

February 3, 2010

**STATEMENT FROM THE BROADCASTING COMMISSION OF JAMAICA ON  
THE PASSING OF UWI VICE CHANCELLOR EMERITUS,  
PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE REX NETTLEFORD**

The Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica joins with the nation and the international community in mourning the passing of one of Jamaica's greatest sons, Professor, the Honourable Ralston Milton 'Rex' Nettleford.

As an iconic literary and cultural figure, Professor Nettleford remained up until the time of his death one of the leading exponents of Caribbean cultural expression and a tireless advocate for political renewal. He was profoundly concerned with raising the self awareness of a Black Caribbean population emerging in large part from the atrocities of European enslavement, or 'the cane piece' as he often styled it.

Professor Nettleford led in creating key institutions in a post-colonial Caribbean searching for its own identity and unique forms of creative expression. His co-founding and artistic leadership of the National Dance Theatre Company (NDTC) and his pivotal role in the establishment of the Edna Manley College of the Creative and Performing Arts formed part of a national cultural development project, which ran concurrently with the period of our political independence since 1962.

In paying tribute, Chairman of the Broadcasting Commission, Dr Hopeton Dunn said Professor Nettleford made a sterling contribution to the development of public broadcasting, political commentary and national media policy in Jamaica over the

last forty five years. He noted that between 1965 and 1981 Rex Nettleford was an active political commentator and analyst on radio and television and a regular contributor to the opinion columns of our national newspapers. Among the many boards on which he served was that of the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation and he was an influential advisor to government in the re-structuring of Radio Jamaica after its acquisition from the British Rediffusion Group in the 1970s.

Dr Dunn praised Professor Nettleford for nurturing the careers of successive cohorts of students in Media and Communication at CARIMAC, UWI, while serving as a founding lecturer since the establishment of the Institute in 1974. He said Professor Nettleford remained faithful to his role as lecturer and mentor in that Institute even while he was Vice Chancellor of the UWI.

Through sustained hard work and brilliant scholarship Rex Nettleford distinguished himself and deservedly attained wide personal recognition and multiple accolades within the Caribbean and globally. His many books, scholarly papers and remarkable speeches provided the prism through which generations of Caribbean scholars viewed or imagined the region and the world.

While he will be sadly missed, the Broadcasting Commission celebrates the life and legacy of a great Jamaican icon.