

## **Caribbean Rastafari Organisation (CRO) Report on 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary AU/CPAN meeting in Antigua, October 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Firstly, we must acknowledge that this is 10 years since the Caribbean Pan- African Network was established in Barbados on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at a meeting held at the Commission for Pan-African Affairs.

It was established as 'a mechanism to facilitate Caribbean civil society engagement with the African Union, and the African continent in general, in response to the decision of the African Union to formally incorporate the African Diaspora in the governance and development processes of the continent'.

CPAN's main goals are as follows:

- a. To develop an agenda for Caribbean civil society engagement with the African Union
- b. To provide Caribbean representatives for the relevant African Union organs
- c. To foster people empowerment and development throughout the world
- d. To unite, strengthen and empower Pan-African organizations in the Caribbean to play an effective role in the development of the region

In order that CPAN fulfill its Mission and Goals, the following program areas were identified: **Formal Participation in African Union Structures and Programs; Education and Culture; Trade and Investment; Caribbean Unity; Reparations and Youth Mentorship and Leadership**

The delegates gathered at this regional meeting included representatives from Surinam in the south to as far north as the USVI and including also brothers/ sisters from Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Topics for discussion focused primarily but were not limited to 1. The Role of CPAN in the Struggle of the Caribbean for Reparations 2. The 8<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress 3. The African- Union / ECOSOCC and the Caribbean Diaspora 4. The Decade for People of African Descent

Some of the points that were made during discussion and that stood out included the following:

- Main priorities are Youth engagement; Education (Philosophy of Pan-Africanism); Diaspora engagement; Lobbying governments
- Membership open to organizations and individuals
- CPAN should support the restoration of the teaching of History
- CPAN should be part of a Diaspora Health Initiative to assist the health situation in Africa
- The Decade for People of African Descent must be used for civil society to push the case for Reparations.

In closing let us consider the words of Dr Julius Garvey (Son of Marcus Garvey) concerning the current debate on Reparations," Reparatory justice means building a just society"

Give thanks

Ras Iral Jabari (Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 2014)