



## The Voice of Ichirouganaim Issue No.3.

The Voice of Ichirouganaim is the newsletter of The Ichirouganaim Council for the Advancement of Rastafari (ICAR), a registered NGO established in 2000. It is published monthly.

---

### EDITORIAL: THE “MEDICAL” MYTH



As the world moves in fits and starts towards the inevitable return of the cannabis plant to its original naturally legal status, we have come to the stage where many countries are admitting to the medical benefits of the plant.

In pursuit of this and the money to be made, they have granted the concession of “medical marijuana”, allowing those with certain ailments to access cannabis and its derivatives.

While this is a step in the right direction, there are attendant concerns. First among these is the fact that cannabis is in and of itself medical or medicinal. There is no such thing as a medical cannabis plant and no such thing as a non-medical cannabis plant. Cannabis simply is medical and medicinal through its use, so there is no need to create confusion.

The folly and dangerous misinterpretation continue with the separation of the CBD and THC elements, with the claim that CBD is the healing property, while all THC does is get people “high”.

The millions of people who have been using cannabis and benefiting medically know better and see this for what is really is - fake news. They know that they have been getting relief from use of the plant in its natural state, with no help from pharmacists.

Another concern arising out of this is the concept of being “high”. Society incorrectly believes that just as people become intoxicated when they consume excess alcohol, the same thing happens to users of cannabis. The truth is that users of cannabis attain a state of heightened awareness and consciousness, which is nothing like the drinkers’ state with which we are all familiar. ICAR is aware that governments in this part of the world are constantly glancing over their shoulders to make sure of the approval of the “big countries”. The irony is that in this case, these countries are marching ahead towards legalisation and some have already reached that point, smiling all the way to the bank.

The countries of this region all need to stop creating false narratives such as medical marijuana and accept that the people of the region, as recorded by CARICOM’s Commission on Marijuana, are calling for its legalisation as is the Commission itself. Here in Barbados, a poll conducted by Peter Wickham has returned a result of 52 per cent of those interviewed calling for legalisation or at least decriminalisation.

ICAR urges Government to move speedily to the restoration of this sacred plant, the sacrament of Rastafari, to its original naturally legal status.

The country needs its healing.

---

### **Antigua/Wadadli Gathering and CRO 13<sup>th</sup> Summit, December 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2018**



December 2018 will be remembered as a significant landmark in the existence of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation (C.R.O.) which was established in the year 2000.

In addition, this milestone has also resonated with ICAR which was the first secretariat of CRO. Eight members of ICAR were therefore able to make the trip to Antigua to participate in this memorable occasion. It was memorable because it was also a chance to grounds with the present Prime Minister, Hon. Gaston

Browne, who shared his thoughts with I & I on his experiences amongst the local Rastafari community with whom he had grown up in his formative years.

The P.M. showed his respect and solidarity with the Rastafari community by saying that in his capacity as leader of the government he would strongly support the legalization/decriminalisation of cannabis and facilitate us in the new environment that unfolds. For instance, he emphasized that Rastafari would be exempted from paying a licence fee while embarking on the business side of legal ganja cultivation and production in Antigua. We noted that the other CARICOM leaders in this region should really take serious consideration of PM Browne's initiative in this aspect.

Another high point of our visit was a tour of Ras Freeman farmlands where the Nyahbinghi Order carries out its agricultural programs including the cultivation of the holy sacrament in addition to other various crops. It was a spiritually and mentally uplifting experience for all who strolled along the gardens and trails at Ras Freeman estate. Our visit as well to Parliament, to witness a debate dealing with the whole issue of Antigua moving towards revising their laws to introduce a new paradigm of legal ganja /cannabis that would include operating in the proposed 'medical marijuana' industry for the future, was enlightening and educational.

It was really gratifying as well to meet the younger generation of sistren and brethren who were the main administrators and teachers of the Rastafari school from the Big Creek Nyahbinghi community. Nuff Respect to them; it is something that our Rastafari community in Barbados would do well to emulate.



Finally, we give thanks to being able to renew friendships and inity with Elders such as Ras Bobby, our herbalist and healer, as well as other brothers from Jamaica, Ras I-avi and Ras Jahlani, who brought I & I up to date with the current situation in Jamaica.

Giving thanks and salutations once again to the organisers who made our stay comfortable and blessed. Perfect love in the name of H.I.M. Haile Selassie and Empress Menen.

Ras Iral Jabari

---

---



## Report

### All Africa Rastafari Gathering (AARG) 2018, Shashemane, Ethiopia, November 1 – 11.



ICAR was represented at the All Africa Rastafari Gathering (AARG) 2018, Shashemane, Ethiopia, by Ras Steve Asher Reid. His visit was made possible largely through ICAR's fund-raising efforts during the year. The theme of the gathering was "promoting intra-African trade" i.e. increasing business linkages between Rastafari on the African continent that will see more trading and stimulate income generating activities for the future by Africans on the African continent.

Rastafari from across the continent attended as well as those from the Caribbean, U.K. and the USA. The format included sharing of knowledge and experiences by Rastafari individuals who had in the past settled in Ethiopia from various regions of the globe and established businesses there, as well as lectures by the University of Oromo, Ethiopia staff involved in trade facilitation. Opportunities for networking by all attendees were encouraged and the atmosphere amongst participants was friendly and cooperative.



Of high significance to ICAR and its umbrella organization the Caribbean Rastafari Organization (CRO) were reasonings held by Ras Steve and the Rastafari Continental Council (RCC) with respect to the continued work towards the creation of the Rastafari Global Secretariat. The RCC is a network of African Rastafari individuals and organizations conceptualized at AARG 2017 that seeks to strengthen and unify Rastafari on the African continent.

A proposal was reached where CRO and RCC will formally cooperate in working towards upliftment of Rastafari and initiating global Rastafari cooperation by signing a Memorandum of Agreement in May of 2019 at a meeting of RCC scheduled for Ghana, Africa. We look forward to working towards this historic achievement.

There was high cooperation from the event organizers in ensuring success of AARG 2018 which was the second staging of the AARG. The Ethiopian World Federation, the Nyahbinghi Rastafari Mansion of Ethiopia, the Twelve Tribes of Israel (TTI) Ethiopia and Ethiopian individuals formed a working committee to ensure that all aspects of organization were covered effectively, including transportation, security, food and accommodation. The third AARG i.e. AARG 2019 is being planned for South Africa.

Congratulations to all.

Selah

Ras Steve Asher

---

---

## **WHO AM I?**

Who am I, you asked

Well, in response to this I usually just state my name.

Cause to tell you the truth, I have no claim to fame

But to really tell you who I am, wait, pull up a chair

I am more than a woman, my colour or my hair

Even though these are all parts of the whole

That can't begin to tell you about my soul

Some days I'm mischievous, cranky, dangerous as can be

Some days I'm excited, witty, daring and carefree

Another day I want to project only the positive in me

But every day I strive towards perfection

Oh wait! That's way too high to reach..

Can't seem to practise what I preach.

So today, my ambition is to beware of deception.

Be aware of public perception.

Pray for guidance and protection

And be pleased with my reflection.

So, who am I, you asked

I am a mother, a daughter, a sister and a friend

I am intelligent, silly, brave and loyal to the end.

I am simple and yet complex

I am happy and sometimes vex

A contradiction! you said, I agree

But only to a certain degree..

So, who am I really?

I am a black woman as you can see

But let me tell you some of what you may not know about me.

This sisStar don't fit into anyone's box

So it seems I'm a living paradox

I am a believer of truth who conveniently lies

I am against the death penalty, except when it affects my family ties

I am neither Republican or a Democrat.

I am for the people, mostly mine, can you dig that?

I am a lover of music, oldies, R and B, classics to Hip Hop

Reggae is my thing, words that heal and get to the top

I am for equal rights and justice..

I don't give a damn about a white picket fence.

I am a lover of men, only! I stress

Black! ...If they can pass the test.

So, who am I?

I am against drugs, I'm all for Tree

I am for anything that elevates me

I am all of the above.

I am overflowing with love.

I am too many things to mention.

I've come to that conclusion

I am a work in progress.

I am an Empress

Just call me Sophie

And let time determine the rest.

SO-Fire.

---

By Sis Sophie

**Please contact [iraljabari@yahoo.com](mailto:iraljabari@yahoo.com) or [dandan4@yahoo.com](mailto:dandan4@yahoo.com) for letters, comments and submissions.**