



Dear members and invited guests,

My name is Dion Bethell, and as Chairman, it gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bahamasair Employees Provident Fund. By 2022, the world had fully rebounded from the economic impacts of COVID-19, with countries gradually reopening and experiencing momentum toward a global economic recovery. However, the onset of the Russia-Ukraine crisis in February 2022 disrupted natural gas supplies and supply chains, leading to a rapid increase in the cost of living due to inflation, the effects of which we continue to feel today.

Despite these economic challenges, the Bahamian economy sustained its robust recovery in 2022, as highlighted in the recent report by the Central Bank of The Bahamas. This recovery was driven by a resurgence in tourism and continued stimulus from foreign direct investments, benefiting Bahamasair and the broader tourism industry through increased airlift numbers and tourist visits. The Trustees remain steadfast in their commitment to enhancing member wealth while upholding the Fund's core purpose: providing each member with a financial sum upon concluding their service with Bahamasair.

I am pleased to report that the Bahamasair Employees Provident Fund experienced significant growth in 2022, with the asset base expanding from \$62,568,868 to \$65,907,528, a 5.34% year-over-year increase. Additionally, the Fund's performance improved in several areas:



- Net Income for 2022 amounted to \$4,044,858, compared to \$3,287,870 in 2021, reflecting a 23% increase, or \$756,988.
- Total Member's equity and Fund's assets grew by \$4,051,573 in 2022, surpassing the \$3,294,174 increase in 2021 by \$757,399.
- Total benefits, terminations, and withdrawals during 2022 were \$3,174,442, a significant reduction from \$4,083,028 in 2021. This decrease is attributed to a stabilization in the economy, resulting in fewer members leaving Bahamasair through early retirement, retirement, and resignations.
- The Total net investment income for 2022 was \$2,093,539, a decrease of 11.45% or \$271,084 from \$2,364,623 in 2021. This reduction is attributed to maturing investments and the Board's inability to invest due to legal action.
- The Fund achieved increased net profits, improved return on equity, and increased shareholder returns, with diversified income streams ensuring stable growth.

Reflecting the economic rebound, the Fund declared a 6.55% rate of return for 2022, an improvement from the 5.55% rate in 2021. The revitalization of the Bahamas' tourism sector has also garnered renewed interest and investments, positively impacting service industries. As reported by Fitch Ratings, supply-chain pressures have significantly eased, with ocean freight shipping costs returning to pre-COVID-19 levels, reducing trade and consumer anxieties.



Looking ahead, global developments will influence our outlook for the new fiscal year. The OECD projects a global GDP growth of 2.7% but anticipates weaker growth in 2024 due to challenges such as persistent core inflation and tightening monetary policies. Saadia Zahidi of the World Economic Forum underscores the need for investments in innovation, education, and high-potential markets to navigate the current economic environment and elevate living standards.

In May of this year, Zahidi published “AI, green transition, and deglobalization: work will become disruptive, but it needn’t be dystopian,” highlighting the importance of staff development and adaptability to technological advancements. As we have done over the years, we must continue to bolster our resilience and flexibility through strategic planning, infrastructural development, and skills enhancement while managing costs and ensuring quality performance, staff benefits, and returns on investment for members.

We are delighted to welcome Prince Storr (Management Trustee) back to the Board and extend congratulations to Lesley Munnings on his appointment as President of the Public Managers Union (PMU) and welcoming him back as the PMU Trustee. We also congratulate Jewel Fountain (AAAWU President), Pedro Richards (AAAWU General Secretary), and Susan Culmer (AAAWU Trustee) on their election to the AAAWU’s Executive Board and as Trustees on our Board. We extend our gratitude to the outgoing Trustees: Joseph Moxey (Management), Nekera



Demeritte-Braynen (PMU), Gladstone Adderley (AAAWU), Susan Palmer (AAAWU), and Hugh Morally (AAAWU) for their service and wish them well in their future endeavors.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow Trustees for their trust in my leadership as Chairman. Our gratitude also goes to the Auditors from KPMG for their continued service with the Annual Audit, and to Monica Wong, Fund Administrator, and her team—Cherise Saunders and Sheena Basden—for their exceptional management of BEPF during these challenging times.

And finally, a heartfelt thank you to you, our members.

Dion Bethell, Chairman