

STATEMENT BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER
THE MOST HON P.J. PATTERSON ON THE PASSING
OF PROFESSOR THE HON. RALSTON (REX) NETTLEFORD

The sudden passing of my friend and colleague Professor the Hon. Ralston (Rex) Nettleford has left me with a profound sense of loss.

Professor Nettleford was a unique soul with a brilliant mind and an unparalleled commitment to Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Many will no doubt refer to his many achievements: his eloquence in the spoken and written word; his outstanding career as an educator; his prolific writings; his seminal contribution to the arts and culture; the articulate expression of his political philosophy. In all of this, his central goal was simple: the recognition of identity - the sense of self, and the upliftment of the marginalized descendants of the African slaves who suffered through the colonial experience and still continue the struggle for development and prosperity.

Few who have had the opportunity to interact with him on a personal level will forget his sincerity, his kindness, his humility, his genuine desire to make a contribution. No task was ever too simple, no challenge too great.

A true visionary and humanist, his place in Jamaica's history is assured.

I extend my heartfelt sympathy to his family and large circle of friends that spans the globe.

May his soul rest in peace.

February 3, 2010

