

Mr. Lewis Edwin Astwood III

Lewis Edwin Astwood III was born in Bambarra, Middle Caicos to Mrs Lois Jones Nee Forbes and the late Mr Lewis Astwood from Bambarra and Lorimers, Middle Caicos respectively. As a baby, his mother moved him to Grand Turk where he spent the next sixteen years before migrating to the Bahamas in the late 1950s. This father of many children, even though he lived a comfortable life in the Bahamas, was always cognizant of the fact that there is no place like home and made regular trips back to keep abreast of current situations. In 1974 he moved back home permanently.

Being conscious of the political injustices and inequalities suffered by his people in the mid 1970s, he became actively involved in changing the political and social climate in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Mr Astwood, along with JAGS McCartney and others founded the Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) a political movement dedicated to political, economic and social empowerment of the Turks and Caicos Islands and its people. Astwood contested and won his 1976 bid for the South Back Salina Constituency in Grand Turk and went on to make history by becoming the first Minister of Works, Utilities and Labour at the introduction of Ministerial Government in the TCI after his PDM Party became the Government -a position he prided as it afforded him the opportunity to effect positive change for his people. Among his Ministerial accomplishments was the bringing to fruition of reliable electricity services to those islands where it existed and most importantly, providing electricity to the islands of Providenciales, North Caicos, Middle Caicos and Salt Cay.

Mr. Astwood chaired the Air Transport Licensing Authority (ATLA) and the Turks & Caicos Government Airlines in addition to membership of various Committees of the Legislative Council. He is proud to have represented the TCI at the State Department in Washington, DC and White Hall in London. A delegate at CPA Plenary Conferences in Fiji Islands and Regional Conference in Trinidad and Tobago.

The best interests of his people were always paramount. Through his persistence and effective representation, he found favour with his constituents and was fervently elected for two more terms to represent the South Back Salina Constituency before he stepped down in 1988. In 1991 he was appointed Opposition's (PDM) Nominated Member in the Legislative Council where he served for four more years.

Today, Mr Astwood remains committed to the cause and has a keen interest in fighting against any injustice or inequality.