



# A Man for all Seasons

Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of The University of the West Indies (UWI), who died on February 2, 2010 was truly "A man for all seasons".

His achievements and contributions to Jamaica, which honoured him with the Order of Merit; and to Caribbean integration, for which CARICOM recognised him with the Order of the Caribbean Community, will be remembered here and in the region, for generations to come.

Rex Nettleford, who came from humble beginnings, pursued a selfless and distinguished life of service in many spheres of our society, re-investing the valuable lessons learned from his vast academic, trade union, socio-economic, cultural and journalistic experiences. He was a teacher, mentor, advisor, orator and critic, with unlimited commitment to the development of Jamaicans; and he leaves us with a vast legacy that will continue to influence and inspire our people.

Professor Rex Nettleford  
February 3, 1933 – February 2, 2010

During his years as Vice Chancellor of the UWI, Professor Nettleford contributed to "thinking and concepts" that helped to shape social development programmes espoused by the Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) and the JNBS Foundation. These initiatives have made a positive impact on the lives of the underserved in our country.

In 2004, he played a pivotal role in a review of the remittance market in Jamaica, as a key presenter at a symposium, "Money Transfer Landscape: A Comparative Perspective on Jamaica, Guyana, Cuba and the Dominican Republic," hosted by Jamaica National and the USAID. His incisive contribution to that forum guided the implementation of strategies to boost the flow of remittances to this country and the Caribbean.

His own socio-economic perspectives and awareness of the power of Jamaicans in the Diaspora also influenced the work of JNBS in the development of a formal "Jamaicans in the Diaspora structure," from which the Jamaican Diaspora Institute emerged. As Chairman of the Institute, he sought financial sector support to position the Diaspora Movement as an important adjunct to the foreign policies and development strategies of the Jamaican Government.

The founder of one of this country's most admired institutions, the National Dance Theatre Company, for which he was artistic director, choreographer and dancer; Rex Nettleford fused the intrinsic movement and sounds of Jamaica to create enduring works such as "Kumina" and "Court of Jah." Jamaica National welcomed the opportunity to commission works such as "Odyssey" and "Variations A Ska" in 2006 that reflected the awakening of a people to their innate ability to achieve.

May his multi-faceted engagement in society and his passion for excellence infuse the genetic code of Jamaica and help us to build a noble and just nation.

May his soul rest in peace.

Earl Jarrett, CD, JP  
General Manager

