

THE

BLACK



EYE

#9206

MBA MBULU, EDITOR

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Black Nationalism is the only practical answer for Black People in the United States of America.

Let's Get Busy!

A WORD OR TWO NO FRINGE BENEFITS

While thumbing through The Nubian News recently (www.nubiannews.com), I saw some information concerning a United States Census report on Black businesses issued in 1997. I pulled up that report, and several stats jumped out at me.

According to that census report, there were a mere 823,500 African American-owned businesses in the United States in 1997. Only 11 percent of African-American owned firms had paid employees, and African American businesses accounted for a measly 0.4 percent (.004) of the sales receipts for all American businesses. The District of Columbia, whose population is 57% Black, had the highest percentage (24%) of African American businesses, but only 2.5 percent of the District's overall business sales went to African American-owned firms.

Overall, about one-half (49 percent) of the African American-owned businesses had receipts of less than \$10,000, 23 percent had receipts of between \$10,000 and \$25,000, and about 1 percent had receipts of \$1 million or more. Thus, a whopping 72% of African American businesses generated receipts of less than \$25,000 per year. Since 72% of African American owned businesses generated receipts of less than \$25,000 per year, then 72% of African American owned businesses were not making enough money to provide a family of four with a decent standard of living.

African American businesses accounted

for .4% of the country's business receipts. That is not 4 percent, that is .4%. Point 4 percent is less than half of one percent. What that means is this: Out of every 100 dollars of sales generated by American businesses, African American businesses got only 40 cents.

For every \$100 dollars generated by American businesses, NON-Black businesses got \$99.60, and African American businesses got only 40 cents.

Even in a city that is 57% Black like the District of Columbia, in an area that houses four of the wealthiest white counties in the entire country, Black businesses got only \$2.50 of every \$100.00 in sales. If you are not paralyzed by those numbers, then you do not understand what you are reading. The bottom line is that, in spite of all of the talk about civil rights advances, better education and economic inclusion, Black business in the United States of America is, for all practical intents and purposes, nonexistent. As a result, even if Black business persons were interested in building and promoting healthy Black communities, they could not do so as long as they remained within the confines of white America's capitalist economy.

By its very nature, white power America either destroys or trivializes everything Black. Part of getting a "good" education is deconstructing the legitimacy of Black centric perspectives. Part of getting and keeping a "good" job is

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sweeping Blackness under the rug. Part of being a "good" American is downplaying the relevance of Black America's reality. It follows then, that We will not receive any economic fringe benefits by remaining tied to white America's economic reality. If We want to make Ourselves a serious economic factor, We need to step outside of the American frame of reference.

Others on the revolutionary and nationalistic front line have already done so. Fidel Castro (Cuba) has shown Us one way to go, and Hugo Chavez (Venezuela) is showing Us another. We need to start giving them Our undivided attention.

POWER QUOTES

"If you can't imagine anything other than what you're used to, then you're operating at a serious disadvantage."

"A small social, political or economic shift here or there can result in serious social, political and economic changes."

"The white power economy does not like the masses."

"We have to be careful that We don't get stuck inside a Black version of white America and present that as an example of Black power or a viable economic or political alternative for Black People."

"We, Black People, need to begin creating Our own basic needs. Creating basic needs is a positive step toward acquiring economic independence."

"The basis of Our economy must be Our people, but Our economy, the economy of the Black Nation, can not be based on individuals who are shuffling and jiving."

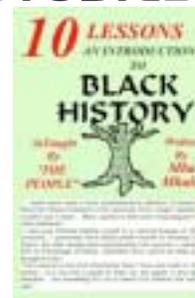
"Black capitalism means begging white power for this and begging white power power for that."

"Dollars in Black People's hands should not be spent, they should be invested in Black Nationalism."

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