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## INTERNATIONAL

### Caribbean Business Owners Respond to the Call from Pioneers of Prosperity

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The Bahamas - At midnight last night, Pioneers of Prosperity closed its application for its Caribbean Awards Program. With just under six hundred applications received across seven countries in the Caribbean, the Pioneers of Prosperity launch of its Caribbean pilot program is deemed a tremendous success.

“We were impressed not only with the number of applications we received from each of the seven countries, but also with the breadth of industries and sectors that the businesses represent...everything from music production companies to insurance services, chocolate manufacturing companies, bathtub fitters, yoga retreat centers and computer accessory stores,” said Julie Kennedy, Director of Pioneers of Prosperity for the Caribbean.

“While the application process is very competitive, especially for the grand prize of US \$100,000, I am overall very optimistic about the quality of the applications we received from the Bahamas. In looking through the applications this morning, there are several businesses that stand out already, and I feel confident that they will progress through the competition to the semi-finalist and hopefully finalist rounds” stated Abby Noble, Country Representative for the Bahamas.

According to Ms. Noble, country representative for the Bahamas, applicants will be notified by April 1<sup>st</sup> of whether they will proceed to Round 2 of the competition. The competition is comprised of four rounds in total, requiring applicants to complete questionnaires, phone interviews and site visits with Pioneers of Prosperity representatives.

Pioneers of Prosperity seeks to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs in emerging economies by identifying, rewarding, and promoting truly outstanding businesses who can serve as role models to their peers. The program is sponsored by the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank, the John Templeton Foundation, and the Social Equity Venture Fund (S.E. VEN Fund).

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