

LIFESTYLE OF THE LADY CEO

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On The Cover

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller

“Today is a truly historic day in the life of this nation. A girl from Wood Hall in deep rural St. Catherine has become Prime Minister of Jamaica, a true manifestation of the Jamaican Dream. This indicates that any child, regardless of circumstances, can rise to the top.”
It has been said “Hope springs eternal in the human breast”.



*The Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, ON, MP
Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Sport,
Women's Affairs & Community Development*

On Thursday, March 30, 2006 at King's House, history was made as Portia Simpson Miller delivers her Inaugural speech as Prime Minister of Jamaica: "Today is a truly historic day in the life of this nation. A girl from Wood Hall in deep rural St. Catherine has become Prime Minister of Jamaica, a true manifestation of the Jamaican Dream.

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In 2007, success ranked Prime Minister Simpson Miller at #89 on Forbes' "The 100 Most Powerful Women."

Prime Minister Simpson Miller is Jamaica's seventh Prime Minister having assumed office on March 30, 2006. Her appointment as Head of Government comes after seventeen years as a senior Cabinet Minister having previously served as Minister of Labour, Welfare and Sport; Minister of Tourism and Sport; and Minister of Local Government, Community Development and Sport. Prior to her current appointment, she acted as Prime Minister on numerous occasions during the past ten years.

P rime Minister Simpson Miller's abiding faith and confidence in her constituents, and the shared belief system of creating a better Jamaica, is a harmonious tune in Jamaica. After doing research on this awesome woman, who was born into poverty, I began to wonder what was so incredibly delightful about Prime Minister Miller. It was then at that moment that I noticed of the warmth and beauty in her writing and communication style, which is always filled with a parade of inspiring messages, hope, sincerity, social and economic development.

During the Building Opportunities for the Majority Seminar, Prime Minister Simpson Miller's words of economic growth and development crystallized the new and upcoming programs specifically designed to brand Jamaica.

"Today the country is on a path of modest but steady economic growth. Reflecting growing international private sector confidence, the country is now benefiting from an unprecedented level of foreign direct investment in many sectors of our economy... I have adopted a vision determined to address these concerns without jeopardizing sound macro-economic management.

The fact is that each objective needs the other... My vision is about empowering communities by

creating the space and the environment for people to realize their true potential... My vision highlights the value and worth of all our people... I see my role as uplifting the poor, the marginalized, the voiceless, and the defenseless. I invite all of you to join me in fulfilling this vision."

As Parliamentary representative of the urban constituency of South Western St. Andrew, Mrs. Simpson Miller has been a vigorous campaigner on behalf of the poor and oppressed and a consistent advocate for urban renewal and community development. She presided over the most significant expansion of Jamaica's Overseas Work Programme and the unprecedented increase in the National Insurance Fund in her capacity as Minister of Labour Welfare and Sport. Under her watch, the National Insurance Scheme was transformed into a major component of the Government's social protection system.



Prime Minister Portia accepts a gift from a student



Prime Minister Simpson Miller was instrumental in establishing a Labour Chair in the Department of Government at the University of the West Indies (UWI). Her empathy, charm, political acumen, and negotiating skills were major factors in maintaining a record period of harmonious relations between employers, workers, and trade unions, which contributed to the maturity of labour management in Jamaica.

The Prime Minister's love of sports and Jamaica's athletes is well-known and she has served as the Minister of Sport from 1989 to the present. During this period she has used her tremendous influence to motivate the Jamaican sporting community and to promote sport as a unifying force among rival political factions.

She has also been instrumental in garnering partnerships and support between government agencies and the private sector for the development of sports in Jamaica, as well as the establishment of the Sports Development Foundation to provide financial assistance to national sporting associations and an elite athletes fund to provide emergency assistance to national and international-level athletes.

Just recently released, Prime Minister Simpson Miller, receives IOC World Women And Sport Award The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has awarded the IOC World Women and Sport Trophy for 2007 to Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller. She was honored for her exceptional efforts to encourage the participation of women in sporting events and sport administration at a ceremony held at the IOC Headquarters in Switzerland today, Thursday (Mar. 8).

"If women continue to be left in the margins and if we fail to embrace their tremendous potential, then we will only be playing at half-strength in a

competitive global field." The women and sport trophy represents the struggles and triumphs of women all over the world – in their villages and inner cities, in community organizations and large corporations," said the Prime Minister. The IOC today also presented continental trophies to five leading women in sport. The recipients were Fridah Bilha Shiroya (Kenya/Africa), Jackie Joyner-Kersey (USA/Americas), Naila Shatarah-Kharroub (Palestine/Asia) Ilse Bechthold (Germany/Europe), and Veitu Apana Diro (Papua New Guinea/Oceania).

The Prime Minister was the leading architect of Jamaica's Master Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development, which provides the strategic policy framework for the expansion of the country's tourism sector. Her work in deepening community participation and involving communities in policy making decisions led to the pursuit of fundamental reforms in local government and the subsequent establishment of the Portmore Municipality and the election of the first and only directly elected mayor in Jamaica and the English-speaking Caribbean.

Mrs. Simpson Miller pursued her education up to the secondary level in Jamaica before reading for her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Administration at the Union Institute and University in the United States of America, which later awarded her an Honorary Doctorate. She completed the Executive Programme for Leaders in Development at the prestigious John Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Prime Minister Miller is passionate about youth and education. She exchanged views on health and wellness matters with medical students who she met while attending the annual board retreat of the Urban Development Corporation at Breezes Runaway Bay Hotel in St. Ann.



l to r: Su-Ann Martin, Tanikya Grant, Prime Minister Portia, Patrice Simmonds
(Photo JIS)

Political Career

Portia Simpson Miller's career in representational politics began in Local Government in 1974 as a Councilor of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC). She made the transition to the House of Representatives when she was elected Member of Parliament for South Western St. Andrew in 1976. She was appointed a Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister in 1977.

Mrs. Simpson Miller has the distinction of serving as the first female Vice-President of the People's National Party, a position she held between 1978 and 2006 and as President of the People's National Party Women's Movement since 1983. In February 2006, she became the first woman to be elected as head of a political party in Jamaica.

International Experience

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller has had a distinguished record of service at the regional and international level. She is Vice President of the Organization of American States' High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government, and Citizen Participation (RIAD). She is also the Chairperson of the Caribbean Forum of Ministers responsible for Decentralization, Local Government, Community Development, and Citizen Participation and is a Board Member of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and CIFAL Atlanta.

Prime Minister Simpson Miller shares with the delegates at the 30th Miami Conference on The Caribbean her vision of a United Third Border and The Future Of Us Caribbean Trade And Investment Relations In Building A Development Partnership:

"My vision is of region where human development, human rights and poverty eradication are central elements of our strategy for growth.

In my vision, no one in our region will go to bed hungry. My vision has resonance with our great musical icon, Bob Marley, who in lamenting the plight of the poor sang: "cold ground was my bed last night and rock stone was my pillow too."

It is my vision that all our people will have adequate shelter, no cold ground for their beds, or rock stone for their pillows.

Those of us gathered here in privileged positions must use our positions to lift those who are not so fortunate.

As President Moreno said: we must be bold. Failure is not an option. We can do it. Let us make the sacrifice. Let us get it done."

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller is truly an inspiration to many young women. She is amazing and the ultimate CEO visionary, who took the Oath of Office as Prime Minister on March 30, 2006 and was conferred with the Order of the Nation on May 29, 2006.



Prime Minister Miller (l) presents keys to new homeowners (r)



Globally women are on the rise in every facet of the business economy and government.



The challenge is on in Europe, as many corporations are required to meet quotas in the boardroom by filling 20 - 40% of the seats with Women.



In the U.S., publicly traded companies are disclosing their director recruitment process in their proxy statements as required by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Diversity. *Women Are Open and Ready For Business.*

*"In the workplace, combat boots, and not glass slippers are required." Chin-Ning Chu, **The Art of War for Women***

"Everybody Has A Story.... What's Your Story of Glory"?