

SMEs to benefit from new Republic Bank initiative



President and CEO of Republic Financial Holdings Ltd, Nigel Baptiste

Republic Bank is collaborating with the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) on a capacity-building initiative to position small businesses for expanded success.

The initiative, which is being co-funded by the European Union through the third Regional Private Sector Development Programme, is intended to assist small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in accessing finance and export opportunities.

“By investing in SMEs, this initiative is creating a ripple effect where stronger businesses lead to stronger communities and economies. With the right support, these enterprises can fuel innovation, create jobs, and position themselves as key players in the regional and global marketplace,” said a joint news release issued yesterday.

The Republic Bank– Caribbean Export “Thrive: Unlocking Finance and Export Potential for SMEs” programme, is a virtual finance and export development training initiative that will begin next month, and aims to benefit an estimated 500 SMEs across Anguilla, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Maarten, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Suriname, and T&T.

It will provide these SMEs with access to relevant and dynamic expert training designed to help them scale, innovate, and compete globally.

Through online learning, live group sessions, and invaluable networking opportunities, the programme focuses on building resilience, improving financial literacy, and unlocking new market potential—key ingredients for sustainable business growth.

The programme will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, Business Capacity Building 1.0, up to 500 entrepreneurs will receive expert training to enhance their financial and export readiness.

From this group, the top 50 participants will advance to the second phase, titled “Access 2 Finance Accelerator,” a fully funded, six month intensive training programme.

While the value of Phase One training is US\$156 per participant, a nominal commitment fee of US\$60 will be charged. This fee will be fully refunded upon successful completion of Business

Capacity Building 1.0.

“We recognise the incredible potential of SMEs and the barriers they face in accessing finance and expanding into new markets. Through this initiative, we are committed to bridging that gap, providing the knowledge and resources necessary for businesses to not just survive, but thrive,” said Nigel Baptiste, group president and CEO of Republic Financial Holdings Ltd (RFHL). (CMC)