



**FACE-TO- FACE GATHERING AND CONFERENCE
FOR RIVAL FOOTBALL FANS OF
VITA CLUB AND RENAISSANCE FC**

MARCH 2018

10H00 AM TO 13H00 PM

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

KINSHASA TOWN

LONZO STREET NUMBER 1

FACILITORS:

ELESSE AND VIRGINIA BAFANDJO

PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

- I. CONTEXT
- II. OBJECTIVES
- III. WORDS OF WELCOME, REMINDER OF OUR DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES, AND PRESENTATION OF THE TWO RIVAL FOOTBALL TEAM BY THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
- IV. FILM SCREENING
- V. PARTICIPANT QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES TO THE FILM
- VI. EXPLANATION OF THE DIAGRAM: Human Relationship-deficiency Virus (HRV)
- VII. FACE-TO-FACE, KNEES-TO-KNEES, AND HEART-TO- HEART TIME
- VIII. GROUP SHARING FOR ASSIMILATION OF THE FACE –TO-FACE TIME
- IX. WORDS OF A SPECIAL GUEST CONCERNING PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE
- X. REFRESHMENTS AND FAMILY PHOTOS

I. CONTEXT

We have done our best to organize a gathering because of the environment of bloody violence and death from the hate of bitterly alienated “enemy” supporters of the two football teams: Vita Club, and Renaissance du Congo football the two football teams: Vita Club and Renaissance du Congo.

Recently, the flareups between the fans have caused over 10 deaths and many dozens of crippling injuries

We have been inspired to create a model of respectful communication and reconciliation among supporters of the two teams. This has not been easy because of fan resistance to peaceful co-existence!

II. OBJECTIVES

- Create a model of reconciliation between the fans of the two football teams.
- Bring them together by means of sustained dialog
- Change their mentalities
- Reject violence
- Refuse to be enemies

III. WORDS OF WELCOME, REMINDER OF OUR DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES, AND PRESENTATION OF THE TWO RIVAL FOOTBALL TEAM BY THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

The facilitator, Elesse Henoc BAFANDJO, briefly welcomed all the participants. They were reminded that saying “yes” to entering the room was already a success, and encouraged to make some of the best choices of their lives by getting to know each other and reject violence.

Elesse also reminded the attendees of the various earlier face-to-face gatherings already successfully realized. He then invited the participants to demonstrate their full belonging to their teams with songs and dances. This clarified that they were authentic, strong fans.

IV. FILM SCREENING

We screened the documentary, ["DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future."](#) Participants paid deep attention, as the facilitator translated the English sound track into French and Lingala for best understanding of everyone.

V. PARTICIPANT QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES TO THE FILM

1. *What in the film as explained touched you and had a meaning for you?*
2. *What new possibility or initiative was awakened in you?*

A. Football club Renaissance of Congo

MR. PATSHO: I'm touched by the violence that is coming from a religious conflict. The idea of living in unity despite the religious differences has a great meaning for me and also inspires me! I am deciding to help people live in harmony and love.

MR DIDIER LUTUMBA: I was touched in the film by seeing people dying and being victims of violence. The engagement of the brother enemies had a meaning for me. I can decide to help people live in tolerance.

JAMES ILUNGA: I'm touched by the consequences of the violence. The courage and the engagement of Christians and Muslims refusing to live as enemies had great meaning for me. I choose to continue working for peace among the humankind

MIRADOR ITONGA: I'm touched by the idea of making this film. The facilitators in Nigeria had meaning for me because they invested themselves for a problem that maybe did not concern them directly.

B. Vita Club participants:

CLEMENT BOONE: I'm touched by the death of so many by violence. The solution to this problem has great meaning for me. I am now more interested in working always for peace and not for violence which is so bad!

LUC NDENGO: The stories of death and wounding in the film have touched me. Now enemies eating together has a meaning for me. I now want to be involved in activities that bring peace

DJOSKY MBE: I'm touched by the violence and the death. To see Muslims and Christians together has a meaning for me. I decide to never practice violence

APPO MALUMALU: The absence of love between Christians and Muslims touched me. The mutual acceptance between enemies has a meaning for me now. I'll decide do my best and refuse being enemies even about religious matters.

VI. EXPLANATION OF THE DIAGRAM: Human Relationship-deficiency Virus (HRV)

Participants were strongly impressed by considering that the deficiency, vacuum, and poverty of human relationships is perhaps the world's greatest killer of people and creativity. Huge enthusiasm was expressed at this moment!

VII. FACE-TO-FACE, KNEES-TO-KNEES, AND HEART-TO-HEART TIME

Now more like brothers than enemies, the rivals sat closely together, engaged one another in personal conversation and even exchanges of phone numbers.

VIII. GROUP SHARING FOR ASSIMILATION OF THE FACE –TO-FACE TIME

MR PATSHO: He appreciated the effectiveness of the dialog and had a warm and friendly re-consideration about who could be considered an enemy. Then he wished to see the fans of these two teams continue to gather.

DIDIER LUTUMBA: He was amazed about the activities and quality of the conference. He appreciated the atmosphere of the exchange and tolerance with his brother of the other team. He condemned totally all the forms of violence.

CLEMENT BOONE: He was thankful for the initiative of bringing rival fans together for a change of mentality, and for harmony and public peace. He appreciated seeing smiles from the other fan.

DJOSKY MBE: He congratulated the facilitators and affirmed the greatness of their so blessed work! He enjoyed his exchange with his brother of Renaissance of Congo.

In general, participants:

Appreciated the idea of this kind of gathering

Wished to multiply this nature of meeting

Encouraged the involvement of different football federations to increase fan education

Congratulated the facilitators for this new discovery of techniques of communication and healing relationships

IX. WORDS OF A SPECIAL GUEST CONCERNING PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

We welcomed a special visitor, MR. ELYSEE EKUBA, who shared his brief message to reject violence and encourage more thoughtful citizen engagement.

X. REFRESHMENTS AND FAMILY PHOTOS

We shared refreshments then gathered for a family photo before departing.

CONTACT

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This document is on the Web at

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriadrcongofootball03.pdf>