

## **SISTER CLAUDETTE MARIE (JOHNSON) MUHAMMAD**

Sister Claudette Marie Muhammad former Chief of Protocol for 21 years to the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. In this capacity, she ensured that all issues of national and international protocol were in keeping with the edicts of the Nation of Islam. With a staff of over 75 Local, National and International Protocol Directors, she oversaw a critical operation for Minister Farrakhan. She is presently the National Fundraising Director for the N.O.I. During her tenure as the National Deputy Director for the Million Man March, an historical event on October 16, 1995 in Washington, D.C., she witnessed her ten-year-old granddaughter recite a poem by Dr. Maya Angelou.

Sister Claudette coordinated the International World Friendship Tour that Minister Farrakhan undertook in 1997, traveling with him to more than a dozen African Nations. She also accompanied him on his second World Tour, and coordinated his third World Tour. She served as the National Deputy Director for the Million Family March on October 16, 2000 in Washington, D.C. Prior to assuming her current position, Sister Claudette worked with several African Heads of State. In 1977, she worked with the late President William Tolbert of Liberia, who first introduced her to Africa.

Sister Claudette is a staunch supporter of causes for women and children, and was at the forefront of the fight for the destruction of South Africa's heinous apartheid system. She has championed well within the context of her work and endured the tragedy of crimes against women (her mother and sister were victims of fatal assaults). She has fought tirelessly for freedom, justice and equality of human rights. She worked in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, for USAID/Boston University's program entitled, "Strength and Health Delivery Systems," under the direction of Dr. David French. Other previous positions include: Congressional Secretary to retired Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin; Special Assistant to the President's Commission on Civil Disorders (formed by the late President Johnson); Scientific and Technical Writer for General Dynamics/Astronautics; Assistant Director of Protocol for former President Jimmy Carter's inauguration (under the direction of the late Chester Carter, Deputy Chief of Protocol for America); Director of Business Programs for the Deputy Mayor of Economic Development in the District of Columbia; Director of Community Outreach for Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia). She also toured 57 U.S. cities as an Ebony Fashion Fair model, invited by its sponsor, Mr. John H. Johnson, Publisher of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines. She was featured on one of the latter's covers in 1963.

Recently, she was appointed as a Commissioner of the newly re-constituted Governor's Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes by Illinois' Governor Rod Blagojevich.

The *Marquis Who's Who* published its 24<sup>th</sup> 2004-2005 edition of *Who's Who of American Women*. Sister Claudette was selected as one of the 32,000 women listed. She served on the National Executive Board of the Millions More Movement, which was mobilized on the Washington D.C. Mall on October 15, 2005. Her philosophy is demonstrated by her signature "**GOD IS LOVE.**"