
MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

T&T Chamber welcomes the appointment of judges to the Industrial Court

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce welcomes yesterday's announcement regarding the appointments of judges to the Industrial Court. We recognise and value the critical role that this Court serves in our industrial relations landscape, which has become increasingly volatile.

The T&T Chamber has, for years, advocated that appointments to its bench must include candidates from both the public and private sectors who possess an appreciation of business operations. All parties must be confident that their matters will be treated fairly. Having a balanced judicial composition, therefore, helps achieve better representation of the interests of all stakeholders.

We believe that the appointment of people with a business background is a step in the right direction towards meeting this goal. We therefore extend congratulations to all of the judges, both new and re-appointed, in taking on this very important role.

At the T&T Chamber's Annual Business Luncheon held last week the Hyatt Regency in Port of Spain, newly installed Chamber President, Mr. Reyaz Ahamad, called for fair and balanced treatment, noting that the Chamber will continue to keep this matter on the front burner in order to ensure that this is achieved. In his inaugural address, Mr. Ahamad said that our country's industrial relations laws must be modernised to follow global best practices: "We must acknowledge that the world of work is changing and so too are the norms of industrial relations."

The Industrial Relations Act under which Trinidad and Tobago currently operates is over 46 years old. Amendments to the Act were proposed in 2015, but these have subsequently lapsed. We feel strongly that this should be high on

Parliament's agenda, and are therefore advocating for another review before any amendments are introduced into Parliament, so that all parties can benefit from relevant, fit-for-purpose industrial relations laws.

The T&T Chamber remains committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure that we work towards progressively maintaining a healthy and productive industrial relations environment in Trinidad and Tobago.

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FROM THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT