

**Press Release**  
**26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**

### **Chairman's Annual Report**

**Financial Performance.** The fiscal year 2020, all things considered we view as a good year in spite of the results for the consolidated financial performance of Benchmark's Group of Companies. We believe that our ability as a group to maneuver through 2020 without any significant impacts to our business model speaks volumes about the future for the Benchmark Group of Companies. The COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges that no one could forecast with a high level of confidence. All our subsidiaries recorded better revenue and earnings results against our budgetary adjustments post COVID-19. Benchmark Advisors net realized and unrealized loss on investments was a significant contributor to its Net Comprehensive Loss while our investment property company Benchmark Properties (Bahamas) Ltd. was the group's stellar performer despite us giving rental concessions to our Small Business Enterprises (SME's) in the complex. Benchmark Ventures which had a loss of B\$(261,499) for 2019 posted another year of improvement registering a loss of B\$(59,431) for 2020. Alliance, Benchmark Properties and Benchmark Advisors registering profits of B\$1,102,256, B\$1,023,506 and B\$869,962, respectively in 2019. For the fiscal year end December 31, 2019, the Group's consolidated Net Comprehensive Profit was B\$2,752,171 compared to 2020 when the Group suffered a consolidated Net Comprehensive Loss of B\$(986,448) with Alliance, Benchmark Properties and Benchmark Advisors registering losses and profits of B\$(121,292), B\$222,561 and B\$(1,090,286) respectively.

**Real Estate.** Our investment in a single bedroom unit in the Wynn Developmental project on Cable Beach continues and the project is on schedule. At yearend 2020, our investment in the development amounted to B\$280,000. Income for Benchmark Properties during the year was up 23% with Operating Income up 52.5%. The largest tenant in our complex renewed their lease for another 5 years at market prevailing rates. The renewal of this lease which is the third option within a twenty-year lease agreement is now paying the market rate for rent without concessions in accordance with the terms of the lease agreement. The second largest tenants did not renew and vacated the property at year end. Lease interest in the property continues to be very strong a three-year lease agreement was executed for 1,000 square feet of space in the middle of the pandemic and country lockdown.

**Broker Dealers.** Our two Class 1 Broker Dealers, Benchmark Advisors (Advisors) the group's global and domestic securities execution broker dealer and Alliance Investment Management (Alliance) the administrative broker dealer for the group charged with the responsibility of managing existing and new client relationships, against a challenging

global economic environment and volatile global securities markets performed better than expected. Earnings results was weak due to the impact of COVID-19, with total revenue in both companies much less than 2019. Net Realized and unrealized loss on investments in Advisors was B\$(938,740) for the year.

*Investment Portfolio*, During the year we sat on the sideline of the markets as volatility made it extremely difficult for us to determine an entry point into the global and domestic markets. Our investment portfolio during the year decreased in market value from B\$6,220,352 to B\$4,459,181 during 2020. and realized losses from the portfolio of B\$(77,782). The Net Unrealized loss on Investments was B\$(858,376). We appreciate and accept that this area of our business while difficult to forecast and is subjective provide the high level of volatility to the groups consolidated earnings performance, we are confident that our investment portfolio will produce long term positive earnings growth.

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020, Benchmark (Bahamas) Ltd. consolidated net assets stood at B\$12,857,894.

Julian R. Brown  
Chairman & President  
24<sup>th</sup> April, 2021