

## Message from the Chief Servant



**MAKANDAL DAAGA - CHIEF SERVANT AND  
POLITICAL LEADER, NATIONAL JOINT  
ACTION COMMITTEE**

Very soon, you, my people, will be bombarded by propaganda that will endeavour to confirm within your vulnerability, some of the greatest untruths devised by man in his quest for domination and power. These untruths that have not only distorted the greatness of your his-

torical civilization but have bequeathed to your unsuspecting legacy perspectives of self-destruction that will sustain the enslavement of your minds for centuries to come.

For years you have been taught that your beginning was so steeped in darkness, that only the coming of the European could have alleviated the spiritual decay and economic suffering that you were experiencing. Also, that the slave trade, as barbaric and ruthless as it may seem now, could only have been initiated and developed with your fullest co-operation and encouragement. That its development with all its barbarism and inhumanity, occurred with your greed, self-hate and corrupt value system that per-

vaded your then existence. That even this inhuman practice would have continued unabated, had not the conscience and morality of the very European been so affected, that her leaders like William Wilberforce fought to end it.

Therefore, it is to the heroism of Wilberforce, his companions and the liberating force of the European mind that we owe our freedom, our civilizing energy and perspectives and all the benefits of life we enjoy today. It is to this we are told that we must give our eternal gratitude and nothing else. Nothing must be gleaned of our suicidal struggles on those filthy ships as we combated the slave masters efforts to innovate his process of enslavement.

It is not difficult to imagine why death with the sharks at the bottom of the sea, would be more welcome than life on a slave plantation with the slave master and his cronies. To the mind of the Africans on these ships, death would be more welcome than any infringement on his dignity and honour. At this point let us for our own clarification dismiss the common description of the Africans on board these ships.

They were not ordinary people, but for the most part the young sons and daughters of the esteemed elders of our societies- the Kings and Queens, esteemed law-makers, judges, doctors, healers, teachers, educators and thinkers, spiritual patrons, military geniuses, brave warriors of our elite armies, artists, musicians, writers and composers, skilled inventors, engineers, builders, craftsmen and technicians of the highest quality-in short, the young cream of the country.

It is this tragedy that would have bereft the country of any leadership that could organise or mobilise any confrontation to future attempts at ensuring the success of the

slave trade. This villainous and ruthless extermination of the genius of our civilization, has not only enriched the intellectual prowess of the diaspora but certainly impoverished Africa indeed. It is no wonder therefore that in such a short space of time, we could have produced such greatness as Toussaint, Dessalines, Christophe, Makandal. These military geniuses not only freed the slave society of Haiti, defeating the might of England, Spain and France under Napoleon, but motivated the entire slave society of the Western Hemisphere in revolt against the oppressors and even attempted to build a black army to invade and free Africa of its slave masters.

In this time, we also produced geniuses like George Padmore, Sylvestre Williams, CLR James, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Daaga, Sobers, Lara, Viv Richards, Headley, Weekes, Worrell and Walcott, Michael Jordan, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Mohammed Ali, Pele, Christina King, Harriet Tubman, Elma Francois, Nanny of Jamaica, Frederick Douglass, to name but a few.

Such was the visionary genius of men like Toussaint and other freedom fighters who entertained ideas of returning to Africa to liberate the motherland, but also many African leaders on the continent who also entertained ideas about going to the Americas and the Caribbean for the purpose of freeing their people and bringing them back to their motherland. This aspect of our history is now being advanced, analysed and researched with alarming results. The truth is stunning to European reality.

It is so easily explained why a few miscreants, pushed into positions of power by the armies of the slave master and by this slave enterprise, would choose to help their friends in further corrupting our motherland and become

the basis of an experience in the education of our unlearned selves.- “We sold our own people to the white man”. This is one of the greatest travesties of truth and justice that the black world has experienced. To endure this total eradication of the great struggles of our African leaders and people like Nzinga and Yaa Asantewa, who fought so relentlessly and the millions who died on the continent in defence of their honour and dignity and freedom.

It is totally inconceivable to think that these well developed and far advanced civilizations that existed in Africa at the time of the coming of the European war-lords in the fifteen century, would not only stand by, unaware of the destruction of their brethren, but also assist in the rape and pillage of their motherland for the interest of enemy forces.

If this 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade is to have any meaning and to serve any purpose, then it is incumbent upon researchers and historians of today to discard the humiliating thrash, the past and current theories about Africa’s duplicity in this sordid affair and to see this point of view as a clever attempt to exonerate the European as the architect of this scandalous crime committed against humanity and to place such a charge on the victims of the crime itself.

The failure of contemporary historical analysis to acknowledge the relentless resistance of Africans on the continent to European attempts at conquering our lands and people smacks of the same disrespect and denial of the capacity of the African to govern his own affairs. Gone are the days when wrongs against the African must continue unabated.

Our responsibility now is to make use of all opportunities today, to plunge ourselves into the chasm of our

rich past, to present newer perspectives on this 500 year debacle. We can no longer take things for granted. Let us remove the veil which was deliberately placed upon our intellectual growth and development as a subjugated people. If after 200 years since the abolition of the trans-atlantic slave trade and at a time such as now, when there is access to information through improving new technologies of all sorts, there must be no sloth to challenge and dismiss the theories which supported and served to justify the enslavement of Africans both at home and abroad.

Let us all sponsor a new vision for a new hope.