

Rastafarian Sacramental Cannabis Access Proposal

Introduction

The Rastafarian community in Grenada has a long-standing tradition of using cannabis as a sacred sacrament in religious practices. However, cannabis prohibition has resulted in significant injustices, with many Rastafarians facing arrest and incarceration for possessing cannabis for religious purposes. This proposal outlines a framework for equitable access to cannabis for Rastafarian sacramental use, fostering a more just and inclusive society.

Proposal for Equitable Access

We acknowledge the need to address the historical injustices faced by the Rastafarian community due to cannabis prohibition. We believe a key step is acknowledging this legacy through reparations.

Reparations can take various forms, including:

- Increased access to educational opportunities for Rastafarian youth.
- Job training programs to empower the Rastafarian community to participate in the legal cannabis industry.
- Investment in community development initiatives that address social and economic challenges within the Rastafarian community.

Prioritized Licensing and Economic Empowerment

Similar to Antigua and Barbuda's approach, we propose prioritizing licensing opportunities for qualified Rastafarian groups seeking to cultivate and possess cannabis for sacramental use.

This prioritization can be achieved through:

- **First Access:** The Rastafarian community should be granted the first opportunity to apply for and obtain cannabis licenses for sacramental use.
- **Streamlined Licensing Process:** A dedicated and streamlined licensing process specifically designed for Rastafarian sacramental cannabis use should be established.
- **Reduced Fees and Initial Support:** A tiered licensing system with reduced fees or extended license periods can be implemented during the initial establishment phase of Rastafarian-owned cannabis businesses.

Sacramental Use Guidelines

Following the lead set by Antigua and Barbuda, we propose the following guidelines for Rastafarian sacramental cannabis use:

- **Possession Limit:** Qualified Rastafarians should be allowed to possess up to 30 grams of cannabis per person for religious purposes.
- **Cultivation Allowance:** Rastafarian groups with a valid license should be authorized to cultivate up to 7 cannabis plants per person for sacramental use.

Additional Support Measures

We believe a well-regulated cannabis program can foster economic empowerment within the Rastafarian community. To facilitate business development, we propose:

- **Expungement of Criminal Records:** Expungement of criminal records for Rastafarians with non-violent cannabis-related offenses. This will remove a major barrier to employment and economic participation.
- **Delayed Tax Structure:** A delayed tax structure for Rastafarian cannabis businesses, allowing them to establish a financial foundation before full tax obligations come into effect.

Community Contributions to a Successful Cannabis Program

The Rastafarian community is committed to collaborating with the government to ensure a successful cannabis program in Grenada. We believe our unique perspective and cultural connection to cannabis can contribute significantly:

- **Educational Outreach:** Rastafarian leaders can participate in educational programs to dispel myths about cannabis and promote responsible use.
- **Research Collaboration:** The Rastafarian community can collaborate with researchers to explore the potential therapeutic benefits of cannabis, particularly for conditions relevant to the community's health needs.
- **Cultural Heritage and Tourism:** Rastafarian-owned cannabis businesses can cultivate high-quality cannabis products while upholding cultural values and traditions, potentially attracting cultural tourism to Grenada.

Conclusion

The Rastafarian community in Grenada envisions a future where cannabis is legalized and integrated into society respectfully and responsibly.

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We are confident that through collaboration with the government, we can achieve a program that prioritizes:

- Equitable access for sacramental use, based on Antigua and Barbuda's model.
- Economic empowerment for the Rastafarian community through prioritized licensing and support measures.
- Contribution to Grenada's cultural heritage and economic development.

We are committed to working together to create a more just and prosperous future for all Grenadians.