My dear ECCB family,

Greetings to you in this yuletide season - a veritable celebration of faith, family, love and hope. Indeed, a season for all people and all time.

This year, the ECCB has made significant strides of which we can be justifiably proud. These include, return to profitability and the launch of our strategic plan. I thank all of you for your partnership and prayers.

The year 2017 has been one of mixed fortunes for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union. Until September, our Currency Union was on pace to record its fastest growth in a decade. This welcomed development was rudely interrupted and reversed by the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, two of the most powerful storms ever recorded. Five of our members were impacted with three receiving direct hits. In the aftermath of these storms, the ECCU family spirit was on full display as we supported affected members.

As people of faith, we are fortified in the knowledge that God is with us even in times of devastation and despair. He is with us in our bright days and our dark days, our good times and our bad times, our highs and our lows.

This year, as we celebrate the Christ of Christmas, let love be our highest goal! I exhort us to: love more, care more and share more.
With this exhortation in mind and mindful of the impact of the hurricanes on our member countries, which suffered direct hits, the management and staff of the ECCB have made personal contributions to bring further relief and some Christmas cheer to children in the Commonwealth of Dominica, Barbuda and Anguilla.

As we look ahead to 2018, we have much to do. At the ECCB, we are excited about the implementation of our Strategic Plan styled Transforming the ECCU Together.

So, from my family and me, to you: Monetary Council, Board, management and staff, retirees, local, regional and international partners: and the citizens of the ECCU: Merry Christmas. May 2018 bring more progress and prosperity for you.