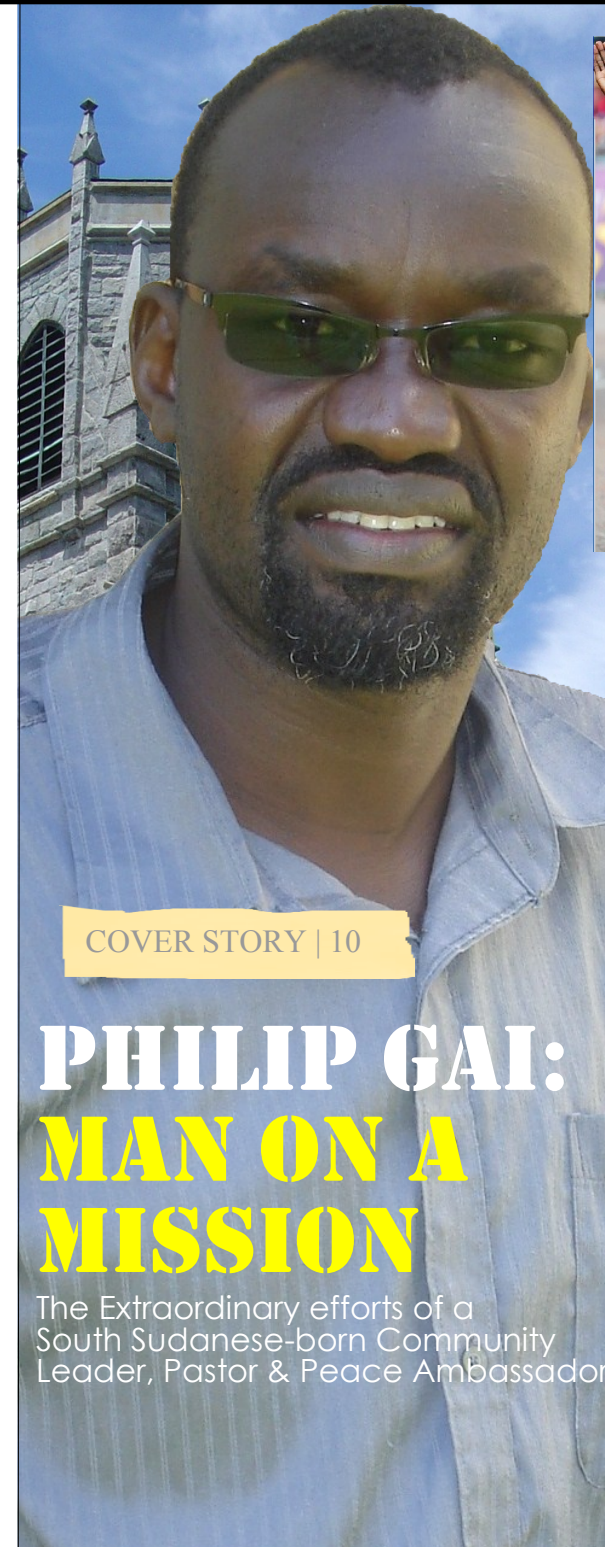
FUSION 9
Immigrant Stories

COVER STORY 10-11
Philip Gai: Man on a Mission

FEATURES 15
Working in Ethnic Silos

SPECIAL REPORT 16
Miss Ghana Pageant Raises Questions About True Ghanaian Citizenship

ALL SHE WROTE 18
Somali-born Singer Writes Children's Book



COVER STORY | 10

PHILIP GAI: MAN ON A MISSION

The Extraordinary efforts of a South Sudanese-born Community Leader, Pastor & Peace Ambassador



13 **YVONNE NELSON**
Releases New Movie "Single & Married" to debut in Nigeria and Ghana



From Our Blog on August Issue:

➤ That Kip guy really made us all proud to be Ugandans. What a way to end a great run for Uganda. Thanks you for honouring us again by publishing this story on your well read magazine. - Tony Ndubula - Toronto

➤ Good to see Dakore back on the set. She looks different though. Chuck it up to marriage and motherhood. - Akua Mensah-Jeffreys



Canada Strips Three African Countries of “No Visa” status— Impose Visa Restrictions

Concerns about human trafficking and fraudulent travel documents prompted the Canadian government to impose new visitor visa requirements on the citizens of five countries. Nationals from St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland will

have to apply for a visa. To be approved, they will have to satisfy immigration officers that they "will not overstay their authorized stay" and "are not a security risk to Canadians," Citizenship and Immigration Canada said in a news release. We continue to welcome genuine visitors to Canada," Minister Jason Kenney said in the release. "However, these visa requirements will give us a greater ability to manage the flow of people into Canada." The government said documents from St. Lucia and St. Vincent are "unreliable" because "criminals from these countries can legally change their names and acquire

new passports." Fraudulent papers are also of concern in the three African countries added to the list, along with human trafficking, especially of minors. "These requirements will better protect the safety of Canadians by preventing foreign criminals from coming to Canada in the first place," Kenney said. Minister Kenney has been on the forefront to streamline the broken Canadian immigration system where many would-be immigrants have taken full advantage of the laxity on enforcement. Recently, 3,100 were stripped of Canadian citizenship for fraud.

TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — EMAIL PUBLISHER@AFRICANIMMIGRANT.CA

ON THE FLY

EVENT WATCH

Ghanaians in Toronto Host 1st Annual Akwaaba Festival



Center (GCMCC). The event encompassed Ghanaian music, culture, dance, comedy, poetry, fashion and a live band with international performing artists on the big Amphitheatre stage. The Ghanaian Canadian Association of Ontario & the Ghanaian Canadian Multi-Cultural Center with its member organizations welcomed the

community to this unique event that aimed to help bring the community together annually to showcase and promote our motherland Ghana here in Canada. Some of the prominent invited guests include Honorable Consulate General of Ghana, Mr. Kodjo A. Mawutor, Ashanti King Nana Anokye, Members of the Toronto Police Foundation, and the local media.—Ghanalinx

On August 18th 2012, The Ghanaian community of Toronto witnessed its first annual Akwaaba Festival. The event was a success and well organized event presented by the Ghana Canadian Association of Ontario (GCAO) and the Ghanaian Canadian Multi-Cultural

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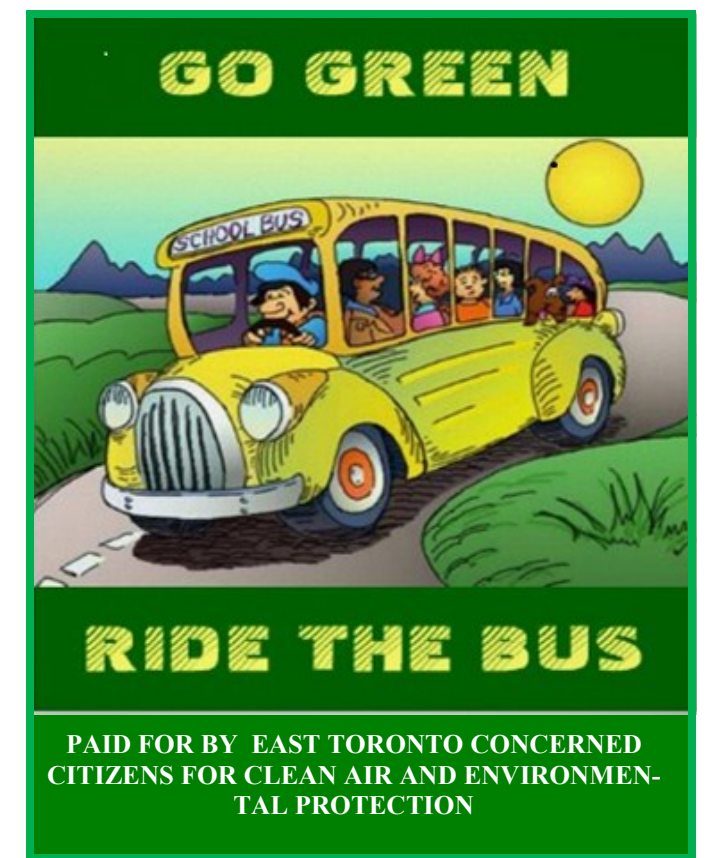
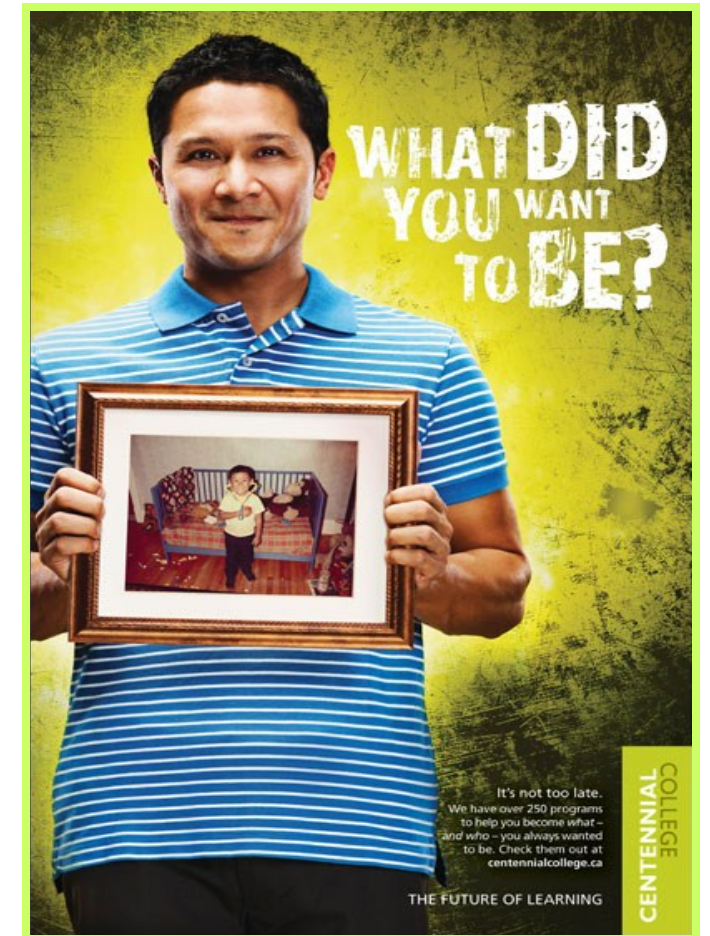


Actress Yvonne Okoro

Continued from p. 16

So how come when my other sister stands for Miss Ghana they say due to the fact that she is a 'lesser citizen' or due to the fact that she doesn't have a Ghanaian name, she isn't Ghanaian enough?" She cited Barack Obama being the President of America as an example of the fact that names do not constitute nationality. She commented, even in Ghana, Jerry John Rawlings who has Scottish lineage became President of the country, and honorable Hanna Tetteh-Kpodar who was born in Hungary has also held several important roles in Government. She added: "But today my sister stands for Miss Ghana and she is chastised because our mother is Ghanaian and our father is Nigerian? Can you imagine how my father feels? He has been in this country for over 40 years, he has companies in Ghana and so do I. Even my mother is feeling that after all these years we are still not accepted. And for all the other people going through similar situations, it's not fair." The actress used her colleague Majid Michel who is half Lebanese and half

Fanti as an example, stating that when Majid wins awards he wins it for Ghana. She also stated that Jackie Appiah was born in Canada and she still uses a Canadian passport. She therefore wondered if the simple fact that Jackie uses a Ghanaian surname makes her more Ghanaian. "We have Ghanaian passports. We have lived all our lives in Ghana, we were born here. Roseline was born at the Police Hospital and I was born at the Ridge Hospital. We speak Twi and we are Fantis. So what is the problem? It was unfair for the writer to speak in the voice of Ghanaians by saying 'the true Ghanaians will erupt in anger to defend what is rightly theirs' if Roseline wins Miss Ghana. Who appointed him the voice of Ghana? It is such people that divide Ghanaians, it's wrong to do that!" She expressed contentment in the fact that majority of the people who commented on the post when it was published online showed their intelligence on the matter and did not allow the writer to sway them negatively.



IT'S OUR TIME



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[A large collection of handwritten signatures in various colors and styles, representing prostate cancer survivors.]



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Continued from P. 9

her husband and daughter to come to Canada in 2007 and the family was reunited after three years apart. Jawara, now 28, shifts her heavily pregnant body uncomfortably on the couch in her South Burnaby apartment as her three children — plus a couple of their cousins — play outside on the patio. Her oldest daughter Maconde, whom she left behind in Guinea in 2004, is now a serious-looking eight-year-old attending a local French-immersion school and running herd on her younger siblings. Jawara must take a break from her own studies to take care of the new baby, due any day now. She started attending the Canucks Family Education Centre, which gives parents who have not had the opportunity a chance to go to school, after her last child was born in 2010. It was the first opportunity of her life to learn to read and write. Finding the time was not easy; Jawara had to wake up early to get her children ready for the day and be in school in east Vancouver by 9 a.m. She'd get home around 4 p.m., spend a short time with the family, then leave for an eight-hour night shift as a cleaner starting at 5 p.m. Her husband works for a tiling company. But the long days are worth it, she said, because now she can read her emails and text messages on her own for the first time. Given the choice, Jawara said she would focus full-time on her studies, but the demands of motherhood and paying the bills make that impossible. She's working toward her high-school diploma and hopes to one day become a pharmacist. Margarita Hernandez and her husband, Carlos Diaz, know well the pain of leaving a child behind. They were forced to do so in 2007 when life in El Salvador became too dangerous for them to stay. Their son Mariano was three at the time and could never have endured the long and dangerous walk through El Salvador, Guatemala and into Mexico without food or water, Hernandez explained, so she left him with her mother and went to join

Diaz in the United States. The couple had relatives in Vancouver and arrived five years ago applying to stay in Canada as refugees when they arrived. Their application was initially rejected, but then approved under the Canadian government's pre-removal risk assessment program, under which certain people subject to a removal order can apply to have immigration authorities take a closer look at the risk of returning to their country of origin. They became permanent residents in June of last year. But the decision to leave Mariano behind weighed heavily on Hernandez. She spoke no English when she arrived, had difficulty finding work and became particularly depressed after experiencing a miscarriage. She began studies at Canucks Family Education Centre in 2009 as a way to get out of the house and improve her English. "When I went to school, I feel like it's my family. I talk with another person and they help me to learn many things," said Hernandez, 31. Hernandez, like Jawara, found night work as a cleaner and went to school during the day. Her English has improved, she said, and she is now more confident doing everyday tasks such as grocery shopping and using public transit. "When I go to the doctor, I can speak a little bit more," she said. "It's a big difference." Hernandez is working to complete her high school diploma and would like to work as a hairdresser until she can complete the necessary schooling to become a medical assistant. But she, like Jawara, must also take some time away from her studies to take care of a new arrival. The couple welcomed a daughter, Eleny, at the end of July. She may soon get a chance to meet her big brother. Canadian authorities have approved the couple's application to sponsor Mariano, now eight. The family will finally be together for Christmas.

SEPTEMBER 2012

COMMUNITY WATCH

Hundreds of Ethiopian – Canadians Mourn Late PM in Toronto

Yohannes Grigar, another Ethiopian immigrant and GTA resident echoed similar sentiments noting that the late prime minister was not only an Ethiopian leader but a continental leader who put Africa first. "He gave us a new identity," he noted. "

By African Immigrant Magazine

On September 2nd 2012, Ethiopians in the Greater Toronto Area came together in unison to mourn and celebrate the life of their late Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, who passed on in Belgium in August where he had gone to seek treatment for an undisclosed ailment at the age of 57. With hundreds in attendance at the Toronto downtown Sheraton Hotel, they demonstrated their love and admiration for their leader whom many of the attendees described as visionary, brave, a man on a mission to improve education and eliminate poverty. Many sympathizers spoke at the event including Liberal member of the Canadian parliament, Jim Karygiannis representing Scarborough-Agincourt in Ontario Karygiannis spoke about the developmental efforts of the late prime minister and urged Ethiopians to immortalize him by contributing to the fulfillment of his vision and completion of the work he has started in the last 21 years of being in office. Also speaking at the event, the Consular-General of Ethiopia in Toronto, His Excellency, Michael Tobias, extolled the virtues of the leader reminding the mourners of their responsibilities in consolidating the gains of the late leader. Sisay Woldemichael, an Ethiopian immigrant noted to African Immigrant Magazine, "He was visionary not only for Ethiopia but for Africa. He had extraordinary leadership skills and abilities. He further noted that the Prime Minister changed the face and image of the country from a starving country to a prosperous country with a fast growing economy. Yohannes Grigar, another Ethiopian immigrant and GTA resident echoed similar sentiments noting that the late prime minister was not only an Ethiopian leader but a continental leader who put Africa first. "He gave us a new identity," he noted. "He was always making sure that Ethiopians and Africans make an impact in the world." Yohannes believes that the new leadership will continue the work of the late prime minister to eradicate poverty through education. The evening was marked with the mammoth crowd singing nationalistic songs with videos and audios of the late prime minister's works in full view. Zenawi, a close ally of the United States and the West, ruled the landlocked East African country for 21 years.

AFRICAN IMMIGRANT



The Consular General of Ethiopia, His Excellency Michael Tobias, addressing the mourners

CANADIAN VISA FOR HIGH TECH IMMIGRANTS

Randall Palmer

Canada plans to create a new class of visa that it hopes will attract high-tech and other entrepreneurs to immigrate to the country to start new companies, officials said recently. It has put a moratorium on issuing its existing entrepreneur visa, which only required an immigrant to hire one person for one year, and intends to initiate a visa that would be issued to people identified by venture capital funds as candidates to create startup firms in Canada. The venture funds would be required to invest in the startups. The startup visa is one of several changes be-

ing undertaken by Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney in what he says is an effort to make the immigration system more responsive to Canada's economic needs. "Canada seeks young, ambitious, innovative immigrants who will contribute to Canada's job growth and further drive our economy," said Kenney's press secretary, Alexis Pavlich. "The startup visa is an initiative that the government of Canada is exploring to assist in transforming our immigration system into a fast, fair and flexible system that will meet the needs of our economy and help grow our country." Venture investment funds would choose entrepreneurs in whom they would invest, and the government would try to clear them for entry into Canada within weeks.

The idea is to unite Canadian money and foreign brains. An initial source of candidates could be frustrated foreigners in the high-tech sector in the United States who have not been able to land resident status there. "This program will link brilliant, job-creating, immigrant entrepreneurs with Canadian investors. We want the world's best and brightest to come to Canada – to start businesses and to create jobs in Canada," Pavlich said. The program, expected to be unveiled in detail later this year, would set up external safeguards and spot checks to make sure the venture funds are investing as promised. The government will set aside 2,750 visas a year for startup entrepreneurs and their families. Last year it issued about 700 visas under the old entrepreneur class, under which an immigrant could do something as simple as buy a corner store and hire one person, and then get out of the business after a year. The immigration department said Vancouver-based Version One Ventures, which invests in five to 10 tech or Internet startups in Canada and the United States every year, was one of the venture funds it consulted in developing the new visa program. "There are never enough brains in a country," Version One Ventures founder Boris Wertz said. "Every country's going to compete for the best brains in the world." He cited the case of a team of Romanian engineers who worked in Vancouver but could only get six-month visas, requiring them to leave the country and return repeatedly. Eventually their outfit was sold and they

moved to Silicon Valley in California. "We lost them, and part of the reason was always they never had the security that they could really stay in the country (and) focus on building the product," Wertz said. Kenney also intends to revamp a separate investor class visa, which granted people the right to immigrate if they ponied up \$400,000 to \$800,000 to lend to provincial governments. The biggest changes to the system have been to the skilled worker program, which had a decade-long backlog. By returning years' worth of older applications and by putting a moratorium on new applications, the government hopes to clear the backlog by 2014 and enable new applicants to gain entry in months. Toronto-Dominion Bank issued a study that said Canada would have to increase its annual immigration level to 300,000 after 2016 from the current 250,000 if it wants to keep growth in the labor force in line with the historical trend. However, TD said that until more is done to improve the economic prospects of newcomers to Canada, it would likely be counter-productive to do so. Responding to the report, Pavlich said immigration is not a panacea for labor shortages. "Canada already maintains the highest sustained level of immigration in the world," she said. "In order for Canada to maintain an open and generous immigration system, it is important that Canadians continue to believe that immigration serves our national interest. Canadians have been clear – the vast majority do not want the government to massively increase immigration levels."



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Yvonne Nelson's "Single and Married" Set to Premiere in Nigeria, Ghana

Popular Ghanaian actress, Yvonne Nelson, will premiere her new movie, *Single and Married* at Silverbird Cinemas. The star-studded new movie, set for release this month, which has Yvonne Nelson with a line-up of Ghana's most wanted entertainers, including Chris Attoh, Nadia Buari, Afro neo-soul singer, Efyia; hip liferapper, Tiffany; Kofi Adjorlolo, Kweku Elliot, Eddie Watson and Anita Erskine, alongside Nigerian TV presenter-turned actress, Tana Adedana, and a host of others among its lineup of stars, was produced by Media GH in partnership with Yvonne Nelson Productions. The steamy movie, directed by Pascal Amanfo was described by Yvonne as a no-holds-barred movie which is loaded with excitement. She urged movie enthusiasts to brace up for a thrilling experience when the movie finally hits the big screens later this month in Nigeria and Ghana. The actress, who was also crowned the Face of Ghana Best Actress 2011/2012 at a red-carpet ceremony held at the JFK International Hilton Hotel in the United States of America earlier this year, went on to say that the release

of the movie in both countries will be preceded by a red carpet movie premiere which will be attended by the crème of Nollywood and Ghollywood movie industries, alongside her fans and supporters who have been anticipating the release of the movie since production began. According to industry watchers, *Single and Married* will lay to rest all false rumours concerning the relationship between Yvonne Nelson and Nadia Buari. The A-list actresses, who last starred together in 2009 when they appeared in *'Heart of Men'*, have been rumoured not to see eye to eye since then. Their collaboration in this flick is expected to clear the air on such rumours. "Single and Married is a captivating movie based on an everyday story that the ordinary African can relate to. It is told in a narrative form, with Anita Erskine as the narrator, while Yvonne, Nadia and Chris play the lead. The movie centres on the drama, the intrigue and the dirty little secrets of three male friends, their sex lives, being single or married, etc," she noted.

Mascara Tips & Tricks You Need to Know!

By Ope Odugbemi

When it comes to making the most of your lashes, we've got 5 clever tips that can make all the difference:

Tip # 1 Wiggle your way to fuller looking lashes

When applying mascara, wiggle the wand at the base of lashes, then pull the wand up and through lashes. It's the mascara placed near the roots (not the tips) that gives the illusion of fuller, longer lashes.

Tip#2 No more clumps!

To keep lashes from clumping, invest in a lash comb and remove any clumps by combing through after applying. Or... clean off excess mascara before applying, by gently wiping wand with a tissue. This eliminates any clumps or blobs before you start.

Tip# 3 A real eye opener

Use an eyelash curler to give the appearance of wider, more curvaceous lashes. Then top with your favourite mascara.

Tip# 4 Prevent smudges

Sometimes the eye creams and moisturizers we use can cause mascara to smudge. Prevent this by lightly powdering your lid and under eye area before applying mascara.

Tip# 5 The secret to the 2nd coat

Love the look of two coats of mascara, but hate the clumps? The trick is to apply the 2nd coat before the first coat is dry. You'll have to work quickly, but with a little practice, it will all be worth it!

Ready to try out these tips for yourself? Then give new Super Drama Mascara a try. Its unique fan brush and formula make every lash fuller, longer and more dramatic. Plus, it's smudge and flake resistant too. Find it in Avon's Campaign 21 Brochure. Contact me to get yours 647-993-9424 OR send me an email at avonwithope@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more beauty tips in the next edition.