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BUSINESS

SMES GENERATE GROWTH AND JOBS MORE SO THAN CONGLOMERATES - MARKS

 By Julian Richardson
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It is the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and not the conglomerates, that create the majority of jobs and generate the most significant share of economic growth.

So said the CEO of popular bill payment company Audrey Marks. She was the special guest speaker at yesterday's launch of the Pioneers of Prosperity Awards Programme, held at the University of Technology (UTech), in Kingston.



OTF managing director Kenneth Hynes (left) makes a point in discussion with Audrey Marks (centre), CEO of Paymaster Limited, and Professor Rosalea Hamilton, vice president, Development Chair, Entrepreneurship and Development of the University of Technology. (Photo: Joseph Wellington)

She stressed the importance of expanding this segment of business, and used the occasion to laud the initiative of the awards programme.

"I enthusiastically support the Pioneers of Prosperity programme, which seeks to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs in emerging economies...." said the PayMaster boss. "I am particularly pleased by the fact that, unlike so many awards programme, Pioneers of Prosperity remains active after the distribution of awards by maintaining a communications programme which showcases success."

Caribbean small and medium enterprises (SMEs) now have an opportunity to win up to US\$100,000 to invest in their businesses and have their companies promoted extensively throughout the region.

International competitiveness consulting firm OTF Group, through its global awards programme dubbed "Pioneers of Prosperity", is seeking to identify successful SMEs among seven countries in the Caribbean - Jamaica, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago - via a regional competition. Funded by the Inter-American Bank (IDB) and the John

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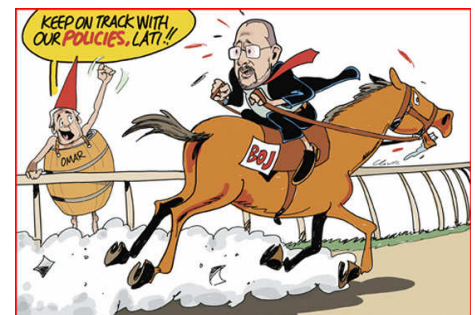
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