



**HONOURABLE OLIVIA GRANGE CD MP
MINISTER OF CULTURE, GENDER, ENTERTAINMENT
AND SPORT**

&

**PATRON
JEANETTE GRANT-WOODHAM EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

REMARKS

On the Occasion of the

**4TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER
OF THE
JEANETTE GRANT-WOODHAM EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

Jamaica Pegasus Hotel

Saturday, February 1, 2020



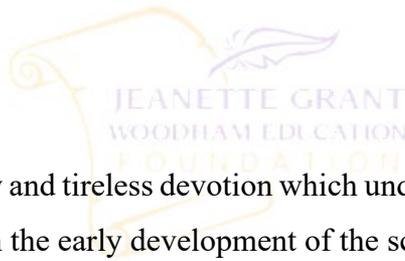
Salutations....

Allow me at the outset to thank Mr. Kiddo Smith, Chairman, and other members of the Jeanette Grant-Woodham Education Foundation for the kind invitation to me to serve as Patron of the Foundation.

I am truly honoured to be asked to serve in this capacity for various reasons. First of all, it is a great honour for me to succeed my mentor, the late former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Edward Seaga, as Patron of the Foundation. I am aware that Mr. Seaga's shoes will be hard to fill but I take courage in the fact that as my mentor I know he is happy today to see me assume this responsibility as his successor. We are all cognizant of the deep commitment Mr. Seaga displayed over all his life to the citizens of Tivoli Gardens and his work in the development of the school and community. Tonight, we pause to salute and honour him for his leadership, vision and drive over the years.

Secondly, I am pleased with the establishment of this Foundation in honour of my sister and colleague Mrs. Jeanette Grant-Woodham, first Principal of Tivoli Gardens High School, under whose leadership were sown the seeds of academic and cultural excellence for which the school has come to be recognized. We



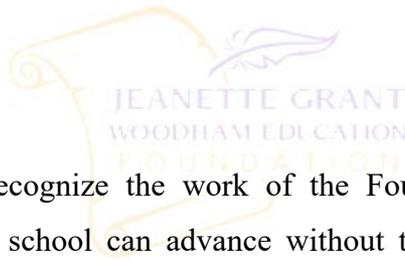


hail her tenacity and tireless devotion which underpinned the work she sustained in the early development of the school.

Thirdly, as a citizen of West Kingston, I am supportive of any programme that engages and promotes education and excellence among the students of Tivoli Gardens High School. Education still remains the most sustainable input in the holistic development of our young people through which they are able to reap great personal success and earn positive social and economic rewards. This is why I must commend the Foundation for their goal of excellence in academic, sports and arts and culture and in the encouragement of students to pursue tertiary education.

Tonight, I want also to recognize members of the private sector present for their support. Corporate citizenship is most blatantly manifested in the contribution of the sector to the education and employment of our children and young people. In this regard, it is my pleasure to thank our keynote speaker, Mr. Marcus Steele, Managing Director of Carreras Limited, for consenting to deliver the keynote address this evening. I am sure, knowing Mr. Steele, that Carreras stands tall as a worthy partner in the Foundation's quest for support.





Let me also recognize the work of the Foundation since its inception. No school can advance without the support of the community and the private sector. Tivoli Gardens High School can boast of powerful community support over the years as it made its mark on the educational landscape of Jamaica. Tonight, it is my pleasure to commend this fundraising effort centred on ensuring that more students matriculate into tertiary institutions and expand their career possibilities. It is through interventions like this into the lives of our young people that we are able to promote peace and sustainable prosperity in communities.

As Patron and as Minister responsible for Culture and Entertainment, I am particularly pleased to recognize the Tivoli Gardens High School for producing the globally acclaimed Tivoli Dance Troupe which has been outstanding cultural ambassadors over many years. Wherever they perform, and we have seen them tonight, they are always leaders in their field for creativity, artistry and professionalism.

Likewise, I am told the Tivoli High School Band is outstanding in their field and plays music from different genres. This is not surprising as Tivoli Gardens sits in the melting pot that gave birth to many of the legends of Jamaican music. Today, the school





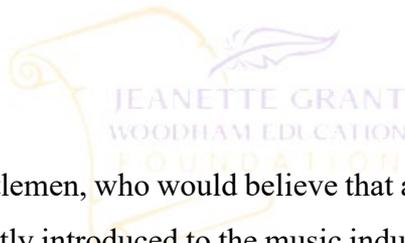
boasts past students like Michigan & Smiley, Lieutenant Stitchie, Cobra, Culture and his late musical partner Ghost, among others.

And culture is not the only area of outstanding achievement with respect to my Ministry. The school was thrust into the spotlight through victories in Manning Cup in football, Sunlight Cup in cricket and victories in netball and soft ball. Several past students are now coaches in schools known for their accomplishment in sports.

I therefore pledge the continued support of my Ministry and its agencies, in particular the JCDC and InSport, to the school's programme for holistic development.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, our young people are our most prized asset. Their success is the fertile soil for the growth and expansion of our country's creativity and productivity. It is through investment in their lives that we will sustain the social, economic and cultural excellence of our country. It is by believing in the power of our Jamaican creativity and cultural enterprise which our students adopt as their legacy as well as by not limiting their scope and projection that we can create the stars of the future.

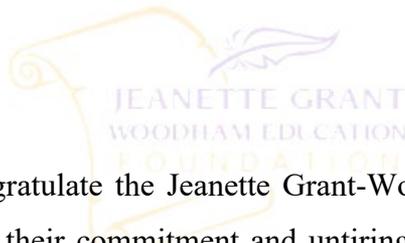




Ladies and gentlemen, who would believe that a young woman 19 years old, recently introduced to the music industry, could win the Reggae category for the 2020 Grammy Awards? Tonight, we pause to congratulate Koffee, though not from Tivoli Gardens, on her success. Little did she know when she was creating and presenting her music that she would so soon have copped this award and have the forty-fourth (44th) President of the United States, Barrack Obama, include her album on his list of preferred songs for 2019.

The possibilities for our students and young people are endless. The legacy of an international brand has already been constructed as Brand Jamaica and all we have to do is provide new opportunities for our young people to hone their talents and abilities and hitch their wagon to the Jamaican star. Our duty is to fortify them as they take on life's challenges. We at the Foundation are called to light a candle so that every student will see their way to the completion of their education and the achievement of their life aspirations. Such is the light we create tonight in this 4th Fundraising exercise. It is a light we all carry within us and which we must share with our young people so that they do not stumble in darkness but advance in the light that assures success.





Tonight, I congratulate the Jeanette Grant-Woodham Education Foundation for their commitment and untiring dedication to the cause of education and excellence among the students of Tivoli Gardens High School. I am assured that our effort will not be in vain. God bless us all as we commit to the future of our young people. God bless Jamaica Land We Love.

