**In Memoriam: Remembering Kenneth Gittens**

With a heavy heart, I offer this sincere homage to an individual whose indelible mark on our lives was further amplified by his roles as a member of the Democratic Labour Party and a director of the board of the City of Bridgetown Cooperative Credit Union and its subsidiary COBFSIA. Although circumstances prevent me from attending the funeral, my thoughts and emotions are with Kenneth’s family, friends, and all those who were fortunate enough to know him.

My first encounter with Kenneth was board director of both COB and its subsidiary. His loyalty to these two organizations is undeniable and quite clear from the start. Kenneth's integrity shone through his every action; he was a man who believed in calling it like it is, a trait that commanded both respect and admiration.

A pivotal moment in our acquaintance was a business trip to Guyana in May 2019. Alongside George Bennett, Kenneth and I embarked on a journey that would deepen our connection. In those shared moments of meetings and discussions, I came to truly know Kenneth Gittens. Beneath the professional façade was a warm and personable individual, always ready with a smile and a meaningful conversation.

His non-nonsense demeanor was softened by his genuine care for others and the credit union. He possessed an uncanny ability to impart wisdom in the most unassuming manner, leaving you with a newfound perspective and a sense of purpose. With Kenneth, there was no ambiguity; his honesty was a breath of fresh air in a world often clouded by pretense.

As we say our farewells to Kenneth, his profound impact on the credit union and the DLP and the lives he touched comes to the forefront of our minds. His legacy, characterized by dedication, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, will be a perpetual wellspring of inspiration for us, urging us to approach challenges with determination and to stand resolute in our convictions no matter how difficult the circumstances are.

To Kathy Gittens, his wife, and Gabrielle Hinds, his beloved daughter, my heart goes out to you in this time of profound loss. Your husband and father was a man of remarkable character, a true pillar of strength. May the memories you shared bring comfort, and may you find solace in the knowledge that his legacy lives on in the lives he influenced.

Kenneth Gittens, your imprint on the hearts of many is enduring, and your influence will resonate within COB's walls and in the hearts of those privileged to have crossed paths with you. Rest in peace my friend, and may your soul find eternal serenity in the embrace of the heavens above.

**Peter MacD Earle**

**COB Founding Member**