

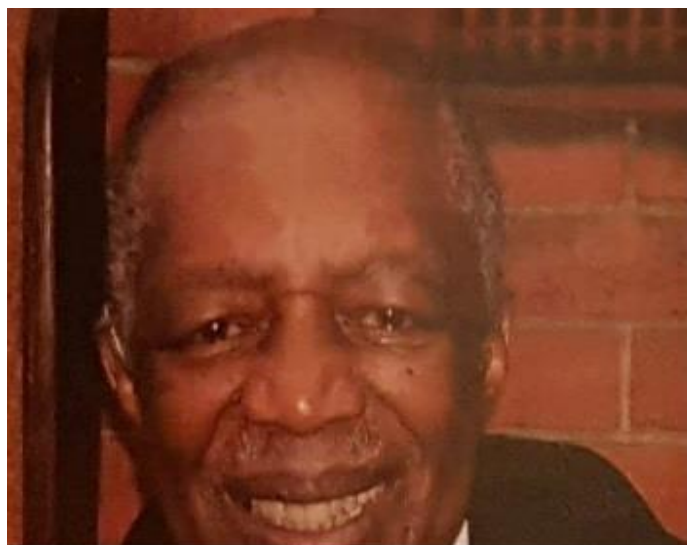
Tribute to

Professor Solomon Athanasius James (Joliboy) Pratt (3730)

Entered the SLGS in 1935 and became Head Boy of the School in 1938

At His Memorial Service Held On Saturday 13th January 2018

At St Marks Church, St Marks Road, Mitcham, CR4 2LF, UK by Rowland Gordon,
Chair of the Sierra Leone Grammar School Old Boys Association UK



Let me take this opportunity to extend on behalf of the executive and members of the Sierra Leone Grammar School Old Boys Association UK, our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Professor Solomon Athanasius James (Joliboy) Pratt.

I am here on behalf of the executive and members of the Sierra Leone Grammar School Old Boys Association UK to pay a tribute to Professor Solomon A J Pratt, however, I am aware that there will be many tributes given to such a notable legend as he was and I will aim to focus my tribute on his life as a Regentonian (from Regent Village).

Solomon Athanasius James (Joliboy) Pratt entered the CMS Grammar School in 1935 from the Government Model School - school registration number (3730). He was a keen student, a member of Secundus house and excelled in school which culminated in him becoming Head Boy in 1938.

On completing school, the young Solomon Pratt, took up teaching at the CMS Grammar School in January 1939 on a salary of fifteen shillings a month, a job which he fondly talks about in his autobiography particularly as a very young

teacher straight from school being asked to look after classes of some of the more challenging students in those days. Being the man, he was, he aspired to work in the civil service and successfully applied to pursue a career as a junior civil servant before taking up other roles such as an economist, national and international roles where he excelled in every aspect of his life (as you would expect from a former student of the Grammar School).

During the seventies and eighties there were lots of encroachments on to the Grammar School property in Murray Town and houses were built on the school's land. Effort was made to stop these buildings being put up by contacting those who claimed legal ownership without success. The school had to resort to legal process which meant representation in court.

Mr Solomon Pratt headed the team of Regentonian lawyers who gave their services without charge to deal with the court case. It was a very long drawn out case which went on for over a decade. Mr Pratt appeared for the school right through the trial with the late Justice Alghali on the Bench. Justice Alghali gave his judgment in favour of the school in the early nineties which led to the demolishing of the illegal houses sometime later. On one visit to the land during the trial, Mr Pratt was challenged by some people and shots were fired and he had to run for dear life. He played a tremendous role in gaining back our school land from encroachers and this was especially notable given the numbers of cases he took, the long hours spent with school authorities, enforcing the judgement and his gratuitous services he rendered. For these services to the school, we as Regentonians both in Sierra Leone and worldwide will always be eternally grateful to Prof SAJ Pratt.

Finally, once again, on behalf of all Regentonians across the world we are indebted to Prof SAJ Pratt and extend our heartfelt condolences to the family. May his soul rest in peace.