

**REPORT ON THE CONDITION
OF THE
ALMIGHTY RASTAFARI COMMUNITY IN GHANA**

**Submitted by
Empress Imara
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I. Quote of H.I.M. Haile Selassie First

“The Independent African States must assure that the growing weight of Africa is enlisted on the side of peace and justice to the end of avoiding a third holocaust which could well engulf the entire world and result in the total destruction of mankind.”

High Blessings and Greetings in the name of H.I.M. Haile Selassie First!

II. Introduction

The country of Ghana, now celebrating its 50th Anniversary of Independence, is proudly known as “The Gateway”. For those who recognize and wish to adhere to the mandate of H.I.M. to come out of Babylon, this land holds special significance. It is the opinion of many Diasporan born Africans that repatriation should begin here, on the shores West Africa. I & I fore parents were taken away as captives, and through all the ravages of slavery, colonialism, discrimination, prejudice and innumerable atrocities, the promise of keeping an obedient faithful remnant throughout the generations still is manifest. Ghana or Zion-Ghana as some choose to call it, is not without fault or need of improvement and cannot come in to its full glory until its Creators have come.

Triumphantly greeting I Trinity year at Home, I & I can send a firm and realistic report regarding the intricacies, perils, rites of passage, jeers, sneers, tears, cheers and victories that await one and all, non-partially. Re-integration into I & I rightful land spaces, privileges and claiming of I & I birthright is not an easy task. The son and daughter pioneers who precede I and include I, are still here and maintain anchor till Ones from the four corners alight in safety. Be forewarned however, that the fire is unceasingly conjured and blazing for the complete and utter destruction of where those abroad now reside, without apology. As much as the contents of this report can give a general indication of things to consider, overviews and information for discernment, it can never fully compare to an individual’s physical reconnaissance. It is truly only from this vantage point that a One or family can see themselves escaped from hell.

I applaud and salute the organizational process overtaken by I & I Bredrin sited in the request document and implore the contingent to seriously keep up and step up the pace. This preliminary report is submitted for the benefit and dissemination of the nation as a whole and should be taken as the opinion and compilation of One. I & I speak and write candidly without intention of insult and pray that the passion of Life for which I & I stand in Haile Selassie First for I & I family can be felt over land and sea.

Empress

III. ARC Ghana Register

1. Population Overview and Demographic Analysis (****SOME OF THESE NUMBERS REPRESENT ESTIMATES****)

of Repatriates from each country:

Carribbean	Jamaica	20		
	Barbados	3		
	Virgin Islands	2		
U.S.(Atlanta 5, N.Y. 1)		6		
UK		9		
EU(France)		5		
# of elders over 65+		M : -0-	F : 1	
# of adults 36-64		M : 21	F : 7	
# of youth 18-35		M : 9	F : 5	
# of children 1-17		M : 9	F : 10	

of years Repatriated: ***

• Just arrived	2
• 1-3 years	7
• 4-6 years	11
• 7-9 years	9
• 10-12	2
• 17 years	1
• 20 years	1

(****Please note: Children have not been included in years repatriated count or country count. Jamaican born and country coming from numbers are interchangeable in most instances****)

of indigenous Ras from each region

****Eastern	40
****Greater Accra	250

****Ashanti	150
****Volta	20

2. Register of Real Estate

and description of housing units owned and occupied 14

unoccupied 0

and description of business real estate 1

and description of acres currently used for collective farming

- Somanya 40
- Mamfe 5
- Aburi 1

and description of acres available for farming vastly innumerable

yields from individual plots tonnage to be monitored starting in June/July

and description of other structures (sea containers converted) 3

and description of beds for Ethiopian Millennium

- Ras hotel in Winneba 23 rooms
- Guest houses sufficient and based on region
- Hotels sufficient in number & based on affordability

Various options and recommendations for obtaining real estate

(Refer to www.info-ghana.com for accommodation and land acquisition details, Ras developed web-site)

2. Register of developmental Projects

List and description of developmental projects

- Construction of Ras farmer collective retail outlet
- Construction of Haile Selassie First Empress Menen, Academy
- Construction of EWF Diasporan Affairs office

- African Organic Certification Board (AOCB) registration
- Vehicle for Empress

Project budgets

Ras farmer cooperative retail shop	\$ 7,000
Haile Selassie First, Empress Menen Academy	\$ 18,000
EWF Diasporan Affairs	\$ 20,000
AOCB	total not available
Vehicle for Empress	\$ 12,000

Project requests (See Appendix "A")

IV Mansion and Organizational Reports

Due to the short notice of this report submission, formal requests could not be made to the various mansions. Please submit a request to each directly from the Council. E-mailed documents will be forwarded personally.

Addressing Info

EWF, Inc	Ras Aswad
Nyahbinghi	More Fire
TTOI	Daddy Boscoe
EABIC	Priest Bonnick

V Outline/Overview of Ghanaian Govt, Institutions and Opposition groups

(See Appendix "B")

APPENDIX “A”

Project requests

Project Synopsis: The Ras farmer’s cooperative retail shop project was conceptualized by I and launched at the Empress Menen Selah-bration in 2006. Farmers in attendance voted on three architectural renderings that were submitted by Ras Aswad and one chosen to build upon. Ras Areya who is Builder/Contractor, was given the drawing and drafting and quantifying work was done. The cost was determined and from that point with no funding it remains a design concept. Plan “B “ is to use a temporary location 3 times a strong to build consumer awareness and run only a farmer’s market starting end of June/July 2007.

Project synopsis: The first concern for a repatriate family is where they will live, the second is where the youth will go to school. In Babylon, most public schools are now well acquainted with dreadlocked youth. Most parents still have to make stern appearances and set the rules regarding their children among the others. Ghana is still colonial in that area. Government or public schools are not academically or physically considerable when making this search and if one is found to be reasonably equipped pr well kept they don’t allow the dreadlocked hair covered or uncovered. Cultural norm is shaved heads for both girls and boys. Private schools are more permissible, but proximity may cause a real schedule challenge. Therein remains the need to have our own. For the longest time the request for a “Ras” school has gone unfulfilled. The concept, outline details of management, codes, fees, and location options were presented at the Empress Menen Selah-bration 2006 and additional suggestions from the community were noted. Being unable to manifest financial support a building is not currently in the works. Plan “B” was to shift focus to the development of the curriculum in preparedness for structure. The first draft will be submitted to the Empress of Zion collective in July and prayerfully revisions will be finished for Ethiopian Millennium presentations.

Project synopsis: The EWF, Inc Diasporan Affairs office project was launched Jan 7, 2006. The idea is for this office to assist repatriates with

on the ground settling in arrangements. The EWF, Inc local #1 Accra, Ghana purchased land, broke ground and laid foundation in Central Accra in the historic Cultural Arts Center, located on prime undeveloped beach front property. With financial support not manifesting and out of pocket funds depleted, the project is incomplete. Plan "B" EWF, Inc borrows space from the Pan Organizing Committee near by and continues to advocate and assist those who support African Unity.

Project synopsis: The African Organic Certification Board is project that I (Empress Imara) am currently submitting to the Ghana Standards Board, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Export Development Council for technical advice and implementation. This project was organized out of need of service and knowledge of the importance of Food Security and Fair Trade. Currently no entity exists in Africa for certification, while inspectors and standards come from Europe. The need for this Board is growing with the consciousness for organic products, environmental issues and health implications. Africa is the breadbasket to the world and most Ras and indigenous populations in Africa rely on farming. African owned, independent, affordable, certification of produce that meets EU, USDA and other foreign market regulations seemed a natural progression. Full cost not completed in estimation. Investors are welcomed.

Project synopsis: A vehicle for Empress is prayerfully apparently obvious. I work in 4 regions and take public transport, equivalent and packed like Jamaican minibuses, to do this work. I live in the mountains and on most days which means traffic starting at 6 am, it takes about two hours to get into Accra. Volta region is four hours away, Eastern region is 1 hour away. I have an NGO that services education, health and agricultural interests. It is run from the farming profits I make in organic mushroom farming which I do single-handedly. I crop, package and deliver into restaurant and hotels in Accra, Cape Coast (3 hours away) and still go home every night to the mountains. I am requested by all of the Rastafari mansions in Ghana for administrative consultation, management development, and community activist duties and work well with all in context and additional to I own NGO activities.

Appendix "B"

Socially, Ghana is a relatively stable country and environment. Borders are accessible and neighboring countries at peace. For Ras living in Ghana the main issue remains as it does worldwide, economic sustainability. Every individual and family faces this responsibility and options are available but usually without start up capital, the ventures remain out of reach. It is unfortunate that I & I have caused an air of distrust. For many years calls have gone out to support building projects, sponsorship of elders, and general funding for one purpose or another. The hard truth is that many projects have not been supported, or even seen completion. This reality has set the tone for mistrust and apprehension. Accounting measures are not transparent, and when questions arise, no concrete answers are given or recourse for correction or collection undertaken. Generally a ones name is spoiled but beyond that, it is chalked up as another failed effort. In Ghana I & I consciously choose projects that are short term (1-3 months) that give participants a realistic picture into what it will take to maintain and increase an effort. Should participation wane, it indicates to the community that it is not socially mature to collectively support the task. Ghana looks forward to becoming the model for Ethiopia in all terms. Until I & I establish community entities such as :a school, a natural health clinic, and a collective business with banking evidence of profitability, I & I cannot ask or expect local or international governments or leaders to give audience and take I & I seriously. It is safe to surmise that a mass move of 200-500 Ras will not be coming anytime soon and visualizing realistic goals must be the focus and standard for I & I dialog. Ghana has extensive land masses and food is in full abundance all year around and once Ones have made a reconnaissance visit the answers will be obviously clear.

Conclusion

I humbly suggest that some participants carefully revisit their pilgrimage effort for Ethiopia for this Sept. and realistic determine its necessity. Asking themselves the question “What purpose does it serve in I repatriation effort?” The cost involved (also going to conferences in the Caribbean) can be channelled to set the needs of the people instead to acquiring frequent flier miles and pictures to post in web-sites of those in attendance. For instance if 10 people who were flying in decided to donate their air fare to building the school, I & I would have an estimated \$18,000 if the tickets are \$1,800. The Caribbean conference is the same deal. Teleconference and send air fare, hotel and transport budgeted funds to Africa. Ones want to know where they are going, live, eat, and go to school expecting all these amenities on a platter. Please let Ones set standards of community improvement and reduce paper clutter, internet opinion chatter and other manners of going round and round. Ones are over complicating the process based on doubt and fear. I support asking questions and as many that are necessary to determine a course of action, but honestly Ones keep asking the same questions and don't make a move. I await the arrival of doers and workers for H.I.M.

One,
Empress