

B/N MARLEY, ROBERT
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NEWS

PM CITES BENEFITS OF BOB MARLEY'S LIFE

KINGSTON, APRIL 1 (JAMPRESS):

The real benefits to Jamaica from Bob Marley's life, Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga said yesterday, was the re-awakening to the realization that "we need not be trapped by circumstances, by environment, by birth or fate".

The Prime Minister said at the ceremony to unveil the statue of the Hon. Robert Marley, O.M. at Celebrity Park at the National Stadium complex, that "no matter how great the difficulties, how complex the problems, how gloomy the picture, or how much it might seem that we are caught with no way out, yet the spirit will always find a way".

Mr. Seaga said that handicaps could be transformed into ladders by which "we may ascend from the pit of apparently desparate circumstances on to the heights of achievement".

The statue of the Hon. Robert Marley, which was unveiled by Mr. Seaga, is the second to be commissioned by Government. It was done by veteran sculptor Mr. Alvin Marriott, who at 82 years old and although in ill health, was on hand to witness the unveiling of his work received with much applause by the gathering.

The work was commissioned by the Government with assistance from the Marley Foundation and Island Records. The statue was created in England.

"This statue will help remind us of Bob Marley, the man who sang for the freeing of the human spirit and for an end to oppression and indifference...", Mr. Seaga said.

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The Prime Minister said that over and above the message in song and music, the life of Bob Marley said something special to Jamaica.

He went on: "This country has never been an easy one to live in for most of its people - but present difficulties often seem to be the worst ones, and we tend to believe that our great grand-fathers were living in some golden era."

He said that the advantage Jamaicans had today over our ancestors was that Jamaicans were coming to the full realization of "our Jamaican citizenship."

Mr. Seaga called upon the country to be inspired by the example of "this slender youth, who was a true steward of the talents which God gave him, and who returned to the Master a magnificent profit on the investment which had been made in him".

"Well done thou good and faithful steward, enter into the joy of your Creator", Mr. Seaga continued.

The ceremony also signalled the start of Jamfest '85 - World Youth Festival of Arts which ends April 9.

The ceremony included a vote of thanks by Bob Marley's mother Miss Cedella Booker and a performance by one of his sons - Ziggy Marley.

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