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CARL NEB KA RA HERRISHETAPAHERRU PAI DIRECTOR

June 29, 2015

Honorable Senator Myron D. Jackson
Chairman of the USVI 31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Culture,
Historic Preservation, Youth & Recreation
Frits E. Lawaetz legislative Hall
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00840

REFERENCE: Bill No. 31-0079- The United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly Adopted Resolution 68/237 on December 23, 2013, Proclaiming the Period 2015 to 2024 as The International Decade for People of African Descent "With the Theme "People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice, And Development"

Enunciation: in Maat, we always offer our thanks, reverence, and praises for life to the Great Mother-Father; appreciation to the powers and functions of Nature that maintain and sustain our beings, remembrance, recognition reverence, and appreciation to our great just, virtuous, honorable, and vindicated Afrakan ancestors, giving thanks and praises to our living elders of our communities, ourselves, youths, and yet unborn ever completing and acknowledging the eternal circle and cycle of life and love in Maat-The True Measure an Merit of Nature.

Preparation:

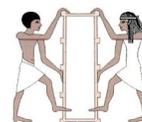
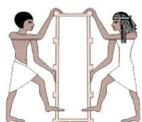
Good morning Honorable Senator Myron D. Jackson and other distinguished members of the 31st legislature Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth, and Recreation, fellow testifiers, and to all physically present and those in the viewing and listening audience of our community.

Opening:

On behalf of the People of Afrakan Descent living in the Virgin Islands, we thank the Honorable Senate Chairman Myron D. Jackson of the Committee on Culture for inviting St. Croix community organizations to share our perspective and vision for how the people of the Virgin Islands of Afrakan descent can harmoniously and cooperatively work together in developing a comprehensive program at the territorial level; with focus on education and raising an awareness on the contributions of People of African Descent consistent with the program of action of the International Decade for People of African Descent and in engaging with other Caribbean countries and territories to maximize Virgin Islands participation in activities and programs at the regional level in implementation of the plan of action of the U.N. International Decade of People of African Descent.

The main purpose of the Chair's Bill 31-0079 is for the Office of the Governor to cooperate to join with the Legislature in developing a comprehensive program with focus on education and awareness of the contributions of people of African descent throughout the Caribbean. However, the Bill is making reference to the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/237 of December 23, 2013, proclaiming the period 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent

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"with the theme "People of African Descent: Recognition , Justice, and Development." Since the Bill seems to be referencing that the USVI Territorial State complies with the U.N. Resolution, it appears that the honorable Senator is suggesting that the local territorial state of the Virgin Islands, utilize this opportunity to focus on the Recognition of the Contributions of people of African descent throughout the Caribbean.

However, it is relevant to know that the U.N. Resolution for the International Decade for People of African Descent purpose is much more diverse than Recognition. The Resolution also mentions in its theme Justice and Development; and the Resolution's main objective is the promotion of respect and fulfillment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As the proposed resolution has mentioned, the majority of the people living in the U.S. Virgin Islands are of African Descent whom have endured the survival of the hardship of slavery, colonialism, racism, and xenophobia. In addition, the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands are also still under the colonial status and sovereign rule of the United States Congress as to the Treaty of Cession of 1917.

In addition, since the U.S. Virgin Islands is preparing for the commemoration of the centennial anniversary, on March 31, 2017 Per Ankh Em Smai Tawi, on behalf of "status conscious" Virgin Islanders of African Descent would like to advise the legislature, judicial, and executive branches of government that the question on status and colonialism needs to be addressed seriously in the territory for the next decade.

Implementation:

When a person of Afrakan Descent in the Virgin islands sees that the U.N. has collectively developed a resolution of "The International Decade For People of African Descent" With The Theme "People Of African Descent: Recognition , Justice, And Development"; then that person of Afrakan Descent knows, it is time for the people of the Virgin Islands to be in **Recognition** of their Afrakan origins, history, and culture, as well that, it is time for the Afrakan Descendants to seek **Justice** from the unjust and unnatural mental shackles that have banded us since physical emancipation. This message is guiding us to create a Just and Sustainable Vison and Plan of **Development** for our liberation from the colonial and conquered status to become the Sovereign Mistress and Masters of our own House. When we look at our other neighboring Caribbean countries and nations, we see that they already have achieved their status as sovereign countries experiencing their Universal Human Right as Self Governing Sovereignties. It is time for the people of the Virgin Islands to gather from their experiences in inequality and injustices of learning of the unjust and inhumane invasion of Africa by Asiatic and European plundering aggression and create our own sovereign country and nation where we the people of African Descent will be the Architect and Engineers of our Social, Political, and Cultural Destiny to Self-Determination and Self-Sovereign Government.

Since the days of the constant invasion of our continental homeland of Africa for "human gold" and natural resources, our African Virgin Island Ancestors and our present Selves have been under the yoke and oppression of European unjust systems of laws, government, education, cultural hegemony, economic exploitation and religious and spiritual influences.

We conscious Afrakan Descendants know from the annals and history of Africa that before the European invaded Africa, the people today called Africans, had their own systems of Sovereignty, Queen and Kingdoms of High and Ethical Royalty order, control of their politics, economics, education, spirituality, and land ownership and development systems.

In order for us to utilize this opportunity to its greatest and most potential we need to ask ourselves two questions: What is it that the people of the Virgin Islands should be doing in the recognition and participation in the International Decade of People of African Descent? And, how do we participate and be culturally, politically, educationally and economically involved in this great humanitarian milestone of the International Recognition of African Descendants? In addition, we also have to keep in mind that one of the main objective of the International Decade is the promotion, respect, and fulfillment of all Human Rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As such PAI suggest and advise the Legislature and the Governor that there must be funding and an education campaign to share with the people of the Virgin Islands, the U.N. Resolution for the International Decade for People of African Descent. At this moment, right now, most of the population of the people of African Descent are not aware of the U.N. Resolution as well as many other International Resolutions, Regional Resolutions or even local legislative acts, regulations, and laws that prescribe and afford the people of the Virgin Islands their Human Rights. Per Ankh Em Sami Tawi recommends that, the people as the true government be afforded their fundamental human right to work and be a part of the process with the leadership to develop a 10 year master plan for the people of the Virgin Islands to implement the three themes of the Resolution: Recognition, Justice, and Development.

Implementation Plan:

The people in Leadership and people of the Virgin Islands need to be primarily focused on specific fused goals and objectives of the three themes of the Resolution: Recognition, Justice, and Development with a plan and course of Action and Implementation.

The first step we need to take of course is to edit, refine, pass and ratify Bill No. 31-0079. The Bill needs to include a clause and resolution that will establish a Virgin Islands African Descendant People Council as the People of the U.S. Virgin Islands International Decade for People of African Descent Commission. The purpose of this Commission will be to Implement a Strategic 10 Year Implementable Action Plan for the theme of: Recognition, Justice, and Development by implementing the following:

The leadership and people will organize a Designated Council of Qualified People of African Descendant throughout the Virgin Islands to engage in the Educating and Organizing of the People to actively participate in the Recognition, Justice, and Development Council Committees, with the main objective of the International Decade as the promotion, respect and fulfillment of all Human Rights and fundamental freedoms by People of African descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

Each implementable action plan and strategy must include the basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized U.N. Universal Human Rights.

1. To work and coordinate with the different local, regional, national, and international agencies for funding to carry out its mandates to educate, organize, and teach the people to utilize and implement their natural and universal human rights to assist them with the journey and path of status for self-government and self-determination in harmony with *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*
2. To collaborate and work with existing African Caribbean countries and organizations to prepare the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands to engage in the great work of forming Virgin Islands African Descendants Independent Sovereign Nation and country in the Caribbean in harmony with the *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized U.N. in the Universal Human Rights.*
3. To initiate communications with CARIOM, the African Union, United Nations, African Countries, African traditional King-Queendoms or African individuals to meet to negotiate economic, social, political, judicial, cultural, technological, scientific, educational, sports, and entertainment resources and people to reconnect with our African families internationally at home and on the continent to heal and enrich our common bonds and heritage in harmony with the *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*
4. To establish trade, travel, tourism, and cultural exchanges with our people in the Caribbean, United States, South and Central America, Canada, Europe, and Africa to enhance our economic, educational, cultural, technological, and spiritual improvements in harmony with the *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*

5. To develop comprehensive infrastructural, sustainable, and modern plans for developing the lands and waters of the Virgin Islands as well as working with our African Descendant families internationally inclusive of agricultural and food production lands and facilities, clothing and cosmetics wear, arts, crafts, cultural icons, with natural renewable energy production, inclusive of geothermal, solar voltaic energy, wind, and ocean-wave-tech, biomass, waste to energy, methane, and hydrogen generators, magnetic power and other forms of clean renewable energy systems; roads, highways and mass transportation systems, commercial, industrial, environmental, and residential communities subdivisions, schools, health care facilities, entertainment and sports, civil service structures, sea-harbor ports and airports, commercial, business, manufacturing facilities, technology research and development institutions, and industrial facilities in harmony with the *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*
6. To develop a comprehensive implementable plan for African perspective base curriculum and educational system from K-12, Undergraduate and Graduate, and Post Graduate Intensive Research and Development, publications and publishing of own books and educational materials reflecting the African Descendants perspective of life; to share, teach, train, prepare African people for sustainable nation building, natural principles of people political sustainability, and development, mass media production in written, audio, and visual formats as well as computer data, African linguistics, natural philosophy, ethics, morality, physics, chemistry, economics, Natura and holistic health care, traditional pharmacology, and healing, agricultural and natural resource development, social governance, science and technology, business and commerce, defense and military sciences and arts, civics, and spirituality, strategic planning, law and jurisprudence, green and sustainable building, architecture, and engineering for the Virgin Islands, Caribbean, Africa, and hueman development with the wise use of the land to include: African political and sovereign system of government based on a comprehensive and integrated governance system inclusive of our ancestral values and principles of Maat, Communal Consensus, and Harmonious respect for the Natural Order and Natural Eternal laws of the Universe; communal economic development and service provision to include forms of common revenues, trade, exchange and reciprocity with the common understanding of the wise use of the land, animal, natural, and hueman resources for all members of the sovereign system; natural and holistic Ra-evolutionary Self Knowledge educational system inclusive of the young and the elders of the community grounded in the practical and theoretical balance that will be designed and planned to be in harmony with the social, defense, civic, economical, political and spiritual ideals and principles of the sovereign vision; this plan will also be done in a way to preserve and protect the land people, and natural resources as well as to integrate and cooperatively work to assist other AfRaKan countries and people to improve the social and economical systems as well as bring more balance and stability to their systems in harmony with the *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*
7. To prepare legal instruments such as treaties, trade, health and healing, agricultural, transportation, education and research exchange, technology, immigration, military, security, defense, business, commercial, manufacturing, industrial, memorandums, and other forms of legal agreements with International sovereign nations, African countries and other legal entities in harmony with the *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*
8. To communicate with certain members of the US Congress and the Office of the President of the USA to get an audience with the Executive and Legislative body to present a Plan of Action for Self Determination, Self Government, and Sovereignty in harmony with *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*
9. To prepare the Plan of Legal and Judiciary Cause of Action for Relief and establish a Reparation, Restitution, and Repatriation Assistance financial and technical proposal for the US Government, UN, Sovereign Nations such as: Great Britain, France, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Israel, and the United Arab Republic to assist Diasporan Indigenous AfRaKa Ascendants to develop their sovereign countries in the diaspora or return to AfRaKa with a well-planned strategy, logistic, and process for

Reparation and Repatriation in harmony with the *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*

10. To keep accurate records and establish a system of media, publish documents and information by publications and communication to keep all interested Descendants of Africans of the Virgin Islands informed of the great work inclusive of the great work they have accomplished thus achieving the greatest and highest potential for the upliftment, redemption, and restoration to the rightful places and spaces of dignity, honor, integrity, power, and respect for People of African Descent in harmony with the *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*

These are a few ideas of the vision that Per Ankh Em Smai Tawi shares with the Chair and the Committee on Culture, Historic Preservation, Youth, and Recreation. It is the vision of a Hawk, Falcon or Eagle and not one of a chicken that is busy fattening itself for its owner. It is a vision from above in the heavens soaring close to the source of light and visibility. Though it may appear to be radical, idealistic, and too vast to grasp by those still believing they are chickens and not eagles, it is the next evolutionary step we the people of African Descent need to take for our survival and the Recognition, Justice, and Development of ourselves in harmony with *basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized in the U.N. Universal Human Rights.*

Closing:

The initiative of the Chair and Committee on Culture... has taken a bold, great, and challenging step to establish a resolution in harmony with the U.N. Nations: The International Decade for People of African Descent "With the Theme "People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice, And Development." It is now time for the legislative and the executive branches to cooperatively and harmoniously work together to have the bill edited, improved, ratified, funded, and passed as an Act for its implementation.

In order for the vision of the Chair as well as all Virgin islanders, that are aware, that it is now time for us to move to transcend this matter to the next level as Virgin Islanders. That next step is Virgin Islands Nationhood and Sovereignty.

With the Transfer Centennial 1 year and 9 months away, it is important that the people of the Virgin Islands utilize this milestone with the centennial milestone of November 01, 2015 as the Centennial celebration of the accomplishment of the Great Labor Leader and Organizer: David Hamilton Jackson; as stepping stones for our awakening and the unification of our people.

It is the hope and the decree of Per Ankh Em Smai Tawi that this legislative body Recognize, do Justice, and have a Development Celebration for our Commemoration and Celebration of the great works and accomplishment of David Hamilton Jackson. Just as we see that, there is a lot of stirring of the fungi pot for the Transfer Celebration; we need to see a lot of stirring for the preparation of the Bull and Bread for this year Centennial and Historical Celebration of Liberty Day. So yes, we must celebrate and Recognize our Elder and Historian of our Virgin Islands Community of African Descendant our Beloved and Honorable Historian Griot, Mario C. Moorhead for the great work and contribution he is making to Recognize, do Justice, and has been working in the Development of Action to appreciate our local and regional African Descendants great leaders and doers.

When we look at our Legislative Acts we find a plethora of information of recognitions of our great Ones. But now we need to do more than offer lip teeth and tongue service for their achievements and accomplishments we need to implement them in our school books, cultural holiday celebrations, visual and media documentaries and entertainment movies and programs of our lives with constant broadcasting on our local as well as international and global medias.

We need share with the world that some of the great minds that influence and impacted the motivation for the movement for the mental liberation of Africa and Africans had their roots right here in the Virgin Islands with such great ones as: Her Royal Majesties of Queen Breffu, Queen Mary, Queen Matilda, Queen Agnes, Queen Coziah, Queen Marva Sprauve Browne, Queen Wilhemina Lewis, Queen Arona Petersen, Queen Mary Ann Christopher; and His Royal Majesties King Klæus, King Kanta, King

Buddhoe, King Admiral Martin King, King Denmark Vesey, King Edward Wilmot Blyden, King Hubert Harrison, King Casper Holstein, King Arthur A. Schomburg, King Rothschild Francis, King Antonio Jarvis, King Cyril E. King, King Dr. Yosef Ben Jochannan, King Dr. Lezmore Emanuel, King Dr. Gene Emanuel, and King Negus Siego Petersen and all those not mentioned.

With this reminder in mind, Per Ankh Em Smai Tawi closes with a reminder and precedent used and initiated by the founding Elders of the United States initiated in the founding and establishing of a new sovereignty in the Americas. The founding Elders utilized their intellect and cunning word crafting and smithing skills to forge and write the following words as quoted from *The U.S. Declaration of Independence*:

“When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness-that to secure these rights, government are instituted among men, deriving their just Powers from the consent of the Governed, that whenever, any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety, and Happiness.”

The people of African Descent of the Virgin Islands are now experiencing what the founding elders of the United States were experiencing. We are losing our land, homes, children, culture, and environment to a governing system that has become destructive and threatening to our safety and happiness that is our inherent unalienable Human Rights. It is then our Just inalienable, unalienable rights to alter, abolish and to institute a new government laying its foundation on principles in such form to affect our safety and happiness. As the U.N. has created a Resolution for our Recognition, Justice, and Development, it is time for us to be in harmony with basic principles of Recognition, Justice, and Development and the fulfillment of all fundamental freedoms by the People of African Descent recognized U.N. Universal Human Rights and for the People of the Virgin Islands to work with the leadership for laying a foundation of our Status as a Sovereign Nation in the Caribbean.

This is the message that will be brought to light in the next two Centennial Celebrations and Commemorations- respectively- of Liberty Day 2015 and Transfer Day 2017.

In the Service of Maat,

I Remain and I Am Nsw Neb Kasaamsu Ka Ra Herishetapaheru



Nesw Neb Kasaamsu Ka Ra Herishetapaheru
Sovereign Chief Elder of Per Ankh Em Smai Tawi