



**2ND Announcement for
Rastafari United Front Youth Summit
(RUFYS)**

Theme:

*“Together Engaging & Taking Rastafari Youth to
the Front”*

Date @ 18-20 November 2016

***Venue @ Senate Building 107
University of Western Cape***

Overall Objectives

The Rastafari Youth Front Summit will be an annual forum for all Rastafari youth from diverse houses, mansions, organisations in South Africa and African continent who have the interest and vision in the collective efforts for the empowerment, development and advancement of the Rastafari Movement designed to identify priorities of action for Rastafari youth to be dealt with on the Rastafari Development Agenda. The theme of the Summit is “***Together Engaging and Taking Rastafari Youth to the Front***”. This Summit is the first of its kind and will be hosted by HIM Society at University of Western Cape.

The Summit is not a talk show but will at philosophical and practical level seek to establish transparently, without fear or favour the historic Rastafari United Youth Front and will bring together Rastafari youth, students, researchers, activists, and professionals from all mansions, houses of Rastafari in RSA and to strengthen cooperation, networks links and partnerships, establish collective security mechanisms to protect, preserve and advance Rastafari consciousness by all means necessary.

Specific Objectives

In keeping with this aim, the specific objectives of the Summit are to:

- Establish a fully functional, flexible, proactive and visible Rastafari United Youth Front.
- To encore Rastafari United Youth Front as an apex body of National Rastafari Youth coordination, empowerment, research, development and innovation in South Africa and Africa.
- Encourage youth to be active in arts, culture, science, technology, business, heritage, sports and indigenous knowledge systems programmes.
- Engage Rastafari Youth in Human Rights and Cultural Diversity Agenda.
- Develop a Rastafari United Youth Front Development Programme.
- Establish mechanism that will provide specific follow-up for the Rasta United Youth Front Agenda.
- Encourage dialogue between the different houses, mansions on collective youth and development policies to better understand the priorities and needs of all Rasta youth without fear and favour.
- Encourage networking, collaboration, partnership and re-connecting Rastafari youth at home and abroad for collective Rastafari development.
- To establish a benchmark of standards, norms, criteria for accountability, monitoring of youth development policies, programmes and activities.

Some Expected Outcomes

- Establish a fully functional, flexible, proactive and visible Rastafari United Youth Front.
- Develop a roadmap of engaging Rastafari Youth in the African Youth Charter, towards Youth Development and Empowerment in Africa;
- Enhanced capacity to develop and implement comprehensive, inclusive Rastafari Youth Empowerment and Development policies and actions.
- Increased investment in Rastafari Youth Activities.
- To develop Database of Rastafari Youth and Students Societies in Universities across South Africa.
- Develop Rastafari United Youth Front Business Networks and a fundraising model.
- Develop a programme for the establishment of Rastafari African-centred institutions in the community, i.e. community arts centres, schools, institutes, museums, skills & multimedia centres etc.
- Networking, collaboration, partnerships among Rastafari youth at home and abroad.
- Develop Rastafari United Youth Front Website and Social Media.
- Establish the Rastafari Professional Body comprised of Rastafari students, researchers, academics and professionals.
- Comprehensive report of the proceedings of the Rastafari United Front Youth Summit.

Rastafari United Front Youth Summit Secretariat

The Summit will also have a Secretariat or Scientific Committee, responsible for the securing the cost effective, accessible, user friendly or Rastafari friendly venue, organization and coordination of activities related to: planning, coordination, follow-up, identification of speakers, key note speaker, invitations, program design, mobilization of resources (human and financial resources) and dissemination of information through all forms of media not limited to social media, develop marketing, communication strategy and in general liaison with the RUF to ensure that the Summit is implemented successfully and professionally.

The Secretariat will comprise of active, flexible youth from various mansions, organisations, houses of Rastafari and students in various institutions of higher learning in the country and some of the candidates will be drawn from the RUF Youth Structures in various provinces with the support of its mother-body, the Rastafari United Front.

Expected Participants

- Rastafari youth from all houses, mansions, organisations, structures and institutions of higher learning.
- Rastafari professionals, academics, researchers, policy makers.
- Rastafari Youth Organizations, National Youth Councils.
- SABC, other media institutions and community radio stations
- Commission for the Promotion, Protection of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Commission).

Sub themes

- ✓ Empowerment, social, political and education development and transformation.
- ✓ Nation building, conflict resolution, peace building, social cohesion and moral regeneration.
- ✓ Human rights, health, agriculture development.
- ✓ Science and Technology, media, history, arts, culture, heritage, spirituality, religion and IKS.
- ✓ SMME, Cooperatives, Business development and fundraising.
- ✓ Research, development and innovation.
- ✓ Networking, collaborations and partnerships.

Venue and Date_

Venue @ Senate Building 107, University of Western Cape

Date: 18-19 November 2016

Number of delegates: + - 300

Languages

The languages of the Summit will allow official recognised languages of South Africa but will be mainly in English.

Accommodation

Delegation attending the summit must make their arrangements for accommodation around Western Cape Province. A list of cost effective accommodation will be supplied as soon as possible

RUF Youth Summit Secretariat

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Annexure: Youth and Millennium Development Goals

Eradicate poverty and hunger. Poverty affects over half the world's youth in crucial sectors such as their health, education, housing and security. On the other hand, youth must be seen and understood as an agent in the fight to eradicate poverty and marginalization and to become integrated into the policies designed to achieve this.

Achieve primary and universal teaching. Although the current generation of young people is the most highly educated in history, the difference between countries still persists. In most countries, the literacy rate is over 70%. Conversely, there are very few parts of the world with indices of less than 50%. Youth should be part of the solution to this problem.

Promote gender equality and women's autonomy. Gender equality is, above all, a human right. It is essential to improve women's living conditions through education, employment and health.

Reduce child mortality. Approximately 29,000 children under the age of five - 21 per minute - die every day, particularly from preventable causes. The youth population can help reduce child mortality by serving as health service providers in their communities, promoting prevention and sensitization campaigns and providing information on health measures.

Improve maternal health. A woman dies in childbirth every minute, thereby jeopardizing the survival of the newborn baby. Young people of either sex tend to begin their active sex lives with little knowledge of the subject. This has meant that every year, 14 million teenagers ages 15 to 19 give birth. In developing countries, approximately half of all female teenagers become mothers before they are 18.

Fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Half of the new HIV infections worldwide occur in young people ages 15 to 24. Given that the risk of being infected with HIV is directly linked to individual behaviour, it is essential for young people to receive information, preventive tools and health services, including undergoing voluntary testing and counselling to reduce the risk of infection.

Guarantee environmental sustainability. Integrating the principles of sustainable development into national policies is crucial to the implementation and successful promotion of environmental sustainability. In other words, the other seven MDGs and national and regional development must adhere to the concepts of sustainable development, since without ecosystems; there would be no life on earth.

Encourage a global partnership for development. The goal is to increase employment opportunities for the youth population given the world's current employment crisis.