

# Konris Maynard

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Crescent Hill, Basseterre, St. Kitts.

## Statement by Hon Konris Gregor Menten Maynard

17 January 2024

On Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Mr Duncan “Big Lice” Wattley, in a now viral Facebook Live Rant (“Live”) on his popular Facebook Program, made very serious, scandalous, outrageous and downright false statements about me, my character and my integrity. This Live has garnered over 9,000 views on his page and 25 shares to other Facebook pages. The Live has also received over 7,000 views on a particular YouTube Channel and countless more republications on media and electronic platforms with worldwide reach. Having listened to the speech, it is clear that Mr Wattley deliberately set out to use his platform and his position in the Government to launch vicious and unfounded attacks against me with the intention to cause serious harm to my character and my reputation, both personally and professionally, under the guise of “being informed”.

I want to categorically deny these serious and fabricated accusations made by Mr Wattley against me, whether couched as “questions”, comments, or statements. It is unfortunate that Mr Wattley believes that he could take such reckless liberties with the character and reputation of others because he has not gotten his way. This act by Mr Wattley will not go unanswered or excused as political commentary or under the false premise of “Country Above Self” or unfettered freedom of speech. Let me be very clear: **ALL the allegations made against me by Mr Wattley, no matter how loudly he shouts them, are blatant lies!**

On this basis, I wish to state the following for the public record:

- (a) SKELEC, independent of its line Minister, has its operating procedures for managing its day-to-day affairs, including dealing with outstanding arrears. I, solely or in collaboration with others, do not directly or indirectly instruct or suggest the disconnection of any customer of SKELEC. I first learned of Mr. Wattley’s disconnection via a post made by him on Social Media. Therefore, if Mr Wattley was dissatisfied with the decision made by SKELEC, there was and remains a mature and responsible way to deal with that matter without creating a fictitious narrative loaded with reckless and scandalous attacks aimed at me, my character, and others.
- (b) As a Minister of Government, and in particular as Minister with responsibility for SKELEC, I have never used my position to engage in any illegal, corrupt, or fraudulent practices for personal enrichment of any kind.

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- (c) I do not hold any legal and or beneficial interest in any company, whether a shell company or otherwise, that engaged or engages in bidding for public contracts. The Procurement and Contract (Administration) Act governs the awards of contracts. Section 23 thereof establishes a Procurement Board, the composition of which is mandated thereunder. A review of the said section would clearly show that I am not an *ex officio* member of the Board and as such I am not involved in the process of awarding contracts of this nature.
- (d) I am a trained electrical & computer engineer of 16 years standing, an entrepreneur, and a combined 16-time Calypso, Soca and Road March King both locally and regionally. Additionally, my wife is a trained Attorney-at-Law of 15 years and an entrepreneur. Together, we have a successful track record in our respective professions as entrepreneurs and as employees at reputable businesses both in St. Kitts and abroad, which have afforded us the ability to, aided by a mortgage, build our family home.
- (e) My wife and I are in a faithful relationship of 21 years, married with two children.

Mr Wattley ought to be ashamed to tarnish my good name and character loosely and recklessly as he has done. I take these false and defamatory allegations seriously and do not intend to ignore them or be scandalized by Mr Wattley and his outrageous attacks! I have instructed my lawyer to take the appropriate action, seeking an immediate retraction and apology by Mr Wattley to be aired in a similar manner to the falsehoods he has told about me within 48 hours of receipt of correspondence from my lawyer. I will NOT allow Mr Wattley's reckless disregard for my reputation or integrity to stand. There is a **clear line** between harsh and passionate criticism of my style as a politician, a person and a Minister, which I welcome, versus jumping in the gutter with blatantly false, malicious, repulsive, and scandalous accusations against me both personally and professionally. Mr Wattley has leapt over that line and into a realm of unsavoury behaviour that reeks of bad faith and malicious intent.

I will **NOT** stand for this and intend to pursue this matter against Mr Wattley to the full extent of the law.

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