



PRESS RELEASE

Statement on the Passing Away of U.S. Congressman Donald Payne

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union has learnt with shock and utter sadness, of the news of the passing away of Congressman Donald M. Payne.

The enviable achievements of Congressman Payne are numerous and commendable, being New Jersey's first African American to be elected to the United States Congress in 1988. Until his death, he served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, whose overarching mission is to advance the global Black community. His role in promoting the cause of humanity in both the United States and the world at large has received encomiums, which the African Union is proud to be associated with.

The Chairperson, and the entire leadership of the Commission, commiserate with both Congress and the immediate family of Congressman Payne for the great loss, which would leave a void in the Black Caucus and the struggle for emancipation, equality and development of the Black race.

He prays that his soul will rest in peace and that the leadership of the Black Community in the US will continue with his struggle in honour of his life long ambition.

12 March 2012