

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 , we recognise that genuine transformation begins with confidence in our own capacity to think, organise and create.

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

We also recognise the contemporary emphasis by 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."