

B/N
PB/3266/97

ROCHESTER REMEMBERS MANLEY
THE TRADE UNIONIST

MANDEVILLE, March 30 (JAMPRESS):

Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Mining, Derrick Rochester has highlighted the significant contribution made by the late former Prime Minister, Michael Manley to the development of the trade union movement in Jamaica.

Mr. Rochester was speaking at a special thanksgiving service for the late former Prime Minister at the Lititz Moravian Church in his constituency of South East St. Elizabeth recently.

Describing Mr. Manley as "the most outstanding trade unionist the country has ever seen", Mr. Rochester said the promotion of collective bargaining, the enlightened method of disputes resolution, and the enactment of labour laws which pointed the way for a modern industrial relations system, were in some way due to the advocacy of Mr. Manley.

"He was a man of generous spirit, sound in advice, knowledgeable, articulate and at all times displayed a great sense of humour," Mr. Rochester said of Mr. Manley whom he met in 1962 when he (Mr. Rochester) first became a union delegate. He noted that Mr. Manley was at the time Island Supervisor and Chief Negotiators for bauxite workers.

Mr. Rochester stated that there were many 'monuments' in the constituency which bore testament to the work of Mr. Manley.

He pointed to the Malvern/Munroe Water Scheme, 1,000 household tanks, a processing factory, a medical complex, fire station, a market at Junction, and the housing scheme at Manning Home as Mr. Manley's legacy to the parish.

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