

A Champion Retires!



*Ronald F. deC. Harford
CMT, FCIB, FIBAF, FCABFI, LL.D.*

After 57 years of service, the last 23 of which have been at the helm of the organization, Ronald Frederick deCreeft Harford will retire from the Board of Directors of Republic Bank Limited and Republic Financial Holdings Limited on December 31, 2019.

Ron, as he is most affectionately known, joined the then Barclays Bank Dominion Colonial & Overseas in 1963, on the post desk at Independence Square. A truly Caribbean professional, Ron would be assigned, at various points in his career, to several Caribbean countries in which Barclays Bank had a presence. In Trinidad and Tobago, Ron's career would see him assume overall responsibility for the Information Technology, Human Resources and Foreign Exchange Operations units, as well as the Branch Network and numerous other senior level positions. In 1997, Ron was appointed Managing Director of Republic Bank Limited and led the transformation of the Bank from a primarily domestic institution to a truly global financial institution. In 2003, following the retirement of the Chairman, Frank Barsotti, Ron was appointed Chairman and so held the dual roles of Chairman and Managing Director. In 2005, he retired from his role of Managing Director and remained Chairman of the Group.

Ron Harford's contribution to the development of the Republic Group and the financial system in Trinidad and Tobago is immeasurable. Ron successfully led the merger of Bank of Commerce Trinidad and Tobago Limited with Republic Bank Limited in 1997 and the acquisitions of the Group's operations in Grenada, Guyana, Barbados, Suriname, Ghana, and the Cayman Islands, as well as the intended purchase of the nine territories from Scotiabank. While one measure of his success at the organization is the value created for all stakeholders, as evident in the increase

in the share price of the Group from \$29 in 1997 to \$120 in 2019, Ron's greatest legacy will be found in the many generations of stellar bankers whose careers he mentored.

Milestone accomplishments for the financial system in Trinidad and Tobago were the establishment of Info-Link Services Limited (now commonly known as the Linx system which facilitates the domestic payments system), the Credit Bureau, the Caribbean Information and Credit Rating Services Limited (CariCRIS), and the Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago. On August 31, 2010 he was awarded the Chaconia Medal of Gold for his meritorious contribution to banking and the business community. He was conferred an Honorary LL.D. by the University of the West Indies and inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce's Business Hall of Fame, both in 2012. He is a Fellow of the UK Chartered Institute of Bankers, the Institute of Banking of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Caribbean Association of Banking and Finance.

The Board of Directors, Executive Management Team and Staff of the Republic Group wish to express their deepest gratitude and appreciation for his sterling service.

Vincent Pereira, the President of BHP Trinidad and Tobago, is designated to replace Mr. Harford as Chairman of the Board of Directors of both companies in 2020.

In Accordance with Section 64 1 (b) of the Securities Act 2012.

Kimberly Erriah-Ali
Corporate Secretary/Group General Counsel
September 20, 2019



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Republic Financial Holdings Limited