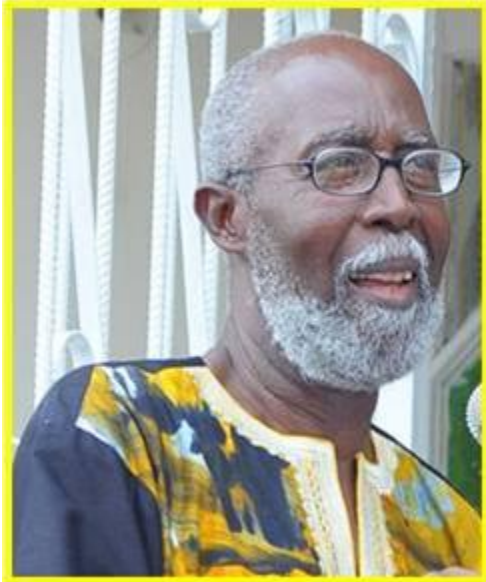


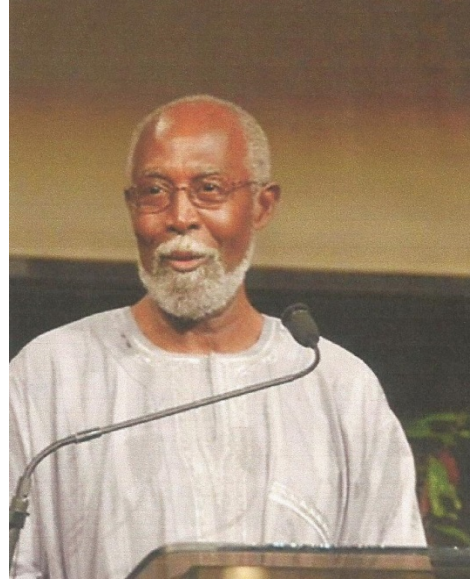
## Tracy Rawle Wilson (1943-2017): Emancipation Support Committee of Trinidad & Tobago Leader



Tracy Rawle Wilson (June 14, 1943-January 9, 2017) was the Education and Research Director of the Emancipation Support Committee of Trinidad & Tobago (ESCTT). Learning of his transition, the organization issued a statement saying it has "... lost a great scholarly soldier; the Caribbean Pan African Network has lost a distinguished elder statesman; the nation of Trinidad & Tobago has lost one of its most valuable and engaged citizens; and the African people of the world have lost a mighty patriot and defender!" Thus, according to the organization, local tributes and condolences as well are received from many sources - those who listened to his voice on many radio programs or at public meetings, learnt from his lectures in many spaces, those who read his writings, those who were touched by his humanism... The continuous expressions of love and thanks for his

multifaceted contribution give added strength to the organization and to the family of Brother Tracy. He worked tirelessly with the organization without material reward for over twenty years as he met demanding professional commitments as Director and Senior Development Planning Consultant in Planning Advisory and Consulting Services Ltd., and as a consultant to Kairi Consultants Ltd. Nevertheless he rarely missed a monthly meeting with ESCTT's community organizations, and he often had meetings with communities at their home base included in his schedule, and attended Board meetings. He was one of the principal lecturers assigned to meet dozens of requests every year for lectures in schools, offices and communities. He often represented the ESCTT abroad. Tracy was more than scholar, professional planner, activist and organizer; he was a great human being – a family man who cared deeply for his wife, Jean, who passed before him, a family man who had the strongest of bonds with his brother, Carlyle, 22 months older than him. Both Carlyle and Tracy credit their late mother, Theodora Yearwood, affectionately called Ma Dora, for that special bond. Tracy was a family man who was devoted to all his relatives and was in turn cherished by them because of his loving and caring spirit. He extended his working concept of family beyond the bond of blood. The youth in the ESCTT office adored him for this same caring spirit. He was support and counselor for the children in several families within and without the organization. Tracy's roots in the East Dry River, where he was born at Clifton Street, and an upbringing shared between the highly urbanized area of his birth and the rural village of L'anse Noir seemed to have an impact on his sensibilities, his profound concern for the disadvantaged in the society, an identification that was not diminished by his academic success at home and abroad or his successful professional career.

In 2015 Tracy was with Dr. Julius Garvey at the 2015 Forum on Africa and Its Diaspora, a highlight of the annual Kwame Ture Memorial Lecture Series, an important part of his portfolio was in chairing the annual Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Symposium, a role he played for 15 years. While pursuing his higher education abroad, including university degrees in the U.S. (New York) and Canada, between 1966 and 1976, Tracy became a student activist. He also became involved in an off campus organization in New York, the African Caribbean Liberation Movement, and developed a sharp awareness of his Africaness and knowledge of African history from listening to lectures by Dr. Yosef A.A. ben-Jochannan, Dr. John Henry Clarke and other distinguished scholars. Not surprisingly therefore, after graduation with an MSc in Urban and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute in New York, where he gained practical work experience, when he lived and worked from 1977 to 1981 in Liberia as a UNDP planning consultant, before returning home to be of service to his country professionally and socially, with a total commitment to African people globally.



**Editor's note:** The above content is possible based upon a public announcement (Information Bulletin, Transition of Brother Tracy Wilson, An Appreciation from the ESCTT) issued by the Emancipation Support Committee of Trinidad & Tobago (<http://www.emancipationtt.com/>), hence we acknowledge their dedication to African consciousness and development around the world, and the January 15, 2017 public email sent by Melvin Foote of the Constituency for Africa (<http://www.cfa-network.org/>) in Washington, D.C.