Rastafari Community in Mpumalanga Public Parficipafion on New Cannabis Bill

Minutes of the Meefing hosted at Delmas Nyahbingih Centre on the 03rd October 2020

1. Opening done by Chair Jacob Mononyane and the Priest Ras Themba Sabayoni with a Prayer Followed by chanfing Rastafari Anthem
2. Roll Call of 2 Regions Nkangala Region and Gert Sibande Region
   1. Apologies The was no apology

30 Rastafari Representafive and the register was singed followed by introducfion of Representafives

1. Reading of Proposed Cannabis Bill for Private Purpose

Elder Ras Jabulani RUF Advice present in reading the Proposed Cannabis Bill for Private Purpose , aher reading it the General Secretary of RUF Chimuwari Ketano present also in reading a Inifial Inputs from WatsApp Consultafion done on August 2020

1. Suggesfions and inputs Proposed Cannabis Bill for Private Purpose 4.1) On Culfivafion and Quanfity

RUF Advice Elder Jabulani said the legalizafion doesn’t cover Us because even in the Church where even our families are present at church including children’s for ceremonies hence we can be in a criminal oﬀence ,unless we are in a total private space . UCR Elder Ras Themba was disappointed in terms of culfivafion quanfifies, according to his view he said “only the space should limit you otherwise the quanfity should be unlimited

* 1. Oﬀences

On this point Rastafari Community said the oﬀence are too harsh and it criminalize Rastafari Community since well it’s for personally use

1. Way Forward and Resolufion

RUF Chairperson gave a way forward as he was guided by the dialogues and he saw it necessary for the house to have resolufion

* 1. ) Resolufion by House

The Rastafari Community in Mpumalanga resolute by saying the Proposed Cannabis Bill for Private Purpose is rejected in totality because the Consfitufional Rights of Minority Communifies is violated.

* 1. ) Proposal on the Proposed Cannabis Bill for Private Purpose

The Rastafari Community in Mpumalanga is request to be given enough fime to sfipulate its own Proposed Bill that will protect their Consfitufional Rights as a Community



**1. **

* + - The Bill is unfair and is not in favour of Rastafari Community since is covering individual aspect in using Cannabis
    - The Bill has many restricfions and red tape to us as Rastafari Community
    - It confinually oppress and exclude Rastafari Community in Culfivafing and Commercializing
    - It violate and disrespect Rights of Privacy
    - Prescribed quanfifies for personal use by adult person
    - It’s doesn’t cater Rastafari Adult in Commercializing it since many of Rastafari members are not unemployed so they use Cannabis to make a living
    - The amount of restricfion will limit the lifestyle of Rastafari Community

**2. **

* + - According to the Rastafari Rights Rastafari members must Culfivate Cannabis at the homes for Healing purpose and etc. The Plant is not a strange and dangerous plant that it shouldn’t be seen by the youth.
    - In traﬃcking and possession sfill there are lot of red tapes restrict us because as community of Rastafari we use to make trips in company whereby we pay visit to one another.

**3. **

* + - * We Rastafari Community don’t agree with oﬀence regard Cannabis since it is a plant created by God of Creafion.
      * We also don’t support the commercial quanfity and traﬃcking in possession of cannabis because it prohibit and exclude us to enter in a Green Economy of Cannabis Industry

**4. **

* + - * Smoking in public is an oﬀence but also while smoking in private is an oﬀence because there are those who don’t smoke.
      * This is contrary according to our views. Where should we hide ourselves when we need to smoke our Cannabis since in our Home we are staying and sharing one house with those who don’t smoke?

**5. **

* + - * We are of a diﬀerent view with oﬀence involving child because the

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**9.**

**10.**

Cannabis is treated as Herb and culfivate it and as it is Commercial Crop

that we sell it to support our family.

* To us Rastafari and Agriculture it is African Way of Life that when filing a soil and Culfivafing some plants you must teach those who follow you. And if it that is an oﬀence for a child to engage in cannabis therefore our Rights are been violated as Africans



* This penalty is too harsh and they are unjust





* It has a lot of procedural that can discouraged a person convicted on Cannabis possession to Expungement on Criminal Records



* The Minister should consider when making a rule that there is a Rastafari Community using Cannabis for many reasons. He/She must acknowledge that Rastafari members don’t use cannabis for fun as individuals do so .
* In all Schedules and Secfions the Minister should also consider that the Rastafari Community they feels like they’re been excluded and prohibited to Commercialise and Culfivate Cannabis in liberty without 



