



New Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Robert Bermudez

New UWI Chancellor takes office

KINGSTON, Jamaica: Trinidad and Tobago national Robert Bermudez has assumed duties as the sixth Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI).

On Monday, the regional institution welcomed Bermudez as the new Chancellor – the highest office holder in the UWI system.

Bermudez was appointed at the University Council's annual business meeting on April 27 to succeed Sir George Alleyne.

According to the University's Statutes and Ordinances, "the Chancellor shall preside at meetings of the Council [the highest governing body of the regional university] and any Convocation and shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be conferred upon the holder of the office of Chancellor by The UWI Charter or any Statute, Ordinance or Regulation."

Bermudez, has been an entrepreneur for over 40 years.

"He led the growth of his family-owned firm, to a regional business throughout the Caribbean and Latin America and has enjoyed a distinguished career in business, serving as either Chairman or Board Director for several corporate bodies in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean."

The UWI says "his vision for the University outlines a keen sense of the mission, effectiveness, relevance and interdependence of academia and the economy. His professional experience as a

Caribbean-wide entrepreneur with business acumen garnered from across the region suggests that he will continue the outstanding tradition of Chancellorship at the University.

His predecessors include Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone (1948-1971); Sir Hugh Wooding (1971-1974); Sir Allen Montgomery Lewis (1975-1989); Sir Shridath Ramphal (1989-2003); and Sir George Alleyne (2003-2017).

The institution also thanked Sir George Alleyne for his tenure of 23 years working at the University, including 14 years of service as Chancellor.

The official installation ceremony for Bermudez will be held in September 2017, at the university's Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Our new Chancellor has demonstrated through his many roles as a man conscious of his Caribbean identity and responsibility, and willingness to provide leadership to our people at home and beyond, in the entrepreneurial arena and elsewhere, that he is amply energized for the role of Chancellor of our beloved UWI. He comes to office on the eve of our 70th anniversary during which the university community will be reflecting upon 70 years of service and leadership. It will be an honour for us to have him presiding over these activities," said Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles.