

B/N FLORIZEL A. GLASSPOLE

B I O G R A P H Y

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FLORIZEL AUGUSTUS GALSSPOLE is a veteran Jamaican politician having been re-elected to Parliament in successive general elections since the advent of Universal Adult Suffrage in 1944. The eldest son of the late Methodist Minister Rev. Theophilus Glasspole. He was born in Kingston on September 25, 1909. He first attended the Buff Bay infant school and later the Central Branch Primary School, and Wolmers. After leaving school, Mr. Glasspole worked for a short time in the Civil Service. He went on to study accountancy with the late R.A. Parkinson and for a time worked in St. Thomas with the Serge Island Estate. He later returned to Kingston and was associated with the Hercules Agencies for a number of years. Mr. Glasspole entered the Trade Union movement in 1937, the year before the far reaching social upheavals of 1938. He first organised and became General Secretary of the United Clerks Association, a post he held until 1949. He was also General Secretary of the Jamaica Trades Union Congress between 1939-52. Mr. Glasspole like so many other young men throughout the Caribbean at that time moved from the Trade Union field to the nearly nationalist movement with the founding of the PNP in 1938. Mr. Glasspole continued to be an active Trade Unionist while at the same time helping to organise the PNP. He served as President of the Jamaica Printers and Allied Workers Union between 1942 and 1948, was General Secretary of the Water Commission and Manual Workers Association from 1944-48 and President of the Machado Employees Union from 1945-1952. In 1944 Mr. Glasspole won the Eastern Kingston and Port Royal seat for the PNP in the newly constituted legislature one of only four PNP candidates to gain election. He has served in many prominent positions

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in the PNP. There included being secretary of the party's Parliamentary group since 1944, a member of the National Executive and a Vice-President of the party. In 1946 Mr. Glasspole was awarded a British TUC Scholarship. He studied various aspects of Trade Union Organisation at Ruskin College, Oxford and also observed Trade Union and Political Organisations in action throughout the country. While in England Mr. Glasspole also learnt a great deal about Parliamentary practice in his regular visits to the House of Commons. Mr. Glasspole was also one of the main organisers of the National Workers Union and served as its General Secretary between 1952 and 1955, when he resigned. On his party's victory at the polls in 1955 Mr. Glasspole was appointed Minister of Labour. In 1957 he was shifted to the Education Ministry where he served until 1962. He was also Leader of the House between 1955 and 1962 and has again been appointed House leader in 1972. Mr. Glasspole was a member of the Standing Federation Committee on W.I. Federation and a member of the Committees which drafted and finalized the Jamaican Constitution. In his younger days Mr. Glasspole was at one time Secretary of the Coke Young Men's Guild and was a keen debater. In his public life he has served on many important boards and committees including the Wages Board, the Apprenticeship Committee, the Industrial Relations Committee, and minimum Wage Boards for the baking, printing and dry goods trades. He was an ex-officio member of the KSAC from 1944-1955, a Director of the Institute of Jamaica from 1944-1957 and a Director of City Printery Ltd., between 1944-50. Mr. Glasspole was married in 1934 to the former Ina Josephine Kinlocke, they have one daughter. Aside from his full time political pursuits Mr. Glasspole still maintains his interest in sports and is very fond of gardening.

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