



**RASTAFARI**  
**YOUTH INITIATIVE COUNCIL**  
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Report from

Rastafari Youth Initiative Council

Dated: April 13, 2008

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 the Rastafari Youth Initiative Council (RYIC) hosted their second general meeting at Country Farm House. The meeting was fairly attended with a compliment of thirty (30) Rasta youths. A fundraising and planning committee was established consisting of members of the general membership. However, most of these individuals were not forthcoming in making representation at the executive meetings to carrying out their responsibilities.

Four executive meetings were held focusing mainly on the planning of the Empress Menen Earth Strong celebration. Media representation was given by executive members on Roots Fm, The Cutting Edge and Running African, promoting the Empress Menen Celebration and introducing the RYIC. A second representation is to be made on the Cutting Edge in July. The main sponsorship was give by Country Farm House Lifeline, Kolonji Records and Ashanti Oasis Vegetarian Restaurant.

All planning culminated on Sunday March 30, 2008, when the Rastafari Youth Initiative Council held its first event. The event was held at the Ashanti Oasis Vegetarian Restaurant at Hope Gardens in Kingston The award ceremony and dinner honoured thirteen empresses of the Rastafari movement. These empresses were mainly chosen by mansions to which letters were sent from the RYIC. The honorees were Empress Agatha Mayler (Mashanti), Empress Gloria Edwards, Empress Julia Stewart. Empress Alice Johnsonl, Empress Hyasinth Wright, Empress Norma Birch, Empress Wolletta Kidan, Empress Jelcita Forrester, Empress Enid Steele, Empress Dawn White, Empress Menen Lawson, Maurine Rowe and Sister Yvonne Hope.

The event was very well attended and performances were done by Iesha and Julian from the Youth Council, Ras Haile Malekot, Sizzla Kalonji and Bunny Wailer. Sister Mitzie Williams and Bungo Tawney were the keynote speaker spoke and guest speaker respectively. Presentations were made to Sis. Elise Kelly of Irie FM, Sis. Isis Miller of Roots FM., Sister Mitzie Williams, Mama Lu and Bongo Tawny for their contribution to the event.

The honourees and patrons gave very positive feedback about the event proving that it was a success. The members of the Rastafari Youth Initiative Council worked assiduously to ensure that the event proceeded as planned.

A fifth executive meeting was held on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 where reports were made on the Empress Menen Celebration. The constitution was also examined and input given by the Advisory Committee Ras Imo, Ras Sela and Sister Dawn. The executive was informed that further input can be given via the youth council e-mail.

A report on the Empress Menen celebration was sent out via the youth council's e-mail. Additionally, there has been communication from the global Rastafari family and as such members of the executive will be participating in a teleconference on April 28, 2008, along with members of the Millennium Council and the Global Rastafari family.

Matters on the RYIC agenda in moving forward are:

- RYIC Budget
- Social Development Document/ Census
- Registration of RYIC
- Summer School
- RYIC News Letter
- Activity for June 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting
- Printing of RYIC shirts
- Social Intervention Program Budget

Chairperson  
Iffiya Holmes

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