



Africa Day Celebrations by the Brahma Kumaris Africa

Africa Day, celebrated annually on May 25th, commemorates the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, which later became the African Union (AU). This day serves as an opportunity to honor African unity, diversity, and the progress made by African nations. It is a day to reflect on the achievements, challenges, and the immense potential of the African continent. The program aimed to celebrate Africa Day and the richness and potential for African prosperity. The theme for the year was "Africa – Opportunities in Challenging Times," with a focus on building capacity and inner strengths through keynote addresses.

The Brahma Kumaris Africa organized 2 events in that context to celebrate this

1. Online event on Zoom

The first Africa Day celebration by Brahma Kumaris Africa took place on Thursday, 25th May 2023. The event was held online via Zoom and streamed on YouTube. It was moderated by Mr. Kiūri Mburathi, an architect and meditation practitioner from Kenya.

Keynote speakers included:

Sister Vedanti, Director of Brahma Kumaris Africa, delivered a welcome address and invoked blessings, emphasizing the need for unity and peace in Africa through a connection with the Divine.





Mr. Busgopaul Mahen, African Union Representative, provided insights into the history of Africa Day and emphasized the importance of the ECOSOCC (Economic, Social, and Cultural Council) in promoting unity in Africa.

Ms. Hingoma Gloria, Youth Activist and Founder of Zambian Peace Initiative, highlighted the role of youth in driving positive change and shared her personal experiences in working towards peace and development.



Mrs. Fatima Dike, Meditation Teacher, Artist and mentor on Ubuntu, provided an overview of the Ubuntu philosophy and its potential to rebuild Africa through the promotion of values and interconnectedness.

Mr. Divine Ntiokam, Director of Global Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global, emphasized the abundance of opportunities in agriculture in Africa and encouraged investment in this sector for sustainable development.



Sister Pratiba, Brahma Kumaris Meditation Teacher of South Africa, concluded the session with a peaceful meditation commentary dedicated to Africa, promoting inner harmony and unity. Mr. Vikram Dookna, representing Brahma Kumaris in Mauritius, expressed gratitude and delivered a vote of thanks, acknowledging the speakers and participants.

The Africa Day online program received positive feedback, evident from the engaging chat comments during the sessions. Approximately 100 participants attended the event across both the Zoom platform and YouTube livestream. The program successfully celebrated Africa Day and provided a platform for dialogue and reflection on the opportunities and challenges faced by the continent. It inspired participants to explore practical solutions, build capacity, and embrace inner strengths to overcome these challenges.

In conclusion, the Africa Day online program organized by Brahma Kumaris Africa was a significant milestone in promoting unity and celebrating the continent's potential. The event brought together a diverse range of speakers who shared valuable insights and perspectives. With positive feedback from participants and an active engagement during the sessions, the program effectively contributed to the objectives of Africa Day.

The full program can be viewed here (<https://shorturl.at/IMNR3>) and a report also appear on the African-News page media. (<https://www.africannewspage.net/2023/05/brahma-kumaris-commemorates-africa-day-2023/>)

2. Africa Day Celebrations at the City Council of Port-Louis, Mauritius

On Friday, 26th May 2023, the Africa Day Celebrations event was held at the City Council of Port-Louis, the capital city of Mauritius. The event, organized under the slogan "OUR AFRICA OUR FUTURE," aimed to celebrate African unity, culture, and the aspirations of the continent.



The program commenced with the national anthem, followed by the African Union anthem. Mr. Ricardo Rose, the Co-ordinator of Inner Space Meditation Centre, welcomed the audience. He gave an overview of the program and set up the context for which this program was organized. This program was held with the collaboration of the City council of Port-Louis.

Notable speakers at the event included:



Mr. Oliver Thomas, Chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture. He emphasized the power of arts in uniting nations and the need to empower talents. Mr. Thomas expressed gratitude to the Brahma Kumaris for the invitation, as it was his first time attending a Brahma Kumaris event.

Mr. Mahendranath Busgopaul, Deputy Presiding Officer of ECOSOCC (Economic, Social, and Cultural Council) and representative of the African Union. He explained the significance of Africa Day and the challenges ahead. Mr. Busgopaul highlighted the role of ECOSOCC and the African Union in fostering peace and development.



Sister Gaitree, Chairperson of the Brahma Kumaris Mauritius. As the organizer, Sister Gaitree emphasized the importance of spirituality and values. She exemplified the concept of Ubuntu, showcasing the relevance of ancestral values in today's world. The program concluded with a meditation session led by Sister Gaitree, invoking peace and blessings for Africa.



Mrs. Stephanie Noellis, Artist and Singer, delivered a captivating cultural performance, singing the song "Circle of Life."

We had the privilege to have His Excellency Mr. Eddy Boissezon, GOSK, Vice President of the Republic of Mauritius as our Chief Guest. He delivered a message of peace and hope, calling upon for solidarity among African nations to overcome the hurdles of adversity. He also praised the Brahma Kumaris for the laudable task of bringing unity in the community through its programs and activities. He reiterated the need to empower arts in the community as mentioned by the Chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture.



The event was graced by the presence of several members of the diplomatic corps and African personalities, including representatives from Zambia, Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire, Kenya, and Rodrigues.



The guests received a token of appreciation and blessings from Sister Gaitree. The event received media coverage, with the National TV featuring it in the main news segment.



The Africa Day Celebrations at the City Council of Port-Louis, Mauritius, successfully brought together diverse stakeholders to honor African unity and culture. The event fostered a sense of solidarity and highlighted the importance of spirituality, values, and the arts in shaping the future of Africa.

Link to the full program on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfidfwUmXbM>

Link to News report in French: <https://youtu.be/SuXfH2Hu0Fc>