



Robert Bermudez is installed as the new Chancellor of the University of the West Indies by the university's vice chancellor Prof Hilary Beckles. PICTURES ANISTO ALVES



From left: President of Guild of Students Open Campus Howard Brown, Cave Hill Campus Kia Bridgewater, Mona Campus Oshane Grant and St Augustine Campus Jonathan St Louis-Nahous during the Installation Ceremony of Robert Bermudez as the sixth Chancellor of the University of the West Indies at the Daaga Auditorium, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus on Saturday.

Bermudez: New 'Chief Servant of UWI'

JOEL JULIEN

Social skills, empathy, social consciousness and a concern for equity are just as important to success as technical competence, newly appointed chancellor of the University of the West Indies Robert Bermudez has said.

"(UWI) must never forget our core purpose, the education of our youth, we cannot just produce certified young people, we

must produce energised citizens with a social conscience motivated to change their world, the university must encourage student activism, discourse on the issues of the day and the freedom to develop their minds outside of the strict confines of their studies," Bermudez said.

Bermudez made the statements in his inaugural address as UWI's Chancellor during his installation ceremony on Saturday at the St

Augustine campus.

Bermudez, the newly appointed highest office holder at UWI, described himself as the institution's "Chief Servant".

"This Daaga Auditorium named in the memory of a rebellious slave brings to mind a rebel of my time Makandal Daaga, a man who chose to identify himself as the Chief Servant, a description that resonates deeply with me as it captures what I believe good

leadership to be."

"So here I stand my fellow West Indians in these unfamiliar robes Chief Servant of the University of the West Indies.

Bermudez said during his entire career he followed three basic rules "stay focused on your core competence, keep your head down and keep your mouth shut".

As chancellor he will now be "jettisoning these roles forever",

Bermudez said.

"I started life as a baker, and that is true, and to this day I still see myself as such standing here before you as the Chancellor of the University of the West Indies makes me marvel yet again at the vagaries of life," Bermudez said.

In the events opening remarks Vice-Chancellor Prof Sir Hilary Beckles said UWI will be opening its next campus in Antigua and Barbuda.



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