

## SHASHAMANE LAND GRANT REPORT II

Greetings to the global government of Rastafari-

One perfect love in the Name of the Almighty, Haile Selassie I.

"Africa Awaits Its Creators" ....H.I.M Haile Selassie I.

Greetings forwarded to all, from I Ras Mweya Masimba, Shashemene, Ethiopia , Africa.

Background in brief: Rastafari Artist, video producer, publisher, Activist and co-ordinator.

More specifically, Co-founder of the Centenary Committee for Rastafari, U.K, Founder of the I-vision video productions u.k/ethiopia.

Fist keeper of the Tabernacle\ Ethiopia.

Media and communication officer of the Jamaica Rastafari Development Community (JRDC), Shashemene, Ethiopia.

Repatriated to Ethiopia in 1996, from U.K/J.a.

The following represent preliminary answers to the question posed and received, and for which the fund was forwarded to cover the necessary expense that will allow all this to be possible.

Ras Kabinda, will be answering Questions 1-4.

(iv)...Mansions and organisation Reports.

(At this stage it too brief to submit a report from all the house. However this will be forth coming in the final, and more official version of this report that is due in the near future. I will however still give an brief summary of the state of the Nyhabinghy house, here in Shashemene.)

His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Haile Selassie I, Moral Theocratical Order of Nyhabinghy Reigne;..is the official name of what is affectionately referred to as the Nyhabingy Tabernacle.

This tabernacle was a direct result of a mandate given at an all house reasoning that took place on the land grant in the year 1992, as a part of the programme that was schedule as a part of the one month celebrations in honour of H.I.M Centenary.- whose foundation was laid on December 26, 1995 and to which was open on 23rd July, 1996, to commemorate the Earthday of H.I.M Haile Sellassie I. This event was attended by an international delegation of Rasses, most notably, the Late Ras Boanagease (Bongo Watto).

The gound, have been active ever since. First under the caretaker-ship of Ras Mweya and Ras Solo, and the later in 1999, with the presences of the ancient Elder couple of the Nyahbinghy order, Bongo Rocky, and Mother Baby I, who repatriated to Ethiopia that year.

The principal role of the tabernacle is to serve as a place of worship for the Rastafari faithful that observe the order of Nyhabingy.

In so doing, all the main Rastafari celebration dates are observed here, in the form of a Nyhabibghy, that attracts members of the faith, locally, nationally, and internationally.

The tabernacle, a huge circular structure, in supported with the male quarters, and an uncompleted sisterins quarters.

The male quarters currently are the homes of the two ancient couple. Bongo Raock and Mother Baby I, and also Bongo Ruepert, all of whom, are within there seventies, and who resides on this base permanently, as their home.

The tabernacle, is also use for meetings and gatherings, not only for the nyahbingy ones, but also for community gatherings of the J.R.D.C and any celebrity, or V.I.P, that may be visiting. Ceremonial blessing of newly born Rastafari youth within the community takes places there also. Annually, a large international turn come for the Iration celebration, followed by the coronation celebration, and then a smaller turn out for the other event.

Although on the 23rd July, the turn out is not only rasess from out side, but also the Ethiopia people are slowly getting aquaitant with this particular event, and the Addis Ababa community in particular, usually come in great numbers for this event.

The Tabernacle for the year since 1999, has been without proper administration. The pretext, being, not enough bingy I's are here to activate all the post and positions of responsibility. However things are communicated with the founding bredrens and along with the elder, all matters are approved this way that allows the activities to take place without interruption.

The Tabernacle, attract a large amount of tourist, and local Ethiopian visitors, daily. This is mainly because it has been feature on the Ethiopia television numerous times.

The Tabernacle is still uncompleted in it entirety. Still needing the outer courts to be secured with proper bars, to keep intruders out, and also the roof, needs new zinc and the support frames needs to be redone, since the are buckling in the center.

The Centenary Committee for Rastafari, are no longer the Custodian of the Tabernacle, is in the charge of the elders appointed to be based there.

As a result, all expense, all liability and all incoming finance are with in the charge of those who live there.

No international fund or body gives regular or continual support to the project, other than individual good will offerings.

The residing elders have no income other that occasional donations received from tourist, and visiting Rassess.

The Tabernacle are bekknown by the local administrator, and regional government officials, who visits use there and communicate with us, inviting use to event whenever.

The only thing that threatens the land grant is OUR PEOPLE WONT COME HOME.

It is a myth to even belief that the land grant is threaten, simply because there have been no land grant since the Derge government nationalised all the land in the 70's, and the redistributed it again to those who remained, which were 12 families in number.

The land exist, and the reputation of the land is what keeps it alive, and the fact that Rassess just keep on coming.

Anyone that wishes to live here, just have to come and compensate a one that is

occupying that stop, and that can be that individual land. Other than that it has to be done as an investor.

It not a case of extracting any one off the land, that will cause civil war. Furthermore there is no need for that. Land is their for living and dwelling, for rent, or purchase of property, not land. In Ethiopia, land is not for sale. When I make reference about compensation, it is usually a house made of Chika (mud hut style) that is usually sold with xxx amount of Zinc, with in a given size compound measured in carra meters, that is what is sold, not the land. I will submit a strategy for repatriation in the official report.

(v)Map of Shashemene and surrounding regions.  
To be sent in official report.

(vi) Preparations for the Ethiopia Millennium.

The Community have been invited officially to participate in the millennium celebration, in the capacity to seat on the planning board of the Shashemene Millennium committee.

Recently, the newly appointed chairman of the kabele, came to our community and announced a whole new attitude in respect and recognition of our community, and of the plans they have to well as to solve our problems that we have been face over the years. The fullness of these promises by the Administration, I will give in full in subsequent report.

The music fraternity, are like the frontline warriors of Rastafari here, because this is where the Ethiopian population is getting exposed to use. The recent Bob Marley celebration was a powerful public relation triumph for the Rastafari Community that live in Ethiopia.

(vii)Overview

Ethiopia Government and opposition.

The Government of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, is called the Federal Democratic Government of Ethiopia. It policy towards Rastafari, so far as proved to be very favorable, simply because, irrespective of the fact that they have not granted to our community legal status (To those of us that came on tourist visa and have not returned since), any legal documents, having said that they have never deported one of us nor imprisoned one of us nor persecuted any of us for not having the proper credentials.

The government have come on the media, television, and press, stating that the have a new bill in parliament to be passed that will make life 'better for the Rastafari community here'.

The federal government have also sent directive to the local government, stating, to leave us (who had built illegally on our land grant) alone. They also said that we should be give our land title for the land that we have in our possession, and that the relevant tax paper. Most of these directives were ignored by the local government.

In summery we don't have a problem with the federal government.

(e)The O.L F- is a terrorist organisation, it would be wise not to mention them in your communications.

(5) First it would be advisable that those intending to repatriate to come and see.

It is the cultural shock that affects people who come with the intention of staying. If they can overcome that, finding place will come through a little quest, but that won't be necessary. Hotels will serve until such time.

(6) Food is never a problem in Ethiopia.

(7) Please get out of the notion that the land is currently occupied. It means you can't come and find you one Ghasha, as it was given to give I&I, but it does not mean you can't find a place to live, and build your home, and raise your family on the Land Grant.

Shashemene, community received every weekend, visitor in the centre, exceeding over 250,000, every week since it is the only southern route out of the country, and also a major cross road town catering to four other regions, to which it is the only link and transport point, so please don't think that 500 people can fill up Shashemene.

Other Areas are numerous, since ones are free to live anywhere in Ethiopia.

This represents I-man provisional report, a more comprehensive one is forthcoming.

Until such time, I hope this will help towards the understanding of the reality of Repatriation to Shashemene.

One Love Ras Mweya Masimba.

Date: Wed, 23 May 2007 05:53:48 -0700 (PDT)

From: "Kabindah habreselassie" [jtmmsg@yahoo.com](mailto:jtmmsg@yahoo.com)

Hail RASTAFARI...

The Movements to inquire the possibilities of land allocation from the Rural Development Agency in Arba Minch has not been successful, the Head of the Agency has indicated that from the seven woredas that he has so far visited, suitable lands have not been identified, he requested that at least two more weeks be allowed in which he will seek to identify lands in the remaining six woredas.

In the Geisha area of Dawro, lands are possibly available, but the Investment Office has indicated that certain Rasta Men were given over two hundred and fifty hectares of land over a year ago, but have failed to materialise a Presence. How can I be trusted that I am serious, he has informed I that he has written a letter of warning to these Brothers and if they fail to meaningfully manifest any works, their allocation will be nullified. He advised that I return during the course of next week, when after consultations with the Admin, a decision will be taken.

I explained that I am not involved with the other Brothers and though I know them, my application is different, and my resources and the Company that I represent are too eager to implement a Program of Agricultural diversity. He seemed favourable to my reasoning and advised that I return next week by Tuesday or Wednesday, when it might be possible to view what lands are available.

Visited Wolaita Sodo who indicated that there may be possibilities in the Huambo region, within the Lake Abaya area, further consultations however reveal that the high levels of salinity of the lake has proven that the pH levels of the soil is not conducive to Agricultural development. Previous potential investors (flower) rejected the area after the Arba Minch University Research Teams advised against such a venture. Within the Wolaita Sodo area itself, only thirty hectares were available.

and the lands shown were not favourable, being waterlogged, other lands shown were totally unacceptable due the topography of the area.

Visited Arsi Negelle region on the invitation of the Kebele Chairman, I was shown a certain area of land that is presently being used for cattle grazing, which was indicated as being suitable for farming.

However, he could only consider short term use and was more interested in what I and I could build up in the area. He however had to further consult with the Elders before any further discussions. I informed him that I was more interested in long term Investment and from my appraisal, the lands indicated were reserved for cattle grazing and looked more like common use land, which had been set aside for specifically sustaining the livestock, when all the other lands have been cultivated.

The more definite option seems to be the Dawro area, although it has been indicated that at least nine kilometres of road may have to be cleared to facilitate access to available lands, the area is indeed forested.

I visited the Awassa Investment Agency and complained that despite various representations, I had not been able to gain suitable lands for the Program, he recommended further consultation in Dawro and that he would put in a good word for I and I. he informed I that there was an ongoing Program to allocate certain lands for Pineapple cultivation and that there was meeting to that effect in ADDIS to discuss matters relevant to land allocation in the Sidamo and Bokito region. It is a Program that is linked to the Dutch and Irish Development Agencies as Development partners in assessing market potentialities, planting materials, advise on different varieties as experienced in Ghana, cultivation and processing technologies. They are aligned to Ministry of AGRICULTURE and here I am in Addis to attend this meeting and establish whatever links at a higher Governmental levels that may facilitate allocation of certain lands..

These are the Movements pursued, I pray that something substantial or meaningful may be attained from these connections.

The funds that the I had previously forwarded to I Man have facilitated the Movements, the balance that I have will cover this Addis Movements, but the further inquiries into the Dawro region will need further support.

Tell Brother Lenny the cost of taxes to bring in an imported vehicle is almost equal to the costs expired in purchasing it....it is almost 100 percent...Further recent legislation has implied that in order to obtain duty free concessions, One has to show that at least 1 million birr in cash transfer has been transpired into Ethiopia. This is the reality

I can only pursue and be hopeful, but as indicated there are certain limitations by which I simply have to abide, be patient and Pray.  
Emperor Haile I Selassie I WILL OPEN THE DOOR..

RASTAFARI....LET I AND I BE STRONG HEARTED...THERE ARE SET THRONES OF JUDGEMENT ON BABYWRONG...I ADVISE IS TO COME HOME, NO MATTER THE OBSTACLES...THE VICTORY IS AT HAND

I also visited the Bale valley, where I witnessed that the Government owned thousands of hectares of land that are ploughed by tractors and reaped by combine harvesters, it was indicated that further afield there was more revelations, where certain rich dudes from Addis also own such vast acreages of land, in particular, one Investor had ten tractors and eighteen combine

harvesters.. I WILL FURTHER SEEK TO INVESTIGATE IF ANY SUITABLE LANDS ARE POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE as Bale is a vast region, it is 350 kilometres from Shasha, the lands are mainly cultivated in cindy and only one crop is planted a year.

Let RASTAFARI strengthen I and I day in and day out.. I and I are wholly committed to the Works for therein lies the Blessings

ONE RASTAFARI WORKS...PRAYERS AND BLESSED IRITATIONS.....K..