

INSTITUTE OF THE BLACK WORLD 21ST CENTURY (IBW)
A NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
**THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN**

HELD AT THE METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH

WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCTOBER 17 – 18, 2013.

NOTES TAKEN BY ANGELA JOHNSON AND LAMIN SARR.

SESSION 2: October 18, 2013

TOPIC: THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Overview/Orientation

SPEAKER – DR RON DANIELS:

Dr. Ron Daniels opened the 2nd Session of the symposium with a recap of the opening session which was held the day before with Prime Minister Ralph Gonzalves as the Keynote Speaker.

In opening Session 2, Dr. Daniels welcomed participants and gave a brief review of the last session (The opening session with the full speech of Prime Minister Gonsalves was recorded on CD and available at a cost of \$20). Dr. Daniels encouraged participants to network, as he went on to then invited and introduce Mr. Rollie Kimbrough as the host representing Metropolitan AME Church. The site of the symposium.

SPEAKER – MR. ROLLIE KIMBROUGH:

Mr. Kimbrough welcomed the participants and especially welcomed Former President Pedro Pires of Cape Verde and gave a brief historical background of the church. He explained that church was founded and established by a lesser known abolitionist called Richard Allen in Philadelphia. He also pointed out that the hall being used is called the Fredrick Douglas Hall.

Mr. Kinbrough then went on to explain that Richard Allen started the AME church as an institution for the liberation and self-determination of Black people. He believed that freedom was an inalienable right and was to be taken and not to be requested. Consequently, he said that this type of conference was fitting for the church. He buttressed this by saying that over the years illustrious

freedom fighters such as Frederick Douglas, Dunbar, Dubois and Booker T. Washington and others had spoken at the church. These men and women he emphasized were here and spoke to the issue of freedom and justice. We want to continue these efforts because we have a lot of work to do.

SPEAKER – DR. RON DANIELS:

Following Mr. Kimbrough, Dr. Daniels continued his welcome remarks and protocols.

- He welcomed and extended a special appreciation to IBW Board Member, Christalina (Christa) Pereira, of Cape Verde, and he welcomed Cape Verde's Ambassador to the United States, Her Excellency Ambassador Fatima Vega.
- In his statement –Dr. Daniels stated that:
 1. This [conference] is part of the vision that he has tried to cultivate for the Institute of the Black World 21st Century.
 2. He was troubled by the state of where we are as African people here and in US, on the continent, the Caribbean and the Diaspora at large..
 3. The issues of development lie in how we coordinate the great vast wealth of the African continent, the great resources and resiliency of our people wherever, build relationships and find a way to build global black power in a positive sense of who we are as a people and the role we play in terms of helping to lead the world as we should.
 4. How we deal with issues of democratic governance; and what are the criteria? How important human rights are to us as African people?
 5. At the end of the day if we can not eat, house and clothe our people, preserve our environment, then we are not doing very much if we call ourselves progressives and revolutionaries.
- This symposium is a part of a series to come to forge networking and collaboration. This symposium today was built around the Honorable Pedro Pires, who is the – keynote speaker for the session. He then went on to introduce the session's moderator Dr. Jemadari Kamara

Session II – The Future of Democracy and Development in Africa

MODERATOR – DR. JEMADARI KAMARA: Director for the Center of African and Community Development, U Mass at Boston– Moderator, Session 2.

SPEAKER – DR. KAMARA: started by explaining that this session is part of a continuing dialog and conversation around the issues of democracy and development that has been going on for a number of years between those of us in the Diaspora and our brothers and sisters on the continent, and that this session as being rooted in that ongoing process.

Dr. Kamara's expectations are that emerging out of our own experiences we would be able to share and contribute to the process of better understanding with concrete follow-up actions, and that, we will have recommendations from the keynote speaker, as well as from the panel and from participants. He then introduced Her Excellency Ambassador Fatima Vega of Cape Verde, who in turn would introduce President Pires to deliver the Keynote Address.

In introducing the ambassador from Cape Verde to the US, Her Excellency Ambassador Fatima Vega, he made some remarks regarding Cape Verde and President Pires whom he mentioned as an outstanding person with whom a relationship is being built. He went on to underscore that:

- Cape Verde has a very unique centuries-long historical relationship with those of us of African descent and particularly of those in the New England region.
- Cape Verde have chosen to structurally include representation of their Diaspora in the governance process of the state, pointing out that it is the only country on the continent where there are elected representatives from the Diaspora who serve in the national assembly/legislature.
- While a very small country, it is one that has been moved forward given the power of their ideas and linking those to the practical application of the development in their country.
- Cape Verde has done very well with the Millennium Development Challenge including harnessing the resources of the Diaspora which they are using in that mix of the process
- He then invited Ambassador Vega (Provided Bio of Ambassador Fatima Vega) to introduce the keynote speaker, President Pires. In so doing, he lamented the imminent departure of the Ambassador from her post in the US on reassignment to France.

SPEAKERS - AMBASSADOR FATIMA VEGA: Ambassador of Cape Verde to the US.

Ambassador Fatima rose to introduce President Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires, starting by acknowledging Her Excellency Ambassador Amina Ali, the representative of the African Union to the United States.

(Both Ambassador Fatima in her introduction, and President Pires spoke from prepared texts and can be incorporated in any official communique).

In introducing President Pires, Ambassador Vega gave a resounding biographical narrative of the accomplishments of the former President and guest of honor who would deliver the keynote speech for the day. She referred to him as both a friend and a mentor who had devoted all his life to the liberation of his country alongside his comrade Amilcar Cabral during the revolutionary struggles for independence. She recalled among other accomplishments:

- How he had lead the delegation in negotiating the instruments of independence for Guinea Bissau and cape Verde,
- How he persevered until he became president of Cape Verde to lead his country through some impressive socio-economic transformation and then demonstrably handing over power peacefully at the end of his term as a mark of true democracy.
- His founding of the Cabral Foundation for Leadership Development as an instrument of training and cultivation of young leaders.

SPEAKER – PRESIDENT PEDRO VERONA RODRIGUES PIRES: KEYNOTE ADDRESS.

President Pires spoke from a prepared text in Portuguese but was translated into English and is not reproduced here. However, in his speech he raised several thematic issues, and offered eight specific recommendations that Africa needs in order to propel it into the 21st Century. These included:

- The need to establish rule of law;
- Devising solutions to energy;
- Promotion of inter African trade,
- Investment in education, innovation and research;
- Capacity building,
- Infrastructure development

Dr. Kamara thanked President Pires saying the he had placed a considerable agenda for the conference. He then opened the floor to the panel of respondents and participants to respectively respond and make comments:

PANELISTS – AMBASSADOR AMINA ALI, DR. PEARL ROBINSON, MR. MEL FOOTE AND MR. WALE IDRIS AJIBADE

SPEAKER – AMBASSADOR AMINA ALI: Ambassador of the African union to the United State.

In her remarks, Ambassador Ali started by appreciating president piers’ forthrightness and she thanked him for his continued dedication and mentorship and she went on to raise some important points:

- She admonished that this is the time for our leaders to follow the footsteps of our forefathers in the struggle for us and our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora. She thanked the current leaders of Africa, and paid special homage to President Pires for brining joy and for cultivating other leaders especially from among the young. She emphasized that the young leaders are the leaders of today’s world.
- Turning to the conference she said that the theme of the conference was especially

significant as it coincides with the 50 year anniversary of the OAU/AU, which also celebrates Pan Africanism.

- Emphasis on African integration should be the spirit of Pan-Africanism. Towards that end to develop ideas and to plan from a long-time perspective. However, to plan the future of the continent for the next five decades, we need the proper assessment to tell us what we face for the continent.
- Quoting the new AU Chairman when she said we need to set Africa on the path of equality nation, prosperity and peace. This was a reinforcement of the objectives and vision of our leaders for democracy, socio-economic development and on a peaceful continent.
- People in the past thought of Africa negatively but now they speak of Africa as a continent of hope, born by the fact that Africa is home to seven of the fastest growing economies of the world.
- Continent's development has to also support human development and that the continent cannot develop without democracy, human rights and stability; and that the political landscape and the future of Africa requires successful elections.

Towards those goals AU has over the last twelve years adopted important instruments:

1. Transition to AU
 2. Article 39 Uphold democratic principles
 3. Election and peaceful transition of power
 4. Declaration authorizing AU to sanction states
 5. Establishment of a Peace and Security Council
 6. Charter for elections
 7. Important to have institutions to build democracy including good governance
 - AU to be able to intercede when there is a problem (ACT?) Peaceful transition/ transfer of power is very important
 - Establish/Maintain institutions – need to have an election body
 - Important to Achieve aspirations and visions – reach a high level of human development
 - Need to shape vision and refocus vision – pushing towards a political union
 - Vision – integrated peaceful and progressive Africa
 - Provide continent of peace and security and democracy for the young
- Future should have:
1. Economic growth and transition to achieve aspirations to reach high human growth levels and democracy.
 2. Move towards unification, as for:
 - 2063 for next growth point
 - 2063 Vision for integrated African continental government

SPEAKER - Dr. KAMARA:

Thank you Ambassador. Your comments on the AU framework is very important and will

contribute to our dialog as well as delineating this critical distinction where we tend to use growth and development as synonymous terms, which they are not. I think is important for our dialog and this emphasis on youth, who are critical participants and about who we are speaking when we talk about the future.

SPEAKER – DR. PEARL ROBINSON: President Emeritus, African Studies Association --

- The remarks by President Pires were framed for the challenges of today. The challenges for the continent of Africa, the challenges for engaged Pan-Africanist and everyone who want to see Africa move forward.
- President Pires combined the two perspectives of Afro-pessimism (people who always want to tell you what's wrong with Africa) and Afro-Optimism (people who want to tell you Africa is moving ahead and the world needs to follow) into Afro-Realism
- We therefore need to conduct surveys and research to give us a view of what the people really think.
- The Afro Barometer is the gallop poll of Africa (collaborative research operations in Michigan state with African partners in Ghana, Center for Democratic Development, in South Africa, The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, in the Nin, The Institute for Imperial Research, and in Kenya, The Institute for Development Studies). Launched in Yr. 1999 to do survey research to give data and understanding of the views, opinions and attitudes of ordinary Africans on political and economic issues in their countries. In Africa there are not enough sources of data. Afro Barometer provides via the internet an annual survey in 34 countries in Africa with over 125 working papers for analysis (with some aggregative data). They just released a report on poverty and economic conditions in Africa that responded to the view of the Afro-optimist that Africa is the fastest growing continent in the world. The survey asks what Africans feel about this and the major findings are as follows:
 - 17 percent of Africans frequently go without food
 - 22 percent lack clean water on a regular basis
 - 20 percent often go without medical care
 - 50 percent go without these necessities occasionally
 - 53 percent rated their national economies negatively
 - 38 percent said their national economy has gotten worst
 - 56 percent say their governments are doing a bad job of managing the economy.And, higher numbers have rated them poorly for improving the living standards of the poor, for creating jobs, and for narrowing income gaps.
- There seems to be a disconnect between people's perception versus official data regarding the great things and improvements in terms of economic growth and life as perceived by at least a quarter of the people who live in the countries surveyed.
- Afro Barometer will release three new reports: Democracy, Corruptions and on Internet Usage
- Everyone has an "opposite number" on the continent. Who are my opposite numbers in Africa? What resources do I have access to in my personal, professional, community life

that I might share in ways that will enhance the efforts of opposite numbers in Africa working in the same area to obtain special synergies to attempt to operationalize Pan-Africanism. This is a recommendation for our agenda

- African governments need to focus as much attention on poverty reduction as they do on their growing economy.

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SPEAKER – MR. WALE IDRIS AJIBADE: Executive Director of African Views

Mr. Ajibade started with comments in agreement to President Pires' remarks on Universal African culture, and the data analysis presented by Dr. Robinson." He said that we -we should not demand perfection and that improvement should come gradually. He pointed out that:

- We have a pressing problem with the youth of Africa. They are at risk. There are a lot of youth that are uneducated and in atrophy. Many are not prepared for this opportunity and we could have a generation of youth that can not manage the country's economy. Niger has the largest youth population and Uganda's youth are at risk and in atrophy.
- We can not afford to outsource our development and democracy, management and strategy.
- Democracy and development are important and inseparable.
- Cultivated dependencies, experiences that all Africans share are the antithesis of development.
- Africans share similar experience of cultivated dependencies
- AU and Caribbean are meeting and should include in their discussions rules and regulations to favor economy, cooperation, and mobility between Africa and the Caribbean.
- High level integration of institutions may be necessary.
- Programs could be promoted to raise awareness of existing opportunities in Africa and its Diaspora such as developing cultural exchange programs, expanding this cult of youth and opening the economy horizon. Shifting current ___ between the Diaspora and the native Africans. The notion of misunderstanding, misinformation that exists that's costing us to dissipate our energy are drifting us apart from one another needs to be address significantly so that we can move from desperate government, from conflict to resolutions, from confrontations to truths, from hostility to hospitality, from illing to healing...from negligence to consciousness, from fright to confidence, from threat to secure. This is the true principle of democracy and development

SPEAKR – EMIRA WOODS: Co-Director, Foreign Policy in Focus, Institute for Policy Studies

- Quote---"Always bare in mind that the people fighting for ideas, far think in anyone's/ everyone's. head, that they are fighting to win material benefits, to live better in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children." It's about the future, the children and material wellbeing for our people.
- Seven of the top ten growing economies are in Africa and at the same there is growing and persistent inequality -- 1 percent vs 99 percent
- Resources of Africa must feed the children of Africa-- Resources of Africa still driving the

- global economy – while people are living in unconscionable poverty
- Coltran mining and Land grabbing are major issues in Africa (In Liberia, in the last three years, over 2 millions acres of land has been appropriated by international investors that are stripping people of their ancestral land for bio-fuel and it's devastating our communities.
 - We are not controlling the prices of the resources of Africa. There is a steady decline of commodity pricing.
 - Reductions in remittances because of the global economy are having an impact by adding to inequality.
 - Global warming climate changes are having an impact on Africa with increasingly volatile weather conditions causing a greater push to the margins for people that are already at the margins
 - Increasing we are seeing a World of Us v. Them, Christians v Muslims – these creating chaotic conditions for people throughout the continent. When we think about democracy and development to understand that a push towards seeing a world where all are terrorist is creating a push towards a thriving arms industry, the use of drones and increasing foreign military presence, undermining democracy throughout the continent
 - What's needed? - Quoted Harry Belafonte – “Be radical.” We need radical ideas! How do we get reparations done? How do we work with the African Union and CariCom to ensure that this is our number one agenda? We need new institutions. Can we envision new economic institution... that will bring development. We need to think big. Look to ourselves and not to outside forces for development. We are agents of change. Change is happening through the young people. There are 21 African countries where uprisings have taken place. Young people are taking the lead. Technology is a contributing factor specifically software engineers that are deeply Pan-Africanist looking to create new ideas and platforms.
 - Recommends follow up on reparation as an action agenda item; develop new economic institutions and build self-determination pathway.
 - While looking at large scale activities for development, not to overlook the small efforts as exemplified by the Congolese women; and we should hold up the technology advances.

SPEAKER – MEL FOOTE: President Constituency for Africa.

- President Pires is not only important to us but also to the global and to all who view Cape Verde as an example of governance and democracy
- The job of the Diaspora is to move the policy makers and help to shape some of President Obama's African initiatives and other initiatives.
- Work with others to shape the 6th Region and the five legacy projects for the Diaspora:
 - Global Diaspora Market Place (CFA taking lead on this)
 - Volunteer Corp (Group out of Canada)
 - Remittance Institute to promote sustainable development (World Bank)
 - Investment Fund to allow the Diaspora to make a return in Africa
 - Database for the Diaspora

- How do we help channel technical expertise to Africa? How do we move from wanting to be at the top to action?
- Land grabbing and resource grabbing is a global issue – Washington, DC as well as Africa
- Africa is where African people are – be it HIV/AIDS, Politics
- Seven Categories of Africans (African-Americans (slaves), African-Democrats, Africans of the Caribbean, Afro-Latino, Children of African immigrants, Children of the Caribbean, Professional Africans) – all look at Diaspora differently and there is a lot of diversity among them. CFA tries harmonizing the differences and to get all to understand we have a common platform by which we can approach some of this development
- Black Americans are the wealthiest Black people in the world. We waste education and food, etc. We need to incorporate the young people in our discussion so that they can carry the ball going forward
- Biggest challenge is to educate Americans about Africa. We need to educate all Americans. We should be the vanguard to bring all Americans to support and understand and coordinate with Africa

Speaker – Dr. Kamara – recap ---Thank you panel and Mel for your remarks on investment opportunities in Africa and the agenda of actions that are required. Last night's commentary also raises the question of the reciprocity in that relationship as we talk about Africa and the model of Cape Verde is one that shows us one of ways in which that reciprocity occurs, given the remittances that are going from the Cape Verdean community and returning home supporting that national development effort they also have representation in their national parliament. Opens the floor:

Comments, Questions and Answers Session II:

- No. 1 –Mr. Breezy – Most remittances are going through western union (one of the most irresponsible corporations in the world) We should focus on Western Union
- No. 2 – James Early – We have various metrics, standards of evaluations and various indices of how we evaluate who and where we are. Consider – the words Protagonist, Agency, Radical. Perhaps the most important index for progress of the issues that we face among the majority of our populations is working with the most disposed and not for them (their agency, their imaginations, their modes of organizing themselves) and to evaluate that process and how that changes the material circumstances of their lives and their spiritual or humanistic sense of themselves. We should use poverty reduction as an index. Poverty is not a thing, but people. Focus on the process of people organizing themselves with our collaboration.
- No. 3 Rufus Idris – There are many African-Americans/people that want to invest in Africa and Africans. We should have a way to bridge the gap and make the connections. We all need to be ambassadors for our country.
- No. 4 – Brother Cliff? (6th Region) – Issue with the clarity of the terminology used. How do we define the Diaspora? Who is part of the Diaspora? How to work together, not for

the people, and how to have a barometer to measure some of the people's points of view, etc?

No. 5 – Suggests to stay in the room and organize a working group to discuss all the answers during the lunch break.

- No. 6 – Ms. King?-- Measure complaints of people on the ground particularly the call for reparations. Who will lead the reparations effort. Inform ourselves of statistics like rape among women, lack of hospital supplies, lack of history in schools. – expressed the idea and notion that Africa can look after itself. How do we address investments?
- No. 7 – Roberto from Honduras -- include Latin Americans in the discussions. Organizing the third African West Conference in Mexico.
- No. 8 – Mr. Mack, Apeal Incorporated. Pan-Africanism is the harnessing and leveraging of the vast resources that are available to people of African descent. Black people have over 1 trillion in purchasing power but we are not using that to generate wealth and empowerment for our people. Increase financial institutions to finance and increase ownership, production, resources, and development in our communities and also to invest in projects that result in the increased utilization of Africa's mineral wealth for the benefit of African people so we don't rely on others to sustain Africa. Wants to hear more about the Diaspora Credit Union.
- No. 9 – We need to talk about the importance of culture. Your Africanism is a tribal identity. Building on what Europe provided for us will never lead us away from Europe but to Europe. Who are we, what does it mean to be an African. We have to define ourselves in order to be unified. We need a Pan-African identity that's based on a reality that precedes colonialism.
- No. 10 – Jose Francisco Avilla – Focus on the youth and youth leadership development. We need to work on closing the generation gap. We need to raise our own capital to invest in our community. He has raised 250 million for investment through the New Horizon Investment. Turn Brain Drain into Brain Gain.

Second Round of Comments -

- No. 1 – No Name - Could we do well creating our own constructs? How do we use language for power to displace the white subject and therefore insert the black subject? Does the political conversation include us or, do we need a new political ideology?
- No. 2 – Lady from Kenya – How do we engage with Africa? What are Africans in the continent thinking about with regards to development and how would we build upon that. One of the issues with Africa is the problems with the African elite in particular signing land deals. We need to hold our leaders to higher economic standards.
- No. 3 – Edward Brown – Question to Emira Woods – You mentioned 80 percent of Coltan in the Congo and owned by US Companies, which are the U.S. and Western companies that own it and who are the African fronts for them? Who are the 21 countries that are involved in the uprisings? He wants to mobilize a youth pan-African movement. Who are the software programmers that are deeply Pan-African. Question to Mr. Foote – In terms of lobbying - What is your relationship with Trans-Africa and other efforts you're doing?

- No. 4 – Joyce Hope Scott – Education should be a value added – consideration of establishing an international Pan-Africanist conference of young people from all of the Diaspora
- No. 5 – Kwame Wilbur (name?) This is the 30th Anniversary of the invasion of Grenada. What does democracy and development mean to the youth? What is the impact of catastrophe on the disabled and unable in the Congo? Create a vision that's radically different. We should look at the Congo and potential for investing. Concerned with the right to protect. The Congo is a critical priority. Should be in the forefront of any pan-African work.
- No. 6 – Mrs. Almeda – (spoke of the African Enterprise Fund. Now known as the South African Enterprise Fund). Works with the Millennium Challenge. Biggest Problems – protecting coastal zones or coastal zone management. How do we promote food productions in Angola or countries that have the resources to provide adequate food productions to feed the world.

Panelists Responses to the Comments and Questions from participants:

Wale – Response to Credit Union question – Be prepared to compete in African. We need to start with a change in paradigm. Look at Africa as an Asset and not a liability. There is money available and lot of things to do. Efforts are happening in mass. We need to understand the concept of the Credit Union. Your money in the bank makes you an investor providing an opportunity for structural investments. We should see Africa as possibility and Africa should see the Diaspora as a gain.

Dr. Pearl Robinson :- Responding to the Youth Pan-African Conference issue said that it would be a good idea to think about the software developers to design platforms on social media for pan-African collaborations. She said that though Trans-Africa still exists, there is a lack of lobbying. Majority of effective lobbying groups are white. So, how do we sustain institutions that already exist but are not what they need to be for the 21st century? How do we connect with generations? IBW is getting a new breathe of life. We need to capture ways of connecting with the youth and sustaining this institution to move forward. Every recommendation should have a business plan as to how we move forward.

Emira – Response to questions Cabot Corporation Coltan Companies.... Review the internet Friends of the Congo there is a more extensive list of companies. Software Company – Thoughtworks – Software engineers working toward the effort of Pan-Africa.

Mel Foote – Response to the Lobbying question – Transition is good, change is good.. There are some good things going on in Washington. Can't get stuck in the past and were reluctant to

deal with the realities of what we have. He is an proponent of strategy. How do you impact congress? Allow members of congress to lead and provide them with the information needed to lead.

Dr. Kamara – Responses to questions

The issue of youth development and building linkage – For the last 14 years we have been engaged with YES with Africa – Youth Education and Sports, where 25,000 youth participated – but has not expanded due to the question of sustainability. The question is how do we engage something and do it long term. The linkage between NGO, community to community is the key to us in the future. The leadership is in this room to ponder the answer.

President Pires Comments – The question is how do we operationalize the recommendations? We must go from intentions to action. IBW can play a very material role in these ideas. The fight against poverty is done with the person affected by poverty. You have to make the person facing poverty an agent for change. We also have to change the eco system. Addressed the question of land... Review the types of contracts and how long. Are we mortgaging our heritage, our future? We need excellent negotiators at the table to make good agreements to benefit certain countries. In 50 years Africa has the opportunity to be the bread basket of the world. We talked about youth. The youth is our future because we won't be here forever, we must invest in them and prepare for them. President Pires has a training program for youth in Cape Verde. There has to be an effort of communication between the Diaspora and the youth in the congo. Diaspora should try to know Africa better. Also think they need to look at the Diaspora in South America. Situations are very distinct in each country. The state of the congo is a state that is very weak. One of the priorities for Africa is to build strong institutions. Without strong institutions we will not move forward. Everything said here proves we are not completely free and have not completed our liberation process. We need to dig deeper in our liberation process to increase our independence. The challenge to complete the liberation process started 60 years ago. It means to reduce the technologically dependency and food security and financial and economic dependency. The contemporary pan-Africanism should help complete the African revitalization.

SESSION III: October 18, 2013

TOPIC: THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

MODERATOR – MR. HULBERT JAMES: Executive Director, Diasporic Project

PanelistS: Don Rojas, Dr. Joseph Baptiste, Dr. Claire Nelson, Esmeralda V. Brown, Dr.

Karl Rodney, Atherton Martin,

Remarks by the moderator – Hulbert James

SPEAKER - DR. JOSEPH BAPTOSTE:

- Provided the political history of Haiti. Haiti started with democracy and had a constitution since 1887, with a new President since 2011 through a peaceful transfer of power for the first time in its history. Amendments to the constitution were adopted in 2012 and the new provisions require new elections and for the President to step down next year. That is one year before his term is over, to be consistent with the six year term. However insistence on this could cause new problems..
- What the future of the democratic process in Haiti? Review the last 20 years
- Discussed problems with Haitian current democracy and the decrease of the Senate. This is now complicated with the President insisting that the senate must leave office one year before their term ends. There has currently not been an election scheduled for January 2012. No known date for the election placing major risk of reverting to dictatorship.
- Haiti faces a future of economic and social challenges with weak institutions and weakening democratic processes..
- Believes Haiti can make great strides due to international support, political initiatives are being put in place. However, Diaspora engagement is essential, need institutional strengthening and help from the African American community.

MODERATOR OBSERVATION – Haitian Diaspora through remittance send more money to Haiti than all foreign development assistance funding.

SPEAKER - ESMERALDA V. BROWN: President, Southern Diaspora Research and Development Center

- Impact of Slavery and the crimes against humanity have to be addressed when discussing reparation
- Colonizers claim that people of African descent self-discriminate and do not apply for available resources when they are actually discriminated
- No attempt is made to distribute resources to people of African descent on the claims that they do not qualify or they do not exist
- People in power exploit Blacks and women and often put them under duress.
- People were labeled Half –Breed
- Slowly overcoming the denial of distribution of resources and denial of people of african descent
- Hispanic is not used in Latin America but used only in the US
- Demanding African Descent as a major group and recognized in at the UN
- Central American is forgotten

- Groups are joining to fight discrimination of women and fighting to make it a human rights violation along with race and economic status

SPEAKER –DR. KARL RODNEY: Editor/Publisher, New York Carib News.

Speaking to Communications

- How do we work together how do we come together around our heritage to benefit our communities
- There is a tremendous amount of good will towards the Caribbean, but democracy and development are threatened by external forces.
- The Caribbean is mostly burden by heavy debt that requires 70 – 75% of national revenue to service the debts. That does not allow for any realistic or practical development plans.
- IMF looks to those debts as frozen and so prohibits those countries from acquiring further loans.
- Therefore any new investment for development is an undertaking by foreign investors who are only interested in their own projects.
- There are very active Asian (Chinese and Japanese, Taiwanese) investors in the Caribbean but their focus is purely on the returns to their investments that have little bearings with the long term developmental aspirations of the region.
- Caricom is a shell because there are no real development plans in existence. For example:
 1. Tourism is the main driver of the Caribbean economies but most investments in this industry belong to foreign investors and so leaves little for the Caribbean.
 2. Agriculture is purely cash crop production amounting to 6 percent of the overall production output with a gap in agriculture production so that people cannot feed themselves.
 3. Manufacturing is scattered and not organized in any strategic manner.
- Because of the gaps in all the sectors, the situation has become dire.
- It has turned the region into transshipment points for illegal drug trafficking with increasing criminality.
- The illegal drug trade has become a new form of revenue in the Caribbean leading to organized gangs. Crime is therefore a major issue.
- The increasing crime rates are making potential investors have negative view of the region, and with dwindling resources the crime rate just continues to rise.
- Forces that control the economy also control the democracy in the Caribbean
- The answers and solutions will only come from great minds and institutions with the Diaspora playing an important role.

HULBERT JAMES –REJOINDER: A large number of immigrants have been deported back to their home land and are working for drug dealers. The tourism industry is greatly affected by the

issue of crime and drugs.

SPEAKER – DR. CLAIRE NELSON: Executive Director, Institute for Caribbean Studies.

Future and redemption:-

- We want an integrated development paradigm
- We should not be quick to cry reparation.
- What is the future we want that we should not quantify our suffering
- First we must talk about redemption
- Healing our fracture consciousness
- What is it that we hope to create?
- Who are we?
- How can we train ourselves to become a better geniuses
- How do we empower our children and focus on a vision for the future?
- We should be compensated but we don't have our act together
- Global African Social Stock Exchange 2020(reference).

SPEAKER – MR. DON ROJAS: CEO, Progressive Communications Online; Founder of the Black World Today.

Mr. Rojas started by informing the symposium that, 30 years ago on October 19th Moris Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada was assassinated, and that six days later President Regan invaded the country. That act shattered a new experiment in democracy.

- Prior to the invasion of Grenada there was a bottom up model of democracy with the active participation of the public.
- The state participated by organizing the people as active agents in the transformation of their country with pride with their inputs through their movements.
- At mass parish councils ordinary people interacted with their leaders and officials including monthly parish councils where the leadership come to report to the people in the villages (ministers of the government) as to what they were doing. This profound democracy full of checks and balance was stamped out by the US.
- The popular/participatory democracy was linked to development, and growth occurred at a rate of 5-5.5 % in Grenada under this type of democracy without the contribution from foreign countries. The growth was believed to be a direct result of an engaged and mobilized people.
- Today there is no such process in the same form in the Caribbean today it is a top down model of democracy and is not a model that empowers, organize or mobilize people to participate in their own democracy.
- Social justice advocates have picked up the baton to revitalize the current democracy. They have become the regions watchdog. They are giving voice to the people on the ground.

- Their work is of vital importance to strengthening democracy in the region
- Visit website of 1804Caribvoices
- Recommendations: Establish a pan-Africa/Caribbean reparations commission with contacts here in the US; establish active communication; send a letter of support for reparation to CARICOM, AU and Congressional Black Caucus. (hear tape for all recommendations)

Hulbert James – opened the floor for questions and remarks

- No. 1 – What happened to the South African conference that was cancelled? Why?
- No. 2 – Mr. Early – Urge we send letters to several organizations – The New Community of Black Americans in Caribbean Nations, which is the integration of Latin American and the Caribbean, all Governments in CariCom, all Governments in Latin American which excludes the US and Canada. How do you see the factor of the new community of Latin American and the Caribbean working out over the foreseeable future on Democracy and Development? What are the implications for development?
- No. 3 – How WADU and the Pan-african diaspora can effectively work with Haiti? How can the US assist in reviving interest in music from Haiti (Caribbean)?
- No. 4 – Kim Jarmen (name?) Concern about the knowledge gained here to go out and help other countries. Question about Haiti and the UN – Comment not clear. How do we hold trust in ?
- No. 5 – Do we look at contemporary injuries as opposed to classic injuries? Let's have a discuss on reparations

Responses--

Dr. Karl Rodney – There is a huge issue with intellectual property. Lacking expertise in the industry.

Dr. Nelson – Shop courses are needed and support needed for arts/music in Jamaica

Dr. Joseph Baptiste – urges all to look at Haiti favorably and strengthen the economy. Please invest in water, education, construction, and healthcare. Care for the children and the youth.

Hulbert James – the UN and the world lead by the US press were upset by 1000 people gassed in Syria and the world wanted to bomb but when 8000 people died of cholera in Haiti there was not the same outrage or interest

New questions:

No.1 – Gentlemen from Honduras - get together, under our heritage, to gain more power to impact democracy in the US to help with development in Africa? How do we develop a common identity to empower us through unity? We must stop the fragmentation.

No. 2 – FB Group – Afro – Americans – we need to organize at the inter- American level, and must talk about Native Americans. Afro Americans should be recognized under the International Human Rights Charter. We have a right and necessity to organize at the inter-American level. We need human rights at the international level. There should not be any discussion without inclusion of Native Americans. We need follow-up to this symposium. We need to work and communicate on an inter-American level.

No. 3 – What is being done to develop trust and appreciation among Diasporians so that we can have open communication and dialog. What kind of marketing efforts exist to support study abroad? How can we reach out to groups that prepare our youth for study abroad.

No. 4 – Estella - Observations – Addressing of slavery in the Caribbean and that it goes back 521 years. We should also talk about the history of resistance.

Responses –

Esmeralda – Many people of African descent will negate their connectivity with Africa heritage. We need to educate our people of this great consciousness of African descent. We have to come together because numbers count but we have a long way to go.

Dr. Robinson addresses preparation for study abroad. MOU is negotiated. There was a concern of students wanting to stay in the US. Pick people with ties to their country and will want to go back.

Don Rojas – final remarks – Panels were rich in ideas and recommendations and suggestions. As a board member of IBW we will take the responsibility to move forward with these recommendations. We hope these discussions will provide us with tremendous opportunities.

Dr. Nelson – Docudrama on History of Resistance will make available. Recommendation to establish a land distribution program to give land back equal to the square miles in Africa. Do a Black 3.0 seminar. Convene a Black 3.0 dialog and bring in the hip hop community.

Dr. Karl Rodney – Let’s look to a business model as how we can do business together. Look at how we support, how we engage and what we can contribute. Incorporate Pan-African focus in your endeavors. Let us focus on where we can have impact on historic focus and give it value.

Esmeralda Brown – We need to come together and work together. Help indigenous peoples and their movements to have access to the development tools such as are used conventionally by UN/World Bank and other international institutions.

Dr. Baptiste – Champion democracy in Haiti. Learn to trust each other, respect each other and

work with each other

Session IV: Practicing Pan Africanism in the 21st Century

MODERATOR – DR. RON DANIELS: PRESIDENT, IBW

Panelist: Sidique Wai, Estela Vazquez, Joe Beasley, Dr. Waldaba Stewart, James Early

SPEAKER: DR. RON DANIELS: Before introducing and calling on the panelists to make their presentations, Dr. Daniels explained why President Pires had to leave to catch his plane back to Cape Verde. He then explained what the session is about. That is about the practicing of pan Africanism; implying activities that are actually being carried out in the exercise of Pan Africanism. The idea of having this discussion is vital and was also suggested by a number of people including both Prime Minister Gonzalves and President Pires. Consequently, they have assembled a panel of people who themselves who are imminently capable from their engagements to discuss this from the following perspectives:

- The Sixth Region issue
- With increasing number of immigrants arriving in the country how to organize labor
- Our interest in the Immigration issues from the perspective that it many of the immigrants who are affected are people of African descent.
- Hear about events in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Columbia with recent experience.
- Contextualizing the whole Pan African ideal to wrap it up.

SPEAKER – SIDIQUE WAI: PRESIDENT, UNITED AFRICAN CONGRESS

The speaker asked for a minute of silence in respect of those killed in Kenya and those who died at sea while migrating across the ocean. He started by acknowledging Dr. Daniels as a true practitioner.

of Pan Africanism. He also acknowledged Dr. Stewart whom he refers as to as the elder statesman for the African Diaspora.

- To be truthful, the Diaspora designated the 6th region of the African Union is not a matter of law. As such it is only a wish but it is not yet happening.
- The other problem is that there are too many consultations about it without action. There was one recently in New York with participants from all over the world. All they would talk about was Africa 2063.
- People's response was "What about about Africa now? And what is the role of the Diaspora?"
- The truth is, the Diaspora will not be taken seriously by commission, records etc.

- No one will give you power, you will have to take it.
- The Challenge the organization faces, and IBW has taken a foundation for this, is that you to have people with credibility, honest and truthful to the core values we all share. That when they sit at the table, they are going to say we are going to do this on the basis of integrity transparency and truthfulness. Without that, people will think that you brought them to something and they don't see anything.
- To talk about practical Diaspora, we have to talk about those Africans who have left their own countries and for other countries on the continent because of conditions in their own countries. They are in various situations. They are the boots on the ground. That discussion is not here. We have to figure out a way of doing it.
- One of them told me that we Pan Africanists in the Diaspora, for doing nothing you are supporting dictators and oppressors who slaughter out people when we have been counting on your assistance and support. Start doing something.
- Another person from Jamaica said to me, "Use me, don't confuse me, respect me, and still use me to do the peoples' business".

SPEAKER – JOE BEASLEY: Founder/President, African Ascensions.

We owe a great deal to Haiti.

- We have been living in a global white supremacy
- We are on the margins and will not get off the margins by somebody else's efforts
- African governments are giving out 999 year lease to the Chinese. This is our birth right and we have to take it.
- Practical things we are trying to do is to use our US passport as leverage to help the 100million Afro Brazilians.
- Thomas Jefferson put an embargo on Haiti that remains today
- We have a watchful eye on the Dominican.
- The Vatican own 1/8 of the island of Haiti thanks to Columbus. We should ask them to return it back to Haiti.

SPEAKER – ESTELA VAZQUEZ: Solidarity is not charity. When you exercise solidarity your defending the interest of fellow working class around the world as well as your own interest.

- Union 1199 united people of the same working class born in different parts of the world.
- Practical sense 1199 using the struggles in the workplace to organize people in the workplace
- The Dominicans are children of africa not children of Spain.
- Haitians are
- How do you educate people of the union/workers for better schools, etc.

- Stop and Frisk in NY – we are struggling a long time against stop and frisk and the practices of NYPD -
- Two Appeals – 1929 and 2007 that are not entitled to Haitians born living in Dominican can not get birth certificate and their descent Reach out to make a call for denunciation of the ruling.
- We are all Haiti.

Dr. Waldaba Stewart--- Power is what we need if we want to change anything on a global stage, international stage. Power consists of population/voting count. If you don't have the right to vote you don't really have power.

- Immigration reform is a way of diminishing power for people of African descent
- Hispanics exceeded us by 2 percent in the power equation
- Europeans will be less than 47 percent in this country
- The only way we can neutralize that equation is by reaching out and dealing with the fact that 1/3 of the Hispanics is of African descents. We need to get to the place where we are proud to be of African descent.
- Hispanics are the blood descendants of the Spanish.
- People of European descent are afraid of us.
- If we don't get reparation then we are lost in the equation of 2025
- Issues – we in Central American have come of with a new position. New Paradigm of poverty. We cannot trust any of our government even if they look like us. If we come together and changed our mind set we could liberate ourselves economically
- We use our own Diaspora to start our own economic----
- We intend to create what we call community to risen we are going to challenge hotels that come into our community. We feel and know and have put together master plan of a system to complete with those big change which will help to take our government out of poverty
- We have created a consortium of university and research centers in the US with each of the countries we occupy
- Most important we intend to create a market penetration system so that anything you have to sell in the US we can sell for you around the world. Anything coming out of Africa we can sell in the US and around the world.
- If we get out of our individual frustration because of an enormity of paradigm created by the pope the same thing we are doing in the Caribbean we need to stir in the poor US

James Early—

- Book reference – Haquim Ivy – Pan Africanism and the Communist International

- We have a common interest because we are related historically
- The 21st century use of the term of Diaspora incorporates the recent immigrants that send remittance back to their countries and participant in global programs for Diaspora
- Neo-liberalism, privatization... Review tape relying on the notion of investment
- We have to get away from being self-indulgent... we have to be able to measure progress
- We need to start with the positive and then look at the negative
- We need to put productive wholesome critical embracing attention to the african union. What is the policy? Where is the world bank taking us?
- We need to look at the integration and see how we will grow solidarity
- The power of ordinary people simple society is democracy –

Comments:

No. 1 – what is the real focus on Diaspora what is it what can it become. As we know it its fragment and divided. Where do you start the education process of African Americans so they can become aware of African. This could actually begin in the church. Recommendation – a thorough analysis of what the Diaspora is what we want it to become who's in it and not in it

No. 2 – Political process affects all these conversations... Power, in a pseudo democracy we have to play the game because those are the games that control the money and policies we live under. We are not serious about politics We need to take it a lot seriously. Need to register our people to vote and give them a connected understanding of the value to vote. Leaders are failing us on an integrated functional knowledge of politics

No. 3 – question about post master in Detroit

No. 4 – How do we make the 6th region work? What was the impact of the slave trade on africa?

No. 5 – comments about reparations – review the tape

No. 6 – AAU is asking us to bring in organized ideas and We are asking AAU to assist us - comments about AAU... review tape

No. 7 – Chairman remarks –

Panel responses –

Vasquez --We live in an information age

Wai -- comments on the 6th region being law and interpretation of reparation

And politics if we want to participate in the the african union we can no longer wait for anyone to tell us what to do it has to start with us now

Estela - Nov 1, 6 p.m. having a forum at Medgar Evers college - speaking of young people

Early – we have to learn to be patience and struggle for one another before we struggle against one another. The consciousness of being black is growing. Put realistic proposal before the african communities. Caricom has stepped forward as the only place with a majority afro descent ... reference Michael Manly... where do we stand on the questions of policy.