

NEVIS

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Press Release

The 13th Summit of the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation (CRO) Inc. concluded in Nevis on Tuesday 25th August following the election of officers to run the affairs of the regional body for the next three years.

Bongo Wisely (Burnet Sealy) of the of the Iyanola Council for the Advancement of Rastafari of St. Lucia was elected Chairman, with Ras Iral Jabari of ICAR, Barbados as Co-Chair. Sisters Yejida Parry and Shelly Huggins of the One Love Rastafari Movement of Nevis were elected as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, while Sister Idesha Jackson of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was elected Treasurer with Ras David Sebastian of Trinidad & Tobago elected to the office of Assistant Treasurer. Outgoing Chairman, Ras Franki Tafari of Antigua and Barbuda will serve as the PRO of the organisation with Sister Ashaya of Guadeloupe appointed to serve as Assistant PRO.

The Conference was officially declared open by the Nevis Deputy Premier, the Honourable Hensley Daniel on Thursday 20th August who issued a call to the Rastafari delegates to collaborate with the Caribbean governments and the Nevis Island Administration particularly, in helping to remedy some of the shortcomings of Caribbean society, with a focus on youth development. A delegation from the Conference later met with Minister Daniel and outlined several areas of cooperation and collaboration between the CRO and the Nevis Island Administration. The Minister pledged his assistance in realising these community based development projects.



Executive Director, Ijahnya Christian of Anguilla conducted a fruitful seminar on Organisational Leadership with a practical exercise in budgeting. Herbalist Ras Bobby Olivacce of St. Thomas USVI conducted a well received 'health and herbs' exposition at the Summit's culture and trade event at Villa Flat. The Conference also journeyed to St. Kitts where a large gathering at the Cayon

Community Centre reasoned on some of the concerns and issues affecting the Rastafari communities in the Caribbean.

Honoured guest at the 13th CRO Conference was Dub Poet, author and producer Yasus Afari of Jamaica who entertained the audience at the Nevis Cultural Centre on Friday night (21st August), with a rousing performance of poetry and reasoning. Ras Yasus also pledged his assistance in developing viable economic and business projects with the CRO and the Nevis Island Administration.

The 13th CRO Conference included delegates from Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Thomas USVI, St. Lucia and Jamaica along with members of the Rastafari community of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Outputs of the 13th CRO Summit included:

- A Concept Note for an initiative in culture based enterprise in Nevis in 2010
- A Resolution urging the formalization and finalisation of the process to include the African Diaspora as the 6th Region of the African Union, and
- A Statement on Rastafari Profiling influenced by the death of a young Rastafarian in Barbados on 17th June 2008 following an incident involving the Royal Barbados Police Force.