



PRESS RELEASE

RASTAFARI: THE MAJESTY & THE MOVEMENT (RMM) is an international idea conceived in Ethiopia and brought to the UK by photographer/curator Ras Danijah Tafari. A small working committee was established in 2012 to make the idea a reality. The aim was to capture and display the evolution of a unique social phenomenon in 20th Century Britain and trace its relationship to Emperor Haile Selassie's presence here. No such initiative has been attempted before.

The committee soon attracted new members with key skills and expertise suited to the needs of the Project: to research and *re-present* the experiences of Rastafari individuals, groups and organisations, who helped to shape the social landscape of Britain since their arrival in the late 1950s.

The fascination that Rastafarians commanded from their early appearance in Britain lives on today. The RMM (UK) is now positioned to depict that history through a vibrant selection of display panels, recorded Interviews, research materials, rare photographs, documentaries and films.

The New York Times has listed Addis Ababa as one of the 52 places that should be visited in 2014. **"But it's the National Museum that, in May and June, will host this year's blockbuster exhibit, *Ras Tafari: The Majesty and the Movement*, devoted to Emperor Haile-Selassie I and Rastafarianism,"** The New York Times stated.

RMM UK is now engaged in a robust fund-raising drive to fulfil its commitment to present the exhibition in Ethiopia during May-June 2014. An 8-person team is due to travel to Ethiopia in May to support the exhibition, make public presentations and facilitate access to the UK input. A special programme is also being drawn up for interaction with Shashemane, an iconic Rastafari community in southern Ethiopia. Air-fares are being fully paid by the UK team. Additional funds (£6,000) are being sought for transport of materials, technical back-up, subsistence and programmes in Ethiopia.

The Committee welcomes donations of funds or items such as books, clothing, artefacts, etc. that can be used in the fund-raising effort. Further info check Sister Stella Headley, Project administrator, (sistahoutlets@aol.com) or Ras Shango Baku, Project writer (onebaku@hotmail.com) Tel. 07769813799 or 07903277175.

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