

BA BETA KRISTYAN HAILE SELASSIE I



The Church of Haile Selassie I (London)

841 Harrow Road London NW10 5TH

Email: HIMchurch@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone: 07903 597482

Office of the Prime Minister
1 Devon Road
Kingston 10

13th June 2020

**An open letter to the Prime Minister of Jamaica
(His Excellency The Right Honourable Andrew Holness)**

Dear Honourable Prime Minister

Greeting in the name of the Might of the Trinity, Emperor Haile Selassie 1st, One God. Amen.

The Church of Haile Selassie I (CHSI) London, in support of the other international branches and Mother Church in Jamaica, is making a humble request of you, Mr Holness.

This request of you, in your Right as the Honorable Prime Minister, is that you may see it Right to give consent for brother Ascento Ammanuel Foxe (Archbishop Abuna Ammanuel) to be granted a place of rest in the National Heroes Park.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Abuna Foxe was the Archbishop of the Church of Haile Selassie I and also the International President of the Imperial Ethiopian World Federation Incorporated Political Party (IEWFIPP).

Needless for us to waste valuable space and time highlighting the track record of this man, which can instantly be acquired from your database. I would rather use the space to focus on why this requirement could be seen as a matter of national interests.

In this case, here, we are not talking about an ordinary 'Rasta Camp, group or organisation leader', that when they pass on their membership may, in most cases, disperse or cease to function. Here, we are talking about a figure that is an extraordinary Rasta leader. A man who is renowned for his works as a Rasta activist, both locally and internationally. Abuna Foxe has established religious institutions in the developing and developed world's capital cities, the likes of Bridge Town (Barbados), London and the state of New York; bringing the eyes of the democratically free world on Jamaica and also putting Jamaica under the scope of the New World, as we know it. Other branches of the Church are also established in the Caribbean.

Jamaica, in this matter, will be under the watchful eyes of the international community, Rastafarians globally and people of the Ethiopian/Afrikan Diaspora. The Jamaican grassroots populace which includes those of upper-class upbringing which are Rasta sympathisers and last, but not least, the people of the constituency of Western Kingston; from whence rose up the strongest influence and leaders in the early emergence of the Rasta Faith and Movement. This is where our beloved Brother Ascento Foxe grew up.

These, Mr Prime Minister, are the eyes of the people who love justice and hate aggression. They are looking and listening to hear from the Honourable Prime Minister of Jamaica, a just decision that can be celebrated and remembered in history by the masses, today and in the foreseeable future.

Mr Prime Minister, again, here we are talking about a man who has made meaningful contributions to his community and the Jamaican populace at large, in the areas of Religion, Education, Health and Politics. A figure that has, over decades, championed the rights of the oppressed and grassroots people. He has been joined by the Honourable Lord Gifford, the Honourable Howard Hamilton, with voices of support from government and opposition members of parliament; and achieved victory in the struggle for 1. A Bill for the Incorporation of the Church of Haile Selassie 1 (the battle lasted seventeen years before being passed by the Jamaican Parliament, 28th November 2013) and 2. Mr Hamilton, in his Office as Public Defender supported Rastafarians to gain religious representations in the Jamaican penal system.

Again, here is a figure that has made another historical landmark in being the architect of the first Rastafarian/Grassroots political party (IEWFIPP) which collectively contested both local and general elections, for more than a decade and will continue to do so.

Archbishop Ammanuel Foxe was instrumental in the historic visit of H.I.H. Prince Ermias to Jamaica, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of His Imperial Majesty's Emperor Haile Selassie 1st visit to Jamaica, in 1966. As President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, Prince Ermias awarded Abuna Ammanuel Foxe the Commander of the Imperial Order of the Star of Ethiopia (please see attached).

Mr Prime Minister, before you came to the front of the bench, you were there as a young man in your party, that bears witness to many of the things which are said here. In fact, maybe more than what is said here about this man, a 'Son of the Soil' and an integral part of the richest fabric of Ethiopian/Jamaican culture and indigenous belief.

The eyes of the world have seen that Jamaica has shown recognition to our beloved brother Dennis Brown, for his work as an ambassador of reggae music (Jamaican Culture) and granted him a place of rest in the National Heroes Park.

We believe that the same eyes are watching along with the eyes of the grassroots people: to see whether government and opposition will make a responsible decision in respect of national interests; to grant this 'Champion of Jamaica', both at home and abroad, to be accorded a burial of honour in the National Heroes Park. Mr Prime Minister, Jamaican democracy is on trial in this particular case and time that will constitute part of our Jamaican history.

The aforementioned EYES Sir, are your jurors and God Himself is the Judge.

It may not be an easy decision for you as a Prime Minister, that is very unlikely to have the support of a Rasta voice, within your cabinet. However, we believe, Mr Prime Minister, that among you there will be Rasta sympathisers and we also believe 'that' Mr Holness is your majority.

The Church of Haile Selassie I, today appeals to a leader that in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic peak, in giving reassurance to his people, spoke of God. We speak of God (call him what name you will, still, it is One God for us All). Further, to consolidate this statement, we quote from His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie 1st during His speech at the opening of the Eritrean parliament in 1955 "Christianity and Islam are not the only two religions in the world, there are others and each speak of God."

May Almighty God guide you in your judgement regarding this matter. We would be grateful for an appointment to discuss this matter of paramount importance, at your earliest convenience. Correspondence can be sent to 29 Oxford Street Kingston or email: himchurchhqja@yahoo.com.

Yours sincerely,

Brother Leroy Lindsay
Abbot Eliah

Attached: Copy of award for Ammanuel Foxe CSE



THE CROWN COUNCIL OF ETHIOPIA

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Citation for the Award to

Ammanuel Foxe

of the Imperial Order of

Commander of the Imperial Order of the Star of Ethiopia (CSE)

Whereas,

Ammanuel Foxe has shown great devotion and service to Ethiopia's history and culture, thus helping to further an understanding of the condition of the people of Ethiopia and Africa generally,

Therefore,

His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia hereby, on this Twenty-Second day of July, 2010, [Hamle 15, 2002] personally recognizes his with the honor and dignity of

Commander of the Imperial Order of the Star of Ethiopia

On His Own Behalf, and for the Imperial Crown Council of Ethiopia:

His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie
Sovereign of the Imperial Order of the Lion of Ethiopia
President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia