

# **Dame Calliopa Pearlette Louisy, GCSL, GCMG, D.St. J, Ph.D., LL.D.(Hon), FRSA**

Her Excellency Dame Calliopa Pearlette Louisy was born in St. Lucia in 1946. She obtained a scholarship from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in 1966 to read for a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and French at the University of the West Indies.

In 1972 she obtained a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship to read for a Master of Arts in Linguistics at Université Laval in Quebec, Canada and in 1991, she enrolled at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom where she read for a Ph. D in Education. She focused her doctoral studies on the management and provision of tertiary education in small states. In 1999 the University of Bristol bestowed on her an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. She was also conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom and the University of the West Indies.

Dame Pearlette served on the staff of the St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School from 1965 to 1966, 1969 to 1972, and 1975 to 1976. She was the tutor of French at the St. Lucia 'A' Level College from 1976 to 1981 and from 1981 to 1986 she served as Principal. From 1987 she served as Dean of the Division of Arts, Science and General Studies of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community. She later served as vice principal and then as principal. In September 1997 she was appointed Governor General of Saint Lucia, a position she held for twenty years.

Her research and academic interests focused for the most part on comparative education, tertiary education in small states, culture and national development and environmental uncertainty in small island developing states. Her articles have been featured in peer-reviewed international journals and as chapters in various publications.

Dame Pearlette has held positions on committees such as the International Committee on Creole Studies, the Organization for Cooperation in Overseas Development, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, the Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions, the Independent Committee for OECS Unity, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, the Mouvement Kweyol Sent Lisi, the Folk Research Centre, the Creative and Performing Arts Society, the New Day Theatre Movement, and the Bel Canto Choral Group.

For the past twenty five years, she has served as Chair of the Saint Lucia Nobel Laureates Festival Committee, dedicated to honouring the work of the island's two Nobel Laureates.

Her Excellency was nominated International Woman of the Year by the International Biographical Centre in 1998. In 1999, she was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen with the award of Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George and in 2001 was made a Dame of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

She is also the recipient of the Caribbean Luminary Award, the Woman of Distinction Award, the Honorary Distinguished Fellow Award and the Pelican Award from the University of the West Indies.