

AN APPEAL FOR A VIOLENCE-FREE CHAMPS

The ISSA/ Grace Kennedy Boys' and Girls' Championships (CHAMPS) has maintained a long standing tradition of high energy performance, memorable record breaking, and Kodak finishes. It is expected that the 2009 staging of the Track and Field meet will be no different. It is unfortunate however that the championships is often greeted with an outbreak of war among competing schools, especially those in the corporate area.

The National Secondary Students' Council (NSSC), which advocates on behalf of more than three hundred thousand secondary students in public educational institutions across Jamaica, is in strong support of the Boys' and Girls' Championships. We believe that it is an excellent opportunity to showcase the amazing talents of students in high schools across Jamaica. T

This aspect of youth development is very important to sustainable national development and the NSSC believes that it should take place without any interference. The fights, the quarrels, the stereotypes, the segregation and hatred which has become characteristic of CHAMPS looms negatively on the entire competition. It will not only affect the persons involved in the fights, but may put a bad image on the event that was intended for enjoyment of Jamaicans all over the world.

As students, we are the leaders of tomorrow. We therefore have to play our role in ensuring that our society is free from the plague of crime and violence which now looms. The NSSC is imploring students all across Jamaica to move towards making CHAMPS violence-free by promoting a spirit of togetherness and sportsmanship. So, whether we support the young men of Kingston College , Calabar, Jamaica College, or St. George's College, let us do so by cheering for them and not fighting with supporters of the other team. Let us make the difference by being responsible students.

Paul McFarlane

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