

## SDC; Black Youths on the Rise for Come-Unity

In celebration of the achievements of our African ancestry, the Social Development Commission (SDC) held its Black History Month Symposium themed: “Black Youths on the Rise for Come-Unity” at the Port Antonio Parish Library, Portland on February 27, 2018.

The event attracted history enthusiasts, students and community members within the parish who were charged to continue to honor and pay homage to our African ancestry and their long legacy of uniting a passion that has provided a base to educate and celebrate an important part of Jamaica’s culture and heritage.



Mr. Allan Hope popularly known as (Mutabaruka) (left), pose for a photo-opp up with Portland Parish Manager Ms. Ishiwawa Hope (SDC) (centre), and Mr. Omar Frith Deputy Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Communications (SDC) (right), at the SDC Black History Month Youth Symposium

Rastafarian dub poet, musician, actor, educator, and talk-show host, Mutabaruka was the guest speaker alongside Mr. Omar Frith Deputy Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Communications (SDC) and Mr. Shaver Henry, sixth form student at the Titchfield High School.

“Jamaicans need to identify themselves as firstly Africans as Africa is where our forefathers’ originated. We then would need to take the next step to know our history,” Mutabaruka expressed. He added that the importance of knowing ones’ history and organizing as a people is only way Jamaicans will be able to triumph over the obvious wrongs as demonstrated by Paul Bogle and many other young black stalwarts in our history.

Mr. Frith during his presentation pointed to the need for greater responsibility towards the education of people from African descent and the need for us to know our history prior to slavery. “The SDC will be playing a greater role in the lives of students as we are set to roll out the Community Education Support Programme, which will involve SDC clubs being formed in schools. Without a doubt African ancestry will be a focal point in these groups,” Mr. Frith added.

