

From Clerk To Managing Director - Bank Leader Gives Tips For Success

Nassau, Bahamas, 11th December 2023 – During an inspiring women's empowerment forum, Dr. Jacqui Bend, CIBC FirstCaribbean's Managing Director, shared her remarkable journey from humble beginnings to leading one of the region's prominent banks.

Hosted by the Department of Gender Affairs, the recent forum brought together girls and women of various ages, eager to learn from leading women across several sectors.

Starting her career in roles such as data entry clerk, receptionist, and loans clerk, Dr. Bend's ascent to the top was not a conventional one. Her turning point came in 2003 when a former boss described her as a "square peg in a round hole". This resonated with Dr. Bend and propelled her to embrace leadership roles she had previously shunned. This candid revelation recounted by Dr. Bend at the forum highlighted the importance of self-awareness and adaptability in one's career.

During her speech, Dr. Bend emphasized the significance of excellence, vision, and continuous learning. She encouraged the forum's attendees to leverage opportunities like stretch assignments and tuition assistance programs, underscoring the mantra, "knowledge is power". Her advice also extended beyond professional development, touching on the value of personal presentation, adaptability, and owning one's destiny.

Additionally, Dr. Bend spoke about the challenges of balancing personal growth with other commitments. She urged the audience to reassess how they spend their time, citing her own journey where she had to forego certain activities to focus on her studies and career growth. "Every professional was once an amateur," she reminded the attendees, highlighting the importance of internships and continuous learning through resources like the internet.

Dr. Bend also stressed the need for mentorship, advising the audience to seek guidance from various sources, including previous managers and spiritual leaders. She encouraged the participants to be coachable, trainable, and teachable, noting that "attitude determines altitude."

Reflecting on her personal life, Dr. Bend shared that being raised by a single mother and being the third among six children, she was determined to not live a life of poverty. This determination, she stressed, is something that every young girl and woman can emulate.

Concluding her empowering talk, Dr. Bend reiterated the need for women in every aspect of life and the importance of living one's vision. She reminded attendees that they are "powerful, bold and destined for greatness" and ended with, "If I can do it, you can do it".

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CIBC FirstCaribbean's Managing Director, Dr. Jacqui Bend, was the keynote speaker at the Department of Gender and Family Affairs' Women's Empowerment Forum.



Standing from left to right are Melvelyn Symonette, Debbie Bartlett, Muna Issa, and Dr. Jacqui Bend.



Women of various ages across several sectors attended the Department of Gender and Family Affairs' Women's Empowerment Forum.

About CIBC FirstCaribbean

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate and Investment Banking, Retail and Business Banking and Wealth Management segments. We are located in twelve (12) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services through approximately 2,700 employees in 48 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with US\$13 billion in assets and market capitalization of US\$1 billion. We also have a representative office in Hong Kong that provides business development and relationship management for our fund administration. The face of banking is changing throughout the world and CIBC FirstCaribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a member of the CIBC Group. CIBC is a leading Canadian-based global financial institution with 11 million personal banking and business clients. Through our three major business units - Retail and Business Banking, Wealth Management and Capital Markets - CIBC offers a full range of products and services through its comprehensive electronic banking network, branches, and offices across Canada with offices in the United States and around the world.

For more information about CIBC FirstCaribbean, visit www.cibcfib.com, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

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