

**TRIBUTE TO LADY BUSTAMANTE
FROM THE MOST HON. PORTIA SIMPSON MILLER
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

Today, it is my honour to pay tribute to a -

- History-maker
- Trailblazer
- Pioneer, and
- Nation-builder

"Strength and honour are her clothing and she shall rejoice in time to come": verse 25 in the final chapter of the book of Proverbs.

Lady Bustamante had grace;
She had style;
She had courage and determination.

Her impact on the Jamaican people was felt from the docks of downtown Kingston to the cane fields in Westmoreland. Anywhere the 'Chief' was required to go in the battle for the rights of the working class, Lady B went.

As the life-long partner of a charismatic and powerful Leader, some women would have faded in the background but not Lady B.

Lady Bustamante started her contribution to National Development at a time when the work and role of women were not fully appreciated.

She blazed the trail for the outstanding Jamaican women who came after her.

She gave us the vision that we have a right to participate fully in the development of our country.

Although there was never a question of her party affiliation, she was never involved in divisive partisan actions.

She had friends and associates from all sides of the political spectrum.

Lady B has left a history and a legacy that we should all emulate. Her compassion and understanding of the working poor was legendary. Their welfare was her primary concern. She was determined that along with her husband and the other labour leaders, the lives of the working class would have to be better.

When I was Minister of Labour, each time she called me it was never about something for herself. She was always seeking to help others to better their lives.

I am told that she loved music; she loved to travel and was not one to back away from an adventure.

One of her dear friends reported that once on a family trip abroad lady B insisted on riding the elephant.

Her friend, the 'macho man' was reluctant to do so, but the strength of this lady prevailed - she pulled the family along for the ride on the elephant.

Even in retirement, the strength of this lady could not be underestimated.

Today we give thanks. Today we celebrate a life which was filled with such a rich sense of fun, of joy and the music of laughter.

"Strength and dignity are her clothing and she laughs at the time to come."

Such laughter reflects an attitude of confident hope even in those times that she faced adversity and the unpredictable challenges of life.

Like the warm Jamaican sun, she bathed us in the glow of her smile, her care and her love. The sun has now set and the cool of the evening has come.

'Give her of the fruits of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates'.

Goodbye Lady B – Rest well!!

We'll keep fond memories of you in our hearts.