

Portrait of Lydie LANDU NGOIE



Security staff members are the first people we meet in front of the United Nations Stabilization Mission's compounds in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). Welcoming, courteous and pleasant, they are however vested with huge responsibilities: to ensure, on a daily basis, that staff members working for the UN are quiet and work in a peaceful environment. Our safety is in their hands. I wonder how you would

react, but as far as I am concerned, I like to offer them my very best smile when I get to the office every morning; this may, in case of trouble, earn me their utmost assistance. Well, everyone needs to do their best for their own protection, what else do we need!...Ms. Lydie Landu is one of the security staff members whom I trust a lot.

Her supervisor, Eric Osei, a very nice man (Need I to say), sent me some eulogistic recommendations about Lydie, hoping that I would come up with a fair portrait of the lady. When I saw Ms. Landu's E-performance, I hoped her boss would rate her **"Outstanding"**. However, I would not feel any bad for that but do her justice with a very nice portrait!

For 11 years, she has been working for Guard Force Management, at the Mission's headquarters in Kinshasa. Lydie carries out her tasks with dedication and excellence, with communicative enthusiasm, says her supervisor. ***"Her experience and maturity, gained during her career within the Mission, makes her always remarkable and visible. She is well organized; Lydie has steadfastly shown a high sense of team spirit. In a calm mood, she knows what to do in a stressful working environment,"*** he says.

Her professional career is not linear: ***"I started my active life working for a medical doctor's office for two years. Then, I worked for a printing office for five years before joining MONUC in July 2004."***

Trained on the job, in security area, she confesses that it was not easy. Thereafter, she went through several trainings on Security at a training center in KASANGULU, which helped her keep up with her high level of performance regarding close security guard for VIPs and security management for groups and structures.

To the question to know what impressed her most in her young career, she responds Mr. Kofi Annan, when he came to Kinshasa in 2006, impressed her a lot, by his presence and calm. ***"I have also served as close protection guard for several personalities, including Ms. Asha Rose MIGIRO Deputy Secretary General for Operations in the Great Lakes Region. Her body guards were highly appreciative of my collaboration and advised me before leaving that I should not change my way of working, keep on improving through trainings, fitness exercises which I have been doing so far."***

In light of the evidence, I can testify that Lydie is a confirmed sportswoman. She participates in all joggings, marathons and other activities organized by the welfare section. This adept of Karate, coached by Mr. Richard KITENGE who has a black belt in this discipline, is not to take lightly for even if her supervisor guarantees that she is endowed with a sense of humor, she is not the kind of persons one can titillate. A strict lady, I would not venture to do so for fear of having a hard time if she could not like it!

Lydie Landu is still a student of law. She is on her first year for Bachelor degree at the Faculty of Law at the Protestant University of Congo. Earlier, she had studied trade and finances at the end of which, she got a Graduation paper in commercial sciences. Forbearing; respectfully got her drivers' license and learnt information technics IT and office automation before joining MONUC which later on became MONUSCO. Lydie is Congolese. She deeply loves her country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, citing its brilliant culture, outstanding musicians, prolific artists and painters, stylists and fashion designers.

She takes a very clearheaded look at the evolution of her society: ***"we should be careful with the children's situation. They are the ones who will lead the country tomorrow. Their education is very important. All the street children « Chégués* and the Kulunas* who commit all sorts of offences or crimes, like everyone, have mothers and fathers. Out of negligence, due to lack of means or yet due to negative traditional beliefs, they are abandoned to their own fates and live in the streets. The adult persons must do everything in their power to ensure that those children are educated and enjoy good health."*** Apart from that what angers Lydie most is ***"the impunity enjoyed by some***

persons with high responsibility in the society. There are people who think they can do everything and others who should go hungry!" Well, Lydie is opposed to that; one can see this in her shining eyes when raising such issues. She maybe an excellent human rights activist or a very good politician one day; I would go for both.

How does she like the Congolese men?, I was curious to ask her. As if clearing them of their sins, she said: **"Congolese men may appear as irresponsible but they know what to do to cater for the needs of their families. Due to unemployment, many people cannot do this properly. Congolese men like beauty, luxurious life, comfort to make their families live in nice homes...unfortunately this has become very difficult"** Hum, Hum...



Lydie is a young woman, mother of an 8 year old girl; she has not yet found the man of her life. Like heads of any African family, she says **"I have many other children under my responsibility."** The main hobbies for this young lady from Bas-Congo are: reading, listening to the radio (she is regular listener of the Radio Okapi programs "Dialogue entre Congolais and Parole aux auditeurs"; she also likes the television,

especially to view action films. She does cooking during the weekends. Her special meals are cassava leaves with salt fish.

She likes travelling within the DR Congo and abroad. **"My best trips are the ones that I made to Gbadolité in 2011, where I met brave ladies working in the fields and to Spain in 2014 during the United Nations Inter-agencies Games. Those were eyes-opener. Our leaders and their people have oftentimes missed the development train. Conflicts are not a solution; they always bring us back to the square one level."**

You know Lydie, I am now going to repeat what your colleague security staff told you: **"don't change, remains as you are!"**