

B/N - Patterson, P.J.

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ADDRESS TO PUBLIC SECTOR FAREWELL EVENT

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF
PRIME MINISTER P.J PATTERSON

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29, 2006 AT JAMAICA PEGASUS
HOTEL, KINGSTON

BY

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SALUTATIONS

The Most Hon, Prime Minister, P.J. Patterson, Hon. Ministers
Cabinet Secretary, the Hon Carlton Davis,
Permanent Secretaries,
Chairmen and Heads of Agencies,
Distinguished Guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen, **GOOD AFTERNOON!**

This is a special month, an exceptional week, and an extraordinary day in the life of the country, and in the life of the public sector.

It is the day that we bid formal farewell, to an extraordinary Jamaican, who has served the public sector in an exemplary manner and at the highest level.

Our Guest of Honour, Prime Minister Patterson, has been Chairman of the Board of this co-operative venture we call Jamaica for a record-breaking 14 years, serving as head of the ultimate Public Governance Forum, the Cabinet of Jamaica.

EXAMPLE AND PRECEPT

Prime Minister, those others of us who have been privileged to serve in other leadership capacities within the Public Sector, regard you as someone who has led by both precept and example. You have insisted on the highest standards of integrity, civility and decorum in public office and national life. And, I was most touched, sitting in the Strangers Gallery of Parliament yesterday, to hear you declare with conviction and credibility that you are leaving public office “**with clean hands and a pure heart**”. That is the standard which all of us as Jamaicans, as servants of the Great Jamaican Public, must aspire towards!

Thank you, sir, for your example!

SEAMLESS TRANSITION

I made reference earlier to the fact that this is an extraordinary week. In many other countries, even within this hemisphere, it would be a week of political tension, public stress and even military manoeuvres. Thanks to you and many of your antecedents in office, we are this week experiencing no political confrontations, no tanks in the streets. Instead, we are experiencing quite the opposite: a sense of seamless transition exemplified by the civility of parliamentary and public tributes to you and, in many quarters, an atmosphere of celebration for your successor.

It is part of the national tone that you have set, and the context within which our public and private sectors can best thrive, going forward.

FREEDOM

It is a matter of appreciation, Prime Minister, that we remark today on the freedom and authority that you have allowed us to operate as Board Chairmen and leaders of Public Sector institutions. While we all feel the pressures of the necessary tightening of the procurement and integrity regulations, we have thankfully been free of unwarranted political pressure from your high office, in yet another example of confidence in those appointed through approvals by your Cabinet.

IT and CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

I must also express our thanks for the active interest that you have shown in the information technology and cultural industries sector, including tourism, which together I believe ARE ALREADY key pointers to a future of greater economic prosperity for our people.

In closing, I want to say how privileged I feel to be asked, on behalf of some of our agencies, to make these remarks.

The Prime Minister, by his example and leadership has set a formidable pace for all of us to follow in our respective careers and pursuits.

His achievements call to mind a statement by another great Patriarch in the African tradition, the Madiba - Nelson Mandela – who reminds us that, and I quote **“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.”** Mr. Patterson’s career has taught us to mobilize that power within us **for the good**, and to serve our country with humility, honesty and integrity.

Mr. Patterson, best wishes for good health and a long and happy retirement.

Thank You !

Hopeton Dunn
29-3-2006