

Pan African Unity Dialogue
Summation of November 19, 2011 Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

February 4, 2012 is the Next Meeting of PAUD at Location TBA

The PAUD session was extremely productive:

The meeting opened with recognition of November 18th as the date of the decisive **Battle of Vertireres** in 1803 where Haitian freedom fighters, under the leadership of General Jean Jacques Dessalines, defeated the troops of Napoleon Bonaparte, commanded by General Rochambeau. The crushing defeat paved the way for Dessalines to declare Haiti the world's first Black Republic on January 1, 1804!

Based on communications from CEMOTAP, **Dr. Ron Daniels** and others reported on the broad based community **campaign to preserve the character and spirit of *Like It Is* on WABC** now that Gil Noble is unable to continue as Host. It was agreed that a letter be sent to WABC supporting the effort to have Imhotep Gary Byrd hired as the Host of the replacement program. The letter will be circulated via email for organizations to consent to be signatories.

The Immigration Reform Call to Action, formulated and revised under the leadership of **Dr. Waldaba Stewart**, will be sent via email to all PAUD participants to secure the maximum number of authorized signatories. Once the document is received, participants are to respond indicating whether you/your organization can be listed as a signatory to the document and how it is to appear, e.g., Dr. Ron Daniels, President, Institute of the Black World 21st Century. For those for whom we do not have email addresses, the Document will also be posted on the Institute of the Black World 21st Century's website at www.ibw21.org so it can be read online or downloaded for review. Individuals /organizations may email or phone in permission for use of signature to brendaibw@aol.com or call 718.429.1415. The Document will be sent to **Congresswoman Yvette Clarke** to deliver to **Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver**, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and the **Obama administration**. The goal is to have PAUD secure a seat at the table with officials of the Obama administration as they consult on shaping immigration policy reform legislation.

Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid informed the group of intensive NYPD FBI surveillance and targeting of African American Muslims, ostensibly under the guise of the war on terrorism. There was a vigorous discussion of the need to protect the rights of all Americans, including African American Muslims while ensuring that adequate protections are in place to prevent terrorist attacks. **Sidique Wai** stressed the need for continuous dialogue with the NYPD to articulate the grievances and build bonds of trust. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted protesting the behavior of the NYPD and urging the use of constitutional means to prevent acts of terrorism. The letter will be circulated via email to PAUD participants for their decision on becoming signatories.

Bourema Niamele gave a report on the first New York area Diaspora Unity Parade and Festival held in the Bronx in September. **Guillermo Phillips** also served on the Planning Committee. Both agreed that the Parade and Festival marked an important beginning to build bridges between various people of

African descent in the Diaspora. Noting that this Initiative is illustrative of the mission of PAUD, Dr. Daniels strongly recommended that PAUD adopt the Parade and Festival as a project in 2012.

Kambale Musavuli of Friends of the Congo presented a succinct but highly informative assessment of the ongoing crisis in the -- Congo where millions have been killed and millions of women brutalized by sexual assault and rape. He recommended that participants take time to view the Friends of the Congo documentary on the Crisis. The film "*Crisis in the Congo: Uncovering the Truth*" is located at www.congojustice.org . His presentation precipitated a discussion on the importance of legitimizing and legalizing the Diaspora as the Sixth Region of the African Union to ensure that the Diaspora has an official voice in the Affairs of Africa.

Dr. Chika Onyeani was not present to provide a progress report on the efforts to organize the Diaspora as the Sixth Region of the AU. Time did not allow for the Roundtable Discussion on the Crises, Challenges and Opportunities in Africa. However, **Sidique Wai reported that the United African Congress hosted the new Chairman of the Ruling Party in Nigeria – who in turn agreed to host a delegation from the Diaspora in the near future.** It was suggested that this would be an excellent opportunity to emphasize the importance of the Diaspora as the Sixth Region of the AU. Discussion of the *Declaration of Principles for Foreign Investment in Africa* was tabled until the February 4, 2012 meeting.

Dr. Daniels concluded by suggesting that a discussion of the **Status of Afro-Latinos** in the Americas be a focal point of the February 4, 2012 meeting. He requested that **Guillermo Phillips** help shape this aspect of the program and identify at least five(5) Afro-Latino leaders/ heads of organizations (women and men) to become regular participants of PAUD; **Rev. Dennis Dillon** was asked to identify three (3) - five(5) Christian ministers to attend the next meeting and to become part of PAUD; **Imam Talib** was asked to redouble efforts to include Imams as regular participants also, and **Kambale Musavuli** agreed to identify at least five(5) young African leaders (women and men) to be part of PAUD; **Leslie Wythe of Councilwoman Inez Dickens** office indicated that the Councilwoman may be open to hosting the next meeting of PAUD at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building. The Schomburg Center is another option. Dr. Daniels set a goal of having at least 40 participants of PAUD around the table for the February 4, 2012 meeting. – **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!**