

Economic Unity and Development

By Tahirah Wafa

Without Economic Base, we have no Nation or Community that we can call our own. We are still slaves and lost people. We're Lost in some other man's land helping that man grow his Nation. We, the Black Minority, in this Land of the White Majority, Have To Pool Our Resources in order to establish a Nation for Ourselves in this Nation. We must develop an economic plan that will spread and keep our monies amongst ourselves. We should, as much and as often as we can, buy from Black owned businesses. These Black owned businesses have Black families at home to support. When we support them, we are in turn supporting the "Black Family". We must purposefully seek out and find these Black establishments to buy the goods and services that we need and want. Shouldn't we also, first support our own? THE JEWS DO. This is how they built their COMMUNITIES throughout New York. They support their businesses NO MATTER WHAT THE COST. In doing so, their religion and their culture is maintained. This allows them to afford their own schools to educate their children accordingly.

We have a lot to offer each other in the way of goods and services. As hard laborers, we owe it to ourselves to be intelligent consumers. If we thought enough of ourselves as African people, the former slaves, we

wouldn't easily give up our hard earned dollars for unnecessary products, to others who care nothing for us individually or as people. Many proprietors don't even treat us as people. They just take our money to build their communities.

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad asked these questions, (Message to the Black Man, pg 570), "Why should we work to give the meager earnings of our labor back to our slave master's children? Why can't we have our own? Why can't we do for our own? Why can't we learn to spend with and support our own? Why can't we strive toward keeping our brain power, labor and wealth within and among and elevating our own?"

Shouldn't we be Wholly Concerned with the (five (5) "W's") WHO, WHAT, WHERE it's being spent, WHEN we're spending it, and the WHY of spending? Shouldn't we ask, "Is this an Investment?" Is it an investment with some present or futuristic residual gain?

Whenever you buy one thing, you're sacrificing another thing. The thing that you're sacrificing should not be more of a necessity than the item you decided to buy. If it is, then you made a bad investment. Oftentimes we will need to sacrifice the time and energy of the moment, in order to achieve or establish something greater at a later day and time. Big sacrifices made now always yield greater rewards later.

Other races of people, from various countries, have come to America and built Nations, within this one, strictly from the sacrifices they've made by leaving their own (nation). The ones that they've left, more often than not, were very poor. This is why they came here in the first place. They came here to America, to the so called land of "GOLD", to look for that so-called "Milk and Honey," and found it. They created Golden opportunities and made their milk and honey. They sacrificed their home lands for those items. This is the very same "Gold", "Milk and Honey" that the white America so regularly enjoys. These same items, the Africans in America, have not yet learned to acquire. A slave mentality creates a lack of will-power or lack of need for sacrifice. We're either "scared" that we might have something or afraid some other Black person is going to have it first. If an individual doesn't have the know-how to produce, he should work someone else who does. Find out how it was done, so that in turn, it can be done for self. We should trust each other. We should work together, realizing that it is an investment into our future.

Koreans, Arabs, the Dominicans and the Chinese have to come to this country and are successful, even though most of them didn't speak English upon arrival. Many came poor and war-torn. Why are they so economically successful? They are because their initial sacrifice started when they left their countries of origin. They are successful, because their families sent them here to do so. Others took care of the women

and children left behind knowing the sacrifices would pay off. In many cases, they merely came to America to seek education before returning. Most people have this kind of support system, except for us, born right here in America, right in the midst of the land of the Milk and Honey. Generations of us are born and bred here but, still don't pool the massive resources we've acquired.

Many others continue to immigrate to the U.S. while using methods previously mentioned. To some extent, we used it, by moving to the North from the South. My mother left us down south with our father and other family members until she could do well enough to send for us. She was here in New York months before able to send us anything, but she did. Eventually we were all here. She had the family's support, in the south until she was able to do so.

It takes several years before even the well planned businesses become profitable. Until the businesses owners receive a profit, their families must support them. After the business is stable and profitable, support can begin for someone else to set up a business.

This is why the Koreans have fruit stands; the Arabs have gas stations and grocery stores; the Dominican's have "Bodegas" on every corner; and the Chinese have restaurants all over the United States.

If you don't think this is how they acquired their businesses, befriend one of them. Find out how they got started. Do some research, I

did! They have some stories to tell that will bring tears to your eyes. Stories like how fifteen of them lived in a two (2) bedroom apartment. They now own homes in well manicured neighborhoods. They are able to send their children to the best schools. They made Major sacrifices.

The only way that we will be able to develop a Nation (Business Community) within this Nation will be for us to sacrifice and help Our Own. And, yes, we're going to have to make some huge ones in order to have great yields in return. As with the growing of crops, you have to till the soil, plant the seeds, continuously kill the weeds and do watering throughout in order to have a good harvest. If while you were growing the plants, you stopped watering, blocked the sunlight, and let the weeds take over, you would stunt their growth. This working and supporting period is the sacrifice required in order to yield enough crops to feed your family, for the winter.