

(Coricom)

BN - Patterson, P.J (Prime ministers)



privatised" God (in the 1970s and 80s) by alluding that politics is dirty and God should be separated from politics, are political transformation, writes Rev Ernie Gordon on Page 9

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA



The prime ministers honoured by the University of the West Indies in New York last week Wednesday are (from left) Keith Mitchell, Grenada; Owen Arthur, Barbados; Denzil Douglas, St Kitts, Nevis; P J Patterson, Jamaica; Ralph Gonsalves, St Vincent and the Grenadines; and Kenny Anthony, St Lucia.

PM says vision of prosperity for Caribbean people keeps him in public life

PRIME Minister P J Patterson says the vision of ensuring prosperity and social and economic development for the people of the Caribbean remains a major driving force for his continued involvement in public life.

The prime minister was speaking last Wednesday night at an awards function in New York put on by the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies which honoured Patterson and six other Caribbean prime ministers who are UWI graduates — Owen Arthur of Barbados; Ralph Gonsalves, St Vincent and the Grenadines; Denzil Douglas, St Kitts, Nevis; Kenny Anthony, St Lucia; Keith Mitchell, Grenada; and Patrick Manning, Trinidad and Tobago.

Patterson said the Caribbean leaders are a testimony to the fact that the university inculcates in its students, a sense of service

to country as well as to the region.

"We are very pleased that we have been able to make a contribution, not only to our alma mater, but moreso to the Caribbean region to which we belong," Patterson said.

He described the UWI as a cementing agent creating cultural and psychological wholeness amidst the historical background of Caribbean fragmentation and said the institution continues to contribute significantly to regional oneness and the realisation of true Caribbean identity.

Patterson added: "Particularly for us in the Caribbean at this time of globalisation, we have to develop our own strengths. We have to identify our own niche, which is certainly no longer in the field of producing primary commodities for the metropolitan markets. It must be in the

area of creative individual skills and developing our intellectual resources."

He called on the university to harness the resources of the Caribbean to the collective advantage of the region. "We in the political leadership have long recognised that we have to lead the process and the development of our people must be our greatest priority," Patterson said.

In addition to the prime ministers, actress Whoopi Goldberg and 15 Caribbean nationals were also honoured for their contribution to the region. Among them were Jamaicans Louise Bennett-Coverley, Gordon "Butch" Stewart, Mayer Matalon, John Issa, accountant Bert Mitchell, former journalist and politician Wilfred A Domingo and former labour leader, Cleveland Robinson.