



Warden Message

To: All American citizens living in Republic of the Congo
Subject: Funeral of Edith Lucie Bongo

No. 2009/2
Date: March 19, 2009

The Embassy has been informed that President Denis Sassou Nguesso will arrive in Brazzaville on Friday, March 20, at 12:15 p.m. Large crowds will begin forming about 10:00 a.m. in the vicinity of the airport, Maya Maya Boulevard, and on the main route to Mpila to honor the late Edith Lucie Bongo, the wife of Gabon's President Omar Bongo and daughter of President Sassou Nguesso. Roads will be blocked and heavily guarded.

The funeral procession will proceed from Maya Maya Airport, down Boulevard Maya Maya, turn at Boulevard Alfred Raoul (Former Blvd des Armées), pass in front of Parliament and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, continue on Avenue des Trois Martyres in Mougali, Ouenze, turning right at Rond Point Koulounda to Avenue de France and then left at Pointe Hollandaise to the President's Residence.

On Saturday, March 21, the funeral procession will move from the President's home in Mpila, back to Maya Maya Airport to transport the group to Oyo by helicopter. No time has been given for this movement, but roads will be blocked and lined with mourners. The Embassy expects that many mourners will be driving to Oyo on Saturday and National Road 2 will be severely congested.

The burial will take place on Sunday, March 22. The highway will also be congested on Sunday afternoon.

The Embassy recommends that American citizens in Brazzaville avoid driving and avoid the roadways mentioned above through this weekend. The President may declare that Friday, March 20, will be a National Day of Mourning. Should that happen, the U.S. Embassy will be closed.

The Duty Officer for the Embassy may be reached at 444-0013.

For additional information on travel to the country, see the U.S. Department of State's Country Specific Information for the Congo.
