

Golding officially resigns

Former chairman of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) Bruce Golding yesterday officially resigned from the party, as promised.

In a personal letter to party leader Edward Seaga, Mr Golding said despite the difficulties of the recent past his respect and regard for Mr Seaga remains unchanged.

"Your services to Jamaica over the years cannot be disputed nor can your commitment to our country be challenged and I will always treasure the many years of close association we have shared," the letter stated.

However, Mr Golding said the JLP does not appreciate the crucial nexus between the political structures and practices and the economic well-being of the Jamaican people. "I have therefore decided to pursue another path to contribute in whatever way I can to effecting the changes which I think are necessary.

"I firmly believe that without fundamental changes to our political system and constitutional arrangements we will not be able to find effective solutions to the enormous economic and social problems which plague the Jamaican people," he said

And in his response to Mr Golding's letter, Mr Seaga said he understood the need to give the fullest expression to the views that the political system is in need of change as a matter of first priority.

According to Mr Seaga, while the JLP recognises the deep concerns which exist about the political process and has repeatedly articulated many of these concerns over the past four years and has devised solutions to a number of these political problems, the party does not consider that these are the highest priorities the country faces.

He added that the problems of economic deprivation and social desperation are far more serious. "Hence, our highest priorities are differently placed," said Mr Seaga. He added that the party will continue to strive for an economic solution to solve deep seated problems rooted in the economy and the social services.

"I am sure that your long experience in political life and your own innate ability to articulate your views with clarity and commitment will enable you to give leadership to like-minded people who feel the need for political representation to effect a political solution," Mr Seaga said.