



SOUTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

February 16, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Initiative to Groom Young Males Poised to Changed Landscape of Society

An intervention titled “Man-Up Jamaica- A Call to Healthy, Responsible Manhood” is being described as a movement that is poised to change the landscape of the Jamaican society.

Regional Technical Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), Dr. Michael Coombs who is the pioneer of the initiative noted that “Man-Up Jamaica” was conceptualized in 2015 as a component of the wider initiative, “Good Health Begins at Home”, and was “developed from evidence showing that male related issues are linked to crime and violence including domestic and gender-based violence, substance abuse, sexual promiscuity and other issues which are having devastating effects on the social fabric of the country.”

On Friday, February 10, some 300 young men between the ages of 12 to 25 years from high schools and colleges across central Jamaica and Kingston including schools from the inner-city, converged at the Kendal Camp and Conference Centre in Manchester for a second retreat which addressed key male related issues including the importance of fatherhood, families, marriage, self development and treating women with love, respect and non-violence.

An important strategic activity employed at the retreat was small group discussions on the key issues conducted by male facilitators/mentors led by Professor Brendan Bain, Coordinator of “Man-Up Jamaica”.

The Regional Technical Director who is also the founder and chair of the National Association for the Family (NAF) said the intervention is a partnership between the SRHA, the NAF, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, the South East Regional Health Authority, the church and other stakeholders.

He added that going forward “Man Up Jamaica” will be introduced into schools, colleges and universities through clubs in addition to faith based
(more)

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organizations and community based youth clubs among others. There will also be ongoing retreats, workshops and camps targeting males. Dr. Coombs expressed the hope that this important initiative will receive funding support from corporate Jamaica.

Dr. Coombs noted that Jamaica's future is not only dependent on its leaders but more importantly on its males discovering their true identity and purpose. He encouraged the young men to share what they learnt with their peers and commit to becoming a new generation of men who will impact the society positively.

Picture 1



These young men are enjoying their small group session.

(more)

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Picture 2



Dr. Michael Coombs engages a group of young men.

(more)

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Picture 3



A group of young men from the Knox Community College perform a jingle about the importance of responsible manhood.

(more)

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Picture 4



The Knox Community College group carries out a devotional exercise.

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