

HARAMBE

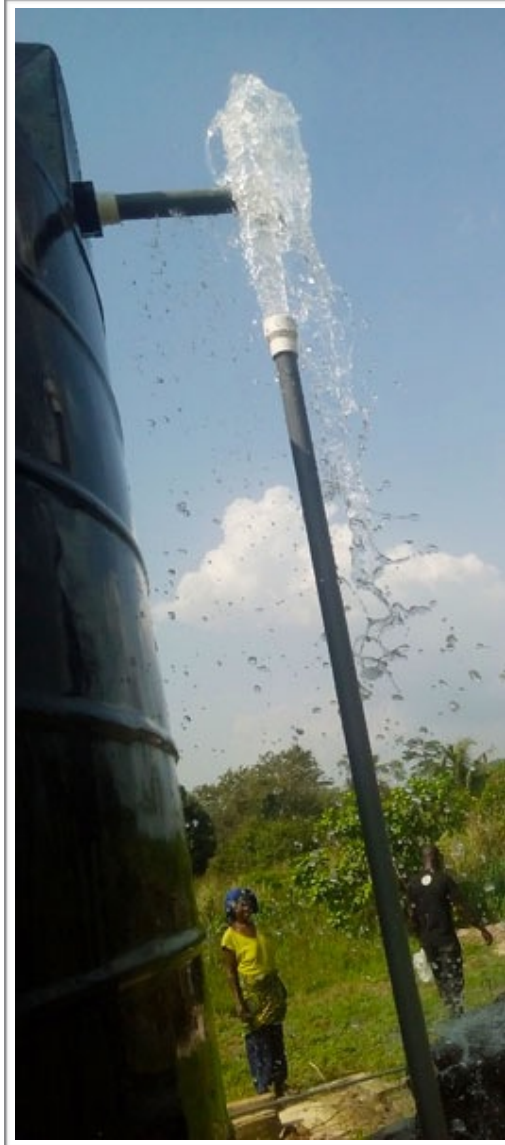
A Quarterly Foundation Newsletter



Harambe is an African word which means “working together.” It is also the foundation’s slogan and name of one of Mrs. Rita Marley’s most popular tunes. Available through our website quarterly, this newsletter will be a vital vehicle to inform you of our foundation’s endeavors, events and accomplishments; importantly, we eagerly anticipate “working together” with you, through your contributions and feedback. So with One Love we could nurture Harambe into a constructive newsletter.

More Water For Konkonuru (Ghana) -A Gift from Water For Humanity & Rita Marley Foundation

The Rita Marley Foundation (Jamaica) acquired additional funding from Water For Humanity (WFH) for construction of a borehole on the farm in rural Konkonuru Ghana, West Africa. Our goal is to have clean, safe and reliable water supply to plant and harvest healthy, nutritious fruits and vegetables. This will assist the community, Konkonuru Methodist Basic School and Alpha & Omega Home for the Aged. An extensive variety of fruits and vegetables have been planted. Including plantain, banana, pineapple, sweet potato, tomato, carrots, cabbage, kontomire, sour sop, star fruit and breadfruit.



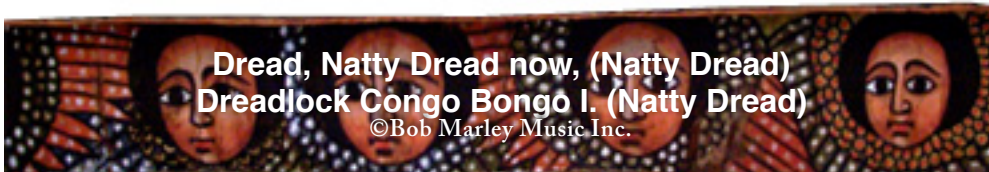
Water gushing from borehole

Editor: Rita Marley
Writer: Rosemary Duncan

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Watering farm with clean safe water



WFH logo

Beneficiaries

The borehole will directly and indirectly serve the entire Konkonuru Community. This is where the Rita Marley Foundation (Ghana) is based and Mrs. Rita Marley is enstooled as Nana Afua Adobe¹ (Queen of Development).

- Konkonuru has a population of 3000. Fruits and vegetables harvested from the farm will be sold to help earn funds for community projects.
- Farm produce will feed sixty four (64) students through the Rita Marley Foundation (Ghana) School Feeding Programme. Five days weekly, the Foundation provides nutritious meals for the most needy students of the Konkonuru Methodist Basic School.
- Seniors at the Alpha & Omega Home for the Aged will be served fresh fruits and healthy snacks from farm produce. Alpha & Omega Home for the Aged was facility built and operated by the Rita Marley Foundation.
- Konkonuru Methodist Basic School & Rita Marley Foundation (Ghana) Student Agricultural Programme. Farm trips will be organised once weekly. Students accompanied by teachers will learn the benefits of various fruits/ vegetables and observe how crops are planted, nurtured and harvested. The children will learn about how various plants help help their bodies function.



Testimonials

- Ben Ore Israel, Farm Supervisor: "The borehole is a tremendous benefit to us and the farm. All growth needs water. This is the absolute key to good farming and success. Thank you very much. Your donation is appreciated."
- Atta Appiah, Konkonuru Resident/farmer: "This is what we have needed to grow our vegetables and reap our harvest. This makes our jobs so much easier. Thanks to you, we will now be able to grow so much and even better."
- Deborah Affum, Konkouru Resident/farm assistant: "We are so grateful for this water. We are all happy because we now have a good source. Now we do not have to tote water to the gardens."
- Doreen, Main Cook, Konkonuru Methodist Basic School: "The borehole is God sent. It will definitely assist with preparation of food for students. I will have more choices for meals and can introduce new nutritious foods grown on the farm. I will be able to escort students with teachers to pick wonderful fruits and vegetables that are good for their health. We are very grateful."
- Esie Sarpong, I have know the Rita Marley Foundation since Nana Rita started in our village. This is another good thing she has done for us. We always need good clean water for drinking, bathing and cooking. We are a poor village and are so grateful for the love and care she gives us. Our children and the adults can drink freely and not be worried about getting parasites from the water that constantly send us to the toilet.
- We thank God for Nana Rita and all she does for us. We pray for her everyday. This borehole will assist with the growing of the vegetables from the farm to eat and water to help them grow. May God continue to bless you.



Papa Oboubi



Esie Sarpong

Eh! Children get your culture (Natty Dreadlock)
And don't stay there and gesture, a-ah, (Natty Dreadlock)
©Bob Marley Music Inc.

It's Essay Time Students!

High Schools from throughout Jamaica have been invited to participate in the 3rd Annual Rita Marley Foundation (JA) Essay Competition. Presented by the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) in collaboration with the Heart Institute of the Caribbean Foundation (HIC).

The theme for this year's competition was selected by Dr. Rita Marley herself.

"Children Get Your Culture, and Don't Stay There & Gesture Or The Battle Will Be Hotter & You Won't Get No Supper. Wake Up & Live!" Vital lyrics by Hon. Robert Nesta Marley OM (Bob Marley) from his songs Natty Dread and Wake Up & Live.

Students are encouraged to explore the theme and write creative essays.

Presentation and content of entries

- The essays must be original and unpublished.
- Essays must strictly respect the set theme.
- Essays must adhere to the number of words permitted (1000 words).
- Font type: Times New Roman; font size: 12
- Essays must be submitted in either Microsoft Word (doc) format or PDF.
- The essay (typed) in English.
- One entry per student is allowed.
- No revisions to essays are allowed once submitted.

School appointed selection committees will e-mail essays to the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) no later than June 1, 2015.

To date twice the number of entrants received for last year's event have expressed interest in participating; including previous winners Papine High School (2014) and William Knibb Memorial High School (2015).

Entries will be judged by a noble panel appointed by the Rita Marley Foundation (JA). Winners are slated to be announced on International Reggae Day, Friday July 1. With prizes awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place schools and individual writers.



Dr. Rita Marley (LITT)



14 year old Bobby Francis is Victorious at 2nd Annual RMF (JA) Public Speaking Competition

Speech by Bobby Francis (York Castle High School) in support of topic, Women are the Foundation & Driving Force for Success

Honourable panel of adjudicators, ladies and gentlemen, my worthy opponents; a pleasant morning is extended to you all. It is indeed with great privilege that I stand here this morning, in full support of the view, “Women are the Driving Force and Foundation for Success”. First of all, what is a driving force? And what is a foundation? According to the websterdictionary.com, a driving force is the impetus, power or energy behind something in motion. And foundation is defined as the underlying basis or principle. Now let me not forget success; according to the same source, success is defined as “the accomplishment, aim or purpose.” Considering these definitions, let me rephrase the topic – “Women are the impetus, power and energy and the underlying basis or principle behind the accomplishment of an aim or purpose.”



1st place Winner Bobby Francis York castle High School

I think we are all familiar with the statement, “Behind every great man there’s a great woman.” This has been adopted as a feminist slogan. However, the origins are uncertain. It’s certainly much older than the women’s movement of the 1960’s/70’s. The first printed citation was from the Texas Newspaper, “The Port Arthur News” of February 1946. The use of the phrase in that article suggests it was well known at the time and may be much older than 1945. So it is evident that women play a vital role in society since the civilisation of man until now. What, though, are the present roles of women?

Women are required to balance a lot more today than in the past. The role of women in society has been greatly overlooked in the last few decades, but woman today have proven themselves immensely. No longer can their roles be ignored. Soon enough the eyes of men and other leaders were opened up to the fact that women should be playing a bigger, more comprehensive role in the development of society.





Let me use the analogy of the house, because women are the foundation, by no means am I trying to say that we should marginalise the roles of men; they are as important to our society we honour them however, by using the analogy of the house if the woman is the foundation then the man is the walls, the doors, the windows and THE ROOF!. Each part of the house complements the other and serves its own unique function/responsibility.

Dr. Rita Marley listens to Bobby Francis speech

Women have made vast improvements in their lifestyle in the past few decades from holding positions in government to simple things like getting a job and also supporting the family. As a matter of fact, without a woman a man would not be born. That speaks about foundation. From the embryonic stage of childhood, our women are the ones to bring us up. That right there also speaks of a foundation and as the theme “HARAMBE” which comes from East Africa and was originated in “SWHALI” which means to bring up, raise or pull up that is evidently where a woman stands. A house cannot be built without a foundation.

Look at the great contribution woman have made to the society. Let me start with our very own Rita Marley wife of the late Bob Marley who have contributed greatly, but I will only list two (2) countries for now “Ghana” and “Jamaica”.

- Mrs. Marley has supported the funding and distribution of the five in one vaccine for children of the eastern region. She has also improved main roads to several communities and brought water to a village by drilling a forty (40) metre deep borehole. Her entrepreneurial and philanthropic ability creates a home for teenage mothers in Kingston, Jamaica; books and bags packs, back-to-school supplies, to deprived youths throughout the island, an essay competition like this one and a number of generous donations to the needy.
- So as we exchange thoughts/points this morning, let us look at what is really at stake. Many of our successful men would not be successful without the support and even guidance of their wives. Even former Prime Minister Andrew Holness said that in his 2011 inauguration as prime minister, “Successful men like the late Bob Marley



would not have reached the height of his career in music, if it wasn't for his wife as she helped in albums and even groups.

- Just glancing through our Sunday Gleaner, I happened to read of this Debbie Forbes, who is founding a school dedicated to reggae in England. Women have gone as far as making such bold steps in industries that were male-dominated from their very conception.

Women make a solid foundation from the days of our youth then they step up as the impetus, power and energy behind the accomplishment of our aim and our purpose.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, women are our driving force and foundation for success. Distinguished panel of judges, ladies and gentlemen good morning.

Rosemary Duncan, Manager Rita Marley Foundation (JA)

Distinguished ladies & gentlemen, sponsors, judges, teachers and students, it is with tremendous joy that I officially welcome you to the 2nd Annual Rita Marley Foundation (JA) Public Speaking Competition & 12 Annual Africa Unite Youth Symposium.

We are delighted to present the events in unison as their goals are one and same. To equip youth with requisite skills to be successful now and in the future. It is absolutely remarkable when one has the ability to articulate oneself with conviction, confidence and eloquence. To a listener, the words of an eloquent speaker is delicious food. It nourishes the mind and inspires one to listen, focus, learn and research.

The Public Speaking Competition is the most significant event on the Rita Marley Foundation (JA) calendar. It is held in celebration of Hon. Bob Marley's earth strong. One of the greatest orators the world has known.

This year, we welcome four new entries to the competition Papine High School, Marcus Garvey Technical High School, Wolmer's Boys' School, and Jamaica College. We're also thrilled to again have all schools who participated in the inaugural competition: the reigning champion, Glenmuir High School, Wolmer's Girls' School, William Knibb Memorial High School, York Castle High School, Denham Town High School and Haile Selassie High School.

The topic for the first round of the event " Women are the Foundation & Driving Force for Success." Very debatable. Thus we look forward to very informative, insightful and inspirational speeches.



Rosemary Duncan delivering welcome remarks

Then I walk up the first street, (Natty Dreadlock)
And then I walk up the second street to see. (Natty Dreadlock)
©Bob Marley Music Inc.

The impromptu topic for the 2nd round will be just as interesting.

Today's programme is being broadcast live on Nationwide Radio. Many people have tuned in to listen. Among those listening from way across the oceans in Ghana, West Africa is Dr. Rita Marley, Founder & President of the Rita Marley Foundation. The Foundation also operates there and Dr. Marley is overseeing its works. She encourages students to share the knowledge, skills and talents with other youth and sends this quote from Bob Marley's song 'Pass It On.' Be not selfish in your doings: Pass it on. (Pass it on, children). Help your brothers (help them) in their needs: Pass it on.'

Thus in the spirit of Harambe, which means working together in peace, love and unity I welcome you to the 12th annual Africa Unite Youth Symposium & 2nd Annual Rita Marley Foundation Public Speaking Competition

Ms. Lisa D'Oyen, Director Heart Institute of the Caribbean (Main Sponsor)

Welcome Address The Rita Marley Foundation 2nd annual Public Speaking Competition

In April of last year, the Heart Institute of the Caribbean celebrated 10 years of service to Jamaica. In recognition of this achievement, we launched our free emergency angiogram programme. This programme is the first and only one of its kind in the Caribbean and has significantly opened access to emergency cardiovascular care to ALL Jamaicans, particularly the poor and most vulnerable. We are very proud of this programme and it is one example of the many innovative ways the Heart Institute of the Caribbean and the Foundation have worked toward fulfilling our mission of making our services accessible and affordable to all Jamaicans regardless of their ability to pay.



Lisa D'Oyen Director HIC(main sponsor)

Dr. Rita Marley has been an avid supporter of the HIC Foundation and our work, and we have long admired and been inspired by her work and her contributions to Jamaican national development. It is on her shoulders, and on the shoulders of the great Bob Marley

Then I trod on through third street, (Natty Dreadlock)
And then I talk to some Dread on fourth street. (Natty Dreadlock)
©Bob Marley Music Inc.

that we stand, as we aim to continue providing world class healthcare to all Jamaicans at an affordable cost.

Undoubtedly, we jumped at the opportunity to partner with the Rita Marley Foundation on this, their 2nd annual Public Speaking Competition. We want to encourage all young people to strive for excellence - to dream big, to know that your dreams can become a reality, and to make your mark in making Jamaica a better place for all of us to live.

It is such a pleasure for me to be here, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the Rita Marley Foundation 2nd annual Public Speaking Competition and best of luck to our young and brilliant competitors!

Thank you!

Mrs. Yodit Hylton Hon. consul of Ethiopia in Jamaica



Mrs. Yodit Hylton (Hon. Consul Ethiopia in Jamaica)

Dr Rita Marley, President, Rita Marley Foundation

Ms Olivia “Babsie” Grange,
Ms. Rosemarie Duncan, Manager,
Rita Marley Foundation

Ms. Jongikhaya Rabe, South Africa
High Commission 2nd Secretary
Ladies and Gentlemen

Students, All, Good Morning

I am delighted to be invited to this the 2nd annual Public Speaking Competition hosted by the Rita Marley Foundation. Everything about this competition is supportable, beginning with the beneficiaries of the competition itself the students as they will benefit in many ways.

First, the competition is aimed to building the confidence of young persons who are tomorrow’s future leaders. This exposure will prove invaluable in years to come. This will be especially so for the eventual winners of the competition, but all participating students are winners for being selected for the competition. Second, the competition being held during Reggae Month and on the celebration for the Seventh-first (71st) birthday of a great icon the Hon. Robert Nesta Marley.

I am honored, as the Honorary Consul for Ethiopia to Jamaica, to pay tribute to Bob Marley not only for his music but also for his love and respect for Emperor Haile Selassie I,



Ethiopia, its people, culture and history. Third, I pay tribute to Dr. Rita Marley and the Rita Marley Foundation for continuing the legacy of Bob Marley through this competition. It is a fitting tribute to both Rita and Bob that the young students of Jamaica are being featured and the theme for the competition:

“Women are the Foundation and Driving Force for Success” is also a fitting subject for debate.

I wish, all the students well! And I look forward to an exciting competition. I thank you again for inviting me to this event!

Yodit Getachew Hylton
Honorary Consul for Ethiopia in Jamaica

Ms. Kennisha Allen, Councillor, Spanish Town Jamaica

MS. OLIVIA BABSY GRANGE CD MP
WELCOME REMARKS
On the Occasion of the
RITA MARLEY FOUNDATION 2ND ANNUAL
PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION
AND
12TH ANNUAL AFRICA UNITE SYMPOSIUM
UWI Mona Campus, Main Library
Friday, February 12, 2016



Kenisha Allen

Salutations:

Dr. Rita Marley, Head of the Rita Marley Foundation and Matriarch of the Marley Legacy;
Ms. Rosemarie Duncan, Manager, Rita Marley Foundation Jamaica; Mrs. Yodit Hylton, Honorary Consul for Ethiopia in Jamaica; Jongikhaya Rabe, 2nd Secretary, South African High Commission;
Dr. Jorge Sanchez, Head, Cultural and Academic

Affairs, Cuban Embassy in Jamaica; Other Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen; Students; Young people.



First allow me to congratulate Dr. Rita Marley for her achievements and for sustaining this very important activity over the years. Harambe – Working Together always resonate with me because it is what is needed if as a Jamaican people we are to achieve our greatest potential and attain even greater global prosperity. Today, I want to commend Sister Rita for another major achievement, the inception of this Public Speaking Competition that



blessings/ prayers by Kes Wolde Dawit EOC

our young people.

brings together students from our high schools to discuss topics relevant to our development. Today, they focus on the role of women as leaders of the development process – Women the foundation and driving force for success. Of course, Sister Rita would understand this very well based on the role she has played in sustaining and enhancing the legacy of our great son of Jamaica, Hon. Robert Nesta Marley OM. Through her creativity and solidity, both the Rita Marley Foundation and the Bob Marley Foundation stand among Jamaica’s most outstanding foundations creating opportunities for our people, particularly

It is also significant for me to see this partnership between the Rita Marley Foundation and the University of the West Indies, our premier institution of higher learning. This augurs well for our development programme that understands the central role of education in the



Jamaica College Choir

promotion of consciousness and leadership among our young people. Indeed, it was always the position of Marley that we should school ourselves rather than allow others to school us. In this regard, we hail the coming together of these major Caribbean institutions to promote development of the minds of our young people through conversation, deliberation and creative thought.

competition. I therefore want to congratulate all the young people who have chosen to be a part of this activity. I also want to commend their schools for seeing its value. After all, one

As such, I know those who have gathered here today are in for a treat as these exciting young minds of Jamaica go up against each other in this very important



of the important platforms for the promotion of mental freedom comes from our ability to think creatively and freely and articulate the content of our thoughts, to be sharp and attentive to the discourse of others and to on the spot be able to respond. This is excellent training for our children. Thanks again to the Rita Marley Foundation and the University of the West Indies for this exciting partnership.

I also commend the sustaining of the Africa Unite Symposium. This activity has played a major role in bringing together the children and young people of our African heritage to engage with each other. It is an engagement which is necessary and I want to again commend Sister Rita for her vision. In this Decade for People of African Descent we want to promote all activities which bring our young people together on one global platform of development. It is this understanding of the intertwining of our history and heritage and consequently our future that will be important for our global reach as a people. Jamaica's historic role in the promotion and upliftment of Africa, led by our first National Hero, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, must be sustained. This can only happen if our young people understand their place in the synergy of African relationships and, as such, their responsibility to the Great Continent. Africa must indeed unite.

Finally, let me wish you all a day of reflection and pride. Allow yourselves to bask and revel in the abilities of our young people. Give them every encouragement in this important effort. In this Reggae Month, in which we pause to reflect on one of our people's most outstanding products, let us remember that Reggae Music is one of the ways in which we have been able to in the words of Garvey "astonish the world". Let our achievement in the creation of this phenomenal global music propel you to even greater personal achievements both at home and abroad.

All the best of the day. ONE LOVE!

Mr. Jorge Sanchez, Cuba Embassy -Head of Cultural & Academic Affairs

Good morning ladies and gentlemen:

The Embassy of the Republic of Cuba and myself is deeply honoured for being invited to the Rita Marley Foundation Public Speaking Competition. It's is a great honour to be at this widely recognised university and to be part of this important event that means so much for the development of Jamaican students and youth.



Dr. Jorge Sanchez Cuba Embassy



To Cuba the name Marley means so much as it embraces the music, culture, traditions, the Jamaican people as a whole but also the solidarity, hard work and dedication to help those who need it the most.

The theme of today's competition is of a particular relevance to Cubans as we have fought for more than five decades to achieve women's equality and to defend their right to education, wellbeing and personal development.

After concluding, I would like to wish all participants the best of luck. Thanks again for inviting our Cuban Embassy to share this experience with you.

Thank you very much.

WORDS CAN'T EXPRESS THE DEPTH OF OUR GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS & INDIVIDUALS:

Big Thanks Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) for prayers & blessings

- Kes Wolde Dawit
- Deacon Michael Greenland

Great Thanks Dignitaries for your presence & inspirational presentations:

- Mrs. Yodit Hylton, Ethiopian Consulate
- Jorge Sanchez, Cuba Embassy
- Kenisha Allen, Councillor Spanish Town Division
- Dr. Kwame Boafo, former Regional Director UNESCO

Tremendous Thanks Sponsors for your Superb Support in Cash & In Kind:

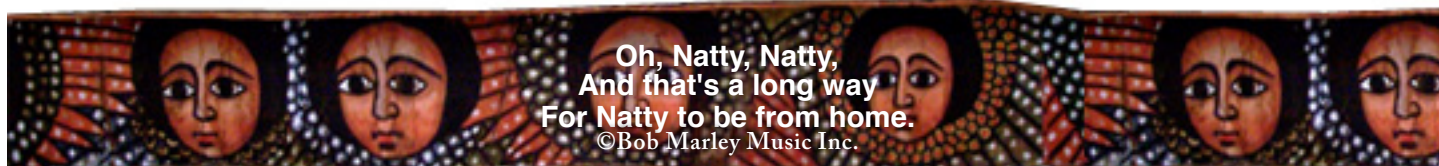
- Heart Institute of the Caribbean Foundation (Main Sponsor)
- Wisynco Group's:
 - - Tru Juice
 - - Coca Cola
 - -WATA



Dignitaries Mrs. Yodit Hylton (Hon. Consul Ethiopia in Jamaica) Mrs. Sanchez & Dr. Jorge Sanchez (Cuba Embassy Head of Academic & Cultural Affairs)



Dr. Kwame Boafo, UNESCO former Regional Director (R)



- Tastee Jamaica
- Spanish Court Hotel
- Suzie's Bakery
- Devon House
- Statcom
- Viking Productions
- Stephanie Marley



Students await results

Sincere Thanks Judges:

- Ms. Stephanie Marley (Rita Marley Foundation Director)
- Ms. Amina Blackwood-Meeks (former Director of Culture in Education, Ministry of Education & Culture).
- Dr Kadamawe Knife (Lecturer at the University of the West Indies);
- Mr. Christopher Serju (Writer, Jamaica Gleaner)



(L-R) Judges (Dr. Kadamawe Knife & Mrs. Amina Blackwood Meeks)



Christopher Serju (Judge-front row)





*3rd place Martenek Phipps & Ms. Stephanie Marley
(RMF Director/event judge)*



*2nd place winner Xaundre Mohansingh
& Wisynco Group Rep (sponsor)*

Huge Congratulations to Top Three Students & Schools:

- York Castle High School, Bobby Francis (1st place).
- Glenmuir High School, Xaundre Mohansingh (2nd place).
- Haile Selassie High School, Martenek Phipps (3rd place).

Special Thanks to Media for publicity & promotion:

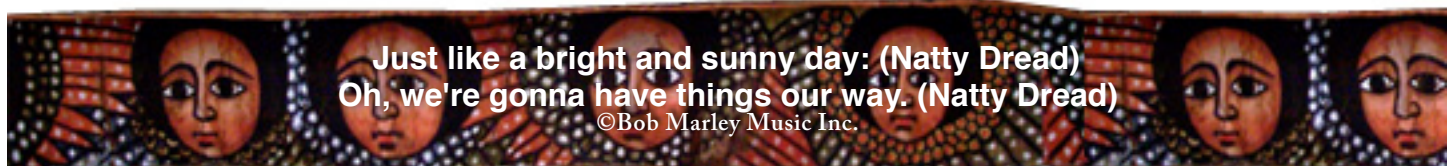
- Nationwide Radio 90FM
- Vernon Derby (At Your Service, Nationwide Radio 90FM)
- Public Broadcasting Corporation of Jamaica (TV)
- Jamaica Gleaner
- TVJ 107.5 FM (Smile Jamaica)
- Irie FM
- Andrea Williams (Running African, Irie 107.5 FM)
- Loop Jamaica
- Power 106 FM
- Ceen TV

Many Thanks to Masters of Ceremony:

- Mitzie Williams (Bess 100 FM)
- Orlando Hamilton (Youth Peace Facilitator)



Masters of Ceremony (L-R) Mitzie Williams (Bess 100FM) & Orlando Hamilton (Youth Peace Facilitator)



Ginormous Thanks to Schools for participation & continuous support:

- Wolmer's Boys' School, Papine High School
- Jamaica College
- Marcus Garvey Technical High School
- Glenmuir High School
- Denham Town High School
- William Knibb Memorial High School
- York Castle High School
- Wolmers Girls High School
- Haile Selassie High School
- Papine High School



Jamaica College Band

Enormous Thanks for Entertainment:

- Bongo Herman (Percussionist)
- Jamaica College Band & Choir
- Isha Bel (Singer)
- Fikre Selassie (Poet)

Loads of Thanks Volunteers/Staff:

- Papine High School (servers/ greeters)
- Marcus Garvey Technical High School (servers/ greeters)
- Tamar Heron (UWI/IT)
- Cedric Palmer (UWI/IT)
- Beverley Lashley (Deputy Librarian/UWI Mona, Main Library)
- Staff U.W.I Mona, Main Library
- Winston Johnson (Decor)
- Wesley Dixon (photographer)

Countless Thanks:

- President/Founder Dr. Rita Marley (LITT/OD)
- Directors: Cedella Marley, Stephanie Marley, Sharon Marley, Serita Stewart
- Manager: Rosemary Duncan





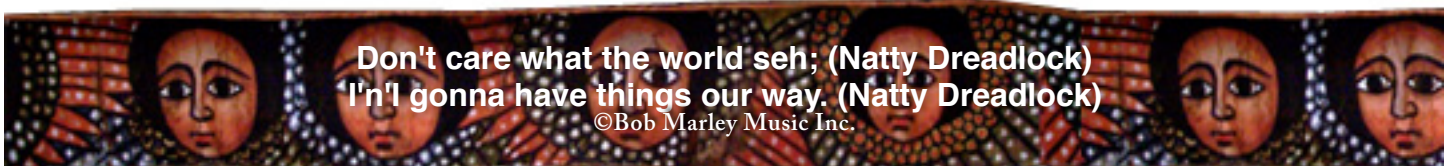
Students actively engaged in story telling session Storytime Mrs. Amina Blackwood-Meeks

Cultural Storytelling Programme An Excellent Educational Activity

It is designed to pass on Jamaica's history and that of the Caribbean and Africa in the most interesting and captivating way. Through the storytelling programme, students learn that verbal communication between themselves and others is an art and words are powerful. Additionally, it seeks to develop creativity, enhance imagination, increase attentiveness and improve communication skills.

Fifty students attended the inaugural session at the Holy Trinity Basic School (Jamaica). The little ones actively participated. Asking and answering questions about stories narrated by renowned storyteller Ms. Amina Blackwood-Meeks. She said "contributing to the work of the Rita Marley Foundation is not even a question. Our shared vision for the cultural and spiritual well-being of our children makes that an easy decision."

During the activity students received treats in celebration of Melkam Lidet (Ethiopian Orthodox Christmas).



ZIMA Lifetime Achievement Award for Hon. Robert Nesta Marley OM (Bob Marley)

On Feb 25 Zimbabwe Music Awards (ZIMA) posthumously conferred Bob Marley with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The honour, in recognition for his support of and contribution to Rhodesia's quest for independence over three decades ago. His great song 'Zimbabwe,' an immeasurable tribute to the nation. Bob Marley is also the first musician of global acclaim to perform in Zimbabwe.

We share with you the speech submitted by Mrs. Rita Marley OD in acknowledgement of the award:



Rita and Bob Marley

Greetings Zimbabwe, it's a great blessing to be with you again after 36 years! I say what a joy.

Bob Marley's heart and his spirit is with you and will forever be with Zimbabwe. He identified with the struggle. Bob Marley says "Everyone has the right to decide his own destiny."

In April 1980 we traveled for an historic concert to celebrate this nation's independence. Bob personally paid for the trip from his own pockets. The Wailers, I Three and our sons Ziggy and Stephen were there. Yes, Bob's love for you is so deep that he created the triumphant anthem "Zimbabwe.". From the core of his being he sings:

*"Mash it up in-a (Zimbabwe);
Natty trash it in-a (Zimbabwe);
Africans a-liberate Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe);
I'n'I a-liberate Zimbabwe."*

I will always remember the concert. Bob Marley performed through the suffocating smell of tear gas. While everyone else ran for cover, Bob continued his performance. Never leaving the stage. Bob Marley is the real revolutionary.

Brothers and Sisters I am happy to celebrate with you this evening. Cause we're all Africans. No matter where you come from, as long as you're a black man or woman, you're an African. In September 2015 I received a Living Legends award from the African Union Diaspora African Forum (AUDAF) for my charitable works in the motherland through the Rita Marley Foundation.

Today, I'm truly honoured to receive this prestigious award from ZIMA, as a symbol of Zimbabwe's love and support for Bob Marley. His message, music and mission will forever live on. On behalf of my entire family I thank you.

Jah Bless & One Love,

One God, One Heart, One Aim, One Destiny

