



Island of Nevis
Company No. 08 of 2019
Caribbean Rastafari
Organisation Inc.

Non Profit Company

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE CARIBBEAN RASTAFARI ORGANISATION

Preamble

We, the members of the Rastafari community of the Caribbean, in order to effect unity, solidarity, liberty, freedom and self-determination of the Rastafari tradition; to ensure human rights and justice; to maintain the integrity of the spiritual and material livly and principles of the Rastafari Nation and to maintain the integrity of Ethiopia which is our divine heritage, do hereby establish and ordain this constitution for the CARIBBEAN RASTAFARI ORGANISATION.

Name

The Caribbean Rastafari Organisation Inc.

Mission Statement

To organise and centralize the Caribbean Rastafari Community through sustainable trade and developmental programmes and activities in pursuit of our ultimate goal and destiny of repatriation and reparations (or *repatriation with reparations*).

Aims and Objectives

- To achieve a greater co-ordination and unity amongst the Rastafari Community in the Caribbean region and to build a firm unshakable organization for the development of future generations of Rastafari.
- To advocate, lobby, represent and negotiate at all levels of government and civil society, nationally, regionally and internationally, on behalf of the Rastafari Nation
- To find ways and means of raising the overall standard of living of our people; in particular, the economic and educational development of the Rastafari Nation.
- To educate ourselves and the wider society about African and Rastafari history and culture.

- To set up and implement organs and structures to address legally and otherwise, the human rights concerns of the Rastafari Nation and the social ills facing Rastafari in the society.
- To facilitate and co-ordinate African-centred economic programmes and to provide the mechanism for economic co-operation and assistance among Africans *at home and in the African diaspora*.
- To market and promote Rastafari agricultural and cultural industries as the most viable basis for sustainable development.
- To put in place developmental programmes for the Sistren/Education/Youth Committee.

Membership

Full Membership of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation shall be open to all ones who acknowledge the Divinity of His Imperial Majesty HAILE SELASSIE the first, although the Executive Council reserves the right to deny membership to any person or organization and/or to grant Associate Membership to individuals or organizations, by provision of the By-Laws of the CRO.

Organs and Officers of CRO

General Assembly - The annual Summit of the CRO shall to all intents and purposes be the Annual General Meeting, which will elect the Officers of the Council every three years.

Executive Council - This shall comprise Officers, Chairpersons of national organizations, Committee Chairpersons and the Immediate Past Chairperson of the CRO.

Country Representatives – One delegate selected from the National Representing Committee of each member country shall serve on the Executive for a period not exceeding three consecutive years.

Committees - The Aims and objectives of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation (CRO) shall be carried out by the Committees established by the General Assembly of CRO.

CRO Committees:

- Social Development
- Reparations and Repatriation
- Youth
- Agriculture, Trade and Environment
- Legal and Human Rights
- Sistren
- Spirituality

- Finance, Planning and Business Development
- Council of Elders

Governance

The Caribbean Rastafari Organisation shall be governed by the Constitution and the By-Laws as ratified by the General Assembly.

NATIONAL REPRESENTING COMMITTEES - The mission of the National Representing Committees is the mobilization of members, and the timely collection of registration and membership subscription fees, collection of donations and contributions and to organize any fundraising events to be held for the benefit of the C.R.O.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE - A disciplinary committee will maintain all function and adherent by setting a stage for order and moral principles, respect, teamwork and collectivity.

RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE - Safeguarding the secretariat and the executive body by implanting a committee of reconciliation, pardon, grace and the building of bridges.

By-Laws of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation

The registered office of the CRO is:
Fountain Village
St. James
Nevis

All members should register in their country of residence, an organisation in the name of C.R.O. for legal purposes, fundraising, sale of items and publicity, also for registration and contribution.

Membership

Full Membership of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation shall be open to all individuals and organizations who acknowledge the Divinity of His Imperial Majesty HAILE SELASSIE 1ST although the Executive Council reserves the right to deny membership to any person or organization.

Full membership categories are:

Individual membership,
Family membership
National Organization membership.

Associate Membership may be granted to non-Rastafari who are demonstrably committed to the fulfillment of the C.R.O. Mission, Aims and Objectives after review of their application for membership by the Executive Council.

A period of one month from the date of receipt will be set aside to review applications for membership and a membership card will be issued on receipt of registration and subscription fees.

No individual who is a member of any other organization, political party, religious group or sect, which requires that individual to pledge unswerving allegiance to its tenets, thus depriving him or her of freedom of thought and action which may be necessary in carrying out the aims and objectives of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation, shall not be approved for membership.

Termination of Membership - All members not willing to continue their allegiance with the C.R.O. must submit a letter of resignation to the C.R.O. Secretariat stating the reason for their resignation. The resignation will be considered by the Executive Council and a reply will be sent immediately after.

Executive

Executive Council - The Executive Council shall comprise officers, chairpersons of national member organisations, committee chairpersons and the immediate past Chairperson and is the governing body of the CRO.

Members of the Executive Council representing organizations, shall be authorized to approve positions on behalf of their respective organizations.

The Executive Council shall convene ***bi-annually and*** as regularly and by such means as determined by the Council.

No Executive Member shall miss an Executive meeting Summit or without informing the Secretariat of the nature of his or her absence. An Executive Member who fails to attend **two consecutive** Executive meetings or Summits without due explanation will be brought to question by the CRO Chairman and replaced if a third meeting is missed.

Members of the Executive Council are eligible to serve on the Council for a period not exceeding three consecutive years ***in the same office.***

Members of the Executive Council are eligible to serve on the Council for a period not exceeding six consecutive years.

Officers - The Officers of the CRO Executive Council shall be elected by the General Assembly:

1. Chairperson
2. Co-Chairperson
3. General Secretary
4. Assistant Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Assistant Treasurer
7. *Public Relations Officer*
8. *Assistant Public Relations Officer*
9. Immediate Past Chair
10. *Committee Chair*
11. *National Representatives*

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson

- ❖ Presides as chairman at all meetings of the Executive Council (EC).
- ❖ Sign the minutes of every meeting over which he/she presides, and all instruments which require his/her signature and shall perform all duties incident to his/her office and shall have other powers and duties as may from time to time be assigned to him/her by the EC.
- ❖ See to the effective and efficient operations of the organization.
- ❖ Advise the officers, or any other committee established by these byelaws on matters regarding the interpretation of this document and any project document.
- ❖ Prepare in collaborating with the secretary and present to the General Assembly the report of the EC on the affairs of the organization.

Co-Chairperson

- ❖ Where as the assistant chair discharges the duties of the chair in the case of his/her absence or inability to act. The co-chair is not an assistant chair and should be in action alongside the Chair.-Food for thought- your views/opinions are required on this one executive officers

General Secretary –

- ❖ When present, act as secretary of all meetings, shall have charge of all minute books, documents and registers of the Organization, and shall perform such duties as the EC requires of him/her.

- ❖ Keep and preserve proper and up to date records of membership, correspondence, books and documents of the organization.
- ❖ Attend to all correspondence.
- ❖ Keep correct minutes of all decisions made at meetings of the EC.
- ❖ Be responsible for the preparation and notification of all meetings including circulation of agenda.
- ❖ Assist the chairperson in the preparation and presentation of the report to the General Assembly (GA).
- ❖ Receive monies due to the organization from any source whatsoever, transferring the same to the treasurer within seventy-two (72) hours of taking a receipt there of.

Assistant Secretary

- ❖ Assist the secretary generally. In the absence or inability or refusal of the secretary to act, the assistant secretary shall be vested with all the powers and perform his/her duties.

Treasurer

- ❖ Be the financial manager of the organization and shall be responsible for the management of the income and expenses of the organization, including receipts and depositing all monies within two business days of receipt in the bank designated by the organization.
- ❖ Shall have the care and custody of all funds and securities of the organization and shall deposit the same in the name of the organization in such bank/banks or with such depository or depositories as the officers may direct and shall perform such other duties as the officers may require. He/she may be required to give such bond for the faithful performance of his/her duties as the officers in their uncontrolled discretion may require and no officer shall be liable for failure to require any bond or for the insufficiency of any bond or for any loss by reason of the failure of the organization to receive any indemnity there by provided.
- ❖ Keep proper accounts of receipts and expenditure supported by documentary evidence.
- ❖ Keep the EC apprised of the financial position of the organization and advise accordingly.
- ❖ Submit a financial report to a meeting of the EC before the General Assembly or at such times as the EC may decide.
- ❖ Keep the books of the organization up to date and ready and available for inspection by any organization member having an interest in the funds of the organization.

Assistant Treasurer

- ❖ Assist the treasurer generally. In the absence or inability or refusal of the treasurer to act, the assistant treasurer shall perform his/her duties.

Public Relations Officer

- ❖ be responsible for the public image of the organization.
- ❖ Deal with all promotional matters, all form of advertisement, press releases/statements and shall make recommendations to the organization for the exposure of the activities and programs of the organization to the public.

Assistant PRO:

- ❖ Assist the PRO generally. In the absence or inability or refusal of the PRO to act the assistant PRO shall perform his/her duties.

Immediate Past Chair

Committee Chair

National Representatives

CRO COMMITTEES:

1. Finance, Planning and Business development.
2. Reparations & Repatriation.
3. Agriculture, Trade and Environment.
4. Health & Wellness (Livity).
5. Youth Committee
6. Legal & Human Rights Committee
7. Social Development
9. Sistren
10. Spirituality
11. Council of Elders

CRO shall establish national representatives for the recruitment and mobilization of members, the timely collection of registration and membership subscription fees, collection of donations and contributions and the organization of any fundraising events to be held for the benefit of the C.R.O.

Vote of No-Confidence- a simple majority vote of no-confidence may be taken by the Executive Council against officers who consistently fail to perform their duties

CRO Pledge

All Executive Members and Officers of the CRO must be willing to accept and give a word of oath, make a vow, or else be sworn into office as prescribed by the guidelines found in **Appendix 1**.

Council of Elders

The Secretariat

The C.R.O. secretariat must not be a permanent burden to any country or island. The Executive Council reserves the right to decide where and when the secretariat should be moved.

Policy guidelines for Summits and Conferences

During conferences the open craft market first priority must be reserved for all members and participants, who assist with the organization of the entire conference.

The CRO and any organization in any country or island hosting a CRO Conference should, by prior agreement, be the only beneficiaries of any commercial activity associated with or taking place in the vicinity of the Conference .Prior permission must be sought from the CRO for all documentation and production by individuals or organisations - videos, posters, t-shirts and photos generated by the promotion and during the actual convening of the conference.

The conference should not be used by ones for personal benefit. It is not allowed for members or delegates to import or sell anything that could hamper INI gathering; *“Avoiding is better than cure”*.

APPENDIX I

The Chairman of the C.R.O. will present the following pledge at the induction of Executive Members

In the name of ***Haile Selassie the first and Empress Menen.***

We pledge allegiance to the Caribbean Rastafari Organization.

We vow to uphold its constitution.

We will defend it with all our strength and courage.

We will respect it and each other.

We will defend it in the interest and benefit of Rastafari and Africans at home and abroad.