

NEWS

BIN GOLDING, BRUCE

The making of Jamaica's

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BRUCE Golding, a second generation politician, is later this week expected to be sworn in as the country's eighth prime minister, after his Jamaica Labour Party won a narrow victory in yesterday's general election.

Golding has had a long and illustrious career which began back in 1969 when he was selected by the JLP as their candidate for Western St Catherine. He was only 21 then. Three years later, at age 24, he won the seat, becoming the youngest person ever in Jamaica's history to be elected to Parliament. He, however, lost the seat in 1976 and withdrew from representational politics the following year in order to focus on his duties as the party's general secretary.

Golding organised the JLP's campaign for the 1980

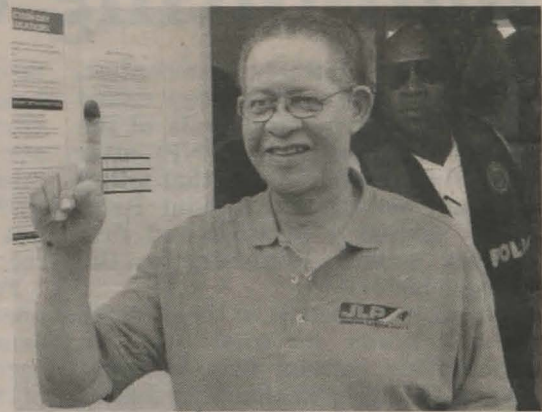
elections and was largely credited with the party's 51-9 seat victory. Following those elections, he began his second term as a senator and was appointed minister of construction. In that capacity he spearheaded several initiatives, including the national shelter sector strategy, a reform of the rent restriction laws and the Rural Road Improvement Programme.

For the elections of 1983, which the People's National Party did not contest, Golding was elected member of parliament for what was then South Central St Catherine.

He held the seat until 1993 when he left the JLP and started the National Democratic Movement (NDM) in 1995.

Prior to that, however, Bruce held several positions within the JLP, including party chairman, shadow minister of finance and chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

After a devastating defeat in the 1997 polls, and a further loss in a by-election in North East St Ann in 2001, Golding left the NDM, withdrew from active politics and turned to talk radio.



Bruce Golding after he voted in St Andrew yesterday. (Photo: Michael Gordon)



Vubilant JLP supporters celebrate the party's victory in yesterday's elections last night at JLP headquarters in Kingston. (Photo: Joseph Wellington)

eighth prime minister

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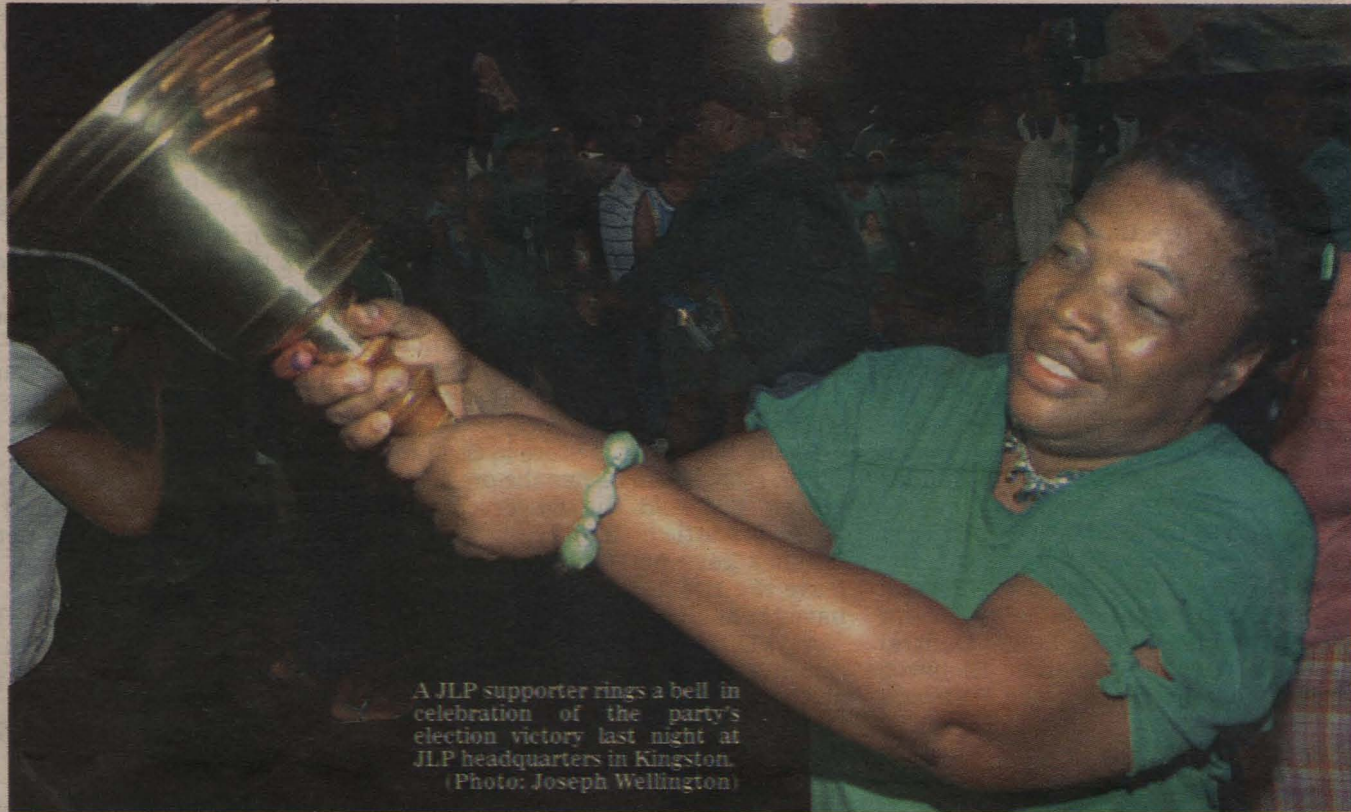
The following year, however, shortly after the announcement of the October elections of 2002, Golding returned to the JLP but not before drafting a memorandum of understanding in which the party agreed to revise certain of its policies.

Again, Golding was credited with the party's relative success at the polls as its substantial 26-seat grab was widely believed to be a direct result of the golden boy's return to the JLP.

He was elected party chairman soon after his return and in 2005 when Edward Seaga stepped down as party leader and MP for West Kingston, Golding took over the top party job, leading the party out of its more than 18 years in opposition to taste electoral victory.

Golding studied at the University of the West Indies where he obtained a BSc in Economics in 1969. Prior to that, he attended Jamaica College (sixth form), St George's College, and several primary level institutions in St Catherine, Portland and Kingston.

Golding was born on December 5, 1947 in Clarendon but spent his early years in St Catherine, Portland and Kingston. He is the third of four children for Tacius and Enid Golding.



A JLP supporter rings a bell in celebration of the party's election victory last night at JLP headquarters in Kingston.

(Photo: Joseph Wellington)