



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *VENTURE CAPITAL...how relevant is it & why does it matter* *DBJ-JVCAPITAL & CARAIA Series of Webinars*

**KINGSTON, July 1** –: The Jamaican Diaspora has a huge role to play in Jamaica’s venture capital ecosystem given their experiences and exposure to a wide variety of business models. That was one of the insights from Mexican angel investor, Hernan Fernandez Lamadrid at **JVCapital’s** Alternative Investments webinar on Tuesday. Lamadrid was among a five-member panel comprising venture capitalists and entrepreneurs discussing the role of venture capital in a post pandemic market.

Lamadrid said Jamaica needs a more organized pipeline for getting entrepreneurs ready for investment and should work closely with other Caribbean markets to develop companies that cater to their populations. “In this pandemic you should also take advantage of advice being given on webinars,” he told the audience.

Lamadrid and Paul Ahlstrom had joined via webchat in the webinar hosted by **JVCAPITAL**, a Unit of **the Development Bank of Jamaica**, in collaboration with the Caribbean Alternative Investment Association (**CARAIA**).

Ahlstrom, co-founder of Alta Ventures and Alta Growth Capital said the pandemic provides a significant opportunity for a small, emerging venture capital market such as Jamaica’s. “One of the advantages of the pandemic,” said Ahlstrom, “is that it forced Jamaica to switch over to most things digital. Venture capital financing can fill the gap between where Jamaica is and where it can be.”

Douglas Lindo, co-owner of Bellindo Limited, said he believes venture capitalists help shape entrepreneurs. “I would describe the executive investor as someone who puts up the capital but is also willing to spend a little executive time bridging the gap for the aspiring entrepreneur; it’s helping the inspiration.”

Blue Dot’s CEO Darren Peart advised new businesses to vet investors to ensure values are aligned. “Be sure that you’re ready to take on venture capital,” said Peart, “not just from a readiness standpoint, but personally, emotionally, mentally.”

All members of the panel agreed that investors are looking for resilient companies with competitive ideas that can appeal to a large market and are scalable. Moderator Lisandra Rickards, founder of Soul Career, told the audience: “The best venture capitalists are entrepreneurs and can understand the entrepreneurial journey, and without the rush to exit.”

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

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