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KINGSTON, June 23 – –: “Despite Covid-19, investments are still happening in infrastructure,” says Herbert Hall, Vice-President of NCB Capital Markets’ Investment Banking Unit. “Infrastructure is what I call Covid resilient; it is something that is absolutely needed and you can’t do without it.”

Hall was speaking at a webinar on Tuesday. It was the third in a series on Alternative Investments hosted by **JVCAPITAL**, a Unit of **the Development Bank of Jamaica**, in collaboration with the Caribbean Alternative Investment Association (**CARAIA**). The title of this Tuesday’s webinar was ***Public & Private Sector led Infrastructure Development as a driver of economic recovery & growth.***

Moderator Steven Whittingham, Chief Operating Officer of GraceKennedy Financial Group, also promoted infrastructure as a good investment. “The better your local infrastructure is, the better the returns you will get on your private equity investments,” said Whittingham. “Good infrastructure facilitates greater GDP growth, greater consumer consumption and spending that benefits us all as an economy.”

Denise Arana, General Manager of Public Private Partnerships & Privatization at DBJ, sees infrastructure promoting the well-being of Jamaicans and their quality of life through education, health and housing. “Picture a company surviving without roads to transport goods and services, without electricity, ICT infrastructure or communications,” said Arana. “We can see how Covid has highlighted infrastructure.”

Panellist Brian Frazer, Vice President of Asset Management at Scotia Investments, believes investors are ready to put funds into infrastructure. “The structure that the project is packaged with will determine how successful it is in raising capital locally,” said Fraser. “Investors know cash flows in infrastructure projects are protected against inflation and bring real returns.”

Joining the webinar from Germany via video chat, David Delaire, Managing Director of MPC Renewable Energies, saw opportunities for investments in infrastructure for water, roads and energy. “Once you explain to international investors that there are renewable energy installations in Jamaica, they get interested in infrastructure development,” said Delaire.

All three panellists agreed that water, shipping and logistics will be appealing investments in the post-Covid world.

The 7-part series, **Building the Economy: with funding through Alternative Investments**, is on every Tuesday through July 21.

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