

Justice Reform and Emancipation: The Lessons and the Legacy

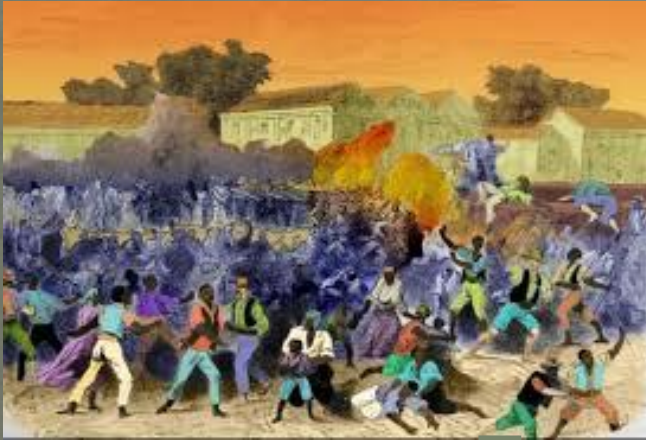
The Right Honourable Sir Dennis Byron
President, Caribbean Court of Justice
31 July 2016

The History of Emancipation in Jamaica

- 1664 – Introduction of slavery-based plantation economy
- 1834 – the Proclamation of Freedom
- 1838 – Slavery was abolished

Emancipation = human rights + equality before the law

Historical Developments in the Jamaican Judicial System



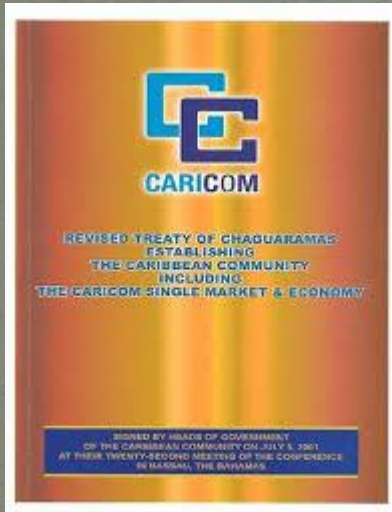
The Morant Bay Rebellion in 1865 – the absence of human rights and freedoms in judicial administration

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights

The 1962 Constitution of Jamaica and the Bill of Rights

The Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the Original Jurisdiction of the CCJ

Regional Integration, Emancipation and Judicial Reform



- Freedom in movement of people, capital and goods
- Establishing level playing field between CARICOM and global economies
- Equal distribution of CARICOM benefits
- The Original Jurisdiction of the CCJ:
 - Judicial redress available to all CARICOM people
 - Shanique Myrie stood up for her rights
 - CCJ adjudicating on human rights issues

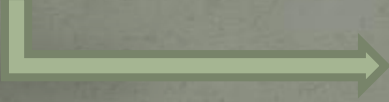
The Citizens' Responsibility

- It is YOUR responsibility to use the mechanisms that exist
- When the systems are utilized, lessons are learned and reform is effective



Photo courtesy the Nation News

Justice Reform



The Report of the Commission of Enquiry:

- * **In defense of human rights**
- * **Alternative Dispute Resolution**
- * **Addressing delay and backlog**
- * **Use of Technology**

The Role of the CCJ in Regional Judicial Reform



Brexit reflections



Conclusion

- Let us sit at the table of brotherhood with full equality in all its aspects

*"Free at last, Free at last! Thank God Almighty,
we are free at last"*

