

Profile



His Excellency the Most Honourable
Sir Howard Felix Hanlan Cooke,
O.N., G.C.M.G., C.D.
Governor-General of Jamaica

B/N COOKE, HOWARD SIR

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POLITICAL LIFE

His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Howard Felix Hanlan Cooke, O.N. G.C.M.G., C.D., was born in Goodwill, St. James, on November 13, 1915. He is the son of David Brown Cooke and Mary Jane Minto. He was educated at elementary and private schools, Mico College and London University.



On July 22, 1939, he married Ivy Sylvia Lucille Tai, and from this union there are two sons, the Honourable Mr. Justice Howard Fits-Arthur Cooke, Puisne Judge, and Mr. Richard Washington McDermott Cooke, Hotelier; and one daughter, Miss Audrey Faith Cooke, Consultant in International Affairs in Canada.

Sir Howard entered politics in 1938 as one of the founding members of the People's National Party. He has been a member of the Executive and the National Executive, Chairman of the Regional Executive and Chairman of the Party.

In 1958 he was elected to the West Indies Federal Parliament, as the representative for St. James.

He entered the Jamaican Parliament in 1962, and served as Senator until early 1967. He served as a member of the House of Representatives between 1972 and 1980. As Minister, he held, at different times, the portfolios of:

- Pension and Social Security
- Education
- Public Service
- Labour

He served on the Executive of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. In 1980 he received a special plaque for Distinguished Service from the Association.

CAREER

For 23 years he served as a teacher, starting at Mico College and Practising School; he later served as Headmaster at Belle Castle All-Age School, Port Antonio Upper School, and Montego Bay Boys' School. He was a member and former President of the Jamaica Union of Teachers.

During the course of his career, he also served in the insurance industry in the following positions: Senior Inspector and Branch Manager, Standard Life Insurance Company; Unit Manager, Jamaica Mutual Life; Branch Manager, American Life Insurance Company (ALICO).

INTERESTS

Sir Howard served as Group Scout Master and Secretary for the St. Andrew Boys' Scout Association. He captained the County of Cornwall cricket team, and, at various times, was a member of the Mico College, Portland and St. James cricket teams. He was also a member of the Mico College, YMCA Portland, and St. James football teams.

He assisted in the establishment of community centres in east Portland and various community organizations in his home parish, St. James.

His interests also extend to Jamaican culture. For many years he was a member of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC), and was Secretary and local Chairman of the St. James Cultural Commission. He also judged in JCDC "Festival" competitions.

He is currently a Senior Elder in the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman, and is lay pastor and past chairman of the Cornwall Council of Churches. He is also a member of the Ancient and Accepted Order of Masons.

His Excellency was installed as Governor-General of Jamaica at Kings House on Thursday August 1, 1991.

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