

## **Migration talks with Stephen Awung and Momodu Balogun**

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The president of the African People`s Convention, Mr. Awung and his predecessor Mr. Momodu were invited by the Schlachthof cultural center in Kassel to educate youths from nine European countries about migration and integration. The president informed the youths about the objectives of APC and underlined the role APC has played to assist Africans to integrate in Germany. According to Mr.Awung, language is the basis for a successful integration process. Foreigners must be able to understand the language of the host countries in order to live, work or study but caution that learning languages require time and to this effect, he called for understanding from the future leaders of Europe. He holds the view that integration is not a **one way street** and expounded that the host must also cooperate for integration to be successful.

Questions on xenophobia, cooperation between foreigners from different continents and the role of APC in the society were posed. The president explained that xenophobia exists in most societies in the world, and Germany is not an exception but he appreciated the efforts made by the German government to encourage integration and fight against racism. On discrimination in the job market, Mr.Awung explained that APC has been working with the German government and other organizations to educate the population on the positive effect of migration and cultural enrichment. He called on foreigners and German with foreign decent to keep fighting discrimination in all aspect of life.

Mr.Momodu joined the discussion later and explained the relationship between different foreigners ( races ) in Kassel. He informed the youths about the cooperation in the foreigners' advisory council in the municipal administration. He informed them about APC participation in official affair like the upcoming anniversary of the city of Kassel.

The chairman asked the youth to inform their friends and relatives about the success of APC`s integration policy and explained the current project of the organization to assist orphans in Africa. He distributed APC project flyers to the youth and asked them to visit the website to get more information about the organization. The discussion lasted for an hour and both APC and the European youth were satisfied with the meeting. It should be noted that German youths were not involved in the project.