

# African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)

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## OUR MISSION

The United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

## OUR GOALS

- ◆ Build the leadership and organizational capacity of the community
- ◆ Advance public policies to increase opportunities and support for immigrant and refugee integration
- ◆ Ensure that African immigrant and refugees have an active role in multiple civic arenas
- ◆ Promote community development and access to social services
- ◆ Serve as a viable model of African Unity and Empowerment

## CALL TO ACTION: Support Temporary Protected Status for Malian Immigrants in the US!

Over the past year, the situation in northern Mali has deteriorated, with the resignation of the Prime Minister and the inability of the government to respond appropriately to the destructive armed insurgency. **Over 350,000 people have been displaced and many are unable to meet their basic needs** as they struggle to recover from forced evacuations as well as the remnants of a severe drought earlier in 2012.

Temporary protected status (TPS) designation for Mali would protect African immigrants from Mali in the US that need stability until the violence and conflict in their home country subside. **TPS would allow eligible Malians to live, work, and study in the United States until it is safe for them to return home.** In addition, TPS would enable Malians to provide support and aid to their families and communities, offering relief to those affected.

You can make a difference by calling the Secretary of DHS, Janet Napolitano, at 202-282-8000 or [find your local representative](#).

You can also send the White House a letter [here](#).

Across the nation, Malian communities are organizing relief efforts to support the displaced in Mali.

[Click here to support the Chicago community's relief efforts!](#)

## Driver's Licenses for ALL Immigrants signed into law!

Governor Pat Quinn on Sunday, January 27, 2013, signed the SB 957 into law, which enables undocumented immigrants in Illinois to get temporary visitor driver's licenses (TVDLs).

The temporary visitor driver's license (TVDL) is an existing license that is now available to many foreign-born individuals living in Illinois who do not have social security numbers (SSNs), but who have lawful immigration status. Now, this measure has been extended to those who are undocumented in Illinois.



**The TVDL is expected to be made available to ALL immigrants in November 2013.**

Congratulations to all who fought hard for this bill to pass in the Illinois legislature! Next stop, **comprehensive immigration reform!**

# February's Recipe



Banga Soup (Nigeria)

## Ingredients

- ◆ 2 pounds of Palm Fruits
- ◆ Beef
- ◆ Dry Fish
- ◆ Vegetable: Scent Leaves for Ofe Akwu or dried and crushed bitterleaves for Banga Soup
- ◆ 2 medium onions
- ◆ A handful crayfish or 2 tablespoons of ground Crayfish
- ◆ Salt and Chilli Pepper (to taste)
- ◆ Ogiri Okpei (Iru)
- ◆ 1-2 big stock cubes

## Instructions

Set the pot of palm fruit extract on the stove and start cooking at high heat. Leave to boil till you notice come red oil at the surface of the Banga Stew.

If you think that the Banga Soup is watery, cook till the soup has thickened to the consistency you like for your stews.

Now, add the beef, dry fish and stock, the onions, crayfish and pepper and leave to boil very well.

Add the scent leaves or other

vegetable and salt to taste. Leave to simmer for about 2 mins.

The Banga Soup is done.

Serve with White Rice or use the Banga Soup to eat Starch, Garri, Semolina, Amala or Pounded Yam.

ENJOY!

Share your Recipe to [sarah.travis@uniteafricans.org](mailto:sarah.travis@uniteafricans.org)

## "Share your Story"

We all have stories about how we, each in our own way, enrich our communities.

Tell us how you GIVE BACK to YOUR COMMUNITY...

You could be featured in the next issue of African Advocate!

Email:

[editor@uniteafricans.org](mailto:editor@uniteafricans.org)

## Immigrant Integration Policy Summit!

Join us at the Immigrant Integration Policy Summit hosted by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR).

**Saturday, February 9, 2013**  
**9:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Doors Open at 8am**  
**Malcolm X College**  
**1900 W. Van Buren,**  
**Chicago, IL**

**9:00am-10:30am:** Diverse Workshops and Panels  
**10:45am-11:45am:** Achieving Comprehensive Immigration Reform  
**12:00pm-1:00pm:** Closing Session with members, allies and elected officials.

### **BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS**

**Citizenship Workshop** - You and your family can apply to become U.S. citizens!

**DACAmented Youth & Allies: Take Action!** - Do you want to learn about next steps after you've been "DACAmented"?

**What Every Family Needs to Know (English)** - Learn your rights and get information about Family Unity Waivers and Temporary Visitors Drivers Licenses!

**Lo que cada familia necesita saber sobre (Español)** -

Entender sus derechos, Perdón para la unidad familiar, y las nuevas licencias de conducir en Illinois.

**Healthy Communities, Healthy Families** - Join us for an overview of of the Affordable Care Act and what should be expected in 2014.

**Parent Mentor Program and Early Childhood Education 101** - Learn the basics, history and philosophy of the nationally-recognized Parent Mentor Program!

**Parent Mentor Program and Early Childhood Education - Session for Existing Partners** - A reflection and strategy session for partners and key stakeholders already involved in the Parent Mentor Program.

**College Bound - Pathways for All Immigrants** - Hear from experts from City Colleges of Chicago, IL DREAM Fund and IIT about the pathways for adults and young adults going to college or transitioning from ESL or GED to a college education and career.

**Welcoming Cities: Setting the Stage for Local and Municipal Leadership in Immigrant Integration** - A panel discussion on municipal partnerships to advance immigrant integration and share best practices for creating more welcoming cities in Illinois and throughout the country!

**Building Coalitions to Fight**

**Mass Incarceration** - Join us for a panel discussion with Commissioner Jesus Garcia Elena Quintana (Adler School of Professional Psychology) on effective coalition-building that responds to the criminalization of the immigrant and African American communities.

**Protecting Your Electoral Power** - Get to know the common issues facing voters at the polls from voter intimidation to language access, and get trained on poll monitoring!

**Addressing Domestic Violence and Mental Health in Our Communities** - This workshop addresses barriers to services for victims of domestic abuse such as cultural, linguistic, legal, economic factors and the fear of deportation.

**Housing Resources Workshop** - This workshop will provide information and resources on Rental Housing, Foreclosure Prevention, and Homebuyer Assistance.

**How To Build Power - Organizing and Advocating for CIR** - Join Josh Hoyt (ICIRR) and Gabe Gonzalez (Statehouse Lobbyist) to learn about effective state and federal advocacy.

**Protecting Our Workers** - Hear about ground-breaking efforts to protect low-wage workers and ensure the health and safety of all workers.

# Deferred Action: Next Steps!



Getting approval for Deferred Action (DACA) allows undocumented youth the opportunity to stay and work legally in the United States. On CAN TV's *Immigration Issues*, we discuss obtaining an SSN, Driver's License, traveling abroad, and going to college for DACA grantees.

*Featured is Lea Munwam, who talks about her experience immigrating to the U.S. as a teenager.*

## CAN TV- Next Steps for DACA grantees

After receiving DACA approval from USCIS, you are eligible to obtain a Social Security Number (SSN) if you have been granted work authorization. Having an SSN will allow you to work legally in the U.S. and obtain a driver's license.

**To apply for SSN, you will need** to provide original documents to proof your identity, age, immigration status, and authorization to work. You can use the same document for multiple purposes: for instance, your work permit will establish your identity, your immigration (DACA) status, and your eligibility to work. You

will also need to provide an additional document; this can be your passport.

## Yet to apply?

UAO continues to disseminate information about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in the community and assist eligible DREAMers in processing applications. Be on the look-out for our DACA workshops starting next month!

[Click here for more information](#)

**If you or someone you know qualifies, contact Sarah Travis at:**  
**312-949-9980**  
 sarah.travis@uniteafricans.org

# Citizenship & Preparing for your Interview and Civics Test

Legal permanent residents (Green Card holders) are eligible to apply for naturalization to become U.S. citizens after five years or three years, if married to a U.S. citizen.

Deciding to become a U.S. citizen is one of the most important decisions in an individual's life. If you decide to apply to become a U.S. citizen, you will be showing your commitment to the United States and your loyalty to its Constitution. In return, you are rewarded with all the rights and

privileges that are part of U.S. citizenship.

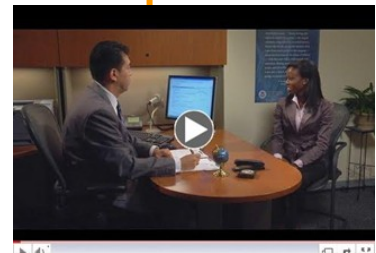
After you apply for citizenship, United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) will review your application and will schedule your biometrics (finger printing), and will then schedule you for an interview and test.

This video shows what to expect during the naturalization interview.

[Click here for list of documents required for naturalization.](#)

**Our next citizenship workshop is on:**

**Tuesday, February 19, 2013  
 12:00pm - 3:00pm  
 Korean American Resource & Cultural Center  
 6146 N. Lincoln Avenue  
 Chicago, IL 60659**



*The Citizenship Interview and Test*

# Community Organizing Workshop!

On February 23rd, **James Thindwa**, a veteran of community organizing and political activism in Chicago, will facilitate our workshop on Community Organizing.

Community organizing is described as a process that brings together people who seek to address critical issues in their communities. Once organized, the group gains a vehicle for articulating their concerns and goals, proposing ideas and solutions.

Successful organizing generates hope, fosters communities of interest, and strengthens leadership.

This workshop will equip leaders in our communities with tools in *engaging*, *organizing*, and *mobilizing* people in their communities or group to make an impact. Participants will build on skills of translating local issues into systemic solutions, as well as develop capacities and effective change strategies.

## RSVP HERE

**Saturday, February 23, 2013  
 9:30am - 1:00pm  
 IIT Tower Building, 6th Floor  
 10 West 35th Street, Chicago**

Contact us by  
 e-mail: [training@uniteafricans.org](mailto:training@uniteafricans.org)  
 or call **312-949-9980**

# Community Calendar

## Taxi Driver Recruitment Fair

February 7, 2013  
10:00am-1:00pm  
Olive Harvey College  
10001 S. Woodlawn Ave, Chicago, IL  
Call 773-291-6490 for more information

## Immigration Integration Summit

Saturday, February 9, 2013  
9:00am-2:00pm  
Malcolm X College  
1900W. Van Buren, Chicago, IL

## Madame Butterfly Opera

February 8-9, at 7:00pm  
February 10, at 4:00pm  
Int'l House- University of Chicago  
1414 E. 59th Street, Chicago, IL  
\*100 FREE tickets are available, but are moving fast!\*  
For tickets, call: 773-363-7965 or email  
Rev. Nkosi at:  
revladonna@gmail.com

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# African Voices

## January's African Voices Podcast featured:

- ◆ Top news stories from Chicago and the African continent
- ◆ Advice on Temporary Visitor Driver's Licenses
- ◆ Music from Chibbz
- ◆ Banga Soup from Nigeria

## Contribute your community news, events, issues, interviews or music to the podcast:

Email: [podcasts@uniteafricans.org](mailto:podcasts@uniteafricans.org) Call: (312)-949-9980  
Monday-Friday (9am-5pm)

[Click to subscribe!](#)



## OUR MISSION

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## United African Organization

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**Advocacy ~ Unity ~ Empowerment**