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Troy Primary To Be Renamed In Honour Of VCB

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Kenyon Hemans

Kenyon Hemans/Photographer Veronica Campbell-Brown (right) hands over some of her sports gear to Minister of Sports Olivia Grange at the launch of the 2018 VCB 5K Run/Walk at the Pegasus Hotel on Thursday.

Vere Technical High School may be synonymous with the name Veronica Campbell-

Brown, but it is Troy Primary School, from her native Trelawny, that will bear the name of the eight-time Olympic medallist, Minister of Sports Olivia Grange said on Thursday. Grange, who was speaking at the launch of the third staging of the VCB Foundation 5K Run/Walk at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston, said the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders have already given the approval for the institution to be renamed in honour of Campbell-Brown.

"We have spoken to the member of parliament, Ministry of Education and other stakeholders, and I am happy to tell you that Troy will be renamed in tribute to Veronica," Grange said

The veteran politician said that it was a conversation with the sprint queen after the 2008 Olympics which led to the deal.

"We asked several athletes what would they like to be recognised in their names as tributes to their success and Veronica said, 'I would want Troy, the school I attended, to be renamed in my honour', and so we decided to pursue that," Grange remembered. Though not stating when the renaming will take place, Grange said that Government will fly home the two-time 200m Olympic gold medallist when the restoration of the school begins.

MORETHAN 100 YEARS OLD

"When the time comes for us to break ground for the restoration, we are gonna take you back to Jamaica," Grange told Campbell-Brown. "The school is over 100 years old, and so we have to hold discussions with the Jamaica National Heritage Trust. There is a building there that was the principal's cottage and we can't touch that building. We are in discussion for us to work with them to restore that cottage. That will be done and we will be renovating the school and making it a property that you can be very proud to have your name."

When asked why Troy instead of the more popular Vere Technical, Campbell-Brown said Troy is where it all started for her.

"Troy is like the background and I feel like it was only fitting that Troy be renamed in my honour," she said.

Troy Primary is one of the four schools currently benefiting from the VCB Foundation. The others are Vere, Irwin High and St Andrew Technical High.

At least four more schools are set to benefit from the foundation, whose mission is to uplift underprivileged girls.

The annual 5K is the main fundraiser for the foundation, which was established in 2011. While not announcing the names of the four new schools set to benefit, Campbell-Brown is urging the public to support the cause.

"It is our intention to increase the number of schools benefiting from our trust, so stay tuned for more news on this," Campbell-Brown said. "I wish to encourage the running clubs, runners and walkers, as well as those wishing to take their active lifestyle to another level, to come to Vere for the VCB Foundation 5K Run/Walk."

Alan Beckford, who is the director of the January 21 meet, said persons who wish to participate in the event should make their entry at the VCB Foundation website, **vcbfoundation.com**, for a cost of \$1000.

Sponsors for the event include the RJRGLEANER Communications Group, National Commercial Bank, Sherwin Williams, Juici Patties, and Tropical Blue.