




BUJU BANTON FOUNDATION



Born in abject poverty I know what it is for a child to go without basic necessities. I also know what it is to be a youth with big dreams and lots of determination. Unfortunately, daunted and unable to achieve your destiny, due to lack of a helping hand. It is not an easy road, my children. However, Jah has blessed me. I have made it my mission through the Buju Banton Foundation, to help, by giving light to youth living in the darkness of poverty. Through provision of food, clothing, healthcare and education. Thus ensuring they too have equal opportunities to succeed



I love to see brothers and sisters
Looking out for one another
That's the way it should be
Not contrary, stop tearing down
each other" Buju Banton

Buju Banton Foundation provides skills training and educational opportunities for youth. With immense emphasis on at risk males, ages 8-18. Its aim and objectives are to provide mentoring and training for young men in depressed communities and childcare facilities. Encouraging them to put down all negative influences and take up skills and tools that enable them to attain personal, academic and professional growth. So they could become positive contributors to society. Learn more about our works in Destiny Newsletter. We invite you to become a Friend of Buju Banton Foundation to help achieve our Destiny.



From left, Mr. Ephraim Martin, Founder & Chairman IRAWMA and Buju Banton



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There was good & evil. We chose good
why raise the time of the most high
his sons of men

Buju Banton Wins 2019 Marcus Garvey Humanitarian Award

“Poverty is a hellish state to be in. It is no virtue. It is a crime. To be poor, is to be hungry without possible hope of food; to be sick without hope of medicine; to be tired and sleepy without a place to lay one’s head; to be naked without the hope of clothing; to be despised and comfortless.” Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey(Jamaica’s first national hero)

Dancehall/reggae icon Buju Banton, was recipient of the 2019 Marcus Garvey Humanitarian Award. Presented on March 21, 2020 at the International Reggae & World Music Awards(IRAWMA). The legend recognised for philanthropic works, through the Buju Banton Foundation. Over 750,000 individuals voted. Buju Banton amassed the most awards. Seven in total- six musical accolades and the humanitarian honour. The latter of special significance, as it recognises his investments in persons socio-economically challenged:

- Feeding the less fortunate- Buju Banton walked the streets of downtown Kingston handing out meals.
- Donating food supplies and personal care items to vulnerable boys at Possibility Programme Youth Hostel, Kingston.
- Issuing school stationery to residents at Mount Olivet Boy’s Home, Manchester.
- Organising motivational workshops for wards of state.
- Endorsing Jamaica Boxing Board’s, Gloves Over Guns initiative.
- Gifting air conditioning unit to Kiwanis Club for music room for boys.

“The ends you serve that are selfish will take you no further than yourself, but the ends you serve that are for all, in common, will take you into eternity.”

Hon. Marcus Garvey

The rich man's wealth is in the city. Yeah
Destruction of the poor is his poverty. Lord
Destruction of your soul is vanity. Yeah, ay, Yeah
Do you hear.
I and I, I wanna rule my destiny. Yeah
I and I, I wanna rule my destiny.

Inspiring Vulnerable Boys for A Better Future



Dr. Kadamawe Knife (Lecturer, University of the West Indies, Mona) discusses the importance of focus, concentration, discipline, confidence

“There are a lot of boys and young men in need of assistance and proper guidance; so instead of us watching and waiting on the State to neutralise them, I am urging everyone to do what we can, for those whom we can,” Buju Banton.

“It was timely. The substance of it is what we need more of. As we need more successful males to motivate young men to become serious about education and their future. We are very thankful to the Buju Banton Foundation for your willingness to support the wards.” Mr. Desmond Whitley, Home Manager at Sunbeam Children’s Home, St. Catherine, enthusiastically stated, following a

workshop for at risk boys. The topic, ‘The Importance of Education, Character & Discipline for Future Success.’

The Buju Banton Foundation, recruited accomplished motivational speakers, Dr. Kadamawe Knife, U.W.I Mona, Lecturer/ Business Management and Entrepreneurship and Mr. Aubrey Stewart, MSc/BSc(Hon), Chief Security Strategist, Ministry of National Security. The latter who hails from the inner city community of Canterbury, Montego Bay, shared his moving personal testimony, as an at risk youth. Subjected to ridicule and scorn by persons who said he would amount to nothing. How he defied all negativity to succeed. Stewart urged wards to dismiss all negative people. “You can be anything you want, if you surround yourself with wisdom from books and positive people. Don’t compare yourself with others, think about your own journey.” He closed with Hon. Marcus Garvey quote, “There is no height that we cannot climb by using the active intelligence of our minds.”

Dr. Knife had facility staff and boys fixated, as he taught everyone strategies for success. He opened by inquiring each boy’s interest. Most wanting to pursue careers in creative industry. Dr. Knife affirmed “Jamaica is one of the most popular countries because of its creative industry- sports, music, etcetera; however, no matter what you want to do, you have to educate yourself about it. Want to DJ? learn to write notes. Buju Banton practices and writes for many hours daily. Not just two to four hours. Several hours daily.”

Destiny, mama look from when you call me
Destiny, mama look from when you calling
I wanna rule my destiny
yeah, yeah oh help I please
Jah Jah mek mi rule my destiny.

He added, “The best footballer, Lionel Messi, plays ball for five minutes, each game. For the remaining eighty-five minutes he studies, thinks, strategizes the game. So football is more thinking than playing. It is not just control, pass, play. Thinking is very important in anything you are going to do. Whatever your career goals, you can learn about it, right here on the computer. Adults sometimes tell youths they spend too much time on the computer; however, in North Korea basic schoolers are already studying computer coding. Encourage youths to develop their skills. Having them express themselves is very important. Remember, though, to apply the same amount of time you do with recreational activities to your school work. I tell my eleven year old son, there are four principles for success: focus, concentrate, discipline, confidence. Confidence, is why Usain Bolt wins and other athletes who practice, just as much, fail. Marcus Garvey said “ ‘Without confidence you are twice defeated in the role of life. But with confidence you have won even before you have started.’ ”



Dr. Kadamawe Knife(Lecturer, University of the West Indies, Mona)

Dr. Knife told the boys, “A lot of opportunities will emerge in Jamaica. Prepare yourself. We have two cities, Kingston and Montego Bay. The next city will be Clarendon. We will also build St. Thomas. The entire waterfront. We will have ports; therefore, a lot of cruise ships and tourists. They will need food, entertainment, etcetera. The man disciplined enough to develop a certain skill will reap the benefits. Farming is very important. More people in Jamaica die from eating bad foods, than from gun shots. Fifteen thousand persons die, each year, from diabetes (bad food). Get involved in farming to produce good food for Jamaica and visitors to our island. The same manner that you play football and develop friendships, that same group that meets to play ball regularly, can come together to form a business, utilizing their common skills or talents.”



I've been blessed I've been touch
 I love Jah so much
 They keep fighting me I'm not giving up
 May the realms of Zion fill my spiritual cup
 Wisdom overstanding must never be too much
 Give I protection day and night
 From even the pestilence that walketh a daylight



Mr. Aubrey Stewart encourages participants by sharing his personal struggles

Until one day, a good samaritan reached out to cover all expenses.

At the close of the workshop, Stewart urged participants to always be positive. Each was handed a pea seed and cup. Stewart advised they plant, water, nurture the seed daily, just as they would their dreams.

Ms. Rosemary Duncan, Director at Buju Banton Foundation, asserted "The foundation is committed to ensuring at risk boys, across Jamaica, become meaningful contributors to society and thus has a lot of great works planned for successful fruition of that mission.

Mr. Stewart facilitated the session at Possibility Programme Youth Hostel, Kingston. Delving into his early life of dire financial constraints. Being told by community members, that he would be the next don. He disclosed that a lot of his childhood friends are in prison. However, education changed his destiny. Having one day walked past a television and hearing a speech by former U.S. President Barack Obama, in which he mentioned the book, 'The Audacity of Hope.' Mr. Stewart said the word "hope" is what caught his attention. That motivated him to read, dream big and focus on education. He excelled academically and attended university. It was tough. Stewart recalls sending out fifty letters seeking financial assistance. Just one responded encouraging him to be positive. Nonetheless he remained hopeful.



From left- Rosemary Duncan, Director, Buju Banton Foundation & Mr. Aubrey Stewart, Chief Security Strategist, Ministry of National Security

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 Destiny, mama look from when you calling
 I wanna rule my destiny
 yeah, yeah oh help I please
 Jah Jah mek mi rule my destiny.

Educational Supplies for All Residents at Mount Olivet Boys' Home



Iconic Reggae Musician, Buju Banton, is making good on his mission to assist destitute young men, through his eponymous Foundation. The Buju Banton Foundation presented a huge supply of school stationery, for residents at Mount Olivet Boys' Home in Manchester. The facility established 52 years ago, provides care and protection for forty eight boys, ages 6-18.

In accepting the donation, facility administrator, Mr. Patrick Newman, poured encomium on the Buju Banton Foundation. "Your kindness has not gone un-noticed and we want to especially say how much this donation is to us, as we plan towards our back to school for the new term."

Cast away their cords from us, Lord.
You have them in the region in the valley of decision
Restraining the heathen with a rod of iron
You know not the destiny of a next man
Why hold him set him free for too long
I, I wanna rule my destiny
Oh yeah, I & I really wanna rule my destiny
Hear me call call call



Patrick Newman, facility administrator at Mount Olivet Boys' Home, hands a thank you letter to Rosemary Duncan, director at the Buju Banton Foundation.

Mr. Newman expressed "it is unfortunate that we have children whose parents have failed in their responsibility to them. We at Mount Olivet Boys' Home believe these boys have tremendous potential and if given the right environment, nurturing and love can fulfill their God given purpose in life." He further added, "sincere thanks to the Buju Banton Foundation and looking forward to future support, as we work together in making a difference in the development of our boys here at the Home."

Ms. Rosemary Duncan director at the Buju Banton Foundation, conveyed warm remarks on behalf of reggae icon Buju Banton. Encouraging the boys to be serious and focused on education. She also affirmed that additional support will be provided to the home.

Destiny, mama look from when you call me
Destiny, mama look from when you calling
I wanna rule my destiny
oh yeah, help I please
really wanna rule my destiny.

Plentiful Provisions for Possibility Programme Youth Hostel



For safety and security reasons faces of wards must not be shown.

When the Buju Banton Foundation was established, in January 2019, the reggae icon affirmed “ I know what it is for a child to go without basic necessities. I also know what it is to be a youth with big dreams and lots of determination. Unfortunately, daunted and unable to achieve your destiny, due to lack of a helping hand. It is not an easy road, my children.

However, Jah has blessed me. I have made it my mission, through the Buju Banton Foundation, to help, by giving light to youth living in the darkness of poverty. Through provision of food and other resources . Thus ensuring they too have equal opportunities to succeed.”

On Labour day, the Buju Banton Foundation donated an enormous supply of food and personal care items, to Possibility Programme Youth Hostel. A care facility housing at risk young boys, ages 13-21. The reggae superstar is making a reality, his commitment to donate portions of earnings, from his tour, to underserved communities; with specific focus on financially challenged young men.

Staff and residents, vastly impressed by Banton’s magnanimous generosity, hailed him. Facility Manager, Ms. Ruth Oyesibi, thanked Buju Banton for reaching out and delivering on his promise. The creative residents, at the hostel, presented an amazing thank you card to the musician.



Thank you card created by wards.

My destination is homeward bound
Though forces try to hold I down
Breaking chains has become the norm
I know I must get through no matter what a gwaan

Supporting Jamaica Boxing Board's Gloves Over Guns Programme



Last summer, the Buju Banton Foundation endorsed the Gloves Over Guns Programme. A Jamaica Boxing Board initiative geared towards rehabilitating at risk males, living in distressed communities, by teaching them boxing as a form of discipline. Boys are also taught reading, writing and mathematics. Tuition is held at community centres across Jamaica.



Destiny, mama look from when you calling
Destiny, mama look from when you calling
I wanna rule my destiny
Lord, & I tell you once more



Covid-19 Message from Buju Banton

The legend continues to invest in the wellbeing of the vulnerable, as the coronavirus devastates lives and livelihoods. He also participated in Telethon Jamaica- Together We Stand, fund-raising event. To garner funds for procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for frontline workers. Banton supported ' Saving OurSelves: A BET Covid-19 Relief Effort,' to help raise funds for affected communities.



[Play](#) Buju Banton message