Recent events give Garvey a renewed relevance

self-development through cultural, educational and economic advancement.

Ahead of his time

Marcus Garvey, well ahead of his time and with the audacity of wanting to change rather than simply to interpret the lot of his people, remains a major source of energy for the tasks ahead just as he was for the activities that gave birth to Jamaica after 1938.

The mobilisation of the mass of the population around to their full potential, the advocacy of rights through organised labour, the pursuit of economic development rooted in self-reliance and programmes of activity focusing on agriculture, urban planning and industrial growth, the spread of education among native Jamaicans up to the tertiary level, the encouragement of cultural expression as part of national development strategy, the protection of human right through a just and uncorrupt legal system, including legal aid agencies for the poor, the strengthening of a viable local government system, and above all, the attainment of self-government for the people of Jamaica - such were the hopes of Garvey for a civilised society as stated in his 1929 Party manifesto.

They were to become the infrastructure of Jamaica’s political and socio-economic development strategy in the long process of decolonisation. He is a true Founding Father and an icon of more than symbolic meaning to this and future generations.

That his significance to the Black Diaspora and the wider world is part of the history of his own fantastic and unique achievements is well established.

This reflection merely affords the opportunity for all men who abhor bigotry and love justice to acknowledge their debt to this inspired pioneer and to renew the tacit vows never to abandon the struggle against all evil that would make human beings less than whole and specially against all efforts that would conspire to prolong the humiliation of Africa and her offspring.