

Speech by Mr. Kevin Mullaly, Director, USAID/Senegal  
Leadership Training Program for School Life Inspectors and Specialty Inspectors  
Friday, June 18, 2010

**Minister for Pre-School, Elementary, Secondary, and National Languages**

**Education**

**His Excellency the Chargé d'Affaires**

**President of Leadership Africa USA**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Dear students,**

It is with real pleasure that USAID/Senegal joins with you today to celebrate the official launch of the leadership training program for school life and specialty inspectors. This meeting provides proof, if any more proof was necessary, of the excellence of our partnership in the domain of education in Senegal generally, and of youth development in particular.

As you know, Ladies and Gentlemen, with financing from USAID in 2008, Leadership Africa USA has already implemented, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, a pilot leadership program in the Casamance region. The objective of this program consists of promoting ideals of peace and sustainable development through the installation of leadership skills in students and teachers, on the basis of a plurality of formats that facilitate the act of teaching/learning while making students more confident in themselves and apt to develop skills in service of the school and the community.

In this regard, Minister, the pilot program reinforced the capacity of students in middle school and catalyzed their participation in the peace and reconciliation process begun in Casamance. Among other accomplishments, the program permitted the hosting of a forum on leadership benefiting peace actors, the organization of an essay contest on leadership, the training of more than 26,000 students in the region of Ziguinchor, the training of more than 50 trainers composed of principals and middle school teachers in order to assure the expansion of the program.

In light of these well-appreciated results by the program in Casamance, USAID provided a second support to Leadership Africa USA to permit the expansion of the project to other regions in Senegal. This new subsidy will reach, through successive trainings and the reinforcement of the capacities of specialty and school life inspectors, nearly 300,000 middle school students and ensure the distribution of 100,000 copies of the leadership curriculum in all 14 regions of the country. In doing so, USAID/Senegal aims to support the development of student capacities to live in a multicultural and increasingly globalized world, and encourage them to cultivate values of peace, democracy and citizenship, as well as spirits of initiative and innovation.

Mr. President of Leadership Africa USA, the remarkable achievements effected by your organization in such little time support USAID's conviction that it is always possible to combine efficiency and effectiveness in the conduct of development projects.

Also, I would exhort you to work closer with our programs on the ground and in the private sector generally in order to develop synergies to increase the impact of the project and ensure the durability of the results obtained by making “leadership at school” a teaching and learning tool that is harmoniously integrated into middle school teaching.

Minister, in delighting once again in the exemplary and multiform partnership that we have developed in the domain of education, I would like to reaffirm for you the constant and unfailing commitment of USAID in providing technical and financial support to Senegal to meet the goal of a better educated youth cohort.

I thank you for your kind attention.