

Foreword

A Spirit Undaunted

“Slavery is a denial of all freedom and as such is a denial of humanity, of the very essence of the human condition, for it is an attempt at objectification, at making the person a thing, a chattel. Hence, it is an absurd denial.” An ungodly crime perpetrated against man by man.



**NYAHUMA OBIKA - PRESIDENT OF
CARIBBEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

A spirit undaunted it was and indeed still is, which aptly describes the determination of the African to withstand and overcome the cruel, barbaric experience and legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and its companion, the institution of chattel slavery.

The Caribbean Historical Society wishes to salute all our ancestors who suffered, who fought and who consistently and persistently resisted against the onslaught of the European rape and plunder of Africa.

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade although abolished by Britain in 1807, still persisted up until 1888, when the

Portuguese finally abolished its practice.

On the contrary, however, though Britain had abolished the trade in 1807, yet still she continued to encourage and enhance the institution of chattel slavery itself.

Britain did not abolish chattel slavery until August 1st 1834 throughout the then existing British Empire.

As the international community commemorates March 25th 2007 as the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade by Britain, we must all be mindful of the fact that Africa, as well as the African, is yet to fully recover from the negative impact of this horrendous period in the annals of human history.

According to Amilcar Cabral in the book entitled: "Return To The Source", we are informed that... "The principal characteristics, common to every kind of imperialist domination, is the negation of the historical process of the dominated people by means of violently usurping the free operation of the process of development of the productive forces".

It is very clear, therefore, that there needs to be a new approach to the study and research of the history of Africa before and during the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The treatment of the African resistance to the European invasion both on the continent of Africa as well as the Americas and the Caribbean must be revisited.

The Caribbean Historical Society is of the view that an entirely new body of scholarship is required to remove the veil of secrecy and in so doing reveal the efforts made by the African to reclaim and restore the dignity, independence, power and glory of what has now been unanimously accepted as an historical fact, that Africa is the cradle of civilization and all peoples of the world came out of AF-

RICA.

The study of history remains an absolutely necessary and compulsory subject that each child attending primary as well as secondary school should be encouraged to pursue.

The Struggle to bring to an end the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade as well as the institution of slavery in Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean represents one of the most epic battles ever fought by mankind. The whole truth of this 500 year battle is yet to be told.

The Caribbean Historical Society sincerely hopes that this commemorative booklet will be a useful instrument in reawakening and rekindling that undaunted spirit within the soul of those who read it and that in so doing would motivate generations to come to research document and disseminate this untold story as a fitting tribute to all those who forgot to eradicate from the face of the earth the callous denial of the freedom of man in the quest for wealth, power and glory.