

CONSTITUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP AND RURAL CANNABIS ASSOCIATION (TRCA)

PART I

FOUNDATIONAL PROVISIONS

PREAMBLE

We, the founding members of the Township and Rural Cannabis Association (TRCA), united by a shared commitment to justice, dignity, community development and African self-determination, hereby adopt this Constitution as the supreme governing document of the Association.

We acknowledge that cannabis has formed part of the agricultural, medicinal, cultural and economic history of many African communities for centuries. Throughout periods of colonialism and apartheid, indigenous knowledge systems were frequently marginalised, criminalised or appropriated, while the communities that preserved knowledge of cannabis often experienced dispossession, poverty and exclusion from economic opportunity.

As South Africa enters a new era of cannabis regulation, we believe that the transition must not simply legalise commerce but contribute to restorative justice. The benefits of the emerging cannabis economy must extend to those communities whose knowledge, labour and stewardship sustained this plant through generations.

Guided by the values of **Ubuntu**—the understanding that our humanity is bound together—we commit ourselves to building a cannabis economy rooted in community ownership, ethical leadership, environmental stewardship and intergenerational prosperity.

Inspired by the vision of African thinkers such as **Steve Biko**, who challenged Africans to reclaim confidence in themselves, **Thomas Sankara**, who championed self-reliance and popular participation, and by the broader Pan-African tradition that calls for the responsible stewardship of Africa's land, knowledge and resources, this Constitution affirms that meaningful transformation requires Africans to shape the institutions that govern their futures.

The Township and Rural Cannabis Association therefore exists to organise, represent and empower township and rural communities; to protect indigenous knowledge systems; to advance the interests of legacy farmers; to promote education, research and responsible cannabis development; and to ensure that the

cannabis economy contributes to inclusive and sustainable development.

In adopting this Constitution, we commit ourselves to honesty, accountability, transparency, solidarity and service.

ARTICLE 1

NAME

1.1 The name of the organisation shall be the **Township and Rural Cannabis Association**, hereafter referred to as **TRCA**.

1.2 TRCA shall operate throughout the Republic of South Africa and may establish provincial, district, municipal and community structures where necessary.

1.3 The Association may establish partnerships with African, regional and international organisations whose objectives are consistent with this Constitution.

1.4 The official logo, colours and branding of TRCA shall be approved by the National Executive Committee and adopted by resolution of the National General Assembly.

ARTICLE 2

LEGAL STATUS

2.1 TRCA is established as a voluntary membership association.

2.2 The Association shall exist independently of any political party while remaining free to engage with government, Parliament, traditional leadership institutions, civil society organisations, research institutions and private sector partners in pursuit of its objectives.

2.3 Subject to applicable South African law, the Association shall have perpetual succession and shall exist independently of changes in its membership or leadership.

2.4 The Association shall have the legal capacity to:

- acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property;
- enter into contracts and agreements;
- institute or defend legal proceedings;
- establish trusts, companies or other legal entities in furtherance of its objectives;
- receive grants, donations, sponsorships and investments that are consistent with its values and policies.

2.5 The assets of the Association shall be used solely to advance its constitutional objectives.

ARTICLE 3

VISION

The vision of the Township and Rural Cannabis Association is:

To build an African cannabis economy in which township and rural communities are recognised as owners, innovators, custodians and beneficiaries of indigenous knowledge, sustainable agriculture, wellness and economic development.

ARTICLE 4

MISSION

The mission of TRCA is to organise, educate, represent and empower township and rural communities to participate meaningfully in every stage of the cannabis value chain through:

- community ownership;
- indigenous knowledge preservation;
- legacy farmer development;
- responsible cannabis education;
- enterprise development;
- research and innovation;
- policy advocacy;
- environmental stewardship; and
- intergenerational leadership.

TRCA shall pursue this mission through democratic participation, ethical governance and strategic partnerships.

ARTICLE 5

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In carrying out its work, the Association shall be guided by the following principles:

5.1 Ubuntu

Recognising that individual wellbeing is inseparable from community wellbeing.

5.2 African Self-Determination

Supporting the right of African communities to define and shape their own economic, cultural and developmental futures.

5.3 Community Ownership

Promoting models that enable communities to own productive assets and participate meaningfully in decision-making.

5.4 Protection of Indigenous Knowledge

Recognising indigenous knowledge as a valuable intellectual and cultural resource deserving of respect, protection and equitable benefit-sharing.

5.5 Transparency and Accountability

Conducting all organisational affairs openly, honestly and responsibly.

5.6 Environmental Stewardship

Promoting sustainable agricultural practices that protect biodiversity, water resources and ecological health.

5.7 Inclusivity

Ensuring meaningful participation by women, youth, persons with disabilities, traditional leaders, legacy farmers and historically disadvantaged communities.

5.8 Ethical Leadership

Promoting servant leadership based on integrity, humility and accountability.

5.9 Collaboration

Building partnerships that strengthen communities while respecting their autonomy and knowledge systems.

ARTICLE 6

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The objectives of TRCA are to:

6.1 Represent the interests of township and rural cannabis stakeholders nationally.

6.2 Advocate for equitable cannabis legislation and public policy.

6.3 Support the implementation of the Legacy and Indigenous Cannabis Framework (LICF).

6.4 Facilitate the establishment of Community Cannabis Grow Hubs, Processing Hubs and Wellness Hubs.

6.5 Promote research into cannabis, hemp and indigenous African plant knowledge.

6.6 Preserve and document indigenous knowledge systems through ethical and community-led processes.

6.7 Facilitate training, education and skills development.

6.8 Support legacy farmers in transitioning into regulated markets.

6.9 Promote women-owned, youth-owned and community-owned cannabis enterprises.

6.10 Encourage cooperative economic models and community trusts.

6.11 Foster partnerships with universities, research institutions, government departments, traditional leadership institutions and industry.

6.12 Promote responsible cultivation, processing and use of cannabis in accordance with South African law.

6.13 Promote environmental sustainability and regenerative agricultural practices.

6.14 Facilitate local, continental and international collaboration that advances the interests of South African communities.

ARTICLE 7

ADOPTION OF THE LEGACY AND INDIGENOUS CANNABIS FRAMEWORK

7.1 TRCA hereby adopts the **Legacy and Indigenous Cannabis Framework (LICF)** as its official strategic and implementation framework.

7.2 The LICF shall guide:

- programme development;
- community engagement;
- policy advocacy;
- research priorities;
- farmer development;
- cannabis wellness initiatives;
- enterprise development; and

- strategic partnerships.

7.3 Amendments to the LICF shall be considered by the National Executive Committee and approved by the National General Assembly.

7.4 The LICF shall remain consistent with the objectives and values of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 8

INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

Unless the context indicates otherwise:

"Association" means the Township and Rural Cannabis Association.

"Community" means any organised rural, township, peri-urban or indigenous community participating in the work of TRCA.

"Legacy Farmer" means a person or community with historical experience in cannabis cultivation or stewardship prior to the establishment of regulated commercial markets.

"Indigenous Knowledge" means knowledge, innovations, skills and practices developed and maintained by communities through generations and transmitted according to their customs and traditions.

"Cannabis Wellness Hub" means a community-based centre established under the LICF to provide education, wellness programmes, enterprise support, research and community engagement.

"Grow Hub" means a community cultivation and agricultural development centre.

"Processing Hub" means a community facility dedicated to value addition, manufacturing, packaging and product development.

"Member" means any person or organisation admitted to membership in accordance with this Constitution.

"National General Assembly" means the highest decision-making body of the Association.

"National Executive Committee" means the elected executive body responsible for the administration of the Association between meetings of the National General Assembly.

END OF PART I

Part II of this Constitution shall establish the membership structure, governance framework, the National Executive Committee, Provincial Chapters, Community Chapters, and the Council of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Holders.



PART II

MEMBERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

ARTICLE 9

MEMBERSHIP

9.1 Principle of Membership

Membership of the Township and Rural Cannabis Association (TRCA) shall be open to individuals and organisations that support the objectives, values and Constitution of the Association and agree to uphold its Code of Ethics.

The Association shall not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, disability, religion, language, ethnicity or political affiliation.

9.2 Categories of Membership

The Association shall consist of the following membership categories:

Founding Members

Those individuals who established the Association and adopted this Constitution.

Founding Members shall be permanently recognised in the historical records of the Association.

Ordinary Members

Individuals involved in any aspect of the cannabis, hemp or indigenous plant sector.

Legacy Farmer Members

Individuals or communities who cultivated cannabis before the development of regulated commercial markets and whose experience contributes to the preservation of traditional cultivation knowledge.

Indigenous Knowledge Members

Traditional practitioners, elders, researchers, seed custodians and community knowledge holders recognised by their communities.

Youth Members

Persons between the ages of 18 and 35 participating in cannabis, agriculture, entrepreneurship or research.

Women's Chapter Members

Women participating in cultivation, research, wellness, manufacturing, education or leadership.

Community Organisations

Registered organisations working within township and rural communities.

Cooperative Members

Agricultural cooperatives and community enterprises.

Institutional Members

Universities, colleges, research institutes, traditional councils and educational institutions.

Corporate Partners

Businesses that support the objectives of the Association.

Corporate Members may participate in programmes but shall not vote in constitutional matters.

Honorary Members

Individuals recognised for exceptional contribution to cannabis development, indigenous knowledge or community empowerment.

ARTICLE 10

RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Members shall have the right to:

- Attend meetings.
- Vote (where applicable).
- Elect leadership.
- Stand for election, subject to eligibility.
- Participate in committees.
- Access educational programmes.
- Receive organisational reports.
- Submit proposals and resolutions.
- Participate in conferences and events.
- Benefit from programmes offered by TRCA.

ARTICLE 11

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Members shall:

- Respect this Constitution.
- Promote the objectives of TRCA.
- Conduct themselves ethically.
- Protect community knowledge.
- Avoid conflicts of interest.
- Pay membership fees where applicable.
- Respect democratic decisions.
- Promote unity within the Association.

ARTICLE 12

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The governance of TRCA shall consist of:

1. National General Assembly
2. National Executive Committee
3. Provincial Chapters
4. District Structures
5. Local Community Chapters
6. Standing Committees
7. Council of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Holders
8. Council of Legacy Farmers
9. Youth and Women's Development Council

These structures shall operate cooperatively while respecting their distinct constitutional responsibilities.

ARTICLE 13

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The National General Assembly shall be the highest decision-making authority of TRCA.

It shall:

- Adopt policy.
- Elect leadership.
- Amend the Constitution.
- Approve strategic plans.
- Approve annual budgets.
- Receive audited financial statements.
- Ratify national partnerships.
- Adopt amendments to the Legacy and Indigenous Cannabis Framework.

The Assembly shall meet annually.

Special General Meetings may be called under procedures established in this Constitution.

ARTICLE 14

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)

The NEC shall be responsible for the day-to-day governance and administration of the Association.

The NEC shall consist of:

- President
- Deputy President
- Secretary-General
- Deputy Secretary-General
- Treasurer-General
- Deputy Treasurer
- Head of Policy and Advocacy
- Head of Research and Indigenous Knowledge
- Head of Community Development
- Head of Youth Development
- Head of Women's Development
- Head of Communications
- Head of Partnerships and Investment
- Additional Members elected by the National General Assembly as required.

The NEC shall be accountable to the National General Assembly.

ARTICLE 15

COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

Purpose

The Council shall serve as the constitutional guardian of indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage and ethical engagement with communities.

The Council recognises that knowledge held by elders, traditional practitioners, seed custodians and community knowledge holders forms part of South Africa's living heritage.

Composition

The Council shall include representatives from:

- Indigenous knowledge holders
- Traditional healers
- Traditional leaders (where participating)
- Community elders
- Seed custodians
- Ethnobotanical researchers
- Cultural practitioners
- Heritage specialists

Functions

The Council shall:

- Advise the National Executive on indigenous knowledge matters.
- Promote ethical documentation of traditional knowledge.
- Protect community intellectual heritage.
- Develop cultural protocols.
- Advise on benefit-sharing arrangements.
- Support respectful engagement with traditional leadership.
- Review projects involving indigenous knowledge.
- Promote intergenerational knowledge transmission.

The Council shall operate in an advisory capacity and shall not exercise executive authority over the affairs of the Association.

ARTICLE 16

COUNCIL OF LEGACY FARMERS

Purpose

To ensure that the voices of legacy growers remain central to the development of South Africa's cannabis economy.

Membership

The Council shall consist primarily of recognised legacy cannabis farmers representing township and rural communities across South Africa.

Functions

The Council shall:

- Advise on cultivation policy.
- Support farmer development.
- Promote sustainable cultivation.
- Protect traditional cultivation knowledge.
- Assist with farmer registration.
- Support cooperative development.
- Identify challenges affecting farming communities.
- Recommend policy reforms.

The Council shall meet at least twice annually and submit recommendations to the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 17

YOUTH AND WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Purpose

To promote intergenerational leadership, gender equity and youth participation.

Functions

The Council shall:

- Develop youth leadership programmes.
- Promote women's participation.
- Support entrepreneurship.
- Encourage innovation.
- Facilitate mentorship.
- Develop educational programmes.
- Recommend policies that improve inclusion.

At least fifty percent of the Council shall be women.

Young people shall constitute no less than forty percent of the Council's membership.

ARTICLE 18

PROVINCIAL, DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY CHAPTERS

TRCA may establish structures throughout South Africa.

Each Provincial Chapter shall coordinate activities within the province.

District Structures shall support implementation across municipalities.

Community Chapters shall provide local representation and shall be responsible for:

- Community engagement.
- Membership recruitment.
- Farmer support.
- Local implementation of the Legacy and Indigenous Cannabis Framework.
- Reporting to provincial structures.

ARTICLE 19

STANDING COMMITTEES

The National Executive Committee may establish Standing Committees, including:

- Policy and Legislative Affairs
- Research and Innovation
- Legacy Farmer Development
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Wellness and Public Health
- Youth Development
- Women's Development
- Enterprise and Investment
- Education and Training
- Communications
- Ethics and Governance
- Finance and Audit
- Environmental Sustainability
- International Relations

Each committee shall operate under terms of reference approved by the NEC.

ARTICLE 20

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NEC AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCILS

The National Executive Committee shall retain executive authority over the administration of the Association.

The Council of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Holders, the Council of Legacy Farmers, and the Youth and Women's Development Council shall serve as permanent constitutional advisory bodies.

The NEC shall formally consider written recommendations submitted by these Councils and provide reasons where recommendations are not adopted.

This structure is intended to ensure that the governance of TRCA reflects democratic accountability while remaining grounded in the lived experience, wisdom and aspirations of the communities it represents.

END OF PART II

Part III shall provide for elections, meetings, financial management, ethics, disciplinary procedures, constitutional amendments and dissolution of the

Association.

PART III

ADMINISTRATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, FINANCE, ETHICS AND DISSOLUTION

ARTICLE 21

PATRON COUNCIL

21.1 Establishment

There shall be a Patron Council of the Township and Rural Cannabis Association.

The Patron Council shall serve as the highest ceremonial and advisory body of the Association.

Its purpose is to preserve the long-term vision, values and integrity of TRCA while promoting the Association nationally, across Africa and internationally.

21.2 Composition

The Patron Council may consist of distinguished individuals invited by resolution of the National General Assembly, including:

- Respected traditional leaders.
- Elders.
- Indigenous knowledge holders.
- Retired judges and senior legal practitioners.
- Agricultural scientists.
- Public health specialists.
- Academics.
- Environmental leaders.
- Pan-African thinkers.
- Distinguished entrepreneurs.
- International cannabis policy experts.
- Individuals recognised for outstanding service to community development.

Membership shall reflect South Africa's diversity and the values of the Association.

21.3 Functions

The Patron Council shall:

- Promote the vision of TRCA.
- Provide strategic guidance.

- Strengthen partnerships.
- Mentor emerging leaders.
- Assist with fundraising.
- Promote ethical leadership.
- Protect the institutional legacy of the Association.
- Serve as ambassadors for TRCA.

The Patron Council shall not exercise executive authority.

ARTICLE 22

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Board of Trustees may be established to protect the long-term interests of the Association.

Responsibilities include:

- Oversight of major assets.
- Protection of intellectual property.
- Oversight of endowment funds.
- Long-term strategic stewardship.
- Ensuring organisational sustainability.

Trustees shall act independently and in the best interests of TRCA.

ARTICLE 23

ELECTIONS

This Article shall regulate:

- Nomination procedures.
- Eligibility requirements.
- Election procedures.
- Secret ballots where required.
- Independent Electoral Committee.
- Terms of office.
- Vacancies.
- Removal from office.
- By-elections.

No elected office bearer shall serve more than **two consecutive four-year terms** in the same office unless otherwise approved by a two-thirds majority of the National General Assembly.

ARTICLE 24

MEETINGS

The Association shall hold:

- Annual General Meetings.
- Special General Meetings.
- National Executive meetings.
- Provincial meetings.
- Community Chapter meetings.
- Constitutional Council meetings.

Meeting notices, quorum requirements and voting procedures shall be prescribed in Regulations adopted by the National General Assembly.

ARTICLE 25

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

TRCA shall maintain transparent and accountable financial systems.

Income may include:

- Membership fees.
- Grants.
- Donations.
- Sponsorships.
- Training income.
- Publications.
- Events.
- Lawful commercial activities consistent with the Constitution.

Annual financial statements shall be independently reviewed or audited in accordance with applicable law and presented to members at the Annual General Meeting.

No funds shall be distributed to members except for approved remuneration, reimbursement or programme expenditure.

ARTICLE 26

ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND THE OMBUD OFFICE

An independent Ethics and Ombud Office shall be established.

The Ombud shall:

- Receive complaints.
- Investigate allegations of misconduct.
- Protect whistleblowers.
- Promote ethical governance.
- Mediate disputes where appropriate.
- Recommend disciplinary action.
- Publish an annual ethics report.

The Ombud shall operate independently from the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 27

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The Constitution shall provide fair procedures for:

- Complaints.
- Investigations.
- Hearings.
- Appeals.
- Suspension.
- Removal of members.
- Removal of office bearers.

Every member shall have the right to procedural fairness before disciplinary action is taken.

ARTICLE 28

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All elected leaders, committee members and advisers shall declare any financial, commercial or personal interests that may influence decision-making.

Members shall recuse themselves from decisions where conflicts arise.

Failure to disclose material conflicts of interest may constitute misconduct.

ARTICLE 29

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a National General Assembly or Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.

Proposed amendments shall be circulated to members at least thirty days before the meeting.

ARTICLE 30

DISSOLUTION

The Association may only be dissolved by a three-quarters majority of the National General Assembly.

Upon dissolution, all remaining assets shall be transferred to one or more South African non-profit organisations with similar objectives, as determined by the members and in accordance with applicable law.

No member shall receive personal benefit from the distribution of assets upon dissolution.

SCHEDULE A

OFFICIAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The **Legacy and Indigenous Cannabis Framework (LICF)** is hereby recognised as the official strategic and implementation framework of the Township and Rural Cannabis Association.

All national programmes, community initiatives and strategic partnerships shall be developed in accordance with the principles and objectives of the LICF unless otherwise resolved by the National General Assembly.

SCHEDULE B

OFFICIAL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The constitutional organs of TRCA shall comprise:

- National General Assembly
- National Executive Committee

- Patron Council
- Board of Trustees
- Council of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Holders
- Council of Legacy Farmers
- Youth and Women's Development Council
- Provincial Chapters
- District Structures
- Community Chapters
- Standing Committees
- Ethics and Ombud Office

ADOPTION

This Constitution was adopted by the Founding Members of the Township and Rural Cannabis Association on the ____ day of _____ 20____.

Signed at _____

Founding Members

Secretary-General

President

Witness

Witness

SCHEDULE C

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE,

COMMUNITY HERITAGE AND EQUITABLE BENEFIT-SHARING POLICY

Township and Rural Cannabis Association (TRCA)

PREAMBLE

The Township and Rural Cannabis Association recognises that Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) constitute a living heritage developed, protected and transmitted by African communities over generations.

Cannabis cultivation, seed preservation, ecological knowledge, medicinal practices and traditional agricultural systems form part of this heritage.

The Association further recognises that indigenous knowledge has historically been marginalised, appropriated and commercialised without the free participation of the communities from which that knowledge originated.

TRCA therefore adopts this Schedule to ensure that indigenous knowledge is respected, protected and utilised in a manner that advances justice, dignity and community self-determination.

ARTICLE 1

PRINCIPLES

All activities undertaken by TRCA shall be guided by the following principles:

1.1 Community Ownership

Knowledge belongs first to the communities that have created, preserved and maintained it.

No individual or organisation may claim exclusive ownership over collective community knowledge without the free agreement of the community concerned and compliance with applicable law.

1.2 Respect

All members shall engage with indigenous communities respectfully and acknowledge traditional custodians of knowledge.

1.3 Recognition

Traditional knowledge holders shall be recognised as experts.

Their expertise shall carry equal dignity to scientific and academic knowledge.

1.4 Equity

Communities contributing knowledge shall participate fairly in any benefits arising from that knowledge, consistent with agreements reached and applicable law.

1.5 Transparency

All research, documentation and partnerships involving indigenous knowledge shall be conducted openly and honestly.

1.6 Cultural Integrity

Knowledge shall not be distorted, misrepresented or used in ways that undermine the cultural values of the communities from which it originates.

ARTICLE 2

COMMUNITY CONSENT

Before documenting, researching or publishing indigenous knowledge, members shall seek the informed agreement of the relevant knowledge holders or community representatives, in accordance with applicable legal and ethical requirements.

The process should include:

- Clear explanation of the purpose of the activity.
- Explanation of possible uses of the information.
- Discussion of expected outcomes.
- Agreement on confidentiality where required.
- Discussion of potential benefits to the community.

ARTICLE 3

BENEFIT-SHARING

Where indigenous knowledge contributes to research, education, commercial development or other initiatives, TRCA shall promote fair and equitable benefit-sharing arrangements.

Such arrangements may include:

- Community development projects.
- Skills transfer.
- Educational opportunities.
- Research partnerships.
- Revenue-sharing where appropriate.
- Recognition of contributors.
- Community ownership interests.

Benefit-sharing arrangements shall be developed transparently and with the participation of affected communities.

ARTICLE 4

COMMUNITY INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE

TRCA recognises that many forms of indigenous knowledge are collectively held.

The Association shall advocate against the unauthorised appropriation or exploitation of traditional knowledge.

Where knowledge is documented, appropriate acknowledgement shall be given to the community or knowledge holders, unless confidentiality has been requested.

ARTICLE 5

RESEARCH ETHICS

Research conducted under the auspices of TRCA shall:

- Respect community customs and protocols.
- Protect confidential information.
- Promote collaborative research.
- Share research findings with participating communities.
- Encourage community participation in research design.
- Avoid exploitative practices.

Researchers affiliated with TRCA are encouraged to obtain ethical approval from recognised research institutions where appropriate.

ARTICLE 6

SEED HERITAGE

TRCA recognises traditional cannabis genetics and seed stewardship as part of South Africa's agricultural heritage.

The Association shall encourage:

- Community seed preservation.
- Documentation of local varieties.
- Responsible conservation of genetic diversity.
- Ethical exchange of seeds in accordance with applicable law.
- Community participation in discussions relating to cannabis genetics.

ARTICLE 7

COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE REGISTERS

The Association may assist communities in establishing voluntary knowledge registers for the purpose of documenting agricultural practices, oral histories and ethnobotanical knowledge.

Participation shall be voluntary.

Communities shall determine what information may be recorded, shared or kept confidential.

ARTICLE 8

PROTECTION OF SACRED KNOWLEDGE

Certain knowledge may be sacred, ceremonial or culturally restricted.

Such knowledge shall not be documented, published or shared without explicit permission from the appropriate custodians.

The Association recognises that some knowledge should remain within the communities to whom it belongs.

ARTICLE 9

EDUCATION

TRCA shall promote education concerning:

- Indigenous Knowledge Systems.
- African agricultural traditions.
- Ethnobotany.
- Cannabis history in Africa.
- Community rights.
- Ethical research.
- Environmental stewardship.

Educational programmes should encourage respectful dialogue between community knowledge holders, researchers and policymakers.

ARTICLE 10

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

The Council of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Holders established under this Constitution shall serve as the principal advisory body on matters arising under this Schedule.

The Council may develop guidelines, recommend policies and advise the National Executive Committee on matters relating to indigenous knowledge, cultural protocols and community engagement.

ARTICLE 11

REVIEW

This Schedule shall be reviewed periodically by the National Executive Committee in consultation with the Council of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Holders.

Any amendments shall be approved by the National General Assembly in accordance with the procedures for constitutional amendments.

DECLARATION

The Township and Rural Cannabis Association affirms that the future of South Africa's cannabis sector must recognise that indigenous knowledge is not merely a historical record.

It is a living system of innovation, stewardship and community identity.

TRCA therefore commits itself to ensuring that cannabis development strengthens the communities that have carried this knowledge across generations and contributes to a future built upon dignity, justice, respect and shared prosperity.



THE FOUNDING CHARTER OF THE TOWNSHIP AND RURAL CANNABIS ASSOCIATION (TRCA)

A Charter for Cannabis Justice, Community Sovereignty and African Renewal

"Nothing About Us Without Us"

PREAMBLE

We, the founding members of the Township and Rural Cannabis Association (TRCA), gather in the spirit of Ubuntu and Pan-African solidarity to declare our shared commitment to building a cannabis economy founded on justice, dignity, knowledge and community ownership.

We honour the generations of farmers, healers, elders, researchers, workers and communities whose knowledge and stewardship of cannabis endured through periods of prohibition, discrimination and exclusion.

We recognise that South Africa stands at a historic crossroads.

The choices made today will determine whether the cannabis economy becomes another chapter of exclusion or a new chapter of restoration.

We choose restoration.

We believe that communities who have protected knowledge, cultivated the land and preserved indigenous agricultural traditions must be recognised as partners in shaping the future of the cannabis sector.

We affirm that cannabis reform must contribute to broader goals of rural

development, township revitalisation, environmental stewardship and inclusive economic participation.

OUR DECLARATION

We therefore declare that:

1.

Cannabis reform must promote human dignity and expand opportunities for communities that have historically been excluded from economic participation.

2.

Legacy farmers deserve fair opportunities to participate in the regulated cannabis economy through accessible pathways, skills development and equitable treatment.

3.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems are a living heritage that should be respected, protected and strengthened for future generations.

4.

Cannabis development should support community ownership, local enterprise and sustainable livelihoods rather than concentrating benefits in a small number of institutions or individuals.

5.

Township and rural communities must have meaningful representation in the development of cannabis policy and regulation.

6.

Women, young people and persons with disabilities should have equitable opportunities to participate in and benefit from the cannabis economy.

7.

Cannabis cultivation should promote regenerative agriculture, biodiversity and responsible environmental management.

8.

Research should be conducted ethically, respectfully and in partnership with communities.

9.

Economic development should strengthen local value chains by supporting cultivation, processing, manufacturing, wellness services and entrepreneurship.

10.

The cannabis sector should contribute to education, innovation and the responsible sharing of knowledge.

OUR COMMITMENT

We commit ourselves to:

Building ethical leadership.

Strengthening African institutions.

Supporting community cooperatives.

Promoting responsible cannabis education.

Encouraging scientific and indigenous knowledge dialogue.

Creating opportunities for youth.

Supporting women in leadership.

Protecting biodiversity.

Building transparent organisations.

Serving communities before ourselves.

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN SELF-DETERMINATION

We believe that African communities are best placed to identify their own priorities and contribute to solutions that reflect their histories, cultures and aspirations.

Inspired by the work of Steve Biko, we recognise that genuine transformation begins with confidence in our own capacity to think, organise and create.

Inspired by Thomas Sankara, we recognise the importance of self-reliance, integrity in public life and development that serves ordinary people.

We also recognise the contemporary emphasis by Ibrahim Traoré on African sovereignty and the importance of ensuring that Africa's resources contribute to the wellbeing of its own people. As with all public figures, TRCA draws on principles of self-determination rather than endorsing any broader political programme.

Our commitment is to constitutional democracy, community participation and peaceful transformation.

OUR PLEDGE

We pledge:

To listen before we lead.

To learn before we speak.

To build before we claim.

To protect before we profit.

To cooperate before we compete.

To preserve knowledge before it is lost.

To honour those who came before us.

To prepare those who will come after us.

To place community above individual ambition.

To ensure that every decision strengthens the generations yet unborn.

OUR CALL

We call upon:

Government,

Traditional leadership,

Legacy farmers,

Researchers,

Universities,

Industry,

Civil society,

Investors,

Youth,

Women,

Traditional healers,

Entrepreneurs,

And every South African committed to justice,

to join us in building a cannabis economy that reflects the values of dignity, inclusion, responsibility and shared prosperity.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We imagine a South Africa where every province has thriving Cannabis Wellness Hubs.

Where township entrepreneurs own processing facilities.

Where rural farmers participate in local and international value chains.

Where Indigenous Knowledge Systems are recognised alongside scientific research.

Where cannabis contributes to education, healthcare innovation, sustainable agriculture and community development.

Where future generations inherit institutions that are stronger, more ethical and more inclusive than those we inherited.

THE TRCA AFFIRMATION

We affirm that:

Our communities are not obstacles to development.

They are partners in development.

Our knowledge is not a relic of the past.

It is a resource for the future.

Our land is not merely a source of extraction.

It is the foundation of renewal.

Our people are not waiting to be included.

They are ready to lead.

Adopted by the Founding Members of the Township and Rural Cannabis Association

"We inherit the responsibility to cultivate not only the land, but also justice, knowledge and opportunity for generations to come."

TOWNSHIP & RURAL CANNABIS ASSOCIATION

TRCA

ROOTED IN HERITAGE. GROWING THE FUTURE.

HERITAGE
We honour our indigenous knowledge and legacy.

COMMUNITY
We empower township and rural communities to lead.

SUSTAINABILITY
We promote regenerative agriculture and environmental care.

EQUITY
We champion justice, inclusion and fair opportunity.

SOVEREIGNTY
We build African self-reliance and economic sovereignty.

OUR MISSION

To unite, empower and advocate for township and rural cannabis communities by safeguarding heritage, promoting sustainable development, advancing policy reform and building an inclusive cannabis economy that benefits the people of South Africa.