

**WELCOME REMARKS**

**DELIVERED BY**

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**Interim CEO, National Sports Council & Gymnasium Ltd.**

**AT THE**

**2015 IMMUDA Congress**

**The Barbados Olympic Association**

10<sup>th</sup> October 2015

- Dr. Lewis G. Maharam, MD, FACSM. - Chairman IMMMDA Board of Governors and other distinguish representatives of IMMMDA
- Dr. Carl Ward - Vice President of the Barbados Sports Medicine Association and other Distinguish Representatives of the BSMA
- Dr. Adrian Lorde – Past President BSMA, Director of RADA, BOA
- 2015 IMMMDA Congress Delegates

Good morning

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to this the 2015 International Marathon Medical Directors Association (IMMMDA) Congress in the beautiful island of Barbados. I am equally honored to salute The Barbados Sports Medicine Association, the local organizing body of this congress, who I believe are celebrating 30 years of remarkable and I know, very sacrificial service to Barbadian athletes. Congratulations on your wide ranging achievements and the establishment of the BSMA as one of the very formidable and well managed associations supporting the development of sport in Barbados and distinguishing yourselves as a model of excellence in the practice of sports medicine in the region.

This we are well aware required unreserved commitment and the careful crafting of meaningful strategies focused on the progressing of sports in and beyond Barbados. Again Kudos!

I am also thrilled to applaud and congratulate the IMMMDA who three years prior to the Barbados Sports Medicine Association in May 1982 set a blazing trail of unmatched support for athletes across the world with the launching of their operations.

More thrilling to me is the indelible marks you have left across the globe by way of your bi-annual conferences and very necessary on-going research particularly in the treatment and prevention of running injuries. Your existence and remarkable work guarantees the longevity and optimization of athletic performance and at the outset of this congress I wish without reservation to say thanks for your contribution to our sons and daughters across the globe, thanks for your commitment to sacrificial serving, thanks for being who you are for the good of long distance athletes everywhere. I know your work has not gone unnoticed.

This congress signals an achievement of importance to the positioning and development of sports in Barbados and more

particularly is a fine example of the synchronization of skills and exemplification of harmonized management augmenting the value of sports in the region.

We at the National Sports Council remain ready to work closer with the BSMA as well as the IMMUDA in the strengthening of your various initiatives with a view to ensuring the widest possible resourcing and enabling of athletic excellence.

On behalf of the Government and people of Barbados I once again extend a very warm welcome and wish you good progress and success in this 2015 Congress. Continue to walk strong, add value, change lives. Your work is not in vain.

God bless you.

Jerry Blenman