



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kingston, Jamaica

July 15, 2021

**SEPTIMUS 'BOB' BLAKE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF JAMAICA BANKERS ASSOCIATION**

On Thursday July 15, 2021, Septimus 'Bob' Blake, Chief Executive Officer, National Commercial Bank, was elected unopposed as the President of the Jamaica Bankers Association (JBA) at its annual general meeting.

Mariame McIntosh-Robinson, President and CEO, First Global was elected Vice President, along with Eva Lewis, Country Officer and Corporate Bank Head of Citibank Jamaica as Treasurer of the JBA, and Nigel Holness, Managing Director of CIBC FirstCaribbean Jamaica as Honorary Secretary.

The newly elected president expressed his gratitude for the Executive Council's vote of confidence in his leadership. "I wish to convey my appreciation to the JBA Executive Council for their trust in my abilities to lead this association. Together with the Executive, I will continue to lead the advancement of the JBA's mission to maintain a stable, secure, competitive and profitable financial industry. We will continue to achieve this through advocacy, education and collaboration with all stakeholders to include the Government of Jamaica, the regulators, private sector partners, international agencies and the general banking public" Blake remarked.

He also recognized the outgoing JBA President, Jerome Smalling of JMMB Bank, for his significant contributions to promoting change and fostering growth within the industry during his tenure. Smalling stated, "I am pleased to know that the JBA will be under the distinguished leadership of Bob, the new President. He is vastly experienced and respected in the industry and equally as passionate. I have no doubt the organisation will continue to put forward necessary solutions to facilitate the growth of the Jamaican economy".

Septimus 'Bob' Blake joined NCB in March 2002 as Manager, Asset Trading. He has a wealth of experience in the financial services industry and held various leadership positions within the NCB Financial Group before ascending to the position of Chief Executive Officer at NCB Bank in 2019.

The Jamaica Banker's Association (JBA) is a non-profit organization that represents commercial banks, merchant banks and building societies in Jamaica.

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