



## **RAS TAFARI ~ THE MAJESTY & THE MOVEMENT**

**Ethiopia National Museum. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Open May 25th 2014**

We welcome home all Ras Tafari brethren and sistren for this event and encourage your full participation while extending a general invitation to all people of good will to come to Ethiopia and share in this important landmark experience.

Foreword from Ras Danijah Tafari, Curator within the Ethiopia based committee !

**RAS TAFARI ~ THE MAJESTY AND THE MOVEMENT** is an exhibition devoted to the celebration, preservation, interpretation and 'overstanding' of the contributions and experiences of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I, and the Pan African Movement known by His Majesty's early name, Ras Tafari. The main exhibition will be housed at The Ethiopian National Museum and Institute of Ethiopian Studies @ Addis Ababa University (AAU) in May 2014 with satellite exhibits in Shashamane and Harar. Memorabilia, rare and valuable items, century old documents and ephemera, will be included. An opportunity for 2nd and 3rd generation Pan African Rastas to share their recent films, books, contemporary fine art and other expressions through the exhibit and ancillary events will also be provided. This is an important component of the exhibit as it allows viewers to see the continuity and further development of the Movement, after its almost 100 years inception. The exhibition is a collaborative effort of the Ethiopia Rastafari Exhibition Committee, Ethiopia Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ethiopian National Museum, AAU Exhibit Advisory Committee, Rita Marley Foundation and D.Y.M.D.C. & Associates. This exhibition will reflect the tireless journey of a people wrenched from our Motherland, enduring tortuous treatment in foreign places but with a deeply rooted spiritual and genetic memory, we were protected, connected and guided home. This exhibit is the fascinating and passionate story of our survival and the strength Ethiopia and the Emperor provided. We will open a wide portal to education and enlightenment for the people of Ethiopia and her many international visitors.

With Addis Ababa the political capital of Africa, seat of the African Union and Harar receiving World Heritage Site award and recognition by UNESCO and with Shashamane as the spiritual home of Rastas gifted to the 'Black Peoples of the West', Ethiopia is the perfect choice. Further, many Ethiopians and Africans in general do not know of His Imperial Majesty's role and relationship on the international stage especially countries like Ghana, Mexico, Jamaica and England to name a few, towards the development of Ethiopia, the advancement of Pan Africanism and in the quest for world peace. Fortunately history has recorded His contributions throughout the African Diaspora and beyond. On the other hand the Ras Tafari Movement remains one of the most misunderstood spiritual revivals of the last century. Ironically even many Rastas lack access to cohesive and complete information notwithstanding the million responses available on Google search and the youth's reliance on rhetoric or reggae for inspiration and/or guidance. The mission of **RAS TAFARI ~ THE MAJESTY AND THE MOVEMENT** is to accurately present and interpret the contributions and relevance of Ras Tafari in the context of Pan Africanism and towards a united Africa.

The exhibit will focus on experiences and events that shaped both the Majesty and the Ras Tafari Movement. The collection of cultural items, art, photos, ephemera, books, rare items, videos, music and more will cover topics including the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Ethiopianism, Garveyism, Pan Africanism, Howellites, Coral Gardens Massacre, Repatriation, Role of Ras Tafari Women, traditional Ras Tafari drums and chants, reggae music and more. The exhibition hopes to offer accompanying and continued unique learning opportunities and exchange through an



extensive compilation of research materials, conferences, concerts, cultural celebrations, films, and other programs exploring the diverse and unique histories and development of Ras Tafari around the world. Our aim is to create greater awareness of the impact of His Imperial Majesty on the African Diaspora and the Ras Tafari Movement for those who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to be exposed to such history and cultural wealth. We are also working towards the development of a research center housing books, periodicals and records related to the study of Ras Tafari and Pan Africanism attracting scholars and students from around the world.

## **VENUES IN ETHIOPIA**

- 1. Addis Ababa-** Ethiopia National Museum and Addis Ababa University Ethiopian Studies. May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup> 2014.
- 2. Shashamane** - Satellite exhibit on the history and development of the Shashamane land grant 1940's to 2010. Permanent - opening in May 2014.

### **Commentary by Ras Cos Tafari (UK Co-ordinator/Director)**

Ras Danijah Tafari Artistic Advisor and Curator of Ras Tafari: The Majesty & The Movement Exhibition Ethiopia, was in the UK from May 2012 until March 2013 galvanising support for the establishment of a UK based committee tasked to capture the UK Rastafari experience to contribute to the opening in Ethiopia in May 2014.

Ras Tafari ~ The Majesty & The Movement UK Committee is established. We are interested in linking any individuals, groups, official departments or eminent persons whom may have valuable information or experience to contribute in capturing the Ras Tafari UK story.

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Facebook page ~ Rastafari The Majesty & The Movement

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