

MOSA Gold Medal presented to Allen

Former Minister of Education, the member of Parliament for North West Clarendon, Mr. Edwin Allen, was presented with the Mico Old Students Association Gold Medal for his services in the field of Education at a luncheon held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Saturday.

Heading the number of persons who witnessed the presentation were the Minister of Education, the Hon. Howard Cooke; the Minister of Pensions and Social Security, the Hon. Winston Jones; the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Edward Seaga, and Mrs. Seaga.

The presentation was made by a Miconian, Miss Carmen Latty, and several persons, including Mr. Cooke, Dr. Errol Miller, Principal of Mico College, Mr. E. H. Cousins of the Board of Directors of Mico, the Hon. Glen Owen, P.C., Mr. Ben Cox, Mr. W. B. C. Hawthorne and Mr. J. N. Baer, paid Tribute to Mr. Allen.

The citation listing his achievements was read by Mr. C. L. Stuart, also a Mico Gold Medallist. During Mr. Allen's 19 years, as headmaster of Leicesterfield All Age School in Clarendon the school rose from Grade C to Grade A standard and was exempted from annual inspection.

Mr. Allen was instrumental in providing teacher-training at Leicesterfield for probationers and at one time that school held the record for third year Pupil Teachers

Examination passes. Mr. Allen started early childhood education at Leicesterfield district and saw the building of eight basic schools there.

He was also outstanding as a social worker, leading agrarian reform and helping to free the people of the area from land tenancy restrictions. Through his efforts, over 8,000 Jamaicans were trained as nurses in England.

Buildings

During his time as Minister of Education he build many primary school, the College of Arts, Science and Techonology and the Jamaica School of Agriculture. He was also successful in getting the World Bank to lend money for building school in rural areas.

Mr. Allen, in replying to the tributes paid to him, said that his one regret was that he had not been able to see Mico elevated to the position of a special training college during his time as Minister. He was of the opinion that students should enter Mico College only after they had gone through University.

He said that the training of teachers who are going to be masters in the classrooms must be of urgent priority and at present the training colleges were not getting enough entrants with high grade passes. He said that the high schools needed teachers, not lecturers; and that the profession of teaching in Jamaica could not be a true profession because many of those who were teaching were untrained.



EDUCATOR HONoured: Mr. Edwin Allen, a former Minister of Education, and the M.P. for North Western Clarendon, having pinned to his lapel the Mico Old Students Association Gold Medal for his contribution to education in Jamaica. The ceremony took place at a luncheon in his honour given at the Jamaica Pegasus on Saturday by the association.