



Greetings and heartfelt irits in the name of His Imperial Majesty Haile I Selassie I from the Trinidad and Tobago Rastafari United (TTRU).

2005 GROUNDNATION TRIP REPORT.

The TTRU was formed in 1999 to meet the growing need for Rastafari Inity in Trinidad & Tobago. In 1999, TTRU was able to purchase 9.2 acres of land in South Trinidad (Fyzabad) for the purpose of erecting and establishing a small but effective educational and self-help project as well as the development of an agricultural project.

The TTRU held its first annual motorcade on July 23rd 2005 in commemoration of the 113th Earthlight of His Imperial Majesty Haile I Selassie I, the motorcade was a tremendous success.

The TTRU US house left JFK airport on August 3rd, 2005, to engage in what was to become a 13 day high energy groundation. On arrival at The Piarco International airport, Trinidad, the delegation was met by TTRU vice chairman Ras Lincoln and EOC member Ras Abayomi (also a member of the TTRU) The pit stop made on the way to Fyzabad to sample a local Indian delicacy called "doubles" was a welcomed event.

TTRU international headquarters in Fyzabad, Trinidad, was officially opened by Sister Aiyana, the 16 year old daughter of Ras Ravin-I, in a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 14th 2005. This young Sistren made the long tiring trek along with other TTRU US house members, beginning at midnight of the 2nd of August, starting in Massachusetts and driving 4 hrs to JFK airport in New York, arriving in Trinidad at 3.05 pm on the 3rd via Grenada. She was given the utmost respect and recommendations for being the youngest member of the delegation, with word sound being forwarded to the local community of her involvement. She also made a financial contribution, making it possible for the TTRU to purchase and occupy the land that it now owns.

The delegation arrived at TTRU base camp around 5:30 pm to begin immediate construction on sleeping arrangements, after much anticipation of I n I equipment not arriving on time (our equipment was shipped a month earlier), but due to hurricane Emily, ships were docked on another island en route to Trinidad. Due to good relations and business dealings, a representative of customs called to say that I n I gear had arrived and was moved up to the front, so we were able to get access to it the same day we arrived.

On the night of the 3rd, members of the Rastafari family in the immediate area all came up to the camp for a visit. The groundation was officially started with the sounds of Nyabinghi chanting and drumming which echoed into the stillness of the night, followed by heartical reasoning. We were also treated to a very entertaining session by several Rastafari children, who sang songs of praises. The discussions centered on the concerns of the Rastafari Family in Trinidad.

The next morning (4th) everyone was awake as early as 5:30 am, by 9:00 am construction of a bamboo frame 20' x 30' tent was underway, which was filmed, photographed and documented as a tent building workshop. The work/study participants were given hands-on instruction on how to correctly use a machete while cutting 60 -100 ft. long bamboo. All during the remainder of the day, the energy was high with preparations for the 6th and the 7th. In the night Bongo Zack of the EPF (Ethiopian Peace Foundation) visited with a small delegation, after much reasoning and ises, the EPF delegation extended an invitation to Ras Nathaniel of I.R.I.E to attend and conduct the Repatriation Census workshop, which was conducted at the TTRU headquarters.

August 6th was very well attended, surpassing the expectations of the TTRU. TTRU's newly elected Chairman Ras Jag hosted the day's activities. Ras Jag (TTRU FOUNDER) invited Dr. Lance Seunarine (TTRU Educational Director), a Trinidadian author of many books on Rastafari, to address the congregation, after which TTRU vice chairman Ras Lincoln (TTRU FOUNDER) gave the most heartfelt word sound, which moved one woman (not a Rasta) to tears. There was a deafening silence as Ras Ravin (TTRU FOUNDER) came to the podium to block his sound, which was given respect and total support of the congregation and local community (Rastas and non-Rastas alike). Ras Jag gave heartical irits and backgrounds on the speakers in attendance, after which EPF Coordinator Bongo Zack gave his sound followed by Ras Ivor of the Grenada Nyabinghi House. At around 10:00 pm the congregation started to close. Afterwards, the reasoning continued into the early morning hours of the 7th.

The morning of the 7th greeted I n I with a request for intervention from a Rastafari Sistren concerning her exceptionally bright youth who was having problems at school. This reasoning highlighted the concerns of many other parents in the community. TTRU educators took the outcome of the reasoning under advisement and began to work immediately on solutions.

Later that day, Dr. Seunarine gave one of his highly entertaining lectures, followed by Dr. Jennifer Jones-Kernaham of the Opposition Political Party of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, who highlighted and described the social and environmental situation in Trinidad and Tobago.

Immediately following the 2 days of community reasoning sessions, some members of the US/TRINIDAD TTRU houses were treated to a visit to the town on San Fernando and La Brea. On the La Brea leg of the trip we visited the "Pitch Lake" (Asphalt) which is the largest in the world, and were given a very educational tour by Rasta Elder Chanker (I n I tour guide). Ras Chanker was extremely eloquent in his dispensing of information concerning the use of Asphalt on the world's roadways. For anyone visiting Trinidad it will come as a surprise to see the un-repaired and under-repaired road system in Trinidad and Tobago. The delegation was then taken to the Vessingny beach where the warm waters of Trinidad directly opposite the coast of Venezuela cooled down the extreme heat.

In the days following, TTRU conducted a series of workshops and reasonings on the political and cultural situation in Trinidad and Tobago, resulting in decisions to directly work with the local community in fostering and maintaining a pattern of behavior that eventually will properly implement HIM Haile Selassie's global solutions for economic and cultural advancement.

A TTRU contingent paid a visit to Ras Roger's farm situated in the southwest corner of Trinidad, in a town called Point Fortin, where an organic farming workshop was conducted. Ras Roger explained his farming techniques and methods on the 5 acre farm which houses a two story building.

The rains came down on August 14th almost non-stop, as TTRU members were busily working to keep the torrential downpour from collapsing the congregational tent. A temporary medical center was set up, where 47 people (Rastas and non-Rastas) were treated to free health care by three Cuban Doctors, who came as part of a mobile health unit bought on site by Senator Jones. Afterwards the Doctors made a pledge of a working relationship with the TTRU to provide free health care in the future. Even after the rains stopped and the doctors had left, people were still coming. The TTRU has since embarked on discussions of building a free health center on its land in Fyzabad, Trinidad.

The TTRU women's arm was well supported and defined, with the Sistren all in agreement that they should step up and perform more positive roles in the community. The role of the woman in the community was discussed, the outcome being that of more involvement in HIM business. The development of better family relations was of high importance. Sister Ichel Abraham of the TTRU US house was well accepted and missed upon her departure.

The TTRU groundation was an overwhelming success, which brought the administration and membership closer together to pledge support and love for the tasks at hand. During the 13 days, TTRU showcased all of its aims and objectives, highlighting its purpose as a non-churchical order. The TTRU plan for local Rastafari governance and inity was very well accepted as members of the community vowed their support for community development. The one idea that seemed to take hold is the fact that Rastafari people need to move closer to the general community and develop better relationships with their immediate neighbors. This idea was heartically accepted all sides.

Throughout the entirety of the trip, our stay in Trinidad was very well supported and we were well cared for; food and ital was in abundance, as Rastafari farmers brought in a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Binghi Kai who was I n I chef for the duration of the trip had I n I eating some very ila ital everyday.

Next year 2006 the TTRU will be making another trip in July to the island for its yearly groundation. Interested parties are asked to start planning now, and the necessary information will be posted soon.

TTRU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Binghi Kai for taking care of I n I dietary needs.

Bongo Zack.

Bongo Shawn.

Ras Marcus.

Sister Trudy.

Sister Merle.

Bro. Frank.

Sister Savitri.

Sister Grace

Sister Liz.

Sister Girlin.

Ras Kawame.

Sister Gloria.

Ras Tights.

To the EPF members for their support

To the Nyabinghi house of Grenada and Ras Ivor.

To the Nyabinghi house of Siparia.

Dr. Jennifer Jones-Kernaham.

To the Cuban Doctors.

Bro, Bunda for supplying I n I with electricity for the duration.

To the entire neighborhood surrounding TTRU base for all their support.

Ras Roger.

Elder Ras Chanker.

Bro. Bomber for I n I transport.

Ras Pappas

To the Rastafari Corporation for their support.

To Bongo Lenny for the sacrament.

Ras Alex

Ras Abayomi

Ras Nathaniel of I.R.I.E.

AND TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HELPED I N I TO MAKE THE SUCCESS
OF THE FOUNDATION POSSIBLE, IN THE UNUTED STATES AND
TRINIDAD.

Give thanks and praises

TTRU CENTRAL COMMITTEE.