

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

**WHEREAS** Professor the Right Honourable Owen Seymour Arthur and one of Her Majesty's Counsel passed this life on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2020;

**AND WHEREAS** Professor Arthur was a Member of this House from 1984 to 2018, a Member of the Honourable the Senate from 1983 to 1984, Leader of the Opposition 1993 to 1994 and 2010 to 2013, Prime Minister of Barbados from 1994 to 2008 and independent Member of Parliament from 2014 to 2018;

**AND WHEREAS** this distinguished economist, longest serving and highly successful Prime Minister achieved unprecedented success in transforming the socio and economic landscape of Barbados;

**AND WHEREAS** this brilliant economist presided over the longest period of economic stability the country had experienced evidenced by record levels of foreign reserves, substantial tax breaks and wage increases coupled with massive foreign and local investments;

**AND WHEREAS** that brilliance shone on the tapestry of the political economy where he sought to address the toughest issues facing the country, one such issue was the vexing one of unemployment which stood at 24% when he took office and by the time he left it had been wrestled down to a new low of 7.4% prompting scholars to ask what was the natural rate of unemployment in Barbados;

**AND WHEREAS** this strident regionalist in his relentless pursuit and advocacy for the advancement of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy would be propelled into the role of chief architect and intellectual guide of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy in 2006 and a champion of its cause with vigour, clarity and determination;

**AND WHEREAS** the father of the House having served those 34 years as the constituency representative for his beloved parish of St Peter – boasting of being the only Prime Minister to represent the constituency of his birth, that constituency would also feel his transformative touch as the son of a carpenter and a plantation labourer would go

on to transform his Northern parish from the proverbial backwater to a modern hub of architectural heritage and tourism with improved public services and improved quality of life that would thereafter be the exemplar of constituency politics;

**AND WHEREAS** this son of humble origins brought to the political stage the quintessential intellectual mix of economics and politics which represented a shift from the traditional law and politics and to a lesser extent medicine and politics, a unique mix of skills that would serve him well in the period into which he was to be immediately thrust consequent upon the 1994 election campaign and for which he would thereafter receive extraordinary regional and international acclaim for his management of the economy;

**AND WHEREAS** the nature of the Late Professor Arthur's service in his several endeavours was characterised by the generous employment of his prodigious gifts of a transcendent intellect, ebullient charm, remarkable leadership elevated by the ability to motivate and inspire by example wedded to economic proficiency;

**AND WHEREAS** his service was an amalgam of these skills with visionary ideas, clarity of purpose, pragmatism, meticulous preparation and sheer hard work along with a Barbadian aesthetic and Caribbean ideal to forge unimaginable and unprecedented success for Barbados giving it an altogether new lustre in the world;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House shares the sorrow felt by a Grateful Nation and extends its deepest sympathies to his widow Julie, children Sabrina and Leah, siblings Valmay, Richard and Patricia and relatives of the Late Professor the Right Honourable Owen Seymour Arthur and expresses its wish that they be comforted by the memory of a life lived selflessly and in the service of his Nation and his people.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of **September, 2020**

**SPEAKER**