

## **Immigration matters**

### **Stop living in fear!**

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Director, Barbara M. Gonzalez said the news flying on the social media that ICE goes to the homes of immigrants to knock on their doors for deportation is absolutely false and should not be taken seriously.

Ms. Gonzalez debunked this news recently at a life changing forum held the life changing forum is organized by Dr. Okere, Founder/President United People For African Congress (UPAC), in partnership with African Community Service Awards (ACSA), sponsored by SEBA Consulting Services and P. Associates and Strategic Groups USA, LLC.

She further stated that ICE does not announce its operation on social media. She said these are gimmicks employed by majority of the social media bloggers to increase their followership and enrich their bank accounts. They are working on people's emotions based on issues at hand.

"Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE is the federal government second largest law enforcement agency, with nearly 19,000 employees in 400 domestic and 62 international offices in 47 countries. They do not announce their operation on social media."

According to Gonzalez, ICE is after criminals, illegal entry, aliens and people on deportation list of immigration who failed to honour invitation."

She further disclosed that, immigration detention have all the facilities for detainees to be convenient. They have access to phone to reach their loved ones and attorney. ICE doesn't go from door to door, shopping malls, churches or social gatherings to harass immigrants for paper. The constitution does not allow that. "ICE do their work based on information and investigation. Immigrants should not give themselves high blood based on fake news, rather they should be law abiding residents and come into U.S legally. She further disclosed that they should follow the due process when applying for visas.

“Information is transformation. Whatever you need to know about immigration issues, consult immigration attorneys or informed paralegals who know how to interpret laws. Don't ask questions from quacks that are yet to solve their own problems.

Gonzalez stated that as long as immigrants respect the law of the land and do not get involved in criminal activities and the person has followed due process in coming into the country, there will not be any cause for fear.

“Respect the law of the land, don't involve in any criminal activities, enter America legally and follow due process on your application. ICE is after criminals and I am sure you're not one. So, calm down and stop living in fear.” She said.

While speaking to UPAC President Dr. Okere; encouraged all African Community leaders across the United States to remember that we're away from our respective countries to better ourselves, our families in the US and Africa. We must not give ourselves to much distractions nor the usual political rhetoric. Instead we must work with the government, we must seek the interests of Africa's political and economic development.

“We should be rooting for reconciliations rather than partitioning to endanger our community lying. We should desire to work with Ivanka Trump to address issues on corruption, kidnapping, human trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation FGM, empowering African women, promote trade, most importantly to eradicate terrorism in Africa” he said.

The forum is a great relief for millions of immigrants who have been living in fear. It also opened historic doors for Africans in United States with U.S Immigration to access the right information. The event is published on U.S Immigration website.

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