

In Memoriam: Dedon Kamathi



Dedon Kamathi (born 1950), a long-time member of the All African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP) made his transition on August 25, 2015, he was a father, a brother, uncle, a committed friend to many and an avid surfer (he was a long time member of the Black Surfers, introducing African youth to surf, and thus he started the Pan African Beach Day, bringing youth and the community together to enjoy the communion of progressive community); he was instrumental in the development of the Black Surfers Collective, and a charter member and past president of the Black Surfers Association, a journalist at KPFK 90.7 FM radio station in North Hollywood, California developing the program *Freedom Now* where he shared his global musical library, his appetite for International affairs and his contacts from around the world who provided up to the minute news and views on the revolutionary activities of the indigenous and struggling peoples around the world and especially in Africa.

Freedom Now brought the truth to the airwaves and provided political education to the community and around the world. He challenged the status quo and liberalism both internationally and within the local communities. He was a big lover of world music, especially Pan African music and revolutionary music with a message, making friends with musicians, poets, dancers, progressive artists from around the world. He was a member of the Black Panther Party in California until he joined the ranks of the All African People's Revolutionary Party in the mid-1970s, and thus, he was also in one of the early AAPRP work-study circles in Los Angeles, he quickly advanced as a leading Cadre member of AAPRP by 1976.

Dedon was also a leading organizer in the Sammy Younge Student Organizing brigade (Younge was the first Black college student killed in 1966 as a result of his involvement in the civil rights movement) for in the southern California area and helped to recruit and build member on the various college campuses that he spoke and organized events. He was a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles and in his commitment to continue to build Pan Africanism, he travelled to Washington D.C. where he attended Howard University and helped to organize a thriving chapter of AAPRP and in the Maryland area. He also traveled and spent time organizing and building in Libya, Syria, Cuba, Haiti, Brazil and Ethiopia, developing his knowledge and skills in organizing Pan Africanism wherever the movement called him.

And besides his work in coordinating African Liberation Day in Los Angeles, he helped to coordinate the Recruitment Orientation taskforce and becoming a lead propagandist via his photography, research, and journalist skills; he helped lead various campaigns under the AAPRP banner to expose the crack cocaine campaign designed to destroy African and other communities through the distribution of cocaine and arms, and notwithstanding, he was involved in activities around police abuse after Rodney King was beaten by the Los Angeles Police Department in 1991, and peace efforts between warring street organizations, and the Free the Geronimo Pratt campaign, which resulted in the freedom of Geronimo Ji-Jaga Pratt in 1997. In March 2015, Dedon in his dedication role as journalist, videoed a panel at the 39th annual conference of the National Council for Black Studies, Inc.