

## CELEBRATING THE HOUSE THAT MATHAVIOUS BUILT

Dr. Robert Mathavious, and Mrs. Mathavious, ladies and gentlemen, I recognize the protocol that has already been established.

Good morning. My name is Myrla-May Barzey-Penn and I am the Vice-Chairman of the Association of Compliance Officers and Practitioners, (BVIACO) in the British Virgin Islands.

On behalf of the Chairman, Mrs. T'sa James-Hodge, the Executive Council and the Members of BVIACO, it gives me great pleasure to be in attendance here with you this morning, and to salute a great man, and a great Public Servant, Dr. Robert Mathavious; who has given so much of himself to the establishment of the British Virgin Islands, as a premier Financial Services Jurisdiction in the world.

Dr. Mathavious did not only sit at the Helm of the Financial Services Commission, but he was also a Lecturer at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College (HLSCC), where he taught two credited courses, one (1), Seminar on BVI Financial Services Sector and the other, Geography of Offshore Financing.

I am proud to say that I was one of his students at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, and that I learned a tremendous amount of

information about the Financial Services Industry and the role which we play in the Industry, not just in the BVI or the Region, but also around the World. And I am sure many of you here today have also attended his classes, as it was a part of the joint Associates Degree program in Financial Services with Financial Services Institute (FSI) and HLSCC. I am sure that you too can tell of his tutelage and the impact which his classes have had on your respective careers.

Of course, Dr. Mathavious' teachings were not confined just to the classroom. But also in the many presentations and speeches which he gave in different fora: seminars, conferences, symposia, Workshops, lectures etc, in the BVI, the Region and globally, where persons, lined up to hear the tremendous intellectual insight and knowledge of this forerunner, who has always strived and encourage everyone in the Industry, to endeavour to remain on the cutting edge of Financial Services and best international standard practices.

In this vane, Dr. Mathavious played a very pivotal role in the formation of the BVI Association of Compliance Officers and Practitioners, as he saw the importance of its existence, to the sustaining of the high level of service which the Jurisdiction can provide to the world and also to ensuring that its members can continue to remain on the cutting edge of the Industry, through the sharing of the collective experiences and knowledge on a regular and ongoing basis. He inspired the late Mrs.

Harriette Skelton, the first Chairman and encouraged her to spread her wings and soar.

Over the years Dr. Mathavious gave his support to the BVIACO, by not only attending our Workshops, Symposia and Conferences, but also by giving timely presentations and imparting his knowledge with all who attended these events.

Dr. Mathavious also played a part in encouraging the BVIACO to go beyond our shores. As a result, the Caribbean Regional Compliance Association (CRCA), was formed, of which the BVIACO is a founding member.

There was a period when the BVIACO was not operational, and again, Dr. Mathavious saw to it that Compliance Officers and Practitioners in the Financial Services Industry came together to restore the BVIACO. Since the restoration of the Association at the beginning of 2012, the BVIACO has been continuing the mission to foster a culture of compliance in the jurisdiction. This mission involves building the awareness through training and education of Compliance Officers and Practitioners on key subjects relevant to regulations with the main focus on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) and the many other areas of compliance across the financial services sector in the BVI and in meeting international standards.

As aforementioned, the BVIACO has been instrumental in hosting Annual Conferences, Workshops, Masterclasses, Webinars and also partnering with other Associations, Competent Authorities and Organisations, not only in the BVI, but from other Countries as well, to provide training for Compliance Officers and Practitioners, and also for other persons working in the Financial Services Industry, including students who may be interested in working in the Industry.

Due to the pandemic, like the rest of the world, the BVIACO has been using virtual platforms to host events.

The BVIACO has been continuously promoting a membership drive to encourage Compliance Officers and Practitioners in the Industry to become members of the Association, and by showing them the great benefits of being a member of the BVIACO. Information about the Association can be found on our website ([bviaco.org](http://bviaco.org)) and our LinkedIn page.

One of our highlights was the establishment of a Scholarship program in the name of the late Mrs. Harriette Skelton, to further the education of our members. We now offer three (3) Scholarships. One (1) with FSI, for Junior Compliance Administrators on the Introduction to Compliance, two (2) for Senior Compliance Administrators with International Compliance Association, (ICA) – for a Certificate or Diploma in

Compliance and three (3) for Compliance Officers and Heads of Compliance with the Blockchain Intelligence Group, (BIG) to become a Certified Cryptocurrency Investigator.

The importance of compliance to the maintenance of a well-regulated Financial Services Jurisdiction cannot be overstated. Accordingly, the role of the BVIACO is critical to the future of the Financial Services Industry in the BVI, and to the continuing training of present and future Compliance Officers and Practitioners.

In concluding, the BVIACO thanks and wishes Dr. Robert Mathavious the very best as he leaves behind, a rich legacy in the Financial Services Industry, in the BVI, in the Region and around the world.

And as we wish you well in your post retirement ambitions, and whatever your endeavours, well deserved may be, I am reminded of an old Irish Prayer which says:

**May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
And the rains fall soft upon your fields and,  
Until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.**

Thank you.

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