

CALL FOR "ONE AFRICA UNITED" IN THE DIASPORA:

Africa is a continent of many peoples like all the other continents of the world. However, Africa is faced with many challenges created by the Colonial Powers, corrupt leaders, poverty and wars. As such many Africans left their mother home in search of greener pastures. In the diaspora life posed many challenges to the immigrants. It is the vision of the African Diaspora Council (ADC) to strive to make life easier to the Africans in diaspora as they adjust to their new home without losing the good values, they acquired in their mother land.

It has been a long journey since the inception of ADC on April 30th / 2010. The road was paved with tears, perseverance, lots of sacrifices, disappointments, good will and successes. My thanks to everyone who has been part of this journey with me. Special thanks to my mentor, executive team, board members and volunteers. I have had the pleasure of exchanging ideas with many of you and getting to know you. Many have partnered with us who are African descendants and non-Africans to share in our vision.

People's perception of themselves is a combination of their upbringing, experiences, culture, and education. However, many people believe what others say they are and allow others to define them. The story of Africa told by the media and in books is not often her story. People visit one African country and become experts on African culture. Africans themselves believe the half-truths told about them and fail to live to their full potential or help themselves. Our togetherness is of utmost importance. The commitment to work together to learn from history, work hard for the prosperity of our families and creating a better future for the next generation.

We have an uphill journey, and we all must give a helping hand. Leaders have to lead by example, but they cannot carry the load without all our members believing in the vision and dedicating themselves to the task before us. We need to move from the bottom of the ladder in America to a place of production not consumers. We must respect each other and believe in fellow Africans. However, we need the tools; education, knowledge of our history, loans for small businesses and mentoring to name a few. These are ways the ADC leadership is willing to help and working towards these goals.

We have a good heritage. We have a very rich culture that we can tap. Africans and people of African descent have been in the forefront of scientific discoveries. The Egyptian mummification is still unmatched till today. This is one reason our cultural center will teach our history. Unfortunately, many of our arts, discoveries, artifacts have been stolen or sold by unscrupulous people and can sometimes be seen in foreign museums. We cannot continue to cry over 'split milk'. We should applaud the past, evaluate our present and press on to the mark that we have set before us. We must not rest on our laurels (oars).

Our vision includes a cultural center representing the different African heritage, A Credit Union that offers a variety of services. It will provide employment, help in designing and equipping small businesses. Africans are now roughly 35million in USA with a purchasing power of \$450 billion per annum. If we are represented by a single country, we will rank among



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one of the 15 largest economies of the world. We are also partnering with educators to make sure our children are well educated professionals, creative individuals, and entrepreneurs.

The end goal is to support our community and contribute to the success of Africa and the countries we now call home. We want to harness our potential, political, economic, and cultural powers to project us in upward surge. We will also pay close attention to our social development. This includes caring, engaging, encouraging, and volunteering. We have people in our organization that have similar ideologies and strive towards workable solutions.

People who have been hurt in the past have difficulty in trusting people, organizations, and governments. We are a transparent organization. Our books are open to scrutiny. With open and constant communication, progress reports we will update you about our successes and challenges. The Federal Government of USA keeps a very close eye on credit unions of which we will be a part. There is nothing of value gained without sacrifice.

I am calling on all Lovers of Africa of different ethnicity, color, social status, and talents to join us in this upward journey. We covet your prayers, sacrifice and support. This is not a "one for self" people, we are, indeed, "our brother's keepers," and as our brother in Diaspora, Aleixandre Dumas, the author of the "Three Musketeers," states in his famous exclamation, "All for One and One for All," does not exempt anyone, nor make exceptions based on color. All who embrace this ideology can find room within this ideological "Inn." This cannot and will not be accomplished by everybody taking care of self, indeed this is a "One for All and All for One" mandate.

Best Regards,

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