



The University of the West Indies

Carlton Earl Davis

Chancellor, Jamaica's name comes from the Taino word meaning "land of wood and many springs". However, what the Tainos did not know when they named this rock, was that the land of wood and many springs was also a land abundantly blessed with other natural resources. Sand and sea aside, it wasn't until the middle of the past century that it was discovered that the most abundant of these was bauxite which, for decades, was to make Jamaica the world's leading producer of the valuable ore.

Tourism and remittances from the diaspora have displaced the bauxite/alumina industry as the country's leading foreign exchange earner. Still, it is impossible to measure accurately the contribution that the bauxite/alumina industry has made and continues to make to the development of Jamaica and the welfare of its people.

More the difficulty then, to measure the contribution that our honouree has made and continues to make to the development of his country and the welfare of its people. For you see Chancellor, arguably, no other name in the collective consciousness, is as synonymous with the bauxite/alumina industry in Jamaica as that of Carlton Earl Davis.

Beginning professionally in 1970 in the Department of Mines when he worked on evaluating the island's bauxite reserves, to this day as non-executive Chairman of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, Dr. Davis has been integrally involved with the industry.

His scientific and intellectual trajectory was well grounded from 1960 when he won the Jamaica Agricultural scholarship and decided to study the soil. Graduating with honours, second in his class, from McGill University, an MSc in Soil Chemistry followed in 1966 and two years later his PhD in Mineralogy from the UWI.

As Director, Research and Development of the then Ministry of Mining and Natural Resources from 1974, his scientific knowledge and familiarity with the bauxite/alumina industry, saw him playing a critical role in negotiating the bauxite levy and made him a natural choice as Executive Director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute which he helped create in 1976 having previously rehearsed the part by helping set up the International Bauxite Association in 1974.

In fact Chancellor, for over thirty years, our honouree has been associated with every major development in Jamaica's bauxite/alumina industry, literally from the ground up.

His vision, leadership, and managerial skills, were brought to bear in chairing as well Jamaica's National Housing Trust between 1989 and 1993 when he became Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service. Among his many responsibilities are managing the agendas of the Cabinet and its Committees and ensuring rigorous policy analysis and implementation.

For the past twelve years Dr. Davis has been giving voluntary service chairing the Jamaica Special Olympics and he sits on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Jamaica. He also chairs the Board of Clarendon Alumina Production Ltd.

His double volume *opus magnum*, **Jamaica in the World Aluminium Industry**, comprising almost 800 pages, and his over fifty published scientific and technical papers, establish him without doubt as a world authority on the global industry and add an essential intellectual dimension to his already large legacy as a public servant. His many awards include the Institute of Jamaica's Centenary Medal for science in 1979; The Gleaner Company's Honour Award for "outstanding national service" in 1990; the Science in Industry Award in 1990 from the Jamaica Society of Scientists and Technologists; Manager of the Year Award, 1990 from the Jamaica Institute of Management and in 1998 he was named Distinguished Graduate by our own university.

Chancellor, the Tainos would have been proud of this son of the land of wood and many springs and so are we. And so by the authority vested in you by the Council and Senate of The University of the West Indies, I invite you to confer on Dr. The Honourable Carlton Earl Davis, OJ, CD the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

At the Mona Campus
November 7, 2003