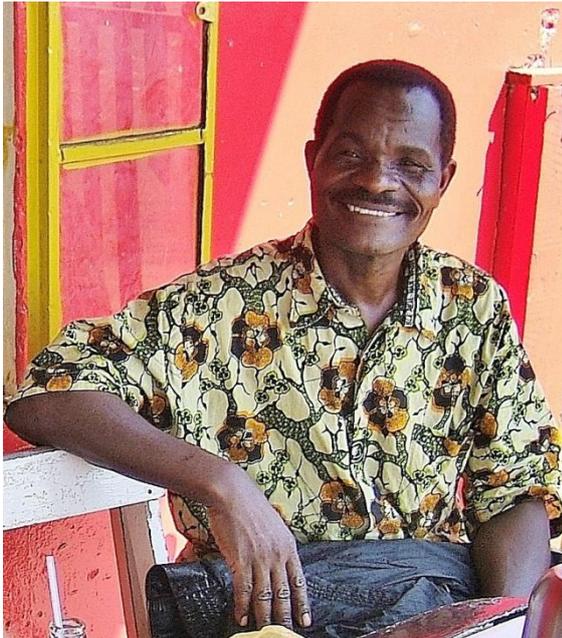


12 August, 2014

Dear Friends of UPLIFT!

Good news to Friends of UPLIFT:  
Hizzaya Hissani is visiting Norway!

It feels like we should want to cry out:  
Hizzaya is coming! Hizzaya is coming!



You would need to be a relatively new member of Friends of UPLIFT to not realize who Hizzaya is. Most recently, he was (again) introduced in our June letter, and those of us who attended the Annual Graduation met him in January this year. His position in UPLIFT is that of “Director”, but he definitely prefers to be called a “Chief Trainer” or “Trainer of trainers”. This will be his first visit to Norway. Many would say that it is “high time” for such a visit. You might ask WHY? The reason is that some of the Norwegian Friends of UPLIFT have taken an initiative to establish a full, 3-level training program for junior youth in UPLIFT’s target area. The purpose is to build a wide

network of motivated and trained youth at grassroots level – for community development activities and as active participants in the social transformation that UPLIFT is supporting. This will require an innovative training approach that combines principles of a global future with local tradition and knowledge.

Next week a pilot project will be “hammered out” at the Thorkelssons home in Røyken, together with Hizzaya and his project coordinator John Onyuthi who will be accompanying Hizzaya to Norway. This project is intended to begin in 2016, to run parallel to the literacy programme, but separately from the UPLIFT core budget and present support by Friends of UPLIFT. The over-arching goal, however, will be the same (as stated in our Vision and Articles of Association, see: [www.upliftvenner.no](http://www.upliftvenner.no))

During Hizzaya’s visit, Friends of UPLIFT will have the opportunity to meet with him and John. The first possibility is in Lillehammer, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 4 p.m. at Victoria and Gunnar’s home. The second will be Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 3 p.m. at Arne and Hildegunn Kittang’s home in Slemmestad (mobile phone 95443858).

In addition, a short internal seminar is being arranged at Norad, where Hizzaya has been invited to discuss development work in rural areas in light of the successful UPLIFT experience. Norad is especially interested in learning about

three themes: Volunteerism at village level, inter-faith dialogue, and why UPLIFT is succeeding with its pedagogical approach.

In times of criticism of the huge overhead costs of development aid, it might also be an opportune moment for Friends of UPLIFT to mention to Norad that 97.5% of all contributions are sent directly to UPLIFT in Uganda.

In conclusion, a few words about next year's visit to Uganda. The date for the graduation ceremony has been set at 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. Departure for Norwegian participants would be about 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Last January 8 friends of UPLIFT attended from Norway. So far, four of us intend to participate in next year's graduation ceremony. If you are interested in attending, please get in touch (with Gunnar) as early as possible so that travel plans can be coordinated and low-price air tickets booked.

Loving greetings to all,  
Gunnar Lange-Nielsen  
on behalf on the Friends of UPLIFT

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