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# University of Technology, Jamaica

*Edward Seaga Appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> UTech Chancellor*

BIN Seaga. Edward

## Dedicated to a life of Service

The University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech) is pleased to announce the appointment of the Most Honourable Edward Seaga, ON, PC, former Prime Minister and former Pro-Chancellor of the University since 2008, as its second Chancellor effective November 7, 2010. Mr. Seaga succeeds Lord Morris of Handsworth, OJ who demitted office on November 6, 2010.

The Chancellor is the first Officer of the University. His duties include presiding over the University Council, the conferring of degrees and the award of diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions.

The Chancellor was appointed by the Minister of Education, Hon. Andrew Holness following the recommendation of the University's Council. The Council's criteria that influenced Mr. Seaga's selection include his high international profile, visionary and outstanding intellectual ability, ongoing work with young people, demonstrated leadership qualities, fiscal acumen, unquestionable commitment to Jamaica and the Caribbean and his involvement at the international level.

### **"A Position of Honour"**

In accepting the position as Chancellor, Mr. Seaga said that "it is a position of honour." He sees his new position in keeping with a lifelong passion for public service and a desire to always be in an active position of helping others. He notes that he accepts the position at this time because of his deep belief in education in general and tertiary education in particular, as an important tool for the advancement of a country through its human resources. "Tertiary education represents a process of converting wasteful, useless human potential into actual, accomplished individuals," he notes.

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In expressing his vision for the University, the incoming Chancellor said, "I would like to see UTech expand its range of training and academic offerings particularly in the expansion of the sciences in such areas as bio-chemistry where there is so much material for research." Further he expressed the hope that UTech will lead the national charge in expanding areas of undeveloped potential in culture, music and sports.

UTech's President, Prof. the Hon. Errol Morrison, OJ in welcoming Mr. Seaga as Chancellor said that, "he is the greatest gift UTech can have at this time as we continue to expand our thrust as the "People's University," adding that he brings a sharp mind to UTech's interest in many areas including sports, culture and research.



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### **Long and Distinguished Career**

Mr. Seaga has led a long and distinguished political career and is internationally renowned for his monumental contribution to Jamaica's political, economic, social and cultural development.

His political career began in 1959 when Sir Alexander Bustamante, founder of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), nominated him to serve in the Upper House of the Jamaican Parliament, the Legislative Council (later the Senate). His appointment at age 29 made him the youngest member ever appointed to the Legislative Council.

In April, 1962, Mr. Seaga was elected Member of Parliament for West Kingston. He held that seat for 43 consecutive years making him the longest serving Member of Parliament in the history of Jamaica and the English speaking Caribbean. He is the only person elected as Member of Parliament for West Kingston for more than one term having won 10 consecutive terms.

Mr. Seaga is credited for founding, introducing or promoting the establishment of a number of important Jamaican institutions. Among them, The Jamaica Stock Exchange (1969); the Jamaica Unit Trust (1970); the Students' Revolving Loan Fund for Higher Education (1970); the Jamaica Mortgage Bank (1972); the National Development Bank (1981); the Agricultural Credit Bank (1981); the Ex-Im Bank (1986); the Jamaica Promotion Limited (JAMPRO) in 1981 and the Self-Start Fund (1984) and the Human Employment and Resources Training Programme (HEART) in 1983.

He is also credited with the creation of the Jamaica Festival and the establishment of the craft development company, Things Jamaican, among other cultural institutions.

He has authored several publications and received numerous honours and awards locally and internationally in recognition of his achievements. In 1981 he was appointed by Queen Elizabeth II as a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council. In 2002 he was conferred with the Order of the Nation. In 2005 the University of the West Indies conferred him with the honorary title of Distinguished Fellow in the School for Graduate Studies and Research. He was also recently installed as a Fellow of the Institute of Jamaica.

**The UTech community welcomes Mr. Seaga and pledges its full support to him during his tenure as Chancellor of the University.**

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