



THE RAMPHAL CENTRE
SOCIETIES | ECONOMIES | ENVIRONMENT | GOVERNANCE



**Questionnaire for African and Caribbean Diaspora
Businesses on the Challenges of Doing Business in Home
Countries**

United Kingdom: May - June 2011

A INTRODUCTION

1. The Ramphal Centre is an independent intellectual hub on policy issues for the Commonwealth and its 54 member states, as well as for the wider world. It provides, through the facilitation of high quality analysis, innovative ideas to assist member states in their efforts to meet the environmental, developmental and governance challenges of the 21st Century.

The four main areas of its work are:

- Economies
- Good governance
- Environment
- Societies

It conducts ground-breaking research on contemporary issues and the reports of such research are presented at the bi-annual Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings.

2.The African & Caribbean Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise (ACCCE UK) is a membership business organisation that provides formal representation, support and empowerment for African and Caribbean-led businesses in the UK, with over 2,000 current members in Bristol, London, and our junior chamber, African& Caribbean Young Enterprise (ACYE).

It provides the following services:

- Research & Information
- Business Education
- Seminars/Conferences/Networking Events
- Mentoring/Coaching
- International Trade Missions
- Access to Finance/ Investments

3. The Ramphal Centre and ACCCE UK are collaborating on this research project, the report of which will be presented at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting taking place in Perth, Australia in Oct 2011.

We therefore encourage your full participation in the completion of this questionnaire.

B ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS

1. Name of your business:

Answer:

2. Nature of your business:

Answer:

3. Your annual income (please circle):

Answer:

- a) Less than £50,000
- b) Between £51,000 and £250,000
- c) Between £251,000 and £500,000
- d) Between £501,000 and £1m
- e) Over £1m

4. Please state whether you are or are attempting to do business in (please circle):

- a) Africa
- b) The Caribbean
- c) Both Africa and the Caribbean
- d) Neither

C CHALLENGES OF DOING BUSINESS IN AFRICA OR THE CARIBBEAN

5. To what extent do you think you have been successful in your efforts to do business in Africa or the Caribbean?

- a) Very successful
- b) Somewhat successful
- c) Very little success thus far

6. Please describe the most common obstacles or challenges that you tend to face?

Answer:

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

7. In your opinion, what are the 3 most important practical steps that governments of the various home countries can take which would encourage Africans and Caribbean's in the Diaspora to do business or invest in their home countries.

Answer:

a)

b)

c)

8.To what extent have you experienced resentment or “backlash” from locals?

- a) To a great extent
- b) To some extent
- c) I have experienced very little resentment

9.To what extent do you think that resentment or “backlash” from locals has undermined your efforts to do business successfully (please circle)?

- a) To a significant extent
- b) To a moderate extent
- c) It has not affected me at all

Please give any relevant examples:

Answer:

10. What are the most important practical steps do you think Diaspora professionals and businesses can take in order to minimise the potential resentment or “backlash” from locals?

Answer:

11. What are the most important practical steps do you think governments of the home countries can take in order to minimise the resentment or “backlash” experienced by Diaspora professionals and businesses?

Answer:

12. We are considering the feasibility of setting up a “Business Brokerage” agency which would match businesses in the Diaspora with businesses in Africa and the Caribbean to help them explore the feasibility of joint venture business enterprises. Do you think such an agency can be an effective step forward in promoting/developing trade and investment?

Answer:

- a) Very effective
- b) Somewhat effective
- c) Not effective

13. If your answer is “c) Not effective”, please give your reasons.

Answer

14. Could you comment on the criteria you think would be necessary in order for a business brokerage agency to be effective?

Answer:

a)

b)

c)

15. If a technology platform is set up to facilitate this business matching as well as skills transfers, do you think this will be heavily used by Diaspora businesses and professionals or do you think they will prefer personal interface?

Answer:

Questionnaire. Doing business in Africa and the Caribbean.Final May 2011

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