



Bless~sed Rastafari Greetings in the safe and precious name of Their Imperial Majesties Quadamawi Haile Selassie and Empress Menen of Ethiopia. Divine Dignities in Balance.

How good and how productive it is when I and I dwell in Peace, Love & Righteousness. It is like the precious ointment of unity containing ingredients of strength, humility, pro-activeness & calm. Ingredients so necessary for developing stability.

Welcome to this second newsletter from the RMM Rastafari~The Majesty & The Movement (UK) Committee based in London and established July 2012. The idea for this committee was brought to us by Ras Danijah Tafari who is a repatriate now resident in Ethiopia. He came to the UK between March 2012 and May 2013 on a mission to share this vision of an Exhibition to be shown in Ethiopia commencing in May 2014. To this aim, RMM(UK) is tasked with capturing the history of the Rastafari presence in the UK since its appearance in the late Fifties and to include His Imperial Majesty's connection with the UK throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, highlighting HIS stay in the city of Bath during the Era just before the second World War. In addition aspects of the Pan-African presence in the UK will also be captured and coupled with the history of the Rastafari movement, a true and accurate story can be unfolded in an Exhibition setting, sharing with the African family and the family of Mankind in general, OUR journey in the diaspora and how as a people, we were redeemed and guided towards re-connection with our spiritual and geographical home.

We will be producing regular newsletters to update the community of our activities to invoke continuing interest and participation and to utilise any skills or resources ones may

wish to offer. The RMM committee is 10 members strong containing a range of experience and expertise brought together through the workings of the Holy Irits to manifest this task. Additional members are co-opted as necessary for their specialist areas and resources. We thank all the contributors to this project thus far and the management of the premises used for video shoots, video editing, music recordings and the various radio stations for assisting our publicity drive. All praises due to The Divine Majesty.

*Ras Cos Tafari*  
Director/Co-ordinator

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**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (May-August 2013)**

**May ~**

**Research initiative :** National Archive, George Padmore Archive, Anglo-Ethiopian Society(AES), Black Cultural Archives(BCA), Peoples Museum Archive (Manchester).

**Publicity :** Flyers drafted. Community awareness drive commences on (Ethiopian Liberation day May 5<sup>th</sup>). Outline plan for awareness strategy prepared.

**Production :** Video interview gathering commences with Menelik Shabbaz, Tony Randon (Massive International), and Dr. Ben Nathan (AES).

**Meetings :** Steve Martin of Black Cultural Archives (BCA) & Errol Hinds

**June ~**

**Production:** Video interviews accomplished with Brother Errol Hinds, Sis Atronsa, Sis Askale Selassie(Artist) Ras Seymour & Sis Esther Stanford-Xosei. Draft exhibition panels commenced and prepared.

**Meetings:** Anglo Ethiopian Society(AES), Dr Shawn Sobers, National Nyahbinghi Council (NNC). NNC makes RMM progress a standing agenda item.

**Publicity:** Awareness drive in full flow. Flyers distributed. Audio Ad compiled, Majestic Radio running ad hourly.

**July ~**

**Production:** Further video interviews accomplished including Dr Kes Springer & Ras Clan of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Ras Iman & Young Warrior of 'One Dub' Sound System Roots music promoters. Video

editing process commences. Further exhibition panels drafted.

**Publicity:** Interviews with Voice Of Africa Radio(VOAR) courtesy of Sis Esther Stanford-Xosei & Station FM courtesy of Errol Hinds. A link established with Ethiopian Black International Congress(EABIC) Leicester (UK). Jah Blue returns from a visit to Ghana. Ras Shango & Ras Babu engage in a Radio interview hosted by Ras Cos on Majestic Radio

**Organisational:** Sis Stella and Ras Lionwyze visit Ethiopia to assess arrangements & awareness in Addis Ababa & Shashamane. Links strengthened with Priest Paul in Shashamane.

## August ~

**Production:** Further video interviews accomplished with Herukuti at Galaxy Radio and with Empress Zauditu & Empress Makeda of The Sick Be Nourished project in Birmingham including Empress Beth Shani of 'Mothers Of Creation'. Additional Exhibition panels created. Translation of Exhibition panels into Amharic commenced. Video editing process ongoing.

**Meetings:** Visit to Stephen Bell(AES) to view private Ethiopian collections. Meeting with Neil Kenlock (Publicist/Photographer/Archivist).

**Organisational:** 'Rastafari Regal Livity' (RRL) a legal Community Interest Company established to service the RMM, submits application for registration to Companies House. RMM Logo established.

**Publicity:** Ongoing distribution of flyers. Additional committee members co-opted to strengthen publicity campaign. Ras Shango attends the 'Rastafari Studies Conference' in Jamaica delivering an address on 'Rastafari In The UK'(a RMM research paper) & the proposal for an 'Association of Rastafari Media'.

## Press Release

The second Rastafari Studies Conference and General Assembly was hosted at the UWI Campus in Mona Jamaica from 12-16<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The five day event was attended by delegates and observers from the US, Ethiopia, UK, the Caribbean, Japan and Mexico. Commemoration of the Coral Gardens incident of 1963 was a central theme of the

conference, providing a cutting edge to overall deliberations. Delegates visited the main Mansions of Rastafari including the EABIC HQ at 'Bobo Hill' Bull Bay, Pitfour Nyahbinghi grounds and the Twelve Tribes event on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August. A wide range of researched presentations on Rastafari history created a rich tapestry for discussions on current issues and the future of the Movement.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August a full house audience with drumming and chanting warmly welcomed Jamaica's Prime Minister the Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller to the gathering. Her poignant address showed a deep appreciation of the Movements contribution to Jamaica's profile in the international community. She expressed sincere regret concerning the tragic incidents of 1963 and asked the audience to observe a minute's silence in memory of the Coral Gardens victims. She stated that a government team would be appointed to look into the community's needs and to engage in finding solutions to long standing problems. Musical offerings by Fred Locks and Jah Books added an entertaining dimension to the evening's schedule. The presence of Bunny Wailer and other leading lights of the Rastafari firmament made the occasion distinctly memorable. The Prime Minister's intervention rounded off a highly successful assembly and marked a defining moment in the evolution of the Movement.

Shango Baku ~ 18/8/13

The first RMM newsletter is still available by Email and gives a greater insight into this Exhibition planned for May 2014. This can be forwarded to anyone on request.  
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## RMM Committee Members :

Ras Cos Tafari ~ Director/Co-ordinator.  
Sis Stella Headley ~ Co-Director/Co-ordinator  
Ras Shango Baku ~ Researcher/Writer  
Dr. Robbie Shilliam ~ Researcher/Writer  
Ras Lionwyze ~ Publiciser/Production  
Terry Humphrey ~ Graphic Designer  
Jah Blue ~ Organic Historian  
Ras Rai ~ Camera/Video Editing/Production  
Sis Esther Stanford-Xosei ~ Legal Advisor  
Sis Addishiwot ~ Amharic Translator