

X *by Hugh Lawson Shearer*



Tribute to the Life and Work of the Most Hon. Hugh Lawson Shearer

The Minister, Permanent Secretary and Staff at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security join the rest of Jamaica in celebrating the life and work of the Most Hon. Hugh Lawson Shearer.

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In the finest tradition of other great statesmen he has left an indelible mark on the hearts and consciousness of the people of this nation. He has served with dignity, humility, fortitude, unselfishness and compassion.

We remember and celebrate his contribution as Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, trade unionist *par excellence*, and the caring Patron of our National Council for Senior Citizens, which represent just a sampling of the many roles he filled.

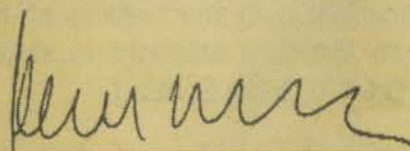
As an advocate for the workers of this land, he spent countless hours negotiating for improvements in their conditions of employment. He truly embraced with great conviction, the concept of 'decent work' as promoted by the International Labour Organization. He was also visionary in his perception of the requirements of a modern workforce in the global economy. The example he has set is a legacy worthy of emulation by practising and aspiring trade unionists. He has truly left 'footprints on the sands of time'.

In his sunset years, he served as Patron for the National Council for Senior Citizens. In this capacity he displayed some of the finest qualities of humanity. His interaction with seniors was characterised by great care, tenderness and camaraderie. All were treated with respect with no distinction of social class.

The love and care he demonstrated to seniors was fully reciprocated. In testimony to this, we vividly recall an event associated with the International Year of Older persons when centenarians were being honoured. At one of the ceremonies as he handed out tokens of appreciation his hands were firmly gripped by one of the oldest honourees.

She apologised for being unable to stand and proceeded to earnestly proclaim a blessing upon him. Such was his relationship with the senior citizen population.

The link with seniors was an endeavour in which he truly partnered with his wife Dr Denise Eldemire Shearer. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her and other family members in this their time of bereavement. Mr Shearer's passing is not only your loss but ours also. However, we all find solace in the fact that his mission has been accomplished. For all us of in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security the legacy of this great man lives on, lighting the way for a new chapter in Industry Relations and Public life.



The Honourable Horace Dalley M.P.
Minister of Labour & Social Security



Alvin McIntosh, CD
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Social Security

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