



THE RAMPHAL CENTRE

SOCIETIES | ECONOMIES | ENVIRONMENT | GOVERNANCE



**Questionnaire for Heads of African and Caribbean
Diaspora Organisations on Trade & Investment,
Remittances and 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, Africa & 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 ORGANISATION

1. Name of your organisation

Answer:

2. Vision and Mission of your organisation

Answer:

3. What is 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. How many members do you have? (please circle)

Answer:

- a) Fewer than 100
- b) Between 100 and 500
- c) Over 500

C. REMITTANCES TO AFRICA & CARIBBEAN

5. As an estimate, what percentage of your membership do you think sends money to relatives in their home country or countries? (please circle)

Answer:

- a) Less than 10%
- b) Between 10% and 25%
- c) Between 25% and 50%
- d) Between 50% and 75%
- e) Above 75%

6. Which of the following statements do you think is true of your members who send money to relatives in their home countries?

(For the purposes of the following questions, “basic needs” means essential items such as food, health care, basic clothing and education).

Answer:

- a) All remittances are used to cover basic needs
- b) As an estimate, 90% is used to cover basic needs and the balance for non essential consumer items
- c) As an estimate, 75% is used to cover basic needs and the balance for non essential consumer spending
- d) About 50% or less is used to cover basic needs and the balance for non essential consumer spending
- e) None of the above is true – please explain below:

7. As an estimate, what percentage of your membership do you think sends money to their home countries specifically to invest in the set up or growth of local businesses?

Answer:

- a) Less than 10%
- b) Between 10% and 25%
- c) Between 25% and 50%
- d) Between 50% and 75%
- e) Above 75%

Could you give any examples of investment in local business from remittances?

8. We are considering the feasibility of setting up a non-governmental “Diaspora Bank” or agency in selected home countries designed to encourage and give active assistance to those who receive money from their Diaspora relatives to use some of that money to set up or invest in businesses. **What do you think are the most important assurances Africans and Caribbeans in the Diaspora would need in order to encourage them to remit funds to their home countries using this bank or agency?**

Answer (please list):

D. TRADE, BUSINESS & INVESTMENT

9. As an estimate, what percentage of your membership do you think actively seeks to export goods and/or services from the UK for sale in their home countries?

Answer:

- a) Less than 10%
- b) Between 10% and 25%
- c) Between 25% and 50%
- d) Between 50% and 75%
- e) Above 75%

10. Generally speaking, how successful do you think they have been in exporting to date?

Answer:

- a) Very successful
- b) Average success
- c) Not much achieved
- d) Interest but no achievement
- e) Unsuccessful

What do you think are the main reasons for your stated outcome?

11. As an estimate, what percentage of your membership do you think actively seeks to import goods and/or services from their home countries for sale in the UK or Europe.

Answer:

- a) Less than 10%
- b) Between 10% and 25%
- c) Between 25% and 50%
- d) Between 50% and 75%
- e) Above 75%

12. Generally speaking, how successful do you think they have been in importing to date?

Answer:

- a) Very successful
- b) Moderately successful
- c) Not much achieved
- d) Interest but no achievement
- e) Unsuccessful

What do you think are the main reasons for your stated outcome?

13. Generally speaking, do you think Africans and Caribbean's in the Diaspora with surplus resources to invest will be willing to invest in government bonds issued by their home countries?

Answer:

14. If your answer to question 13 is yes, what is the maximum term and the minimum interest rate that you think would attract investment?

Answer:

- a) Maximum term:
- b) Minimum interest rate:

15. If your answer to question 13 is no, please state your reasons.

Answer:

E. RETURNING DIASPORA PROFESSIONALS

16. To what extent do you think that returning Diaspora professionals and business men have been successfully reintegrated into the businesses and professions of their home countries?

- a) Very successful
- b) Average success
- c) Little success

17. If your answer is “c) Little success”, what do you think are the main reasons?

- a)
- b)
- c)

18. How much do you think returning diaspora professionals have experienced resentment or “backlash” from locals?

- a) Significant resentment

- b) Moderate resentment
- c) Very little resentment

Can you give an example of backlash or resentment from your own experiences?

19. What practical steps do you think returning individual Diaspora professionals and businessmen can take in order to minimise the potential resentment or “backlash” from locals?

Answer:

20. What practical steps do you think governments of the home countries can take in order to minimise the resentment or “backlash” experienced by returning Diaspora professionals and technicians?

Answer:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire

