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BVI Financial Services Commission
Meet the Regulator Forum
Celebrating the House that Dr. Mathavious Built
November 16, 2021
Selina O'Neal – Ag. President

Good Morning,

On behalf of the Insurance Association of the B.V.I., it is an honour for me to be able to join the loud chorus of well-deserved accolades being bestowed on Dr. Robert Mathavious, also affectionately known to many of us as Mr. Mac, Brother Mac, Robert, Godfather...

I know that the very able team which will lead FSC going forward will not feel disrespected when I say that it is still hard for me (and I am sure for many others) to imagine that you not are not steering the ship after being such an able captain for decades. You steered the ship and maneuvered all of our regulated industries through literal and figurative storms and narrow channels to preserve our way of life here at home. You have been our beacon and our lighthouse to the world. You have fiercely defended the house that you built against international pressures and unlevel playing fields.

You have had to make some tough and unpopular decisions. We at home may not have liked it at times, but tough love has also been a necessary part of your arsenal as you ensured that you could defended our credibility locally and abroad. Because of your leadership, the light from these tiny dots on a map can still be seen shining brightly around the world.

I have greatly admired the confidence that you have placed in persons under your leadership. Again, tough love, no doubt, was a part of the grooming process. On the other hand, your words of encouragement have meant the world to me and so many others. I can't help but note how many young women and men flourished as first mates and officers on your ship. I have seen so many of them do amazing things at FSC and beyond while still remarking about the confidence that you placed in them. Being a beacon while allowing others to live up to their potential and shine is leadership at its best. Because of this, we should be confident that the team now at the helm will do a good job of carrying on in your footsteps. I can just hear many saying "What would Robert do!?"

What many have also admired about you is the passion that always shines through in everything that you do. It has always been that way. I know this, as I first witnessed it when you led our Methodist Church Jr. Choir many years ago. While Brother Mac can sing well, he never told me I could not.... However, he was one of the first to instill in me a passion for well sung Methodist Hymns such as "This, this is the God we Adore". It is that passion that inspired many others to serve. I witnessed this again as I served on various Regulatory committees. While you certainly have strong opinions, you respect the opinions of others enough to listen with an open mind, or at least you pretend well enough for us to believe that you do! 😊

What I know for certain is that you love the BVI and its people with every fiber of your being. As we say "BVI to the bone!". With the BVI's best interest as your North Star, you have conquered fears and made many sacrifices to serve your beloved Country around the world. For this, I say a sincere and heartfelt thank you.

I could go on but have been given strict orders to keep this under 3 mins! I will end by saying without fear of contradiction that the BVI and indeed the world are in an infinitely better place because of your efforts. The great respect that persons from all around the world have for you is well deserved. I salute you Sir! Congratulations on a job well done! May God continue to guide your footsteps.

This, This is the God We Adore

This, this is the God we adore!
Our faithful, unchangeable friend:
his love is as great as his pow'r
and knows neither knows measure nor end.

Tis Jesus the first and the last;
his Spirit will guide us safe home;
we'll praise him for all that is past
and trust him for all that's to come.

