

AFRIKAN LIBERATION DAY



Left: Egypt's president Nasser at the Cairo summit 1964

"we stand on the world stage today before the audience of the world opinion..." Emperor Haile Selassie 1963

Afrikan Liberation Day began with the formation of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 25th May 1963. At that time only 32 states were free from colonial bondage and therefore participated freely on that first summit. The main aim of the OAU and the objective was to unite Africans against colonial oppression those at home and abroad and bring peace and prosperity in the continent. It is on record that the House of Rastafari in Cape Town in particular commemorated this day through the inspiration of Emperor Haile Selassie and in honour of the prophet Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the father of Pan Africanism since 1994. We acknowledge the fact that the government of South Africa and other member states are surely beginning through the years to recognize this day. Afrika must be free.

Nevertheless, now that after decades of this very important history the continent has been free politically, it is imperative that we avoid diluting the real reasons behind this formation. Afrika is still "awaiting its creators". We observe very close the celebrations in South Afrika in particular. It seems everything is about 'nice time', tribal identity which is portrayed through dancing and singing. Rastafari Working Council use this opportunity to call for Equal Rights and Justice for African Masses and for South Africa to set the Ganja Prisoners Free, stop torture and this imprisonment without trial. That's where we begin. Rastafari is unfriendly to neo-colonialism where black leaders just wearing the shoes of colonial masters, rubbing shoulders with our enemies as Africans in return they impose the will of our colonial masters on Africans under the pretence of establishing democracies using Roman Dutch Laws.

One visionary leader who propagated the formation of the OAU was Doctor Nkwame Krumah of Ghana. According to him we should have one currency, one president, one parliament and forge good relations among Africans those at home and in the diaspora.

Now that South African government had come to the fore very late though, telling South Africans about the history that they were never heard about it in their history books and the youth born after time, we should not shy away then to confront the confusion this cause in the way of thinking to many.

Rastafari Working Council is of the view if the AU is serious about the recognition of the day by the member states first and foremost all the countries that adhere to the charter should declare the day as the public holiday including South Afrika. Again the celebrations of this day should be the responsibility of the AU not the member states. Member states should fund the day and the AU should deploy the main speakers of the day to every country to the main rally who carries the message and the program of the AU. This means then Afrika Day would not be used by politicians belonging to the ruling parties in those countries as the platform for scoring political points but to unite us for common cause as Africans. We further call peace and political mediation in Burundi and the Great Lake Region and we are not happy with political atmosphere in Egypt where Judiciary is used to suppress the will of the people, we believe president Morsi was democratically elected and his incarceration is nothing other than the miscarriage of Justice. We stay with the presidents and leaders who cling on power against the will of the people. We call two terms in power which should not be more than twelve years in office. Any country and president who rule for more than 15 years should be sanctioned. We wish all Africans regardless of race, colour or creed happy Afrika month and a potential to partake in the eradication of all the remnants of colonialism, capitalism and all forms of oppression. We looking forward to the UNITED STATES OF AFRICA. FREEDOM NOW!¹.

1 Printed and published by Rastafari Working Council 3. Jan Van Eck Rd Cape Town 7750