## Publisher's note

Integration is an important concept that benefits both the immigrants and the American society. - By: Pape Diaw

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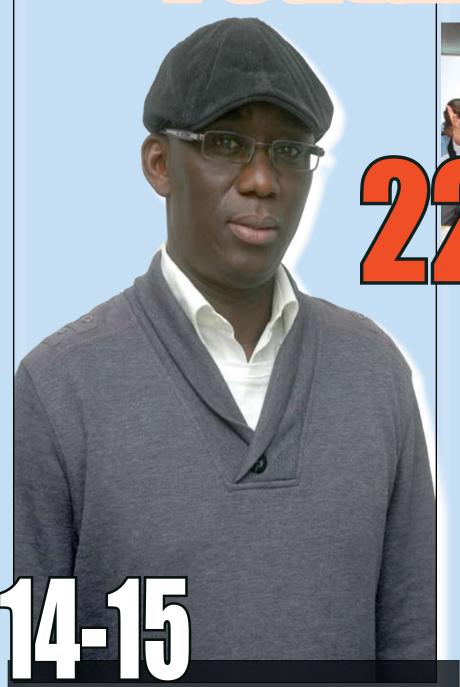
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# Features



Mr. David Yassky chairman of the Taxi & Limousine commission of New York City met with hundreds of African taxi drivers at the headquarter of the Senegalese Association in America (ASA) located in Harlem.

**Community** 

## **The Interview**

Birane Sarr is the founder of New African Production (NAP), an organization that specialized itself in producing, promoting and marketing African music and African musicians here in the United States.







### INTEGRATION HELPS YOU SUCCEED

frican immigrant integration is an important concept that benefits both the immigrants and the American society. When immigrants arrive in the United States, they confront many challenges. In particular, language barriers can be especially challenging when trying to access training programs, the labor force, or healthcare.

We are bringing this subject to try to illuminate those who are still confusing integration with assimilation. Integration is a more positive concept where an immigrant maintains his own cultural identity while participating in building a better community. Assimilation is when the immigrant tends to abandon his own culture while embracing the new one.

Integration is when the immigrants participate positively in the new society (in this case, the American society) while maintaining their own cultural identity. In order to achieve a successful integration, the immigrants' first and foremost important step is to learn English. The US government and many nonprofit organizations have made it easier for anyone living in the United States to learn English at low or no cost.

There are numerous personal benefits for immigrants to learn English, like to improve their education and job skills, but most importantly to understand the law and what is expected of them.

Helping immigrants learn English can also benefit the society by facilitating

them to become more economically productive, and allowing them to contribute to the development of the society.

Integration into a society is not only about how much culture you embrace from the host society but how well you have succeeded in integrating the work force and the transition into your new community.

Yes, America is a land of opportunity where people of all color and cultural background come to build a better life and become contributing members of society, but integration is a two way process where the immigrant has a large part to play. If you choose to come to this country, you should learn English, understand the basic parts of the Law, and consider building up skills that would allow you to enter the job market. Integration is also important for the simple fact that immigrants will be judge as net contributors instead of a drain to resources.

Pape Omar DIAW





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