

Miss Lou on social issues

Miss Lou made no bones when it comes to weighing in on whatever her grouses were with the social agenda. She did it with style, grace and tempered her biting words with humour.

But there was no mistaking her stance or opinion though as revealed in many of her dramatic pieces. Described by many as the mother of Jamaican poetry, Miss Lou had the talent of taking the most painful situations and softening it with humour. She effectively captured issues such as the mass migration of Jamaicans to England, following World War II, with the witty *Colonisation in Reverse*. Dem pour out a Jamaica, Everybody future plan Is fe get a big-time job An settle in de mother lan. What an islan! What a people! Man an woman, old an young Jus a pack dem bag an baggage An turn history upside dung! Being in the right social standing was just as big back then as it is now. That fact did not escape Miss Lou's sharp eyes and she weighed in on it with *Social Climbing*. Shet up yuh mout an tap de nize! Yu tink yuh grievance strong Because yuh never get de chance Fi jine de dress-puss gang? Stop jump an kick an bawl an gwaan Like Chigger-fly dah bite yuh Yuh hooda tun big poppy show Ef dem did go invite yuh! With the economy going up and down, hard times are not new to Jamaicans, but being a resilient people they always find a way to cope. Trying to make it under trying circumstances has not seen alien to our beloved folklore poet Miss Lou and that point was made abundantly clear in *Dutty Tough*. No care omuch we dah work fa Hard-time still een we shut; We dah fight, Hard-time a beat we, Dem might raise we wages, but One poun gawn awn pon we pay, an We no feel no merriment For ten poun gawn pon we food An ten pound pon we rent!

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