

# RASTAFARI IN ZAYAN SUMBISSION TO THE PARLIAMNTARY COMMITTEE ON: CANNABIS FOR PERSONAL USE BILL - 2020

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“Ibange is the healing of the Nation”



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# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Dagga tree is a plant that has existed since time and has been historically used for its mystical, medicinal, nutritious and spiritual healing of various ailments in babies, children, adults and animals.
- ▶ It has been used in cultural rituals by many indigenous groups of this world.
- ▶ The plant IS HERE TO HELP MAN INSTIL LOVE AND RIGHEOUSNESS BACK INTO SOCIETY AND REVIVE THE AFRICAN ROOTS AND CULTURE SYSTEM.
- ▶ Dagga has been used by indigenous communities before apartheid and defended openly by the RasTafari Community.
- ▶ There is no law culturally that criminalises dagga, no cultural group that denounces dagga as a harmful substance.
- ▶ The plant is central to Royal Celebrations and used by our Royal Authorities in all regards



# BACKGROUND ON ZAYAN

- ▶ Rastafari Zayan Stations in South Africa have been established in the early 1980's.
- ▶ All of them are rooted in areas under Royal Leadership
- ▶ They were established with the purpose of establishing self-reliant communities that maintain and practice ancient ways of living clean in balance with man and nature.
- ▶ To practice indigenous healing and preserve cultural medicine and rituals
- ▶ To Praise Haile Sellasie I of Ethiopiya without prejudice or stigmatisation from our ill informed communities that cast us out.
- ▶ To prepare for the Repatriations of African in the Diaspora by building conducive areas that will receive Africans who use Cannabis in their daily life.



# ZAYAN EXPERIENCE



- ▶ 3.1 During Apartheid
- ▶ Introduction to the De Klerk Administration at Union Buildings that the Throne of Jah Rastafari has been established and that there should be disarmament to ensure that bloody killing of mankind should stop. ( 1989) with Royal Blessings from King Mabusabela ( Congo) of the Ndzundza Mabhoko Royalty
- ▶ Branding of Rastafari people as criminals, organised raids, brutalization and killing of Rastafari members and indigenous communities who continued to openly exercise the right to plant and possess the dagga herb.
- ▶ Destruction of crops and livelihoods which in most cases resulted in killing of cultivators, healers, cultural practitioners and traders of dagga.
- ▶ Rasta arrested and take for psychiatric evaluation and rehabilitation from “drug abuse” and doctors cleared them from being addicts and deemed them normal and fit to live with society ( early 1990s)
- ▶ Undying support from Our Royalty by allocating land for the establishment and progress of the RasTafari Communities in South Africa
- ▶ Continued support in creating awareness about this indigenous plant and non-discrimination of the RasTafari Community especially in Zayan.



# ZAYAN EXPERIENCE Continued....



- ▶ 3.2 During this Democratic era.
- ▶ No consultation on legalization of Dagga and reform of the Drugs Act.
- ▶ Continued brutalization, unlawful and unnecessary arrests.
- ▶ Continuation of discrimination and stigma towards Rastafari Community and their children.
- ▶ Continued raids and destruction of Rastafari Zayan Stations
- ▶ Adoption and implementation of foreign advancement and legislation on Cannabis.
- ▶ Unconstitutional awarding of Cannabis licenses and permits
- ▶ On a sweet note, more people have accepted the healing properties and nutritional values of dagga
- ▶ Progressive and Cannabis friendly partnerships between Royalty, indigenous communities and the Rastafari community in South Africa and on the Continent
- ▶ Positive ruling from the Constitutional court that ushered us to this point in time pertaining dagga
- ▶ Launch of the Rastafari Ecotourism Centre by the knelt Ikosi Sipho Mahlangu National House of Royal Leaders in South Africa and Public acknowledgement of the benefits of Rastafari way of life.
- ▶ Removal of the smog screen that clouds peoples judgement about dagga.

# USES OF DAGGA



- ▶ Cultural uses - in rituals, ancestral pleasing, divining
- ▶ Healing purposes - various baby and infant ailments including burning for calming benefits, managing and eliminating chronic illnesses weather it's a green tea, or capsule or plain kudu ash it is used to manage all pandemics introduced including COVID-19
- ▶ Recreational purposes - consumed for nutritional boost, leisure and comfort groups
- ▶ As a multi - use economic crop - for shelter, clothing, farming and processing
- ▶ In the environment - to prevent soil erosion, to clean the environment and to serve mankind by cleaning the atmosphere and balancing natural supply of good seed to the ants, bids, chickens and other animals
- ▶ Bio-Fuel - reduce bio carbon footprint, stop digging for oil and producing harmful fuel.
- ▶ There is a multi billion Advantage of decriminalising dagga and opening the market for all!!!!!!!

# SUMMARY OF SUBMISSION



- ▶ The Rastafari community in Zayan have read and interpreted the proposed Cannabis for Personal Purposes Bill in consultation with Our affected Rastafari Zayans across South Africa Royalty Leaders under the Ndzundza Mabhoko Royalty Authority, Ndzundza Mabusu Royalty Council, Arts and Culture Organisations, and We conclude that the bill:
- ▶ Inhibits on the cultural right of the Rastafari Community in Zayan and Indigenous communities.
- ▶ Marginalizes the abovementioned communities to explore and develop their cultural , spiritual and economic growth and potential in the Cannabis Industry
- ▶ It still criminalizes the Rastafari Communities in Zayan
- ▶ It still perpetrates the stigma that Cannabis is harmful



# INPUTS AND RECOMMENDATION



- ▶ We state our inputs on the Bill as follows:
- ▶ Section 1 - Definitions and interpretations
  - ▶ (1) (a) Cannabis is not just the flowering or fruiting tops and leaves separate from the plant, its the whole tree including the seed, stalk and roots.
  - ▶ (1) (b) any substance which contains THC is not Cannabis, it's a component of Cannabis
- ▶ Section 2 - Prescribed quantities for personal use by an adult person
  - ▶ (1) -The prescribed quantities should be demarcated for urban areas and townships and exclude Rastafari Communities in Zayan and Indigenous communities that have been cultivating before the Democratic Government took over from the Apartheid regime.
  - ▶ (2) - Include demarcated smoking areas to accommodate Rastafari in public places
  - ▶ (3) - An adult person has the right to remunerate in any manner suitable and affordable to them, as this is natural to do in cultural terms
- ▶ Section 3 - Cultivation Offences
  - ▶ (1)(a) (b) (c) - The offences listed should not apply to Rastafari Communities in Zayan and indigenous communities who are already cultivating Cannabis.
  - ▶ (2) (a) This regulation should not apply to Rastafari Communities in Zayan and their children as they are conceived and born into an environment that exposes them to Cannabis by culture.
- ▶ Section 4 - Cannabis Offences
  - ▶ The offences listed should apply to areas regulated by Governments, exempt should be awarded to Rastafari Communities in Zayan and Indigenous Communities.
- ▶ Section 6 - Offences involving a child
  - ▶ (1) (a) (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi) Should not apply to Rastafari Community members n Zayan as their children are exposed and born into cannabis environments from conception. Cannabis is part of their daily life, diet and healing, therefore we cannot isolate them from Cannabis cultivation, possession, consumption.
- ▶ Section 7 - Penalties



# RECOMMENDATION continued

- ▶ There is no offence in cultivating, dealing and healing with cannabis, rather there are a lot of benefits economically, environmentally and personally that cannabis possesses and therefore no one should be imprisoned or criminalized for performing such acts with cannabis.
- ▶ Section 9 - Regulation
- ▶ The regulations should apply to urban areas and exempt Rastafari Communities in Zayan as they are already cultivating for their personal, cultural and spiritual benefits.
- ▶ There is no offence in cultivating, using and dealing with natural herbs and plants created by the Almighty. Therefore We request the following to be taken into consideration:
  - ▶ 1. Recognition of the Rastafari Community in Zayan as the rightful custodians of the Cannabis Plant as Our Indigenous plant.
  - ▶ 2. Un-scheduling of the Cannabis plant as a Drug or harmful substance as stated in the Drug Act of 1922
  - ▶ 3. The disbanding of SAHPRA as a Regulatory Body and recall of all Cannabis Cultivation Licenses and Permits Issued in South Africa
  - ▶ 4. The formation of a Neutral Body that will include the Rastafari Community, Royalty and Indigenous Communities, Farmers and relevant Government Departments to research, conduct trials to determine the safe personal, cultural and economic development of the Cannabis Industry.
  - ▶ 5. Government support and prioritization of the autrocitized Rastafari Community in Zayan and Our Indigenous Communities.
  - ▶ 6. A Presidential Public apology addressed to the Indigenous communities, Rastafari Communities in Zayan and Royalty

# CONCLUSION



- ▶ It will be impossible to implement any new laws for regulating Cannabis / Dagga without the protection of indigenous communities, Rastafari communities, Royal leaders and current industry players.
- ▶ The bill must aim to destigmatize and criminalize dagga, thus government should openly and publicly acknowledge the Rastafari community as members of the community.
- ▶ Studies have to be made and data collected on the impact of the imposed 1922 Scheduling of Dagga as an opium had on the cultural, moral, health and economic benefit and development of indigenous communities and the Rastafari Community.
- ▶ Programs for reconciliation of families that denounced and out casted their very own children and community members as a result of the enforcement of the Drugs Act.
- ▶ The introduction of Buffer Zones between hemp farms, Dagga and Medical Cannabis cultivation and cultural areas where the land race is being promoted and grown.

# Conclusion continued



- ▶ The compensation and reparations for those percecuted, killed and sentenced for Dagga across all communities specially the Rastafari Community
- ▶ We avail Ourselves to help accelerate the decriminalization of dagga and education on responsible use medically, recreationally and spiritually.
- ▶ There is a demand for a public Presidential apology for the bloodshed of the defenders of this sacred dagga plant, as today it is proven that the indigenous communities and Rastafari Community were not mad or possessed they were just defending and preparing the nation for this era when the herb is due to be decriminalized into an industrial economy that is not monopolized to benefit multinational capitalists.
- ▶ Our Royalty across South Africa has allocated land for the cultivation, research and production of Dagga , Cannabis and Hemp.

