



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA

PERCIVAL J. PATTERSON

Prime Minister, Jamaica

Patterson, 59, paid his political dues before becoming prime minister in 1992 to finish the term of Michael Manley, who retired for health reasons. Patterson then won a five-year term of his own, leading the People's National Party (PNP) to victory in March 1993. He has continued the free-market economic policies of Manley, reversing the democratic socialism the two had helped install. Patterson, an attorney, has a long career in politics, beginning as a party organizer in the 1950s.

He became a member of the party's executive council in 1964, then vice president and party chairman. He was appointed to the Senate in 1967 and elected to the House of Assembly in 1970. He also held numerous Cabinet positions.

The son of a farmer and schoolteacher, Patterson was born April 10, 1935, in Jamaica. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from the University of the West Indies and a law degree from the University of London. He is divorced and has two children.

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