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PRIME MINISTER PLEASSED WITH MEDIA
COVERAGE OF MANLEY FUNERAL

KINGSTON, March 24 (JAMPRESS):

The Jamaican media came in for high praise from Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, for its coverage of the State Funeral and events surrounding the death of the late former Prime Minister, Michael Manley.

Mr. Patterson said in a letter made available at the Annual General Meeting of the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) yesterday (March 23), that from all indications, the majority of Jamaicans were pleased with the wide coverage and treatment which the media - print and electronic - gave this important event.

"I am writing through you to thank all members of the PAJ for the contribution they made, not only by way of coverage, but by their careful, definitive and informative representations of a truly great Jamaican," Mr. Patterson said in the letter to PAJ President, Jennifer Grant.

The State Funeral attracted one of the largest turnouts of local news media personnel, an estimated 550 professionals, for a single event. There were also crews from some 18 to 20 overseas-based media organisations.

The PAJ meeting observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late former Prime Minister.

Miss Grant, who became the first woman president of the PAJ when she was elected in 1993, did not seek re-election, citing pressure of work. Among her crowning achievements is the purchase of a building to house the Association at East Avenue in Kingston 10.

Elected to succeed her was Desmond Allen, Executive Director of JAMPRESS, the official news agency of Jamaica. Allen, 42, who began his career at the Gleaner in 1973, is the founding editor of the Jamaica Observer where he worked prior to joining JAMPRESS last September.

Also elected to the PAJ executive were: First Vice President - Donna Ortega, Gleaner news editor; 2nd Vice President - Wenty Bowen of the Creative Production and Training Centre; Secretary - Monica Dias of UNICEF; Assistant Secretary - Joylene Griffiths-Irving, Sunday Herald editor-in-chief; Treasurer - Carmen Tipling of Communications Consultants; and Committee Members - Michael Becker of the Observer, Christene King of the Sunday Herald, Leo Lambert of KLAS-FM and Delroy Whyte-Hall of the Sunday Herald.

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