Douglas Camacho retires

“A through-and-through Caribbean man, and always interested in human development”—is an apt description for Mr. Douglas Camacho, Guardian executive and director. On his retirement from the Guardian Group on 30 September, 2015, we take the opportunity to thank him and to retrace a few of his many achievements.

His Work in the Insurance Industry
An accountant by profession, Mr. Camacho joined the field of insurance in 1980. A decade later when Guardian Life acquired insurance company, Crown Life Caribbean Limited, he played a key role in the integration of this acquisition. Since then, he served in many important leadership positions in the Guardian Group, most notably serving on the Board of nearly every member company and on that of Guardian Holdings.

Mr. Camacho was instrumental in Guardian’s acquisition of the Jamaican and Dutch Caribbean business in 1998 and the early 2000s respectively.

In his capacity as President of Guardian Life and Group President-Strategic Investments, he focused on people development, enabling Guardian’s sales and administrative staff to achieve unprecedented levels of performance for which the Group has now come to be known.

Mr. Camacho also got involved in leadership positions of local, regional and international insurance-related organisations, such as the Association of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Companies (ATTIC). During his chairmanship at the Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Institute (TTII), the industry in partnership with the University of the West Indies was able to create a chair for insurance, which is now in its fifth year.

Regionally, Mr. Camacho led the Insurance Association of the Caribbean (IAC) and the Pan Caribbean Business Coalition for some years. Internationally, he was the first Caribbean person to be appointed to the Board of LL Global.

His Work in Sport
A former national hockey player and still a hockey administrator, Mr. Camacho contributed for 24 years on the National Olympic Committee of Trinidad and Tobago. During his time with the NOC, Mr. Camacho set about uniting the region to form a Caribbean Olympic Committee. This regional Committee was granted the broadcast rights for the Games in Rio on a pilot basis by the IOC, the income making the NOCs more financially independent.

Mr. Camacho was also Chairman of the Committee responsible for Sport and Youth preparing the Vision 2020 roadmap, served on a government-appointed committee to prepare a national sports policy and was instrumental in changing the CXC syllabus to include passes in physical education.

His Service in Other Organisations
Mr. Camacho contributed to many NGOs and corporations whose mandate falls within the field of human development. As President of the NOC, he joined the Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV & Aids (Pancap). Through Pancap, Mr. Camacho had the unique opportunity to address the United Nations on the sustainability of the financial sector in small nation states.

Mr. Camacho was part of the nascent Unit Trust Corporation and is involved with Crime Stoppers, and micro-finance company Miped run by bpTT in Mayaro.

“Believe in team-work: when several people get together, magic happens.”

Although Mr. Camacho retires from the senior management of Guardian Group, he will continue to serve on the Board of Guardian Holdings Limited as a non-executive director.

Guardian Group salutes Mr. Camacho on his outstanding achievements throughout his sterling career and thanks him for his invaluable contribution to the growth and success of our Group. We wish him all the very best as he pursues his many and varied interests going forward.

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