

✓ BIN SEAGA EDWARD

B/N SEAGA, EDWARD

Edward Seaga, Western Kingston



Birth Date: May 28, 1930
Birth Place: Boston, MA (Jamaican Citizen)
Religion: Anglican
Education: Harvard University, BA- Social Sciences, 1952

MR. SEAGA'S political career began in 1959 when Sir Alexander Bustamante, the founder of the Jamaica Labour party (JLP) nominated him to serve in the Upper House of the Jamaica Legislature (which later became the senate). His appointment at age 29 made him the youngest member in the history of the Legislative Council. He was also the youngest architect of the Constitution which established the framework for national independence in August 1962. In April 1962, Mr. Seaga was elected Member of Parliament for Western Kingston and he has held that seat for 35 consecutive years. He is the only person who has been re-elected as Member of Parliament for that constituency for more than one term and is the longest serving Member of Parliament in the history of Jamaica. Immediately after winning his seat in 1962, Mr. Seaga was appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of Development and Welfare. Following the 1967 General Elections he was made Minister of Finance and Planning and in 1974 he became

Leader of the JLP and the Parliamentary Opposition until the 1980 General Elections.

Edward Seaga became Prime Minister of Jamaica following the General Elections of October 30, 1980 when the Jamaica Labour Party won a landslide victory over the incumbent Peoples' National Party (PNP). The mandate of Mr. Seaga and the Jamaica Labour Party was renewed in the uncontested 1983 General Elections.

Mr. Seaga was also Minister of Finance and Planning, and his portfolio included responsibilities for Information and Culture. Several economic and social programmes which have had significant impact on Jamaica's growth and development were conceived and initiated by Mr. Seaga.

POLITICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS EXECUTIVE:

Prime Minister of Jamaica, 1980-1989

Leader of the Opposition, 1974-1980, and 1989- present.

Leader of Jamaica Labour Party, 1974- present.

Legislative: Nominated to the Senate (formerly known as the "Legislative Council") at 29 years, the youngest member in its history.

Finance and planning: Minister of Finance and

Planning 1967-1972, 1980-1989.

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

The National Development Bank, Agricultural Credit Bank, Jamaica Mortgage Bank, Jamaica Unit Trust.

Established the Student Loan Fund to provide financing for needy students at the tertiary level.

Created Jamaica Promotions Ltd., JAMPRO, to promote investment. Urban and rural development: Established the Urban Development Corp. (UDC) - through which Kingston, Ocho Rios and Montego Bay waterfronts were transformed into major resorts, residential and commercial ports. Also spearheaded the emergence of Negril, as a tourist resort.

Transformed a Kingston slum, "Back-O-Wall" into a modern, model, low-income residential community.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & WELFARE:

Minister of Development and Social Welfare from 1962 - 1967.

Established Metropolitan Parks and Markets (MPM) to undertake the redevelopment of

parks, markets, street cleaning and beautification of the town and cities.

Created the H.E.A.R.T (Human Employment and Resource Training) Programme, to provide skilled training for school leavers and drop-outs.

Developed the Self-Start Fund and Solidarity Programmes to give young people a chance to start their own micro businesses. Instituted the Food Stamp Programme to assist vulnerable groups - mothers, children and the elderly with their nutritional needs. Upgraded the School Feeding Programme to provide nutritional needs of children in primary school. Established Golden Age Homes to set a new standard of welfare for the aged indigent.

CULTURE:

Initiated the Jamaica Festival as an annual showcase of Jamaica's traditional culture.

Introduced the National Heroes Award and National Heritage Week.

Initiated the National Heroes Award, Jamaica's highest national honour and arranged for the return of the body of Marcus Garvey, who became Jamaica's first National Hero.

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