

A Commitment to Entrepreneurship and Innovation

On July 20, 2016, the Grenada Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) launched the first ever innovators challenge in Grenada, the “**Young Innovators Challenge**” branded as the **GIDC Digicel Young Innovators Challenge**.

The Challenge is aimed at stimulating innovative ideas, fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique and providing an avenue for young entrepreneurs between the ages of 16-35 to access seed or start-up funding to turn their ideas into successful business ventures.

A total of two hundred and four (204) young people throughout Grenada including Carriacou and Petite Martinique registered to participate in the Challenge. Sixty nine (69) young people were selected to move to the preliminary round of the Challenge, in confidence of the creativity and innovativeness of their ideas to be selected for the semi-final round of the competition. After delivering their “elevator pitch” to a panel of esteemed and experienced judges from both the public and private sectors, twenty (20) young people were selected for the next round of the Challenge. As mentors assist the selected semi-finalists to further develop and modify their business ideas, it is fitting that GIDC express its gratitude and commendation to the participants, mentors, judges and sponsors for their commitment and support to entrepreneurial development throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

This collaboration and private-public partnership are necessary for the promotion of initiatives like the **Young Innovators Challenge**. This was forged when Digicel became the primary sponsor of the event. This partnership and commitment were further strengthened when the Grenada National Lotteries Authority, Republic Bank Grenada Ltd., Automotive Warehouse, KFC-Pizza Hut, Ramdhanny True Value, Newim Life and General Assurance Company Ltd. and SP’s International Trading pledged their sponsorship of the initiative.

The CEO of SP’s International Trading Ltd., Mr. Sebastian Paul did not hesitate to commit to this initiative and applauded the GIDC for its promotion of entrepreneurial development and innovation among young people. As such, the GIDC Board of Directors, Management and Staff therefore express deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Sebastian Paul and staff of SP’s International Trading Ltd. on his passing. His legacy will live on for many years to come. He will be greatly missed.