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THE RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER P.J.
PATTERSON, ON, PC, QC, MP

PRIME MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON'S FAREWELL

Mr. Chairman, Guest of honour, the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Colleagues:

Sir, I was privileged to have been selected to give the vote of thanks when you launched the first four Executive Agencies exactly seven years ago.

Today I deem it a signal honour to bid you farewell on behalf of the now nine Executive Agencies.

Incidentally Sir, at the launch in 1999 I had indicated that the spouses of the four female CEOs had been denied certain conjugal rights as we were too busy working to implement the Executive Agencies. I am pleased to announce that all conjugal rights are being exercised and have been for some time now.

Sir, we must laud you as a visionary and a man of wisdom, as many years ago you saw the Executive Agency, and I quote from your speech at the 1999 launch as 'an innovative response to changing public and government demands for improved service, client satisfaction and employee commitment. "Its real importance", you said, "is that it offers a way to shed the old paradigm of public sector management".

I believe Sir, that you had a dream that before you demitted office you would witness the transformation of the public service, where the public would once again receive the kind of service they deserve and public servants would once again be proud to say I am a civil servant.

Through your own instrumentality, your dream has come true, dignity has been restored to the public sector and citizens and other members of the public are satisfied with the improvements.

Your vision Sir, has given birth to nine Executive Agencies so far with the current “wash belly” being the Child Development Agency and of course all have seen the efficiency gains from Allison Anderson’s determination. Due to the successes of these 9 Agencies there are now a few Departments currently undergoing diagnostic studies with a view to assuming Executive Agency status. Time will not permit me to give statistics to further prove my case but I will use the Latin phrase well known in law ‘res ipsa loquitur’ the thing speaks for itself.

However, I will use “speaker’s privilege” to give you an idea of how one department has benefited from the new status. It had such a bad reputation, clients had very little confidence in it before 1999 but only 4 years after becoming an Executive Agency it copped the coveted awards for “Best Executive Agency”, Best Customer Service Agency” and “Most Creative Agency” in the 2003 Public Sector Customer Service Competition. Sir, you brought during your tenure true meaning to

customer service which has today improved a thousand fold. Staff members who are a part of the Public Sector Reform now have very little patience with private sector organizations which fail to provide us with comparable service.

And Honourable P.M., it's not only your vision and your "penchant for perfection" that have brought us success; it's also your exemplary leadership as the country's Chief Executive Officer.

Executive Agency CEOs, over the past 7 years, have used your style of leadership to guide them in their management. We have emulated your impartiality in the selection of your team, your carefulness in decision making, the peace, which passeth all understanding, when dealing with conflicts and thorny issues, how you empower, respect and at the same time nurture those who report to you, and your love and compassion for just everybody.

Sir, the example set for us all as public servants brings to mind Rudyard Kipling's nationalist Poem 'IF' which you so epitomize. I cannot read the entire poem but one stanza states thus:

'If you bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools'".

And now Sir, as the banner furls and this epoch ends, we want to assure you that we will never let you down and will keep on raising our standards of service.

I know you are retiring from public life Honourable PM but I don't think you will be retiring from everything. Because I want you to know, and I speak on behalf of all the female CEOs, that we really love the twinkle in your eyes especially when you smile, and just how cool you are, but much more than that, we absolutely love that lean physique.

May God bestow upon you blessings in abundance and keep you strong and fit.

God bless you Honourable PJ.

Mrs. ? Brown
Administrator General's Dept.