

NDTC pays tribute to 'Prof'

By Justin Whyte
Entertainment Editor

SOCIAL

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IT WAS a special evening to honour Professor Rex Nettleford on being appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies. And it took the form of a cocktail party and banquet at the UWI Assembly Hall, Mona.

The managing committee of the National Dance Theatre Company, which hosted the recent affair, invited a wide cross-section of the Jamaican community, including the diplomatic corps and academia.

Jacqui Tyson and her staff dished out a sumptuous repast,

which comprised a first course labelled Pocomania, followed by a main course named The Crossing. Gerebenta was the dessert.

The programme was guided by Jeffrey Cobham and blessings on the proceedings were said by Monsignor Kenneth Mock Yen.

The occasion was punctuated by messages and greetings, all of which extolled the virtues of the professor.

Speaking on behalf of the NDTC, chairman, John Crook,

hailed the Vice-Chancellor as a "true son of the Jamaican soil". And praised him for giving 36 years of dedicated service to the group.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's message, which was read by Mrs. Portia Simpson Miller, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Sports, spoke of the Professor's contribution to almost every aspect of national life, including being considered a "political wise-man".

In addition the message lauded the Professor for his involvement in the Trade Union Movement and moreso his ability to encourage others to "self-upliftment". In so doing pointed out that it

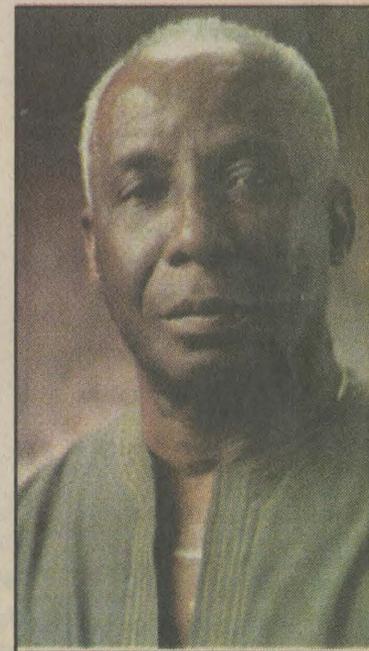
was Professor, who had encouraged him to pursue further studies.

The Caribbean region was also represented and the main address was given by Mia Amor Mottley, Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture in Barbados.

She showered accolades on the Professor and praised him for his contribution to the Caribbean as a whole and the University's School of Continuing Studies in particular.

In closing she expressed the hope that the Professor would continue to revolutionise the university, bearing in mind its significance to the West Indies.

A citation was read and handed to the Professor by Maude Fuller, one of this year's Pelican Award winners and several other gifts were presented by members of the NDTC.



Rex Nettleford ■