



Portia awarded Order of the Nation

BY INGRID BROWN
Observer staff reporter

PRIME Minister Portia Simpson Miller was yesterday conferred with the Order of the Nation — Jamaica's second highest honour — a move which she viewed as a further crashing of the glass ceiling for women to excel in all spheres of life.

"I want to say to the women of Jamaica, I am very happy that I could just kick in that glass ceiling, and just crash through and prepare the way for our women to make their contribution at any level of government or at any level," she said to thunderous applause from guests in attendance at the ceremony at King's House.

Simpson Miller, who will now hold the title Most Honourable, said she accepted the honour on behalf of all Jamaicans, irrespective of their standing.

"I accept this honour on behalf of everyone, no matter what religion, what faith, no matter what race, no matter what class or colour and no matter what political party. I am your prime minister," she said.

She urged all Jamaicans to join in partnership with her to create a better way of life for the

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller embraces former Prime Minister Edward Seaga and fellow recipient of the Order of The Nation, immediately following a ceremony at King's House yesterday to confer the Order of the Nation on her. See story on Page 3.

(Photo: Michael Gordon)

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poor and the oppressed.
"I am ready to work with all of you because it is a partnership," she said.

Simpson Miller also acknowledged the enormous responsibility that comes with her office and, in an apparent word to her critics, said she was prepared to deal with it.

"Blessed is the nation whose

God is the Lord," she preached, "and so I accept this honour with humility and on behalf of the people of this nation, recognising the enormous responsibility on my shoulders."

She also had no response to Opposition Leader Bruce Golding's disagreement with the conferral of the honour on her.

"I believe that honour should be awarded to persons after they have done a good job and you give them that honour in recognition of the good job that they have done," Golding said over the weekend.

The Order of the Nation is awarded to governors-general and prime ministers of Jamaica.

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