

Watch: Migrants Complain That New Yorkers Don't Learn African Languages

Description

AFRICA : The hearing drew over a thousand immigrants, mostly from countries in Africa, and many illegally in the country, with some claiming that they had been promised money, green cards or work visas if they attended.

The hearing was touted in a press release as aimed at African migrants in shelters to "understand how the [Adams] Administration is addressing language access barriers, cultural competency challenges, health needs, and other roadblocks."

At one point during the hearing, which lasted for over SIX HOURS, the conversation turned to language services offered by the state, with some migrants complaining that Spanish and English speakers are given priority, and African immigrants are unfairly excluded.

It was then pointed out that many immigrants are illiterate and can only speak their native language and further suggested that New Yorkers "refuse to accommodate" by not learning those languages.

There are 3,000 languages spoken across Africa, with many having hundreds of different dialects.

At another point in the hearing migrants began complaining about the free food and housing they have been provided, saying it isn't good enough.

They described the situation as "unacceptable," and "shameful," and even calling New York City "Anti-African, racist and Xeonophobic," charging that the council is "responsible for this pain and suffering" that will affect migrants "for generations to come."

<u>At another point</u> in the hearing, City Councilwoman Vickie Paladino challenged the complaints, noting "I've been listening to everybody speak and making demands on New York City to do MORE MORE MORE."

"How much more are we supposed to do?" she urged, adding "this system is so overworked

and overburdened. We don't have the resources."

"I have to ask you all, what motivated you to come here thinking the streets are paved in gold? They are not," Paladino continued adding "people have come across the border illegally," before other council members interrupted her and demanded she ask a pertinent question.

Mayor Eric Adams responded to the protests and complaints, stating that it is the Federal government's responsibility to "finish the job they started."

"As we have said repeatedly, the federal government needs to finish the job they started by providing an immediate pathway to work for the tens of thousands of migrants they let into this country," Adam's office stated.

It added that "We are exceptionally proud of the dignity and respect we've been able to provide these migrants, as well as everyone else in our care, but, make no mistake, New York City should have never been left largely on its own to manage this national humanitarian crisis."

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