

Regional private sector group pays tribute to Wehby



Don Wehby, the late group CEO of Jamaican conglomerate

The Caribbean Private Sector Organisation (CPSO) yesterday joined the business community of Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region in paying tribute Don Wehby, former Group CEO of GraceKennedy, who passed away on Saturday at the age of 62.

Wehby joined GraceKennedy, one of the largest conglomerates in the region, in 1995 and was appointed Group CEO in 2011. During his tenure, the company more than doubled in size with revenue moving from J\$58 billion in 2011, to J\$155 billion in 2023.

Wehby retired as GraceKennedy's group CEO and stepped down from its board on February 14, 2025.

GraceKennedy is listed on the T&T Stock Exchange, as well as the Jamaica Stock Exchange. The group is the majority owner of a money services business in T&T and supplies a wide range of food products to supermarkets in this country. GraceKennedy also partners with the Unit Trust Corporation of T&T to jointly own and operate three mutual funds in Jamaica.

The CPSO described Wehby as a "consummate corporate leader," and a "true visionary whose monumental work epitomised and significantly furthered the vision of private sector-led regional growth."

In 2023, the group outlined what it called "bold ambitions" to become the number one Caribbean brand in the world with 70 per cent of its revenues and profits coming from outside Jamaica.

The regional private sector body said Wehby's passion and leadership were instrumental in driving successful business integration within Caricom, and between the region and key international markets such as the United States, United Kingdom, Europe and Central America.

The CPSO said Wehby's transformative leadership at GraceKennedy from 2011 to 2025 extended its footprint throughout the Caribbean and across several global markets.

"Through strategic mergers, acquisitions, and regional integration, he advanced a model of Caribbean business that was both globally competitive and deeply committed to the ideals of the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME) including promoting cross-border trade, and facilitating the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people," said CPSO.

The organisation said that beyond his remarkable corporate achievements, Wehby made significant contributions to national public service in Jamaica, and to regional development.

He served as a Government Senator and Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, and he received Jamaica's Order of Distinction (Commander Class) in 2017 as well as the Order of Jamaica, the country's fourth-highest honour, in 2024. This year, he was also slated to be inducted into the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica's Hall of Fame in October, said the CPSO.