



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONOURABLE MR BASDEO PANDAY

The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago joins the Judiciary of the Supreme Court and the country by extension in mourning the passing of the Late Honourable Mr Basdeo Panday.

The Late Mr Panday was born on 25 May 1933 at St. Julien Village, Princes Town. After completing his secondary education at Presentation College in San Fernando, he worked as a sugarcane weigher, primary school teacher and civil servant at the San Fernando Magistrate's Court. Mr Panday then left Trinidad and Tobago to further his education in the United Kingdom, where on 27 November 1962, he was admitted to The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn to practice as a Barrister at Law. He subsequently obtained a degree in Economics (London University - 1965) and a diploma in Drama (London School of Dramatic Art - 1960). On 15th August 1963, he was admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court in Trinidad and Tobago.

In 1965, he was awarded a Commonwealth scholarship to go to the Delhi School of Economics in India to pursue a post-graduate degree in economics and political science; however, he turned down the offer and returned to Trinidad and Tobago in 1965 to practice law. Mr Panday entered politics in 1965 when he became a member of the Workers and Farmers' Party. In 1972, he was appointed as an opposition senator for the Democratic Labour Party and in 1973, he became President General of the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union.

From the date of his admission, he went into private practice until 1976, when he became an elected Member of the Parliament and served as Leader of the Opposition. He was a Member of Parliament for thirty-four consecutive years, serving as Leader of the Opposition in 1989, 2002 and 2007 and as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago from 1995 to 2001.

He was bestowed with an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 2019 by the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Late Honourable Basdeo Panday was a fierce advocate for justice and always had the well-being of others at heart. The legal fraternity and, by extension, Trinidad and Tobago has lost a great political icon, trade unionist, and lawyer, and he will indeed be sorely missed.

The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago extends its deepest condolences to the family of the Late Honourable Mr Basdeo Panday and hopes that his legacy will continue to serve as a beacon for others to follow.

May he rest in peace.

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