

1st Report of the Rastafari Youth Initiative Council

Empress Woizero Menen Earthday Celebration

March 30, 2008 – Hope Gardens Ashanti Oasis Restaurant

“We must put to the best use the rich heritage of our past for, in that way, and in that way alone, can we live to the highest standard set by our forefathers.”

Words of H.I.M. on our past and future.

On Sunday March 30, 2008, The Rastafari Youth Initiative Council held its' first event. The event was an award ceremony and dinner, where thirteen empresses of the Rastafari movement, who has made great contribution within the Rastafari movement for thirty years and over was honored and treated royally. The event was held at the Ashanti Oasis vegetarian restaurant at Hope Gardens in Kingston. The names of the honorees are as follows: Empress Agatha Mayler (Mashanti), an ancient within the Rastafari movement, Empress Gloria Edwards, of the Nyahbinghi Order, Empress Julia Stewart of the Bobo Shanti house, Empress Alice Johnson of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, Empress Hyasinth Wright of the Ethiopian World Federation, Empress Norma Birch of the Nyahbinghi Order, Empress Wolletta Kidan of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Empress Jelcita Forrester of the Judah Coptic Church, Empress Enid Steele, A Coral Gardens atrocity survivor, Empress Dawn White, a Community Development Officer, Empress Menen Lawson of Country Farm life line production, Maurine Rowe, a Resource person and Yvonne Hope of Ashanti Oasis.

The even was very well attended, as there were Rastafari and non-Rastafari of all capacity. The place was wonderfully decorated with the colors red, green and gold and every one sat comfortably while anticipating to be served a three course meal of soup dinner, and desert and being entertained by Iesha and Julian who are members of the Youth Council, Ras Haile Malekot, The energetic Sizzla Kalonji and veteran Bunny Wailer.

The opening remarks were done by Sis. Iffiya Holmes, who was welcomed on stage by Empress of ceremony Isis Miller, who expressed how proud she was of the youth council, who had been on board for just eight weeks and pulled off such wonderful and historic event. Sis. Mitzie Williams, the keynote speaker spoke about the importance of the unit within the Rastafari family and emphasized the ancients' and youths' effort in making all this possible. Bongo Tawny, Chairman of the Ancient of the Nyahbinghi, spoke on behalf of the Ancients. Other Ancients present were, Binghi Irie Lion, Binghi Ken, Bongo Shephan, Bongo Roy, Bongo Joe and Bongo Manny.

In spite the intermittent weather, persons were able to enjoy the magnificent moment being experience for the first time within the Rastafari movement. It was considered showers of blessing as it brought ones on the outskirts inside together in oneness. Presentation was made to Sis. Elise Kelly of Irie FM, Sis. Isis Miller of Roots FM., Sis. Mitzie Williams, Resource person and Bongo Tawny, Chairman of the Ancient Council of the Nyahbinghi, for great works they have been doing within the trod of Rastafari.

Comments made from individual perspective are as follows: “Any body that didn't enjoy themselves are those that weren't there” said Delroy Officer, a non Rasta from St. Catherine. He went on by saying that he would attend an event like this every Sunday. Ras Sela of Rastafari Alliance of Panama said “The youths did an excellent job, considering the fact that they had so little time and limited resources”, he also said if the youths had more time it would be more than excellent. Ras Imo, of Country Farm lifeline products, expressed how

pleased he was and that persons were expressing the same sentiments to him. Lydia from Linstead said the youths had her smiling the whole time. Empress Hyacinth Wright, one of the honorees expressed how happy she was and how special the youths made her feel. Empress Julia Stewart expressed the same feeling, while all the others were overwhelm. The event came to a close at approximately 9:15 pm. When Sis Ishiwawa Hope did the vote of thanks, she express how grateful the Youth Council was to all the persons who assisted in making this event naturally possible.

The Rastafari Youth Initiative Council give special thanks to the Rastafari Ancients for their present. We would like to further like to take this opportunity to commend and recognize all the executive members of the Youth Council.

- Iffiya Holmes Chairperson
- Gabre Medhin Co-Chair
- Ishiwawa Hope Co-Chair
- Afrika Thompson Secretary
- Iyana Holmes Asst. Secretary
- Kalheb Beniyah Asst. Secretary
- Rashida D'Aguiar Treasurer
- Seun Wilson Asst. Treasurer
- Ishama HopeP.R.O.
- Ilesha Holmes P.R.O.
- Kirk Scarlet P.R.O.
- Ilette Holmes P.R.O.
- Julan Samuels Intl. P.R.O.

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Iffiya Holmes
Chairperson

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Afrika Thompson
Secretary

Prepared
by:
Iyana: