



*For immediate release on or after March 14, 2008*

## **FLORIDA AND BAHAMIAN BUSINESS LEADERS GATHER FOR BANK OF BAHAMAS MIAMI OPENING**

Dignitaries, business and community leaders from two neighbouring nations were expected to be on hand Friday for the opening of the first retail bank from the Bahamas to have a physical presence in South Florida, a move designed to expedite trade and facilitate Bahamians who shop, seek education or medical care in the state.

The occasion was the official opening of BOB Financial Services, a subsidiary of Bank of The Bahamas Limited. Located on the ground floor of the SunTrust Building in Coral Gables, the centre was to be officially opened by the Bahamas Minister of State for Finance Zhivargo Laing. Representatives from American Express, American Airlines, Visa, Beacon Council of Miami, and numerous attorneys, medical examiner Dr. Gershwin Blyden and other professionals were due to attend along with a contingent of Bahamian business leaders. Among those were Central Bank Governor Wendy Craigg, Securities Commission's Philip Stubbs, C.O.B. Vice President Dr. Pandora Johnson, attorney Hartis Pinder, Bahamas Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Philip Simon and several bank directors, including Chairman Macgregor Robertson and Deputy Chairman Peter Thompson.

Opening its doors on South Florida soil was the latest in a series of firsts by the young bank established in 1988 with almost negligible assets and now reporting nearly \$700 million in assets. Bank of The Bahamas has also been the recipient of numerous international awards, including being the first bank in the Bahamas to win the Bracken award presented by the Financial Times group, the first retail bank in the country to win the Euromoney award, and this year is the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year. The bank is a public company with some 4,000 shareholders and operates branches throughout the Bahamas.