



OUR
OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATION

Regulating Utilities for the Benefit of All

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUR'S Chairman Demits Office in January 2020

(KINGSTON, Jamaica; 2019 December 18): Chairman of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), Mr. Joseph M. Matalon demits office on 2020 January 1, to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Mr. Matalon, the first Chairman of the seven-member Office appointed for five years in 2016 January 11, submitted his resignation to the Governor General, Sir Patrick Allen, earlier this month. He indicated to the Governor General that he was stepping down to pursue his interests in business areas that could potentially be in conflict with his position as a Member of the Office.

Mr. Matalon expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of the OUR at a pivotal time in the organisation's history. Mr. Matalon's dynamic tenure was marked by the strengthening of the OUR's institutional capacity to carry out its prescribed functions, and to improve the quality and sustainability of its governance framework. Among other accomplishments, he steered the development and implementation of the Corporate Governance Manual, a comprehensive Communications policy, initiated annual performance evaluations of the Office Members, and created the Office's Committee structure.

He established and shaped the OUR's then new leadership structure, in accordance with the 2015 amendments to the OUR Act, and spearheaded major improvements in the OUR's financial management.

The OUR's Director-General, Mr. Ansord Hewitt, expressed regret on behalf of the staff and management at Mr. Matalon's departure, and thanked him for his sage leadership throughout his tenure.

"Mr. Matalon brought strong and insightful guidance as well as novel thinking to the organization's new direction, post-2016, and helped tremendously with the transition from the old to the new structure of the Office. His acute grasp of issues, strong visionary leadership, exemplary work ethic and presence and willing ear will really be missed," said Mr. Hewitt.

Background

Mr Matalon is currently Chairman of ICD Group Holdings Limited as well as the RJRGLEANER Communications Group. His service to Jamaica's financial and economic development has spanned his tenures on public and private sector boards, charitable organisations, and government national appointed committees.

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He was also Chair of the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) between 2007 and 2016 and in that capacity, served on a number of Enterprise Teams overseeing privatisation as well as Public-Private Partnerships transactions; President of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), and during his tenure initiating the formation of a Private Sector Working Group on Tax Reform (PSWG), and the Youth Upliftment Through Employment (YUTE) programme.

The charitable and other organisations he has served include: St. Patrick's Foundation, which supports charitable activities in inner-city communities (Honorary Chairman); Hillel Academy K-12 International School (Chairman of the Board of Governors). He is currently Chairman of the Multicare Youth Foundation in Jamaica, and Vice Chairman of the U.S. based International Youth Foundation.

In 2010 he was appointed to the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander (C.D.), for his contribution to the public and private sectors, and community service. In November 2018, he was named the 26th business leader to be inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica. He is a graduate of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

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Contact: Yvonne Grinam-Nicholson Director, Consumer & Public Affairs : 876-968-6053