



**REMARKS BY
TIMOTHY N. J. ANTOINE
GOVERNOR, EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTRAL BANK**

**Opening Ceremony of 12th Intra-Regional Central Bank Games
29 March 2018
(St Kitts and Nevis)**

Salutations

- Governor General of St Kitts and Nevis, His Excellency Sir S W Tapley Seaton, GCMG, CVO, QC, JP
- Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, Dr The Honourable Timothy Harris
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Sports, Honourable Shawn Richards
- The Leader of the Opposition, Dr The Rt. Denzil Douglas
- Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Senator the Honourable Akilah Byron-Nisbett and Mr Nisbett
- National Hero and First Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis, Dr the Right Excellent and Right Honourable Sir Kennedy Simmonds and Lady Simmonds
- Governor of the Bank of Guyana, Dr. Gobind Ganga and Mrs. Ganga
- Governor of the Central Bank of Suriname, Mr. Glen Gersie and Mrs. Gersie
- Deputy Governor of the Bank of Jamaica and Chairman of the Oversight Committee, Mr. Livingston Morrison
- Deputy Governor of the ECCB, Mr. Trevor Brathwaite
- Deputy Governor, Bank of Guyana, Mr. Leslie Glen
- Representatives of Official Games Partners
- Lady Venner and Shani Venner, special guests
- Other specially invited guests
- Members of the Oversight Committee
- Heads of Delegation, Athletes, Coaches and Supporters
- Officials
- Management, staff and retirees of the ECCB
- Ladies, Gentlemen and Children



Introduction

The countdown is over. The moment has arrived. ICBG 2018 is here!

The sense of anticipation is palpable. Can you feel it?

In 2001, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) hosted the 4th edition of the Intra-Regional Central Bank Games (ICBG). Today, 17 years later, the ECCB is delighted to be hosting the 12th Edition.

Do we have a team from Aruba?

Is there a team from The Bahamas?

What about the team from Barbados?

Is there a team from Guyana?

Do I see a team from Haiti?

Has anyone seen the team from Jamaica?

What about the team from Trinidad and Tobago?

Can someone confirm the presence of Team ECCB?

Eight central banks are participating and though we are disappointed that we do not have teams from Suriname and Belize, we are thrilled to say “Bienvenue” to our colleagues from Haiti who are participating in the Intra Central Bank Games for the very first time.

We are grateful to the Governor General, a longstanding friend of the ECCB, for his gracious consent to host this Opening Ceremony on the resplendent grounds of Government House. It is really good to have friends in very high places. Sir Tapley, I convey our gratitude to you for your welcome, friendship and generosity.

As hosts of ICBG 2018, the Games have been aptly themed: *Embracing Competition and Creating Bonds*. What does this acronym spell? ECCB. How creative are the staff of ECCB! As Purretta Wilkin, one of our distinguished retirees would say: “The ECCB is pregnant with talent!”

Beyond its brilliant creativity, our theme offers profound insights about what these Games are truly all about and why we make every effort to stage them every two years. The keen but friendly competition, camaraderie, goodwill and bonds of friendship developed as part of these Games serve the larger purpose of regional cooperation for development. Just ask young Exzaver Garvey of ECCB who is participating in his 10th Games!



The ECCB has set the following objectives for our hosting of these Games:

- Deliver a fun-filled and efficiently run Games;
- Ensure more interaction amongst the staff of the central banks;
- Provide opportunities for our visitors to experience the culture and cuisine of all eight of the ECCB member countries; and
- Provide opportunities to involve our extended ECCB family who include current members of staff, former and retired staff members, supporters and partners.

At this juncture, I do wish to pay special tribute to our late and great ECCB Governor, the Honourable Sir K Dwight Venner who was a big supporter of these Games. Sir Dwight played several sports, especially cricket, and understood the power of sports to bring people together. As we continue to honour his legacy, I am pleased that the cricket trophy will be named after him and furthermore, his widow, Lady Venner and his daughter, Shani, have accepted our invitation to be part of these Games.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have worked assiduously in our preparations and are ready to host a wonderful Games. As you could well imagine, organising these “mini Olympics” required collaboration on many fronts and with many partners. Permit me then to briefly mention some of them:

- **The Government of St Kitts and Nevis**

I take this opportunity to single out the support of Hon. Shawn Richards, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Supports and his team at the Department of Sports led by Director of Sports, Mr. Wiltshire.

- **Our official Games partners**

1. De La Rue
 2. Royal Canadian Mint
 3. Tridium
 4. Crane Currency
 5. Eastern Caribbean Home Mortgage Bank
 6. Flow
 7. TDC
- The Royal St Christopher and Nevis Police Force
 - The Defence Force
 - Ministry of Foreign affairs



- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Education
- St. Christopher Air & Sea Ports Authority
- Public Works Department
- St Kitts Electricity Department
- Fire and Rescue Department
- JN France Hospital
- Several cultural artistes across the ECCU
- Mrs Lorna Smith and Mr Adrian Lam
- Mr Brian Mills, our Saturday morning trainer
- Local sports associations
- ECCB Board of Directors; and
- Governments in the ECCU.

These Games are a major undertaking and required significant and sustained support by the management and staff of the ECCB. At this juncture, I wish to recognise the members of our Local Organising Committee (LOC) and Secretariat for their exceptional efforts. What is most remarkable is that many of them carried their full load of regular work at the Bank, while leading or participating in the LOC and its subcommittees and some of them also trained and practiced in preparation for these Games. This level of effort is special and is deserving of high commendation. I also acknowledge the support of their families especially in these last few weeks.

I applaud all departments across the Bank but especially our Support Services Management Department and the various contractors.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have just recalled that I was strongly advised by the LOC not to deliver a long speech and I propose to heed that wise counsel. In closing, I invoke a few powerful words from the school song of the Grenada Boys' Secondary School (alma mater of Sir Dwight and myself):

To win and be sporting is easy

To lose with a smile is hard

And yet to the sportsman really

The game is its own reward



Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

I, therefore, urge our athletes to respect the rules and each other. I invite everyone to have loads of fun, create lasting bonds and make memories for a lifetime.

And now, it gives me great pleasure to declare the 12th Intra-Regional Central Bank Games officially open.

Let the Games begin!