

2014

Reparations for Settlement in Africa Project [RSAP]

Introductory document

Project overview, objectives, methodology/plan of action



Reparations for Settlement in Africa Project (RSAP)

Overview

Reparations to the descendants of African individuals who were captured on the continent of Africa and transported to the Americas during the transatlantic slavery period of the 17th through 19th centuries to serve as the labour necessary to build businesses and create wealth for European nations, must provide sustainable benefits to these descendents and their future generations, as well as to the continent of Africa. The **Reparations for Settlement in Africa Project (RSAP)** proposes the use of reparations to allow the beneficiaries, settlement on the African continent through facilitating transportation to Africa, access to land, housing, business pursuit and personal development in Africa. The process is open to all of the beneficiaries of reparations for transatlantic slavery and all member nations of the African Union (AU).

Settlement on the African continent has been a longstanding goal of individuals and groups of individuals throughout the Americas during the period of transatlantic slavery and subsequent to its abolition. The African Diaspora Rastafarian community is at the forefront of the movement towards settlement in Africa and this group remains forever committed to this endeavour. Settlement in Africa has in fact been achieved by members of the worldwide Rastafarian community and it is anticipated that this settlement will have increased momentum with reparations. During the early 1900's Marcus Garvey successfully pioneered settlement in Africa by individuals of the African Diaspora. The despair and disillusion that dominated African Diaspora populations at that time motivated Garvey's campaign. For the future, it is anticipated that settlement on the African continent will be desirous by dispersed and diverse Africans - successful individuals from all spheres of life, highly motivated, skilled and with an affinity for Africa. African economies are growing, business opportunities prevail, skilled individuals are in high demand, cultural and economic linkages between the African continent and the Americas have developed, together supporting and motivating settlement planning. The "mind-set" is that the African continent is an attractive destination for ones' to live on, add to its resourcefulness and positively contribute to its future.

RSAP targets all beneficiaries of reparations who intend settlement on the African continent. Governments throughout the Caribbean and the Americas, the African Diaspora populations of these territories, the African Union, African Governments as well as existing organizations involved in settlement programmes will be fully engaged and mobilized by RSAP for the process.

Item 2 of Caricom Reparation Commission's 10 point plan speaks to the return of African descendents to the African continent and states "*The descendants of these stolen people have a legal right to return to their homeland. A Repatriation program must be established and all*

available channels of international law and diplomacy used to resettle those persons who wish to return. A resettlement program should address such matters as citizenship and deploy available best practices in respect of community re-integration”.

RSAP supports and provides momentum for this aspect of the plan.

Objectives

These are broad ranged and encompass several functions i.e. administration, research, diplomatic, liaison, information technology, e-communication, networking, data processing, forum for dialogue, capital management.

- To have a definitive position on who are the beneficiaries of reparations of transatlantic slavery and the process for verification of this status.
- To quantify an amount to be paid/allocated under reparations to facilitate “welcome return”/ settlement by Africans in the Diaspora to the African continent.
- To register Africans in the Diaspora who are desirous of settlement within specific nations on the African continent.
- To create a data base of job skills/experiences, proposed business investments or work programmes of Africans throughout the Diaspora who intend settlement on the African continent.
- To identify investment opportunities for African Diaspora entrepreneurs of micro, small and medium sized enterprises within individual African nations, and list potential areas of economic cooperation between African individuals/businesses on the continent and the African Diaspora.
- To determine the costs of goods and services that are necessary to be provided by African nations to facilitate planned settlement/“welcome return” within their territories by returning Africans of the Diaspora.
- To determine the costs associated with migration of Africans in the Diaspora to African countries.
- To receive the commitment via the AU of specific African nations to the process of planned settlement/“welcome return” of Africans throughout the Diaspora within their territories.
- To be a catalyst for the forum for discussion between Caricom and AU to help to facilitate the process of settlement of Africans in the Diaspora to the African continent, as well as to examine at a Governmental level, trade and investment opportunities, travel and tourism exchanges, agricultural cooperation, among other areas, to promote business development between the Caribbean and Africa.

- To lead to the creation of a financial institution to manage capital advances for entrepreneurial business pursuit by individuals facilitated by planned settlement/"welcome return" on the African continent.

Methodology/Plan of Action

- Build multi-language website for the sharing of information, promotion of project, registration of individuals and creation of data base of job skills, collation of data, etc. Domain name **Reparationsforsettlement.net** (already held)
- Conduct research with entities/groups engaged in settlement and other programmes in Africa so as to draw on their African relationship experiences, e.g. Ethio-Africa Diaspora Union Millennium Council of Jamaica, the Caribbean Rastafari Organization of St. Lucia, Afrika Hall Inc., Barbados, Twelve Tribes of Israel (worldwide), the Ethiopian World Federation Incorporated, UK Rastafarian and other UK African community alliances, through use of emails, skype-calls and personal visits where possible. We anticipate that discussions will help to build registration to the website, create linkages and identify areas of cooperation between diverse groups, as well as lead to group coalitions that can strengthen the lobbying process in the reparations debate. The research information gathered will be further assessed to mentally prepare potential settlers for life in Africa.
- Commence discussions with the Barbados Task Force on Reparations, Caricom Reparations Commission, other National Reparations Commissions as necessary, and with private individuals to identify areas for financial assistance in building the Reparationsforsettlement.net website, conducting project research, travelling, and document preparation. Also, to establish communication channels, timelines for achieving project objectives, etc.

RSAP needs the cooperation of Governments, Caricom and the AU towards achieving its stated objectives. No negotiation can be held with the AU unless under the auspices of a Government. Buy-in to RSAP by Caricom is thus of major priority. Our immediate efforts must therefore seek to achieve this through first successful engagement of the Barbados Task Force on Reparations and other National Reparations entities.

We believe that we can achieve global publicity for RSAP and attract business oriented individuals and groups of individuals that will use proceeds of reparations for settlement in Africa. We see RSAP as the tool that can be used to connect the existing and future groups, globally, that desire and are working towards achieving settlement in Africa. We are continuing our leadership role as a Rastafarian community in proposing RSAP to coordinate and mobilize the efforts needed to determine and allocate an amount of reparations capital to return displaced Africans to the continent of Africa.

Summary

Overall goals:

- To settle African Diaspora individuals within specific nations on the African continent through the use of capital provided by way of Reparations
- To lead to the creation of a financial institution to manage access to capital to be used by settlers toward business financing

Key aspects:

- Construction of Multilanguage website
- Individuals to register on website for settlement programme
- Individuals to lists their skills, work experience and business plans
- Conduct research with Rastafari Mansions, Government agencies, Caricom, Africa Union, African communities and African Religious / Spiritual bodies.
- Determine costs of settlement programmes
- Negotiate for reparations capital and creation of financial institution

Initiation:

- Commence discussion with appropriate bodies
- Obtain funding for website construction
- Construction of website to convey information and begin registration of individuals