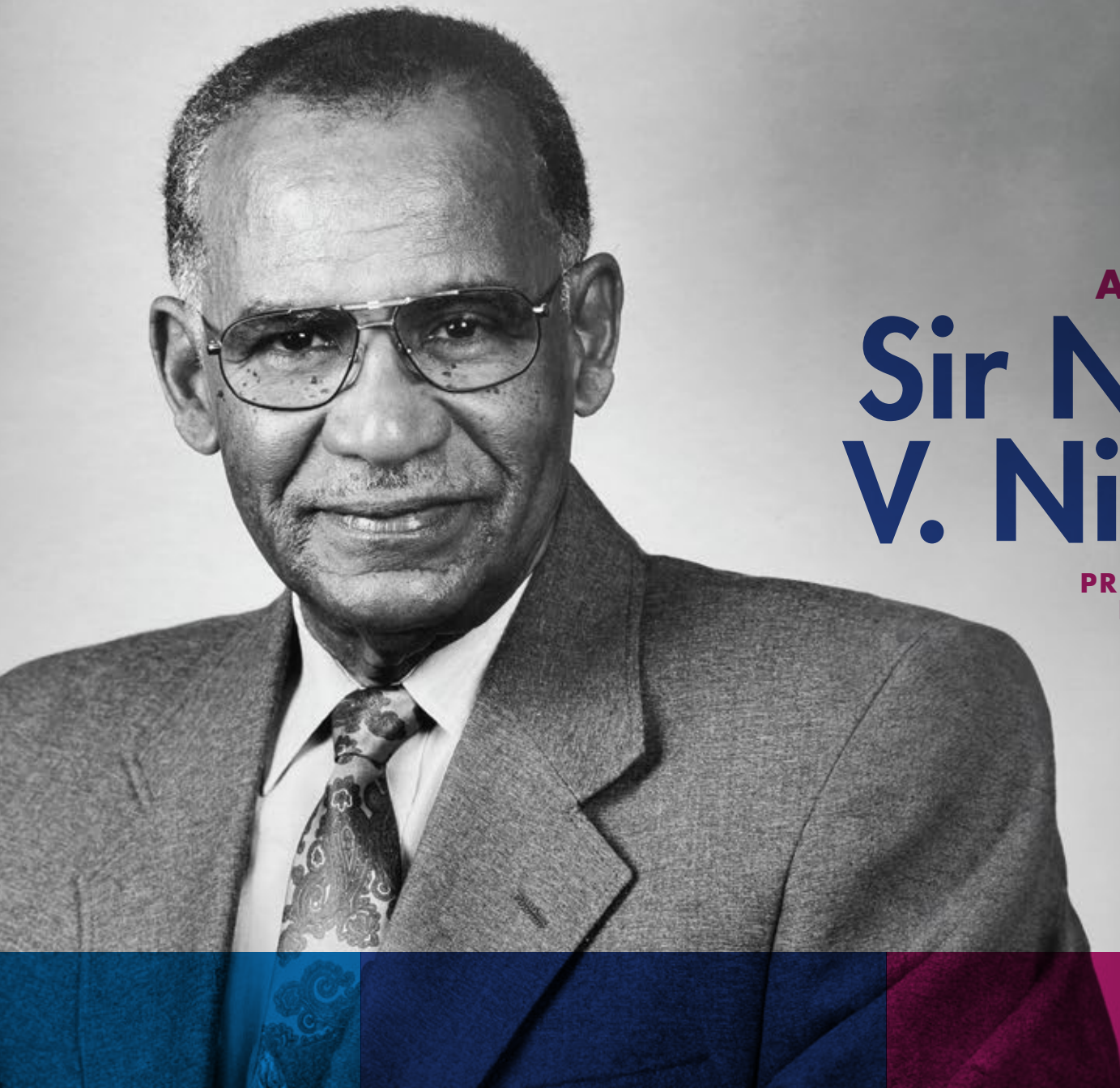




A TRIBUTE TO

Sir Neville V. Nicholls

PRESIDENT, CARIBBEAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK
1988 - 2001





Visionary Leader, Dedicated Regionalist

As the third President of the Caribbean Development Bank, Sir Neville V. Nicholls served with unparalleled dedication and foresight, proving to be not only a visionary leader for the institution but also a formidable force in shaping socio-economic development across the Caribbean Region.

He was deeply committed to the mission of reducing poverty, promoting economic growth and enhancing lives in the Caribbean through proactive and innovative financial solutions. His adept leadership was marked by a keen understanding of the intricate balance required to drive sustainable growth while addressing social imperatives.

Under his stewardship, the Bank made significant strides in addressing critical development challenges, forging partnerships and programmes that have left a lasting impact on our Region's socio-economic landscape. His spirit will forever be a beacon guiding our endeavors towards a brighter, more resilient Caribbean.

Mr. Isaac Solomon
President, (Ag)

A Career of Unparalleled Distinction

Sir Neville's life was one of wholehearted commitment of his intellect and energy to the goal of making the Caribbean a better place for the peoples of the Caribbean. His career was one of unparalleled distinction in the field of law and regional development banking.

As President, he brought stability to the Bank which had, in a relatively short period, gone through a series of leadership changes. An important factor was his calm, thoughtful deliberate approach to matters at the level of staff, bank policies and strategic direction, and to the Bank's interface with all its shareholders.

He was very important to regional economic deliberations on both short-term and long-term problems and approaches to resolving them. He was an active participant especially within the formal framework of the Caricom Heads of Government meetings and other Caricom and regional university forums. He was instrumental in an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank to formulate and launch The Economic Reconstruction Programme in 2000 and led the Task Force which held national consultative sessions in 2001. He also contributed significantly to discussions in global forums, especially focusing on the interests of small developing states.

The entire Region is indebted to his life of service.

Professor Emeritus, Compton Bourne
Former President (2001 – 2011)

Leader, Mentor, Colleague and Friend

A committed regionalist, Sir Neville was protective of the institution he served, the people he worked with, the people he worked for, and more importantly, his family. It was under his leadership the Bank's work programme was expanded to address environment and disaster management issues.

His extensive experience in the operations of the CDB meant that he was the go-to person on matters of precedence and determination of what the Bank could and could not engage in. He was measured and firm in his views. Even after he retired, his wisdom continued to be available as we were able to call on Sir Neville for guidance, which he thoughtfully and always willingly provided. I am proud to have known him as a leader, mentor, colleague and friend.

Dr. William Warren Smith, CD
Former President (2011 – 2021)

An Insightful and Pragmatic Leader

Some of his work was indeed transformational, such as unburdening the Bank and its borrowers with the plethora of multi-currency donor agreements and converting these into a Unified U.S dollar fund, thus eliminating the effects of currency fluctuations on borrowers as well as in unifying Procurement Rules. Furthermore, under his leadership, CDB secured its first international credit rating. He was also instrumental in shepherding the Bank away from what was viewed as an Infrastructure Bank into the social sectors with a focus on incorporating environmental and poverty reduction considerations into the design of projects.

As a leader, he was insightful and pragmatic and led with a steady hand while enjoying the loyalty of his charges who saw him as being fair and respectful of meritocracy. He was always accessible and willing to offer some advice.

Mr. Neville L. Grainger
Former Vice-President, Finance (2002 – 2012)

A True Gentleman, Effective Public Servant and Cherished Colleague

Sir Neville treated everyone with dignity and respect, whether they were heads of state, financial executives, administrators or custodial staff. This was a true testament to his exceptional character. He possessed a brilliant legal mind, meticulously exploring every perspective with alacrity before arriving at thoughtful conclusions. A superb communicator, he expressed his positions clearly, calmly and courteously. His decisions consistently reflected a deep commitment to fostering economic development across the Caribbean Region.

He passionately believed that Caribbean nations, despite their size, could compete in an open and expanding global economy. He embodied both action and compassion. He exemplified the qualities of a true gentleman, an effective public servant and a cherished colleague. His presence will be profoundly missed.

Ms. Masie M. Plummer
Former Vice-President, Corporate Services and
Bank Secretary (1992 – 2001)



A Stickler for Corporate Ethics and Sound Governance

By nature, and training Sir Neville always stood for justice and fairness; was a stickler for corporate ethics and sound corporate governance; and was more oriented to people than to task. He was soft spoken, but effective in communicating his thoughts and decisions without evoking animosity, antagonism and controversy.

He was generous in his advice, open and humble in his receipt and balanced and calculated in his decisions.

His contributions to the Bank are as myriad and diverse as the institution's successes over the last five decades and continuing. This is because of his long association with the Bank at its highest executive and policy levels; his interpersonal attributes that allowed him to work comfortably with staff at all levels and to champion their causes where it was reasonable to do so; and with Nobel Laureate in Economics Sir Arthur Lewis, the Bank's first President for its formative four years, established structures and systems, crafted policies and procedures and gave pride, values, vision and a culture that exists and/or evolves to this day.

Mr. Marius St. Rose

Former Vice-President, Operations (1988 – 2002)

A Man of Decency and Integrity

In reflecting on Sir Neville, two qualities immediately come to mind – decency and integrity.

These qualities are essential in an effective leader and Sir Neville exhibited them in spades. He also displayed great strength as those of us who were exposed to his handling of the CDB's relationship with shareholders and other international institutions, would attest. He was a real role model and one of the best examples of a Caribbean Professional who contributed significantly to the Region's development.

Mr. Patrick Desmond Brunton

Former Vice-President, Operations (2002 – 2010)

