



B/W Nettleford, Rex Kalston

JCC The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce

THE HON. REX NETTLEFORD: *A Great Son of Jamaica*

Prof. The Hon. Rex Nettleford was a devoted nationalist – one who understood that the sustainable growth and development of Jamaica depended on the nurturing of the nation's people and on the attention paid to empowering them as individuals who could become full participants in the national effort.

The former Rhodes Scholar saw education as one of the most potent empowerment tools and he gave his active support to the lifelong process of learning. He also provided unstinting support for trade unionism and workers rights; one of his most notable achievements was his founding of the Trade Union Education Institute, which provided the vehicle through which factory and farm workers could connect with scholars to help bridge the education gap between the classes.

Rex Nettleford's was also unfailingly loyal to exploring the dynamics of the unique Caribbean and Jamaican culture and this led to him playing a part in the establishment of one of Jamaica's treasures – the National Dance Theatre Company (NDTC), whose founding dovetailed with the attainment of Jamaica's independence. Truly, his scholarly exploits and his nurturing and exportation of the best of Jamaica's culture made him well-deserving of the titles of leading Caribbean intellectual, visionary and cultural icon.

The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC) joins Jamaica in mourning the loss of a great son of this country and the wider Caribbean.