



Statement by Ethiopia Ambassador to SOAD in Ethiopia

On this Occasion of The first forum for People of African Decent.

Greetings to the Chairperson, excellencies, and all dignitaries

My name is Jasmin Rowe, I am Ambassador to the State of The African Diaspora 6th Region (SOAD) in Ethiopia.

I was born in Jamaica, and spent time from childhood in the United Kingdom, I repatriated to settle in Ethiopia 22 years ago. I am addressing you from Ethiopia.

Reparations and Repatriations

The call for Reparations and Repatriations have been going on for many years, Marcus Garvey started - The back to Africa movement from the 1920s, our founding fathers of The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) again called for Reparations, Repatriation, Restitution. Today we have people of African descent who have returned and settled on the African continent, there are over 30,000 African descendants who have repatriated to places like Ghana, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Gambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Myself been one of those that have repatriated to the African continent I can speak it clearly that boarding the flight to Africa is easy, however the preparation of the African governments to receive the descendants of African slaves is not in place. More organised preparations need to be done on the African continent to receive the peoples of African descent returning home to settle in Africa.

Preparation for the returnee to settle

Preparation of lands, and properties, language training centres, business rules and laws for the people to return and settle within the indigenous communities.

Reparations

Reparations should be worked on together, both the Civil Societies Organisations in Africa and those the diaspora working in hand with African Governments centrally with the African Union, who have a responsibility for the African Diaspora 6th Region. The descendant could Repatriate with confident knowing that they can use their knowledge and skills to help the Africa countries, with reparations in the form of financial and resources to settle within the communities they have chosen to live amongst. With reparations returnee would be in a better position to help in the Economic development also using their skills that they have gained in those foreign lands, whilst suffering racial discrimination for over 400 years.

I say Reparations and Repatriations goes hand-in-hand as Repatriation is to move the people, and Reparations is to settle the People in their African country of choice.



This would save many returnees spending 10 years in any African Countries negotiating for a status in the African country that they have chosen to settle in and grow with their children and children's children.

The African governments need to have Reparations and Repatriations committee in their countries or better still within the Africa Union which is a centralised government for the African Nations including the African Diaspora 6th region of Africa. Within the United Nations they should be representatives who are outside of Africa working together with those on the African continent, those returnee from African diaspora 6th region who are on the African Continent (the descendants of the African slaves) these committees should be collecting information from those Civil Societies Organisations like The Ethiopian World Federation, The Twelve Tribes of Israel, and other Pan -African CSO whose membership aims are to Repatriate to Africa, those with Repatriation an Reparation at the top of their agenda, Community groups of African decent should also be involved.

Repatriation

The Civil Society Organisations should be working with their memberships and Communities in their countries to collect information on:

1. Who wants to repatriate
2. When
3. How many in their families (how many travelling together)
4. Skills, Knowledge, occupation
5. What is their requirements and needs (Land for agricultural an housing, Business premises, schools, colleges, universities).
6. Which African country they want to repatriate to

This way we have a registration ready that we can be communicating with the African governments of each African country, this will ensure that when our nations of African descent repatriate to Africa wherever they choose, they will be easily settled and not have to spend 10 to 50 years sorting out residency or negotiating for citizenship or the right to employment or to set up businesses in the country that they repatriate to. Neither should returnee having to go back to the colonial countries, that they escaped from because visa have expired, nor should returnee feel like they are illegal in the land of their fathers, the land of their birthright.

When the people of African return to Africa it is causing discrimination simply because the African leaders, the Civil Society Organisations and those other governmental sector are not working together, communicating with the ones who have already repatriated on what are the needs for those that are coming home, the experiences of the returnee need to be the Gantt chart to get a perfect start to settlement of our people repatriating to Africa to settle.

In places like the United Kingdom the Europeans who choose to repatriate, they don't call it repatriate, they call it **retire to** - Spain, South of France and these places, they are granted their needs, houses are built for them they give up their council houses, the British government will built their houses where ever they want to retired to, be it Spain, Turkey, South if France. These Equal benefits should also be openly



available to The People of African descent in the diaspora meaning the United Kingdom the Caribbean South and North America and where ever we are scattered.

I beg that the African diaspora Civil Societies Organizations in the 6th region be included in planning of Reparations and Repatriations , this is the only way things will work and save our African Nation from annihilation. We all as African decent, here today must remember that our forefathers did not pack suitcases,or barrels to when they were taken from their homes in Africa to these far away strange places,However they worked for over 400 years for no pay, it is only decent and fair to give Reparations and Repatriations to the descendant to return to their families on the African Continent.

I would like to thank your excellences for allowing me to deliver this short very important message from the People of African Decent, the Black people of the World.

Thank you