



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2008

REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In history has not been told and it is upon us to let the world know and see. Although not much has been said about the black story. Black people boasted of some of the most advanced civilizations in the world. The Moors ruled Spain and made it a successful city with running water, sewages while rest of Europe nearby was still in the dark ages...living in caves. The Great Greek Scholars were in actual fact students of African Universities. The Great Pyramids were built long, long before Pythagoras was born. Therefore the Pythagoras rule ..the 3,4,5 triangle existed long before him.

It is interesting to note that this year has seen the Black History month celebrations extend to a wide audience. The University of Botswana in collaboration with the American Embassy hosted a black film festival as their input in this great month. Mahalapye saw for the first time celebrations organized by Ras Tafari idrens at the bus rank

WHY AFRICA IS FALLING APART

Africa the land of plenty with good soils especially along the rift valley system. Africa cannot feed itself. Africa can not look after its poor, children and the sick. Africa is poor. It is a very poor continent. More than 80% of the people survive on less than one US Dollar per day.

This is Africa. Africa alone has more than 85% of the world minerals. Botswana alone produces the largest amount of gem stones by value(diamonds in the world). In the Mining Industry mineral deposits are quantified and a value given to such deposits. The profitability of such a mining operation is determined by value of mineral e.g. g/t for gold, carats for diamond, rate of production ,labor cost etc. This basically means Africa's mineral wealth can be quantified. We can have a good estimate figure of Africa's worth in terms of minerals. It's a big, big, big number. Still, African leaders fail to use this collective power to unsettle and compete equally with the western world. That is why we are failing. We have vast lands to produce enough food to feed Africa and the rest of the world. Our current crop of leaders has failed to move the African revolution to its required levels. No wonder they all chickened out... cold feet to set up the United States of Africa mostly preferring a gradual approach.

From independence most of our leaders got involved in a game they never set. The stage was set. From independence, join commonwealth, aid, multi party democracy, IMF loans - the list is endless - deals and treaties, trade agreements still we got poorer and more indebted to West. In some instances a country would pay more to debt than it puts into education health infrastructural development. How do you expect such a state to develop? Who has the interests of Africa at heart? Look at Somalia.. I mean the Americans are so involved its wrong. Look at Dafur. What about Joseph Garang Is this it. Is this what Africa can do for its fallen sons.

The African has to rise up and shine. What Africa has failed to do was to shed off the colonial master's coat...some countries had colonialist draft them a constitution.

RAS TAFARI IN TRANSITION



Dr. Ikael Tafari

Excerpts from an interview between Dr. Ikael Tafari and Prince Nna obtained from the book "Ras Tafari in Transition Vol 1" written by Ras Ikael Tafari.

- Q:** Prince Nna, the crucial question is: why did the PRG look on Ras Tafari AS a threat during the course of the Grenada revolution.
- A:** Because the Rastafarian were more popular, more grassroots and more genuinely revolutionary than the Maurice Bishop administration at that time.
- Q:** What kind of following did the Rastaman have during that period?
- A:** Rasta had a bigger following then than bishop and his people.
- Q:** What kind of number among the Rases themselves are we talking about here?
- A:** At that stage remember it wasn't Rasta alone. It was

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EDITORIAL

One Love People Get Ready. Blessed Love. This month of February is here and in Botswana ones and ones are busy running functions to celebrate The Black History Month. This has become an annual event that has seen the Ides involve a large number of people. Jah Works aka Ditiro rising to the occasion one more to the occasion. The I has for the past years worked hard to see that this function is a success and we give thanks for the energy and hold tight RASTA.

WAR...ROUMORS OF WAR.....

We have observed with great sadness the turn of events in Kenya. The looting the killing and sheer brutality of Africans on to their own...One wonders how can people have so much hatred fro their fellow men. Someone has to be accountable. These things are injustices that were inherited from the colonial masters. Unfortunately when Africans took over power they never went back to rectify these instead they carried on marginalizing other ethnic groups and in some countries like Botswana even adopted constitutions that rendered the other peoples of lesser status in the same country. The problem is all over Africa hence war and rumors of war. These problems need to be tackled head on otherwise we are in for a big surprise.

IF I FORGET THEE OH JERUSALEM

The Palestine Questions continues even up to today. The occupation of Palestine by the White Jews who are not the original Jews... The land of grief where young boys face Israel machine guns with stones. Israel with its American support has continued to kill and destabilize Palestine but Let Jah be Praised

AFRICAN COMMAND – AFRICOM

America has been courting African countries to set up an African command in one of our states. We are pleased that no African state except "Liberia" came out openly willing to host the said command. We do not want America to set up their base on our soil. We do not want these warmongers and liars to come and corrupt our land. See what they have done in Iraq, see what they have done in Afghanistan...The people will triumph. Long live the struggle against American domination long live. We know we will win. Jah Guide. With our Blood we will write our names.

Ras Tafari Works

His majesty say we have to maintain a balance between our spiritual and our material needs. **Roots** caught up with Idrens who do some works around Gaborone and reasoned with a few. Most of the Ides we reasoned with run stalls in town. These stalls are mainly stocked with Ras Tafari regalia.



L-R. *Rases Kedi and Noah, Big Youth at their stalls at the bus rank in Gaborone*

Another I who specializes in Ital.. Ras Sido Picture on the right serving ital at a reggae live shows at Tlokweng border gate. From reasoning with the I he studied hospitality. This he studied in South Africa for three years. This involves preparing ital, house work cleanliness and them works. From the mans words they dub original Inl food in a morden way still. Roots Mag had the pleasure of enjoying the blessed Ital from the one Sido stil and we give thanks. The I sells his food at the bus rank. Although he started off with a small number of customers the numbers grew because people generally want healthy food nowadays.. Apart from selling at the bus rank the I always sells Ital at Inl fnctions.. during dance hall and ting (dub session in other words). Next time you in the area pass through for pure Ital..

Below.. *Ras Sido serving Ital. (white shirt and emancipation cap) during a dance at Tlokweng border*



WHY IS AFRIKA FALLING APART

It was from this background that those tribes or communities that were allies to the British (colonialist) always got the better of the constitution. This created a lot of animosity amongst Africans in one particular county. Because of those Leaders who were selfish and counter the African Revolution went on to suppress their fellow Africans...Denying them access to schools and particular jobs in the government.

There is a need for Africa to Unite more than ever before. The challenges of the world and the bullish mentality of the rich nations need Africa to pool its resource together.

All Pan African leaders who dared make a clear plan and strategy on the unification of Africa were toppled from power by coups. Lumumba was assassinated. They spoke of an African Army. Kwame Nkrumah, spoke of an African Army. The West was behind these coups. The African Army is fundamental to the Unification of Africa.

The African Union needs to strengthen the African Army. Africa must be able to defend its gains from all aggressive states.

The African Revolution has to be brought to the ordinary Africans. It has to be owned by ordinary Africans in the country side. These are the masses that give the revolution momentum. When it rolls everything on its path is crushed.

We need an Army solely trained for the unification of Africa, the defense of Africa, to jealously guard our gains in Africa.

Maibuye I Africa ... Izwe Lethu.... We will not sleep nor rest until Africa is free... we will sacrifice our lives for Africa..... Mayibuye I Africa Mayibuye.....Jah Ras Tafari

HIM SPEAKS ON LEADERSHIP

Leaders are people who raise the standard by which they judge themselves and which they are willing to be judged. The goal chosen, the objective selected and requirements imposed, are not merely for their followers alone. They develop with consummate energy and devotion their own and knowledge in order to reach the standards they themselves have set. His whole hearted acceptance of the demands imposed by ever high standards this basis of all human

is the basis of all human progress. A love of high quality, we must remember is essential in a leader.

Dependability is another requirement in a leader. To be dependable is to accept responsibility and to carry it out faithfully. A leader will always be willing to take counsel from his people, but will often have to act on what his own mind tells him is right. This demands that a leader Hs trained himself out of any inordinate fear of making mistakes.

To embark successfully on a career involving leadership demands courageous and determined spirit. Once a person has decided upon his life work and is assured that doing the work for which he is best endowed and equipped, he is filling a vital need, what he then needs is faith and integrity, coupled with a courageous spirit, so that, no longer preferring himself to the fulfillment of his task, he may address himself to the problems he must solve in order for him to be effective.

One mark of the great leader is that he feels sufficiently secure to devote his thought and attention to the well being of his surbonidnates and the perfection and the perfection of his task, rather than the approval or disapproval of others.

He who would be a leader must pay the price in self discipline and moral restraint. This entails the correction and improvement of personal character than is expected of others. To be first in place, one must be first in merit. It should not surprise us then, to find that the greater number of acknowledged leaders have been people who trained themselves in the art of discipline and obedience.

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Rasta and the general public which fully supported the Rastafari cause. You could even see this at our weekly Nyahbinghi meetings. Plenty more people were coming to our Nyabhinghi celebrations than those going to Maurice Bishop and dem political meetings. And it caused jealousy.

Q: What number of Rases in the town area would be gathering these Nyabhinghis?

A: At that time, approximately a thousand to twelve hundred Rastas-I not speaking yet of sympathizers and people coming to hear what the Rasta man had to say?

Q: You mean three or four hundred people from the general public?

A: Plenty more than that. Whole villages of people. Especially in places like Victoria, Gouyave and Sauteurs and right in St. George's

Ras Tafari Wedding in Malawi

By: Bro. Paliani

The 28th of October 2007 entered into the annals of history as a day of immense significance to one just married couple, Ras PD and Sis Leah and the entire Rastafari family of Malawi at large. It was on this very day, barely 46 days into the new millennium as far the ancient Ethiopian calendar is concerned that some Rastafarians and other people from various denominations of faith gathered to witness the tying of a knot of marriage between Ras PD and Sis Leah at a Nyahbinghi Tabernacle which is located on the foot of Ndirande Mountain in the centre of Malawi's commercial city of Blantyre.

"This is a special day because never has this sort of event happened in the entire history of Rastafari movement in Malawi. Therefore consider yourself uniquely blessed to be amongst the people who are here this morning to witness this," Ras Earthquake who officiated the wedding at the tabernacle said in his opening remarks.

During the officiation ceremony, part of the audience that most likely must have been comprised of catholics, protestants, pentecostals among others at different moments sang along a vernacular version of a popular Rastafari chant;

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Marcus Mosiah Garvey

"Look for me in the whirlwind or the storm, look for me all around you, for, with God's grace, I shall come and bring with me countless millions of black slaves who have died in America and the West Indies and the millions in Africa to aid you in the fight for Liberty, Freedom and Life"

Q: There are more Binghamman in the country than in the town at that time?

A: The Rasta people in Grenada in that period lived more in the mountain, in the interior. A good portion of brethren also lived in the town, but the biggest concentration was in the hills. Rasta in Grenada was originally a hills vibration like in most of the other Caribbean islands. *It was Maurice Bishop administration that ran the Rasta out of the hills.*

Q: At what stage?

A: That was at the time the Cubans started to come into Grenada, say around the first three months of the revolution

Q: That early?

A: Yes. Very early in the revolution, Maurice Bishop started fighting against the Ras Tafari. Technically, psychologically and then openly. There are many ways, you know. You have to be very sharp to observe these intellectuals and lawyers like Maurice and Radix and all

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"Let the words of I n I mouths and the meditation of I n I hearts be acceptable in thy sight for Iver!" This marveled almost every member of the Rastafari family that was present.

From the tabernacle Ras PD, Sis Leah and the entire bridal party amidst unrestrained cheers throughout the way, were driven to Chichiri residential area a few kilometers away for a luncheon under the escort of a convoy that was artistically decorated in green, red and yellow colours. At around 3pm, Ras PD and Sis Leah arrived at ITEM (Institute of Technology and Management) where a reception ceremony took place. By then a mammoth crowd which braved the scorching sun had already gathered an hour earlier to acclaim the first Ras Tafari bride and bridegroom in a typical traditional way. Among the numerous people that presented assorted gifts to Ras PD and Sis Leah were a group of women who represented membership of Tikondane Pentecostal Church.

Since 1993 when the Ras Tafari movement re-emerged from oblivion after undergoing draconian suppression by the post independence government, it has not only been unheard of but also considered rather awkward for a 'main stream' Christian or Muslim to abandon all other personal commitments like going to church on a Sunday morning among others in order to patronize a function organized by Ras Tafari people. Astonishingly, it appeared that on this particular Sunday, with indescribable enthusiasm residents of Ndirande township preferred to be part of history in the making by attending the first Ras Tafari wedding in Malawi.

End Of February will see yet another function at Tsholofelo hall and garden. Another event organized by Ras Tafari Idrens in Gaborone led by Jah Works. The day will include poetry song and dance. Of Course there will be Nyabinghi drumming and chanting at the session. It's mainly traditional foods will be prepared for ones and ones to feast and enjoy. Ones and ones are invited to this great celebration of Blackness and our Africanness. The black story has always been hidden and distorted by the so called white scholars of the past. This was mainly to discredit InI and deny us our rightful place in history as creators, inventors, philosophers. Imhotep the father of medicine was an African. **Selah**

Proverbs 7 16-19

There are seven things that the Most High hates and cannot tolerate

- A lying tongue
- Hands that kill innocent people
- A mind that thinks up wicked plans
- Feet that hurry off to do evil
- A witness who tells one lie after another
- And someone who stirs trouble among friends



Ones and ones skanking during a Live Reggae show at Tlokweg Border

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Elegy for Beirut

Where was I
On that grim night
When the gun-monsters
Danced in the blood
Of Palestinian exiles

Where was I
If only to fling
A handful of stones
At those killers
Blow loud the rams horn
Snuff out the unholy candles
The dying
Is not over yet
Palestine will be avenged

Don Mattera

other political gangsters.

Q: How many Rastas were in the original People's Liberation Army?

A: The Liberation Army was predominantly Rasta. Let's say two-thirds at least.

Q: You mean a thousand or more?

A: More than a thousand. There were Rastas in it from all different regions of the island.

Q: Did any of the Rases sit on any of the popular representative bodies of the Rev_ like zonal councils and committees for example?

A: The Rasta people were on the frontline, looking to preserve the peace and security of the country and to quell any violent opposition like. Rasta at that time was a middleman and a liberator. His part in the revolution was keeping peace while and dem part was organizing political power.

To be continued in the next issue.....warriors