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JAMAICA'S CONSUL GENERAL TO TORONTO PAYS TRIBUTE TO MANLEY

NEWS

TORONTO, March 21 (JAMPRESS):

Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto, Canada, Margarietta St. Juste has paid the following tribute to former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Rt. Hon Michael Norman Manley.

Here is the text of Mrs. St. Juste's tribute:

"There isn't a Jamaican in all the world who did not stop and reflect at the news of the death of former Prime Minister, Michael Manley. Such was his influence; he had a profound effect on the lives of all Jamaicans.

"Michael Manley was a lot of things to many people: we (Jamaicans) like an exciting and charismatic leader - we had that and more in Michael Manley.

"We expect our leaders to be as effective and recognisable on the world's stage as they are at home - we had that in Michael Manley.

"We want our leaders to be passionate, with the courage of their convictions - we had that in Michael Manley.

"We don't mind if our leaders are controversial as long as they remain true to the fight for social justice and equal rights we knew that about Michael Manley.

"Mr. Manley refused to believe that Jamaicans should not and could not be in charge of their own destinies. He raised expectations and raised standards - and when times were hard he forced us to use our creativity and the talents God gave us.

"By his policies in the late 70s he unwittingly caused a new group of Jamaicans, who had heretofore seen the glass ceiling, to aspire and reach the commanding heights of the society and the economy.

AMAL STREET

"Most important of all, for a large section of Jamaicans, he showed them dignity and made them believe in themselves. And his greatest gift was to the children who would no longer grow up with the stigma of illegitimacy and would have a free place in school right through to university.

"I had the distinct honour and pleasure of introducing Mr. Manley when he gave his last public speech in Toronto two years ago and I said this then: 'Above all he is passionate in everything he sets out to do. Not always modest, but unlike many of us admits to his mistakes. He is faithful to his friends in their triumphs and trials; he is a workaholic; is quick to wrath but equally quick to forgive; a gentleman of quality, to all his children a father extraordinaire'.

"May his soul rest in peace".

National Library of Jamaica

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