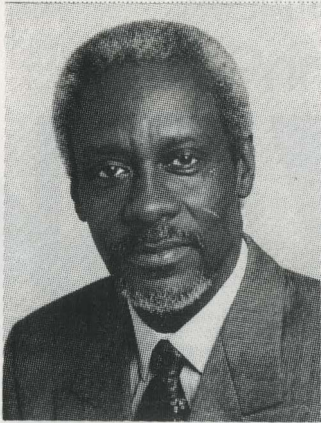


The Rt. Hon.
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Prime Minister of Jamaica



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The Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Right Honourable Percival James Patterson, is the Member of Parliament for Eastern Westmoreland.

His elective career began with a by-election in March 1970, occasioned by the sudden death of the then Member of Parliament Max Carey.

He was appointed Prime Minister of Jamaica in March 1992, following his election as President of the People's National Party (PNP), on the retirement of former Prime Minister, the late Michael Manley.

Mr. Patterson was returned to office following the national elections of 1993, and has the distinction of being the first Prime Minister of Jamaica to be sworn in for a third consecutive term of office, after he led the People's National Party to victory in the elections of December 1997.

A former student of Somerton Primary School in St. James, Calabar High School in Kingston, Prime Minister Patterson graduated from the University of the West Indies, Mona in 1958 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Honours) in English. He studied law at the London School of Economics (LSE), graduating in 1963 with a Bachelor of Laws Degree.

At the LSE, he was awarded the Sir Hughes Parry prize for excellence in the Law of Contract, and won a Leverhulme Scholarship at the LSE.

He was called to the Bar at Middle Temple in 1963 and admitted to the Jamaican Bar later that year. Mr. Patterson was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1984.

Political Career

Political service for Prime Minister Patterson began in 1958, when he joined the People's National Party as an Organiser, moving to membership on the National and Party Executive Councils in 1964. He was elected a Vice-President of the PNP in 1969 and served as Party Chairman from 1983, until he became Party Leader in 1992.

Mr. Patterson's distinguished Cabinet career began in 1972, with his appointment as Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Since then, he has served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (1978-1980); Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development, Planning and Production (1989-1990); and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning (1990-1991).

Prime Minister Patterson's vision for Jamaica is one in which *"we build a land of opportunity and prepare for a brand new world in which every citizen - man, woman and child - shares a sense of self-esteem and personal stakeholding in a modern, prosperous and truly enlightened Jamaica."*



Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. P.J. Patterson makes his Budget presentation at Gordon House.

Achievements as Prime Minister

Noted among Prime Minister Patterson's list of achievements is his decision to make education have Administration's top priority. To this end, the largest portions of successive national budgets have been allocated towards this sector.

His goal is to integrate Information Technology throughout all levels of the education spectrum and the wider society. It is anticipated that

Jamaica's cessation of an 18-year borrowing relationship with the International Monetary Fund, which effectively created a platform for Jamaica to once again exercise control over its economic affairs.

His efforts in the successful implementation of sound macro-economic policies, have led to

the stabilization of the economy with the lowest levels of continuous inflation ever, a stable foreign exchange rate which is market determined, and record levels of Net International Reserves. Prime Minister Patterson has also promulgated a National Industrial Policy, a blueprint for the nation's growth and development



Prime Minister P.J. Patterson (right) commissions into service a new water supply system for White House, Westmoreland.

some 40,000 jobs will be created in this sector between 2000 and 2002. Mr. Patterson also created the National Commission on Science and Technology in 1993 and was the first to directly link Jamaica's science and technology initiatives with the nation's industrial policy.

As Prime Minister, he spearheaded

in the 21st Century.

This policy identifies five strategic clusters for development:

Tourism; Shipping and Berthing; Agro-processing; Apparel; and Bauxite and Alumina, including non-metallic minerals.

The Prime Minister's social agenda has spawned the creation of a National Land and Shelter Policy and resulted in the accelerated provision of housing solutions for the people of Jamaica. Special arrangements have also been

Empowerment Programme (STEP) and the introduction of the Jamaica Drug for the Elderly Programme. These programmes are all aimed at assisting the most vulnerable groups in the society, with emphasis on the



Prime Minister P.J. Patterson (fifth left), joins Venezuelan President H.E. Hugo Chavez America and the Caribbean for a group photo, following the signing of the Caracas Agreement on Energy.

made for the elderly and low income earners to benefit from the National Housing Trust by way of a special low interest rate.

He also conceptualized and implemented the Operation Pride programme, a comprehensive shelter programme which is helping to regularize informal settlements and fulfil the country's housing needs.

Mr. Patterson's tenure has witnessed the reintroduction of the National Youth Service, the creation of the Special Training and

young and the elderly.

Mr. Patterson's commitment to the country's growth and development is underpinned by his insistence upon adherence to democratic principles, integrity in public life and strong ethic

and moral principles.

Prime Minister Patterson is respected worldwide as an astute international statesman who has made a mark in such fora as the United Nations, the Group of 77, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group, the Association of Caribbean States, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and many others. He has chaired the Group of 15 developing nations (G-15) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

He is currently the Chairman of the CARICOM Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on External Negotiations.

Mr. Patterson has utilized his legal and negotiating skills in the international arena, especially as one

of the leading architects of the LOME Convention between the ACP states and the European Union, which was first signed in 1975. He was also one of the principal participants in the evolution of the Caribbean Free Trade Area into CARICOM.

Prime Minister Patterson was appointed to the Privy Council of the United Kingdom in 1992 and is the recipient of several international awards.

Foreign awards include:

- Order of Aguila Aztec, Mexico - July 1990
- Order of Liberator Simon Bolivar (First Class), Venezuela - 1992
- The Great Cross of the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins, Chile - 1992
- Order of San Marti, Argentina - 1992
- Order of Gran Cruz Gonzalo Jiminez de Quesada, Colombia - 1994
- Order of Fransisco Morazan in the rank of Gran Cruz Placa de Oro, Honduras - 1994
- Order of Jose Marti, Cuba - 1997
- Order of the Volta, Ghana - 1999
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Agricola Medal - awarded in Jamaica 2001

- Juan Mora Fernandez, Great Silver Cross – Costa Rica 2001

The Prime Minister has been bestowed with academic awards by tertiary institutions worldwide.

These include:

- Honorary Doctor of Letters, Northeastern University, USA – 1994
- Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, Brown University, USA – 1998

Mr. Patterson's interests include jazz, Jamaican music and such spectator sports as cricket, boxing, tennis and track and field.

He has a son, a daughter and a grand-daughter.



Prime Minister P.J. Patterson (right) receives the Agricola award from Director General of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, Dr. Jacques Diouf, at a presentation ceremony at Jamaica House. Mr Patterson was being recognised for his contribution to the promotion of food security for the millions of people who face hunger worldwide.