

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **KWAME TURE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2009 EXAMINES OUR CHANGING WORLD**

**Port-of-Spain - June 22, 2009** - The Emancipation Support Committee (ESC) recently launched the 2009 installment of the Kwame Ture Memorial Public Lecture Series. This year's event, centered on the theme 'Seize New Opportunities as the World Changes,' reviews recent significant events such as the global financial meltdown and explores the ways in which the people of the Diaspora can use these occasions to bring substantive and positive changes to their environment. Using a series of lectures, panel discussions and audio-visual presentations, the Kwame Ture Lecture series seeks to perpetuate Ture's legacy by promoting a culture of knowledge and education for African people. Each lecture is a free, easily accessible opportunity for the general public to learn about the history of African people, the critical issues that we face today, and the long-term goals for the advancement of the Diaspora.

The first lecture of 2009 was delivered June 11 in compelling fashion by the individual who has been dubbed as the 'fiery orator of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC),' by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mukasa Dada aka Willie Ricks spoke on the topic, 'Seize the Time: Black Power and Pan Africanism as Forces of Change.' Mukasa Dada is one of the unsung heroes of the Civil Rights movement, but his contribution to Pan Africanism and the fight for justice and equality cannot be underestimated and continues to today. Indeed, he has earned the right to be called one of the greatest of all activists produced by the Civil Rights Movement.

Following in the footsteps of Mukasa Dada, the dynamic speakers that will follow over the next few weeks will examine the contemporary issues affecting Africans across Diaspora, focus on identifying opportunities and encouraging action. Apart from Bro. Mukasa, this year's roster of presenters will include Mr. Khafra Kambon who will focus on this year's theme, 'Seize New Opportunities as the World Changes,'; Dr. Tony Martin who will examine African entrepreneurship in the Caribbean; a film and panel discussion on 'At Risk Youth,' featuring, among others, Dr. Michael Alleyne, Dr. Merle Hodge, Ms. Dara Healy and Mr. Rawle Gibbons. Additionally, a youth panel will explore the topic 'Opportunities for Youth in a Changing World.' Film presentations and a cultural presentation will round off this year's lecture series

Of this year's event, ESC Chairman, Khafra Kambon said. "There is no doubt that we live in challenging times. We are dealing with escalating crime and violence and one of the most difficult economic environments the world has seen since the Great Depression of the 1930's. In spite of that, we believe the current situation provides tremendous opportunities for people to grow and to reap positive benefits. It is our hope that this lecture series will motivate the people of Trinidad and Tobago to dig deeper - to draw on their talents and abilities and the example of our ancestors to boldly face the challenges ahead. We therefore invite them to come out in their numbers to be educated and inspired."

The Kwame Ture Memorial Public Lecture series takes place every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm until August 2<sup>nd</sup> (with the exception of the Cultural Presentation which will be held on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>) at venues in and around Port-of-Spain. Please call the Emancipation Support Committee at 628-5008 for more information.

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