

All Mansions of Rastafari and Culture House

**HIM50 Jubilee Year
1966 - 2016**



PROJECT PACK

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GIVE US THE TEACHINGS OF HIS MAJESTY: A Worldwide Awakening to the Rastafari Experience

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Introduction

His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I's visit to the Caribbean in April 1966 has now become enshrined in the annals of the Rastafari movement.

April 2016 marks the 50th Jubilee and the memorable visit will be celebrated in several Caribbean islands to commemorate this historic moment - not merely for the Rastafari movement which has spread to all corners of the globe today, but also for African descendants and the wider populace in the region.

The All Mansions of Rastafari in association with Culture House are planning for this auspicious and historical 50th Jubilee with a series of commemorative events in Trinidad and Tobago during the month of April 2016.

The programme will include a lecture symposium, a commemorative procession and rally, tree planting, a media campaign and other Rastafari activities.

The All Mansions of Rastafari and Culture House are keen on working in partnerships with government agencies, UTT, Nalis, San Fernando and Port of Spain City Corporations, The Emancipation Support Committee, businesses and individuals to realise a successful 50th Jubilee befitting the King of Africa.

Background to visit

The Emperor's visit was in direct response to an invitation from the then PM of Trinidad and Tobago, The Right Honourable Dr Eric Williams. The fact that Barbados and Haiti were added to the tour schedule may have been through Royal diplomacy and the love which His Imperial Majesty generously extended to Africans throughout the Diaspora.

On Monday 18th April 1966 His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Elect of God, landed at Piarco Airport in Trinidad. Thousands of cheering, flag-waving crowds lined the route from

Piarco to Port of Spain for this eagerly awaited visit by the man whose image graced the homes of many Trinbagonians of the time.

The Emperor's cavalcade stopped briefly at the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Arouca after an initial stop in Arima. At the church, there was a short ceremony in which The Emperor read an excerpt from the Scriptures, then closed the Book with what was described as a 'strikingly fervent kiss'.

At John-John on the outskirts of Port of Spain, an elderly man perched in a tree was heard to shout ecstatically: "My King! My King!"

One woman in the massive throng around the Savannah was heard saying: "Truly, He must be the Lion of Judah. Look! Even the rainbow has come out to greet Him!"

These two responses captured by reporters on the day suggest the electric excitement that the Emperor's presence generated during His two-day stay on the island. His address to Parliament was highly pointed and direct, urging the representatives of the people to look beyond the confines of their sectarian concerns to embrace national and international interests, a message well suited to a cosmopolitan nation composed of many diverse factions and peoples.

This first and only visit of an African king to the island's shores had a massive impact, particularly on the majority population of African descendants. The Emperor also met with representatives of all faith communities, planted trees, and made at least one significant donation for a foundation in one of the poorer areas of the country.

His reception in Jamaica for example, has become legendary, with thousands of Rastafari members descending on Palisadoes Airport to give a tumultuous welcome to the Monarch who was accorded Godly status by His followers. The Jamaican visit has often overshadowed His tour of other islands.

There can be little doubt that His visit raised the issue of Equality and Justice for one and all in every place He visited. His status as the world's premier statesman *par excellence* preceded Him as He travelled across the world's five continents, proclaiming global peace and fellowship among all mankind.

The Jubilee of His visit should therefore be a time of national observance and remembrance for a nation blessed with His Name, 'Selassie' being translated 'Power of the Trinity'.

Particularly in today's war-torn world of internecine strife, divisive ideologies and religious bigotry we all need to remember the Prince of Peace, Who foretold the impending disaster of World War 2, and warned the world of the dangers humanity faced in the challenging times to come. We need to recall His messages and heed His urging to us as a global community.

"The systems of Government which have sought to impose uniformity of belief have survived briefly and then expired, blinded and weakened by obsessive reliance upon their supposed infallibility. The only system of Government which can survive is one which is prepared to tolerate dissent and criticism, and which accepts these as useful, and in any case, inevitable aspects of all social and political relations." (Excerpt from HIM speech to TnT Parliament 19th April 1966).

Snapshot of itinerary of HIM state visit in 1966

Monday 18th April

- 12 noon Arrives Piarco Airport. Met by Sir Solomon Hochoy
- 12,20pm Motorcade departs for Arima via Caroni North Bank Road
- 12:35pm Arrives Arima Public Stand and signs Visitor's Book, presentations; Steel Band Concert
- 1.05pm Arrives at Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Arouca

- 1,35pm Arrives UWI, presentations, motorcade drives around campus
- 2.30pm Arrives Governor General's House
- 4,35pm Arrives Queens Park Oval for Children's rally
- 8.00pm Private Dinner at Governor General's House
- 9.30pm Gala reception at Governor General's Ho

Tuesday 19th April

- 10,00am Laying of wreath at cenotaph, Memorial Park
- 12 noon Address to Parliament, Red House

Visit to Port of Spain Town Hall and presented to Mayor Councillor Edward Taylor, Mrs. Taylor, Councillors, Aldermen and their wives; presentations

Wednesday 20th April

- 10:15am – 2:45pm Visit to Tobago: Ethiopian Orthodox Church service; Rally
- 4:15pm Visit to San Fernando Borough Council: Given keys to the City, Youth cultural show featuring Guinness Cavaliers, the Laventille Drumming and Chanting Group and others.

Aim

The project will be coordinated by The All Mansions of Rastafari in association with Culture House

The primary aim of the project is to celebrate HIM Haile Selassie 50th Jubilee visit to Trinidad and Tobago 18th – 20th April 1966 with a series of commemorative events throughout the month of April 2016.

Objectives

1. To plan a month of events commemorating HIM Haile Selassie I, 50th Jubilee visit to Trinidad and Tobago.
2. To create a media campaign for the month of April based on the teachings of HIM.
3. To engage all the houses of Rastafari both individually and collectively within the programme.
4. To pursue collaborations with Key Stakeholders including government departments, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), San Fernando City Corporation, Port of Spain City Corporation, Nalis, The Emancipation Support Committee and other agencies where necessary.
5. To fundraise, seek sponsorship and funding for the project where feasible.
6. To pursue discussions with the government on re-establishing the Trinidad and Tobago Embassy in Ethiopia.
7. To identify the Jubilee as a landmark for furthering the positive development beneficial to the Rastafari mission in Trinidad and Tobago
8. To address the perceived tensions between Rastafari, Muslim and other communities.
9. To promote the programme through a single and unified marketing and publicity approach
10. To document the process and outcomes

Schedule of Events: April 2016



Date	Event/Activity	Venue	Time	Comment
5 th April	Press Conference and launch of media campaign	Twelve Tribes HQ POS	11am – 1pm	Invitation to all national media
9 th April	Fund raising dance	Twelve Tribes HQ, POS	9pm	Organise by All Mansions of Rastafari
18 th April	Individual Ises	All Houses	PM	Nyabinghi and other annual Ises
20 th April	Lecture Symposium	San Fernando	PM	A focus on Rastafari issues under the banner of AWARE
21 st April	Lecture Symposium	Port of Spain	PM	Similar to above

22 nd April	Tree Planting day	Arima	PM	Culture House contribution as part of World Earth Day
24 th April	Procession/Rally	POS	7am-7pm	Inclusive of stalls, speeches, cultural expose
30 th April	Twelve Tribe Monthly Dance	Twelve Tribe HQ	8pm	

Details of Key Events

Media Campaign - Give us the teachings of His Majesty

A month long campaign during April targeting visual, audio and online media to educate and raise awareness of the impact of HIM Selassie I Speeches, the Rise of Rastafari in Trinidad and Tobago, and alleviation of the perceived tensions between the Rastafari and Muslim communities. This will be supplemented by a six weeks publicity presence on Facebook and a commemorative brochure.

Lecture Symposium -AWARE

Two similar structured events in San Fernando and Port of Spain addressing issues of the Rastafari movement under the heading of AWARE (A Worldwide Awakening of the Rastafari Movement).

Emphasis will be on featuring a panel of Rastafari speakers addressing the following subjects:

1. The Rise of Rastafari in Trinidad and Tobago
2. The Global Impact of the speeches of HIM Haile Selassie I

3. Towards the development of economic and social ambitions of the Rastafari movement
4. Repatriation and Reparation.
5. Liberation of the Rastafari woman
6. Youth today, the future of tomorrow

Resolution: That the office of the Trinidad and Tobago Embassy be reinstated in Ethiopia

Tree planting

A special event commemorating World Earth Day when Eucalyptus trees will be planted in Arima spearheaded by Culture House in collaboration with schools in St. George East. In addition Rastafari families will be encouraged to plant a tree in honour of the 50th Jubilee and contribution to the environment.

Procession / Rally

A major commemorative cultural event in Port of Spain inclusive of a procession, speeches, presentations, stalls and cultural performances featuring, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, all

Rally Concept

The bandstand will be transformed into a mini tabernacle. The procession will leave Woodford Square singing HOSANNA and chanting RASTAFARI! SELASSIE I LIVETH! Generally praising the King.

In the procession The Elders of the Houses in ceremonial attire, will be seated in two rows on a truck decorated in ites, gold and green. The Acolytes of The Ethiopian Orthodox Church will be at the front blowing incense followed by dignitaries. Next will be the children waving palm branches.

Singing HOSANNA, The procession exits Woodford Square through Knox Street gate then:

Proceeding down Frederick Street

Turning left onto Independence Square North

Turning right at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Turning right onto Independence Square South

Turning right onto Abercromby Street
Turning right onto Knox Street and returning to the band stand for
Churchical Ceremony.

Commemorative brochure

A publicity and keep sake commemorative brochure featuring the 50th Jubilee visit encompassing the schedule of events and the relevant issues addressed throughout the month. This will be supported by an online presence via social media.

Proposed Project Expenditure

Hires and rentals	25,000
Catering and refreshments	20,000
Security	15,000
Decor	10,000
Fees and remunerations	25,000
Licences, insurances, transport	10,000
Infrastructure and logistics	40,000
Administration	25,000
Marketing and publicity	30,000
Total Expenditure	\$200,000

Key Stakeholders

Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of National Security, Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, The San Fernando City Corporation, Port of Spain City Corporation, Arima Borough Corporation, UTT, Nalis, The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, The Emancipation Support Committee, Sponsors, individuals, others.

Newspaper clippings of HIM Haile Selassie tour



