

## **Farewell Speech to Dr. Robert Mathavious on Behalf of the BVI Association of Registered Agents.**

Good morning distinguished guests of the 2021 Meet the Regulator forum. Thank you so much for the opportunity given to me today as the Chairperson of the BVI Association of Registered Agents to thank a man that have been a lighthouse to the British Virgin Islands and the International Financial Industry.

When I was asked to say a few words about Dr. Robert Mathavious, I felt deeply honored, but at the same time with a great responsibility over my shoulders. How words can even express our gratitude to a man who excelled and led us with an outstanding example of vision, innovation, commitment, sacrifice and passion for this financial industry, but most importantly, for his beloved country for nearly 40 years of service?

Here I am standing with my thirty-six (36) years wondering that I was not even born, when Dr.

Mathavious was building this house, and this line of thought reminded me of one of my favorite leadership quotes:

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader”

Inspiration is probably the most accurate state of being I feel when I must refer to Dr. Mathavious. He is indeed a truly inspiration for all of us, especially young leaders.

As a role model and mentor for many young professionals in the BVI, you always kept in sight, the importance of education and constant training in order to develop the work force in the BVI, in addition to ensuring the succession planning in the financial area, especially for the continuing development of the Virgin Islanders.

I had not been part of his whole professional career, but I do recall and was very fortunate to witness him actively working after the passing of Hurricane Irma and Maria back in 2017, ensuring the continuity and

stability of our Finance Industry during those extremely difficult and challenging times for the jurisdiction and all of us. With the upmost pride I must say, that thanks to the hard work of our leader Dr. Mathavious and the whole team of professionals behind the Financial Services Commission, there was not even a single second of failure of our Jurisdiction System, its Registrar and our online platform VIRRGIN. We were able to keep assisting our clients the very next day after Irma. That house that Dr. Mathavious built remained strong and resilient, and sustained and supported our local economy when we needed it the most! And for this Dr. Mathavious and for all that you have done for the development and benefit of the British Virgin Islands, its contribution to the Global Economy and this House during these almost 40 years it is my greatest honor to thank and salute you and I kindly ask this distinguished audience for a standing ovation and a round of applause for Dr. Robert Marhavious.

This speaks high about leadership, about leaving footprints, about outstanding teamwork values, about inspiring others, about determination, about

great resilience facing local and global crisis, about excellence and about patriotism.

On a very personal note, I am respectfully taking this opportunity to say that, as a Panamanian and on behalf of all my Panamanian colleagues and professionals living in the BVI or those who have been benefited directly or indirectly of this great synergy, I would like to extend my endless gratitude for this longstanding and harmonious business relationship between British Virgin Islands and my home country Panama over the last 40 years and for your constant support.

Lastly, on behalf of all the members of the BVI Association of Registered Agents, its Council and myself as its Chairwoman we want to express our commitment to reinforce your Legacy, to keep protecting the best interests and reputation of the Jurisdiction and we do really hope, Dr. Mathavious, that you enjoy as much as we do all the celebrations being held in your honor this week, and that may God continuously bless your life with health, success and a very well deserved retirement.

***Liz Carolina Barahona Quintero, LL.M.***

Chairperson

BVI Association of Registered Agents