

WINNIFRED BEACH - PORTLAND

THE BEACH FOR THE PEOPLE

After five years of struggle to defend Winnifred beach from being privatised by UDC, on 6th October 2014, finally the decision was made at Port Antonio Court House!

A consent order states that Winnifred beach is a public beach and within ninety days UDC will have to present to the court a new land title with beach boundaries and roads to access the beach.

Winnifred Benevolent Society wishes to celebrate the right for all to access the beach, the need to recognise community spaces where everybody can gather and spend a special day. We are all glad about such a decision, however, we need to make everyone aware that the struggle is not over. Indeed, who is now going to control the beach and keep it going in the proper way? We the people of Winnifred are ready to do it; therefore we are applying to lease the beach.

It is indeed years since Winnifred is able to accommodate huge crowds, especially on holidays, thanks to the restless work of a bunch of people working at the beach. Keeping it clean, trying to fix the bathrooms, trying to repair the road, making sure that on busy days we have lifeguards in place, clearing plastic bottles and teaching everyone to be gentle to all visitors.

It is a lot of good work and in the last three years we kept fighting to protect the turtles coming to the beach to make their nests. The turtles are back, as evidenced in the attached picture. Some adults and teenagers have created a task force to monitor them. We have the energy, the power and the expertise on the ground to control Winnifred beach.

We thank the many supporters for their contribution during this fight.

First of all, Irie FM, who gave voice and great support to us. Irie FM will broadcast live from the beach on 7th December. Being IRIE our major supporter and most relevant trustee, it is an honour for us to host Running Africa and Andrea Williams with her team. Its commitment is leading the struggle for all public beaches in Jamaica. Thanks Irie FM, thanks Andrea!

Thank you to Geejam for its past support and for becoming part of a non-profit trust, the Winnifred Benevolent Society, to support our request to UDC to secure a lease. WE CAN DO IT, together with our community, because we work for the people.

Love
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