

B/N Patterson, Percival James

'APPOINTMENT WITH DESTINY'

**ISSUES AND FACTORS
IN THE
CHOICE OF A PARTY LEADER
AND
PRIME MINISTER**

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WHAT IS AT STAKE

- Jamaica, through its constitution, the work of its national heroes, its culture and way of life, is committed to the democratic way of life.
- The political process and the two party system have been nurtured in spite of tensions/excesses. The scope for further reform and improvement in the 'political culture' is recognized.
- The People's National Party has played a critical role in this process. Our visionary, far sighted founders, led by Norman Washington Manley, have consistently forged new frontiers for comprehensive nation building.

THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY HAS ALWAYS SET THE AGENDA

The People's National Party has been the agenda-setting party in fundamental matters:

- Universal Adult Suffrage, respect for the individual.
- Self government leading to Independence.
- Mass Education and Human Resource Development as a liberation force for individual upliftment, social mobility and economic development.
- Development of Natural Resources such as bauxite and Land Reform.
- Community Development and the involvement of people in the decisions which affect their lives.
- Cultural development – the arts, music and culture, sports.
- Major contributions to dialogue on world issues and a beacon in the fight against racial inequality.
- Democracy within the People's National Party, with scope for individual expression, the right of dissent, respect for the minority in the context of majority rule, as a basis of decision making.

We love to debate and argue and in nine times out of ten, leadership has guided the process, isolating points of disagreement, highlighting areas of commonality and finding the common ground, as the basis of sustaining party unity.

The PNP has set the pace to which other political groupings have had to respond.

The PNP is heir to a fantastic and rich tradition. This mega legacy, this tapestry, this tried and tested formula, is what is at stake and on which we must consolidate and build, as we go forward.

A PARTY LEADER MUST SUSTAIN TRADITIONS

P.J. Patterson as Party Leader will sustain the tradition created by our Founders, led by Norman Washington Manley and so ably enhanced by Michael Manley, during his tenure.

The elements of the PNP's VISION for the 1990's into the 21st Century are:

- The irreversible thrust to Liberalisation and the development of a truly competitive economy able to contend in the fast changing international environment.
- Social Justice.
- Human Resource Development.
- Empowerment of the individual for participation in business and the economy and within the context of integrated community development.
- Protection and enhancement of the Environment for the benefit of this and generations to come.

P.J. Patterson completely accepts this vision and will strive to implement it.

The job description of Party Leader immediately involves the Prime Ministership and governance of the nation, as we are the ruling party and constitute the Government of Jamaica.

It is indeed a formidable challenge against which we must evaluate the suitability of those who offer themselves for service to our movement.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- P.J. Patterson has the ability to understand and distill the salient features of our legacy and the raison d'être of our movement in service to the people of Jamaica.
- P.J. Patterson has the capacity for inspiring the nation.
- P.J. Patterson has the team building capabilities.
- P.J. Patterson displays strength of character, sound judgement, openness and approachability.
- P.J. Patterson has the capacity to make decisive decisions and to act!
- P.J. Patterson's respect for and contact with the humblest in our land, as well as the economically powerful, the social worker, the cane cutter, the factory or hotel worker, the scientist, the student, the teacher, the farmers, the doctors, the nurses.
- P.J. Patterson as our Leader, will represent us locally, nationally in regional or international fora. As our standard bearer, the Leader and Prime Minister P.J. Patterson will command respect and be able to treat with persons at all levels.

- In the current complex Structural Adjustment Programme, P.J. Patterson has the leadership skills to contend with multi-lateral organizations and treat with bilateral relations and our own broad-based private sector, which includes small, medium and large enterprises.
- P.J. Patterson as Prime Minister will give the lead and work in tandem with Cabinet members in the economic and social sphere, National Security and Foreign Affairs.
- The position of Prime Minister needs P.J. Patterson's ready grasp of issues and speed of response to urgent imperatives at home and abroad.

The job is in the final analysis, a lonely job, colleagues, advisers and well-wishers can be of immense value and support, but in the final analysis with the Leader stops the buck!!

The job as Leader and Prime Minister involves a time perspective, a duration of service.

The new Leader will have to see us through the 1994 elections, which will determine whether the PNP is re-elected or returns Jamaica, our Country, to a JLP stewardship under Edward Seaga.

In the attributes cited P.J. Patterson has no equal among all the possible contenders.

WHO CAN DECIDE

The decision rests with those who under the PNP's constitution have the right to cast their ballot namely group members, Councillors, MP's, Senators, Life Members, Caretakers, Conference Delegates. Representatives of party arms – women, youth, the NWU, as well as overseas affiliates.

The decision we are making now, is therefore of supreme importance to the PNP, the country and to the agenda for national development.

It is indeed an awesome responsibility for which we must invoke God's guidance.

**THE CAUSE IS JUST
THE TIME IS RIGHT
BE SURE
YOU MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE**