

National Black Church Initiative

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NBCI Respectfully Calls for the Resignation of Congressman Rangel

Rangel's resignation would preserve his legacy of 40 years of admirable service

Washington DC - The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 34,000 African American churches, is gracefully asking Congressman Charles Rangel to resign. The evidence presented by the House Ethics Committee is overwhelming. It makes no sense for Charles Rangel to continue this process, wasting the time of the American people on a trial in the House. A congressman who has done more for civil and human rights than most will ever hope to accomplish in a lifetime has made some fundamental mistakes. Congressman Rangel is obligated to fully acknowledge these mistakes and prepare his family, his district, and the Black community for his resignation while being amenable to replacement leadership opportunities. One of the crises in the African American community is that our leaders stay too long and thus, undermine the development of new leadership that they themselves to have been advocating within the community.

Charles Rangel has served this nation with distinction and honor. He can ill afford to repeat or to tarnish this distinguished record in light of the fact that he persuaded Harlemites to dump Adam Clayton Powell in favor of him as Rangel was, at the time, considered new, bright, young, black leadership. The Church does not believe that one who has pointed out the faults of his predecessor (Adam Clayton Powell) should replicate the same actions by allowing a young politician to do the same to him. This would be regarded as morally hypocritical. Charles Rangel has an opportunity to avoid putting himself, his family, his district and especially the Black community through another embarrassing public trial. We are sure that his friends he has made over the years in the House of Representatives are not willing to embarrass and humiliate him in front of the nation.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of The National Black Church Initiative states, “I am proud of Charlie Rangel and what he has done for the nation, especially African Americans. However, I am also ashamed of his actions and his lack of ethical practices regarding money. This sends the wrong message to our young people. You cannot be chairman of the Ways and Means Committee – one that authorizes billions of dollars - and have no integrity when it comes to handling your personal finances and business dealings. This is a moral contradiction and hypocrisy. The message to our young people is that no one is above the law, and it is imperative to avoid the trashing of a distinguished career, like Congressman Rangel, that grown largely on the basis of personal and ethical standards. Despite his faults, NBCI congratulates Charles Rangel for his service to the Black community and our nation.”

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI’s mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. The National Black Church Initiative’s methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. The National Black Church Initiative’s purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI’s programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work.